

# THE GLOBAL TIMES

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## Analysing The Chasmic Influence Of Indian Cuisine On The Global Food Palate

Akshita Shrote, AIS Vas 1, XII B

From the bustling lanes of India to global cities, Indian cuisine has become a culinary sensation worldwide. Its rich flavours, diverse offerings, and fusion innovations are winning hearts, and setting new benchmarks for gastronomic excellence. Here's how Indian food is creating ripples across continents.

### Restaurant rush

The global appetite for Indian cuisine is evident in the 25% growth of Indian restaurants over the last five years, as per the National Restaurant Association. This growth is marked by the success of restaurants like Masque (64<sup>th</sup>), The Table (94<sup>th</sup>), and Villa Maya (99<sup>th</sup>) in the world's top 100 list. Iconic eateries such as Dishoom in the UK, Dhamaaka in New York City, Bibi in London, and Trésind Studio in Dubai have gained fame for their innovative approach to Indian cuisine. These establishments balance authenticity with modernity, often spotlighting regional specialties to deliver a memorable dining experience. Furthermore, casual Indian eateries and food trucks ensure accessibility and universal appeal of Indian flavours.

### Dishes dance

Ranked 11<sup>th</sup> best in the world by Taste Atlas, Indian cuisine's staples - naan, chutney, biryani, and dal - have become international favourites. Paneer, ghee, and garam masala are increasingly featured in global reci-

pes, while street foods like samosa and panipuri have even appeared on the White House menu. The rising demand for vegetarian and vegan dishes, particularly in Europe and North America, has further solidified Indian cuisine's place in global gastronomy. Indian culinary influence extends to other cuisines, too. Southeast Asian sambals, Middle Eastern biryanis, all inspired by Indian cuisine, have made their mark on the global food palate. Fusion dishes like Paella Biryani, Indian Tacos, Gulab Jamun Cheesecake, and Chai-spiced Tiramisu further enhance the reach of

Indian cuisine. Indian beverages, too, are making their mark. The chai latte has become a staple in international cafes, while mango lassi and masala chai rank as the second and third most popular beverages worldwide, as per Taste Atlas.

### Spice saga

India's rich spice legacy is the backbone of its culinary influence. Signature spices such as cumin, turmeric, coriander, and cardamom are now pantry staples worldwide. India remains the largest exporter of spices, with ex-

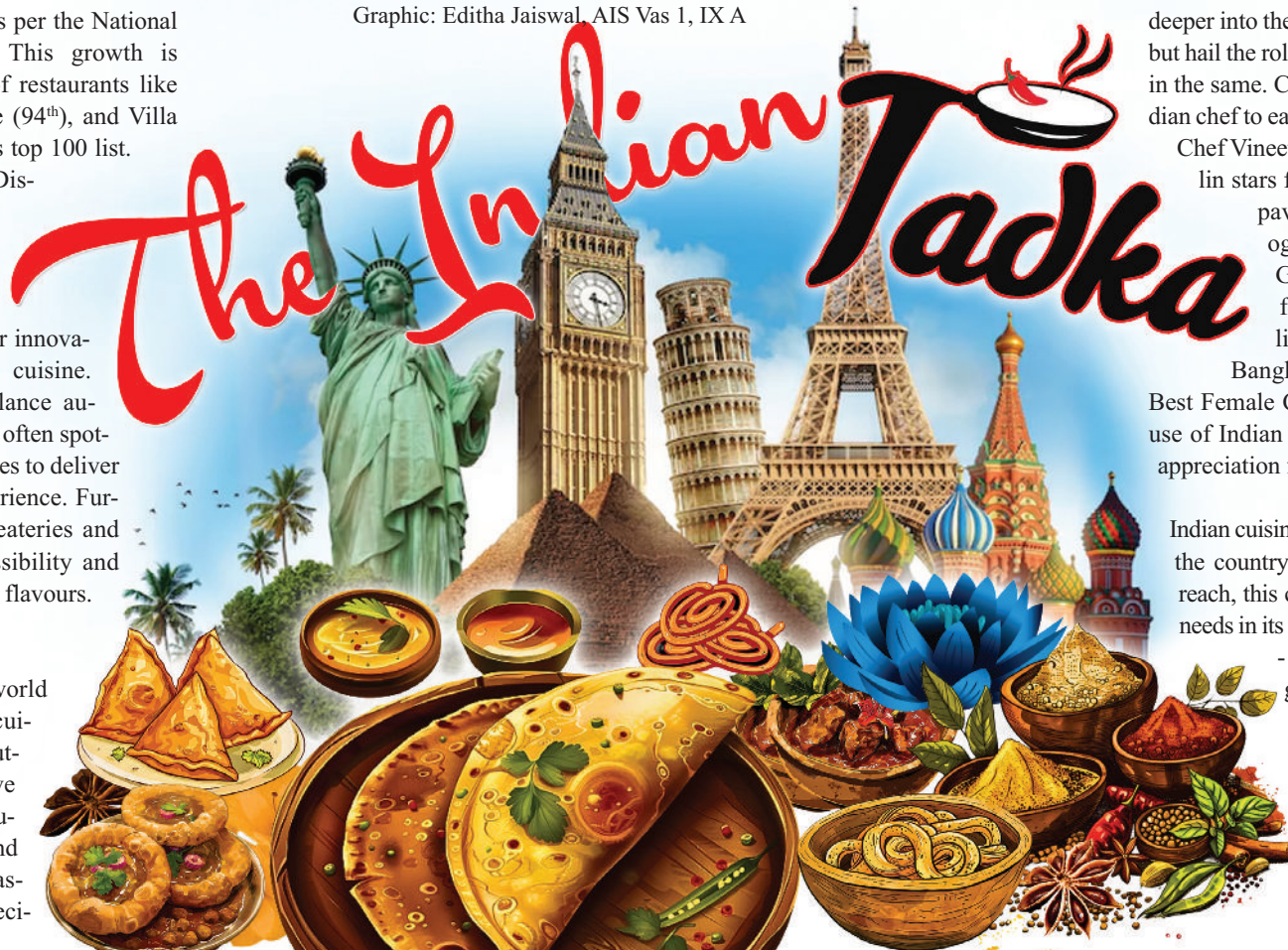
ports totalling 4.1 billion USD in 2021-22. Dried chilli, cumin, turmeric, mint products, spice oils, and oleoresins dominate the export landscape, reaching markets in the USA, China, the UAE, and more. The culinary versatility of Indian spices has inspired global chefs to create dishes that marry tradition with innovation. This exchange of ideas has positioned Indian spices as a symbol of 'Brand India', boosting the country's agro-economic prominence on the world stage.

### Chef capers

As the Indian culinary experience penetrates deeper into the global scene, one cannot help but hail the role that Indian chefs have played in the same. Chef Atul Kochhar, the first Indian chef to earn a Michelin star in 2001, and Chef Vineet Bhatia, who won two Michelin stars for his Rasoi restaurants, have paved the way for global recognition of Indian cuisine. Chef Garima Arora, the first Indian female chef to receive a Michelin star for her restaurant Gaa in Bangkok, was also named Asia's Best Female Chef in 2019. Their inventive use of Indian spices and techniques inspire appreciation for Indian flavours.

