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A Study Of Monetary Investment In A Rapidly Evolving Financial Landscape

Varad Srivastava, AIS VYC Lko, X A

nvesting in the stock market was once considered the domain of the wealthy or those with financial expertise. In today's changing economic scenario, the modern investor can be anyone with a smartphone, an internet connection, and the vision to make their money 'grow'. Let's understand the opportunities, challenges, and strategies that define modern investment avenues in India.

Rise of retail investors

Investing is the process of allocating money

new investors joined the National Stock Ex-

of Jan 2024, 79.2 million SIP accounts (Sys-

tematic Investment Plans) were active

offer Bonds that offer stable returns with lower risks. More recently, Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) have become a viable option for those wanting to invest in real estate without owning physical properties.

can buy and sell shares of listed companies

directly. The govt and private sector also

Investing at your fingertips

The younger generation finds using online platforms extremely convenient for investing. Apps like Zerodha, Groww, and Upstox have a user-friendly interface and their minimal joining fees makes them accessible and affordable for the tech-savvy generation. In fact, the Millennials and Gen Z together constitute over 66% of retail investors. Interestingly, though investing was always considered a man's domain, modern India's women are not far behind. A 2022 RBI report reveals that women now represent 18% of the retail investor base, and this number is steadily climbing. Moreover, many financial platforms have launched women-focused investment plans for a secure future.

Need for investment

What has, perhaps, pushed the need for investment across the country is the benefit of building wealth and staying ahead of inflation. The economic downturn during crisis situations, such as the Covid pandemic, further highlighted the importance of emergency savings and mindful investing. This retail investment boom is a result of the concerted efforts made by both the govt and private institutions. For example, SEBI's 'Investor Awareness Programme' and RBI's 'Financial Literacy Week' have helped in educating individuals about the benefits and risks of investing. Private banks, wealth managers, and investment brokers also organise regular webinars, seminars, and large-scale events like the 'India Investment Summit', bringing financial literacy to the

As investment opportunities become more accessible, the future seems promising for investors around the world. Whether you're planning for retirement, saving for your child's education, or simply looking to grow your savings, investing offers the

chance to transform sums into gains. However, the golden rule is: Know Your Risk. Before investing, it is crucial to understand and analyse personal financial goals and consult exwhenever needed. Big returns also mean big responsibility, after all. GT



Navigating investment choices

mutual fund schemes in India.

There are several financial tools retail investors can choose from. These include Mutual Funds, managed by professionals who source money from multiple investors to invest in stocks, bonds, or other securities. Then, there are Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs), which are relatively lowcost investment options, or Direct Stocks, where individuals

As Trump administration imposes tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China, do you think this tariff war will further weaken markets around the world, including India?

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

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next





Chasing the reel dream Pallavi Batra, a film and advertisement actor, television host and voice-over artist, shares her journey in Bollywood town.

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What's inside



The erratic Amygdala Step into the mind's control room and meet Amygdala - the guardian of instincts - guiding you through fear, joy, and everything in between.

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Shroom for more From the luxurious Gucchi to the powerful Chaga, explore the captivating world of mushrooms, nature's finest treasures in flavour, health, and mystery. ...more on page 7

The Finance Ministry has instructed its employees not to download AI tools and apps on office computers and phones. Do you support the decision? Can't say 13%

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Chasing the reel dream

Pallavi's Story Of Dreaming Big And Staying Resilient

Manya Gupta, XI C & Aditi Mishra, XI D, AIS Noida

allavi Batra, a film and advertisement actor, television host and voice-over artist has established herself as a promising Bollywood actor with dreams to make it big in tinsel town. She shares with GT the snippets of her journey.

Lights...

My passion for acting was ignited in sixth grade when my English teacher introduced me to the world of theatre. I participated in almost all school productions and went on to attend workshops at the National School of Drama which became my stepping stone in professional acting. Luckily, I have supportive parents who always encouraged my dreams. My first big release was Kuku Mathur ki Jhand Ho Gayi (2014).

Camera...

One of my earliest exposures to how cinema works is how I had auditioned for a Yash Raj film with a broken foot!



I had to climb many stairs and dance to the song Bahara Bahara. I was just a kid in school. Looking back, I can now laugh at this experience. I landed my first feature film when I was 14 with director Abhishek Sharma, but my professional breakthrough came in 2018 with Raazi, directed by Meghna Gulzar. Working with such a brilliant director taught me how much precision and dedication filmmaking requires.

Action!

Theatre has always been my first love. I have performed in over 500 live shows of India's first musical - Zangoora. Theatre is about finding the truth in every role you play. Even if you're playing a negative role, you must be true to your character. Similarly, the thrill of being in

front of a film camera is unmatched. When I am doing a film scene, I feel like this is where I belong. On OTT, however, there's a lot more creative freedom. While working on a Netflix show, Leila, I improvised a scene by spitting on a shoe before polishing it. The director, Deepa Mehta, loved this and kept it in the final cut. Whichever medium it is, one must follow the director's vision.

No cuts to success

The biggest challenge in this profession is to learn patience. Once, I had to wait on the set for 16 hours straight, only to be sent home. But one just needs to stay resilient and keep trying. Auditions are a creative outlet for me. They sharpen my skills and help overcome creative blocks. As they say, "A winner is just someone who tried one more time."

Message for Amitians

You should do what you love but remain true to your values. As long as you're diligent, you don't have to worry. Secondly, you always must be ready to grow and be open to change.

Indo-Japan alliance

Bridging Culture And Empowering Minds

AUUP

n a significant step toward fostering international collab-Loration, a delegation from Hokkaido Prefecture, Japan, visited AUUP on January 23, 2025. The visit aimed to strengthen ties between Indian and Japanese institutions and industries, focusing on talent development, cultural exchange, and technological innovation.

