Status of the week

One of the best decisions of my life was to apply for Youth Power. It started as a competition and we started as a team. But soon they became a lot more than just my team members. This journey was so much more than just a competition.

A contented team leader Dhwani Bhargava, YP team, AIS Vasundhara 6

Finally, my sister did something I couldn't do - 1st runner up Youth Power 2015-16. Someone who would sleep for 14 long hours sacrificed everything for Youth Power and it was worth it. Tanya, you made me proud. Congratulations to the entire team.

> A proud brother Advik Aggarwal, AIS MV, XII

4 students, 1 mentor teacher, 70 volunteers and 6 months, we were able to save 17.16 tons of waste by putting in small efforts. This project of ours helped us to see waste with a different perspective because "Waste is not waste until you waste it". #ScrapCrap

> The proud mentor teacher Sanyukta Priya, YP team, AIS Noida

What are we going to do Monday onwards? Youth Power to khatam.

> The much busy volunteer Gursimran Singh, YP team, AIS Gurgaon 46

Never have I felt so accomplished. Our team was apparently called 'the team that learnt how the show must go on'. A six month journey which comprised of endless hurdles. From sleepless nights to countless breakdowns, this ride was filled with laughter and sorrow. Here's to everyone who led us to victory.

The humble winner Manasvi Ahuja, YP team, AIS Gur 46

Dhwani, The YP journey was so much fun with you. Your leadership held us together.

> Proud of his captain Avi Mudgal, YP team AIS Vas 6

We did it!

The winning captain Abhineet S, YP team, AIS Gur 46

INSIDE

Pencil story, P4 Delhi in 200 bucks, P5 Who killed our future, P6 Dying Ganga, P7

AMIT**e**/poll

Will capping the registration of new vehicles solve traffic problems?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT for GT issue April 18, 2016

Do you think renaming 'Gurgaon' as 'Gurugram'



Coming Next

Dilli Darshan

THE GLOBAL TIMES

It couldn't get BIGGER



That you hold in your hands is the GT Big Story edition, where each story is spread over a page. And what better than the biggest event of the year to make for the front page of this special edition? Youth Power, in its eighth year, was bigger and better than ever before. We bring you the smallest of details of the event that was big, both in magnitude and heart.

Bhawna Tuteja, GT Network

What: Youth Power 2015-16 Grand Finale When: April 22, 2016

Where: Amity University, Noida

Why: To culminate the year long journey of Youth Power and find Youth Envoys

Who: Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF

- •Ravish Kumar, Sr Executive Editor, NDTV India & chief guest
- •Jury members: Sumedha Sharma, Design For Change; Dr Aprajita Kashyap, asst professor, JNU; Charudatta Panigrahi, board member, Rotary, Gurgaon
- •Ms Pooja Chauhan, Vice Chairperson, Amity Humanity Foundation
- •Ms Divya Chauhan, Chairperson, ASFA, ASFT & ASPA •TPS Chauhan, advisor, Amity Group of
- ●BN Bajpai, advisor, R & D, Amity Group
- Mohina Dar, director, academics, Amity International Schools & AGS
- Principals of Amity International Schools & heads of other institutions



I can see the future leaders of our country seated right here in this auditorium. If this the kind of work you can do at this age, with so much passion and creativity; I am sure that the future will see you change the course of development in our country and usher change.

Chief guest Ravish Kumar, Senior Executive Editor, **NDTV** India

It started as a **SMALL** initiative

What began eight years ago as a programme to nurture socially conscientious leaders, is a movement today, creating numerous ethical leaders and motivating many others to be the change. Youth Power 2015-16 saw ten teams committed to a social cause, undertaking multifarious activities for the same.

It witnessed BIG things...

The year-long programme culminated with a grand finale, wherein the teams presented the work undertaken by them through the year. The event stood witness to sensitising short films, moving speeches and acts that left the audience in awe. From the magnitude of their campaigns to to real stories of change that left everyone teary-eyed... as the teams shared these details, the magnanimity of the event was there for all to see.

That deserve BIGGER accolades...

The smile on the face of an underprivileged, a pat on the back, a tiny difference

THE GLOBAL TIMES

to someone's life... that is the real award for any YP finalist. A trophy is only the cherry on the icing. And Amity International School, Gurgaon 46 stood as the cherry on the top when it bagged the title of Youth Envoys 2015-16.

The first runner up position was jointly shared by AIS Noida and AIS Mayur Vihar, AIS Vasundhara 6 took home the Second Runner Up trophy.

But what was bigger than the awards were the words of appreciation from the jury members and chief guest, who stood agog at the efforts of the team. The loud cheers and applause stood testimony to the achievements of the team.

And then came the **BIGGEST** reward...

...the words of a Chairperson & the appreciation of a mother, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan. She lauded the efforts of the students, beamed with pride on seeing their work and swelled with emotion as her children stood as change makers. "I am very proud of my Amitians. They have truly ushered the change that we all want to see," she said. GI



The winners board

Best Research Strategy **AIS VKC Lucknow**

Best Community Outreach AIS Noida

Beat Awareness Movie AIS Vasundhara 6

Best Fund Raising Model **AIS Mayur Vihar**

Best Creative Communication

AIS Pushp Vihar

Best Social Implementation **AIS Gurgaon 43**

Best Social Media Engagement

AIS Gurgaon 46 Best Panel Discussion

AIS Saket

Best Mentor Teacher Sanyukta Priya, AIS Noida

The Jury



The kind of creativity that children possess, the grown-ups do not and platforms like YP further enhance their creativity. Dr Aprajita Kashyap

Amity is a one of its kind institution that lays emphasis on social leadership programmes, at such a large scale.

Charudatta Panigrahi



I have been here for four hours and I did not even realise how time passed away. I enjoyed every single bit of this programme.