Indian cuisine has always been at the core of the country's soft power. With its global reach, this could well be what the country needs in its arsenal. Facts reiterate the same - culinary tourism in India has grown by 15% annually, with visitors flocking to experience regional specialties, from the fiery curries of Rajasthan to the coastal delicacies of Kerala. So, let's give Indian cuisine the place it deserves, on our plates and in our hearts. [GT](#)

Graphic: Editha Jaiswal, AIS Vas 1, IX A



Page editor: Aditi Gupta, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII B

### THE GT POLL

How are you planning to spend your New Year?

- a) Holiday with family
- b) Partying with friends
- c) Snuggle in a warm blanket

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the\_global\_times

Coming next  
Happy Holidays

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This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Vasundhara 1, as a part of the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the **sixth edition** of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2024-25'.

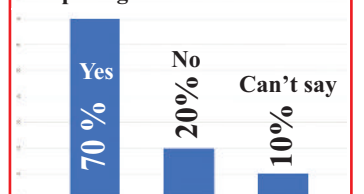
### What's inside

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### POLL RESULT

for GT Edition December 16, 2024

Do you believe Google's Willow chip will enable significant breakthroughs in fields like medicine, finance, or climate modeling through quantum computing?



Results as on December 21, 2024



# My wish for Secret Santa



“Santa, I dream of a world where empathy and kindness are the driving principles, where every child rises to a warm meal and a brighter future, where every aged person is treated with respect and care, and where every animal has a safe and loving home. I’m hoping for a gift that cannot be wrapped: kindness, empathy, and love. This Christmas, let us be the Secret Santa for the less fortunate, spreading joy, and love all over the world. Let’s make a difference, no matter how small, in someone’s life. After all, isn’t that the actual meaning of Christmas?”

**Reet Nagpal, AIS Saket, VIII B**



“Santa, children write a letter to you, telling you all about their Christmas wishes, and hide them secretly under the Christmas tree. Similarly, I also have a wish to be fulfilled. My wish is that I want a cricket bat. They say that Santa is not real, but I am 100% confident that you will grant my wish. After all, last time when I wished for an aeroplane, you fulfilled that too! But this time, when you deliver my gift, please hide it in the safest place of my house, so that my parents do not find it. It’s a secret wish, you know!”

**Devaj Mahajan, AIS Saket, VIII B**



“For my Secret Santa gift, I would love something that brings a sense of warmth and coziness to the winter season. A soft, knitted blanket or a set of scented candles would be perfect for creating a peaceful atmosphere at home. Something that adds a personal touch, like a handwritten note would make the gift even more special. Above all, I’m looking forward to the surprise and the thoughtful gesture behind the gift!”

**Mehar Chitkara, AIS Saket, VIII B**

## BRUSH ‘n’ EASEL



**Nitya Pathak, AIS Gwalior, VI B**



**Bhavya Lal, AIS Vas 1, IX D**

## A Christmas tale

**Kaashvi Singh, AIS Noida, VII C**

The snowflakes drop, so softly, so light  
On this merry and snowy Christmas night  
As peaceful wind ruffles through our hair  
And the carols spread joy around the air

Oh, the tall Christmas tree, what a sight  
The star on the top that shines so bright  
Each ornament weaves its own stories  
Acquainting us with Christmas’s glories

Families gather by the fire’s cosy glow  
Where tales are shared, and bonds grow  
The joyful laughs roam around the place  
And the glorious magic starts to embrace

The gifts are wrapped in colourful bows  
Memories, like the rivers, start to flow  
Love starts to make place in our heart  
And will always make up a missing part

Let’s spread kindness, so far and wide  
Help yourselves to some Christmas pie  
It’s a Christmas day, where cheers spread  
Everything is celebrated in gold and red.



**Shreeya Gunupur, AIS Vasundhara 6, VIII C**

## Christmas wreath

### Material Required

- Cardboard
- Green coloured sheets
- Red coloured sheets
- Large Christmas bell
- Small Christmas bells
- Baubles
- Stars
- Green satin ribbons
- Golden satin ribbons
- Cello tape
- Fevicol
- Scissors

### Method

- Take a cardboard and draw a large circle. Then draw a smaller circle inside the larger one to create a ring like shape.
- Now, cut along the circles to form the wreath base.
- Take coloured paper sheets and cut thin strips of size 10 cm long and 2 cm wide.
- Fold each strip into half from length and stick the ends to create a loop.
- Once the loops are made, paste one loop over another on the circular frame. Stick the bows on the entire circular frame and then leave the wreath to dry.
- Once dry, decorate the wreath using Christmas ornaments like bells, and stars, to add some glitter.
- Make two more bows using green and golden satin ribbons and stick them at the bottom of the frame.
- Then, paste the large bell on the other end of the frame, so that it hangs from the top.
- Finally, create a loop and stick it on top of the wreath behind the frame to provide support for hanging.
- Your colourful Christmas wreath is now ready to be hung.

It's me



### KNOW ME

**My name:** Vihaan Binwal  
**My school:** AIS MV  
**My Class:** III A  
**My birthday:** December 12

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

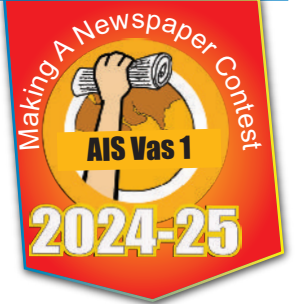
**My hobby:** Drawing  
**I like:** Playing chess  
**I dislike:** Getting hurt  
**My role model:** Dr APJ Abdul Kalam  
**I want to become:** A scientist  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I want everyone to know about me.

### MY FAVOURITES

**Teacher:** Suja Vinod ma'am  
**Subject:** English, Math, and EVS  
**Friends:** Naksh, Advait, and Aryan  
**Game:** Football and chess  
**Cartoon:** Pokémon  
**Food:** Pizza  
**Mall:** DLF Mall of India  
**Book:** The Champak Story







# Stitching the legacy

## Payal's Way Of Designing Timeless Pieces

Venya Verma, XII C &  
Aditi Gupta, XII B, AIS Vas 1

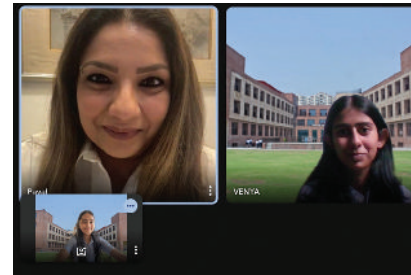
With her modern interpretation of traditional attire, renowned fashion designer Payal Singhal has established a niche for herself in the global fashion industry. Extremely popular among modern, fashionable women, elegant brides and Bollywood divas alike, Singhal is building a brand that is accessible, relevant, and forward thinking.