The delegation included key representatives from renowned Japanese companies and organisations, such as Kazuaki Ikeda, director, International Affairs Division, and Akihito Kimura, senior specialist, Hokkaido Prefecture; Aki Minusa, senior official, Economic Strategy Promotion Division, Economic and Tourism Bureau; and Satoshi Sasaki, manager, Sapporo Industry Promotion Foundation. Business leaders from top Japanese firms,

including Takatoshi Hayashi, president, Yamako Industry Co Ltd; Eiki Satomi, president, Media Magic Inc; Osamu Watabe, executive officer, Daiwa Industrial Co Ltd; and Kiyotoshi Araki, manager, Sekisho Corporation, attended the event. Ryoichi Tomita, president, Sekisho Career Plus Co Ltd; Keita Shimizu, supervisor, Sekisho Career Plus Co Ltd; and Seko Hidehiro, project formulation advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) were also part of the delegation.

The alliance between AUUP and Hokkaido Prefecture primarily focused on enhancing global collaborations for talent development, aligning with India's vision of becoming an innovation-driven economy. It also provided students with comprehensive support systems to enhance their adaptability and cross-cultural communication skills. This holistic approach aims to nurture global leaders who can effectively contribute to India's international objectives.

During the visit, Kazuaki Ikeda, director, International Affairs Division at Hokkaido Prefecture, shared his enthusiasm for the collaboration. He expressed high hopes for the cultural and educational exchange and encouraged Amitians to actively participate in this initiative.

Prof (Dr) Balvinder Shukla, vice chancellor, AUUP, highlighted the university's longstanding commitment to global collaborations. She praised the efforts of Dr Anjani Kumar Bhatnagar, head, Amity Technical Placement Centre (ATPC), in forging this partnership. Further, she also acknowledged the visionary leadership of Dr Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, AUUP, who inaugurated the Japan Desk at ATPC to facilitate inter-



Dr Balvinder Shukla with delegates from Hokkaido Prefecture

national engagements.

The visit of Hokkaido Prefecture and the Japanese companies to Amity University was facilitated by Anupam Singh, assistant general manager, ATPC, who initiated the outreach and acted as the program convenor for the event. ATPC has been working closely with the Japanese Government and its various prefectures to provide opportunities to Amitians. The Japan Desk, inaugurated earlier, has played a pivotal role in

facilitating this collaboration with Hokkaido Prefecture.

The visit marks a milestone in the growing relationship between the two nations. This collaboration is expected to open new avenues for students, researchers, and professionals, fostering a spirit of innovation and cultural exchange. As both nations continue to strengthen their ties, initiatives like these will definitely play a crucial role in shaping a globally connected future. GT

Energy for future

Amitians On A Mission To Revolutionise Energy Generation

Varnika Pradhan & Aisha Bhargavi, AIS Saket, XI D

eet Priyansh Mohan and Stuti Kakkar, alumni of AIS Saket and co-founders of MEINE Electric, who are on a mission to revolutionise energy generation with their pathbreaking aluminium-air battery technology. In an exclusive interaction with GT, the duo shares their evolution from ambitious students to passionate advocates of sustainability.

Classroom to boardroom

"I was editor-in-chief of The Global Times and this amazing experience, along with the nurturing environment at Amity, was instrumental in shaping my aspirations," says Stuti. "In school, most students don't have a clear idea of what they want to do, but Amity provides exposure to multiple domains, making you comfortable with trying new things. That confidence helped us when we dared to launch a startup."

Powering MEINE dreams

"MEINE Electric started with small steps - pooling funds, participating in competitions, and experimenting with building EVs. The turning

point came when we understood how vast and critical the energy generation indus-

shares Priyansh. Adds Stuti, "Today, everything, from AirPods to EVs, requires charging. The question is, where does that electricity come from? Through the hard work of our team, advisors, mentors, investors, and the entire ecosystem, we cracked the main chemistry for our aluminium-air batteries. At MEINE Electric, we approach scalability from day one, ensuring our products are not only state-of-the-art but also efficient and cost-effective."

Decoding sustainability

"We've adopted a circular economy approach, focusing on reusing and recycling materials, like aluminium, to minimise waste. Further, we face challenges, especially when it comes to sourcing raw materials, but we're committed to making sure our impact is positive. Sustainability is at the core of everything we do. We want a world where neighbourhoods and even remote villages can produce and consume their own energy, cutting down the dependence on traditional power grids and bringing electricity to those who need it most."

Overcoming roadblocks

"The biggest challenge was money," admits the duo. "Initially, we used our prize money from varcompetitions. With a winning rate of 85%, we bootstrapped MEINE Electric

for more than a year before transitioning to VC funding. Compliance and legal procedures were another hurdles. Structuring a company, navigating due diligence, and meeting monthly investor requirements was a steep learning curve. Building a loyal, hardworking team was another challenge. Despite several hurdles, we've maintained momentum by building a strong team, securing the investors, and seeking guidance from seasoned advisors."

The right attitude

"The biggest lesson we have learnt is to move fast and keep building. Failure is inevitable, but success depends on tenacity and perseverance," say the young entrepreneurs, "We've undergone over 2,000 product iterations, filed for 18 patents, and have ten more in progress. Many people believe in our vision, so we have to keep pushing because great products often emerge from relentless experimentation. We also understand that people are the heart of any venture. This is why we prefer freshers with right mindset over someone with decades of experience and wrong attitude. For skills can be taught, but values and approach are harder to shape.

Message for Amitians

"Take advantage of the information available at the click of button but



Priyansh Mohan and Stuti Kakkar, co-founders, MEINE Electric

Aquatic marvels

■Blue whale, the largest animal on Earth, can grow up to 100 feet long and weigh around 200 tonnes, with its tongue weighing more than an entire elephant.





- ■Whale songs can travel for thousands of kilometres underwater. They use these songs to navigate and socialise across the vast oceans.
- ■The vampire squid, a gentle creature with black body and webbed arms, has the ability to turn itself inside out to avoid predators, exhibiting an intimidating appearance contradictory to its nature.



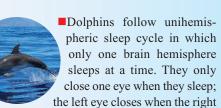
- ■The cuttlefish can communicate through an intricate display of changing skin colours and patterns, indicating aggression, camouflage etc.
- ■Boxfish do not have a bony skeleton like most vertebrates. They have a bone box, with their eyes, mouth, and fins protruding out of it.



