

**NSLI-Y Choice**

**Food for thought**

The Global Times gets an international touch this time as a team of 15 students from AFS get up, close and personal with this issue. Their inputs and enthusiasm led to the creation of "GT-AFS Special" edition, an issue extremely close to our hearts. Catch the experiences, thoughts, opinions and perspectives of these young AFS students as they unfold the true Indian enigma in true American style.

**INSIDE**

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**Fifteen students from United States on a six week NSLI-Y Summer Program, a US State sponsored Project coordinated by AFS get up-close and personal with The Global Times. Hosted by Amity International School, Mayur Vihar, these students learn HINDI through a special curriculum designed by the host school. GT shares the experiences, thoughts, opinions and perspectives of these young US students as they get candid with us. Read on....**

**To India**

**With love from US**

Amity is a family bound by culture and knowledge.  
**Marlena Webb**

When I go back to the US, I can proudly say that I have a family in India.  
**Kirby Ledvina**

Amity has welcomed us with open arms. I couldn't have asked for a better school.  
**Hannah Schwarz**

My host family members are so close to each other and spend a lot of time together, something a lot of American families don't get to do.  
**Reina Gattuso**

Here, religion is mixed with culture, so no matter what you practice, you are always accepted.  
**Lauren Berry**

Hindi is a beautiful language. The alphabets look like art instead of letters.  
**Kelsey Leck**

My first true Indian experience was weaving through the crowded streets of Delhi, utterly amazed by the skill of drivers. It was upon seeing a motorcycle with an entire family perch on the back that I realized I was not in Boise, Idaho anymore. Welcome to India.  
**Hannah Schwarz**

The teachers at Amity make classes fun and everyone has done a great job of making us feel at home.  
**Jasmine Terry Shindelmann**

In America, you might go to the Church once a week and that's religion. But here, it touches every aspect of people's lives and I really appreciate that.  
**Reina Gattuso**

People in India are extremely warm and welcoming.  
**Phoebe Judge**

I can eat mangoes, dal makhani and samosas every day and never get bored of them.  
**Hannah Aisling Campbell**

From paneer to gulabjamun, the food is incredible!  
**Shoshanna Goldin**

We are very grateful to Amity school which showed a lot of interest and above all, trust in our programs. The students though come only for 6 weeks they take back with them a good understanding of our language, our culture and our way of life.  
**Divya Arora, National Director, AFS Intercultural Programs India**

The people are so welcoming and truly embody the idea of treating guests like God.  
**Alyssa Binczyk**

Hindi movies are really good. I get excited when I understand something.  
**Hannah Aisling Campbell**

# “We help build bridges between nations, thus promoting world peace”

**Mr. Francisco 'Tachi' Cazal**  
President AFS International

Vitastaa Sar (VB), Xyan Bhatnagar (VIII D) and Misha Gupta (VIII A) of AIS Noida in conversation with AFS International President Mr. Francisco 'Tachi' Cazal...

**Vitaasta:** As a child, did you ever participate in any AFS program? If yes, then how was your experience?

My family was a very humble and simple one. However, they gave great importance to education. AFS gave me a full scholarship to study in the US. I learnt Spanish there. This experience completely changed my life.

**AFS creates and promotes interest in youth and turns places into people and makes friends for life. We believe in creating special bonds not only with people, but also the places they belong to.**

**Xyan:** What do you remember the most about your AFS family, the Sieberts?

When I went to them I did not know English well. They were very patient with me. Everybody laughed at me but they loved me very much. They are still in contact with me. I share a good relationship and bonding with them.

**Misha:** How was your local school in Paraguay different from the one you attended in USA?

It was very different as the school system in my home town was one that we sat in a

single classroom and the teachers came to teach whereas it was just the opposite in USA. In USA, I was exposed to a lot of extra curricular activities and made a lot of friends.

**Xyan:** If I have to enroll with an AFS program, how should I prepare myself?

To participate, you must be a good student, not necessarily the best, but yes a good student. You must be interested in learning about new cultures. You must also have a spirit of curiosity as your application will have to be accepted by the host school. You must be independent as well. We strongly believe in learning by giving.

**Misha:** AFS is the oldest international cultural exchange program. How do you think it has evolved over the years with the world becoming a global village?

There are nearly 15,000 schools around the world which are part of the AFS programs in one way or the other. It is the commitment of the former participants to keep the spirit of 'learning by experiencing' going. Initially, it was a program that started only in the US but now that it has spread throughout the world, it exposes the student participants to adapt to the changing world and bring in new initiatives, wherever they are, from their experience of

other cultures. This way I would like to say that the world is becoming a global village.

**Xyan:** How can we, Amity students, get more involved in the AFS programs?

To become involved you must be about 15 years of age. You can talk to your teachers to get involved. We also have an office in Delhi. You can contact us over there and we will solve your queries.

**Misha:** In your view, what attributes are needed to become a true global citizen?

Be open to learn and be exposed to other cultures. Understand values and appreciate different backgrounds and cultures, schools, governments and companies. Become comfortable with the diverse nature of the various countries.

**Xyan:** How successful has AFS been in spreading world culture amongst students?

I think we have been quite successful in spreading world culture. We believe in creating special bonds not only with people, but also the places they belong to. We have over 400,000 participants participating with many alumni ambassadors and teachers affiliated to AFS. We urge students as well as host families to develop long lasting bonds.

**Misha:** What does AFS do to promote world peace?

Create and promote interest in youth and turn places into people, and make friends for life. This would help build bridges between nations thus promoting world peace.●



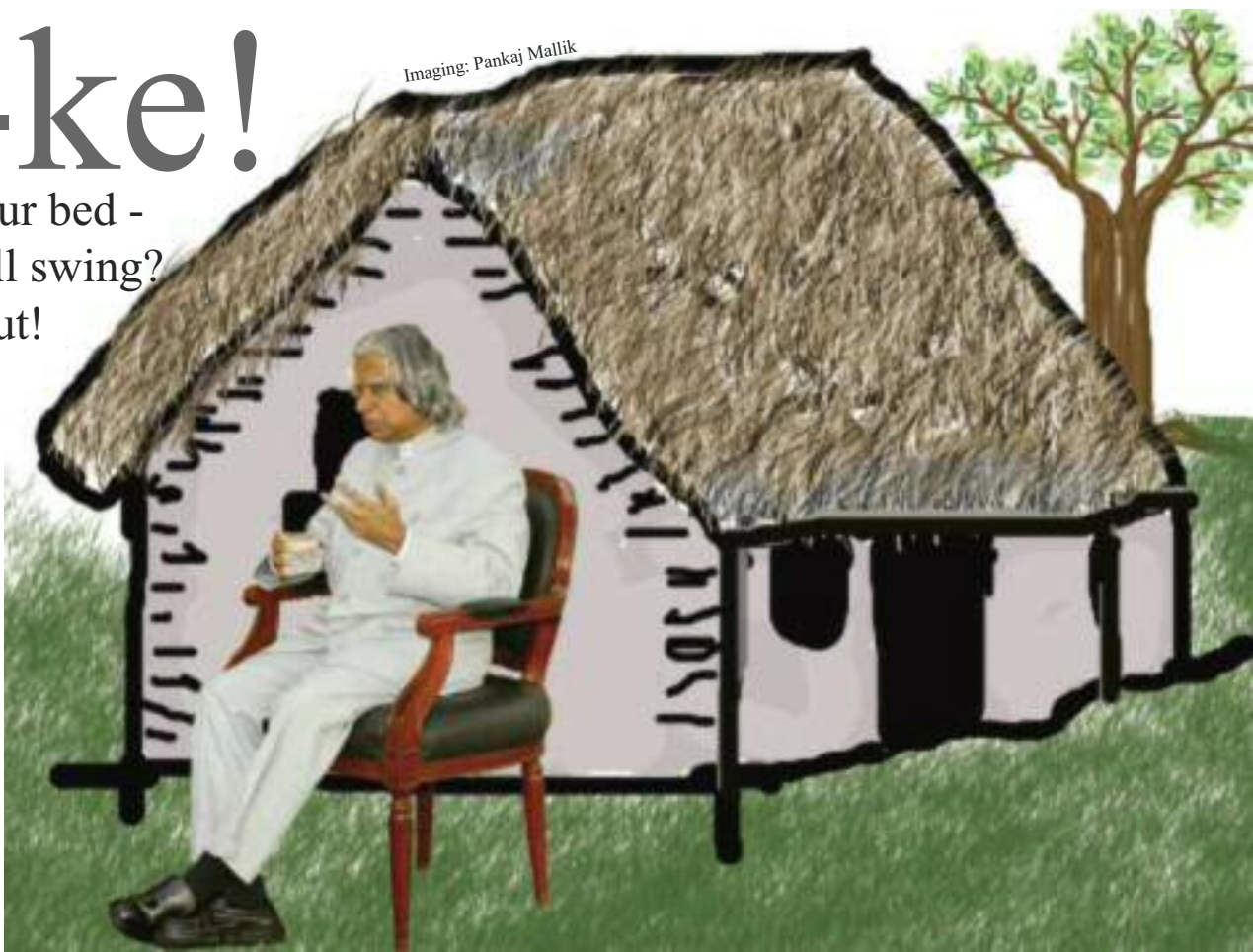
# Think hut-ke!

The peace of Himalayas or the comfort of your bed - what gears your creative streak to work in full swing? Get set to discover your very own thinking hut!

