

The lost letters

When Ink Fades, Stories Live; A Journey Through Lost Words

Myra Goswami, XI F & Harshil Bedi
XI B, AIS Pushp Vihar

“I hope this letter finds you well” – this tender phrase has been the opening line in myriad letters, which were once our only medium for sharing emotions and exchanging ideas. Letters of the past, in fact, will always hold a special place in our hearts, for they have shaped the course of politics, literature and most of all, personal connections. Unfortunately, many of these letters never reached their destinations and were lost in the annals of time. Let’s rediscover this treasure trove by finding out about...

...Letters that could have brought hope

During Taiwan’s repressive ‘White Terror’ era, political prisoners penned their last words to their families. These letters, which were full of love, hope and final goodbyes, were intercepted by the Taiwanese government and could never reach families waiting for those last few words from their loved ones. One prisoner had written, “It’s my last night and I still feel the same happiness I felt as a child. I don’t feel any loss of hope. So grandma, I wish you wouldn’t feel any pain on my account.” Another imprisoned man wrote to his children, “On this earth you will never see your father again. No matter whether it brings you joy or distress,

you must not forget your mother and father.” These unread letters will forever carry the burden of unfulfilled hopes and unanswered prayers.

Letters that could have changed history

Some of these lost letters could have reshaped history as we know it, if they had been delivered on time and acted upon. Mahatma Gandhi, for instance, had written to Adolf Hitler in 1939 wherein he had addressed him as a “friend”. Gandhi had urged him to stop the impending war with these poignant words, “You are today the one person in the world who can prevent a war which may reduce humanity to the savage state. Is it too much to ask you for peace...which must mean much to the millions of Europeans...” The letter, however, could never reach in time, and just a few weeks later, Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, marking the beginning of World War II. If this letter had been delivered, who knows what the trajectory of history would have been?

...Letters that got the chance to live again

Thankfully, due to the efforts of historians, academics and many others, a multitude of historically significant letters have been brought to life once again. For example, dozens of unpublished letters written by the celebrated playwright, William Shakespeare, were discovered in London in 1989. These remarkable letters are written

in extraordinary detail, because Shakespeare apparently wanted to create a record for his two-year-old son, reveal a wealth of as-yet-undiscovered knowledge about Shakespeare’s life. One of his letters tells us that Shakespeare was planning to leave for Virginia, where he hoped to restore his family’s fortunes.

Several projects have been initiated over the years to rediscover these hidden stories. For instance, as part of a fascinating initiative called ‘The Lost Letter Project’, a letter written by Lt. Joseph O. Matthews was delivered to his family nearly seventy years after it was written. This project, through social media events and off-line exhibitions, invites public to reconnect lost letters they have stumbled upon with their rightful owners. Similarly, the National Archives of the United Kingdom, with the University of Oldenburg in Germany, has embarked on a 20-year project to digitize and catalog thousands of such lost letters from 1650 to 1815.

This empathetic approach is not new. In the years before World War I, thousands of letters handled by US postal service went undelivered because they were addressed improperly. The Dead Letter Office worked on these misguided missives where a group of skilled dead letter detectives discovered their correct destinations. India, too, has a Dead Letter Office (DLO) that has been in operation since 1837. Isn’t this a poignant reminder that the power of the written word will always endure, even if the message goes undelivered?

THE GT POLL

Do you think Disney remaking too many live action classics is taking the magic away?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can’t say

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next
Hindi Divas Special



Through the looking glass
In conversation with Padma Shri awardee Dr Mahipal Sachdev, chairman & medical director of the Centre for Sight Group of Eye Hospitals.
...more on page 3

What’s inside



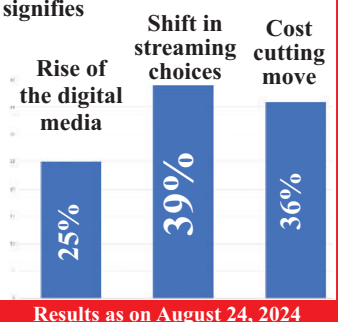
Journey to the unseen
Tune in to unleash the breathtaking landscapes and intricate architecture of India filled with fascinating facts and divine construction.
...more on page 7



In your best interest
Catch up on some insightful advice from a panel of experts on the topic of ‘Financial literacy’ organised by the YP team of AIS Gur 43 (2023-24).
...more on page 10

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition August 19, 2024
According to you, the shut down of Cartoon Network website signifies



Around The WORLD

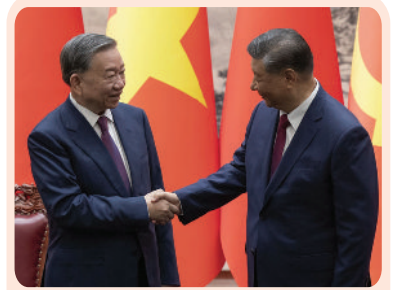
GT keeps the newswire ticking by bringing you news from around the globe



 SWEDEN

First case of Mpox

On August 15, 2024, Sweden confirmed its first case of a more contagious strain of Mpox, circulating in central and eastern Africa. This marks the first known infection of the strain outside Africa. On Aug 21, 2024, the World Health Organisation declared Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, a “global public health emergency” for the second time in two years. This declaration followed an outbreak in Congo that has now spread to 12 other countries in the region. So far, more than 96% of all cases and deaths are in Congo.



 CHINA

Agreements signed

China and Vietnam inked 14 documents spanning cross-border railways to crocodile exports, after Chinese president Xi Jinping met with Vietnam’s new leader To Lam in Beijing. Lam’s visit to Beijing, his first overseas trip since he was appointed party chief early this month, signals a desire between the two communist neighbours to strengthen ties as trade and investment grow in the region. The State Bank of Vietnam and the People’s Bank of China also signed a MoU on enhancing cooperation and information exchange in banking operations.

 ITALY

Luxury yacht sinks

British tech tycoon Mike Lynch, his 18-year-old daughter, and Jonathan Bloomer, chairman, Morgan Stanley International are among the six people missing after a luxury yacht sank off the coast of the Italian island of Sicily. The 183-foot vessel was carrying 22 people including British, American and Canadian nationals. Local media reported the yacht, named Bayesian, capsized after encountering a heavy storm that caused waterspouts, or rotating columns of air, to appear over the sea.



 TURKEY

Ancient city square found

Archaeologists have uncovered a 2,200-year-old agora, or city square in the ancient city of Aigai, Manisa, West Turkey. The agora includes bull-headed reliefs and inscriptions tied to Apollo, a significant deity in ancient mythology. The discovery is part of ongoing excavations at the 2,700-year-old site, led by professor Yusuf Sezgin from Manisa Celal Bayar University, who has been working there for 21 years.



 UAE

T20 moved to UAE

The ICC moved the upcoming Women’s T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the UAE, saying it ‘wasn’t feasible’ to conduct the event there after governments of a number of participating countries advised against travelling to the unrest-hit nation. The event which will also feature India, will now be staged in Dubai and Sharjah with Bangladesh retaining the hosting rights, ensuring that it receives its share of revenue.




 INDIA

Polio threat resurfaces

During a routine surveillance operation in Meghalaya’s West Garo Hills district, health officials identified a two-year-old child exhibiting symptoms of poliomyelitis. For further analysis, a specialised team of doctors from the World Health Organization has arrived in the area. Their mission is to collect samples and determine the nature of the virus involved, whether it is the wild poliovirus or a circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus.