### Making her own way

I was always surrounded by creativity because of my father's garments manufacturing business, but I got into fashion designing only by chance. I had entered a national fashion contest when I was just fifteen and won the 'Designer of the Year' award. This gave me the confidence to become an independent designer, and I started my eponymous label when I was only 21. Of course, it was challenging to make a mark initially, but I persisted because I had faith in my vision.

### Changing face of fashion

When I launched my label in 1992, fashion was still an 'elitist' term. Only



GT reporters with Payal Singhal

the wealthy, or a privileged few, could afford 'designer' clothes. But now, fashion designers have begun to collaborate with high street brands, and that has made designer clothing accessible and affordable. In fact, the rise of social media has made fashion more inclusive and democratic, where the budding professionals have access to trends, proving that fashion is no longer reserved for a select audience. Also, the pandemic taught us to value versatility and functionality, which is why my collections emphasise separates that can be styled in multiple ways.

### Blend of tradition & modernity

I believe that fashion must be timeless and beyond trends. I have always prioritised creating contemporary pieces rooted in traditional Indian crafts and fabrics. Gold zardozi embroidery, for instance, will always remain beautiful, regardless of trends. I love designing couture because it allows for creative experimentation and craftsmanship. Yet, I

## INTERVIEW

also value the accessibility of ready-to-wear collections. Fashion should be for everyone, and I aim to make my label a dream within reach for as many people as possible.

### Secret to success

I feel that success can only come to those who live by three rules - adaptation, persistence, and sincerity. The fashion industry is not just about glitz and glamour; it is fast-paced, demanding quick turn-arounds and relentless deadlines. However, it is all worthwhile when you witness a wedding that is looking stunning in one of your creations or a client expressing that your work gave them more self-assurance.

### The way forward

India has the potential to shine in global fashion industry, but there is a lack of structure and support. Our industry is disorganised compared to its European and American counterparts. However, I feel that in ten years, more Indian designers will be able to create a greater international impact. As for my plans, I will continue to stay true to my roots while embracing the changes that happen. 🇮🇳



Payal Singhal, fashion designer

# Scribbled memories

## When School Furniture Is Replete With Stories

Shachi Agrawal  
AIS Gurugram 43, IX B

Well, what did you first recall when you read the word 'school furniture'? Was it a flashback of the lyrics of your favourite song that you had scribbled on your school desk or perhaps the answers to your class tests? Maybe it was taking special care to spoil your desk only with a permanent marker, or wait, even better, a compass. After all, of what use was it during math class anyway? Most often than not, a proof of students' artistry is dis-

played on the blackboard after every lunch break, depicting the crafty masterpiece made by all 30 students of the class, which is worth replacing even da Vinci's Mona Lisa. No wonder the teachers never find enough chalk to teach. And do you remember that one chair that was always isolated because it had a nail poking out of it? Yet, everything is okay, until you mistakenly put your fingers beneath your desk and to your disgust, find a world of chewing gums. Have you ever dared to fiddle with the school cupboard? Don't! It's the teacher's dear treas-

ury, after all. It contains everything ranging from makeup equipment to extra chalks. Honestly, these non-living things come to life when kids make them a part of their school lives. All the furniture in a classroom holds a distinct memory. If that's not all, even walls get tampered with students' names on graduation day, because even if this antique furniture gets replaced, at least these walls won't. So, here ends our school furniture saga. But wait, you should know that someone had applied super-glue on the class door handle. Don't say you weren't warned. Stay safe!





# GUARDIAN SUNGLASSES



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**AI powered motion sensor lights**

*Identifies and highlights potential risks as sharp edges, open sockets, hazardous surfaces etc*

**Augmented reality overlay**

*Projects warning directly on to your lens*

**Infrared technology**

*Alerts you with audio signals when danger is near*

Text and graphic: Yoshita Chug, AIS Vas 1, X A  
 Pic: Shambhavi Mishra, AIS Vas 1, X A  
 Models: Shloka Jangra, I A & Jyoti Khanna Teacher, AIS Vas 1

**DISCLAIMER:** Real scientific principles. Fictional ideas with a potential future.

Page editor: Yoshita Chug, AIS Vasundhara 1, X A



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# A woven dream

## A Sock's Saga Of Love And Warmth

**Kriti Sharma**

AIS Vasundhara 1, XI C

The sun blazes outside, birds busy themselves in cheerful chatter, while I languish here, confined to the depths of a murky cupboard. Loneliness is not a mere concept for me - it's a weekly reality. Every laundry day, I am wrenched apart from my soulmate, the left sock. Yes, you guessed it right - I'm the right one.

My kind has endured centuries of heartbreak. Originating over 1,500 years ago, we trace our roots to red wool socks from ancient Egypt, fragments of which rest in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Once symbols of luxury, we adorned Roman feet with pride and in medieval Europe, evolved into silk stockings for the elite, though even the wealthiest

population were not spared the torment of separation.

Oh, how I yearn for my other half in this dim prison! He's had his adventures - once a shin guard cover for a young footballer, later repurposed as an ankle sock, a move I begrudgingly admire.

Our lineage is rich in diversity and charm. From \$1,500 Cervelt deer down socks to creative cousins like Shin-Chan, and Pizza, we balance simplicity with dazzling versatility. I may seem straightforward in my approach to cover one's feet in warmth, but I can be as exciting and fascinating as I can be simple. My aunt, The Luminous Light Up has tiny LED bulbs installed in her seams which create the most beautiful shine on the feet.

Even the famous among humans pay homage to us. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's quirky rubber duck socks caused quite a stir, while Jennifer Lopez's Gucci crys-

tal-encrusted pair - priced at \$1,340 - redefined sock couture

So, it barely surprises me when someone tells me that my novel variants have seen a sales spike of over 12% in the past five years. And then to treat us with insignificance... what a shame! But that's not all they say about us. Legends and traditions, too, honour us. In Turkey, wearing socks inside out promises unexpected gifts, while Russian lore warns women against gifting their husbands socks, lest they wander away. Across Asia, a fresh pair symbolises wishes for health and happiness A sweet gesture worthy of praise, if I say so myself. But who could forget the age-old tradition of hanging me up on Christmas tree.

Suddenly, a shaft of light pierces the gloom, accompanied by a frantic voice: "Oh dear, where's the other one?" My better half looks at me lovingly. Reunited at last.



Illustration: Aadvik Gupta, AIS Vas 1, IX A

# The art of procrastination

## A Master Class In Putting Things Off With Style

**Shriya Pasricha**

AIS Gurugram 43, X B

Ah, procrastination - the ever-alluring art of putting things off. Having honed it to perfection, it's a skill we've mastered. Let's embark on a whimsical journey into the realm of procrastination, where time stands still, and deadlines become mere figures.

There are countless techniques in the grand art of procrastination. Take the 'Just one more episode' approach, where a 30-minute TV show turns into an all-night binge-fest. Then there's 'Productive procrastina-

tion', when reorganising the pantry becomes a top priority, and colour-coding the socks drawer is an urgent mission.

