

Aarushi Mendiratta

AIS Pushp Vihar, XI C

In the last three decades, annual scientific paper growth has hit 8–9%, with outputs rising from under a million in the 20th century to over 7 million today. Researchers share findings via journals, conferences, preprint servers, and mega-journals with quick publication cycles. This surge raises a critical question: Are we nurturing genuine innovation, or are we operating a high-speed scientific printing press?

Race for rapid results

Groundbreaking discoveries were once rare and celebrated, but today's demand for rapid breakthroughs—especially during crises like COVID-19, has created a culture of rushed research. Governments and corporations expect immediate, positive results, forcing scientists to prioritize speed over depth. At the same time, securing grants depends on publishing measurable outcomes quickly, leading to a bias toward surface-level studies with safe, incremental findings. Unrealistic deadlines and funding pressures discourage deeper inquiries, sidelining riskier yet potentially transformative projects. This race for output fosters superficial research, where long-term scientific progress is often sacrificed for short-term gains.

When quantity matters

Goodhart's Law states, "When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure." In research, quantitative metrics such

Publish or Perish



Graphic: Akshita Bhandari, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII B

When Quantity Trumps The Quality

as publication count, citation numbers, and patent counts have become the primary indicators of success. This obsession with numbers has driven researchers to engage in unethical practices such as salami slicing (dividing one study into multiple papers), ghost authorship, data manipulation, fake peer reviews, and even outright plagiarism. For example, a December 2023 Nature report

noted that 10,000 papers were withdrawn in 2023 alone due to fraud - even after rigorous peer review - resulting in over six million dollars in costs for investigation and retraction processes.

Compromised integrity

In 2014, stem cell biologist Haruko Obokata claimed to have developed stimulus-triggered acquisition of pluripotency (STAP) cells - ver-

satile stem cells capable of transforming into any cell type. Initially acclaimed and even nominated for a Nobel, her accumulated data was later found to be falsified, exposing flaws in peer review. A 2020 study revealed over 34% of papers were plagiarised. Social psychologist Diederik Stapel fabricated data for years, leading to numerous retractions. Similarly, Wakefield's fraudulent study linking the MMR

vaccine to autism caused global vaccine hesitancy before being retracted. These cases highlight how hyper-competitiveness can undermine scientific integrity.

Role of media

Adding fuel to the fire are media outlets, driven by the need for immediate impact and audience engagement, who tend to oversimplify findings and exaggerate claims. This distortion has historical roots, for instance, 1993 Nobel laureate Kary Mullis was known for sidelining his team in favour of personal media attention. In today's digital era, social media platforms and 24/7 news cycles exacerbate this trend, where '5-minute fame' often outweighs deliberate scientific progress.

Restoring faith in science

If the pursuit of rapid publication continues unchecked, a tipping point may be reached where a critical mass of untrustworthy research undermines the entire scientific enterprise. To reverse this trend, the scientific community must re-embrace rigorous, methodical inquiry. Encouraging detailed peer review, enhancing data transparency and collaborative reviews can foster a culture where critical feedback and ethical practices are prioritised over sheer volume of publications.

In summary, while the current academic climate pushes researchers to produce results at breakneck speed, the long-term health of science depends on the ultimate balance between the rapid innovation and rigorous validation. [G T](#)

Page editor: Avika Gupta, AIS Pushp Vihar, X E

THE GT POLL

The Finance Ministry has instructed its employees not to download AI tools and apps on office computers and phones. Do you support the decision?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Can't say

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

Money maketh man



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Pushp Vihar 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 **tenth** edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2024-25'.

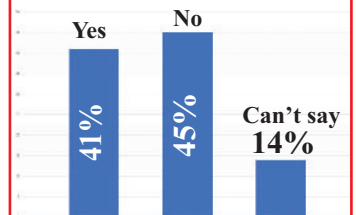
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POLL RESULT

for GT Edition February 3, 2025

Is Donald Trump's proposal to end birthright citizenship constitutional?



Results as on February 8, 2025



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Soaring beyond limits

A Life Lived In The Service Of The Nation And The Skies

Shambhavi Sharma, AIS PV, XI F

Commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force in 1963, Air Chief Marshal Shashindra Pal Tyagi has over 3,000 flying hours to his credit and an illustrious career, including service in the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars, commanding key airbases, and serving as Defence Attaché in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm. Appointed Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee in 2006, he is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal. GT meets this highly respected officer for a tête-à-tête.

Twist in the tale

There are a lot of people who will tell you, "It was my dream to fly an airplane", but this wasn't the case for me. I was born into family of lawyers, and naturally then, my ambition was to become a lawyer. Everything changed one day when my uncle took me to an airfield where I saw fighter pilots stepping out of their aircrafts in their zipped-up French G-suits and Ray-Bans. It felt like a scene straight out of a movie. In that moment, I was hooked. And, I have never looked back.

Forging collective duty

In 1965, when I first faced the bullets being fired at me, I thought, "Oh my God, this is war!". But you get conditioned to it



GT reporters with Shashindra Tyagi

over time. I believe that an entire nation goes to war when a conflict arises. Fighter pilots, of course, might grab the spotlight but there are many silent heroes – ordinary people like the *chaiwallah*, the *rickshawallah* – who are contributing to keep the war effort going. War is the business of a nation, not just the armed forces. It took 40 years of preparation and training to shape me as a person and an officer.

The art of survival

Nothing teaches survival better than war. The moment you believe you are going to be the target of a bullet; fear will take over and you will stop fighting. Survival depends on how you train your mindset. I think all armed forces operate on the belief that they are the best in the world because if they didn't, they would lose the war on day one. You can owe a war with both brain and brawn.

No more barriers

When I joined the Air Force, there were no

INTERVIEW

women in it. Back then, brute force defined warfare. The common notion was that men would be better at warfare due to their physical strength. But all this has changed. Now, missiles can be launched with the press of a button. Women are excelling everywhere. The armed forces are no different. A woman can do whatever a man can do. And, most times, even better.