Bhawna Tuteja

The uprooting of APJ Abdul Kalam’s thinking hut made headlines recently. The place that nurtured the creative prowess of the former president and was responsible for giving birth to two brilliant books had its fate sealed. To many, it would come across as just another hut but for the former president, it proved to be the perfect intellectual juice churner. While Kalam discovered his intellectual best in his thinking hut, Gautam Buddha had achieved enlightenment under a Banyan tree. For Vivekananda, the rock where he swam proved to be his thinking hut. And it isn’t just these legends who found their perfect ‘thinking abode’. All of us too have our own thinking huts, somewhere in our own vicinity. While some may find solace in a temple where they can get in touch with their spiritual self, there are others who find peace in the

serenity and beauty of a garden. “A crowded place doesn’t suit me; instead I always go for a walk alone to ponder over my quandaries,” says Apoorva, a student. “We are the best judge of ourselves. Being alone gives you time to talk to one’s inner-self and find answers to your questions,” she explicates. While, Apoorva finds her succor in a garden, for some it’s their lucky place. “Everything gets sorted out whenever I sit at my dining table,” exclaims, Anugya Gupta. “I have got my lucky chair reserved at the dining table of my house. It’s here that I like to do all my important work. It transforms into a study table during my exams, giving me confidence and luck. May be thinking hut exists, but for me it’s about luck,” she explains. Sheffi Tiwari, a student, prefers music to let her creative juices flow the right way. “Music is the biggest pacifier for me. Whenever I am stuck in a catch 22 situation, I find escape in music only. My



Ipod and my chair create the perfect nirvana for me,” she enlightens. There are also others who find solace in their close surroundings. Dhriti Sharma, AIS, MV shares similar thoughts, “My own room is my perfect thinking hut. I

get ideas when I lie down on the bed.” From Himalayas to huts and from gardens to music, everyone has their own recharge livener to rejuvenate them with energy and ardour. And in case, you do not have one already, it’s time to dis-

cover your own thinking hut. Just look for a place that helps your creative juices overcome unwanted hurdles. And who knows, your thinking hut might just metamorphose you into an intellectual soul overnight!●

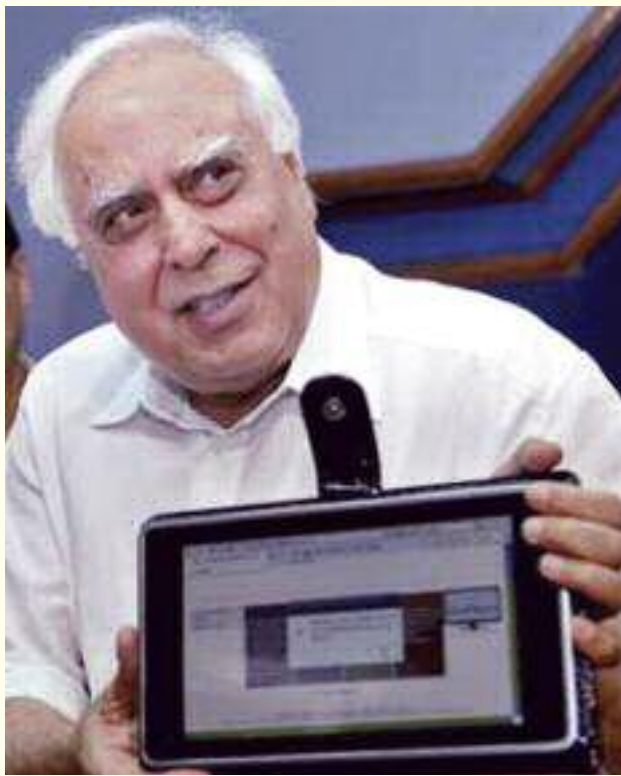
## Rupee gets new identity

Yastika Biswas , V G  
AIS Gur 46

This 15th July, Indian Rupee got a new symbol (indicated alongside) and joined a select group of countries like USA, UK, Japan whose currencies have a unique identity. It was designed by D. Udaya Kumar from IIT Mumbai. The winning entry was picked from more than 3000 submissions in a contest announced in March 2009. He takes home a prize money of Rs. 250000/-.



It is a perfect anagram of Devanagiri Ra and Roman “R” with out stem which represents *Rupiya* to appeal to international and Indian audiences. The design is based on tricolor with two lines on the top and a white space in between. This symbol will help the Indian Rupee distinguish itself from other currencies of similar names like the Sri Lankan Rupee, the Nepalese Rupee etc. The symbol is to be adopted within a span of six months. The symbol will also be incorporated in our Computers and Mobile Handsets.●



## India’s affordable answer to the iPad

Have you been vying for an iPad but can’t grab one, courtesy – the higher price? If yes, then keep all those budget blues at bay as India offers its own cheaper version of the iPad. Priced at \$35, it is the world’s cheapest laptop. Launched by Education Minister Kapil Sibal, the low cost laptop will be available to children from primary to university level. A prototype of a basic touch-screen tablet, the gadget runs on the Linux operating system. It is preloaded with an internet browser, video conferencing and PDF reader. The laptop also promises wi-fi, 2GB memory, USB, Open Office, and multimedia content viewers and interfaces. This affordable technological solution has been designed by students at the Indian Institute of Technology and the Indian Institute of Science. India hopes to commence with the production of this knock off by 2011. Though the price as of now is \$35, the government plans to bring it down to \$20 eventually. So, if you do not have the money to spend on an iPad, don’t fret. You will have your cheaper iPad coming your way soon. Till then, compromising with your PC wouldn’t be that bad an idea!●

Briefs  
News



The world of cricket had yet another astounding achievement to its credit, courtesy - Sri Lanka spin bowler Muttiah Muralithanran. The legendary spinner claimed 800 wickets against India on the 5th Day in the 2nd innings of the 1st Test match at Galle International Stadium on Thursday. Setting a record benchmark of 800 wickets, Murali became the leading wicket taker in both Test and One Day International (ODI) matches. After having set a benchmark, the spinning legend bid adieu to the sport soon after the first Test against India that kicked off on the 18th of July. In a span of an 18 year long career, Murali has been one of the most admired players, both on the field and off it. While his magnetic spinning off-breaks made him an hero on field, his sheer professionalism and respect for the sport left him equally admirable off the field too. While the batsmen are going to rejoice Murali’s retirement, cricket enthusiasts are going to miss the legend badly. And after his 800 wicket win, the cricket star has already left his fans wanting for more.●

## Famous Five gets a makeover

In the present day and age, everything from houses to humans seems to be taking the makeover route. So, there is no reason that books be lagging behind. Enid Blyton’s Famous Five seems to be the first one to be heading the renovation way. The book, which has been a hot favourite amidst kids now sets to entice readers of the younger gen-



eration. Several outdated words would be replaced to make way for the new lingo and terminology. For instance, mother and father would be revised to mum and dad, house mistress to teacher and so on. The changes are being made in a bid to make the book more understandable and enjoyable for young readers. Get set to cherish the old wine in a new bottle. ●

## ISRO’s space mission

Kriti Sethi, IX-D, AIS Gur-46

The recent successful launch of PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) by ISRO scientists completed sixteen consecutive successful flights. This launch has placed five satellites very precisely into the polar orbit. PSLV payload included some satellites made by engineering students, Alsat from Algeria, two nano satellites from Canada and Switzerland, and a pico (very small) satellite called Oceansat 2. This simply shows that even the most developed countries trust India’s Polar Satellite launch vehicles more than their own and are confident enough to send their satellites with the Indian Launch vehicles. The inclusion of the satellite made by engineering students gave the students encouragement as well as provided a chance to work on state of the art technologies. ISRO’s success is a result of the dedication and hard work the scientists put in innovating and discovering new technology. There is a great degree of uncertainty due to various factors that need to be understood, yet they remain steadfast and



work with persistence and perseverance. We must commemorate and acknowledge the success of these scientists who made India really proud.●



I am proud of my country because there are many states in my country. My country is very big. -Adyatan Dagar, I D, AIS Pushp Vihar





## Census 2011 Our Census, Our Future

**T**he biggest census in human history to cover India's 1.2 billion population kicked off with President Pratibha Patil, as first to be enumerated in the decennial exercise. *Arushi Mahajan, X B of AIS Mayur Vihar digs-in some more information for our understanding.*

**What is census?**  
Census is the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population. It is a regularly occurring and official count of a particular population. The term is used mostly in connection with national population and door-to-door census. It is done after every 10 years. It is the most credible source of information on demography (population characteristics), economic activity, literacy and education, housing and household amenities, urbanization, fertility and mortality, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, language, religion, migration, disability and many other socio-cultural and demographic data since 1872.

**How is it useful?**  
Census 2011 will be the 15th national census of the country. It helps the gov-

## GT Classroom

ernment in planning and formulation of polices and reviewing the progress of the nation. The information collected is widely used by national and international agencies, scholars, business people, industrialists, and many more. Hence the slogan of Census 2011 is 'Our Census, Our Future'.

**How is the information gathered?**  
The Government appoints servants who are issued special identity cards for the purpose. They visit each household and get the census forms filled-up personally.

**What kind of information is gathered?**  
Two forms are filled. The first relates to the house-listing and housing census that has questions relating to building material, use of houses, drinking water, availability and type of latrines, electricity, possession of assets, etc. The second form relates to the National Population Register (NPR) that canvasses name, gender, address, marital status, educational qualification, nationality, occupation, etc.

**Is it confidential?**  
Yes. The forms are sent to 15 centers located across the country where they are processed using sophisticated software called Intelligent Character Recognition Software. The information is not accessible even to courts of law.

**Whom do I contact in case my house is not covered?**  
You need to contact the designated local tehsildar/ward officer of your area. You can also contact the Collector/DC/DM of the district or the commissioner of the town.●

# Sharing Global Schooling Experience

**Natasha Hansen Day**  
**Shorewood High School, Wash-  
ington & Kirby Ledvina, Bellaire  
High School, Houston**

**S**ince our arrival, we US students had many chances to talk to Amity students and ‘compare notes’ about our schools. It was very interesting to look at the similarities and differences in schools here in India and schools in the US!  
In the hallways of Amity, many of us have been asked what track we have chosen at our schools. At first, we were a bit mystified as to what that meant because in the US we don't choose a track in high school – students don't specialize until the second year of college. Instead, we usually take math, science, social studies, and English for all four years of high school. In addition, we often take a foreign language, physical education or art class. Plus, each year we can take one or two additional classes of our choice, called ‘electives’. In order to graduate, we need to acquire a set number of credits.  
Math and science are emphasized here – what the Amity students are learning is what American students will typically learn a year or two later. However, the US generally has strong liberal arts programs, which include social sciences, literature and the arts.  
Another distinction regards the structure of homework versus tests. Many of us were quite surprised when we saw that our host siblings didn't do much homework each night. At first we thought this meant that school was easier here, but we changed our minds when we learned about the UT tests! In the US we have many hours of required homework each night, as well as periodic tests and quizzes.  
The student-teacher relationship is also different. In Amity, generally the students don't challenge the curriculum followed by their teachers. In many schools

in the US there are class discussions and activities, in addition to lectures, and students won't hesitate to debate with their teacher. Also, in India we have noticed that students stand when a teacher enters the classroom; this shows respect. US students don't stand up when a teacher enters, and they have a relatively casual relationships with their teachers. Some students and teachers are even friends, both in real life and on Facebook! However, though the way respect is shown differs in the two countries, both countries value those who dedicate their lives to educating children.  
In the US, education is free until college. Most schools are ‘public schools’ and receive funding from the government. Parents can send their children to public schools or can pay to send them to ‘private schools’, which often provide superior education, but are very expensive. All American students are required by law to go to school, whether public or private.  
At Amity, teachers move between classrooms each period, while in the US the students move each period. Most teachers have their own room, which they often personalize by putting posters on the walls. Also, here it seems that school uniforms are compulsory for all schools. In many US schools, students can wear casuals. Although this can be a basis for personal expression, it can also distract from the material being learned.  
From our first day at Amity, our experience at the school has been a good one. The teachers and administrators have gone out of their way to make us feel comfortable. The students have been very friendly, coming up to introduce themselves and spending their recess talking to us. Everyone has made us feel so welcome, and we're very happy to be part of this wonderful Amity family!●