Not to miss, delightful distractions are the palette of every procrastinator. We discover captivating books that transport us to alternate realities, social media feeds filled with content that offer spontaneous adventures that become irresistible. Amidst deadlines, we find solace in these delightful detours. And let's not forget the unexpected benefits of procrastination. In those stolen moments of delay, creativity emerges. Suddenly, inspiration strikes like a

lightning bolt, and genius ideas evolve from the depths of procrastination. Remember, it isn't just about the completed task,

but the journey of procrastination, where time dances to our whims and deadlines bow to our unique sense of timing.



## WORDS VERSE

### A tiny dread

**Avni Jain**, AIS Noida, Alumna

A juvenile masterpiece named culex  
Tiny winged mosquito, lord of flies  
Of mice and men, floundering lives  
A traveller embracing power of now  
Almost in all corners with a smile

Be it a palace, a garden, or a shrine  
A melting pot of tangled vines  
Season to season, I heard it whine  
Past seas, decades and places afar  
Like magical dark auroras in skies

Witnessed flying beyond horizons  
In a brave quest for distant worlds  
Its odyssey speaks the truths unsaid  
In immortal pages lies its contours  
Forever a reason for man to dread

Through wuthering depths beneath  
Just to survive, it stings us and rests  
An old companion of all mankind  
Still thirsty to suck human blood  
And of all other creatures alike! 🦟



# Nurturing debaters



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

In traditional Indian gurukuls, students were not assessed using pen and paper exams. Rather, their evaluation was based on their ability to debate and engage in discussions on various concepts. This practice, known as *shastrarth*, involved deep, insightful conversations with peers and teachers. This not only helped in enhancing knowledge but also instilled virtues like respect for diverse ideas, conviction of thought and unmatched oratorical skills. At

Amity, we have always nurtured this tradition of fostering critical thinking and intellectual exchange by encouraging debates both inside and outside the classroom. Debating is, indeed, a powerful pedagogical tool that helps students develop structured arguments, communication and research skills while gaining a deeper understanding of complex issues.

Amity seamlessly incorporates debating into classroom experience through zero-period activities and debating competitions. In addition, we have special platforms – the Model United Nations, Amity Chhatra Sansad, Amity Utsav and Ecom Forum – where students compete with orators from other schools. Regular interactions with Indian Schools Debating Society enriches their thinking and ideas, and many Amityans have qualified for ISDS senior selections. It's Amity's steadfast vision to nurture future leaders, who are not only change-makers but also outstanding orators who can help transform India into a global superpower.

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

Saanvi Jain, of Class IX, was selected for the YLAC (Young Leaders for Active Citizenship) Artivist Fellowship 6 Week Programme. She received a merit certificate and a special mention for the work she did throughout the fellowship.

# Gift of gratitude



Raina Krishnatray  
Principal, AIS Vas 1

As we embrace the festive season, let us remember that it is not just a time for celebration, but a time to reflect on the values that bring true peace to the world. It is the time that embodies love, the joy of giving and togetherness.

At the heart of this season lies gratitude – the key that unlocks joy, contentment, and fulfilment. Our honourable Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan ma'am, believes that gratitude is a transformative virtue, one

that can uplift lives and radiate positivity into the world around us. It creates a ripple effect of kindness, joy and peace, reminding us that even in a world focused on 'what we lack', we can always appreciate 'what we already have'.

Our Chairperson ma'am, a true philanthropist and visionary, encourages every Amityan to carry forward these values and use them to make a positive impact on the world.

The Global Times 'Making a Newspaper Contest' is a testament to these ideals. It provides students with a platform to express their thoughts, creativity and aspirations. Through this experience, students become team players, innovators, and responsible task managers. Amity's focus on these virtues ensure that each student is on the path to becoming a model citizen of tomorrow. This festive season, let us carry forward the gift of gratitude and cherish the bonds we share.

Illustration: Arisha Agarwal, AIS Vas 1, X D

# Beauty in the ordinary

## When Romanticising Is A Way Of Life

**Khanak Lal, AIS Vas 1, XII A**

### Dear Grandpa,

It's Sunday and as I sit down to write this letter, I am enjoying a hot cup of coffee at this small cosy cafe, cherishing every sip of it while listening to my playlist. I am the main character at this café and grateful that it's the weekend and I have a chance to romanticise my life. Something that you and both mom and dad cannot relate to and have asked me often is what this trend is all about? For me, romanticising life is all about appreciating the simple parts of life. It's nothing else but a form of mindfulness to look at life with gratitude, something that all of us realised during the global pandemic period. And the world was introduced to the phrase "romanticise your life" by Ashley Ward, a TikTok user, whose 26 seconds inspirational clip went viral in May 2020 with the hashtag #RomanticiseYourLife having around 1.7 billion views.

Since then, romanticising life has become a trend where videos with the hashtag, posted by young women garnered 525 million views on TikTok and more than 28,000 posts on Instagram referring to it with images such as sunsets by the water, elegantly plated dinners and dainty cups of tea. For you, these are just aesthetic videos but the message is sim-

ple - we get one life and most of the times, we are supposed to do things that we don't wish to do. So, what can be done? We can romanticise these moments and empower ourselves to make them into something beautiful. This trend is also intertwined with the 'main character'

pandemic took away from us was that sense of agency. In fact, becoming the main character is also a way of creating a more authentic self, and making space for who you are."

But is romanticising an escape mechanism for us? Several arguments have risen over this trend where critics highlight that when we try to romanticise our life, we try to look at everything in a positive way. By doing so, we're training ourselves to hide our negative emotions. However, if such is the case, then what about romanticism that emerged in Europe towards the end of 18th century. It was an intellectual movement where the literary pieces by the big six writers namely William Wordsworth, ST Coleridge, Lord Byron etc emphasised on the celebration of simple life and oneness with nature in the background of tumultuous Industrial revolution.

In a nutshell, romanticising your life essentially means making the small moments count. It's not just about finding happiness all the time or imposing an aesthetic but grabbing the limitless potential in ordinary moments. Because in the voice of Ashley Ward, "if you don't, life will continue to pass you by. And all the little things that make it so beautiful, will continue to go unnoticed."

