## THE GLOBAL TIMES

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# The rhythms of society

### Exploring The Harmonious Notes Of When Music Blends With Humanity

Mansimar Kaur, AIS Gur 46, XII D

eyond the confines of pleasure and laughter prompted by the whimsy of often misheard lyrics, music emerges as an unequivocal force that weaves itself into the fabric of our lives and societal tapestry. Traversing this soulful realm, it is easy to realise that music is not only a source of enjoyment but also a force that shapes culture, defines identities, and drives the most crucial socio-political conversations of our time.

### **Tunes shaping identities**

For centuries, music has been emblematic of one's cultural identity. When one hears bagpipes, they immediately recognise it as Scottish music. When a tabla is being played in the background of any foreign movie, you know it's referencing to Indian culture. Different genres of music stand as representatives of various cultures. Reggae music represents Jamaican culture as much as Punjabi or Pahadi folk music represent the culture of their respective states. Other than resonating the cultural ethos of a community, music plays a significant role in shaping generations as a whole. Today, it isn't uncommon to hear words like Swiftie, Directioner, and BTS ARMY, all terms representing an entire identity formed by just the collective appreciation of an artist.

**Communities in resonance** Eric Nam, a K-pop artist, and song pro-Life Goes On by BTS topping the English-dominated Bill-Illustration: board Hot 100 chart. Chahat Garg, XII D, hits like Despacito Ishani Verma, IX H & Mannat Singh, XII S2, and Taki Taki still col-AIS Gur 46 lecting views, songs like Je Te Laisserai De Mots and Džanum

TikTok – it's evident that we enjoy music in foreign languages, too, even if we don't understand the lyrics. This recent trend of crosscultural collaborations in music has brought communities closer as people discover more about other demographics. Indian artist Diljit Dosanjh, who recently became the first Indian to perform at Coachella, collaborated with Sia in his single Hass Hass (where Sia sang in Punjabi,

widely trending on Instagram reels and

no less!), encouraging people to delve into his discography. The most impressive example of such collaborations, however, is Echo, a song enriched with the vocals of Armaan Malik.

an Indian

artist

duction by KSHMR, an Indo-American DJ. When people of different ethnicities come together to create music, it serves as a testament to how music transcends and triumphs the confines of language.

### **Political notes**

Music is also a powerful tool to convey political ideas, and history has been a witness to that. 1792, thousands of volunteers in the French Revolution sang along to La Marseillaise, a song that reflected the invasion of France by foreign militias. Soon, it became the rallying call for the revolution and later became the official national anthem of the country. In

India, too, songs like Vande Mataram, Mera Rang De Basanti Chola, and Qadam Qadam Badhaye

Ja were vital in igniting nationalist

spirit during India's freedom struggle. Today, political parties across the world use music to collect votes by broadcasting jingles.

### **Striking the right chords**

The impact of music has enabled musicians to be at the forefront of social movements and use their talent to raise awareness about social and geopolitical issues including war, poverty, ecology etc. In the 1950s and 1960s, African American artists such as Nina Simone, Billie Holiday, and Sam Cooke highlighted the need for equality and justice through their music during the civil rights movement in the USA. In fact, Hum Honge Kamyab is a literal translation of the 1963 record We Shall Overcome by Joan Baez written for the civil rights movement. Moreover, brands have also used music to promote awareness for social causes. In 2016, Nestle India collaborated with the well-known music trio Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy to recreate the 2006 song School Chalein Hum to show the importance of education for girls. Now that's the hymn to change the world!

Music has an all-encompassing effect on us - socially, politically, and culturally. It brings and binds communities together while evolving constantly, even if, at times, our Spotify is stuck on replay.

Page editor: Mansimar Kaur, AIS Gurugram 46, XII D

In light of South Africa's genocide case against Israel, do you think International Court of Justice's verdict can change the course of Israel-Hamas war?

b) No

c) Can't say

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

Happy Republic Day!

This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Gurugram 46, 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 seventh edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2023-24'.

### What's inside

Seriously funny, P3

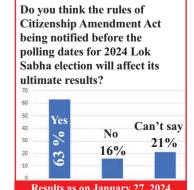
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**@ POLL RESULT** 

for GT Edition January 15, 2024

@the global times

### Around The WARLD

GT keeps the newswire ticking by bringing you news from around the globe



### **CHINA**

### **Disasters strike**

At least 11 people have been killed and 47 more are feared to be trapped as a landslide struck the Zhenxiong County in Yunnan province of the country. As sub-zero temperatures are expected in the area, president Xi Jinping has ordered an "all-out" rescue mission: so far more than 500 people have been evacuated from the region and about 1,000 rescuers, with 45 rescue dogs and 120 vehicles, have been sent off to the location. Separately, a 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit the Wushu County, accounting for about six injured people as well as more than 120 houses being damaged.