## NSLI-Y Choice



## Comparing Notes on Education

**Hannah Campbell**  
**Emma Willard School, New York**

**B**etween Kindergarten and Twelfth grade, I have been to seven different schools. Because I have been to so many, I have had the chance to observe and take part in many different school traditions. Most of the schools I've been to have had fun, often meaningless traditions. Other schools have had few traditions to speak of. My current school, however, which I've been attending for almost three years, is full of rich traditions that are highly valued by everyone at the school. Now, being a short-term Amity student, I am noticing and experiencing traditions carried out at Amity which are held with comparable value to those at my own school. I find it interesting how Amity and my school at home can be so different and yet so same in values and take pride in their own traditions. For example, at Amity the Gayatri Mantra and a prayer are

sung each morning. At my school, too, we sing in the morning. The difference is that we sing but once a week, and we sing our Alma Mater- a sort of love to our school and founder- rather than a prayer song. Similar to Amity's tradition of celebrating the birthdays of Founder President Dr. Ashok K Chauhan and Chairperson Dr. Amita Chauhan, at my school we celebrate the birthday of our Founder, Emma Hart Willard. Our celebration differs however, because our founder has not been alive since the 1800s! As Amity has a Havan to invoke the blessings of God when beginning any new endeavour, my school holds special ceremonies at the beginning of important occasions. At my school and at Amity, there are endless wonderful traditions. I love my school's traditions, and have grown to love the traditions at Amity. I feel lucky that I've been able to see how a school in New Delhi and a school half a world away in New York can each enjoy and find such great value in their traditions!



I am proud of my country because there are famous dances and instruments in my country. Our country is very rich. -Viraj Gupta, I F, AIS Pushp Vihar



# Grow plants without 4S:soil, sun, space, servants

Agrim Sachdeva, XI, AIS Saket

Ever wanted to create your own garden but did not have the time or space and were afraid of the effort it would take? Well, look no further. The answer lies in Hydroponics – the science of growing plants without soil, in a nutritive medium. It is no wonder that Hydroponic planting is very popular nowadays, not only for those who are gardening enthusiasts but also for those who have wanted to start gardening but are afraid to venture into it because they feel they lack the ‘green finger’. Now, the days of messy gardening are over. Get ready to say goodbye to over and under watering of plants because plants grown under a hydroponic system are low on maintenance.

## Commercial origin in India

This concept of growing plants without soil was initiated by a chance finding in Patna, in 1991, when positive results of root initiation were found in cactus grown in nutrient medium. So, work proceeded on these lines and soon, Indian scientists were able to grow all types of plants without 4S (Soil, Sun, Space and Servants),

using Bio Fert M as nutrient.

## Make your own garden

Using hydroponics to grow plants is as easy as 1-2-3. Just mix 1 ml, or 30 drops of nutrient (bio fert M) in one liter of potable water and put the shoot (cut above the lowermost node in a shoot) in it. Terrestrial plants may be grown with their roots in the mineral nutrient solution only in an inert medium, such as perlite, gravel, mineral wool, or coconut husk. Preparing a container, homologous to a flowerpot, is even easier. Just take any non-degradable waste like bulb, tube, bottle, pipe, etc., and fill with prepared nutrient solution. There is no maintenance required. Once you prepare the nutrient medium, just keep refilling it as it evaporates from the container. Bio Fert M can be procured by order from: The Nature Club of India, at 011-41327542 or email at – natureclubofindia@gmail.com.

## Advantages

The science of Hydroponics makes for a very good medium for research for people who have a low-cost budget. It enables you to study the whole plant,

including roots that are visible. Hence, it is extremely useful as a teaching aid and can be used to study phenomenon like development of root cap in growing condition.

From a commercial perspective, BFM increases the yield without adding any extra cost. Depending on the type of crop, the yield ranges as high as 76-100% with the minimum as 5-10%. Besides, it also provides aesthetic beauty and relief from the noisy, polluted environment of the city. It can be used to beautify the surroundings, be a classroom or your living room.●

Pix: Tulika Banerji



Hydroponics expert Shamail demonstrating planting techniques

## What is Hydroponics?

Hydroponics is the science of growing plants without soil by using nutrient solution.



# The dehydrated, devastated and demolished MILLENNIUM CITY!

Sayesha Bhattacharya, X B  
AIS Gurgaon-46

For years, the rich mineral reserves and strong-layered stones of the Aravalli ranges have tempted miners and builders, to the point where the very hills have been demolished in many places. Parts of Gurgaon, just south of the national capital and some parts of Jaipur are some areas that have dealt with the ire of industrialization. To lend proof to the fact, there are various satellite images that show Bhatkal

and Surajkund lakes have gone completely dry due to the ongoing construction activities in their neighbourhood. Large areas of land which were initially being used for processes such as agriculture, cattle herds, etc. are now being converted into concrete jungles and mining sites. Gurgaon, which once upon a time was lush green, is now the IT hub of the country. However, for this development, a lot of agricultural land and Gurgaon’s ecosystem has been sacrificed and demolished. Even after a ban on these min-

ing and construction activities by the Supreme Court in the Aravalli areas of the Gurgaon and Faridabad districts, both continue. While the economic benefits of this industry are important, this sector is now creating a serious impact on the natural environment. I’m sure there will always be consequences from benign forms of extraction (mining, etc) in terms of cost, speed and quantity. It is therefore imperative that we radically reduce our demand on such materials in order to allow this process to happen benignly.●



The police have found illegal mining and tree-felling in the Aravallis only protected sanctuary, the Asola Bhatti Sanctuary. Illegally mined Badarpur stones were recovered from there. So much so, now Badarpur stones are no where to be seen in the Delhi and NCR region.



## THREATENING SIGNS

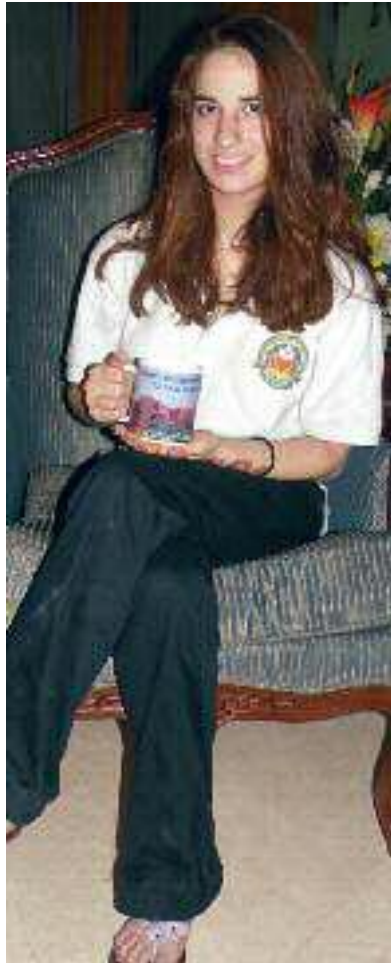
●Illegal mining and felling of trees are not the only reasons why the Aravallis are fast losing their forest cover. The other, perhaps the biggest, problem is the government’s plantation schemes which are inadequate for the sustainable development of green cover.

●Surajkund and Badhkal lakes have already succumbed to mining activities in the Aravallis. Damdama Lake may also go dry soon.  
●Mining of silica, sand, quartzite and other construction materials in Faridabad has resulted in massive damage to the region’s fragile ecology, especially groundwater.

# Teenage caffeine craze

Shoshanna Goldine  
Moravian Academy, Bethlehem

Breakfast in the United States is simple, fast and fully caffeinated. Before rushing to a full day of studies, American teenagers begin their day by snatching a Red Bull or steaming 8 oz. cup of coffee and a handful of cold cereal. This American obsession with caffeine is a motivating factor in a teenager’s life. The average high school student is now turning to cups of coffee or cans of energy drinks for breakfast, a pick up snack, and of course for intensive late night studying. This dependence on caffeinated drinks has turned the American market for energy drinks into a \$10 billion industry. Comparatively, the Indian teen obsession with caffeine appears to just be starting to make an impact on teenager’s beverage habits. Many Indian teenagers are beginning to turn to cold coffee, bottles of soda, and chilled cans of energy drinks for the high level of caffeine content within. With the Indian energy drink market just in its initial stages, the difference in caffeine dependence between the two countries is remarkable. Of all the beverages teenagers are turning to with this caffeine fixation, energy drinks are by far the most dangerous. Energy drinks are soft drinks that specifically advertise as boosting energy levels through a mixture of caffeine, vitamins and herbal supple-



ments. As the current energy drink craze is only a decade old, few studies have been conducted on their effects. These caffeinated drinks can contain up to 3,000 milligrams of stimulants and are associated with an increased propensity for strokes, rapid heartbeat, seizures, and insomnia. Teenagers need to be aware of the consequences of these highly marketed drinks before consuming So, make sure that you sip with caution.●



# Threads of love

Anoushka Raj, V E, AIS MV

Here comes August, and the streets flock with fashionable Rakhis. Some are musical, some are silver plated and some have a fancy toy attached to them. Everyone is waiting eagerly for this festival. Though brothers and sisters have regular fights, yet there is a bond that keeps them united. My own little brother likes it when I tie a beautiful thread on his hand. I too like to receive gifts from my younger and elder brothers. Muskan Singh from Krishna Nagar, says, "I love Rakhi as it encourages the closeness between brother and sister. This is the only day when I do not fight with my brother. I get watches, clothes, hairpins and dolls." But what about those who have no sisters? Deepanshu Singh, who is one

of those, comments, "Rakhi is like a normal day for us. We feel bad when we see others wearing a Rakhi. There is no celebration in our house." Jyotiraditya, who has three cousin sisters, has a different take, "Rakhi is one of my favourite festivals. My cousin sister comes to my house. My mother prepares delicacies." But what about those who cannot afford these fancy Rakhis? Jyoti, a housemaid says, "Hamare liye lal-peela dhaga hi theek hai jo Rs 3 mein aata hai. Bhaiya mujhe 5-10 rupaye dete hai. Hame daron ke haath me achhi Rakhi dekh kar aacha nahi lagta." Just think my friends, is only exchanging gifts the right way to celebrate Rakhi? Is this its significance? Can we go that extra mile to celebrate this precious festival with the unfortunate few who can't afford the simple pleasures of life? Give it a thought...●



## Rakhi Recipe

Suhani Vats

This thread, which pulsates with sisterly love and sublime sentiments, is rightly called the 'Rakhi'. We believe that if the Rakhi is

made by the sister, the love between the sister and brother doubles up. Learn the art from a first-time-sister who has picked up material off her 'Ghar ka mandir' and has created some fine Rakhis for her little baby brother.