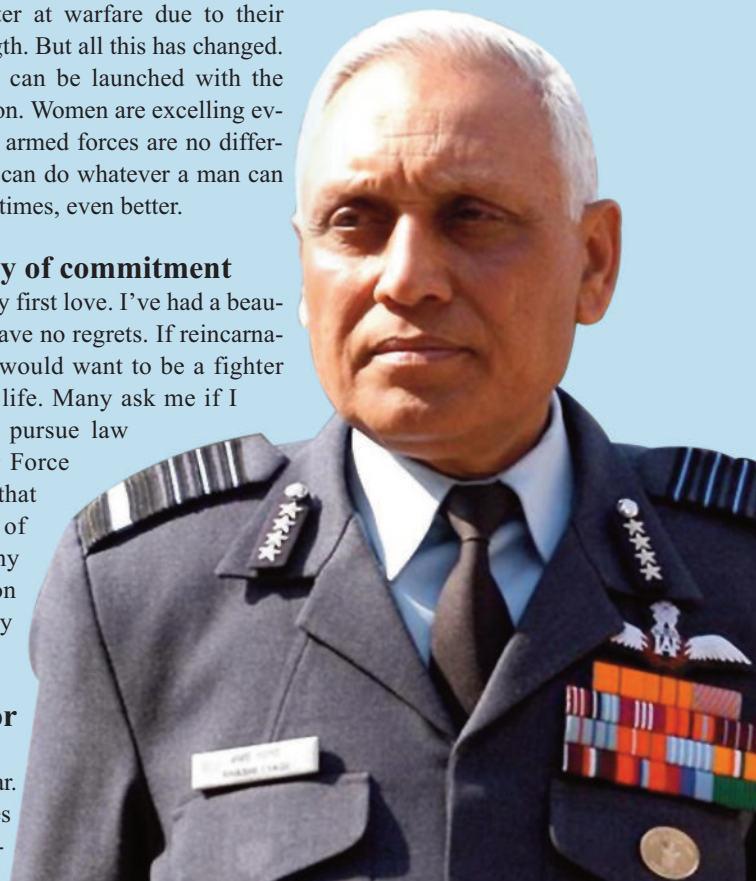
A legacy of commitment

Air Force is my first love. I've had a beautiful life and have no regrets. If reincarnation is true, I would want to be a fighter pilot in every life. Many ask me if I would like to pursue law but I love Air Force so much so that the thought of pursuing any other profession is blasphemy for me.

Message for Amitians

Life is not linear. Success comes from being prepared for the

unexpected. Total involvement in whatever you do in life is key to becoming a great and a successful professional. If you really believe that you are totally involved, the victory will be yours for sure. Giving your all is what truly counts.



(Retd) Air Chief Marshal Shashindra Pal Tyagi



The unheard secrets

Synopsis: The Silent Patient unravels the chilling tale of Alicia Berenson, a renowned painter whose seemingly perfect life takes a dark turn when she murders her husband, Gabriel. Following this unthinkable act, Alicia retreats into a state of complete silence, refusing to explain her actions. Her only response to the tragedy is a haunting self-portrait titled 'Alcestris', leaving behind more questions than answers. Enter forensic psychotherapist Theo Faber, who becomes obsessed with unraveling the mystery behind Alicia's silence. Determined to break through her wall of silence, Theo delves deep into her fractured psyche, uncovering disturbing truths and dark secrets

Book: The Silent Patient
Author: Alex Michaelides
Published in: Feb 5, 2019
Genre: Psychological thriller, mystery, and suspense

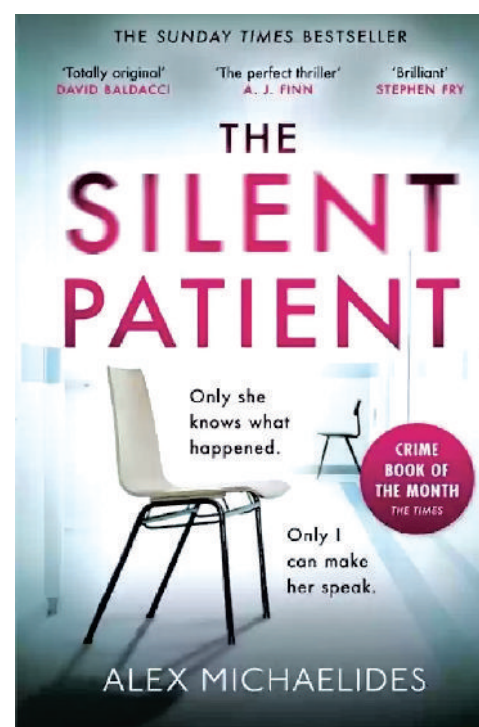
that shed light on the traumatic events of that fateful night. What Theo discovers will shatter everything he thought he knew about Alicia and himself.

Why is it worth reading: This psychological thriller grips you from the first page and keeps you on the edge of your seat until the very end. Alicia's eerie silence and the haunting mystery of why she killed her husband will keep you hooked, while

Alex Michaelides masterfully builds suspense with twists that hit you out of nowhere. What sets this book apart is its exploration of the human psyche - peeling back the layers of trauma, guilt, and obsession in a way that feels both chilling and deeply profound. The dual narrative between Alicia's cryptic silence and Theo's relentless pursuit of the truth, creates a compelling interplay that keeps readers hooked. Perfect for fans of mind-bending mysteries, this is a story that lingers long after the final page, leaving you pondering over its intricacies and implications.

Rating: 4.5/5

Review by: Editha Jaiswal
AIS Vasundhara 1, IX A



Text: Harshil Bedi, XI B & Gauri Saluja, XI E | Graphic: Aadit Thakral, IX B, AIS PV



CEREBELLA



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Because the next chapter is
yours to write

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

Diya Mishra, AIS Vasundhara 6, XII B

In the realm of Milky Way where the cosmos remains ethereal, the camaraderie of the two most beloved people was always hailed – Master Sun, a giant ball of fire, having the supremacy to turn anything and everything into ashes, and his best friend, Miss Earth, soft, gentle, and serene like a mother. The phrase ‘opposites attract’ was designed for them. Though deemed inseparable, the current times had built a bridge between them.

Shadowed in gloom, Miss Earth, had begun to look depressed, sad about all the havoc humans were causing her. Though Master Sun had been trying for weeks to uplift her mood, but without success. “It can’t go on like this. I need to do something,” Master Sun announced to himself, but what exactly, he wondered. The answer came to him as his eyes landed on The Halo Milkians, the newspaper lying on the table in front of him. The front page boasted of The Particles, an A grade entertainer family famous all over the universe for causing ecstatic reactions amongst whosoever they interacted with. “In that moment Master Sun knew exactly what had to be done. The next day, Master

Kindled sorrow

How Northern Lights Came Into Being



Sun met up with The Particles and proposed his case, “I request thee to put up a performance so unique that will make my beloved friend shine as bright as me.” The Particles, listening to his sorrowful tale, set out on

their all new mission.

As soon as The Particles reached outside Miss Earth’s doorstep, one of them snatched out his walkie-talkie and buzzed Mme Magnetic Field, the headmistress of the Atoms

The science of it

The sun releases electrically charged particles which, on encountering Earth’s magnetic field, funnel down to the north pole. As they collide with oxygen and nitrogen, they produce northern lights.

& Molecules Kindergarten. Mme Magnetic Field, a good friend of Master Sun and Miss Earth, was in on the plan and volunteered the best performers of her school, Oxygen and Nitrogen, to help The Particles with their performance. The students quickly joined The Particles and together they performed a mesmerising dance on the street, right outside Miss Earth’s house. They danced seamlessly, weaving curtains of awe, calming the wrath of oceans, soothing the sophisticated land, and brimming the atmosphere with emerald beams.