**Lots of love from your grandson, Rishabh, a Gen Z romanticising life**



trend where videos with the hashtag have captured nearly 6.9 billion views on social media platform TikTok. Thinking of ourselves as the main character while romanticising life gives us a sincere reminder that our actions drive the narrative, much like a film's protagonist. So, if you think that this is what I am saying then read this - according to Sherry Turkle, a psychologist and professor at the MIT, "A main character has a full sense of agency, and what the

# Confluence of talent

It's that time of the year when the editorial team brims with enthusiasm as the much-awaited contest edition is released. Students, filled with anticipation, eagerly await their meticulously curated edition, ready to find its place in the hands of every Amityan. A big shout-out for the editorial team members of AIS Vas 1 who worked



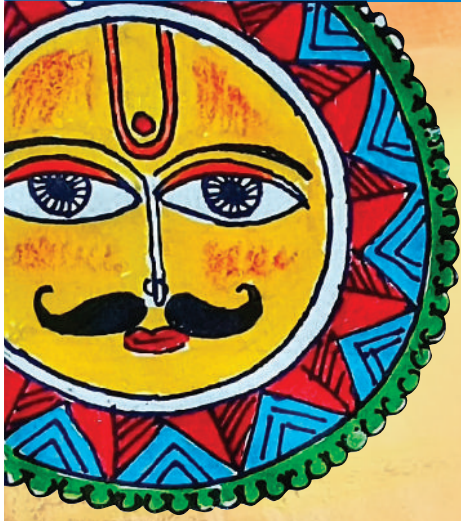
Debosmita Mukherjee  
GT Coordinator

ceaselessly towards this edition! The prolific writers, with their innovative and imaginative articles, have once again brought their best to the table. Guided by the ever-supportive GT team, this edition promises to enthrall its readers with its compelling articles and finesse in every page.

Undoubtedly, The Global Times serves as a powerful platform, elevating the potential of students and allowing them to soar in the vast realm of journalism. From brainstorming ideas and drafting articles to refining through edit meets, every step of the process has been a monumental learning journey. The students are deeply grateful to the GT team for their mentorship and unwavering guidance at every stage. We are confident that this edition will be as enjoyable to read as it was for us to create.







# Traditional treasures



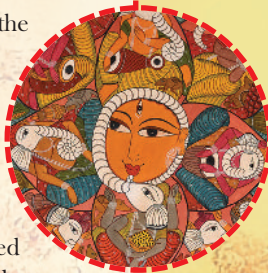
India is a vibrant tapestry of folk art, each form a testament to its cultural heritage. Join **Abhay Sharma, XI E & Kavya Gupta, X C, AIS Vas 1** as they take us on a journey through the paint-stained workshops across the nation and discover the traditional art styles of India.

## KALIGHAT

**Heritage:** Originating in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, around Kolkata's Kalighat Temple, this art style was introduced by the rural Bengali artists, known as 'Patuas'.

**Characteristics:** Renowned for their bold outlines, vibrant colours, and detailed expressions, especially the stylised elongated eyes. Primarily featuring goddess Kali, it depicts various themes from Mahabharata and Ramayana, along with offering a glimpse into 19<sup>th</sup> century Bengal on occasion.

**Patrons:** Legendary artists like Bhawanipur Sitaldas, Jamini Roy, and Nandalal Bose have contributed to its appeal.



## PATTACHITRA

**Heritage:** This 12<sup>th</sup> Century art hails from Odisha and West Bengal, primarily created for rituals and as souvenirs for pilgrims. The name Pattachitra has evolved from the Sanskrit word 'patta' (cloth) and 'chitra' (picture).

**Characteristics:** Inspired by Lord Jagannath, the art form depicts themes like Dasabatar Patti, Panchamukhi, and Krishna Leela. It follows strict guidelines, such as using only a few natural hues along with clean and bold lines. Generally, there are no landscapes either.

**Patrons:** The art form is created and preserved by regional artists known as 'chitrakars'.



## MADHUBANI

**Heritage:** Originating from Mithila, Bihar, this folk art is believed to be invented by King Janaka to commemorate the marriage of Lord Rama and Devi Sita. Usually practiced by women, it represents fertility and wealth. The art form remained clandestine till 1934, until British official William G Archer stumbled upon it.

**Characteristics:** It traditionally utilises vivid hues extracted from pollen, lime, or turmeric, to make complex geometric patterns and floral borders. The Sun, Moon, lotus, Goddess Saraswati, and Durga are some of the common motifs of Madhubani art.

**Patrons:** Artists use this art form to prevent deforestation by painting deities on trees, blending tradition with awareness.



## GOND

**Heritage:** Gond art originates from the indigenous tribes of Maharashtra called the Pradhan Gonds. Considered as ode to mother nature, the name 'Gond' is derived from the Dravidian word 'Kond', expressing gratitude to nature and soil.

**Characteristics:** The striking features include elaborate lines, dots, and mystery infused with humour. Motifs like butterflies, fish, and bird, with trees and Gods and Goddesses, especially Ganesha, are well depicted in Gond.

**Patrons:** "Trees are very important in Gond art. For humans and animals alike - trees are the most important," says Gond artist Venkat Raman Singh Shyam.



## SANJHI

**Heritage:** Originating from the Hindi word 'sandhya', meaning dusk, this 16<sup>th</sup>-century stencilling technique from Mathura is renowned for its spiritual appeal. It is associated with the Vallabhacharya sect of Vaishnavism.

**Characteristics:** Extensive use of geometrical shapes, nature's symbols, black and white hue contrasts, and stunning symmetrical patterns make for key design elements. Depicting tales of Krishna's Leela, this artwork was used to adorn temple floors and walls with images of butterflies, horses, and peacocks.

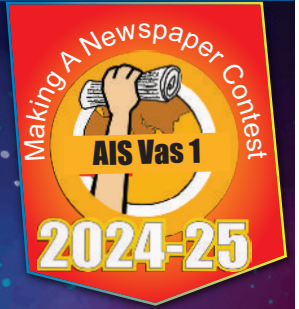
**Patrons:** Artists Vijay and Mohan's family is one of the few custodians of this ancient art form who believe: "A person's mind and heart has to be totally involved during this art, especially while carving Krishna with the right expressions."



Illustration: Abhay Sharma, AIS Vasundhara 1, XI E



# Humanity's last echo



Shreeyansh Kar, AIS Vas 1, VIII D

Caesar sat alone, surrounded by the ruins of a once-great dream. Kepler's twin moons cast pale light over the forest. His crew was scattered, their spirits broken against a world that refused to yield. Their weapons and ship were gone. Their hope was gone. He stared into the alien sky, haunted by the creature's words: "You are the last of your kind, just as we were. Let's see if you can survive without destroying yourselves."

\*\*\*

"Sir, there's already a species inhabiting this planet," the pilot reported, voice tight with tension. Caesar didn't hesitate. It was 1888881 AD, and Earth was a smoldering memory. As humanity's survivors, this was their second chance, and nothing would stand in their way. "Execute them," he ordered coldly. The crew obeyed. "Species neutralised," James confirmed. "Prepare for landing," Caesar said.

\*\*\*

The forest hummed and buzzed with life - unfamiliar sounds, almost taunting. Caesar's team had dwindled. James was the first to go, his attempts to hunt thwarted by Kepler's strange, unyielding nature. Their technology was rubble the moment the aliens turned their powers against them. Caesar picked up a jagged

stone, his hand trembling. "Survive without destroying ourselves," he muttered to himself bitterly. "How? When all we know is destruction?"