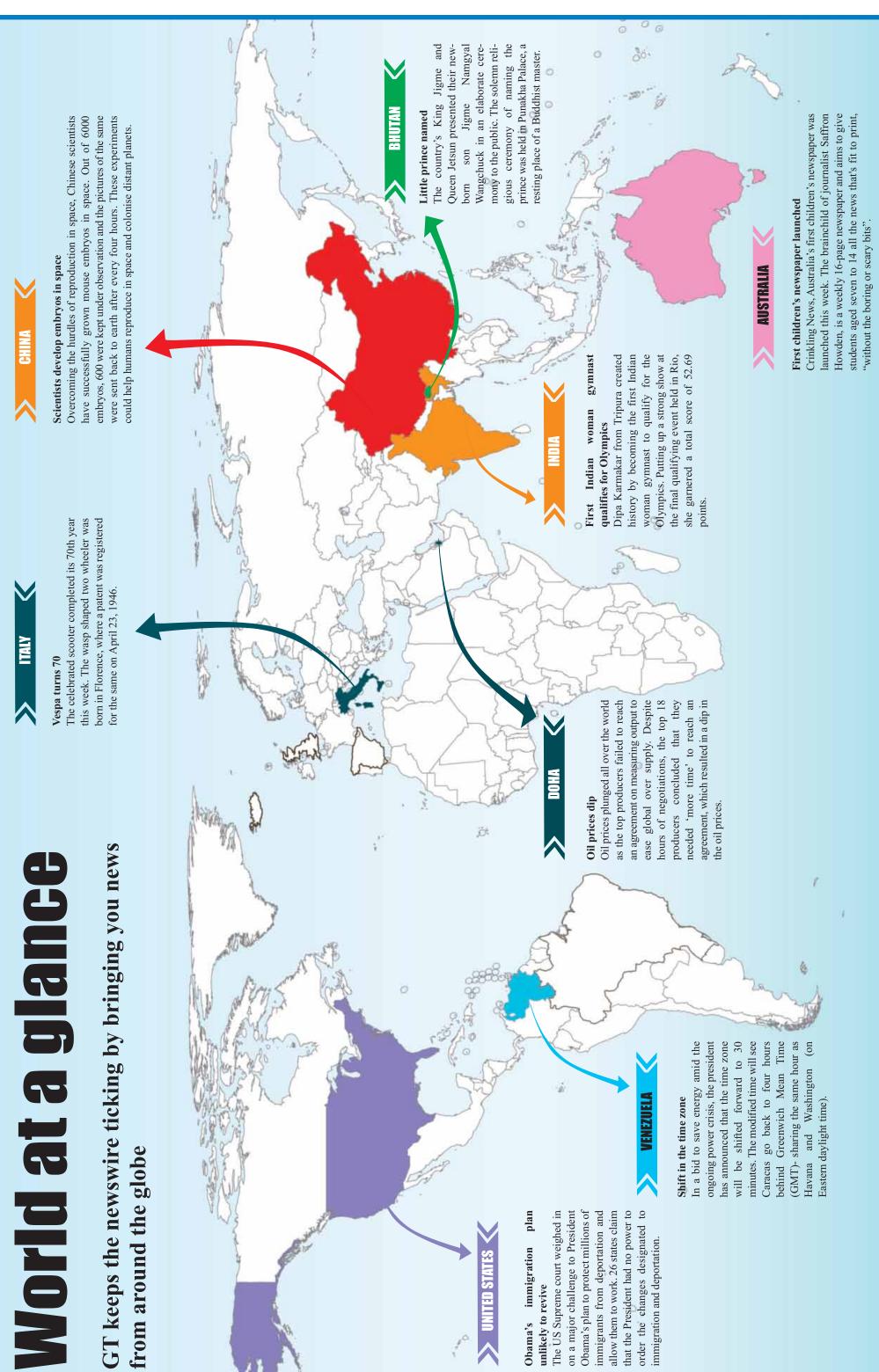
Sumedha Sharma



News and Views

THE GLOBAL TIMES | MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

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Over 1,000 students from 250+ Indian and International schools have participated in the Amity University Summer School over the years:

- The Shri Ram School Delhi Public School Dhirubhai Ambani International School • G D Goenka World School • Mayo College, Ajmer
- · Mother's International · Spring Dales School · Army Public School
- Convent of Jesus & Mary Vasant Valley School Amity International School • Step By Step School, Noida • Ysgol Friars, Wales, UK
- United World College, Singapore

Getting first hand experience at university level by interacting with new people who hold similar interests differentiated Amity University Summer School from other programmes. "



Vanshree Mathur Podar International School, Mumbai

At Amity University Summer School, the faculty was very supportive and student-friendly. Also, the practical experience of working in a news studio was very exciting. ""



Mishka Jaiswal

Convent of Jesus and Mary, New Delhi

- Course Fees: ₹9,000/- (Fees subsidized by Amity Youth Foundation)
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Birth of a pencil A student's first friend. An architect's companion. A designer's comrade. A tailor's soul mate. A carpenter's contrivance. An editor's tool. I am the humble pencil. Want to know my story?

Daksh Puri, Rishi Nandy, Arunabh Mathur, Madhav & Nitish Sharma, AIS MV, XI

nce upon a time in Borrowdale, in the Lake district of England, a massive storm raged which uprooted a huge oak tree. It was somewhere around the middle of the sixteenth century, and the shepherds of that area noticed something black hanging from the upturned roots of the tree. Underneath the uprooted tree, the shepherds discovered a mammoth deposit of a black sooty substance which they thought was coal. But then, it didn't burn as they expected it to. So, everyone concluded it was a kind of black lead, and called it 'wadd' or 'plumago' in Latin, which meant 'that acts like lead'. The black substance was actually graphite - the substance pencils are made of. Though it wasn't called so, then.

When people discovered it left a

...which was much darker than lead, they began to use the magic material for marking sheep for identification! The small chunks of pure graphite left a nice smudge on their wool, that wouldn't go away easily. Suddenly, shepherds had an innovative solution for tracking disappearing sheep. The only problem, the chunks of graphite were soft and brittle, which made it difficult to hold them.

Gradually, it found more utility...

...when artists and fieldwork professionals began to put it to more sophisticated uses than just marking sheep! They used it for making notes, drawing layouts and creating intricate designs. The substance began to be called graphite in 1789, using the Greek word 'graphein' meaning 'to write'. But the soft and brittle nature of the substance prevented its use with ease. Eventually, people figured out smarter ways of using it. Chunks of graphite were

shaped into sticks and wrapped in sheep skin before they were tied with coiled string. Some people went a step ahead and inserted pieces of graphite into the hollow ends of twigs. That was, how, perhaps the earliest rudimentary pencils took shape. The description of the earliest version of pencil is found in the 'Treatise on Fossils' penned by Konrad Gesner of Switzerland. The 'Gesner' pencil rose to fame as it was believed to be used by Shakespeare.