Hearing the commotion Miss Earth woke up from her slumber, surprised at first, but quickly jumped with joy after seeing such a spectacle. Her sapphire eyes welled up, crystals trickling from it as her lips curved up in a smile. And so Master Sun rejoiced at last, seeing the most blissful smile in the universe which he had been missing. **GT**



THE UNSUNG DIVA



The Untold Legacy Of History, Flavour, Royalty, And Revolution

**Yash Wadhwa, XII F &
Sia Sethi, IX B AIS PV**

Hey, audience! I am elated to be invited to Flavour Talk, the most popular talk show of the town. But hey, I'm not surprised! After all, I'm not just a simple flavour as opposed to common acclaim but a culinary superstar with a spicy history. Originally, from Mexico I started as a wild orchid hanging out with the Totonac Indians. Then the Aztecs gate crashed the party and added me in their chocolate beverage that was consumed only by the nobility. Finally, it was the Spanish who stole me and introduced me to Europe where of course I - 'The Vanilla' gently swayed into the European royal courts and became a global sensation.

I miss the 17th century when the Queen of England adorned my taste with the production of sweets, an era when I was truly valued, and my arch-nemesis did not exist. Ah yes, the dreaded 'synthetic vanillin'. What a shame humans attempted to recreate my legacy as the second most expen-

sive spice in the world with a substance twenty-fold cheaper than mine! Ugh, capitalism. If you're nibbling on something vanilla-flavoured or sniffing something vanilla-scented, I bet that you're enjoying synthetic vanillin, since only less than one per cent of the total global market is sourced from real vanilla beans. I have standards, you know? The difficulty dealt with as part of my cultivation is a testament to that fact. My flower must be pollinated either through the Melipona bees or via hand pollination within twenty-four hours, or else my beautiful flowers will wilt and die. Of course, I must be handled delicately for I am truly a diva.

Not to brag, but there is no one on this planet who hasn't tasted me. Unfortunately, I cannot take all the credit. After all, I do owe all my life savings to the twelve-year-old boy who managed to figure out my composition 180 years ago. Since then, I have revolutionised dessert and confectionary alike, lived in perfumes and aromatic candles and transformed the monotony of food into magic.

Even if life gives you lemons, it is me, the vanilla, who makes the cake. I am even used to ward off spiders that may infiltrate your homes and I often am one of the million ingredients in medicine. I must admit that there have been some problems when chocolate found a way to be the biggest people-pleaser of all, but no other flavour has even come close. My frenemy, chocolate has often served as the yin to my yang with us winning a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest milkshake, a mix of vanilla and chocolate syrup. However, its constant attempts to dethrone me have been throttled and indeed resented. After all, my quality beans have even appeased the gods.

Although I have a reputation of being plain, I am the spice world's ultimate chameleon

capable of transforming from a delicate marshmallow-like sweetness into a smoky rich sensation that will make the taste buds do a double take. This 'mixed flavour fan' generation sadly doesn't seem to get the 'old is gold' memo

but you must, my dear readers, must understand that bakers deprived of my holy goodness are like artists without paint. I am the ultimate flavour shapeshifter! Remember, when life gives you bland, I make it grand.



Pic: Kairav Popli, XI E & Ani Gandhi, XI C, AIS PV



**Anarghya Panwar
AIS Noida, XII I**

Have you ever tried to stick to a new habit, only to give up after a few days?

Whether it's hitting the gym, eating healthier, or learning a new skill, the struggle to stay consistent is real. What if there was a way to simplify the process and make habit formation achievable? A

21 day challenge

popular theory suggests that committing to a habit for just 21 days can lay the foundation for lasting change. Here's a practical guide to help you navigate this journey:

Commit for 21 days

The cornerstone of habit formation is unwavering commitment. Start by identifying why this habit is vital to you and remind yourself of this reason daily. Habits won't form on their own; they require deliberate effort.

Accountability is key

Internal accountability through self-reflection and external support, such as a coach or group, can boost your chances of success. Celebrate small wins and keep track of your progress to stay motivated.

Start small with mini-habits

Break your goal into manageable tasks. For instance, if you want to write 2,000 words daily, begin with a mini-habit of writing 50 - 100 words. Consistency in these

small steps lays the groundwork for larger achievements.

Tailoring the approach

Not everyone succeeds within 21 days. Different methods work for different individuals. The key is to remain dedicated until you find what works best for you.

Commitment, accountability, and persistence are the magic trio for habit formation. Stay the course, and watch your efforts transform into lasting change. [G](#)[I](#)

The 21-Day Timeline

Days 1 - 3: Motivation is at its peak. Use this initial energy to dive fully into your habit.

Days 4 - 10: This is the toughest phase, as enthusiasm wanes and

many give up. Visualise your goals to stay focused. Crossing this hurdle is crucial.

Days 11 - 14: You're halfway there! Reflect on how this habit is impacting

your daily routine and well-being.

Days 15 - 20: Mark each day off on a calendar. This simple act reinforces your commitment and gives a complete sense of accomplishment.

By the time you complete 21 days, the habit should feel natural. You must shift all your focus to the long-term benefits and how to build upon this new foundation.

The sound of patriotism



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

A nation's progress is shaped by the quality of education children receive and at Amity, we have been committed to providing a holistic learning that nurtures not just academically brilliant minds but also socially responsible and culturally aware individuals. In this context, music becomes a powerful pedagogical tool as it appeals to all age groups and weaves fun with learning seamlessly. Hence, Amity introduced Dhvani in 1997 as an inter-school competition of patriotic songs designed to celebrate the spirit of patriotism and instil a sense of duty towards the nation through the unifying power of music. Over the past 27 years, this annual event organised by AIS Noida has helped children develop a sense of belongingness by strengthening their connection to India's rich cultural heritage. When Amity resonates with the powerful notes of patriotic songs, each performance becomes a testament to the profound love and passion that young minds have for their beloved nation. Renowned artists from the Indian classical music fraternity like flute artist Pandit Sunder Lal Gandharv, tabla virtuoso Shri. Shambhu Nath Bhattacharjee, santoor artist Shri. Raj Kumar Majumdar, etc., have graced the event, and inspired students with invaluable guidance and feedback. This has also helped young artists hone their musical talent. What children hear and sing today becomes ingrained in their consciousness, shaping their thoughts and action in the future. Dhvani, with its very theme of patriotism, serves not only as a celebration of musical excellence but also a tribute to the enduring values of unity, culture and national pride. This musical endeavour is just one of Amity's many ways of inspiring young minds to place their nation above self. 🇮🇳