\*\*\*

Kepler was pristine. Lush greenery stretched endlessly. Streams of crystal-clear water sparkled in sunlight. It was



Graphic: Arisha Agarwal  
AIS Vas 1, X D

perfect. Caesar allowed himself a rare smile. "Humanity will thrive here." But as the crew set up equipment, a movement caught his eye. A creature, barely alive, limped out. "James," Caesar commanded. "Finish it." James raised his weapon, but before he could fire, the creature shrieked wildly. Instantly, the forest came alive - hundreds of glowing eyes emerged from the darkness. Caesar

froze as towering, luminous beings stepped forward. He opened his mouth to speak, but their voice pierced his mind: "You destroyed what you did not understand. You assumed we were weak. Now, you will learn."

\*\*\*

Caesar's stomach growled, the ache of hunger gnawing at him. The soil refused their crops. Water turned bitter. Fruits spoiled before they could be eaten. He looked at the forest looming like a silent sentinel. Somewhere in its depths, the creatures still watched. Kepler was not a sanctuary. It was a test - a mirror reflecting humanity's flaws.

\*\*\*

Kepler was pristine. Lush greenery stretched endlessly. Streams of crystal clear water sparkled in sunlight. It was perfect. Caesar allowed himself a rare smile.

Their weapons fizzled. Their ship imploded in a deafening roar. Communication devices turned to ash. Caesar screamed orders, but it was futile. The aliens surrounded them, glowing eyes unblinking. Caesar expected death. Instead, they walked away challenging: "You are the last of your kind. Let's see if you can survive without destroying yourselves."

\*\*\*

Caesar gripped the stone tighter, staring at the alien sky. He thought of Earth - its wars, its greed, its arrogance. They had fled a dying planet in search of salvation, only to bring their flaws with them. Kepler would not bend. Instead, it forced humanity to reckon. Humanity had been given its final chance, and once again, it had chosen pride over coexistence.

\*\*\*

Epilogue  
Deep in the forest, the creatures watched. They had seen this story before - civilisations that burned brightly but could not endure. They knew how it ended.

# Christmas magic

Samaira Ankit Prasad, AIS Vas 1, IX A

November fades into December's chill  
And in the calm of the arctic light  
Snowflakes drift with a silvery thrill  
Ah, this dreamland on Christmas night

Staircases adorned in ribbons and garlands  
Wreaths hung by children at every door  
The Christmas Star pierces the darkness  
We welcome this warmth, this love galore

Bells ring in sync, chocolates are sweet  
Exams and stress are a distant memory  
Together, this night seems so complete  
Everything's enchanted, we feel so free

Beneath the Xmas tree, gifts sit pretty  
Carefully stacked, soon to be uncovered  
But beyond the gifts, it's clear to see  
The greatest gift is our family - our Amity.



Pic: Devyan Rathour, AIS Vas 1, X A  
Models: Jiyanaa Thareja, Nursery B & Mysha Arora, Nursery A, AIS Vas 1

## Read Play and Win 74

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

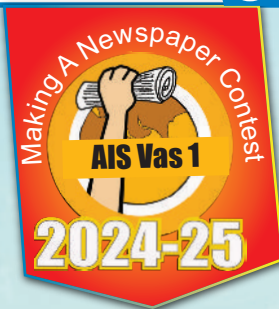


Q.1 What is the headline of the fictional story on page 8?	Q.2 Payal Singhal's interview is on page _____.	Q.3 Which futuristic product has been advertised on page 4?
Q.4 Which country has banned social media for under-16 population?	Q.5 Which school organised Robotronics on November 11, 2024?	Q.6 Madhubani has originated from _____ region of Bihar.
Q.7 What is the tagline of the story 'Laundry lambasting' on page 12?	Q.8 Who is narrating the autobiography on page 5?	Q.9 Who is the author of the article 'Beauty in the ordinary' on page 6?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-73: **Devbrat**, AIS MV, VIII D; **Aditya Roop Rai**, AIS Vas 6, VIII D; **Aryaveer Sansanwal**, AIS Saket, IX B





**T**he recent Australian legislation to ban social media for children under-16 is being considered as a bold move by many people. But will it really safeguard the youth, or is it just a utopian dream? Read on as Aditi Gupta, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII B, delves deeper into this raging debate, shedding light on its multiple facets and inspiring thought-provoking reflections.

**Liam:** Hello, Niall! Have you thought about the topic of our upcoming project?

**Niall:** Not sure yet. Any ideas?

**Liam:** Why don't we scroll on Instagram for some inspiration?

**Niall:** Great idea! Good that we are not in Australia!

**Liam:** Wait, what? Why?

**Niall:** Well, Australia has banned social media for children under 16.

### The bold move

In November 2024, Australia passed the 'Social Media Minimum Age Bill', banning children under 16 from using platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram. This law is scheduled for trial implementation in January 2025 and full enforcement by the end of next year. The legislation is being touted as direct response to increasing concerns about the negative impact of social media on children's mental health. Under this law, companies can be fined up to \$32 million if they let minors access any platform. While YouTube is still available for educational purposes, major platforms will be off-limits to anyone under 16.

### The rationale

Research from the World Health Organisation (WHO) states that one in seven adolescents suffer from mental health problems, contributing to 15% of the 'global burden of disease' for this age group. In fact, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, social media is linked to increasing rates of anxiety, depression, body image issues, and feelings of inadequacy among young people. A 2023 study in Australia revealed that 46% of teens felt worse about their lives, due to toxic comparisons on social media. Moreover, the Australian policymakers rightly believe that cyberbullying has become the new epidemic, with 40% of Australian teenagers experiencing online harassment. The factor of anonymity inherent in these platforms enables bullies to victimise others with impunity. The legislation also seeks to address the problem of data exploitation. Tech companies often gather large amounts of personal data from underage users to provide them with advertisements designed to influence behaviour. Such practices have raised questions regarding the commercialisation of childhood.

### The debate

The legislation, as expected, has had a mixed response. Those advocating the ban firmly believe that it will pro-

# LET THEM BE

# KIDS



tect children from the adverse effects of social media. A YouGov survey from November 2024 indicates that 77% of Australians support the under-16 social media ban, a notable increase from 61% in August of same year.

In fact, 87% advocate for stronger penalties against non-compliant social media companies. Restricting screen time will allow children to pursue hobbies, engage in outdoor activities, and form healthy relationships away from the digital world. There have been campaigns supporting the ban as well, including Rupert Murdoch's 'Let Them Be Kids', which highlights the dangers of too much screen time and online exposure.

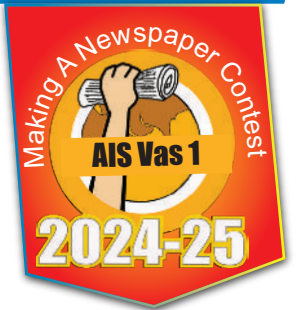
But then, there are those who argue that social media, for many teens, is the main way of staying in touch with friends and expressing themselves. The Australian Association of Psychologists, has labelled the ban as a 'band-aid response'. By cutting off this digital lifeline, critics argue, children could feel isolated in an increasingly online world. Tech companies have also voiced their displeasure openly, with companies like TikTok describing the legislation as 'rushed', expressing fears it may drive younger users to less regulated parts of the internet. Many also worry about privacy violations inherent in this ban. To enforce the ban, the government may have to resort to measures like biometric verification and government ID checks. Privacy advocates see this as leading to mass surveillance and a likely misuse of personal data. Even the Law Council of Australia has raised concerns about the broad scope of the legislation, citing potential risks to privacy and human rights. Similarly, the Privacy Commissioner has expressed skepticism regarding its effectiveness. In addition, tech-savvy teens may also find ways to circumvent restrictions using VPNs, fake accounts, or shared logins, leading to questions about the ban's enforceability.