■Crabs can 'taste' using hairs on its mouthparts, pincers, and its feet.

Lobsters can regenerate

some of their body parts like the claws, walking legs, and antennae. The new limbs, however, are smaller than the previous ones.



half of the brain sleeps, and vice versa.

On an average, sharks kill less than 20 humans per year whereas humans kill an estimated number of 11,500 sharks per hour.



■Shrimps are known to have a symbiotic relationship with fish and corals. They help clean parasites from fish's mouth and protect corals in exchange for food.

The erratic Amygdala

Revealing The Quirky Side Of Our Brain

Kamakshi Khandelwal

AIS Gurugram 43, XI D

ait, did I just hear a bark? Oh no, not today. We're taking the long way to school, even if it means missing the first period. Once bitten, twice shy, right? Honestly, why tempt fate when you've got me around to keep you safe? Trust me on this one. And what's this? She's winning again? Ten to zero? There's no way anyone scores that high without some divine intervention. Ugh, I hate tennis! (Cue dramatic racket toss and my dignified storm-off because that's how I roll under pressure). Fast forward to a kitchen showdown. The soda can refuses to budge. Who designed these things, a bodybuilder? Slam. Storm off. Repeat. You'd think I'd learn some patience, but hey, that's really not

even my department.

Hello, I'm Amygdala, the 'mother hen' of your brain's inner circle. I reside in a bustling sorority with my sisters

- Thalamustine (the gossip queen), Cerebrumeta (the smarty pants), and Hippocamprela (the nostalgia junkie). Together, we manage your unpredictable life, but let's face it, I'm the star of the show. My main gig? Protecting you from emotional and physical threats, sometimes even when they're imagined. Think of me as your built-in radar for danger. Whether it's dodging a stray dog or steering clear of that shady alley, I've got your back. Being the on call 24/7, keep-safe, sound, and a little parar guardian of emotions is no walk in the park. I'm on call 24/7, keeping you safe, sound, and a little paranoid. maybe just 🔊 Remember

nored me and touched that hot pan? Burnt hand. Or when you insisted on trying sushi despite my protests? Food poisoning. I mean, do you ever listen?

Sure, my warnings can be over-the-top like

convincing you that every shadow in your room is a monster, but hey, I err on the side of caution. Mother Gothel had it right when she said, "Amygdala knows best." Now, let's address the elephant in the room: my legendary 'hijacks.' Under stress, I take over, transforming you into a whirlwind of emotion. Ever thrown a

game board across the room after losing? Yeah, that was me. Ever felt your heart race, palms sweat, and stomach churn before a big exam? Also me. You're welcome. But don't get me wrong, my hijacks aren't meant to embarrass you (well, not always). They're my way of saying, "Hey, pay attention! This matters!" Without me, life would be a series of dull, emotionless events. Imagine calmly losing a game, what's the fun in that? I'm not just a guardian, I'm a celebrity. Agust D, the South Korean rapper, even wrote a song inspired by me. (No autographs, please.) My role in your emotional life is so iconic that people can't help but talk about me.

So, while my methods may seem a little extreme, they come from a place of care. I protect, guide, and yes, sometimes overreact, but wouldn't you rather have me around than face life's chaos alone?

> Yours (sometimes too) protectively, Amygdala gm



Saranya Kaw

AIS Noida, IX C

For many, coffee is an essential part of daily life. This beloved beverage fuels our energy, helping us face life's challenges and navigate through the sluggishdays. Coffee has long been a cornerstone of numerous cultures, and as its popularity grows, its

importance continues to rise. The stimulating effects, social benefits, and economic impact of coffee highlight its value in our lives.

Firstly, coffee is an excellent stimulant, enhancing brain and nervous system activity. It keeps us awake, alert, and energised, supporting productivity, combating fatigue, boosting focus and motivation. Did you know coffee lowers the risk of Parkinson's disease, heart disease, and even cleans the liver? Research shows that coffee can improve cognitive performance, response time, and even reduce the risk of conditions like depression.

Beyond its stimulating effects, coffee fosters meaningful social connections. Coffee shops and cafes have become the most popular gathering places for people to meet, socialise, or relax with friends. It creates a warm, welcoming atmosphere that brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds, forging strong relationships and lasting friendships.

Finally, the economic importance of coffee is undeniable. The coffee industry sustains millions of jobs globally and is a vital income source for many nations, especially those that rely on coffee bean production and exports.

In conclusion, coffee is more than just a beverage - it's an energiser, a social connector, and a key player in the global economy. Its impact on the modern lives is profound, making it an indispensable part of our daily routines.



Touch of serenity

Aayushi Singh
AIS VYC Lko, XI B

The embracing sun shyly rises With the dazzling bright light Making it a peaceful delight With the tranquility that resides

It clears the steps laid behind With my feet cosily inside I feel relief from my disguise It's wonderful nature, I see

Curing wounds that seem deep Moving sand gives glee feeling And sways melodious waves Like they are heaven's grace

The solemn wind comes to me Brings the soft sigh of relief With every little wave of sea It's the serenity that fills in me.

Best wishes for exams



Dr Amita Chauhan Chairperson

Board exams are here again, and my dear Amitians have already appeared for their first exam. This time of the year tests your nerves as you juggle academics, extracurriculars and personal growth. I wish you all success in achieving all your dreams, but most importantly, I wish for you an abundance of happiness. Be happy in whatever you strive for, knowing that you gave it your best shot. Be proud of your-

self, of the effort and hard work you have put throughout the year. Taking the board exams requires a lot of dedication and courage, and all of you have the mettle to come out with flying colours. You must trust yourself, and be assured that your hard work will definitely bear fruit. It is important not to worry about results, as true learning is a year-long journey, not a last-minute race.

I also want you to take good care of your health. Eat nutritious meals and stay hydrated as a healthy body fosters a sharp mind. Stress not only affects your physical health, but also your mental well-being. Always remember that exams can only evaluate your knowledge, not your worth as a human being. Life is a continuous process of learning and testing yourself, and boards are just the beginning. Yes, they are needed to instill resilience, confidence and discipline – qualities that will take you far in life. Accept this time with a sportsman's spirit, without fretting. Scoring well is important, but so is the pursuit of your passions and hobbies for overall growth. Board exams are only your first step towards greater achievements in life – so, enjoy the process with a smile!