 AUSTRALIA

E-scooters banned

Melbourne officials have banned electric scooter rentals, citing safety concerns following hundreds of complaints and accident reports as the reason for the move. On August 20, 2024, Melbourne’s council voted to end contracts with its two e-scooter operators, Lime and Neuron, giving them 30 days to remove their scooters. Mayor Nicolas Reece stated this decision aims to restore safety to the city’s footpaths.

News Flash

- ▶ **SPAIN:** Maria Branyas, the world’s oldest person, died peacefully in a Spanish nursing home at the age of 117.
- ▶ **THAILAND:** Paetongtarn Shinawatra has become the country’s youngest prime minister.



Dr Mahipal Sachdev, chairman & medical director, Centre for Sight

Madhav Ahuja, XII I & Grisha Gautam, X D, AIS Noida

As the chairman and medical director of the Centre for Sight Group of Eye Hospitals, Dr Mahipal Sachdev has revolutionised eye care in India. A Padma Shri awardee with numerous accolades, including a Guinness World Record, Dr Sachdev's journey is a testament to his unwavering dedication to restore vision and transform lives. In this insightful conversation with GT, he shares the principles, challenges, and inspirations that have shaped his illustrious career.

Through the looking glass

Dr Sachdev's Prescription For Success in Ophthalmology

Pic: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

Foundation matters

Medicine has always been a calling for me, being influenced by my mother and elder brother, both of whom are doctors. I see medicine not just as a profession but as a noble way to serve humanity. My journey began at AIIMS, where access to advanced equipment and technology sharpened my skills. I specialised in corneal, cataract, and refractive surgeries, which was further enriched during my time at Georgetown University. A strong foundation, I believe, is the bedrock of success.

Dreams come true

My vision was to establish a super-specialty organisation in eye care, making cutting-edge technology more accessible beyond the confines of AIIMS. Today, Centre for Sight has around 80 branches across 16 states and 32 cities in India, with over 210 dedicated doctors. We pioneered in introducing Zyoptix (Bladeless LASIK) and Phakic IOLs in India, and we led the way with Small Incision Lenticule Extraction (SMILE) as well. We initiated the Village Adoption Programme, aiming to prevent and treat avoidable blindness in rural areas.

Moments make memories

A doctor's life is filled with unforgettable moments, but none compare to restoring someone's sight. One such moment for me was performing surgery on a 27-day-old

INTERVIEW



GT reporters with Dr Mahipal Sachdev

infant with a pre-genital cataract, who had suffered repeated graft failures. Another proud milestone was receiving the Padma Shri from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam in 2007. Such an honour humbles you and reinforces the responsibility to live up to the expectations of those who look up to you.

Focus brings success

Treating patients with severe eye conditions, particularly those facing blindness, is heart-wrenching. Yet, during surgery, it's crucial to remain focused and undistracted. It's essential for a surgeon to control emotions to ensure the best possible outcome.

Awareness helps always

It's crucial to limit screen time for children

to prevent eye problems. Regular eye checkups in schools are equally important. Sunlight exposure reduces the risk of myopia. So, in Singapore, a law mandates 90 minutes of outdoor activity in schools. Raising awareness about diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and cataracts is also vital. Simple practices like avoiding firecrackers and being cautious with colours during Holi can reduce eye injuries.

Message for Amitians

There are no shortcuts in life. It's important to have a clear vision of your goals. Set a clear aim and work towards it with full zeal, commitment and passion. Whatever career you choose, strive to give back to society in every way possible.

Swati Negi, GT Network

In an attempt to reduce expenses, Warner Bros Discovery has shut down The Cartoon Network website effective August 8, 2024. Previously, the website offered free clips and episodes from the network, allowing fans to dive deeper into the universe of The Cartoon Network. It provided not only video content but also games, resulting in an even more immersive experience. However, due to strategic modifications, Warner Bros Discovery has implemented the decision to close the website. Let's look at what Amitians have to say on the said matter.

One for the money

Warner Bros' decision to close Cartoon Network is part of a broader strategy to cut expenses and reduce competition from the booming streaming industry. The closure is aligned with the com-

Goodbye, toons

Nostalgia Sidelined As Profit Takes The Wheel

pany's effort to concentrate resources on their streaming platform, Max. By redirecting focus to streaming, Warner Bros aims to reduce operating costs while improving content delivery to a tech-savvy, younger demographic that increasingly favours on-demand viewing over traditional TV. The decline in Cartoon Network's viewership has been steep, with ratings dropping by nearly 25% in recent years. This downward trend, coupled with Warner Bros' financial pressures—such as the need to service over \$50 billion in debt following the AT&T merger—made the decision to shutter the channel more

Vichar Junction



pragmatic. Moreover, the competition from streaming giants like Netflix, Disney+, and Amazon Prime Video has drastically altered the media landscape.

Kriti Sharma, AIS Vas 1, XI C

Two for the show

Cartoon Network has been the sweet abode of our favourite cartoons - Courage the Cowardly Dog, Johnny Bravo, Power Puff Girls, Tom and Jerry etc. These

cartoons reminded us of the simpler days, with each show carrying a kaleidoscope of memories, conjuring happiness, laughter, and a sense of bittersweet nostalgia. Apart from being a great source of entertainment, it also shaped a generation of creators. It inspired numerous artists and writers with its distinctive animation, storytelling, and quirky humour. The website was more than just a digital archive; it preserved the supernatural, eccentric, and whimsical tales of these shows. But now this childhood abode has shut down, closing the door to our memories. This has undoubtedly left fans heartbroken and even decreased the variety of easily accessible programming. Most of these shows aren't on air, and cartoons today can't compare or compete with them. In a calculated decision, Warner Bros has chosen to lock down our cornerstone of nostalgia for their profit. [GT](#)

Bhavya Karn, AIS Vas 1, XI A

Connected to Wi-Fi

From the crack of dawn, technology stirs us with its reliable alarms, and caresses us with the cooling breeze of our ACs as we drift off to sleep, weaving its wonders into our everyday lives. GT pays homage to this silent saviour that simplifies and enhances our existence with a brand-new series, unwrapping A to Z of iconic tech pieces, one letter at a time. Here's presenting the **W** in this series that changed human life as we know and live it.

Parichaay Mitra & Alap Mitra
AIS VKC Lucknow, X A

The tech: Wi-Fi

The inventor: Vic Hayes and IEEE

How was it invented?

Wi-Fi is a technology that allows wireless

communication between devices over a local area network (LAN) using radio waves. The true idea of Wi-Fi started to take shape when NCR Corporation and AT&T Corporation created WaveLAN, a Wi-Fi forerunner. Often referred to as the 'Father of Wi-Fi', Vic Hayes, an engineer at NCR Corporation, chaired the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) committee responsible for developing the 802.11 standard, which served as the foundation for what we now know as Wi-Fi. He played a key role in the standardisation of wireless LAN technology.

When did we get to know it first?