When Queen Elizabeth realised its value...

...she took over the mines of graphite found at Borrowdale and began to guard it for they proved to be very useful in the making of moulds for cannonballs. Since that was the largest deposit ever found till then, its value

was mined several times a year and armed guards would escort the wagons carrying loads of graphite to London. Its export was strictly prohibited, London enjoyed monopoly over graphite for a long time.

The first pencil was born...

... around 1560 when an Italian couple named Simona and Lyndiana Bernacotti made the modern

wood encased carpentry pencil. Their version was a flat oval, more compact type of pencil. Shortly after, a superior technique was discovered: two wooden halves were carved, a graphite stick was inserted and the halves were then glued together it is essentially the same method used till date. But graphite used therein was soft and prone to breaking.

Slowly, deposits began to be found...

...in other parts of the world.

Since they were not as pure as the ones found at Borrowdale, a series of experiments followed to figure out a satisfactory binder for the powdered ore to be made into useable sticks. By the 17th century, the Germans began to use a mixture of graphite, sulphur and antimony to make white lead sticks that gave their English counterparts a stiff competition. Somewhere around 1795, a scientist called Nicholas-Jacques Conte of France discovered the process of mixing graphite with clay, a process which gave graphite a bit of sturdiness. When placed in a kiln, it produced a better writing material. The strength of the pencil demixture. The more the graphite, the softer the pencil. This was a major breakthrough in the

journey of the pencil, and a similar mixture of graphite and clay is still used in the 'lead' pencils we use today.

The first pencil making factory...

...was set up in 1832 at Keswich called Dervent Cumberland Pencil Company. Meanwhile in the US, William Monroe, a cabinet maker, invented a machine for making grooves in wooden slats which

were used to make pencils. Around the same time, American inventor Joseph Dixon devised a mechanised method to make pencils and by 1861, the first pencil making factory was built in New York City. A pencil mill owner called Ebenezer Wood is credited with creating the first hexagon and octagon shaped wooden casing. The pencil industry

> flourished across the world thereafter with the reduction of trade barriers, introduction of containerised shipment of goods overseas, decrease in transportation costs, etc.

Then, the pencil had a sibling...

...called the sharpener. Though the knife was the commonest tool used to sharpen the wooden pencil, the entire process was quite time consuming. As pencils pervaded everyday life, the need for a faster and better way to sharpen them was felt acutely. Two Frenchmen were up to the challenge in 1828, and invented the 'taille crayon' roughly translated as 'pencil sharpener'. But it was no way faster than the knife. Then came 'Styloxynon', a device comprising two files placed diagonally.

The final breakthrough came in when Estwaux inpended on the quantity of graphite in the vented a conical-shaped device. When a pencil was placed inside it and twisted, the sides whittled away. This is how the first sharpener was born, and the siblings lived happily ever after. GII

Pencil-it-in!

- The modern pencil owes its existence to an ancient Roman writing instrument called 'sty-
- Pencil is derived from Latin word 'pencillus', meaning 'little tail', to describe the small ink brushes used for writing in the Middle Ages.
- The idea of attaching an eraser to a pencil is traced to Hyman W Lipman, who sold this patent for a reported \$100,000.
- grades, from the softest, 9B, to the hardest 9H, with the most popular being HB. 'H' means hard and 'B' means black. Coloured pencils are produced the same way

■ Today, pencils are available in at least 20

- as black ones, except that their cores contain dyes and pigments instead of graphite. Pencils can write in zero gravity, and were
- used on space missions by American and Russian astronauts. They can also write under
- It is believed that a pencil can draw a line 35 miles long, although this has never been tested. Want to try it out?

Tiny pencil facts

- Pencils were among the basic equipment issued to Union soldiers during Civil War.
- More than half of the pencils come from China. In 2004, factories there turned out 10 billion pencils, which is enough to circle the earth more than 40 times.
- The world's largest pencil is a Castell 9000 made of Malaysian wood and polymer. It stands 65 feet high.
- A typical pencil can write as many as 45000 words, the length of a short
- Over 14 billion pencils are produced in the world every year, enough to circle the globe 62 times.
- The average pencil can be sharpened
- Famous novelists Ernest Hemingway and John Steinback used pencils to write their books.
- Every year, March 30 is celebrated as National Pencil Day all over the
- Bright yellow Ticonderoga brand pencils are probably one of the most recognised pencils in the world.



horizons, but in the society at large too.

Bharat Goyal, YP team, AIS MV

YP is certainly the BIGGEST platform to usher the BIGGEST changes not just in your

bucks

If anybody were to put forth the idea of spending a great Sunday in Delhi in 200 bucks, they would for sure be greeted with dubious glances. But, as you dig into your pocket and give yourself up for extortion, *Chinmaya Kausik*, *AIS Gur 43, XII*, brings you the experienced street wanderer's guide to an amazing Sunday by shelling out minimum moolah



Jog your way through all the fitness boot camps and runners meet-ups out there, or sit and capture the picturesque beauty of the lake, all while soaking in the charm of the ancient ruins.



Alight at Green Park metro station. Cross Jagannath Mandir to get to Hauz Khas village (and feel really small in the grand scheme of things).



Begin your day with a king size breakfast as you gorge on *Chhole bhature* from Bittoo *Chhole Bhandar*.



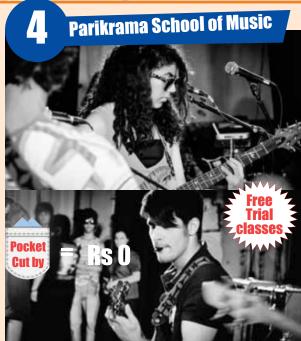
The journey of a happy Sunday begins on sadi Dilli's thanda thanda cool cool

for Delhi Metro ride

metro. Enjoy your ride, eavesdrop on chit-chat ("Usko toh 25% raise mil gaya, roz chai jo peeta tha Sir ke saath"), put on the earplugs and enjoy your favourite tracks!

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Wrap your way around the twisty shapes of modern art and sigh at the ginormous walls laced with oodles of colour. Feast your eyes with wonder at the vibrant display of paintings, sculptures and graphics by renowned artists as well as amateurs.