Future for youth



Recently, a friend wanted to know if her son's article could be published in The Global Times, as he was preparing for an international exam that required his work to be featured in a newspaper. When I explained that we could not do so, since he was not an Amitian, it once again reinforced for me the exclusivity of GT. Indeed, ours is the only registered student newspaper in India, created entirely for and by Amitians. It is a testament to the vision-

years, it has been more than just a platform for students to express themselves – it has become an aspirational space. Each edition reflects the creativity and passion of Amitians, shaping them into confident individuals ready to take on the world. Our contest editions push editorial benchmarks higher each year, and the Youth Power teams rally behind important social causes. In fact, GT's impact resonates even after school years. Many Amitians, who were once part of GT, are now shining in their chosen fields and have always credited the newspaper for their excellent presentation, communication, and teamwork. Recently, I met alumni Stuti Kakkar and Priyansh Mohan, co-founders of MEINE Electric, (read page 4) a groundbreaking startup that has secured funding from a Chennai-based company. Both attributed this milestone to the ecosystem of learning inherent in all the exclusive programs envisioned by our Chairperson ma'am, including The Global Times. Indeed, the legacy of excellence continues even when Amitians fly the nest, and I feel really proud that GT serves as the wind beneath their wings. GT

ary leadership of our Chairperson ma'am, and for more than 15



Survival of the fittest?

Well, It Is More Like The Survival Of The Chillest

Ekam Sibia, AIS Gur 46, X I

harles Darwin, bless his cravat, the man who brought us the theory of evolution and 'survival of the fittest', would likely be rolling in his grave if he saw the state of modern humanity. Here's the thing, Charlie (can I call you Charlie?), your whole 'fittest survive' business seems a tad outdated in the era of ergonomic chairs and unlimited chips.

In the animal kingdom, it's a gladiator arena - the strongest, fastest, sneakiest creatures reign supreme, leaving the slowpokes and the fashionably challenged to become lion kibble. Makes perfect sense, right? But you have never met a millennial. The modern world has thrown a giant, fluffy beanbag chair at the whole 'survival of the fittest' concept. We're a generation that thrives on takeout and on avoiding anything remotely strenuous. Our motto? 'Work smarter, not harder' which translates loosely to 'delegate everything to a robot while we perfect our

bed-rotting game'. The fittest in 2024 are the ones who can master the art of "strategic napping" under fluorescent lights and convince their boss they were 'just brainstorming with their eyes closed'. And not to mention that the fittest human now has a perfectly curated online persona that screams 'success' even if their bank account sings a different tune.

Take, for instance, the gazelle. In Darwin's day, it was all about outrunning the cheetah. These days, the gazelle would probably just whip out its smartphone, order a ride-sharing cheetah with a five-star rating, and be munching on metaphorical grass before the real cheetah even showed up. Here's how Darwin's theory gets lost in translation in the 21st century. Natural selection? More like natural selection of the most comfortable Netflix queue. Strength? From the time when the strongest dude got the most food to tapping a button, and a feast arrives.

Think about it. We've engineered a world where weakness is not just tolerated, it's celebrated. We have par-

ticipation trophies for everyone, elevators for climbing one measly flight of stairs, and self-checkout lanes so that even the socially awkward can avoid human interaction. Darwin would be having a conniption. Here he was, picturing a world where only the toughest survive, and we're all out here surviving on naps

and existential memes.

But hey, maybe Darwin was onto something after all. Maybe in the modern world, the 'fittest' are the ones who can adapt the best. The ones who can master the art of the perfectly curated online persona while simultaneously binging reality TV. Maybe 'survival of the most comfortable' or 'survival of those who can fake it till they make it' would be more fitting for our modern, Netflix-binging, carpal tunnel-inducing world.

But hey Charles, thanks for the whole evolution thing. It's pretty cool, even if we've become a bunch of glorified useless and egoistic mess of what we call a 'human' in the entire process.

Dear Editor,

The making of a contest edition is a sojourn, a stay with fresh ideas wafting our mental space. During the ideation process, the team knew its motives. It knew that a platform of expression is paled if new information and well written perspectives on controversies does not ink the papers. After the process of rejection and re-evaluation, the topics finalised were all to be contented with. We remain grateful to The Global Times team as they always drift us to our innate writing geniuses. As the drafts went by,



and so did the meetings to refine them, the initial foresight of our Contest Edition formed its black and white basis, however, still lacking a splash of colour. We struck gold with our graphics and art department as they filled in the room for visual galore with ample finesse. With its final release, the AIS PV Contest Edition was all it could have been - balanced, novel, and bound by heartstrings.

Harshil Bedi, AIS PV, XI B



Shroom for more

A hidden world beneath your feet, a realm in the bark of trees, in numerous shapes, colours, and sizes, mushrooms have captivated human beings for centuries. Discover the incredible diversity of mushrooms and learn the most fascinating facts about these weird and wonderful fungal creations of nature.

Gucchi mushroom

Scientific name: Morchella esculenta Found in: Gucchi mushrooms grow in the foothills of the Himalayas, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarak-

hand, and Himachal Pradesh in coniferous and deciduous forests, as well as alpine pastures.

Look and taste: These delectable fungi, also known as morel mushrooms, have spongy, perforated caps that are often yellowish white in colour. They are renowned for their rich, meaty flavour and delicate texture.

Mushroomy tidbit: These mushrooms are one of the most expensive mushrooms in the world. Gucchi mushrooms are considered a delicacy in many parts of the world. Due to their scarcity and short growing seasons, they are sold at a premium price, often selling for 30,000 INR per kilogram in India.

Lion's Mane mushroom

Scientific name: Hericium erinaceus

Found in: It can be found on hardwood trees throughout the stretches of North America, Asia, and Europe.

Look and taste: The

Lion's Mane mushroom is known for its appearance.