### Swastik Rakhi

**You will need:** Red colour *mauli* or sacred thread, 2" diameter round cardboard for base, 8-10 Rice grains, Glue  
**Method:** Make a plait from the *mauli* and paste it around the Rakhi base in circles so as to cover it fully. Under the base, run the *mauli* plait for the Rakhi dori. Decorate the Rakhi face with rice grains by making a *Swastik* design. Your *Swastik* Rakhi is ready.

### Shagun-e-Rakhi

**You will need:** Some red color *mauli* or sacred thread, 2 inch diameter round cardboard for the Rakhi base, 1 Betel Nut, 1 Cardamom, 1 Clove, Glue  
**Method:** Make a plait from the *mauli* and paste it around the base in circles. Under the base, run the *mauli* plait for the Rakhi dori. Decorate the Rakhi with betel nut, cardamom and clove pieces. You are ready with a beautiful Rakhi!

## Reveling in Indian culture

Elizabeth Bigelow  
Argyle High School  
Argyle, Winconsin

Having one of the oldest civilizations in the world, India definitely has one of the richest cultures I've seen while traveling. When I first arrived in Delhi, I was overwhelmed by the amount of people living in just one city. Coming from a small town in a rural area of the United States, Delhi was definitely a big change for me. There is a lot available and people have access to many things that are not available in my town. In my opinion, the clothing always reveals a lot about the culture. Indians have produced clothes that are suitable for the hot, humid weather, yet ex-

tremely fashionable. The clothing is one of my favourite things in India – everything is very bright and colourful! Another difference between the United States and India are the relations between family members. Family is very important in India. It is not at all uncommon for three or more generations to live under one roof! Relatives are very close to one another, and always ready to lend a hand when needed. In the United States, although each family is different, we are definitely not as close to our relatives. Education is very important in India. As India has a greater population, there is more competition for higher-paying occupations. Amity International School provides many more classes than my school does. Of course, that is



also because my school is very small in comparison.

If given a choice, I could not possibly choose one country over the other. Each country is different, and it is only when you learn to accept those differences that you can truly appreciate each culture as unique.●

## Freaking out with friends

Saumya Manidhar, VIII A  
AIS Gurgaon 46



Some plan it well in advance, some do it late. Some have a clear cut bend of mind, some confused. Yeah, I'm talking about Friendship Day. Even if the special day comes just once in a year, why should friendship be celebrated on only that day? As the month of August reverberates with the friendship flavour, let's not let it slip by. Need some ideas on how to celebrate Friendship? Here are some to let you opt for any or many of them.

■ Being together is the best idea to strengthen your friendship bond. So if you're fortunate on that count, freak out with food, fun and funky beats. A picnic is always a fun idea and great for all ages. Invite your closest buddies over for a sleepover! Rent some movies, have some chocolate and junk food!

■ If you're all busy during the day, chill out at a dinner with your friends. Host a Friendship Dinner Party! If you like, dress up in your finest or the weirdest outfits and have a fun night that's different from the norm.

■ Write nice cards for your friends telling them how much you appreciate their friendship.

■ Make a friendship poster by using your name and your friends' names and decorate it.

■ Make friendship bracelets and gift them to your buddies.

■ Buy or make them a small present - flowers, chocolates, friendship bands, a cake, a dream catcher, friendship journal or anything that catches your imagination! Consider leaving the gift anonymously for added suspense.

So, go out, have fun and enjoy with your closest pals!●



## Tyranny of choices

Prerna Bountra, XI D, AIS Gur-46

You complete your Class X and think that the worst is over, take a pause. The biggest challenge is yet to come...the challenge of choices. The choice that is going to shape your future. The choice that is going to determine your happiness. Even without you realizing, you've been making choices since you were born.. which toy to buy? What clothes to wear? What dish to order? So what is different now? It's the 'too many options' that makes the task more complex, often leading to a confused behaviour pattern. Today, even the simple act of eating an ice-cream seems like an arduous task. Walking into an ice cream parlour

seems a torturous experience. The enormous range of choices entices the customer, challenging his taste-buds and pocket for the best choice... and you hate it. The fear of choice looms large, for whatever one selects, the other option always seemed better. Perhaps Robert Frost must have had similar thoughts when he wrote 'The Road Not Taken'. Too many options can dull our thinking power. The economic boom world over coupled with increasing choices has, in many ways, even worked against the human factor. Probably that is why in affluent societies like US, number of clinically



depressed people is fast increasing than ever before. In countries like Japan, the suicide rate is highest in the world. In Japan, when a person is jobless, it limits the choices available and it becomes impossible for an unemployed person to survive in expensive life-style society gradually leading to psychological problems.

Barry Schwartz, an American psychologist, mentions: "Americans today choose among more options in more parts of life than has ever been possible before. To an extent, the opportunity to choose enhances our lives. It is only logical to think that if some choice

is good, more is better; people who care about having infinite options will benefit from them, and those who do not can always just ignore the 273 versions of cereal they have never tried. Yet recent research strongly suggests that, psychologically, this assumption is wrong. Although some choice is undoubtedly better than none, more is not always better than less." Barry Schwartz's research can be corroborated by the fact that Bhutanese people are considered to be the happiest people in the whole world even though their per capita is amongst the lowest. Probably all we can do is to control our choices. After all happiness is what we all want. Even Aeschylus, Greek philosopher, said "Happiness is a choice that requires effort at times".●



# East West Brew



Diversity is beautiful and it is not everyday that you get to realize the beauty of being different, unless you have AFS students coming in. These students gave us the chance to rejoice the differences between east and west. They brought with themselves an all new culture and different perspective, engulfing us with an air of freshness. Young and bright AFS students highlighted how we are so different yet so similar. These students differ in the language they speak (not to forget, the accent of course) but the principle values remain the same. Infused with enthusiasm, the eagerness of these students to learn more on Indian culture was more than just evident. And the meticulously designed exchange program by Amity teachers did complete justice to their willingness to learn, offering them an insight into the rich Indian culture and heritage. The mutual give and take of thoughts, ideas, beliefs and principles yielded a beautiful concoction that had the flavour of east and the aroma of west. One rarely gets a chance to experience the intermingling of different cultures and the beautiful mixture it results in. Having enjoyed this rich mixture of east and west and its individual components too, I look forward to such beautiful exchange programs that will allow the youth to transcend its boundaries across borders.●

# Namaste India



Namaste – the very word rings in bells of Indianness. But, when the otherwise trademark Indian greeting pops from the mouth of a foreign national, the sweetness quotient goes several notches higher. I experienced the same as I felt a stream of honey pouring into my ears on being greeted with a ‘*Namaste*’ while meeting an AFS student. Her folded hands and the sweet baritone left me with a huge smile on my face. It didn’t take me long to realize that the word *Namaste*, which is so characteristically ‘Indian’ had instantly established a bond with people I had never met before. And it wasn’t just the trademark Indian greeting that had begun to tread the *foreign* route. The Indian aura too had made its way through the American hearts. Meeting them for the first time to discuss the “AFS special issue” (that you are reading through at the moment), I had not expected the response to be so overwhelming. But, as the conversation unfolded, their excitement to share their experiences of being in India became apparent. From understanding the lines of distinction between American football and Rugby to acknowledging the craze for nose piercing and tattoos, there was so much for me to do. Though I am not a hardcore Bollywood fan, my enthusiasm for all things *Bollywoodish* grew, seeing the excitement it had stirred in my ‘Western friends’. And it wasn’t just me who was juggling with surprises. Young AFS students too had their share of surprises. Realizing that the Indian dress code was not as conservative as they had thought was one of the surprises (a pleasant one) for them. Here’s hoping that the trail of pleasant and sweet surprises continues forever, till then “Namaste India!”●

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# Education v/s System

*In the battle between education and the system, aren’t we actually playing with the lives of innocent children? Who will pay for the loss of self-esteem and the permanent damage it can cause?*

**Robin Kumar, Guest Columnist**

Education plays an important role for any progressing civilization or nation. For any nation to proclaim itself to be progressive, it should at least adhere to one moral maxim and that is, the young citizens should attain minimum education so that their expected rationale can contribute to the nation via society for its emancipation. But despite the significance that education holds for the system, both of them continue to be at loggerheads. Case in point - the expelling of a boy studying in 8th standard from his elite school. The reason - his father, who was a postman, had received increment in his salary thanks to the VIth Pay Commission. The child who was receiving free education up till now under the EWS scheme, under which kids whose parents’ annual salary is below Rs 1 lakh are entitled to free education. With the increment, the child was not covered under the EWS

scheme any longer, rendering him *school-less*. The real schocker to the entire incident came in when a Minister, on his visit to the school, commented that what the school had done was just! However, later he corrected his own mistake by asking the school to postpone the cancellation of the student’s admission until next year. In a situation like this, the schools’ stand cannot be nullified but the problem is why overnight? Why didn’t the school authority probe into this matter during the session

change? Why was the scrutinizing committee reluctant during session change or have they just waken up from the slumber? It’s very difficult for any school to absorb a student in the mid of the session. And things are not easier for the child either. It is extremely tough for a student to adjust to a new school after facing such humiliation. Above everything else, it would be unfair to entangle a young citizen who has the responsibility of his family suffering in the battle between education and the system. In this pool of education

where studying is expensive because of the artificial inflation caused by the landlords of education system, the need of the hour is to provide special attention and some more reparable measures. A little more effort by the concerned ministry and education aficionados, can prevent a young citizen from being victimized in the Education v/s System battle in the long run. Though there are numerous things in the education system that need amendment, one thing needs urgent rectification is that the illusory image of an elite and non elite stature of a school. Any institution is only elite if and only if, its students excel in their results but not because it accumulates some high income salaried families. The Ministry of education should also make regulations more carefully than before and consequential laws should also be taken care of. With these little changes, we can hope to have a peaceful end to the Education v/s System battle. ●