In 1997, the first commercial Wi-Fi products based on the IEEE 802.11 standard were released by a company called Lucent Technologies, a result of the divestiture of AT&T's equipment and research divisions, and were marketed as WaveLAN. These early Wi-Fi



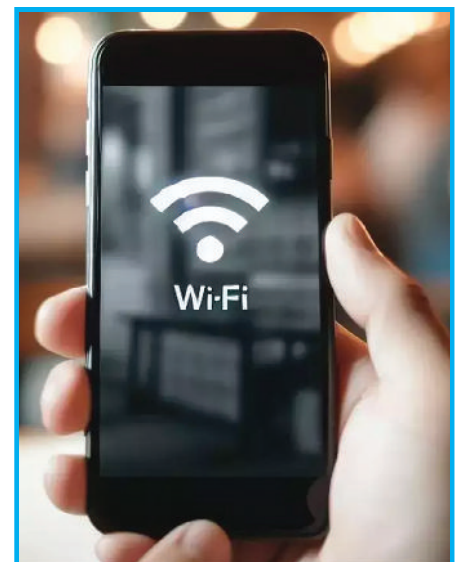
products offered wireless connectivity for computers and other devices. In 1999, the Wi-Fi Alliance was formed and they introduced the term 'Wi-Fi', a consumer-friendly brand name for wireless LAN products. The Wi-Fi Alliance started certifying Wi-Fi products for interoperability and promoting the adoption of Wi-Fi technology.

Why do we use it?

Wi-Fi provides wireless connectivity, allowing devices to connect to the internet or communicate with each other without the need for physical wired connections. It enables convenient and flexible access to the internet, supports the interconnectivity of various devices, and enables wireless communication in homes, offices, and public spaces. It enables mobility and compatibility making it a ubiquitous technology for seamless and wireless internet access.

How has it helped our lives?

Wi-Fi has greatly enhanced our lives in numerous ways. It has transformed our lives



Fun fact: The Guinness World Record for the longest Wi-Fi signal was set in 2007 when a team in Sweden transmitted a Wi-Fi signal over a distance of 382 kms.

by providing wireless internet access, enhancing mobility and convenience. It supports smart homes and IoT devices, enables unique applications like tracking wildlife movements, monitoring volcanoes, and enabling remote-controlled drones. Further, it has also revolutionised digital communication, online entertainment, and remote collaboration, transforming the way we live, work and interact in the modern world. 📱

The smog's silent siege



In The War Of Light And Dark, Even The Air Fights Back

Akshita Bhandari, XII B &
Harshil Bedi, XI B, AIS PV

Thousands of years ago, when Raavan was defeated, his physical form perished, but his spirit did not. Souls, as claimed, reincarnate, and Raavan's soul lingered in the mortal world, awaiting resurrection.

Centuries passed, and Ram's deadliest adversary, weakened but not destroyed, returned to exact revenge. He knew he alone was no match to the mighty Ram. And thus, he rallied for accomplices, and went about forging alliances in order to bring darkness to the world once more.

As the dark forces beckoned, the primordial dust emerged from stillness, bringing with it pollutants like pollen, gases, and dirt to aid Raavan's cause. Dust allied with ozone, birthing pollution, a powerful demon ally for Raavan. With the pain of his past defeat fresh in mind, Raavan plotted to suffocate humanity, accelerating respiratory infections and causing widespread collapse. But

humanity in the 21st century was strong and thus arose the need for an invincible weapon. Thus, Raavan summoned Dust, Peroxide, Hydrocarbon, Tropospheric Ozone, Nitrogen



Oxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide, Ammonia, Smoke, and Fog, which merged to become the mighty SMOG, the



insurmountable brahmastra.

With a power packed arsenal, Raavan finally waged a war on all of humanity. It was the month of October when the war began. The timing did not come as a surprise to the warlords, for this was the same month when effigies of the ten headed demon were burnt. As if in an ironical joke on humankind, Raavan unleashed his wrath on humankind and the air started getting thicker.

With each passing month, things kept getting tougher for humans. As the temperatures dipped and the air kept getting

The science of it

Smog, a blend of 'smoke' and 'fog,' is severe air pollution that reduces air quality and visibility, especially in October. It results from nitrogen and sulfur oxides, ozone, smoke, and particulates. Major contributors include coal and industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, and agricultural fires.

thicker, the SMOG grew denser and stronger. But if history has taught as anything, it is that each time evil rises, the good is bound to return. Rama, analogous to the raindrops that bring respite to the hearth beckoned wind and rain, came to the rescue. Finally, the rains dropped pursuing all contaminants and driving them back to where they came from. Winds dispersed the smog particles to far off lands making them weaker, and the air lighter once again. Raavan and his evil companions were defeated once again, displacing the evil-laden skies and revealing an azure of hope, optimism and goodness.



Aesthetics and you

Find Your Vibe And Connect

Saara Mathur & S Mysha Urooj, AIS Noida, Alumnae

In today's world, one can identify with and relate by resonating with various things. Whether it is horoscopes or MBTI personality types, they may all render validation and a feeling of acceptance. Finding your aesthetic is one such journey. Let's guide you to finding one unique to you.

Baddie

If you strut into the room with utter confidence in yourself, you might just be a baddie. Feeling comfortable in your skin and not giving a second thought to what others will think, you have found your inner diva.

Colours: Red and black

Dark academia

If watching Dead Poets Society inspired you to start a poetry club, you might find yourself in the dark academia aesthetic. Literature, history, and oversized sweaters make you feel at home. You discuss ideas and question existence but would never want to 'fit in'. How cool of you!

Colours: Brown, earth tones

Ethereal

If 'angelic' is the word you're described by, your existence might just be ethereal. You're delicate and sensitive, a good vibes person who just seems to be too good to be true. Some

might say flowers complete your look and describe you best.

Colours: Pastels, white, gold

Grunge

If you're born in the wrong era, and the 90s are where you'd time travel to, you'll fit into grunge. Neon lights, vinyl records, and Gen X music describe your room. Most importantly, if you feel this world isn't worth saving, but still strive to make it better, you're perfect for this edgy aesthetic.

Colours: Black and darker shades of red

Vapourware

Often travelling back to the 2010s, you're probably an anime fan with a liking for jazz music. Your forever love for vinyl, floppy disks, and neon colours make you a pure millennial.

Colours: Pink, blue, and purple (mostly neon)