8 Back to home

And you're back home (within Rs 21 by metro) just in time to snooze off, watching the next season of your favourite sitcom.



A haven for travel freaks. You can devour free tea, coffee, cookies, WiFi, some awesome travel books, and if it's your lucky day, a free photography workshop, besides a million dollar conversation with other travel buddies. Well, you can pur-

travel buddies. Well, you can purchase travel books and pictures too.



Still hungry? Try spicy 'Bombay Bhelpuri' from the stalls that run through the way.





for a cause



I am extremely happy to see that the Youth Power programme that was introduced in the schools has traversed a journey of eight successful years. Through these eight years, I have seen my Amitians touch upon various topics, creating awareness on

different issues ranging from women empowerment, health matters and MDG goals to topics such as Save the Tiger and Reduce Junk Food, among others. It is heartening to see that with every year, the programme has gained momentum and strength.

For me, this is more than a programme, as it is an amazing life skill training experience where you learn several things besides creating awareness. The first thing that you learn is, to be compassionate. Today, everybody wants to be a leader, but what we need are compassionate leaders and I have seen this programme yield such leaders. Over the years, I have witnessed Youth Power participants get so involved with their cause that they have kept up with their activism even after leaving the school. And that is the real meaning and purpose of the programme. When I hear their experiences I can see a newfound gratitude and respect for things and people around them. This is yet another thing to learn – to value what you have while maintaining a sense of personal responsibility.

For me Youth Power is more than a competition, it aims to empower every participant, and convince every volunteer that they have the power to bring change. The finale was not the end, but the beginning of a journey that is going to change many more lives. GI

Beyond competition



As we conclude another year of the Youth Power programme, I can say that this extraordinary journey, which commenced eight years ago, has been very fulfilling. It has been satisfying to see this newspaper encourage, develop and nurture ethical leaders who

take up diverse social issues to create awareness and educate the masses.

Every time we reach the finale, there is a constant struggle to decide the winner amongst the many noteworthy projects. When I look into the work, effort and dedication they engage in the cause, my heart goes out to all the participants. And then there are some who also raise the question: "A program such as this should not be competitive. How can you judge a social initiative?" Well said, this is a deep dilemma. (Within my heart, they are all winners forever.)

As I look into the structure and process of this uniquely creative social leadership programme, I see a model to recognise and reward the noble initiatives of the young leaders – to bring change and to be the change. The program spread through various stages, aims to teach something to the participants at every single step. The purpose of the competition is merely to sift the best

Participating in the program over the years has given our young social leaders tremendous selfconfidence and motivation to take on tougher challenges, strengthen their CVs for admission in Higher Education institutions, and grow with new insights. Irrespective of whether they make it to the finalist list, each one is a winner, as they get to assess themselves in the year-long path of self-discovery and learning.GI

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Compassion Who killed our future?

It was a full-fledged war. Between the convict and the accuser. Between right and wrong. Between past, present and future. Who would decide - how much is too much? Akshat Babbar, AIS Gur 46, XII, presents the trial

Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

The plot: It's the 22nd century. A new species of humans have evolved.

Distinguishing features: Stunted height, jagged teeth, distorted features, surgical mask attached to an oxygen cylinder.

The court: International Green Tribunal, Mars The case: 21st century vs 22nd century

The defendant: Burdwin Bush, a stout old man with a limp and haggard appearance - one of the few 21st century human species who have outlived his peers, all thanks to medical intervention.

The chief prosecutor: John Headley, a 22nd century plaintiff, known for his thundering courtroom antics.

in drop silence engulfed the room. A myriad emotions showed up on every face. Some grieved souls could be heard mourning over the loss of their loved ones. "Hail! All rise!" A voice broke the silence as a short woman with a pointy nose, wearing a black robe entered the room. Everyone awaited the courtroom battle to unfold.

John Headley takes his position near the dais, forging upon the severity of life for the future generation. Facing the jury, pausing to take a quick inhaler break, he exclaims animatedly, "Last month, my sister was blessed with a baby boy. I fear what world he is going to live in. In the few weeks of his life, he has already made several rounds of the doctor's clinic." Another inhaler break, this time a more prolonged one. "The doc says take him elsewhere, but where? Most lands are submerged. Some are too hot to even step on. The 22nd century is a harsh time to live in. I wish my nephew was born at a time when green trees didn't exist only in movies, and kids didn't have to go to museums to see how wonderful it was living in the past."

Scene 2

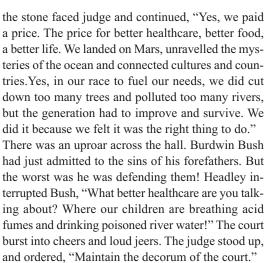
The fear of death wasn't a new phenomenon for the people in 2178. Faint murmurs could be heard in the court room as John presented the plight of the current generation. Burdwin Bush, the defendant with his wrinkled face and prosthetic leg did not elicit any sympathy from the jury. He got up to defend the 21st century. Nervously clearing his throat, he said, "Esteemed jury... yes our forefathers have failed us. In our quest to be modern, smarter and better, we did not realise the price we had to pay."

The jury knew he wasn't wrong; mankind had gone too far in their battle for Earth. Bush now turned to

Rapid urbanisation led to a loss of crop land. The rest was caused by overgrazing (35%), deforestation (30%), overexploitation of land to produce fuelwood (7%) and industrialisation (4%).

the stone faced judge and continued, "Yes, we paid a price. The price for better healthcare, better food, a better life. We landed on Mars, unravelled the mysteries of the ocean and connected cultures and countries. Yes, in our race to fuel our needs, we did cut down too many trees and polluted too many rivers, but the generation had to improve and survive. We did it because we felt it was the right thing to do." There was an uproar across the hall. Burdwin Bush had just admitted to the sins of his forefathers. But the worst was he was defending them! Headley interrupted Bush, "What better healthcare are you talking about? Where our children are breathing acid fumes and drinking poisoned river water!" The court burst into cheers and loud jeers. The judge stood up,

Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network



Burdwin Bush wiped the pearly drops from his forehead. He could sense John's anger across the table. John ruffled some papers and proceeded to the bench. "Here, I have documents to prove that Burdwin and his forefathers not only destroyed our right to live as well as our future, but went on destroying earth so much that it became unlivable!" With the judge nodding her approval, John turned to look at the jury. "Dear jury members, how many of you are suffering from a respiratory disease or know someone who does?" Everyone raised their hand. Scanning the court, he said, "All of us. Here, I present to you how exactly they kept ruining Earth, despite warnings." Burdwin shuddered but Headley went on, shuffling through the pages, "A 2014 report claims that humans were using more resources than they produced. Earth lost about 13 million hectares of forest every year. Global temperatures rose furiously, causing record breaking temperatures. Rapid urbanisation led to loss of crop land. The rest was caused by overgrazing (35%), deforestation (30%), over-exploitation of land to produce fuelwood (7%) and industrialisation (4%)."