*(The author is a freelance journalist & script writer)*



Dear Editor,

While the differences between India and the United States seem infinite, at Amity Mayur Vihar we realize that some things cross cultures. The cluster of kids waiting for chocolate cones at the canteen and the teachers scolding kids for running through the halls can be seen at almost every American high school. And the scene at Amity, Mayur Vihar is also more or less similar. The lines of similarity don’t just end at the students, but cross through the school newspapers too. While ‘The Global Times’ and ‘The Boise High Weekly’ vary, the way they are created is the same. Movie reviews, sports articles, comics, and reflections decorate the colourful pages of both newspapers. Although there are small differences, the theme remains the same. Instead of an article about the AFYIP, an American newspaper might have a

GT M@il



write-up about how to ace your SATs. A similar layout is also used, with catchy headlines, vibrant pictures, and short but sweet articles. Halfway around the world, kids are still alike, and school newspapers definitely reflect that. In the States, newspaper editors are constantly in a state of motion, badgering their reporters for their past-deadline articles. But no matter how hectic the craze that surrounds a newspaper, things come together at the last minute, and the paper always comes out on time. A newspaper is a very important part of a school. It not only gives the students a voice, it shows the personality of the school. I have grown to love Amity’s spirit and feel so lucky to have been able to contribute to Amity’s unique personality. Sincerely,  
**Hannah Schwarz, Elizabeth Bigelow & Shoshanna Goldin**



Hannah in the GT office

## Pearls of wisdom

# The Four Candles

*Four candles burned slowly in a room. The ambience was so soft, one could almost hear them talking...*

**The first candle said:** “I am ‘PEACE’. The world is full of Anger and fighting. So nobody can keep me lit. Then the flame of Peace went out completely...  
**The second candle said:** “I am ‘FAITH.’ I am no longer indispensable. It doesn’t make sense that I stay lit another moment.” Just then a breeze softly blew Faith’s flame.  
**The third candle began to speak:** “I am ‘PURE LOVE’. People do not understand my importance, so they simply put me aside. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them. And waiting no longer, Love’s flame went out. Suddenly...  
A child entered the room and saw the unlit candles. “Why aren’t you burning? You are supposed to stay lit till the end.”  
Saying this the child began to cry.  
**Then the fourth candle**

**answered,** “Don’t be desperate. I am HOPE.” While I am still burning we can re-light the other candles. With shining eyes, the child took the candle of HOPE and lit the other candles.  
With HOPE each of us can live with PEACE, FAITH, and LOVE.



In today’s world, where there is so much of violence and hatred, people need love, peace, faith and hope to survive. However, if there is hope, there will be optimism, which will lead to other good qualities. The world will be a better place to live in with love and peace all around. So, keep hoping till the time we make the world a better place to live in!

(An internet forward)

**Contributed by:**  
**Sweekruti, VIII – G,**  
 **AIS Noida**



# The environment menace

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Tanya Goel, XI, AIS Saket

With the Commonwealth Games around the corner, the incessant use of plastic poses a massive challenge to the government of Delhi. Shopkeepers continue to sell plastic bags fearlessly and the customers unhesitatingly accept it. In January 2009, the Delhi High Court imposed a ban on plastic under which anyone guilty faces a maximum penalty of ₹1 lakh or five years of imprisonment. But even after a year and a half, the ban is ineptly implemented! Vinod Kumar Jain, director of NGO Tapas, says, that the implementation lacked the re-

quired will power. Investigation by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has led to registration of only 200 cases until now. He also feels that the MCD and NDMC should be given the power to punish those who break the rules.

Initially, a few traders did switch to other alternatives. But on observation that no action was taken against those who continued to use polythene, they backtracked. At the same time, in markets like Sarojini Nagar or Janpath, Lajpat Nagar or Kamla Nagar, the large-scale use of plastic persists. Due to successful initiatives by a few NGOs, a few shopkeepers have switched to paper bags/jute bags but the target group is a lot bigger. The only people who

have truly followed the ban are malls and other branded outlets, that too after certain famous brands were dragged to the court and asked to pay a fine of ₹1 lakh. It definitely is difficult to control this problem in unorganized markets, more so because Delhi is a big city and the use of plastic is already so widespread. But unless we realize our responsibility and take action, we can never win the battle over the environmental menace called plastic. In this regard, the UK and China have set a great example. In the UK, where the ban on plastic has not been imposed as yet, some retailers and traders have been producing their own reusable bags. In China, traders have reported an approximate 70% decline in the use of plastic bags due to the ban. In both the countries, it is the cooperation of people that has contributed to bringing about such an effective change.●

## Alternatives to polybags

Maheep Tripathi, XI, AIS Noida

**PAPER BAGS:** The most commonly used alternatives to plastic bags are paper bags. However, one may argue that increasing the use of paper bags would put immense pressure on our forests. But then, let me remind you of the customary practice of making bags from recycled newspapers. Most medicine stores and pharmaceutical shops, even in local markets, adhere to this practice and swear by it (so says a chemist shop owner on why he uses paper bags). Go get a *samosa* from the nearby *halwai* and you shall be

humbly served in a reused paper bag. In fact, there are dealers that manufacture these ‘newspaper’ bags, selling different sizes and minimal costs in local markets. **BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC:** Petroleum-based plastics that are used to manufacture plastic bags are being widely substituted with Polylactic acid (PLA) made from fermented plant starch, usually corn. The major advantage of using these plastic bags is that not only does it take exponentially less time to degrade completely, but the process that goes into manufacturing them is technically ‘carbon-neutral’ - it comes from renewable, carbon-absorbing plants and does not emit any toxic fumes when incinerated. On the flip side, experts fear the growing demand for corn for the manufacture of PLA is robbing the world of precious cultivable land that ought to be used to feed the famished. Also, the corn used is genetically modified and its effects on the environment and humans are unknown.

**REUSABLE BAGS:** Now here’s a novel concept that defies established norms- how about making customers bring their own bags for shopping? Whether it be a small trip to the grocery or a weekend outing at the mall, if we as customers carry our own bags- maybe backpacks, bags made from jute, hemp, canvas, cloth etc, there’s no stopping from turning plastic bags into an obsolete reality. What’s more, a cloth bag requires 69% less energy than a paper bag.

India could look to the following countries as impeccable examples of dealing effectively with controlling the use of plastic:

**Ireland:** In 2002, the Irish government imposed a plastic bag consumption tax - ‘PlasTax’. It has reduced their consumption by 90 percent. Besides cutting back on litter, the tax has helped Ireland save approximately 18 million liters of oil.

**Japan:** Japan passed a law that empowers the government to issue warnings to merchants that overuse plastic bags and don’t do enough to ‘reduce, reuse and recycle’.

**Others:** China, Ireland, South Africa, Uganda and San Francisco are a few pioneers that have curbed ‘white pollution’ by banning plastic grocery bags and have accepted biodegradable PLA bags.

**Companies:**

Many eco-friendly companies have taken an initiative to look beyond monetary profit and have voluntarily converted to biodegradable PLA bags even though they cost several times more.●

## We Protest!

Deepti Nair, Junior Executive in the administration department, Mother Dairy, Delhi says, “The ban on polybags has really come up. Mother Dairy outlets have said no to polybags entirely; I myself do not venture out of home without my jute bag. I feel it is of immense importance that all of us unite together in the rejection of polybags. If anyone is caught with a polybag, a fine must be charged.”

Raju (name changed), manning a Mother Dairy booth makes a similar observation, “Plastic has not been banned entirely by the Delhi Government. Some of our vegetables, fruits and milk are packaged in plastic. No ban has been imposed on packaging material

in plastic and it is rather difficult to do so because plastic is almost indispensable to many industries.”

Environmentalist Sonia Gaur concludes, “The ban has still not been completely implemented. Most of the showrooms and big brands are still using polybags. When the ban was first introduced, an NGO called Centre for Science and Environment organised an awareness programme on the polybag ban in the slums. Like NGOs, media too has a great responsibility in spreading awareness and exposing the guilty, therefore it would be a good idea to install hidden cameras. Strict laws should be maintained and followed. The guilty should be penalized.”



I am proud of my country because it has a variety of food & cuisine. Dea Sharma, II A, AIS Pushp Vihar





# The innumerable caravan that moves

Commonwealth 2010  
Countdown

These words of William Cullen Bryant, American romantic poet, best describe the one kilometre long Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi convoy of 30 cars, carrying a team of almost 100 people accompanied by the police and administrative vehicles, for the national leg of the relay. 'Always on the go' is the rule that Queen's Baton Relay follows on its national sector route. The entire caravan of 30 cars along with a few police and administrative vehicles move in a row, surprising one and all. No matter whosoever is left behind, the golden rule is 'when on the move do not stop'. It's a team of almost 100 people that moves together, eats together and can be seen working together. To many, 100 odd people for the Queen baton's relay may sound large, but this isn't really the case. In fact, the convoy includes just the right number of people. The crew is like a small unit operating 24 hours with all basic facilities on board. It includes a doctor along with his assistant who attends to all medical issues, a technical expert to address all IT related issues and 15 escort runners along with other members. The caravan moves in two modes—convoy mode and relay mode. Apart from the cars and buses in the convoy, when nearing the relay, 4-6 Hero Honda bikers join in.