Keep striving



Ameeta Mohan
Principal, AIS PV

"This year has been Amity Pushp Vihar's year," our Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan ma'am, has proudly declared – and with good reason. Not only did one of our students win the coveted Bal Puraskar for exceptional achievement, the school also emerged as global winners in the F1 School Championship. What's more, our fame reached far and beyond with the school lifting the world championship trophy in the NASA Space Settlement Design Competition. All these accolades stand as testament to the school's dedication, perseverance and hard work in nurturing young pioneers, as envisioned by our respected Chairperson ma'am. It is this very spirit of innovation and creativity that also resonates in the pages of The Global Times. This contest edition, produced by the editorial board of AIS Pushp Vihar, demonstrates our students' ability to think critically, research diligently, and communicate effectively. This has been made possible with the unwavering support of Chairperson ma'am, whose belief in student journalism has been instrumental in nurturing these young voices. With this contest edition, students have proven their commitment to pushing creative boundaries and excelling in storytelling. The hard work, research, and collaborative spirit displayed are truly commendable. May you continue to explore new ideas, hone your talents, and make your voices heard! 🇮🇳

Graphic: Akshita Bhandari, AIS PV, XII B



Beyond bounds

A Rainbow Of Representation

Harshil Bedi, XI C &
Myra Goswami, XI F, AIS PV

“Ariel is a black woman now?” “Snow White, not as white as snow?” As the clock chimes the hour of change, Disney, too swept up in the storms of inclusivity, has chosen to replace their traditionally white characters with those of a different race in their remakes. With the curtains falling to reveal Halle Bailey as Ariel and Yara Shahidi as Tinker Bell, young viewers can revel in a sense of belonging, as these characters - once only white - now carry the spirit of their own lives and cultures. These portrayals offer a fantastical inspiration that is long overdue, encouraging new generations to grow up with a sense of possibility and pride.

But perhaps the mirror on the wall reflects a half-sheathed tale after all. True representation lies beyond a superficial cosmetic alteration. It lies in engaging the roots of identity, understanding the nuances of culture, and committing to the authenticity of the stories. Similarly, these casting choices seem to look past such depth, opting for what some might call a ‘performative wokeness’. As we question authenticity, the figure of Pocahontas rises with great inaccuracies. History remembers her as an indigenous woman, taken against her will, her homeland colonised by English captors. Yet Disney's portrayal romanticises her relationship with John Smith, an English soldier. In the name of representation, Disney diluted her true struggle, transforming it into a love story that taints the his-

tory of an entire culture and its people.

It is not that Disney is incapable of creating diverse media with accurate depictions of culture.

Films such as *Mulan* (1998), *Coco* (2017), and *Encanto* (2021) stand as a testament to their ability to take time to understand the values, traditions, and heart of the cultures they represent. And yet, despite their attempts, backlash over cultural accuracy has become inevitable. In *The Princess and the Frog* (2009), some critics analysed Disney's choice to make the villain a person of colour, questioning their intentions when perhaps none were ever present. Nostalgia, too, plays its part in how we view these changes. Halle Bailey's portrayal of the new *The Little Mermaid*, for some, seemed to meddle with the version they had always held dear. By changing this, Disney tampered with the dreamscapes of those who had long connected to the original portrayal. Perhaps Disney should focus on accepting cultures in all their complexity and understanding them rather than offering surface-level representation. In the end, as we move forward, it is not merely about what we see on the screen but how deeply we understand and honour the stories we choose to tell.

Ink stains and dreams

In accordance with the timeless words of our Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, “Amitians are perfectly poised to critically analyse global issues, articulate nuanced perspective with eloquence, devise innovative solution, and underscore the profound impact of holistic education.” This principle has consistently guided the meticulous crafting of this edition of The Global Times. It is not merely a

compilation of articles; it embodies a reflection of the courage exhibited by the talented minds of AIS Pushp Vihar to dream and share their distinctive perspectives with the world. From the inaugural editorial meetings with the GT team to the diligent process of selection, drafting, editing, proof-reading, and designing, each phase

has proven to be an invaluable educational experience. Looking ahead, there remains a continued commitment to fostering this platform for emerging voices and exploring further opportunities for journalistic expression. It is an honour to contribute to this remarkable initiative, and immense pride is taken in the dedication and skill demonstrated by the editorial board of AIS Pushp Vihar.

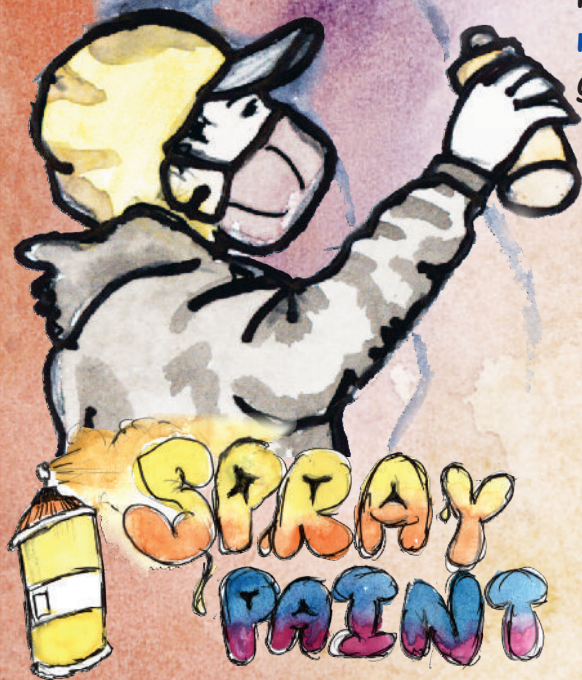


Himanshi Tyagi
GT Coordinator

Illustrations: Trisha Biswas, XI B & Rudrakshi Joshi, IX D, AIS PV



Adding life to any piece of art is the paint with which the artist adds visual effects. With a wide range of them available, it gets overwhelming to choose the right one. Worry not, **Aarushi Mendiratta & Saumya Ahuja, XI C, AIS Pushp Vihar**, bring to you a comprehensive guide on choosing the right paint for your next artwork.



Shade: An airtight sealed aerosol consisting of a paint and propellant mixture is what a spray paint is made of. What makes it a popular choice among artists is its exceptional capacity to quickly cover large surface along with other features such as quick drying time, durability, broad colour selection, and ease of application.

Stroke: Invented by Ed Seymour, spray paint has created an entire art subculture: Graffiti, which started off as acts of vandalism. But over time it has helped to break art barriers and remove the divides between the rich and the poor. Famous artists are Banksy, known for his famous Girl with the Balloon (2002), and Lady Pink, also known as Sandra Favara, the first lady of graffiti.

Shade: Derived from the word temper, this pigment is an emulsion created from water and egg yolk. It's usually found in a liquid, stick, or powder version. When dry, the colours closely resemble pastels, with their matte, powdery texture. The paint is durable, with colours refusing to fade and lose their vibrancy over time.