It has long, shaggy spines that cascade down from a central point, like hair, but thicker. It is typically white or cream coloured and has a round shape. This mushroom has a delicate texture and a unique seafood like flavour.

Mushroomy tidbit: This mushroom is packed with several nutrients like protein, vitamins B, C, and D. It is also used as a seafood substitute, particularly for vegetarians and vegans. It is known by several other names, including Bearded Tooth, Hedgehog, and Pom Pom mushroom.



Scientific name: Amanita phalloides Found in: The Death Cap mushroom is native to Europe but can also be found from North Africa to the south coast of Scandinavia and from Ireland to Poland and

western Russia. Look and taste: This mushroom has a distinctive white or pale-yellow cap, often with a greenish or brownish tint. It has a long, white stem with a ring around it and a cup-like structure at the base. These mushrooms are sweet smelling when young, but a strong odour develops as they age.

Mushroomy tidbit: It is considered the most poisonous mushroom in the world. It contains α-amanitin, a toxin that can cause severe liver and kidney damage. Ingesting as little as half a mushroom can be fatal to an adult human. 90% of mushroom related fatalities worldwide are caused by the Death Cap.

Chaga mushroom

Scientific name: Inonotus

Found in: It is commonly found in Northern Europe, Siberia, Russia, Korea, Northern Canada, and Alaska nd taste: This

mushroom is popular in the Western world due to its potential health benefits. It has a brown black, charred appearance, similar to burnt charcoal, and an earthy flavour with a slight bitterness.

Mushroomy tidbit: The Chaga mushroom has been used for centuries in Siberia and other parts of Asia as a traditional medicine to boost immunity and improve overall health. It was traditionally grated into a fine powder and brewed as tea, for a dose of antioxidants.



Scientific name: Panellus stipticus

Found in: The Bitter Oyster mushroom is a widely distributed species found in Asia, Australia, Europe, and North America. It usually grows in groups or dense overlapping

clusters on the logs, stumps, and trunks of deciduous trees, particularly beech, oak, and

Look and taste: Identified by its fan-shaped cap, Bitter Oyester mushroom is typically white or cream-coloured and has a slightly bitter taste, although it should not be ingested. It has a short, sturdy stem and gills that run down the length of the cap.

Mushroomy tidbit: The Bitter Oysters from eastern North America are known to emit a faint, greenish glow in the dark. Genetic analysis has shown that several chemicals, including luciferin and luciferase, are responsible for this glow.





A ruminating voice



Shivanjali Sapra, AIS Saket, X A

he sun was shining bright, and I was excited to meet my forest friends-the giant elephant, the chirpy birds, the jumpy monkey, the tiny caterpillar and others. Just then, a knock on the door startled me. Peeping through the window, I saw Jumpy Monkey, who warned me that my stepmother, the Queen, was hunting for me. Fear gripped me, but I consoled myself with thoughts of the charming prince I had befriended.

My heart pounded as I debated whether to step outside. Within this period, another knock on the door sent a shiver down my spine. Gathering my courage,

I checked again and, to my surprise, saw a beautiful horse, probably there to quench its thirst. And how could I not help the animal as it was no different than my other forest friends.

So, I took it to the stream flowing near to the hill. As the horse quenched its thirst, I caught my reflection in the water - my eyes showed both a will to live and the terror of being hunted.

After some time, I returned to the cottage. However, I was petrified to see that it was all a mess again. Footsteps echoed, and when I opened the door, the same horse stood inside. "How did it get in?" I wondered. Then, it spoke: "Climb on my back, and I shall promise you a long life. Stay here, and I'll

As the horse quenched its thirst, I caught my reflection in the water my eyes showed both a will to live and the terror of being hunted. stood inside

leave you under a curse." With no choice, I obeyed. I heard footsteps other than mine.

It took me to a banyan tree next to the hill, and the horse disappeared. Suddenly, a leaf fell on me with a message: "Come back!" "Who is calling me back? How in the world did I get here?" I thought to myself. As I touched the leaf, my body trembled as if melting. My head felt heavy, and distant, indistinct sounds reached my ears. The same tune repeated until I finally understood: "Snow White is the fairest of them all." "No. That can't be!" Then I heard someone else. It was a man's voice, my prince's voice! He said, "Come back, my princess, and live here." I opened my eyes to see my prince leaning over me, his eyes brimmed with tears. "Snow White, it had been so long, I thought you were never going to come back to me," said the prince. I looked at him and my surroundings, bewildered, still captured in a daze. I glanced at the hill and saw all my forest friends with tears of joy in their eyes as they hugged one another. Yes, the dreadful days were finally over. GII

WORDS VERSE

Fading dreams

Hridika, AIS Gurugram 43, IX B

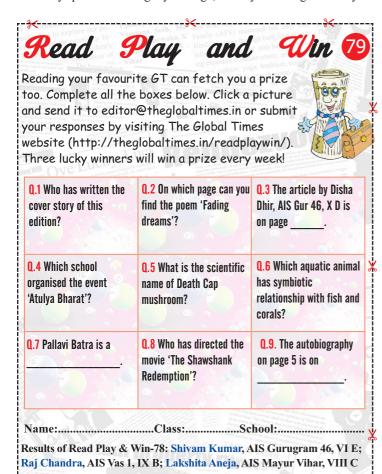
Such sweet old childhood dreams In the glow of golden afternoons Where laughter danced as fireflies Chasing shadows beneath the skies

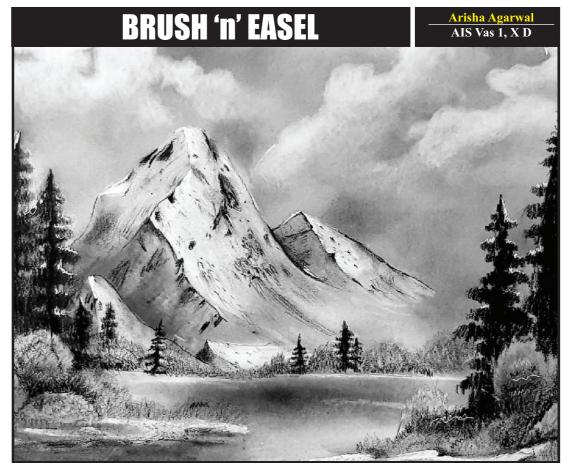
In the twilight's embrace, we'd roam Beneath an azure sky painted in gold We'd dance in fields, hearts at ease And wildflowers whispered to breeze

We'd chase clouds where winds blow Time was a river, flowing soft & slow With paper boats sailing on the stream Alas, we've grown and all was a dream

Those faint echoes of nostalgic laughs They would still shimmer and gleam In warm murmurs and gentle whispers Of our sweet old childhood dreams.