The jury was seething with anger. Their forefathers had been exploiting Mother Nature since far long. Headley continued, "Despite cries for recycling, countries kept producing trash. In 2016, India alone produced 1,09,589 tons of trash, and despite regulations, it produced 3,76,639 tons of trash by 2025, making it the third highest solid waste producer in the world. And then, who can forget that Delhi was adjudged the most polluted city in the world in 2016? Due to pollution, every two in five persons in Delhi suffered from respiratory ailments or skin cancer!" The stats froze everyone. John realised he had everyone's attention. He raged on, "All because humans needed to lead a 'better life', they selfishly exploited all the natural resources. And look what it has done to us. We can't breathe fresh air, cannot swim in the ocean and suffer from chronic issues."

Suddenly, John stopped in his tracks. He could hear loud sobbing sounds at the back. Bush was red with tears. He got up and blurted out, "Yes, we made mistakes. We thought we will make our lives eas-

> ier but we did not realise we were ruining our future. To the future generation, we deeply apologise for our mistakes."

For once, the fierce eyes of John Headley turned sad. The apology had come too late. GT

river surface. During festivals, over 70

million people take a dip in the holy river.

If pollution wasn't enough, the various dams built across the river, viz, Haridwar

Damned by dams

dam, Farrakha Barrage, etc further dam-

■ The waters of river Ganga are also referred to as

The Indian emperor Akbar called it the 'Water of

of this holy river will wash away all the sins of a per-

The British East India Co. used only Ganges water on its ships during the three-month journey back to

immortality' and always traveled with a supply

Ganga is also the home for fresh water dolphins and Ganges sharks, both now endangered. The river

Ganga also supports many bird species

that are uniquely found in India.

England, because it stayed sweet and fresh.

Holy Ganga's lescent to ear

A dip in its holy waters paves the way to heaven. From absolving the Ganga has hidden in its silent waters many different tales. Aditi Banerji & Alaska, AIS Noida, VI sins of humans to absolving industrial waste,

the mighty river III J brings the river... different tales attached to this holy

rus of prayer but the most beautiful sound was that of nice weather outside the car. Meera could hear the sound of the jingling temple bells, the chothe restless water of River Ganga, moving from here other plans. They argued, "Why not visit the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar?" "Come on Dad. Who wants to visit Haridwar?" wailed Meera. "Stop sulking Kuala Lumpur in the holidays but her family had Meera. Sometimes, it's good to be close to nature," to there. But Meera wasn't happy. She wanted to visit chided her mom.

When they reached the hotel, Meera's father found ested in Kumbh Mela and River Ganga?" "So let me said her father. "Ganga is one of the most prime rivers of India. The religious significance of River Ganges is established at its origin, Gangotri. Many The next day they drove from Delhi to Haridwar. her still sulking and asked her what was the matter "Dad, I never wanted to come here. Who is intertell you something interesting about the Ganges,

the Ganga, are famous for Kumbh Mela festival, one war and Allahabad, which are located on the banks of of the largest human gatherings on Earth."

ght weather, dirty waters

"Wow!" exclaimed Meera. "But dad, why is Ganga and your mother wanted you to come here?" asked her father. "Yes. I think mom was right. Sometimes good to be close to nature." And then, Meera's But how can industries affect the cleanliness of the river?" quizzed Meera. "Industries dump their waste done!" said Meera. "Yes it is not and that's why we so dirty? Is this because of the increasing industries? in the river," replied her father. "This is just not must preserve Ganga. So now do you know why

the story of Ganga's descent to Earth...

... is a matter of national concern

he river flows through 29 cities rites are perennially found floating on the and towns with a population of over 100,000. Around 900 million litre of household sewage is dumped in the waters of the Ganges every day! Industrial waste

ever, when the same

bacteria was

Ganga water and it died

Cholerae

....though still shrouded in mystery,

several theories are doing rounds

The science of Ganga

within 3 hours. How-

tilleries and slaughter houses established A number of industries, textile mills, dison the banks of the river especially in cities like Kanpur,

other waste left after performing various

It is believed that the river water con-

a 'disinfectant' and acts on organic ma-

,525 km long river flows

through the North of India, before falling

into the Bay of Bengal. It is the third

largest river of the world.

owed to merely drop from heaven, her

there was one problem - Ganga waters were mighty furious and if she was al-

■ The river water acts as

dumped in it.

people bathe and waste is

trefy. The water remains pure even as millions of

Ganga are considered to

s of their sins.

absolve humans Geographically,

waters of river

the river originates from

Gaumukh in the Gangotri glacier in Ut-

tarakhand, where it is called Bhagirathi. I

washed the ashes of Sagara's ancestors in her sacred waters. Even today, the sacred

water is stored in a closed container, it doesn't pu-

any other river in the world. Even if Ganga

ndia, where she split into

When on earth,

successfully

many subsidiaries, and

heaven, and hence requested Kapila to

show him the way. Kapila said that the

only way out was to pray fervently to

Vishnu and perform ascetic acts for a

thousand years. Lord Vishnu

pleased with Bhagiratha's prayers and

agreed for Goddess Ganga to descend

to earth where she would wash over the ashes of the 60,000, purify them, and

ratha wanted these ancestors to reach

cinerated by Vedic sage Kapila. Bhagi-

ing quality is possibly due to the fact that it has 25% more oxygen than

gently lower the goddess

Shiva agreed to

when he discovered that 60,000

of King Sagara's ancestors had been in-

King Bhagiratha was worried

in his hair over

a period of 1,000 years king Bhagiratha guided

good. Understanding the situation, Lord

would do more harm than

them of their

do so

Goddess Ganga descended upon earth,

purified the mortals and absolved

sins. The holy waters continue to

ducted an experiment by putting the ■ In 1896, a British bacteriologist conterials and bacteria and kills them.

causative pathogens through their cell tains Bacteriophages, a virus which attaches itself to other viruses and other membrane and kills them.

ing the outbreak of cholera in the area.

distilled water, it thrived for more than 48 hours. He concluded that the sponsible for containriver water was ii. duced

Considering the religious importance of the river, food waste, flowers, leaves and and Patna, treat the river as their dumping ground for untreated waste.