Stroke: Originated as a mural medium in the ancient dynasties of Egypt, Babylonia, and Greece, it was initially used to decorate the early Christian catacombs in the 4th century, but then was discovered by Renaissance painters in the 14th century and was used as the main medium for art.

Tempera



GLAZING COLORS ENCAUSTIC



ACRYLIC

Shade: Made with a synthetic polymer binder, acrylic is highly pigmented and a fast-drying paint. For translucent wash, it is thinned with water and to create texture and impasto effects, it is often used in thick and opaque manner.

Stroke: Abstract painting expressionism, pop art, and contemporary realism are notable movements and styles associated with acrylic paint. In fact, David Hockney's vibrant swimming pool paintings and Chuck Close's photorealistic portraits showcase the unique qualities of this paint.

Shade: It is a type of paint that is made with pigments mixed into hot beeswax. The artworks with this pigmented wax are fused to the surface using heat, resulting in a luminous touch that adds a sense of depth and realism to the artworks.

Stroke: The word 'encaustic' derived from a Greek word 'enkaustikos', refers to its Greek and Egyptian origins, where it emerged during the 5th century BC. Some of the most famous encaustic artworks include the Fayum mummy portraits from Egypt, and Target with Four Faces (1955) - MOMA.



Burning memories

Shambhavi Sharma

AIS Pushp Vihar, XI F

The scent of bygone rain traversed past stone houses enveloped with ivy. It passed tapestries fabricated by nature, towards a girl who sat outside her house in a patch of grass. Her black hair fell over her shoulders and her hands glistened with a book and a box of matchsticks. Ri's eyes scanned over the pages and she tore the seams of the words that she read, lighting a matchstick and setting the parchment on fire. There was something about watching it ablaze.

The sound of footsteps broke her reverie as a girl around her age settled down beside her. "Took you long enough," Moira laughed sarcastically and looked up from the ashes that lay at her feet. "Ri," she grinned, "It's not everyday that you get to enjoy inane conversation." Ri had known Moira since she had known herself. "I don't know. Something feels off, it's like I have memories of things that happened but they keep on changing." Moira stood up and paced nervously. "Let's take a walk. It'll stop you from all the pointless burning."

They walked hand in hand past the abandoned street. "So you were saying?" Moira raised her eyebrows to look at Ri stopping in their tracks. "It's almost as if deja vu but more real. Yesterday, I saw

my dog run out of the house through the window but when I sprinted downstairs, she was sleeping on the doormat," Ri sighed as she watched a yellow leaf stuck to Moira's shoe. Suddenly, Moira violently jerked away, shaking her foot, the seams of her socks ablaze. "Ri!" she yelled for help in terror. Ri was rooted to the ground, dazed to see that Moira was surrounded with

water and had stepped in plenty of puddles on the way here. It seemed scientifically impossible for any remaining lit ashes to have stuck to her boots, or at least she thought it was.

Before she could run for help,

It seemed scientifically impossible for any remaining lit ashes to have stuck to her boots, or at least she thought it was.

Moira went up in smoke. Ri ran towards her house, looking for someone, and she found someone who couldn't possibly have made it there. She stood transfixed in agonising fear. It was Moira who ran to Ri's side. "It happened again," Ri managed, between sharp terrified breaths and looked at Moira's shoe. The yellow leaf remained, as concrete as Moira beside her. It was almost as if time had reversed as fast as the words in her book had burnt. Almost as if she had failed them until the clouds went black and her vision dissolved, until a woman shut down her laptop, sighing in disbelief. She wondered about her plot holes and the amount of times she had pressed delete instead of space. It was going to be a while before Ri and Moira would discover the fleeting nature of their fates.

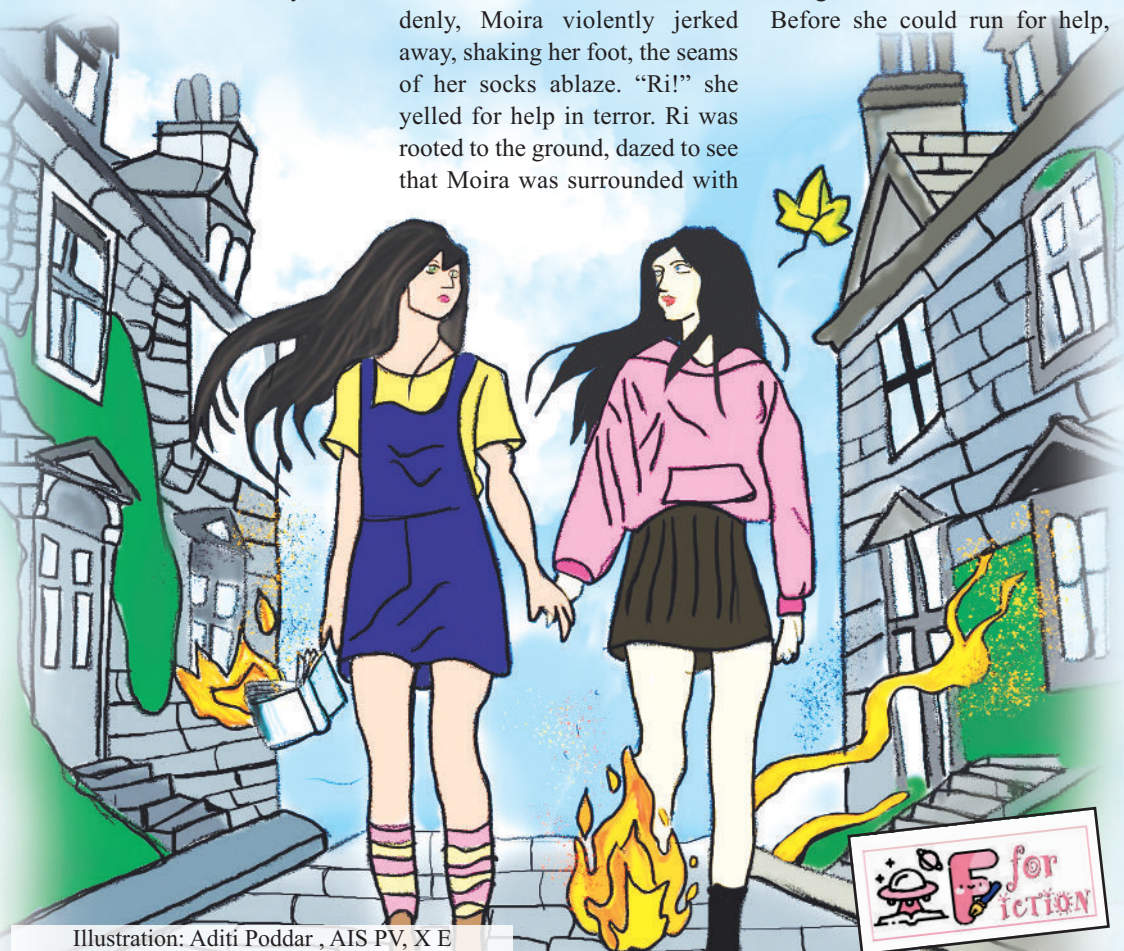


Illustration: Aditi Poddar, AIS PV, X E

Like a matchstick

Akshita Bhandari

AIS Pushp Vihar, XII B

Like a matchstick
Ordinary and simple
Nothing very special
Hidden away in a pack
With all the others
Waiting to be picked
Picked for its purpose
Eager to see how
It will all go down
Will it be a birthday cake
Or a cremation fire?
A wedding, holy
Or an unholy arson?
How tragic is the fact
That when the clock ticks
And when the wait ends
It will be too late
To think about
Its final fate.