The forgotten note



Saanvi Jain, AIS Mayur Vihar, VIII C

ne day, a teenage girl named Emily, who lived in a small town, was walking home from school when she saw a small, folded piece of paper on a park bench and picked it up. It was a note written in a shaky handwriting. "Please know that you are not alone. There is always hope, even in the darkest of times. You are loved." Emily was touched by the note's message, so she kept it, wondering who had written it. That night, Emily couldn't stop pondering about the note and all the people who might benefit

from it. She decided to spread the kindness by leaving notes around the town. She spent the next evening writing notes and left one on the park bench and another one in the local coffee shop. Emily continued to leave notes around town, and soon people noticed her doing so and started writing back to her.

One Saturday, when Emily went to the local coffee shop to leave another note, the barista surprised her with a note that was left for her, instead. It read: "Dear Emily, I found one of your notes in this coffee shop a few weeks ago. I was having a really hard time, and your note gave me

That night, Emily couldn't stop pondering about the note and all the people who might benefit from it. She decided to spread the kindness by leaving notes around town.

hope. Thank you. It meant a lot." Emily was **exhilarated** to hear that her notes were making a difference.

The more notes Emily left; the more people wrote back to her. They told her their stories and thanked her for the hope she had given them. Emily realised that her simple act had created a community of hope and happiness.

A year later, she returned to the park bench where it had all began. To her surprise, there was another note waiting for her. It was from the person who had written the original note. The letter read:"Dear Emily, I never thought anyone would find my note. I was going through a tough time and did not know where to turn. But seeing your notes around town, and hearing how they've impacted others, has given me hope. Thank you for what you're doing. You're making a huge difference in so many lives."

Emily was overjoyed to hear from the person who had written the note that had inspired her. She knew that her journey had come full circle and realised that a few words can change someone's life.

So, what did you learn today?

A new word: Exhilarated

Meaning: To be very

excited and happy



His strength and love

Aditri Dash, AIS Navi Mumbai, IX A

A bond so strong and true A father's love shines through In every smile and every tear A bond that's always near

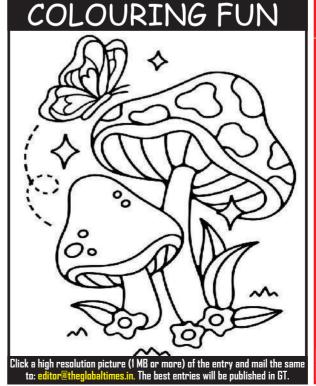
With a gentle touch of a hand He leads his child across the land Teaching them to stand and fall And always be strong and tall

His heart beats faster and bright With joy and love in one sight For the little ones he adores And the memories they create

Through laughter and tears He's there to wipe away fears Showers them with love and light Every single day and night

His love is so pure and true A magical thing for all to view And with this love, they'll grow And shine with the brightest glow.







Writing is an art and there's no better platform to exercise it than your own beloved GT! To unleash the writer in you, GT brings you a new topic every time and asks for your views on the same. Here are some intriguing responses from the young writers at Amity for the prompt...

Pop culture trickles from the confines of media that is consumed deliriously in society. Naturally, the academic study of such subjects is often viewed as superficial. However, these courses are not simply grazing the shallow depths of media but dissecting what society tends to engage with. All media reflects society and there is as much substance in lyrics as there is in literature. All that matters is to decide where value must be embedded."

Shambhavi Sharma, AIS PV, XI F

"When Harvard analyses Taylor Swift's lyrics and NYU honours Lana Del Rey's artistry, it exceeds mere fandom. Such classes unravel how music, film, and art are mirrors of our values, identities, and struggles. Some critics might consider these studies insignificant, but they are connecting points between academia and the fabric of our world. These courses challenge to view such culture not as mere distraction, but as reflective of our most intimate selves."

Ojas Gupta, AGS Noida, IB2

"Through pop culture, we can learn about our values and beliefs. Taylor Swift's songs can reveal people's opinions about love, heartbreak, and growing up. Moreover, the value of these courses lies on the way they are taught. If the courses are taught thoughtfully, they can be a great way to learn about the world around us, helping to connect pop culture to bigger ideas."

Remisha Verma, AIS MV, IX B

As universities offer courses on analysing song lyrics, emphasis is being given to pop culture as a mirror of society. However, these courses tread the fine line between true analysis of pop culture's influence and trivialising it by merely indulging in fandoms. With scholarly objectives, they may evolve to be something much more than merely niche interests." Advika Singh, AIS VKC Lko, XII C

"Poets have been lauded for their skill to put forth impactful messages through their art. Similarly, many directors, musicians, and artists imbibe powerful messages in their art. So, why is it that when it comes to pop culture, it holds no significance? Pop culture is everywhere – from music and films to the local eateries and grocery stores. Isn't that something quite far away from 'superficial pursuits'?"

Diya Kerur, AIS Gur 46, XI J

"The pedagogical analysis of pop culture provides useful insights into contemporary society. Taylor Swift's songs deal with issues of love, whereas Lana Del Rey's music encompasses aspects such as nostalgia and twisted femininity. Analysing these courses also allow the application of critical theories, feminism, post-colonialism, and media studies to reflect societal structures as well as provide insights on modern problems and issues."

Vedangi Mago, AIS Mohali, X A

With universities like Harvard analysing Taylor Swift's lyrics, NYU offering a course on Lana Del Rey's artistry, and USC examining the Marvel Cinematic Universe, the academic study of pop culture

is becoming increasingly common. Do such courses provide meaningful insights into society and culture, or do they risk being seen as superficial pursuits?