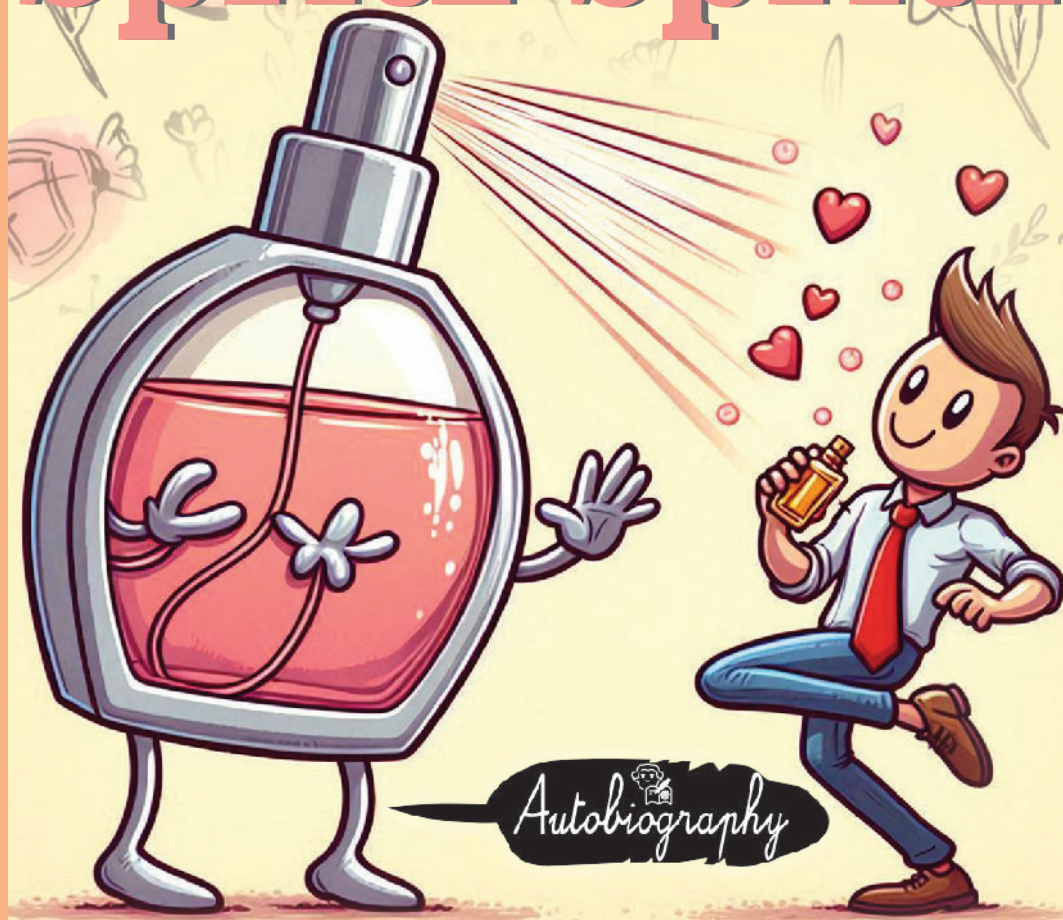
Witchcore

If you remember all your spells by heart and wish to own a flying broom, this aesthetic might just be for you! Your rebellious nature brings to life the bell sleeves, celestial jewellery, and curtain bangs.

Colours: Black and purple
(Saara is currently pursuing BA English (Hons) from Gargi College, DU.)

(S Mysha Urooj is currently pursuing BA Economics from DCAC, DU.)

Spritz spritz



The Aromatic Anecdotes Of Pristine Perfume

Ananya Mittal, AIS Vas 6, Alumna

“So, how does the day look like?”
“Ummm...ma'am...it's a little packed today. I know you wanted a day off, but these celebs...it's hard to refuse them. PC wants to meet you for brunch with friends. At about lunch, you have a new launch to attend. Julia Roberts has specifically asked for you to be there in her hair spa and for dinner...” “Okay, enough,” I interrupted before she could go on further. I know everyone wants me for I am the perfect finishing touch, the mascarpone to their pasta, and the cherry to their gelato, but today is the day I want to soak in my own spritzing beauty, breathe in my own fragrances, and revel in my own aromatic journey. Oh! I forgot to introduce myself. I am perfume.

I always have my hands full, for everyone from your girl next door to Beyonce wants a spritz of me. Oh, so sorry, I forgot to include men, my bad, given that 23% of them across the world use me every day, and another 63% use me occasionally. Why else do you think that the perfume industry is such a serious moneymaker? Don't tell anyone, but I heard that it was estimated to be worth 3.5 billion USD in 2022. Truth be told, I am not really surprised given the humongous markup at which I am sold. A study recently revealed that for a 100 USD bottle of perfume, the oil used to make the scent costs somewhere around 2 USD. Yes, only that much.

But then, who says you have to spend a hundred dollars on me, when there are plenty of designer knockoffs and middle priced versions of me available in the market. Such a contrast from my older days, when I was a prized possession of just the royalty. I remember it was around 3000 BC in Ancient Egypt, when priests would create me and then burn me later on, in homage to Gods as the fragrant smoke rose upwards. Communicating with the Gods, is how they would surmise the process. And those Gods only know what happened next, for the next thing I knew I was considered 'fallen'. This was the Middle Ages, when some lunatics started to associate me with evil beliefs and practices of witchcraft.

Thankfully, those are things of the past, for today, I spell luxury – head to toe. Chanel No 5, Shalimar, Miss Dior are some forms of my classic beauty. Howbeit, mistake me not, for I am a lot more than sheer vanity. I am more intricate and layered than you think me to be; composed of three notes – a top, heart, and base. While the top notes are rather delicate and fragile, the heart notes are rather flowery and spicy. Base notes are musky and stay the longest. Such fascinatingly intricate compositions and even complex results of smelling different on different people.

“Ma'am, sorry to interrupt you, but Mr Minister is here to meet you.” A beautiful fragrance was spritzed in the air, awakening olfactory senses, enchanting all and narrating a story that could truly be smelt.

A space of their own



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Time and again, Amitians have proven that they are super-achievers, and their most recent triumph has been at the International Space Settlement Design Competition. Over the years, I have noticed how ISSDC and ARSDC winners have shown remarkable growth in their overall personalities, and this observation further inspired me to introduce 'Amity Space Design Competition'. Launched in 2023, under the aegis of Amity Children's Science Foundation, the

contest, held at inter-Amity level, attracts hundreds of enthusiastic students from 17 Amity schools. Under the mentorship of eminent scientists from NASA as Dr Jennifer Blank and Dr Siddharth Pandey; and ISRO as Dr Shyama and Dr Girish; along with other prominent space research institutes, students create designs for potential space settlements. The top three projects are selected on the basis of innovation, presentation, communication, and futuristic relevance. To succeed in the competition, one requires a diverse team that can blend scientific expertise with creative vision, financial acumen with management skills, and entrepreneurial aptitude with leadership abilities. Under this platform, over 1500 young learners have been mentored and equipped with all these skills, necessary not only for space-related competitions but also for the world at large.

It's time to say! Hip, Hip, Hurray!

Seven Amitians, from AIS Vasundhara 6, AIS Noida, AIS Saket, AIS Pushp Vihar and AIS Mayur Vihar, won accolades at the inter-school competition in public speaking and logo designing. The event was held at Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences to celebrate World Hepatitis Day. 🇮🇳

A true sport



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

The Paris Olympics have drawn to a close, and though our medal tally was a bit disappointing, our hearts are full of pride and love for our athletes. Their exemplary behaviour and inspiring sportsmanship, both on and off the field, has brought the country more glory than any number of medals could. Neeraj Chopra, for instance, showed to the world what true sportsmanship means when he acknowledged his own shortcomings while praising the talent of

his opponent, Arshad Nadeem. No doubt, this large-hearted gesture stems from the impeccable ethics instilled in him by his parents, as was further evident when his mother referred to Nadeem as her own son and celebrated the boys' victories as a shared one. This genuine and warm gesture reflects the values of love, respect and brotherhood that Indian culture is renowned for.

In a similar display of humility, we saw Vinesh Phogat express gratitude when she returned home to a rousing welcome, despite having lost at the Olympics. When she said that the support of the nation meant more than winning a medal, it reiterated for us that true victory lies in the love we receive from our own people. Our legendary cricketer and coach Rahul Dravid once again proved why he is celebrated as the 'gentleman' of sports, when he refused higher compensation than his fellow coaches after India's victory in the T-20 World Cup. Indeed, as our Chairperson ma'am often says, it's only good behaviour that will leave a lasting impact. I hope that such great sportspersons will continue to inspire us into becoming better human beings. 🇮🇳

Over the top challenge

Decoding The Thin Line Between Disillusion & Reality

Tarunima Chakraborty
AGS Noida, Alumna

The digital age, a double-edged sword, offers unprecedented access to information while simultaneously blurring the lines between reality and curated content. OTT platforms, with their glossy allure and instant gratification, have become the cultural touchstone of a generation. For teenagers, navigating this complex landscape is akin to traversing a labyrinth, where self-identity often becomes entangled with the projected realities of OTT platforms.