### **JAPAN**

### No merger for Sony-Zee

Sony Group Corporation has called off the ten billion USD merger of India's Zee **Entertainment Enterprises Ltd** with Sony Pictures Networks India Private Ltd (now known as Culver Max Entertainment Ltd). The Sony Group Corp. has demanded the termination of the merger agreement, which was finalised in December 2021, seeking the termination fee of 90 million USD on the account of alleged breaches by ZEE, and "invoking arbitration against the company and seeking emergency interim reliefs."



### CANADA

### Cap on student permit

Amidst a housing crisis, Canada has announced a two-year cap on international student permits,



claiming that it will stop granting work permits to postgraduate students of some institutions. Expected to result in 3,60,000 study permits in 2024, this cap will cause a decrease of 35%. The federal govt plans to work with the provinces to enforce the cap as it is to protect students from underresourced institutions which provide inadequate services at high costs.





### **CAMEROON**

### World's first malaria vaccine

World's first routine vaccine programme against malaria has been launched by Cameroon, making it one of the 20 African countries planning to introduce the drug. The RTS,S malaria vaccine, developed by GSK, has been backed by WHO. It underwent trials in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi as it acts against P. falciparum, the deadliest strain spread by anopheles mosquitoes, the most common one in Africa.





### **ZIMBABWE**

### 160 elephants dead

At least 160 elephants have died in the Hwange National Park as drought conditions struck the country. According to Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority, preliminary results show that the elephants have died due to starvation, with the lack of water, nutrition, and low temperatures as the key contributors. Further, the wildlife experts believe that with the rising temperature, more deaths are likely to occur.

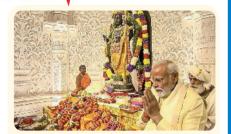




### UAE

### **WED Innovation Lab**

Abu Dhabi's Early Childhood Authority organised the WED Innovation Lab from January 22 to 26, 2024. Held under the patronage of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and others, the Innovation Lab welcomed over 30 regional and international experts. Coming from diverse sectors, the experts worked together to pave way for innovative outcomes and ensure a world-class child-friendly ecosystem for children around the world.





### INDIA

### **Pran Pratishtha ceremony**

On January 22, 2024, PM Modi performed Pran Pratishtha ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol inside the sanctorum of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The 51-inchtall idol, sculpted by the skilled sculptor Arun Yogiraj from Mysuru, captures the likeness of a fiveyear-old Lord Ram, carved from a single block of stone. Over 8,000 guests, from political leaders, sportspersons, industrialists to actors, attended the ceremony.

News Flash

► Turkey: Approval of Sweden's NATO membership bid after 20 months' delay ► France: Record number for asylum requests in 2023, 8% higher than previous year ▶ Iran: Sorayya satellite successfully launched

Anshu Mor - The Man With A Dash Of Humour

Nandini Aggarwal, XII D & Ranya Sharma, XI G, AIS Gur 46

nshu Mor is an Indian standup comedian who found his true **L**mojo in his 40s when he quit his job at Microsoft and followed his passion for comedy. Since then, he has done more than 700 shows and raked in over 40M views on his YouTube videos, Read on as he shares with GT what motivates him to excel and more importantly, what it takes to make people laugh.



Phave enjoyed every bit of my 18 years long corporate life, but I felt the need to do what I truly loved - to make people laugh. I was hugely inspired by the film 'Tamasha', which reinforced the idea that one needs to figure out what they want to do in life. The support from my wife was immediate, and even though my son's main concern was, "where would I get all the games from?" post my departure from heading the Xbox business at Microsoft, everyone was surprisingly supportive.



I had just quit and I walked into Canvas Laugh Club where the club owners were probably more amused than impressed. Fortunately, they granted me a spot and



the first show itself was a soaring success. However, just days later, I returned to a room with only 15 people where my jokes were met with deadpan silence. The road to success, it turns out, was paved with that occasional tumble into the pit of comedic despair.

### Style quotient

My style is very urban; I switch between storytelling and observational humour. This profession demands daily discipline, and I write diligently every night regardless of my mood. The connection with audience, which ranges from teenagers to septuagenarians, makes all the efforts I put in worthwhile.

### Stage craft

You have to be true to yourself, even if you are exaggerating real life situations for comic effect. It's the punchline that is normally the surprise element and



makes people laugh. Having said that, I believe that standup comedy doesn't need cuss words or profanity to get laughs. In fact, even when you are touching sensitive topics like religion or politics, no one gets offended if your jokes are smart and not lame.