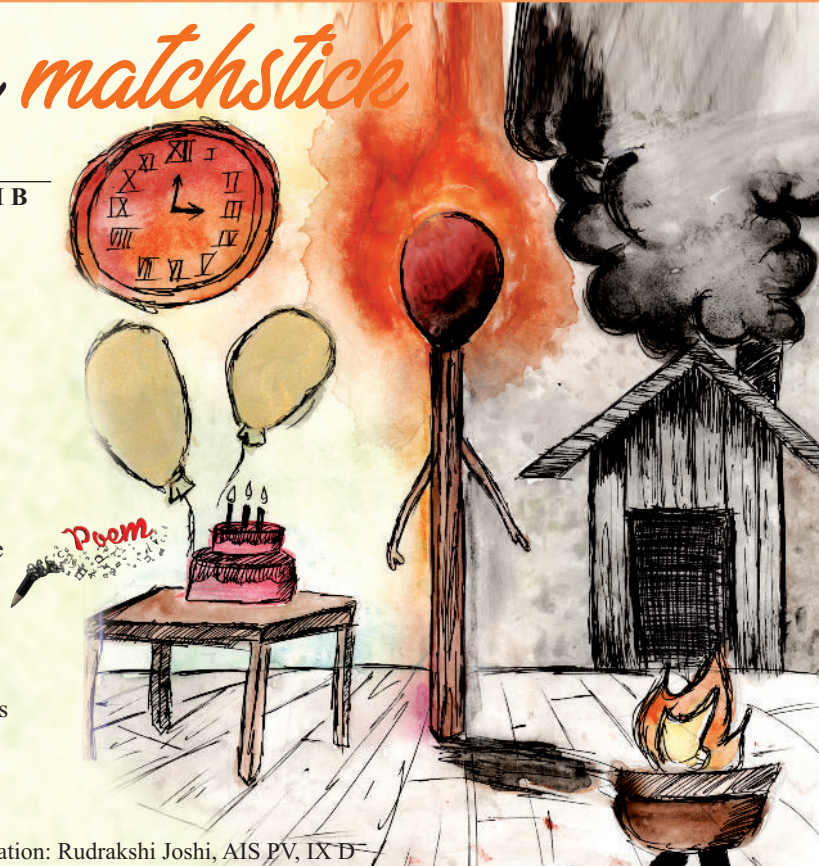


Illustration: Rudrakshi Joshi, AIS PV, IX D

Read Play and Win 78

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 Who has been interviewed on page 3?

Q.2 What is the name of the product that has been advertised on page 4?

Q.3 What is the tagline of the article on page 6?

Q.4 Who is the editor-in-chief of AIS Pushp Vihar?

Q.5 Who is narrating the autobiography on page 5?

Q.6 What are the names of two friends mentioned in the short story on page 8?

Q.7 Name any two types of paints mentioned on page 7.

Q.8 Name the bricks used in the construction of Haveli Dharampura.

Q.9 Which country has withdrawn from WHO?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-77: **Shivam Kumar**, AIS Gur 46, VI E; **Nishita Agarwal**, AIS MV, VIII D; **Lavanya Basist**, AIS Saket, VII D

The withdrawal syndrome

What Leaving The WHO Means For The US And The World At Large

Namya Jain, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII-F

NEWS ANCHOR: Good evening, and welcome to The Global Times News! Our top story tonight will decode for you President Donald Trump's bold decision to withdraw from the World Health Organisation. This new executive order has set shockwaves across the world. There are too many questions. Is this an arbitrary move? What will the WHO do now? Will global health programs suffer? We bring you a detailed report.

Not the first time

So, this is not the first time that the US has attempted this. During the COVID-19 pandemic, in July 2020, the Trump administration submitted a letter to the UN Secretary General mentioning US's intention to withdraw, citing WHO's failure to act swiftly in the early days of the pandemic. In fact, funding was stopped for a while until Joe Biden, the new US president, reversed the decision on his first day of office in January 2021. The latest withdrawal order marks a definitive break from the long support which began when the US played a key role in founding the organisation in 1948. Historically, of course, this move is not un-

precedented. In 1949, the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries withdrew amid Cold War tensions but rejoined in 1956. Interestingly, Liechtenstein remains the only UN member state that has never joined WHO.

It's not so simple

Let's talk legalities now. Can the US simply walk away? Well, not exactly. As stated in the WHO's 1948 constitution, the procedure necessitates a one-year notice period, and before leaving, the member nation must pay off its debts to the organisation. Additionally, since the US joined the WHO through a congressional act, legal experts are debating whether the president can execute the withdrawal unilaterally or if legislative approval is required.

Why the United States is needed?

Consider this. The US is one of WHO's most influential members, as it provides approximately 18% of WHO's budget, amounting to around \$400–500 million annually. WHO's biennial budget for 2024–2025 is \$6.8 billion, and losing this funding would create a substantial deficit. The US is also the world's largest donor for health programs that combat infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS with an allocation of \$15.8 million in 2022 alone. In fact, PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) is a US-funded initiative that has provided HIV treatment to over 20 million people worldwide. It is also a key player in the Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), which monitors emerging flu strains and advises on vaccine development. Hence, the withdrawal might make it difficult for WHO to carry out these important health initiatives, especially in low and middle-income nations.

How has WHO reacted?

Understandably, WHO has already begun cost-cutting measures. For instance, a hiring freeze has been implemented, and travel expenses have been drastically reduced. Virtual meetings have become the preferred norm. All office refurbishments and expansion projects have been suspended, along with other capital investments.

Not a win-win for the United States

It's not all guns and roses for the US either. It's at risk too, as it would no longer have direct access to WHO's infectious disease sur-

veillance database, making the country more vulnerable to future outbreaks. Moreover, this will undermine American influence in determining future international health accords or pandemic response strategies. The withdrawal could also have economic consequences, as the country could be excluded from international research collaborations or funding programs. This would affect American pharmaceutical companies and health organisations that rely on global partnerships and initiatives of WHO.