In all, it's no less than some royal procession that spellbinds everyone on the way. Travelling on road in the car or running along are not the only modes of the relay. There have been quite a few interesting scenes of the baton being taken to the waters and the convoy moving in boats. Then in remote areas like Gangtok the same is done via choppers. Lakhs of people stand by, wave hands and Indian flags, shower flowers and shout slogans. This is the love and attention that the Queen's Baton Relay gets when on the move. The response is the same, the enthusiasm is the same; it's just the places that change. Being part of such a massive convoy is all together a different experience that gives a sense of pride. Every state that the convoy visits takes care of boarding

and lodging of the entire crew. With regard to the duration of the halt, the stay is not longer than 5-6 hours at a particular place. "At hilly places like Dehradun, the stay didn't even last for 4 hours. These included our checking-in and sleeping and then check-out time," shares Akhilendra Pratap Singh, APO Queen's Baton Relay. Even though being part of such a huge convoy can be quite a strenuous task, the participants involved are all smiles. One can easily spot cheerful faces, even when the participants are working in the wee hours of the day. The caravan that leads the Queen's baton continues to move amidst much enthusiasm and patriotism, setting the first foot for the upcoming games in just the right manner. ●

## The baton makes its way through land, water and air

Having been in India for over 13 days now, the Queen's baton used all three modes of transport—land, water and air for the first time. Early in the morning, the Queen's Baton 2010 Delhi visited *Har ki Paudi Ghat*, Haridwar on the 13th day of its arrival in India. The baton had its tryst with the land during an hour long drive from Dehradun, after which it reached Haridwar. Here, the baton was greeted with prayers and offerings and blessings of the Holy Ganges. Holy mantras were chanted for the success of the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi. Hundreds of school and college chil-



dren came to welcome the baton at the *Ghat*. After its stint with land, the baton was taken for river rafting. The visitors at the *Ghat* enjoyed the scenic site of the baton on the raft. The relay commenced from the *Ghat* and proceeded to the Hero Honda factory at Haridwar. Enjoying its adventurous journey on the water, the baton finally took off for Nanital via chopper. ●

Attitude Pill: Chitra Jain, XII, AIS Vasundhara, Sec-6



## Delhi shapes up for the commonwealth games

Alyssa Binczyk  
Shaker Heights High  
School, Ohio

The fall of 2010 is going to be an exciting time for the city and the people of Delhi, India. The city is the honoured host of the nineteenth Commonwealth Games, which will begin on October 3rd and end on October 14th. The Commonwealth Games is a multi-sport competition that features athletes from seventy-two nations located in six of the world's continents. One of the most notable aspects of the 2010 Commonwealth Games is the

government's remarkable efforts to "shape up" Delhi. This year's Commonwealth Games are speculated to be the most expensive yet with an estimated price tag of \$1.6 billion. This tops the \$1.1 billion budget of the games held in Melbourne. Utilizing the generous \$1.6 billion budget set aside for the games, the government has been working for the past year to prepare Delhi for the big event. Preparation has included: teaching key workers in Delhi the English language in preparation for the huge influx of English-speaking spectators,

working to increase power production to lower the likelihood of power cuts during the games, and the demolition of hundreds of abandoned buildings and structures. The Indian government has also been striving to make this event the first "green" Commonwealth Games. This goal is being accomplished by the construction of environment-friendly architectural projects that will be used as venues for the competitive events. Thyagaraj Stadium, the specified location for netball during the games, is a prime example of the government's "green" con-



Nothing common about the Commonwealth: Alyssa



Pic: Pankaj Mallik

## American Football Rugby Naheen Hai

Reina Gattuso  
Delaware Valley Regional  
High School, NJ

Don't let baseball nostalgia fool you—football is US's national sport. This isn't football as Indians know it, the sport that Spain plays so well. Americans, stubbornly individualistic as they are, choose to dub that "soccer." No, this is American football, a game played with an oblong leather ball on a hundred yard field, the aim of which is to tackle other players to score a "touchdown."

An important distinction: Ameri-

am I a sports fan, but that comment raised my patriotic ire. It is the desire to assert our individuality, a fundamentally American ideal, that makes us so proud of American football, a sport played virtually nowhere else. A quick Google search confirmed for me that there are marked distinctions between football and rugby which include the size of the field, the make up of the team, and certain rules.

It's interesting that it takes being abroad to confirm your national identity. Football is quintessentially American, even to the point of cliché. On a personal level, I don't connect with the sport. But there is nothing more iconic than the Homecoming Football game, an entire school community painting their bellies and faces to cheer on their school's team and coming together under the Friday night lights. And in an American high school, the homecoming dance that comes after it, is second only to Prom.

I suppose trying to explain American football to an Indian is like trying to explain cricket to an American. We just don't under-

stand. I console myself with the thought that in my American high school, as in my Indian *Nani's* house, this fourth-generation Italian American and her Hindi-speaking Punjabi host family can all cheer for Spain. ●

Pic: Pankaj Mallik



American Football, it's different!: Reina Gattuso



struction efforts. Overall, the government's efforts to prepare Delhi for the 2010 games are quite remarkable. Their dedication to creating a safe, clean and enjoyable environment for both athletes and spectators deserves appreciation for sure. With all the remarkable efforts, I think it is safe to say that 2010 Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi are going to be a huge success! ●

can football is not rugby. This is the one major cultural misunderstanding my host mother and I had. I was musing about this article and asked her if she knew what American football was. She didn't, so I, excited to share my culture, quickly Youtubed an American football game. My mother took one look at it and said, "That's rugby." I'm not intensely nationalistic, nor

I am proud of my country because it has different plants & trees. Akshat Gupta, II B, AIS Pushp Vihar





Cartoon by:Prakhar Bhargava

# JERRY

Prakhar Bhargava, III A, AIS Mayur Vihar

I like many cartoon characters but my favourite cartoon character is Jerry mouse from Tom and Jerry series.  
Jerry is small, brown, cheerful and a happy schemer.  
We always see Jerry with Tom, the cat.  
Their first appearance was in “Puss gets boots” in 1940.  
I like the way Jerry fools and teases Tom.

Jerry loves to eat cheese.  
The best thing that I like about Jerry is the way he fails Tom’s plans.  
William Hanna and Joseph Barbera introduced them to us.  
Jerry and Tom always fight with each other, but I know they are best friends.  
Jerry with his partner Tom are all time favourite cartoon characters for all age groups.

CROSS WORD												
By:Manan Hingorani, I-C, AIS Vasundhra												
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ACROSS: 1. An intelligent bird 2. A fat animal 3. Kids learn in school 4. I wear on my head. DOWN: 1. Make water chilled 2. A healthy white food 3. Gives me light 4. It’s green and gives me shade.

ANSWERS: Across - 1. kingfisher, 2. elephant, 3. rhyme, 4. hat. Down 1. ice, 2. egg, 3. torch, 4. tree

## That’s Me!

Samriddhi Sharma, I-D  
AIS Gur 46

Birthday – 1.4.2004  
I like – Dance  
I hate – Teasing  
My hobby – Painting  
My role model – My mother  
My best friend – Somya  
My favourite book – Snow White  
My favourite game – Skating  
My favourite mall – Ambience Mall  
My favourite food – Choley Puri  
My favourite teacher – Deepika mam  
My favourite poem – My family  
My favourite subject – Maths  
I want to become a – Model  
I want to feature in GT because it is the best place to share our views.



## POEMS

### Proud Amitian

Ishana Sharma, II D, AIS Gur- 46

Amity means friendship  
International means different nations  
Amity means friendly relations  
  
Amity means goodwill  
Amity is relation between different nations  
  
Amity International means goodwill between different nations  
I’m proud to be a part of Amity school  
  
I’m proud of my school  
East or West, Amity is the best!

### My father

Arushi Arora, IV A, AIS V-1

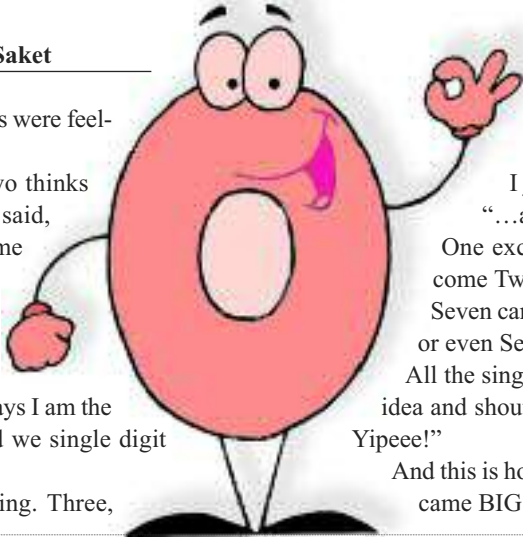
My Father is not so old, he is more precious than gold.  
He works all day long, but he doesn’t sing a song.  
He is very sweet and smart, and I love him with all my heart.  
He is very humble, and doesn’t grumble.  
For me he does all that he can, and his thoughts are quite like a man.  
I pray for him day and night, so he may be happy and in sight.  
He is my dearest, he is my nearest, He cares for me a lot, he is always in my thoughts.

# Zero, The Hero

## Short Story

Angad Datta, I A, AIS Saket

One day, all the single digit numbers were feeling sad.  
Two said, “My cousin Twenty-Two thinks he is big and I am small.” Nine said, “Oh! My friend Sixty-Nine teases me too!”  
Five said, “Boo hoo hoo, they say I am a small number!”  
And then One said in an anguished tone, “My cousin Eleven says I am the smallest guy around. What should we single digit numbers do now?”  
Suddenly, all of them started crying. Three,



Four, Six, Seven, Eight...they were all crying.  
Suddenly Zero had an idea. “Hey friends! I think I have an idea. What if I jump next to all of you and...”  
“...and One can become Hundred!” said One excited with the idea. “Two can now become Two Thousand, Three can become Thirty, Seven can be Seven Hundred or Seven Thousand or even Seventy Thousand or more!  
All the single digit numbers were thrilled with this idea and shouted in unison “Zero, you are our Hero! Yipeee!”  
And this is how all the small single digit numbers became BIG numbers and lived happily ever after.

Hedge-Dog

Strip By:Aryaman Sinha, VI-D, AIS Mayur Vihar

I am proud of my country because it has a good President. -Anupam Mukharjee, II C, AIS Pushp Vihar



Amityians have yet another reason to rejoice! The gigantic task of training 30,000 volunteers and a workforce of 2,500 odd people for XIX Common Wealth Games, Delhi 2010 has been entrusted to Amity University. As a part of the training, an interactive session was organised with eminent Cricketer Kapil Dev and Mr. Tarlochan Singh -MP, Rajya Sabha and Head of the Media Sub- Committee of Organizing Committee, CWG. The interaction session also saw participation from eminent journalists to enthuse and motivate the volunteers as well as to apprise them with the expectations of media from Press Operations Volunteers during the Games.