Beneath the surface of entertainment lies a more Machiavellian influence. The carefully crafted narratives, often designed to appeal to the broadest audience, can inadvertently shape young minds, moulding their perceptions of beauty, success, and relationships. For a teenager grappling with self-image, the constant bombardment of airbrushed perfection can be devastating. The line between aspiration and disillusionment blurs, leaving young individuals questioning their own worth.

The danger lies in the subtle erosion of critical thinking. As young minds are inundated with pre-packaged opinions and lifestyles, the ability to form independent thoughts becomes increasingly challenging. The fear of dissenting from the popular narrative can stifle creativity and individuality. From 'One Tree Hill' to 'Gossip Girl', as adolescents, often we have committed the mistake of formulating opinions based on films and television shows because we relate to them. We put ourselves in the shoes of OTT characters, since content creators have the powerful ability to convince the audience of what may be the 'truth' or what is right or



wrong in each context. It is highly important that we as teenagers, learn to distance ourselves from such virtual life content, every now and then, to know if our judgement is reliable or compromised. We can encourage creation of blogs like 'Beyond the filter', to voice our opinions relative to our immediate reality. It's imperative to recognise that while OTT platforms offer a window to the world, they are not a mirror of reality. Teenagers must develop the discernment to separate fact from fiction, to question the messages they consume, and to cultivate their own perspectives. Encouraging critical media literacy is crucial. By engaging in open dialogue about the impact of OTT content, parents, educators, and society at large can empower young people to become conscious consumers. Platforms that foster critical

thinking, such as book clubs, debate teams, and art programs, can provide essential counterbalances to the passive consumption of digital media. By cultivating a strong sense of self and a critical eye, teenagers can break free from the constraints of the digital age and become the architects of their own narratives.

It is time to amplify teen voices, to nurture a generation of critical thinkers who can navigate the complexities of the digital world with confidence and resilience. OTTs and sensational propagandas may rule but are yet not powerful enough to cloud the opinion and the attention of sensitised young minds who can distinguish between their own opinions and the ones advertised online. 🇮🇳

(Tarunima is pursuing BA (Hons) Applied Psychology (International) from Amity University, Noida.)

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Unchanging change', published on page 5 of the GT edition dated August 19, 2024. The paradoxical phenomenon of constant change that strengthens the human relationship with fear of the unknown is precisely portrayed in the article. Change, though often feared, resembles a catalyst that stimulates growth and development in diverse spheres of our lives. What resonated with me the most was the emphasis on the transformative



GT M@il

power of change. The notion that we grow and evolve when we confront our fears and adjust to new circumstances is something I find particularly inspiring. The subtle ways we encounter change each day without even realising provoke profound reflection. I agree with the writer that the crucible of change can only be endured through acceptance!

Bulbul Verma, AIS Gur 46, XII B



Issue: Aug 19, 2024; Page 5

When describing India, we often highlight its diverse cultures and foods. While these are essential aspects, they sometimes eclipse the country's breathtaking landscapes and intricate architecture. To discover these uncharted territories, let *Madhav Ahuja, AIS Noida, XII I* take you on a journey filled with fascinating facts.

Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh

About: Lepakshi temple, also known as the Veerbhadra temple lies in the Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh.

Significance: It is said that it has a footprint that is believed to be of Sita.

Why to visit: This temple is a masterpiece of art and architecture, with the mysterious hanging pillar adding to its allure. The pillar, which hovers slightly above the ground, remains an enigma, leaving the visitors baffled as to how it was constructed.



Tada Falls, Andhra Pradesh

About: It is a stunning waterfall located in a dense forest called the Siddulaiah Kona, located in the Chittoor district of India, close to the Tricity and Oneness Temple.

Significance: The stunning, crystal-clear waterfall that cascades down the rocks from a height of around 100 m is a sight to behold. Numerous devotees frequent the falls on Shivratri, the festival of Lord Shiva, to offer prayers and offerings.

Why to visit: Tada Falls is a popular destination for hikers, trekkers, and travellers who want to take in the captivating beauty of the waterfall hidden in the lush vegetation and hillocks.

Nighoj, Maharashtra

About: Nighoj, located in Maharashtra's western ghats, is a unique tourist destination known for its naturally formed craters along the Kukadi River's bank.

Significance: Legends suggest geological disturbances and the Kukadi River's force created these large rock formations.

Why to visit: The stunning potholes are a natural wonder with their origins remaining a mystery despite various local legends around the same.

Journey to the Unseen

The Great Wall of India, Rajasthan

About: It's the second-longest continuous wall in the entire world after The Great Wall of China. This is a component of the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary and is situated in the wilderness of Aravalli range.

Significance: The wall is 15 metres wide and stretches for an astounding 36 km. This red-brick wall was made to safeguard the territory of Kumbhalgarh.

Why to visit: Adorned with intricate designs, the top of the wall offers a captivating visual appeal, making it a must visit for tourists seeking both history and beauty.



Gurudongmar Lake, Sikkim

About: Gurudongmar lake, one of Sikkim's most stunning and untouched lakes, is located at 5,183 metres above sea level. Situated near the border between China and Tibet in the north, this icy alpine lake is one of the main sources of the river Teesta.

Significance: The lake is named after the revered teacher Padmasambhava, who is said to have traversed through this area when visiting Tibet.

Why to visit: It is a magnificent location to visit, encircled by stunning mountains and is full of perfectly pure water. The lake is considered sacred and is said to have therapeutic properties.



The arcane truth

Vaishnavi Yadav

AIS VYC Lucknow, X B

My name is Harper, and I've been living on my own for ten years now, navigating the challenges of life without the support of my parents or any family members. I was left in this old run-down house tucked away in the outskirts of town when my grandmother, the only relative I had ever known, passed away ten years ago. When I was a little child, my parents left me here and vanished without so much as a farewell. Their absence has left me with a sour taste in my mouth, a simmering resentment that feeds the feelings of betrayal and rage that consumes me.



One weekend, as I was organising my attic, I discovered a huge box. In it, I found a picture of a young couple holding a small child. I also found a journal along with it. As I flipped through the entries, I was taken back to the early 1980s, where this unknown couple lived in a small hut near the beach. It talked of a love so profound that it was beyond space and time. The couple, who later disclosed their names as Linda and Joseph, aspired to begin a family of their own. When their daughter was born, their happiness was un-

bounded. However, as I read more, I came across a sinister secret. It described a curse that had destroyed their lives, and left them plagued with misfortunes. As I continued reading, I came to know that the life of quaint happiness in their small seaside village came with a heavy price. The old inhabitants of the village took the initiative to gather every new resident to join their community of nature preservers. However, what seemed like an amicable community at first soon turned out to be a heinous group of people who relished in customs of

One weekend, as I was organising my attic, I discovered a huge box. In it, I found a picture of a young couple holding a small child.

injured, and traumatised, but he was back. He told Linda of his plight and how the spirit was mad that he escaped. As Linda and Joseph tried to escape this curse, the rituals became more and more frantic. They talked of sacrifices made in the name of love, of lost treasures, and antiquated customs. They knew that a great danger lurked if they stayed there so, that night, they had planned to leave when the village fell asleep. And that's where the journal ended. I was horrified at what I had just read. Was this purely imaginary or was it real? It was too bizarre to be true. It dawned on me that I had neglected to check the journal's title. "To our beloved daughter, Harper," it read. It was as if someone had taken a sledgehammer to my chest and retracted my ability to breathe. This journal was a sombre reminder of my parents' ultimate sacrifice - the same people I had blamed for leaving me. 🇮🇳

Who is a woman?