While some Republican lawmakers and Trump supporters applaud the move as a necessary step against global institutions, health experts and Democratic leaders warn of severe repercussions. "Withdrawing from the WHO leaves a gap in global health leadership that will be filled by China," cautioned Kenneth Bernard, a former biodefense official under President George W Bush. "This is clearly not in America's best interests."

Where does this leave us?

Well, nations dependent on the US funding and medical expertise may have to struggle to fill the gap. Moreover, the WHO now employs several dozen CDC researchers, who would probably be recalled. These scientists serve as vital link between the US and other nations, facilitating the sharing of knowledge about new and developing risks and health-promoting and chronic disease-preventive strategies. This move could set a precedent for other nations to follow suit, undermining the collective global health system that the WHO represents. An international response to pandemics and health emergencies may become fragmented and less coordinated if other nations limit or stop participating. It is also highly likely that climate change-related health challenges could become more difficult to tackle, as WHO would have fewer resources to address health risks linked to environmental changes.

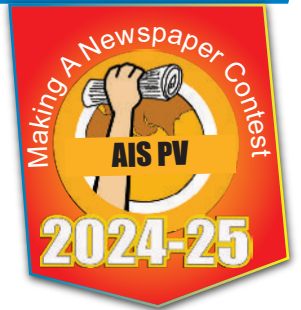
What is in the future?

Our experts tell us that no one nation, no matter how strong, can address global health crises alone and that multilateral collaboration is necessary. The world will be intently observing the United States as it negotiates its withdrawal from the WHO to see how this change impacts global health collaborations, international health policy, and America's global standing. For now, this remains a developing story. Keep tuning into The Global Times for more updates. Back to you in the studio.



A timeless charm

An Extensive View Of The Charming Haveli Dharampura



Myra Goswami, AIS Pushp Vihar, XI F

Nestled in one of the narrowest lanes of bustling Old Delhi, amidst food joints, aged homes, and timeworn doors, stands the charming Haveli Dharampura, a 200-year-old property built during the late Mughal era. Behind its ornate brass gates lies a three-storey structure which is a stunning mélange of Mughal, Victorian, and traditional Hindu architectural styles.

Lofts of legacy

“Built in 1887 AD within the walled city of Shahjahanabad, the Haveli’s original owners remain a mystery, and we only have accounts from the area’s oldest residents and shopkeepers to trace its lineage,” explains Arvind, an employee at the Haveli. Its name ‘Dharampura’ is synonymous with the inter-cultural and religious harmony of Old Delhi. Haveli Dharampura was on the brink of collapse when Vijay Goel, former union minister and MP, purchased it. “The walls had cracks, the door frames and shutters had de-

cayed, and the dilapidated roof had collapsed. Raw materials for reconstruction were sourced from different parts of India to maintain the authenticity of this architectural wonder. “The restoration took six challenging years to complete,” he shares, “One of the greatest obstacles was transporting the material in and out of Haveli as it was accessible only by foot or two-wheeler.”

Courtyards of conservation

“Retaining the Haveli’s original character and essence was of utmost importance. The intricate *jaalis*, graceful arches, and elabo-

rate window frames were restored with meticulous attention to detail. ‘Lakhori bricks’ used in the original construction 200 years ago were sourced and reused during the restoration,” he shares. To preserve the Haveli’s spirit, several cultural programs including kite flying, pigeon flying, live classical music, Kathak performances, and heritage walks are organised by those maintaining the Haveli. However, the best attraction, according to Arvind, is the Haveli’s scenic rooftop which offers a panoramic view of the Jama Masjid, Red Fort, St James’ Church, and Gurudwara Sis Ganj

Sahib, all of which seem to blend seamlessly into the evening skyline.

Arches of achievement

Haveli Dharampura has received the prestigious UNESCO Asia-Pacific Award for Cultural Heritage Conservation, a testament to the hard work and determination of the restorers and the 50 skilled labourers who worked tirelessly to revive the Haveli to its original stature and ensured that it could be sustained for future generations. Several Indian dignitaries have visited this landmark site, which has also hosted guests from over 70 nationalities and provided them a culturally enriching stay.

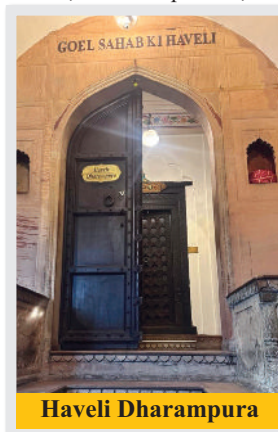
Verandahs of vision

These havelis are an integral part of India’s heritage and protecting them is our duty. Vijay Goel hopes the restoration of Haveli Dharampura will inspire others to revive other neglected and abandoned havelis hidden in Chandni Chowk’s historical lanes. It’s a noble thought, indeed, as these timeless edifices steeped in history honour the lives lived within their walls. As Arvind rightfully says, “The Haveli isn’t just a beautiful piece of architecture, it is an experience.” **GT**

Pics: Kairav Popli, XI E & Ani Gandhi, XI C, AIS PV



GT reporter interacts with Arvind



Haveli Dharampura



Illustrator, breathing life into stories



Editorial board of AIS Pushp Vihar, shaping stories with passion, precision, and purpose



Photographer, freezing time



Designers, sculpting visuals



Editors, weaving magic with words

For more pictures, log on to www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper or www.instagram.com/the_global_times

Page editor: Myra Goswami, AIS Pushp Vihar, XI F

Oxford global MUN

Amitians' Glorious Display Of Leadership At Oxford



Amitians with India's and Amity's flag at Oxford MUN

AERC

A team of ten students from Amity Group of Schools, under the aegis of AERC, participated in the 10th Oxford MUN 2024, organised by Oxford Global from November 22-24, 2024 at University of Oxford's Examination Schools, with opening and closing ceremonies being held at the iconic Town Hall. Over 900 delegates from 25 countries participated in 14 committees, including four general assemblies, three crisis committees and six specialised

committees. Samridh Gupta and Umaira Singh, IX (AIS Gur 46); Shambhavi Singh, X (AIS Vas 1); Chiranjeev Seth and Yuvraj Dixit, XII (AIS VYC); Prisha Singh, Tanvi Saraf and Armaan Mittal, IX (AIS Noida); Vandita Sharma, X (AIS Saket) and Roheen Pathania, VIII (AIS Gur 46) participated as delegates in different committees namely African Union (AU), World Health Organisation (WHO), COP 30, Economic and Financial Committee (ECO-FIN) and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

The students also attended the 3rd Amity Alumni meet in London and Oxford, hosted by AERC under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF. Further, the event welcomed 14 alumni of Amity Group of Schools, who interacted online with Chairperson and shared their fond memories of Amity. This experience was further enriched by cultural visit to iconic landmarks such as Science Museum and the London Eye. 🇮🇳