Motivating over 250 Press Operations volunteers of Common Wealth Games, Delhi 2010 who are in their second phase of training, Mr. Kapil Dev referred to volunteers as the face of the Games and apprised them of their responsibility. Highlighting the responsibilities of the volunteers, he said that each press operations volunteer may have to look after three-four media persons everyday. He also urged the volunteers to deal with journalists with a smile on their faces.

He also put forth the responsibility that comes with the task of being a press volunteer. “We are depending upon you, so work really hard with passion. You may not be able to see even one sports event, your job is to look after media people who are coming to the country, your job is to sacrifice your own ambition at that moment and try to work for the country. Only passionate people will come out with flying colors,” averred Mr. Kapil Dev. He

# Media calling!



Caption: ??

also emphasized the need to promote Indian culture and called upon the volunteers to always greet visitors with “Namaste.” Mr. Tarlochan Singh, MP, Rajya Sabha and Head of

the Media Sub-Committee of Organizing Committee, CWG, who also graced the occasion, emphasized on the challenges that press operations volunteers will have to cope with in the upcoming

games. “Majority of the volunteers may not even get a chance to see the Games, they may be asked to stand outside the stadiums. We are expecting over 2,000 media people and among them will be 700-800 foreign journalists. Your duty is to look after them. Now time has come when we all should unite, be optimistic and see that these Games are the best games.” The faculty members were also not lagging behind when it came to motivating the young volunteers. Mr KS Bains, Director General, Amity Institute of Training and Development, called upon the volunteers to put their heart and soul into the duties assigned to them during the Commonwealth Games, Delhi 2010 and ensure that Commonwealth Games goes down in the history of India as a momentous event to be reckoned for ages. He thanked all the speakers who took out time from their busy schedules to enrich the volunteers with their experience. On the occasion, eminent journalist Ms. Sharda Ugra - Deputy Editor, Sports, India Today guided volunteers as to how to deal with journalists. She said, “Journalists are often impatient, cranky and grumbling; they have their deadlines to meet, so they want information on time. Timing is very important for a journalist, whatever you are supposed to do make sure it is done on time. Keep the information ready for the journalists and if you don’t know anything, check with your supervisor and then give the correct information.” With such strong motivational tips, the press volunteers are sure to do a noteworthy job in the upcoming CWG and fetch a strong mention for Indian hospitality in world media.●

## Amity School of Communications

### Media captains go LIVE!

It was a historical day for the students of Amity School of Communication, as they interacted with the Media Captains, whom they had seen only on television till now. Students got a rare opportunity to interact with media barons like Mr. Rajat Sharma, CEO - India TV; Mr. Pankaj Pachauri, Managing Editor-Special Projects and Prime Time Anchor - NDTV; Mr. Dilip Cherian, Founder Partner - Perfect Relations and Ms. Suhasini Haidar, Senior Correspondent, CNN IBN. The esteemed personalities received a warm welcome from Col. RK Dargan, Director, Amity School of Communications. Dr Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Group, who also graced the occasion, advised students to take invaluable lessons from the media captains’ lives.

## CEO’s Forum 2010 Amity Business School

Amity Business School organized a two-day “CEO Forum” for the students on the theme “Industry Expectations from Young Managers” at Amity Campus, Sector-125, Noida. The event saw the coming together of CEOs from various companies, who shared their views and experiences with the students, so that they can improvise and hone their talents according to the global demand.

The eminent speakers for the Forum’s panel discussion included Mr. Pradeep Gupta, Chairman, Cyber Media Group; Dr. Anup Kalra, CEO, Dabur Ayurved Ltd.; Mr. Anupam Joshi, CEO, Wacorp Hyundai Ltd.; Mr. Rajan Mehta, CEO, Live Media; Sunil Khanna, CEO, Greycells; Mr. Shivendra Tomar, CEO, IFCI Infrastructure Development Ltd; Mr. Ajay Vij, CEO, Reliance Retail; Ashish Bagga, India Today and Mr. S.K Sharma, Global Agri India Pvt. Ltd. All of them unleashed a unique perspective, giving students a true insight into the industry. Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, ADG & Head, Amity Business School addressed the gathering and elaborated, “Time to time

interaction with industry doyens through forums and seminars enriches the knowledge of budding managers.” He added, “It is very important for industry and academia to work in close association in order to churn out professionals who are industry ready and become indispensable assets for the organizations right after joining.” While Mr Srivastava emphasized on the need for interaction, between the academia and industry barons, Dr. Anup Kalra, CEO, Dabur Ayurved Ltd. stressed on the need to understand the industry well in advance and how academic institutions can help with the same. “In today’s competitive world it is most essential to understand the demand of the industry” said Kalra. He also stated, “The academic institutions help the young managers to enhance and develop their skills in order to fulfill the requirements of the industry.” With the industry barons offering an insight into the industry, the students had a close brush with the reality of the business. Such interactions are welcome as they offer the students an enriching learning experience.●

# An insight into the industry



# Alcatel Lucent’s integrated NRSI & summer internship programme concludes



I am proud of my country because it has different states to visit in summer vacations and also has Bollywood. -Harsha Kwatra, II D, AIS Pushp Vihar

## AITTM

The Network Routing Specialist 1 (NRS1) Training and Summer Internship with Alcatel Lucent finally came to an end. 21 B.Tech (E&T) 2007-11 Batch students successfully participated in the program and completed the same. Students were selected in March 2010 to undergo 4 days of NRS1 Training, followed by 8 weeks of intensive Internship at Alactel Lucent, Gurgaon. A concluding ceremony was organized by Alcatel Lucent to mark the conclusion of the same. The NRS1 Training had Training resources coming in from Alcatel Lucent’s Bangalore, Mumbai and Gurgaon Development Centers. The training and projects were based on Internet Protocol (IP) Applications for the Telecom Sector. As a part of the training, the students also got an opportunity to work on Alcatel Lucent’s Remote Servers based out of Ottawa, Canada. The students then worked on IP based communication projects of Alcatel Lucent and its clients. The students also got an opportunity to visit Airtel’s Installation (client side installation) as a part of the project. As a part of the training, the students

underwent a one-day soft skill development training which emphasized on developing leadership and team building qualities. The concluding ceremony had a feedback session for the students where they shared their experiences with the Alcatel Lucent Team and IIC, AITTM. The feedback session was a perfect platform for interaction and to offer feedback to the students. The students felt that the training program at Alcatel had been a great learning experience for them.

Mr. Antarpreet Singh, Head Alcatel Lucent University, the training & development arm of Alcatel Lucent was extremely happy with the performance of the students during training and internship. He was positive about offering pre-placement offers to the deserving candidates among the trainees. He shared that successful completion of the program will help in strengthening of ties between Alcatel Lucent and Amity University, AITTM. Certificates were awarded to the students by Mr. Antarpreet Singh on successful completion of NRS1 and the Internship Program. ●





# Swiss Delight

Students of Amity International School experienced the rare privilege of interacting with the Swiss Ambassador H.E. Philippe Welti and his wife, Mrs Myrtha Welti and sharing Swiss delicacies with them at their Residence. The program organized by Amity Education Resource Centre, was co-ordinated by Mrs. Sarah Berry, Officer - Projects, Events and Education. The occasion was a special workshop organized by the Swiss Embassy. The little Amity chefs learnt Swiss culinary skills from none other than the Swiss Defence Attaché's wife, Ms. Sylvia Kaelin. With special recipes and aprons provided, they donned the role of chefs. The cooking session that followed involved the participants as they chopped vegetables, grated cheese, boiled potatoes and spaghetti, melted the chocolate with



white butter and blended the cream into a mouth-watering concoction under the constant guidance of Ms. Kaelin. The students prepared three dishes namely 'Raclette', Spagetti with tomato sauce and the dessert Meringue. The dishes were served in a 'hospitable and cozy' Swiss style by Ms. Welti and Ms. Kaelin. Besides, the students also got an opportunity to tour the house where they learnt

about the special architecture of the Swiss Embassy and viewed the rare collection of Indian paintings. An exclusive interactive session with Ms Welti enlightened the students about Indo-Swiss relations and culture. Impressed by the Swiss hospitality Aastha of AIS Saket exclaimed, "I loved the way it was conducted. It's a novel way to learn more about the rich cultural traditions of Switzerland." Bhaswati Mukherjee of AIS Vasundara was all praise for the Swiss culinary skills. For Vasudha Goyal of Gur-46, the interaction with the dignitaries and the aroma of the Swiss delights is something she shall cherish forever. The warm welcome and interactive session with the host, the tour of the house, a quiz and culinary workshop, provided the students with an immense cross-cultural experience.●

# WE'LL MISS YOU!

Bhawna Tuteja

"We love you and we will miss you" –said a voice that was choked with emotion. The voice was that of Mr Sanjeev Goel, host parent of Phoebe Judge, one of the NSLI-Y students. As he said these moving words, he looked at his host daughter (now his daughter) with eyes that could not hold tears any longer. This was the Valedictory cum Farewell ceremony for the NSLI-Y students, which, though was meant to be a formal affair, turned into an emotional event. The Valedictory-cum-Farewell ceremony brought the host families and AIS MV together, as a global family. The occasion became special as Chairperson Dr Amita Chauhan, bid a special goodbye to the young girls addressing them, "Yeh humari betiyan hain." The ceremony included a classical dance performance followed by a short play by

NSLI-Y girls. The event even had its thought provoking moments as girls sang "desh humare bhale lag hain, lekin insan ek hai." It was a special moment for the faculty at AIS, Mayur Vihar with a special mention to host school principal – Ms Sarita Agarwal, who had put their hearts and souls into transforming these young souls into part Indian. Archana Upadhyaya, Teacher coordinator shares, "We have had a wonderful experience with these kids. Their enthusiasm to learn motivated us to work harder." Manju Jain, who taught them Hindi, expresses, "Looking at these kids, I don't feel east and west is different. It is we who decide to shape the kids." As the event drew to a close, these bright girls put us on the popular Karan Johar track of "Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna", with these golden words – "Hum apko bhool nahi payenge, yaad karenge jab aap humko, hamesha saath payenge."●



Pic: Pankaj Mallik



## AIS Mayur Vihar

## Media brief on reporting

Media- the most significant tool in the present world has left an indelible mark on the progress of the society. And it is imperative that news reaches the masses appropriately. In order to apprise teachers of the ways to write media reports and cover all the events in an impressive manner, Amity International School, Mayur Vihar organized a workshop on