### The global position

Several other countries have already implemented age restrictions or are considering similar legislation. South Korea implemented the 'Cinderella Law' (2011-2021), banning under-16s from online gaming during nighttime hours. France requires parental consent for children under 15 to create social media accounts, while Germany, Norway, Greece, and Italy, too, have age restrictions, though enforcement varies. In the US, states like Florida have attempted to regulate minors' social media use, though legal challenges have hindered these efforts. It is Australia's much stringent law, however, that has had reignited global conversations about the role of social media in young people's lives. The world will be watching closely as Australia rolls out this ambitious policy in 2025. Will it succeed in safeguarding children's mental health and well-being? Or will it face resistance, legal challenges, and unintended repercussions? For now, the question remains open-ended - how kids, and the tech world, will adapt to this bold move.



# Literary time capsule



**GROUND REPORTING**

## Faqir Chand Bookstore's Legacy Of Literature

Pic: Yati Sharma, AIS Vas 1, XII B

**Kavya Ramaiya & Akshita Shrote, AIS Vas 1, XII B**

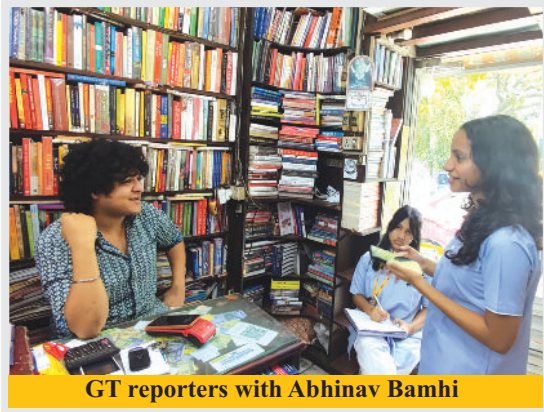
Amidst the bustling chaos of Khan Market in New Delhi lies a haven for all bibliophiles - Faqir Chand Bookstore. Established in 1951, the book store has stood the vagaries of time. Abhinav Bamhi, the current store in-charge, reveals the secrets behind its timeless allure.

### From Peshawar to Delhi

Founded by Abhinav's great-grandfather, the bookstore's origins trace back to Peshawar. "We had no plans to leave Peshawar, even during the partition," Bamhi recalls. "It was only when the situation turned violent that our family had to flee." In 1951, Khan Market was established as a refuge for those resettling from Pakistan, providing the perfect locale for the rebirth of Faqir Chand Bookstore.

### Unparalleled experience

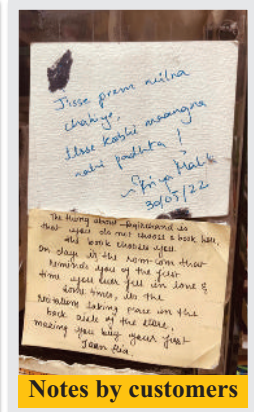
The experience that Faqir Chand offers cannot be replicated online.



GT reporters with Abhinav Bamhi



GT reporters at Faqir Chand Bookstore



Notes by customers

"Visitors' experiences are our unique selling point. Sometime elderlies get their grandchildren and tell them how they used to come with their parents as school-going kids. People move to the other side of the world, and come home to find Faqir Chand still here, reminding them of the lives they've lived. It's really emotional when old patrons come and tell me, 'you know, I knew your grandparents,'" Bamhi shares.

### Organised chaos

Unlike conventional bookstores,

Faqir Chand does not adhere to a strict organisational system. "Our store is all chaos," Bamhi admits. "Books from all genres are stacked together, so you might find a history book next to thrillers." This seemingly haphazard arrangement allows customers to explore and discover hidden gems at every turn. The back section of the shop, adorned with notes, poetry, and photos, adds to its charm and is a popular spot for customer pics.

### Diverse collection

Despite this seemingly chaotic set

up, Faqir Chand Bookstore stays in tune with current trends in reading. "We stock all the popular books that youngsters like, along with timeless classics and lesser-known works," says Bamhi. The store's eclectic mix caters to a diverse audience, ensuring that every visitor finds a book of their choice. "The City of Djinnis by William Dalrymple and The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy are our best sellers," he shares. But what makes book browsing at Faqir Chand memorable is their unique customer relationships. "Most of the

regular customers have become my friends. So, we know their personal tastes and recommend them new books based on the same."

### Timeless capsule

"We haven't changed the furniture, there have been no renovations; it is the same as it was originally," shares Bamhi. And the perks of owning such a vintage shop are quite a few. "We get to meet eminent personalities like journalist Ravish Kumar and author Arundhati Roy. They've all had their book signings here!" he said. But tiding time isn't easy, especially in the present-day scenario of scaling competitions. "The main reason for staying afloat is, we own the place. Otherwise paying rentals and running a bookstore is impossible, especially in Khan Market." Known for its thoughtful gestures, the store offers customers a small, illustrated picture of the bookstore's exterior and a bookmark with every purchase. "It's not merchandise, and it's not for sale. It's our way of saying thank you." 📖🙏

Pics: Yati Sharma, AIS Vas 1, XII B



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Writers, weaving magic through words and ideas



Photographer, framing moments



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Page editors: Aditi Gupta & Yati Sharma, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII B



# Active changemakers

With The Power Of Advocacy, Amitian Brings Change



Saanvi receives certificate (L) and spreads awareness (R)



## AIS Noida

Saanvi Jain, of Class IX, was selected for the YLAC (Young Leaders for Active Citizenship) Artist Fellowship 6 Week Programme held from Oct 6 - Nov 17, 2024. The selection process involved two rounds of interviews (online and offline) wherein from a pool of more than 1000 applicants, 20 applicants were chosen for this programme.

Saanvi received a merit certificate and a special mention for the work she did throughout the fellowship. She and her team were appreciated

at the programme.

## YLAC team

The award won under the leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of School & RBEF, recognises Saanvi's constant endeavours towards social issues like waste management, climate change, water scarcity, and gender justice. The fellowship programme had three cohorts - Climate Justice, Gender Justice, and Disability Rights. Saanvi was allocated Climate Justice Cohort and the sub theme 'Water scarcity and its unequal dis-

tribution among the economically marginalised'. She and her team designed public campaigns in both digital and offline mode that were organised in New Delhi. As part of the offline campaign, she executed a fundraiser event in Lodhi Garden, New Delhi and collected funds worth Rs 7100, which were donated to their campaign partner, WaterAid, an NGO working towards providing clean water to economically marginalised communities. The digital campaign to raise awareness was executed via their Instagram account and they amassed 300+ followers.