Healthy dishes prepared and savoured by parents and students

Day for health

AIS VKC Lucknow

The school organised a vibrant healthy tiffin event on December 21, 2024, for parents and students of Class Nursery - V, celebrating the richness of vegetarian Awadhi cuisine while promoting healthy and balanced eating habits. The participants prepared an array of delectable vegetarian dishes like galouti kebabs, shaami kebabs, awadhi biryani, gobhi ki kheer, pickles, and other traditional delights, while also sharing their nutritional value and recipes. The contest was judged by re-

nowned chefs, Gaurav Tewari and Gaurav Srivastava, who emphasised the importance of making traditional dishes more nutritious for young children. They also applauded the creativity of all the students and their parents. School principal Rachna Mishra addressing the participants highlighted the significance of inculcating healthy eating habits from an early age and commended the enthusiasm of parents and students for their innovative take on traditional recipes. The event ended with certificates of participation being awarded to all the participants.

Bazinga 2024

R&D Department

The 12th edition of Bazinga, an annual inter-school science quiz, was organised online by the Research and Development Department under the visionary leadership and guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, from January 9-10, 2025. The curriculum driven quiz, envisioned by the Chairperson as a platform for young minds to discover and construct knowledge, fosters observational and empirical reasoning.

The quiz for Class IX was hosted by AIS Vasundhara 1, with Dr Shashi Prabha, former professor of Physics and head, Planning and Research Division, NCERT, gracing the event as the chief guest. For Class XI, AIS Pushp Vihar was the host school, and Prof



Participants at Bazinga

Nidhi Verma, professor of Chemistry, IIT Delhi was the chief guest. The event saw participation from 21 schools for Class IX and 22 schools for Class XI from Delhi/NCR.

The challenging and entertaining quiz was prepared by students under the guidance of science teachers and was conducted by student quiz masters as well. The quiz masters for Class IX were Abhay Sharma, Harshal Sinha, Dhruv Sharda, and Swasti Jain of AIS Vasundhara 1, while Samaya Chauhan and Arnav Kapoor of AIS Pushp Vihar were the quiz-

masters for Class XI participants. The competition was conducted in two phases - a preliminary round, where participants gave answers to the questions via MS forms. The shortlisted five students then competed in the finals which comprised exciting segments such as concept testing, computational abilities, video, scientific advancements, and rapid fire.

Amitians also clinched top prizes in Bazinga. In Class IX, Stuti Shree (AIS Noida), Amogh Saxena (AIS Vas 6), and Vihaan Saxena (AIS Pushp Vihar) won the first, second, and third positions respectively. In Class XI, Ojas Mittal (AIS Noida) and Pratham Madhav B (AIS Gurugram 46) secured second and third place respectively. Winners were awarded headphones and study lamps, while e-certificates were given to all participants.

Automobile champ

AIS Vasundhara 6

Pranav Gupta, of Class XI was featured among the 72 grand finalists at the National Automobile Olympiad 2024, held on December 27 - 28, 2024 in Bhopal.

Organised by the Automotive Skill Development Council in partnership with CBSE Skill Education and Training Unit, the two-day Olympiad aimed to nurture future automotive leaders and witnessed participation from 38,000 students across India. To select the finalists, there were three qualifying rounds at the district, state and regional levels, wherein participants competed in an AR/VR challenge, a robotics quiz and a presentation. The event proved to be an effective platform for empowering future automotive leaders and encouraging their creative ideas. 🇮🇳



Pranav with school principal

Grocery cart-astrophe



The Art Of Buying Milk And Everything Else You Don't Really Need

Meemansa Munjal

AIS Pushp Vihar, X A

It all started with a noble quest - buy milk. Armed with a reusable bag and the resolve of a warrior heading into battle, I stepped into the fluorescent-lit wilderness of the grocery store. "In and out," I told myself. "Just milk. Only milk." Little did I know, I was about to embark on an odyssey so epic, that Homer himself would've penned a sequel. The cool, sterile air of the store greeted me, whispering promises of bargains and 'Buy One, Get One Free' temptations. I tightened my grip on the shopping cart, mentally plotting the shortest path to the dairy section. I was a grocery ninja. "Focus, milk is the goal." But five steps in, I was ambushed by the snack aisle - the Bermuda Triangle of grocery shopping. One minute you are fine, and the next, you are clutching the packet of truffle-flavoured popcorn like it is the key to eternal happiness. Into the cart, it went. Because if I am going to snack, I might as well snack luxuriously. "Just milk," I chanted as I turned the corner... and stumbled into the candy aisle. Did you know

gummy bears now come in dinosaur shapes? Neither did I, but suddenly, I needed to support this prehistoric innovation. "They're historical," I lied to myself as the bag landed in the cart. I mean, what's a little sugar-coated history lesson? Next, the cereal aisle loomed before me. I could almost hear the siren song of the brightly

coloured boxes: "Pssst! Remember when breakfast was fun?" Before I knew it, a limited-edition chocolate cereal had me feeling like the eight-year-old who still lives rent-free in my head. Into the cart, it went. Breakfast of champions? More like breakfast of impulsive buyers. With my resolve crumbling faster

than a cookie, I made it to produce section. Here, the fruits and veggies staged their coup. Kale, with its holier-than-thou aura, mocked me from the shelf. "Fine!" I snapped, throwing it in the cart as if to prove I could adult responsibly. Avocados joined the party because I love playing "Will they ripen before they rot?"

Spoiler: They won't. My cart now looked like a neatly organised Pinterest board for healthy living - with a hefty dose of snacks sprinkled in for good measure.

Finally, the dairy section. My white whale, the prize of this perilous journey - milk. I grabbed it with triumph, holding it aloft like Simba in The Lion King. But then, right next to the milk, they placed the enemy: fancy yoghurts. Greek, fruity, and decadent yoghurts. "Balance," I muttered, throwing a few into the cart to offset the gummy dinosaurs.

I staggered toward the checkout, cart overflowing, and handed over my credit card, which wept softly as it was swiped. I left the store with the milk and a little bit of my soul missing. As I unpacked my treasures at home, surrounded by kale, prehistoric gummies, and questionable life choices, I realised the truth: the grocery store is not a place for the weak-willed. It's a battlefield of impulse buys and bad decisions disguised as 'treat yourself' moments. And yet, as I tore open the truffle-flavoured popcorn, I couldn't help but smile. The milk might've brought me there, but the journey brought me snacks.



Pic: Kairav Popli, AIS Pushp Vihar, XI E



Pics: Soumil Gupta, XI C & Ani Gandhi XI C, AIS PV

In Spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Namya Jain



Managing mischief and deadlines all in one breath - the editorial board of AIS PV