Geetali Malhotra

AIS Gur 43, Alumna

She stands tall as hope falls
She breathes still as wind sways
World is an achromatic gloom
She is a woman who sees hues

Her stern ambitions barred
Even when she feels scarred
Seldom listened to, ignored
She is a woman who is torn

Through baring her claws
She barely scrapes out alive
Across the jungle of screams
That unite profoundly at night

Shivers run inside her skin
When she hustles through
Indifference of cold hearts
Dares to obliterate her past

Her thoughts are scattered
And her voice is strained
Pushed, plunged, or thrown
But everything is in vain

The often-anonymous writer
Who voiced her loud opinion
The medicine to the wound
She is a fighter, renowned

She who witnessed resistance
Yet she still bravely fought
Here lies a small ode to her
To another wild, free thought.
(Geetali is currently pursuing BSc (Hons) Economics from OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Haryana.)



Planet of life

Aashna Bhalla, AIS VKC Lko, Alumna

She provided billions with all her might
Food, water, and shelter a million time
While she held us in her arms tight

We fought with her and walked away
Greed, jealousy, and war for a pay
Yet she is the saviour of our plight

Lives will be no more if she loses sight
Let's revive her from her battered self
Let live and be loved back with her help.

(Aashna is currently pursuing BBA from Amity University, Lucknow.)

WORDS VERSE

BRUSH 'n' EASEL

Arisha Agarwal
AIS Vas 1, X D



Read Play and Win 62

Reading your favourite GT can fetch you a prize too. Complete all the boxes below. Click a picture and send it to editor@theglobaltimes.in or submit your responses by visiting The Global Times website (<http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week!



Q.1 The poem 'Who is a woman?' is written by _____.	Q.2 What is Atharv's favourite subject mentioned in 'It's Me' on page 9?	Q.3 What is the genre of the album 'Resonance'?
Q.4 What is the tagline of the article on page 6?	Q.5 What is the headline of the autobiography on page 5?	Q.6 Who invented Wi-Fi?
Q.7 Dr Mahipal Sachdev is the _____ of the Centre for Sight group of eye Hospitals.	Q.8 What was the cause chosen by the team of AIS Gur 43 for YP 2023-24?	Q.9 Lepakshi temple in Andhra Pradesh is also known as _____.

Name:.....Class:.....School:.....

Results of Read Play & Win-61: Shanaya Aggarwal, AIS Saket, VII D; Samarth, AIMC, X; Amaira, AIS Gurugram 43, VII C

Shifting wonder

Short story



Shantam Neogi, AIS MV, XI D

In the bustling streets of Delhi, amidst swarming people, a shape-shifting creature was desperately trying to escape an enemy. Both the creature and its chaser possessed the ability to transform into anyone they desired, blending seamlessly into the human population. The chase had been on for months. With each leap from one body to another, the creature absorbed fragments of the person's recent memories, allowing it to navigate into different worlds of others. In its latest leap, the shape-shifter found itself inhabiting the form of an old woman. As the time passed, the creature became

overwhelmed by the woman's memories. It discovered that she was burdened by numerous struggles and faced several legal battles. The old lady had been denied help by many. Even her son called her "An old bag of trouble!", turning a blind eye to her pleadings. As the creature stood in the middle of the crowded street, it felt a surge of empathy for the woman. In a moment of realisation, reminiscing its purpose of coming on Earth, the creature reflected, "What a tough life she is living. I must help her." The shape-shifter decided to use its unique abilities to help the old lady seek justice. It began by taking control of the people who had denied her assistance. It in-

As the legal battles progressed, the shapeshifter continued to navigate the city. It encountered people who were crucial to the resolution of the old lady's struggles.

fluenced the thoughts of an attorney, who had dismissed her case, to reconsider the evidence and take up her cause once again. Then it influenced a judge's perspective, nudging her to look beyond and consider the old woman's circumstances with compassion. It made the other judges support her cause. As the legal battles progressed, the shape-shifter continued to navigate the city. It encountered people who were crucial to the resolution of the old lady's struggles. With each encounter, it embraced their memories and, as per their perspectives, subtly influenced them to lend a helping hand. As days turned into weeks, owing to the shape-shifter's efforts, the old woman's legal battles began to tilt in her favour.

Through the shape-shifter some people discovered the immense power of compassion and the willingness to act. The shape-shifter felt empowered too, that even amid a personal struggle, one could make a **profound** difference in the lives of others. The creature was amazed at its transformation from an entity desperate to escape to a harbinger of positive changes. As the legal battles concluded, and justice was finally served, the shape-shifter bid farewell to the old woman's body. With its newfound wisdom, the creature ventured, "Time to go back to my world and play the Tom-Jerry game again!", ready to face whatever challenges awaited!

So, what did you learn today?

A new word: Profound

Meaning: Very great; that you feel very strongly

POEM



O' my little, tiny sparrow

Tashi Goyal, AIS Saket, X C

O' sparrow, a cute, little bird
Brown plumage, a big herd
They love to chirp and sing
Make people glad and swing

Warm fuzzy home, little eggs
Sit in warmth is best for rest
Cute little bird in every home
Roams around on sills of domes

Parents tell us how they flew
Stories of their wisdom due
Little cove chirped with joy
Changing world's favourite toy

Come again, o' little bird
Let me make your home again
Full of love and many smiles
To take away your every pain

In this world of mindless hate
Let us work to change its fate
Making those happy tales again
Bound by love's very own chain.

It's Me

MY FAVOURITES

- Teacher:** Shilpi ma'am
- Subject:** English
- Friend:** Ayansh Mishra
- Game:** Cycling and basketball
- Cartoon:** Tom & Jerry
- Food:** Rajma rice
- Mall:** Gaur City Mall
- Book:** The Blue Umbrella by Ruskin Bond



MY DREAMS AND GOALS

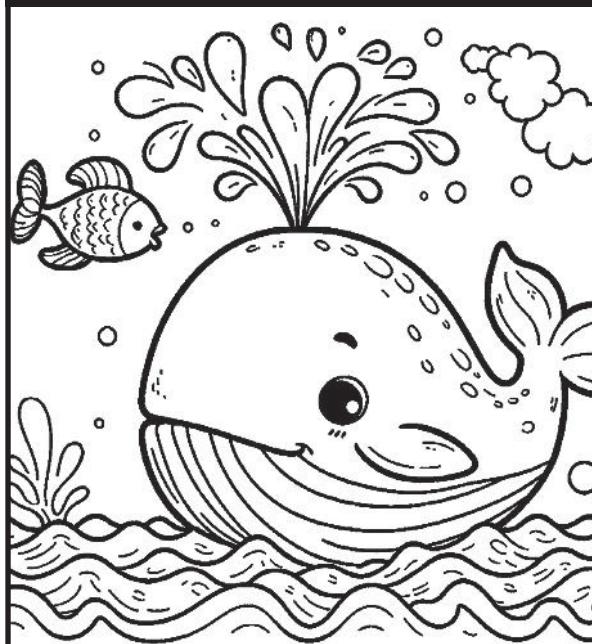
- Hobbies:** Drawing and clay modelling
- I like:** Playing 'I spy' with my friends
- I dislike:** Loud noises and trash on the roads
- My role model:** My father
- I want to become:** An artist
- I want to be featured in GT because:** I want everyone to know about me.