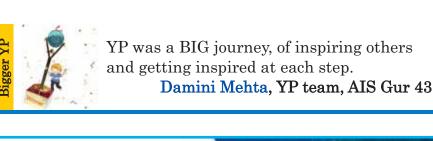
Varanasi, Allahabad

to global warming. UN 2007 Climate The 30 km long and almost 2.5 km wide Ganges has been receding since 1780 due Change Report suggests that the glacier may dry up completely by 2030, making Gangotri glacier which feeds the river

the Ganges a seasonal river.

Global warming

age the river by reducing its flow.





Himadri Seth, AIS Saket, X

ife is a like a book- we are the main characters of our own stories. But do we get to choose the genre of our own story? Yes, if we want to. Just like Kamla. Her story began with her own genre. A short-haired girl, with spunk in her eyes. Active participant in sports and debates, Kamla had a life of her own. She had big dreams, something not commonly found in a young girl at a time when women were just expected to marry and cook. Kamla dreamt of travelling the world and achieving something that the world would remember her for.

As Kamla grew older, life hit her with a

ality of a world created by the society. However, she met them with resilience, moving ahead in life with marriage, two children and one granddaughter. Even though Kamla felt satisfied with a life well lived, she had never really gotten over her aspirations. She did not want to die with a sense of incompleteness.

curveball and she had to return to the re-

70 year old Kamla was sitting on a rocking chair, reminiscing her childhood memories when suddenly someone shook her up from her reverie. "Nani! Guess what just happened?" yelled Sonia, her young granddaughter as she ran into her room. "Well, I can tell it's good news but you will have to tell me the rest, dear," said Kamla, wondering what might have gotten her usually calm granddaughter so excited. "We are going on a trip to Europe!" exclaimed Sonia. Kamla froze. Was her dream finally coming true? "Thatthat's amazing!" she finally whispered. Unable to contain her joy, she hugged Sonia tightly.

"Yes it is! But I will miss you, Nani" chirped the little girl, oblivious to her grandmother's happiness. "What?" Kamla thought out aloud. All her enthusiasm drained away. "Oh mommy says you won't be able to travel so much at this age," Sonia dropped the bombshell. Of course she could not go. She was too old anyway to be travelling. Kamla chided herself for being stupid enough to believe that she would be able to go with them. At the age of 70, all she would do was spoil their

> trip with her knee pain and incessant coughing. She smiled and said, "Mom is right and I will miss you too!" Hugging her grandmother tightly, Sonia sprinted away, leaving Kamla with thoughts.

She immediately checked how much money she had in her savings account. It seemed enough. With newfound con-

Kamla sighed. She convinced herself she was happy for her family. Why shouldn't she be? Her children were going out of the country for the first time, fulfilling the dreams she had once seen. But deep inside, her heart and soul felt lonely and dejected. Next day, at the breakfast table, Kamla's daughter Megha shared their plans with her. Kamla forced herself to smile. "Mom, I'm sorry we are not taking you, but it is for your own good," her daughter said, looking genuinely sorry. But even she couldn't be blamed; she was just thinking practically. And Kamla never revealed her desire to travel the world. How would she? She hadn't discussed her dreams with anyone after her marriage. Not even with her deceased husband. Her dream had been buried at the back of her mind.

"We are going to give our visa applications. We'll be back by evening," said Megha. Kamla observed she was carrying four passports. "I think you have my passport too," said Kamla. "Oh yes! They were kept together so it just came out by mistake," said her daughter, handing her the passport. Kamla closed the door and sighed. Here she was, all alone again. Just like many other times. On any other day, she would probably read a book or watch television, but not today. Random thoughts kept swirling her mind. She just sat on the sofa, staring blankly at the passport in her hand when it suddenly dawned on her. Her passport had not expired. She could go on a world trip by herself!

All those years, her mind had known that she would never really get the chance to actually go somewhere, but in the battle between hope and sensibility, hope always won. She was meant to do this. She did not care what the consequences would be but she could not let her hesitation conquer her today. Suddenly, she felt like a 10 year old.

As the airplane took off, suddenly all her worries turned into excitement. "I'm flying! It's flying!" she shouted out loud. She lowered her head in embarrassment as everyone around started staring at her,

but she was surprised to see that most of them were actually giving her warm smiles. This was not so bad, she thought as she began her world tour.

The next ten days passed in a blur. She

went from place to place, visiting London, Scotland, Paris and other countries she had only seen in travel shows. Not once did she feel tired or old. People were helpful wherever she went. Enjoying the wonderful cuisine and finest architecture of the world, Kamla felt as if she was in paradise. She traveled like a tourist, with a camera strapped to her waist, and a bag slung over her shoul-

The last leg of the trip was Switzerland. Kamla spent the day clicking the picturesque Mt Titlis and playing with snow. She stayed out till after dark that day, and sat in a park, taking in the nature around her. She looked up at the sky and absorbed the beauty of the shining gazillion stars above her. Such a clear dark sky, she thought. The last time she saw

Some dreams, she thought, are meant to nemain dreams, for if they were to turn into neality, we would lose the pleasure we get from dreaming them. She lay down in the park and drifted into an amazing world...

had wanted all her life, it was a very big such a sky was when she was a child, step. No one knew about this venture of lying down in the fields with her friends hers, she was all alone. This little doubt and just staring at the stars, talking about stayed with her till the next day, as she made her way to the airport. The fact she was going on her first solo trip dawned on her when she sat in the plane. She felt nervous and anxious. The numerous plane crashes she had seen on television flashed before her eyes. She should've told her family about her trip. But there was no going

fidence, she went to the local travel

agent. With his help, she checked the

ticket and hotel prices. The trip was ex-

pensive but she could afford it. She won-

dered why she did not think about going

alone before. Maybe the 'sanskaars' she

grew up with made her feel obliged to

include her family in everything she did,

but Kamla had realised by now that

some things just had to be done alone.