"Pop culture offers a captivating lens which can examine the intricacies of human society. From the silver screen to the streaming service, from chart-topping hits to viral sensations, it reflects our values, beliefs, and aspirations. In essence, it is a dynamic tapestry woven from the threads of human creativity and collective consciousness. By delving into its depths, we can unravel the mysteries of our shared humanity."

Siddhi Rajoriya, AIS Gwalior, XII A

"Mainstream culture studies run the risk of being dismissed as shallow endeavours devoid of the intellectual rigour. Such studies may draw attention away from more urgent subjects like history, philosophy, or science by concentrating on transient patterns rather than long-lasting societal problems. Instead of delivering valuable cultural insights, these services run the risk of being written off as pandering as institutions aggressively promote themselves to draw students."

Aarnavi Singh, AIS VYC Lko, XI B

"In an era where we analyse the hidden meaning behind old paintings, literary proses, and poems, it is fair to take present art forms into consideration. Although viewed as superficial pursuits, they can add to the value of literature, bringing fresh perspectives on which road to be taken and enriching the youth about certain experiences in a much charming way. Life is all about growing and evolving, so why not move ahead with time, embracing the trends and learning from them. Hence, with the correct selection of artists, such courses can be deemed fruitful."

Sharanya Dobhal, AIS Vas 6, XI E

"Such courses offer valuable insights into contemporary values, societal issues, and identity formation. They explore themes like gender, politics, mental health, and representation. Ultimately, the value of such courses depends on their execution. When taught with a focus on critical analysis and societal relevance, they can provide fruitful insights into the cultural forces shaping our world."

Samaira Ankit Prasad, AIS Vas 1, IX A



"The academic study of pop culture proposes profound insights into contemporary society, helping students develop critical thinking skills while understanding how entertainment shapes cultural narratives. Swift's lyrics • reflect evolving views on feminism, while Marvel films tackle themes like moral responsibility. It's • about understanding who we are as a culture."

Anvi Adita Mohanty, AIS Noida, XI C

Pop culture courses are maps to our collective psyche. When studied deeply, they reveal how myths are born, how identities are shaped, and how we evolve in a world of constant flux. But if treated superficially, it risks trivialising its own potential. The challenge lies in peeling back its layers and proving that the ordinary is profoundly extraordinary."

Sarah Mehta, AIS Saket, XI E

"Studying contemporary lifestyle in academia" unpacks the societal values woven into modern media. These courses inspire critical thinking and connect students to the cultural pulse of society. Critics may label them as trivial, yet their true value lies in rigorous analysis. When grounded in scholarly inquiry, such studies illuminate how pop culture reflects the human experience, transforming entertainment into a profound lens for exploring the intricacies of modern life."

Advika Singh, AIS Jagdishpur, IX C



> "Interpreting pop culture from an academic perspective gives significant insights into our society. By fusing sociology, media analysis, and literature, these courses promote interdisciplinary learning and close the gap between the classroom and realworld experiences. At the end of it all, these courses are meaningful explorations of the social tapestry spun by media."

Chhavi Gupta, AIS Gur 43, XI C

"There is a rise in academic discourse over pop culture, as the interest in high culture courses is waning. Is the intellectual aristocracy gradually dying, or is pop culture the new superior? Because whether one likes it or not, in truth, like Thanos, pop culture is inevitable, and unfortunately for the cognoscenti, there is no Iron Man to snap this fact away." Vageesha Vashishtha, AIS Navi Mumbai, X B

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National science exhibition

A Showcase Of Innovation By Scientists In Making

ACSF

mity International School Gurugram 46 proudly hosted the three day CBSE National Science Exhibition from Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2025. Organised under the aegis of Amity Children's Science Foundation, an initiative of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF - the exhibition was inaugurated by Rahul Singh (IAS), chairman, CBSE, as the chief guest.

The event showcased exceptional scientific acumen and creativity of students from 429 schools across India. The young scientists showcased innovative spirit, creativity, and intellectual curiosity through their impressive projects and ex-

hibitions aligned with the theme 'Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'. The subthemes included: Food, Health and Hygiene, Transport and Communication, Natural Farming, Disaster Management, Mathematical Modelling and Computational Thinking, Waste Management and Resource Management. The projects were judged by a panel of distinguished judges from the field of Science and Technology.

Two projects from Amity Group of Schools were featured at the exhibition. Among them, 'Thermoelectric Generator' by Akshaj Hans and Akshita Gupta (XI) of AIS Gurugram 46 secured first place in Category II under the Disaster Management sub-theme. The other project on display was

'Natural Tabs' by Om Naik and Kartikey Sinha (X) of AIS Saket under natural farming category.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan along with Himanshu Gupta, CBSE secretary, as the chief guest and Dr Pragya M Singh, director academics, CBSE as the guest of honour. All the winners were felicitated with prizes and were appreciated for their commendable efforts, innovative spirit and scientific acumen.

Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe attended the event virtually along with Manoj Srivastava, director training CBSE; Al Hilal Ahmed, joint secretary, CBSE and other eminent heads from Amity Group of Schools.GI

Acing the AP exam











ACCGC

he Amity Career Counselling and Guidance Cell in collaboration with the College Board, organised 2024 International AP Workshop (India) from December 5 - 6, 2024 at Amity University, Noida. The event was organised for the first time in India, with an aim to equip educators with deeper insights into Advanced Placement (AP) programmes and enhance their expertise in various AP subjects. Amity's association with the College Board goes back to more than a decade with all 17 Amity International and Global Schools having received the CEEB CODE. as a mark of global recognition.

Over 100 educators from India, the UAE, Bhutan, China, and Kazakhstan attended AP workshops conducted by experienced AP consultants from the College Board, USA. Key experts included Angela Jensvold (Physics), Brian Wagner (Calculus), Cassidy Schatz (Precalculus), Dr Lee Kucera (Statistics), Uma Devi





Garimella (Biology), Gary Pet-

mecky (Economics) and Nancy Fenton (Psychology).