KNOW ME

- My name:** Atharv Gupta
- My Class:** III I
- My school:** AIS Noida
- My birthday:** April 9

COLOURING FUN



Click a high resolution picture (1 MB or more) of the entry and mail the same to: editor@theglobaltimes.in. The best entries will be published in GT.

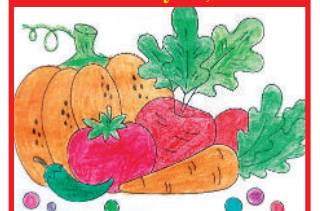
Best entries for colouring fun

Dated: August 5, 2024



Maulik Sharma
AIS Vas 6, UKG B

Dated: July 29, 2024



Rishabh Kumar Singh
AIS Raipur, IA

In your best interest

Save Diligently And Invest Wisely To Thrive Financially Tomorrow

Youth Power—an annual social leadership initiative organised by The Global Times, brings together teams from Amity schools across India to drive meaningful change through a structured, multi-stage programme. A key stage of the programme is the ‘Panel Discussion’ where experts from various sectors come together to engage in insightful debates on pressing social issues. This exclusive series spotlights the panel discussions organised as a part of YP 2023-24. In **Part IV** of this series, we spotlight the critical issue of ‘Financial Literacy’, a cause championed by the Youth Power team of AIS Gurugram 43.



The panellists gathered for the panel discussion

Maximise the ‘SIP’ focus

Panellist: Jaspreet Kaur, Branch Business Manager, HIGHLIFE FINSERV Pvt Ltd



“The most pertinent issue for students is navigating college finances. The key is planning early through what can be called a ‘Systematic Investment Plan’. This helps grow your money over time. Before investing, educate yourself on where to invest and what returns to expect. Mutual funds are a good option for long-term financial goals, as they offer potentially higher returns than low-interest bank deposits. Sometimes, planning for higher education requires an ‘Asset Allocation Plan’ with a financial advisor, which helps in spreading your investment risk across different funds.”

Plan for long-term gains

Panellist: Muheed Khan, Manager HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd



“SIPs in Mutual Funds are way better than short-term options like Recurring or Fixed Deposits. SIPs grow your money steadily over time and even small amounts can add up. Say, you invest 500 INR every month in a mutual fund with a 13% return, your money could triple over time! This beats gold’s average return of 7.5%. But you must pragmatically decide whether you are saving for short or long-term without worrying about taxes on your investments. The returns you get will hopefully outweigh tax implications.”

Become cyber-savvy

Panellist: Kartik Kumar, Cyber Security Officer, Gurugram



“Scammers lurk everywhere, so if you ever suspect financial fraud, act fast! Report it within 24 hours to the cyber fraud number 1930. Gurgaon has dedicated cyber police stations, so don’t waste time at a regular station. Be cautious of clicking hyperlinks and never share remote desktop access. These are golden rules to prevent unauthorised access to your money. Strong passwords and OTPs are a must. Financial security starts with online safety. True wealth comes from investing in yourself.”

Diversify your portfolio

Panellist: Shweta Camma, Director Spirit for Help Welfare Organisation; consultant trainer and visiting faculty across NSE, BSE, CDSL, NISM, IDBI Bank, and CIEL



“For financial security, invest in a variety of assets. Mutual Funds, with their SIPs, are a perfect place to start. RBI comics, the SEBI app, and financial news can be your guide. Spend wisely too, the 50-30-20 rule is a great start: 50% for needs, 30% for wants, and 20% for savings and investments. Diversification is the ultimate key! Invest 75% in equities and 25% elsewhere. With a little planning and knowledge, you can build a secure future.”

Part IV

Expert Speak



Focus primarily on net return

Panellist: Arun Aggarwal, Virtual CFO FinsQ Professionals (P) Ltd; former chairman of ICAI Gurugram; chartered accountant



“When it comes to saving smartly and growing your money, the key is balance. Banks offer security for your savings, while mutual funds can potentially provide higher returns. Invest a portion of your savings and keep the rest secure in a bank. Focus on your net return, what you get after taxes and inflation. Money growth is meaningless if it doesn’t keep pace with rising prices. The goal should be to have your money to meet your needs and wants, like education, or starting a business.”

Set consistent money goals

Panellist: Prakash Singh Negi, PGT Economics, AIS Gur 43



“For building long-term wealth, even without a steady income, it is important to understand the difference between saving and investing. Saving is for short-term goals, while investing grows your money for the future. Building wealth starts with controlling your spendings. Focus on needs, not wants. Learn about term insurance to protect your future income. Even with an unsteady income, 30% of your income, invested consistently over time, can grow significantly. The secret weapon is multiple income streams. Explore freelance work or side hustles.”

Be fearless about risks

Panellist: Khem Singh, Advisor and Market Analyst, Bajaj Capital Ltd; former branch manager, IIFL



“Life throws curveballs, but a long-term investment plan can help you weather most of the storms. There is a chance that the market might fluctuate in the future, but it is only a short-term risk and history has shown market trends upwards over time. It is essential for the investor to not get deterred by some dips now and then in the market. Always focus on the long-term goals and harness the power of compounding interest. Start small, invest consistently, and watch your money grow steadily.”

Polish rendezvous

Visit To The Embassy Of The Republic Of Poland



Amity delegation with Dr. Sebastian Domzalski, charge d'affaires

AERC

A delegation of 17 students (16 from AIS Pushp Vihar and AIS Saket, and 1 from Amitasha Saket) made a learning and cultural enhancement visit to the Polish Embassy, New Delhi on July 11, 2024. The students had a fruitful interaction with Dr Sebastian Domzalski, charge d'affaires, and Konrad Duda, secretary of commercial and political affairs. The stimulating program was organised by Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC), under the visionary guidance and leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF.

The event commenced with a token of appreciation being presented to the dignitaries by the Director, AERC. Following this, Dr Sebastian Domzalski shared insights into various cultural, economic, political, and educational ties between Poland and India. During the programme, the secretary general of AIMUN 2024-25 extended a formal invitation to the ambassador for Amity International Schools Model United Nations (AIMUN). Two Amityans, represent-



Students interact with the dignitaries

ing AIS Saket and AIS Pushp Vihar, gave an overview of the Amity Universe, AERC's initiatives and Amitasha, and presented handmade souvenirs to the dignitaries. Konrad Duda further elaborated on the educational, cultural and political aspects of Poland, after which an intriguing quiz about Poland was held that tested the students' knowledge about the country. The visit concluded with a lively question & answer session where students posed questions about the various facets of Polish culture, cuisine, diplomacy, and politics. The event was a resounding success, which inspired students to learn the art of diplomacy and skills needed to excel in international relations. [G.T](#)



Advocate & win

Amity Group of Schools

Amityans won top accolades at an inter-school public speaking and logo designing competition held at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on July 26, 2024. Organised by 'The illness to wellness' initiative along with 'Project Empathy' campaign of ILBS, to raise awareness about hepatitis, the competition marked the celebration of World Hepatitis Day and was based on this year's theme, 'It's time for action'.