Kamla kept her big secret to herself, but

couldn't hide her happiness from her

family, as even they couldn't help but

notice her chirpiness. Finally, the day of

the trip arrived. As soon as her family

left, Kamla quickly packed her things.

Her trip was smaller, so she could come

back before them. Kamla smiled to her-

self. She felt like an adventurer going

on a mission. Though it was what she

how one day they would be superheroes. Some dreams, she thought, are meant to remain dreams, for if they were to turn into reality, we would lose the pleasure we get from dreaming them. She lay down in the park and drifted into an amazing world of dreams.

Her body was found by joggers the next morning. The police traced her family with the help of her passport found in her bag, and informed them. They were in shock. They could not comprehend how Kamla had reached Europe, all by herself. They cremated her in Switzerland. They felt she might have had few more dreams to fulfill, just like her secret world trip. But anyone who saw the serenity on her face could have said that she might have spent most of her life feeling incomplete, but in death, she was complete. GIT

Imaging: Dinesh Kumar, GT Network

Dependra Pathak, Mentor Teacher

YP team, AIS Jagdishpur

THE GLOBAL TIMES | MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016

An alien adventure

For Rohan, it was just another evening with the stars. Playing with his telescope, observing the constellations in the sky filled him with immense pleasure; till something happened...

All illustrations: Madhav Sharma, AIS Saket, VI



azing at the night sky twinkling with stars was Rohan's favourite post dinner activity. There was something about those tiny silver lights that attracted him so much. Rohan's keen interest in astronomy was evident from his huge collection of books on the subject. For a boy of nine, a collection of 1542 books was something of a feat. Flashing the torchlight and peering through the telescope in the sky would give him immense pleasure.

Like every evening, Rohan sat down with his favourite equipment -the telescope and torch - to study the constellations. Suddenly, something shone back from the sky, as if someone was pointing a flashlight at him. He pointed his flashlight back towards it. Curious about this new development, he got up to observe where the light was coming from. Suddenly, there was blinding light everywhere. Rohan couldn't believe his eyes - there was a flying saucer right above him in the sky, where he had pointed the flashlight. An extraterrestrial saucer, something he had only heard of but never seen before.

The spaceship looked like a huge circular disk with bright lights all over it. It was so humongous, it appeared to have engulfed the entire sky. Extra long antennas protruded out of its glittering body. And a loud beeping sound buzzed so loud in his ear, Rohan felt he would go deaf at that very moment!



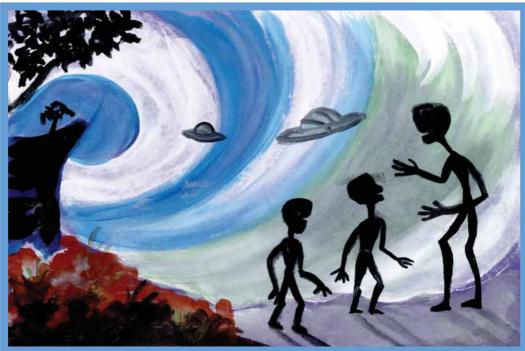
uddenly, Rohan felt himself being pulled into the saucer. Up and up he went swirling into the sky, something he had secretly wanted to do since long. Watching the birds fly in the sky, he had wished many a times that if he had wings, he could have flown to any corner of the world he fancied. Little had he known that his harmless wish would come true in this manner. Flying into the sky at great speed, Rohan found himself being sucked into the alien saucer. His body felt light, and he almost experienced what it must feel to be inside vacuum. Next moment, he found himself inside the spaceship. Everything was breathtakingly beautiful inside the spaceship, which was lit up by multicoloured lights. In one corner, Rohan saw three skinny looking aliens who seemed to be having a serious discussion about something. They spoke in a strange language. Tried as he would, he couldn't make head or tail of what they were saving. Would they let Rohan go back home? No! Not yet.



ohan was very scared, and worried as to how he would get out of the cave. Then suddenly, without any warning, a beam of light pulled him back into the flying saucer. A bright light blinded him and when he opened his eyes, he was back on his terrace, his telescope untouched. The lights from the other houses shone like before. It seemed as if nothing had happened. Suddenly he felt a pat on his back. It was his mother. "Rohan, it's time for bed. Come downstairs." Rohan mumbled something for he was still dazed and confused from the little alien abduction. Rohan quietly went to bed. No one would ever believe that he was abducted by aliens that summer. But the alien adventure left him with an inspiration to research upon 'Hollow Earth'. He felt a deep urge to go back to the cave and see what it was all about. It has been a couple of years since Rohan's alien adventure. Every night, Rohan flashes the torchlight into the sky waiting for another ride on the flying saucer. GI



he beeps got louder and louder and Rohan feared they would wake up the entire colony. Surprisingly, not a thing stirred. The roads were as empty, the sky as dark, except the brightness of the flying saucer which had blocked out everything, even the twinkling stars. It seemed like his private rendezvous with the alien saucer. Hovering over Rohan, the flying saucer beamed a strong light at him. Within seconds, the bright spot was right above him, marking him in a circle of light. Stunned by all this, Rohan could not move, even if he tried to. Before Rohan could figure out what was happening to him, the



The aliens turned and beamed a furious light at Rohan and in an instant, he found himself out of the flying saucer again. Flying through space, he saw something magnificently weird. A hole had appeared in the middle of the earth which opened wide to make way for him. Hollow and dark, the spaceship beamed him into the hole in the earth. Inside the hole, it was a free fall. Rohan kept going down and down. He remembered the winding hole he had read about in 'Alice in Wonderland'; only this one seemed to be unending! Visions of the Mad Hatter clouded his vision. Thud! he suddenly landed, inside

It was so dark inside that Rohan dared not open his eyes in fear. After a few moments, he gathered some courage and stood up. He switched on his flashlight and looked around. He could see some paintings on the walls of the cave. The paintings were of long forgotten people and animals. It was absolutely quiet inside the cave. Rohan felt lonely. Suddenly, a deep fear gripped him. He crouched on the floor, hugging his knees tight and shivered. What if he didn't find his way out, ever?