The sessions provided educators with strategies for excelling in AP exams, utilising AP classroom resources, fostering critical thinking, and effectively practicing past exam papers. Experts emphasised on the importance of solving AP style questions, reviewing previous years' papers, and employing innovative teaching methods to help students grasp complex concepts, particularly in human behaviour and mental processes. The educators also participated in classroom simulations to refine their teaching methodologies. This was followed by a Q&A sessions, allowing teachers to clarify doubts, share experiences, and foster a collaborative learning en-



It's springtime

AIS Mayur Vihar

The school celebrated Basant Panchami festival as Vasant Utsav on February 3, 2025. On the occasion, students of Class I - V along with teachers and school principal Meenu Kanwar participated in havan. Each student took turns to make offerings and chanted gayatri mantra. They offered marigold flowers, pens, and pencils to Goddess Saraswati, seeking her blessings for wisdom and intellect. Thereafter, children were served prasad.

In the Kiddies Kitchen, yellow rice was specially prepared to mark the occasion of Basant Panchami and distributed to students of Class I & II. They were also informed about the significance of consuming yellow rice on this day. While the students of Class III - V engaged in a kite making activity wherein, they crafted beautiful paper kites and decorated them creatively. GT

Our heritage, our pride





AIS VKC Lucknow

he school organised 'Atulya Bharat', a cultural showcase celebrating India's rich heritage on December 21, 2024. Students from Class I -VIII presented the diverse cultural, culinary and natural heritage of West Bengal, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu through vibrant performances.

Students from Class III & IV mesmerised the audience with folk dance and song presentations from all the four states. On the other hand, Class VI - VIII showcased models and handicrafts of these states. They dressed up in the traditional attire of the mentioned

states and weaved stories depicting their culture, adaptations to modern world, flora, fauna, lifestyle and occupation, etc.

The cultural event concluded with address by school principal Rachna Mishra, where she appreciated the efforts of students and encouraged them to promote the rich heritage of India further.

Chole bhature for life

A Mental Rollercoaster Ride With The Great Indian Dish

Manushree Chauhan, AIS Noida, X K

h, chole bhature – the North Indian delight that can send your taste buds into a frenzy and your mind on a wild ride. It's a culinary rollercoaster that takes you through peaks of ecstasy and valleys of remorse. Let's dive into the hysterical intricacies of what goes on in our minds as we indulge in this delectable duo.

The adrenaline rush

The moment you spot that sizzling plate of chole bhature, your brain releases a surge of dopamine. Your mouth waters, your stomach growls, and your mind starts racing. You're torn between the rational part of your brain, whispering about health and fitness, and the hedonistic part, screaming, "Just eat it! We can always work out later" (Spoiler alert: Later never comes.)

The indecisive mind

Before you even dig in, your mind plays a cruel trick on you. You start questioning your order. "Should I have gone for the butter chicken instead?" Your brain, another dose of dopamine, making you a master of self-doubt, conjures up images of other dishes, making you momentarily regret your choice. But the aroma of the chole, the golden-brown bhature, and the tantalising chutney quickly quells these doubts. The price also helps clear all the doubts because honestly, butter chicken could never.

The euphoria of the first bite

The first bite is a revelation. The tangy, spicy chole, the soft, fluffy bhature, and the cooling raita - it's a symphony of flavours that sends JUST FOR your taste buds into overdrive. Your brain rewards you with

feel incredibly satisfied. The temporary happiness is always much appreciated.

The guilt trip

As you indulge in the second, third, and fourth plate, a sense of guilt starts creeping in. Your brain reminds you of your fitness goals, and the impending doom of a food coma. But you ignore these warnings, justifying your gluttony with the excuse, "I'll start my diet tomorrow." *New year's resolution has left the chat*

The aftermath

Post-chole bhature, your brain is in a state of shock. You feel bloated, lethargic, and guilty. You vow to never eat chole bhature again, only to be tempted by the mere thought of it the next day. And the cycle continues.

The endless cycle

Despite the guilt and the discomfort, the love affair with chole bhature goes on and on (congratulations on your 10th anniversary, by the way.) It's a constant battle between desire and discipline. And every time, the desire wins.

So, the next time you indulge in this delicious dish, remember that your brain is on a wild ride, from excite-

ment to guilt, and excitement again. But hey, life's too short to resist good food. Just make sure to balance it out with a healthy dose of exercise and moderation. And not to miss, chole are healthy

anyway. Right?

Movie Review

A masterpiece of hope

Movie: The Shawshank Redemption **Directed by:** Frank Darabont Released on: September 22, 1994 Starring: Tim Robbins, Morgan Freeman, Bob Gunton, William Sadler Genre: Drama

Synopsis: The movie, based on Stephen King's 1982 novella 'Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption', follows the story of Andy Dufresne, a banker. Andy receives two consecutive life sentences for the murder of his wife and her lover, a crime he did not commit. After his conviction, Andy is sent to Shawshank State Penitentiary, despite his pleas of 'not guilty' he has to live out his punishment. Once inside, Andy first keeps to himself, but later befriends Red, a fellow inmate. They both, along with other

inmates, experience the brutality of prison life and cope with the day-to-day life inside prison. Spoiler alert: One day Andy finds his own redemption after spending over two decades inside. Watch the movie to find out how.

Why is it watch-worthy:

This movie is not just a drama, it makes you think about life and the meaning of freedom. There's a reason why the film continues to be at the top of IMDb's ranking of the top 1000 films, even after 30 years of its initial release. Although neither experimental nor daring, the drama's seamless plot flow gives viewers a strange sense of satisfaction as it delves into the power of friendship. The movie ends up inspiring us with a sense of hope, emotion, and the true meaning of friendship. The bond



between Andy and Red, and the power-packed performances by Robins and Freeman are remarkable, making it a mustwatch for everyone.

Iconic dialogue: "Remember, Red, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies."

Rating: 4.5/5

Review by: Amatra Sejwal AIS Saket, XI D

GT Travels to Prayagraj



Ativeer Rajput, V A & Maahira Rajput, IV B, AIS Saket, pose with their copy of The Global Times at Mahakumbh Mela, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. Occurring once every 144 years, Maha Kumbh mela is recognised by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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