The event was graced by notable personalities like Dr Shiv K Sarin, director and chancellor, ILBS and Anil Rajput, ASSO-

CHAM National CSR Council In the public speaking contest, Chehak Maheshwari (VIII), AIS Noida and Agrim Malhotra (VIII), AIS Pushp Vihar bagged the first and third prize respectively. Maira Shadab (X), AIS Vasundhara 6 and Priyamvada Rao (XI), AIS Mayur Vihar were the special mention winners of this contest. In logo designing, Vincy Bansal (X), AIS Vasundhara 6 won the first prize, Ania Yadav (IX), AIS Saket bagged the third prize and Bhavika Gupta (VIII), AIS Saket fetched the consolation prize. Vidyanshi Singh (XII), AIS Gur 46 got special mention. Students from over 15 schools of Delhi/NCR participated in the event.

Navigating the finances

AIS Noida

A panel discussion on 'Digital finance: Navigating the future of accessible finance' was organised for students of Class XI-XII (commerce & humanities stream) on July 24, 2024. Conducted by the school's Economics Society, the panel discussion comprised eminent panelists Parag Gupta, chartered accountant, faculty & member, NCERT; Avneesh Mishra & Manya Singh, alumni, AIS Noida; and senior school faculty members.

The key points during the discussion were the prevailing trends in digital finance, with a special focus on the rapid adoption of digital currencies and blockchain technology, highlighting their potential to transform traditional banking systems. The discussion also addressed regulatory challenges posed by digital finance, including concerns around cy-



The panelists in discussion



Students listen intently to the talks

bersecurity, fraud, and consumer protection. The need for a balanced approach that fosters innovation while maintaining strong regulatory frameworks to protect consumers and ensure financial stability was emphasised.

Panelists accentuated how traditional banks are adapting to the digital finance wave by investing in technology and forming strategic partnerships with fin-

tech companies. The future prospects of digital finance were also explored. Following the discussion, an engaging Q&A session took place, where the audience raised questions about the role of artificial intelligence in digital finance. In conclusion, the discourse underscored the importance of collaboration between industry players, regulators, and academia to navigate financial landscape. [G.T](#)



The proud winners of Razzmatazz

Razzmatazz

AIS Pushp Vihar

The school organised 12th Razzmatazz, the annual inter-school festival of western music on July 30, 2024. Around 20 schools from Delhi/NCR participated in the music fest conducted in various individual and group categories namely Group Song, Band, Vocals, Drums, Guitar etc. Amityans proved their musical excellence in the competition as they fetched several awards. AIS Saket clinched first prize in the Band category and AIS Gur 43 secured third prize in the Group Song category. In individual categories, AIS Gur 46 got the award for Best Drums, AIS Vas 6 was declared Best in Guitar while AIS MV fetched award for the Best Bass. [G.T](#)

Language showdown

A Linguistic Courtroom Drama Full Of Words, Wits, And Unexpected Twists

Venuka Rison Joseph
AGS Gurugram, IB2

The courtroom buzzed with tension as the judge, entered and called the session to order. “The prosecution is ready, Your Honour,” a voice announced, marking the start of an unusual trial. The irony? English was being prosecuted by Mandarin, yet the entire trial was conducted in English.

Mandarin, representing the prosecution, stood determined to expose English’s flaws, while English sat back, appearing indifferent. “You no good for mother earth language. We Mandarin spread language. Mandarin makes people learn,” Mandarin declared, struggling with the very language it sought to condemn. While, English, baffled by Mandarin’s broken sentences, remained silent. “Order in the court!” the judge demanded, his patience wearing thin. The prosecution’s lawyer, Thai, took the floor, ready to dismantle English’s credibility. Dressed in a trench coat, Thai sipped a peculiar mix of water and garlic sauce before addressing the court. “Your Honour,

the prosecution would like to call English to the stand,” Thai announced, with a sly grin. English approached the stand, wiping the chair before sitting down. Thai wasted no time. “You have only 26 letters, no curvy lines, no accent marks. How can you be so confusing when you’re so simple?” Thai inquired. English shrugged, beginning to respond, but Thai quickly interrupted. “Aha! So, you admit to being confusing? Do you take responsibility for confusing children and causing their bad

grades? The tears on their phonics posters, are they your fault?”

English, flustered, mumbled, “What are phonics? Tears? Grades? I don’t understand!” Thai sensed discomfort and pressed on. “Let’s play a game. I say a word; you tell me its meaning. Simple, right?”

With English’s hesitant consent, the game began. “What is a bat?” Thai asked. “That’s easy! A mammal!” English answered.

“Wrong! It’s a sports equipment!” Thai retorted. English stammered, “But

that’s just one case!”

Thai, however, was relentless. “Bear, fair, well, bark, these are all examples of your inconsistencies!” English’s lawyer, Dutch, tried to object, but the judge overruled, allowing Thai to continue.

Thai then wrote “read” and “read” on a whiteboard. “What’s the difference between these words?” Thai asked. English, now on the verge of tears, muttered, “One is past tense...?” “Yes, but which one?” Thai questioned. As English began to cry, Thai seized the opportunity. “Tears? Or tears? Same spelling, different pronunciation, why?” Thai demanded, delivering the final blow. Seeing enough, the judge stood up, declaring, “Enough! I bear little patience!” Thai pressed, “The judge said bear! Is it a brown bear? A black bear?”

“Silence!” the judge roared. “This court rules in favour of English. I’m too old to learn another language, and I don’t want my kids babbling in tongues either. Case dismissed!” English, though victorious, had to pay for ineffective lawyers, while Mandarin struggled to find its way out, the signs, after all, were in English.



Album Review

A musical connection

Album: Resonance
Artist: NCT (Neo Culture Technology – Kpop Group)
Released on: October 12, 2020
Genre: Pop, Contemporary

Synopsis: The 2nd Album by NCT, “RESONANCE Pt. 1” dives deep into the group’s core theme of unity and interconnectedness, building on the foundation laid by their previous album, “NCT 2018 EMPATHY.” The album is a celebration of the strong bonds that are formed through the collective power of music, where each member’s dreams and emotions are intertwined to create a cohesive and resonant experience. NCT’s unique approach to storytelling emphasises the importance of understanding and supporting one

another, which is reflected in their music. By harnessing this collective synergy, the group not only showcases their individual talents but also reinforces the idea that music is a powerful force that can bring people together across different backgrounds and cultures.

Why this is worth listening:

This album is an innovative approach to music and creates a dynamic and immersive experience for the listeners. It is more than just a collection of songs; it’s a journey through the diverse musical landscapes that NCT navigates with ease. Featuring a stellar lineup of all the members, the songs encapsulate the album’s overarching theme of pursuing dreams and staying true to one’s aspirations. The album’s strength lies in its ability to inspire and



connect with listeners on a deeper level.

My favourite song is: All the songs in this album are equally wonderful, but my favourite song is Make a Wish.

Rating: 5/5

Review By: Shriya Pasricha
AIS Gur 43, X B

GT Travels to San Francisco



Siddhant Rathore, AIS Vas 6, VII A, poses with his copy of The Global Times in front of The Golden Bridge, San Francisco. Recognised as one of the Wonders of the Modern World, this bridge was titled as longest and tallest suspension bridge in the world, at the time of its opening in 1937.

Got some clicks with GT while on the go? Get them featured! Send them to us at gttravels@theglobaltimes.in