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Anushka Barthwal, YP team, AIS Saket

Global leaders

YP in four words? BIG desires, BIGGER

The Yale Young Global Scholars Programme provides the opportunity to study in the best university and interact with world-class faculty



AIS Vasundhara 6

kriti Dhasmana, a student of Class XI made her school proud by being the only student from India to have been selected to participate in the Yale Young Global Scholars Program for the Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (TIE) session. The 15 day event will be held in Yale University Campus in New Haven in Connecticut, USA from July 26 to August 8, 201. She is also the recipient of a complete scholarship, boarding, insurance and travel.

This overwhelming and outstanding achievement came after a rigorous selection process, wherein she was pitted against numerous outstanding students from over 115 different countries and all the 50 US states. During this programme, Akriti will get an opportunity to interact with the Yale faculty, acclaimed worldwide for its excellent quality.

The Yale Young Global Scholars Program brings together the best of academic and policy communities in a scholarly and non-partisan learning environment. It is the world's most selective and



academically rigorous High School Summer Programme, which seeks to give the students analytical skills that are a must for any leadership position they may assume in future. The programme will give Akriti an opportunity to study in a beautiful campus, world-class lecture halls and classrooms along with living in famed residential colleges.

Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, commended her exceptional talent which was also seen when she won the INSEF National Fair at Chennai. School Principal Sunila Athley encouraged her to make the most of this opportunity



Social service award

AIS Vasundhara 6

avya Aggarwal, a student of Amity International School, Vasundhara 6, brought laurels to the school as she won a bronze medal at the prestigious 'Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards*' for her contribution in the field of maternal health care in rural areas. She received the award at a special function organised by Pramerica (DHFL) on April 2, 2016 at Crown Plaza, Gurgaon for her exceptional initiative in service to the community. For the last two years, she has been spreading awareness about the right diet for expecting and lactating mothers. She was shortlisted from amongst 5000 volunteers after a rigorous screening procedure. The award was given to her by Rahul Bose, eminent theatre personality and Shovana

Narayan, noted Kathak dancer.

While at the school too, Kavya has actively participated in the different social programmes. She was the team leader of her team in Youth Programme 2014-15, a creative social leadership programme where she took up the same cause and worked for it for one year to bring a change.

*The 'Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards' is an annual nationwide search to identify and recognise school students who have made a positive difference in their communities through volunteer community service. It was introduced in India in the year 2010. The programme is an extension of the 'Prudential Spirit of Community Awards', the largest youth recognition programme in the United States, conducted by Prudential Financial Inc. (PFI) for the last 20 years.



Junior Annual Day

AIS Saket

he pre-primary wing of AIS Saket celebrated its Annual Day on March 5, 2016. The occasion was graced by school alumnus Aditi Chauhan, an eminent international soccer player and the first Indian woman selected to play for a top English football club, West Ham United Ladies, as a special guest. The programme commenced

with the lighting of the lamp, followed by 'Nanhe Beats', an orchestra and an inspiring dance drama 'Rishtey' that depicted relationship between *Guru-Shishya*, Krishna- Sudama and the relationship of India with her neighbouring countries.

Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson Amity Group of Schools & RBEF in her vote of thanks, congratulated everyone for their wonderful performance.

CBSE examiners meet



AIS Noida

he school hosted the head examiners meet for Commerce on March 15, 2016. The meet commenced with the welcome address by

school principal Renu Singh. Speaking on the occasion, Manoj Srivastava, regional officer, CBSE gave useful tips to ensure parity in correction. Subject expert GB Pandey, principal, DPS Mathura Road discussed the question paper and marking scheme in detail, providing comprehensive guidelines for evaluation of Business Studies answer scripts. The meet helped the teachers to understand each question and its expected answer as it was discussed in depth, leaving no room for any ambiguity. The meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Sneha Sharma, senior, PGT Commerce. GII

A new beginning

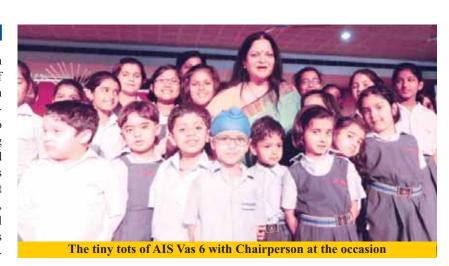
Orientation programmes apprise the parents on the novelties that come with a new academic session

<u>AIS Pushp Vihar</u>

The school organised an orientation **I** programme for the parents of Kindergarten, Class I and Class II-IV on March 31, April 1 and April 4, respectively. The aim of the programme was to brief the parents about the teaching methodology and curriculum followed by the school. The subject teachers shared how different concepts are taught in the class so as to make learning fun, easy and effective. School principal Ameeta Mohan, briefed the parents about the rules and regulations to be followed in school. Some valuable parenting tips were also shared with the parents.

AIS Vasundhara 6

IS Vas 6 held the orientation pro-Agramme for the parents of Class Nursery on April 1, 2016. The event was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF. She highlighted Amity's mission to groom sensitive, socially conscious and morally sound individuals who will be instruments of change in the world, in her welcome address to the parents. Sunila Athley, principal, AIS Vas 6, shared the vision of the school with the parents. The unique feature of this orientation programme was the fact that it was conducted by primary school students, who gave demos, presentations and performed hands-on activities based on the four quotients - Intellectual, Physical, Spiritual and Emotional.



AIS Vasundhara 1

An orientation programme was organised for students of Class Nursery on April 2, 2016. Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF graced the occlusion. The orientation programme also included class presentation. School principal Valambal Balachandran, focussed on the need to ensure a fine balance of academics and extra-curricular activities.



Vice principal (Primary) Roop Kamal Singh gave a comprehensive report on the objectives of the education offered by the school. Nursery teachers shared the various learning techniques. Kanika Khandelwal, HoD Psychology, LSR College shared valuable parenting tips.

AIS Noida

The school held the orientation programme for parents of students of Class XII on April 2, 2016. School Principal Renu Singh briefed the parents about the things they need to keep in mind during this crucial year. Parents were apprised on the examination schedule. The school counselor gave a short presentation on the career options available to the students after Class XII. The school head boy and head girl recounted the tips their seniors had given them, which could help the students improve their performance.