## About YLAC

Founded in 2016, Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC) is a leading organisation which aims to increase the engagement of young people in the policymaking process and build their capacity to lead change. This programme aims to encourage creative teens to use the power of art and advocacy to drive change. Their idea is to help young people broaden their perspective, think critically about their socio-political construct, tap their leadership potential, and acquire skills to create long lasting impact. [GFI](#)



Young diplomats in making at 17th AMVMUN

# Shaping leaders

## AIS Mayur Vihar

The school organised its annual 17th edition of AMVMUN for the students of Class VII-VIII from October 28-29, 2024. Around 130 students participated in the conference which comprised committees namely United Nations Security Council (UNSC), All Indian Political Party Meet (AIPPM), United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC). The students debated on agendas like Israel Palestine

conflict with emphasis on proxy war (UNGA), threat to international peace and security posed by the Ukraine-Russia conflict (UNSC), combating racism, racial intolerance, xenophobia and related intolerance (UNHRC) and freedom of speech in India with reference to censorship of social media platforms (AIPPM).

The session concluded with felicitation of participants where Ruqyya Rahman (VIII) received Special Mention award and both Shivansh Pandey (VIII) and Aanya Singh (VIII) received Best Delegate award. [GFI](#)



Young IT wizards prove their prowess at Robotronics

# Robotronics

## AIS Gurugram 46

Tech Syndicate Society of the school organised 12th Robotronics, the annual inter-school IT event on November 11, 2024 featuring a combination of online and offline competitions designed to foster technical expertise and creativity among students. A total of 19 schools participated in the event, to showcase a broad range of IT skills.

Students from various branches of Amity Group of Schools bagged several awards in various competitions. AIS MV won first prize in Encryptid, while Scratch event saw AIS PV and AIS MV at second and third

place respectively. AIS Vas 1 and AIS Gur 46 won first and second place respectively in Video Editing. Mine Craft had AIS Noida winning first place and AIS MV bagging third place while Photography had AIS MV securing the first place and AIS PV bagging the third place. Surprise had AIS PV and AIS MV at first and second place respectively. AIS MV again clinched first place in Creative Hackathon with AIS Saket bagging third place in the event. Creative Designthon had AIS Saket at the second place. Gaming and Programming both had AIS MV at first place. The prestigious rolling trophy was lifted by AIS MV.

# Annual sports day

## AIS VKC Lucknow

The school celebrated its 6th annual sports day 'Udaan 2024', based on the theme 'Amrit Kaal - The era of elixir', symbolising a golden era of possibilities and transformation, on November 29, 2024, at Amity University Lucknow Campus.

The event was graced by chief guest Sujit Kumar, Indian field hockey player who played in 1988 Seoul Olympics along with Prof (Dr) Anil Vashisht, pro vice chancellor, Amity University Lucknow, and other dignitaries of Amity Education Group.

The event commenced with lamp lighting ceremony and welcome song, followed by a soulful prayer. The inauguration of the sports meet was marked by the release of colourful balloons and the torch relay. All the four houses (Pawani, Bhagirathi, Mandakini, and Alak-



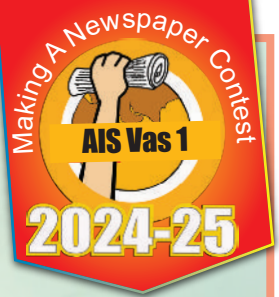
Perfection, precision, and passion on display at Udaan

nanada) presented an impeccably coordinated march past.

Class III students raced with the theme 'World Cup Champions,' while Class IV celebrated precision and focus with 'Bullet Blitz,' with Class V participating in an electrifying relay. The younger students charmed the audience with thematic races such as 'Chandrayaan Spirit' (I), 'Farming Frenzy' (II), and the delightful 'Mangolicious' and 'Tweety

Twitter' races for UKG, Nursery, and LKG. Senior and middle school students participated in 100m sprint, relay race, and duathlon. A patriotic drill by Nursery to Class IV celebrated the nation's rich heritage, while Class VIII to XI performed a spectacular fusion of zumba, yoga, and basketball. The celebration culminated in a grand prize distribution ceremony, in which Cock House Trophy was lifted by Alaknanda House. [GFI](#)





# Laundry Lambasting

Lost Socks, Pink Pants, Death Stares, And Shrunk Dreams, A Laundry Memoir

**Kanishka Sharma, AIS Vas 1, X D**

It was just another regular monsoon day, the musty scent of partially dried clothing infiltrated the house, overpowering my nostrils as I tried to concentrate on my article. Sitting in my messy room, the pile of laundry clothes had somehow increased tenfold since the last time I checked. I had less than ten hours before my mom would barge into my room and enquire me about laundry because the concept of knocking is still non-existent in Indian homes.

I had to be prepared though, the last few times she had arrived a few minutes earlier and my tendency to do things at the last minute got me into trouble. So, I made my way to the laundry basket. The strenuous journey from my comfortable bed to the cold wood floor had already ended most of my motivation. Nonetheless, as I began sorting it, memories flooded my mind.

Laundry is the pinnacle of Indian jugaad and *mummy ki daat* because who needs pockets when you can lose money, and notes? And don't even get me started on the washing machine. Every spin cycle is a real time gamble, wondering what will happen this time, will it shrink or do I

get a rainbow wardrobe?

One time these pants that I loved had turned into shorts. At first, I was proud that my height had grown so much in just a week, but upon investigation I found out that I had accidentally messed up the

washing machine's settings and shrunk everyone's clothes. I thought after this episode I would be done with laundry, but my mom had different plans.

As I was sorting my clothes into white and other colours, the infamous 'pink incident' hauntingly flashed in front of my eyes - I had my headphones in and was trying to

sort my laundry as quickly as possible, not paying much attention. That is when it happened, I had sorted my new red T-shirt into the white pile. My mom was extremely furious and let's just say wearing pink pants to school the next day was something I'll never forget (sometimes I still hear the nightmarish echoes of my classmates' sinister laughs).

Since then, laundry has become a task I must dedicate my whole attention to. It is a ceremonial event held weekly in the comfort of my own bedroom. I dedicate Zen level of concentration on doing laundry rather than my studies.

And then let's not forget the mysterious case of the missing socks. Even if I tie my socks together before chugging them into the machine, somehow one of them still goes missing, later discovering them in random locations. It's the truth we need to accept that laundry is as unpredictable as it gets.

Just then there was an announcement blaring in the hallway - "Check twice, sort wisely, or face the pink consequence." I complied knowing that laundry is actually about survival and not cleanliness.



Illustrations: Bhavya Lal & Anavi Prabhakar, IX D & Sonakshi Ranjan, IX C, AIS Vas 1

Pics: Yati Sharma, AIS Vasundhara 1, XII B

In Spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Aditi Gupta



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