### **Digital impact**

Technology has surely helped independent artists get discovered at the click of a button. But there is also the flip side of being trolled mercilessly. I struggled initially with unwarranted criticism but, now, I realise that comedy is subjective. Even with the best show, there will always be those who won't like it. In any case, the most crucial feedback comes from live audiences, as their reactions are direct and honest. So, I try not to get too affected by online comments.

#### Life lessons

If you want to be in this profession, just know that there's no ecosystem that will help you here, you will have to figure out everything on your own. So, take it up only if you truly believe in it.



### Beyond the life's façade

**Book:** The Death Of Ivan Ilyich **Author:** Leo Tolstoy Published in: 1886 Genre: Fiction, philosophy, and comedy

**Synopsis:** The Death Of Ivan Ilyich is a novella that examines the life and death of Ivan Ilyich Golovin, the titular character. A high-ranking judge in 19th century Russia, Ivan complies with social norms by getting married for prestige and pursuing a career that fits traditional ideas of success, but when he receives a diagnosis of a fatal disease, his life changes drastically. The story begins with a notification of Ivan's passing,

causing his coworkers to offer flimsy condolences. In the book, Tolstoy examines Ivan's life in flashback, highlighting the sharp contrast between the externally prosperous and socially accepted life he led and the inner emptiness he felt. Ivan's bodily and existential torment as he faces his imminent death is thoroughly documented in the novella.

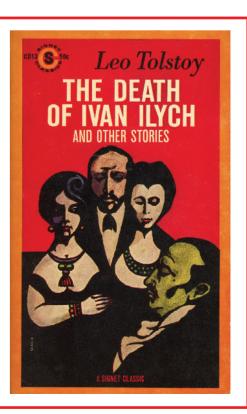
Why is it worth reading: It is almost astonishing how a topic such as death can be shown in such a comedic yet serious way, proving why the book is rightfully considered as one of Tolstoy's masterpieces. The author has brilliantly explored the deep inner metamorphosis of a per-

son facing his death in the novel. This, in turn, prompts readers to consider if true human connection and personal fulfillment are more important than pursuing material achievement. The book is a must-read as it guides the readers to shed pride and embrace vulnerabilities to discover solace and compassion. It also prompts its readers to learn the valuable lesson of achieving peace, transcending life's traps, and perceiving life with renewed fervour.

Iconic quote: "Ivan Ilych's life had been most simple and most ordinary and therefore most terrible."

**Rating:** 4.5/5

Review by: Yoshita Chug AIS Vasundhara 1, IX A



### Decoding Why The Shining Bubbles Go... . Pop! Pop! Pop! trapped inside each one of them. Further, the equal distribution of the division, wanted justice to be served. Thus they started to hatch the evil plan of the century –

get

potions and experimenting with

evil poisons, and soon it paid off.

They formed the supreme weapon,

the Bubble Bomb Canon, capable

of forming and shooting round

elastic water bombs made of hy-

drogen and oxygen molecules,

some of them as big as the Royal

Terrarium Treehouse, the house of

"Attack!" exclaimed Wizard

Wavewarden, pointing his lumi-

nescent finger upwards, indicating

his comrades to launch the first set

of tiny bubble bombs. Swoosh! All

the hydrogen and oxygen mole-

cules marched together. Quickly

they divided themselves in small

groups where molecules in each

group held their hands tightly,

forming circles with sufficient air

Terrarium Royals.

Manyi Yaday, IX I & Nandini Aggarwal, XII D, AIS Gur 46

n the far-off lands of Central Elementals lived garden gnomes and wizards alike amidst lush green mountains dotted with flowers and crystallike water flowing in the pristine rivers. But alas! It wasn't long before the era of law and order ceased. To restore peace, the monarch decided it was best to divide the land into two kingdoms. Towards the north was the Kingdom of Terranamia inhabited by garden gnomes and desert creepers surrounded by dry mountains. On the opposite side was the Kingdom of Waterania, the land of evil and pompous water nymphs boasting at the river borders.

However, the residents of Waterania, dissatisfied with the terms of

air inside each bubble bomb exerted equal pressure on all the molecules, giving them the strength to be flexible as they fall on the enemies one after the other. As Lord Landsley, King of Terrabombing Terrananamia, stepped out of the Royal Terrarium Treehouse, he was transfixed by the looming danger. One after the other, an array of tiny transparent bubble bombs back the seemed to be approaching the Sacred Gauntlet. kingdom at a lightning speed. They spent years He commanded the army trying to stir catastrophic of elves to reach