June 28, 2010. As aspired by Chairperson Amity Schools, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, the workshop aimed to motivate the teachers to come at par with international standards of teaching. Resource persons Ms Savita Mehta and Ms Sampada Singh efficiently handled all the queries and gave power point presentations to highlight the salient features of Report Writing.●

# Science Camp at NUS

Five Amitians accompanied by Ms M. Rawal, Dy. Director, AICE attended a Science Summer Camp at National University of Singapore (NUS) from June 14 to 19, 2010. On the first day of the camp, students were given a briefing session on admissions to NUS followed by lectures on Wavelet technology in Physics, Cancer treatment in Biology and Nanotechnology in Chemistry. The camp provided them with innovative classes on DNA testing for Forensic Sciences as well as entertainment through 3D movies at Picsar & Imax like 'Toy Story-2'. They were exposed to science experiments which was a great learning experience. Quips Sonal Jain, "Synthesis of water soluble Gold Nanoparticles was something none of us had ever done before. All of us wore lab coats and safety goggles which made us feel like super-scientists. Misha and I were the first ones to perform the experiment successfully." Simran Sachdeva of AIS Pushp Vihar was excited as well scared when she had to attend the DNA testing lab activity. "It was a chilling and thrilling experience. We were introduced to a real case of Dr Sheppard. Our task was to match the DNAs to find who the murderer was. It was really exciting and doing it ourself made it even better!" To give the participants a feel of Singapore, they were taken for a city tour which included the magical Sentosa Island. Chirps Yashdeep Kaul of AIS Noida, "At the fun adventure and entertainment island of Sentosa, we loved the Dolphin show." Ms M. Rawal sums it up as a great learning experience, "The



### Amitians at NUS

Sonal Jain, XI B, AIS Noida  
Misha Baheti, XI A, AIS Noida

Abhishek Raizada, XII A, AIS Noida  
Yashdeep Kaul, XII A, AIS Noida  
Simran Sachdeva, IX, AIS PV



days were packed with lots of learning through innovative teaching techniques based on sophisticated technological inputs. Students got a life time opportunity to intermingle with a cross-section of other Indian and International students who came from different parts of India, Austria, Australia, England, USA, China, etc. On the whole, it was once in a lifetime experience whose fond memories we shall always cherish and will always remain in our hearts."●



# Cheers for the new student council

Dhruv Agarwal  
AIS Gurgaon 46

AIS Gurgaon-46 organized the investiture ceremony for the current academic session on July 21. The newly appointed school council was honoured with sashes and badges by the school principal, Dr (Mrs) Rekha Ranade and senior coordinator, Mrs Nirmala

Sharma. The newly elected school prefectorial board 2010-11 comprises 'Head boy' Ojasvi Khare; 'Head girl'

## Investiture ceremony

Bhavya Garg; 'Sports Captain' – Tushar Chaudhary; 'Cultural Representative' – Sukhmani Pal; 'Discipline Incharge' – Ruchi Peshin along

with English and Hindi Editorial Boards, Technology prefects and House prefects. The Head Boy and the Head Girl led them through the solemn oath taking ceremony. With great power comes great responsibility, and the student council members promised to fulfill their responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication.●



I am proud of my country because there are helpful people. Khushi Popli, II E, AIS Pushp Vihar



Don't hate us 'coz  
**we love**  
'I hate love storys'



**Kelsey Leek, Moravian Academy, Bethlehem & Jasmine Terry, Ashland High School, Ashland**

As exchange students from the US, we really wanted to see a Bollywood movie, so we opted for this one. Although it was in Hindi, we could figure out what was going on and totally understand why people were raving about it. The obsession kids have with this Bollywood film is not only due to its catchy theme song, but the love story that goes along with it. The movie 'I Hate Luv Storys' is actually a love story that makes fun of typical love stories. But, as it mocks Bollywood, it ironically follows the exactly same plot-

line of most classic love stories. There is a guy and a girl who are destined for each other, but have many obstacles to endure before finally being able to live together happily in the end. It follows the formula of a guy and girl starting off on the wrong foot, becoming friends,



falling for each other, getting into a fight, then realizing they've fallen in love and POOF! The famous and dramatic happy ending! The male protagonist, Jay, completely hates love stories and avoids serious relationships (hence the title 'I Hate Luv Storys'). On the

other hand, the female protagonist, Simran, is obsessed with romantic movies and is engaged to the perfect man of her dreams. Jay and Simran are supposed to represent real people and not the heavenly Romeo and Juliet couple. Jay is an average guy, not a courageous hero, and Simran is a regular woman, not some dainty princess, yet they experience the same symptoms of love as in cheesy love movies. Although 'I Hate Luv Storys' does fall into the love story category when classifying Bollywood films, the moral of the story is that true love exists outside of romantic comedies. Anyone who sees this movie knows that it sticks with you even after you leave the theatre. ●

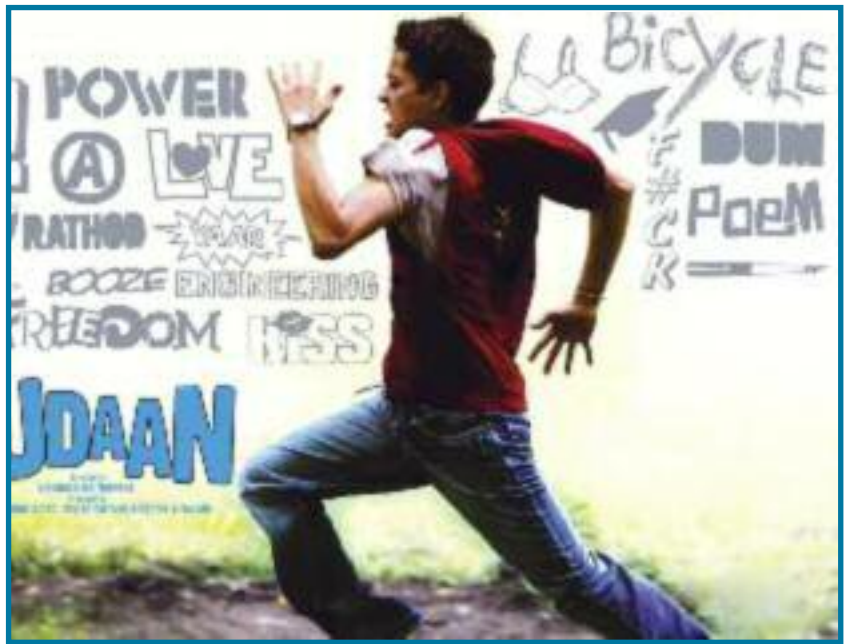
# Udaan

## A soulful journey

**Pranalai Batra, X  
AIS Noida**

Debutant director Vikramaditya Motwane's Udaan, is a passionate tale of adolescence- of the woes of the youth, brought out beautifully through Rohan's story- a young boy of 16 who faces expulsion from school for breaking bounds, to watch an adult film with three of his best friends. The movie pictures his heart wrenching tale of survival in his house with his father, who is a tyrant and beats up both him and his stepbrother, to impose his supreme authority in the house. Far from a happy existence, he feels a captive physically and mentally to the whims and fancies of his father, who forces him to take up engineering and thereafter work in his factory. This conflicts with what Rohan aspires and has

ever wanted to be- a poet and an author. Continuous pressure and suppression pushes Rohan into a situation of war and rebellion and ultimately he finds no way out but to break free from the shackles binding him. Doesn't this seem familiar? Isn't this something every teen goes through when choosing a direction in life? Is it true that parental pressure often misguides children and leads them into incorrect decisions? A fresh but melancholic tale- Udaan touches your heart and gets you emotionally involved. The audience too lives Rohan's frustration with him and feels ecstasy at his bursts of freedom and hope. A sensitive direction, Udaan though far from a box office success, is a winner in its own right. The only official entry at Cannes Film Festival this year, the movie supported by soulful music and moving performances scores a perfect 5 on 5 from my side. ●



## Vishy v/s Shramik Score 1:1

N IIT organized a workshop at Sadhu Vaswani School, Motibagh on 24th July 2010 for all chess players with current World Chess Champion Mr Viswanathan Anand. Shramik Rawal, International Rating 1450, represented Amity International School, Noida. There were more than 300 students from various schools of Delhi and NCR participating in the event. Vishy Anand gave students many tips and showed them strong chess moves through a video clipping and in person. He con-

ducted a quiz in which T-shirts and caps were given as prizes. He played with 30 lucky students through a draw of lots. Shramik was lucky enough to win a T-shirt by answering a question and also drew a draw with the World Champion. It was an out of the world experience for all participants and as Shramik says, "I will preserve the handwritten autograph and the score sheet on which I drew a draw with Vishy Anand throughout my life and this event will remain as a cherishable memory with him for life." ●

## Our top five Indian experiences



**Lauren Berry, Desert Vista High School, Arizona & Phoebe Judge, Middlesex School, MA**

Having spent five weeks in India, we have surely had some wonderful experiences. Before coming, we had images of what we thought India would be like. While some of these have proved true, we have also encountered things we never thought we would. Though the list of experiences we have had in India are pretty diverse, here we pen down the top five ones.

**1** We knew that there would be a lot of cow spotting on the Indian roads, but

we weren't expecting to see elephants and camels too! On the bus home from school one day, the kids pulled me over to a window so I could see a camel crossing the street. I was so excited to see that for the first time!

**2** Though very long and tiring, the journey to the Taj Mahal also makes it to the list of our favorite experiences. Of course, we had seen dozens of pictures of the Tak Mahal before, but seeing it for real was a different experience altogether!

**3** A trip to Jaipur with my host family was also another memorable experience. We stayed there two nights and visited several forts, palaces, and museums. We also visited Chokhi Dhani, where we participated in activities specific to Rajastani village culture.

**4** I have also made some relationships during my stay in India, which was yet another beautiful experience. I expected to make friends, but I didn't expect to love them so much. I will cherish my bond with my sister Raavi the most. She is truly my best friend now and I know that when I go back home, we will remain sisters forever!

**5** It is not just us but our taste buds too which have had their share of experiences in India. From chocolate pan to chuskee, we have tried special treats that we had never heard of before, and they were quite delicious! India has been a yummy experience.

These beautiful and enriching experiences have carved their own special place in our hearts and will stay there forever. ●