> and fight off these uncanny orbs. But alas! No matter how hard they pushed, attacked, and countered, not a dent would appear on the elastic surface of the tiny bubbles. What were these magical instruments!? Lord Landsley paced to and fro the main hall, awaiting an update from General Gnome. "Sir, nothing seems to work! Our scientists are clueless!" said the man in distress. Right then entered Sir Green Leaf, the eccentric and crazy scientist

the borders at

The science of it

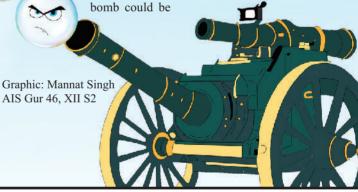
A bubble is formed when air gets trapped inside a layer of liquid (like water, soap, or oil). When it encounters a sharp object, the surface tension (invisible bond between the layers of liquid) gets disrupted, causing the molecules of the liquid to break the bond and shrink. Further, the bubble bursts and molecules escape as tiny droplets in the surrounding.

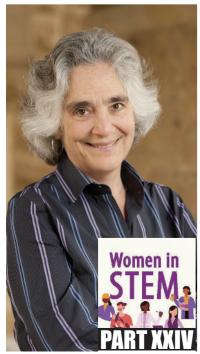
who lived deep inside the forests. "I have found the solution to fight off these mystical things," said Sir Green Leaf, showing a thin thornlike stick with a sharp end. Not completely convinced with the ability of this weak-looking stick, Lord Landsley gave in, having no other alternative. He himself took one of the pricks and walked towards the balcony where the biggest bubble



seen approaching. Frightened, he pointed it towards the huge ball. Time stood still, as the sharp end of the prick touched the bomb the surface tension broke off, the first layer ripping away, the bonds between the molecules began to disassociate as the bubble seemed to flatten and...POP! The bomb dissolved into droplets.

"Deploy one of these to each soldier! We have found the secret weapon!" shouted Lord Landsley, ecstatic with the performance of the pricks. Pop! Pop! Pop! With each prick, the evil molecular bonds were destroyed and peace was restored in Terranamia. But this was not the end of it. As each bomb popped, tiny water droplets scattered in the atmosphere, landing on the dry grounds, giving life to plants. Peace, this time accompanied with greenery, was restored in the kingdom where Waterania lost the battle once again.





### An insightful discovery

### Exploring The Subatomic World With Persis S. Drell

Ruchita Nair AIS Mayur Vihar, XII I

n international collaboration of more than 500 **L**physicists and engineers studying the subatomic world also known as BaBar experiment – was set up to understand the disparity between matter and antimatter content, which was supervised by Persis S. Drell – an incredible physicist known for her expertise in particle physics.

She received her bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from Wellesley College in 1977 and a doctorate in atomic physics from the UC, Berkeley, in 1983. Transitioning to high-energy experimental physics and working as a postdoctoral scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Drell also served as dean of the Stanford University School of Engineering from (2014 - 2017), and directed SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, supervising

the BaBar experiment.

During Drell's tenure as director of SLAC, the organisation switched from being a laboratory dedicated primarily to research in high-energy physics to one that is now seen as a leader in a number of scientific disciplines. In 2010, the laboratory began operations of the Linac Coherent Light Source, the world's most powerful X-ray free electron laser, which is still revolutionising the study of the atomic and molecular world. It performs basic scientific research and drives applications in energy and environmental sciences, drug development, etc. After stepping down as director, she returned to the Stanford faculty, focusing her research on technology development for free electron lasers and particle astrophysics. She has been the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award, being an inspiration to all of us. GII

# Sharp. Edgy. Action - Autobiography

Als Gur 46
2023-24

### Meet Dwayne The Rock Johnson Of The Stone World

Manyi Yaday, AIS Gur 46, XI I

elcome, rock enthusiasts, to my TED Talk. I'm Rocke Malone, your favourite rockstar. I wasn't born with silver linings, maybe not even bronze. I was born a speck of dust and it feels like yesterday but a millennium has crawled by as I was sandblasted, buried, and metamorphosed into my current shape. My parents wanted me to do the family business and join the rock cycle, but I refused as I had resolved to be an actor. So, today, I stand before you, not just a rock, but a TED-Talking pebble.

The world is paved with more than just asphalt and ambition. Growing up, I wanted to be just like Plymouth Rock. I stayed up at nights, wondering what it would be like to be the disembarkation site of the Mayflower Pilgrims, who had found a "new promised land" after escaping a tussle over religious beliefs in England that forced them to pray in private. I, too, wanted to be a symbol of history and not just another stone being kicked away. But that is what happened for the next few months as I tried out for openings at every theatre and was repeatedly kicked around. That was until I finally got in to play the role of Uluru, the largest single rock known in the

world. I became a grounded 348-meterhigh monolith and lived in the Uluru-Kata-Tjuta National Park to connect with the background. The show turned out to be a hit, and my phone was buzzing with calls from producers.

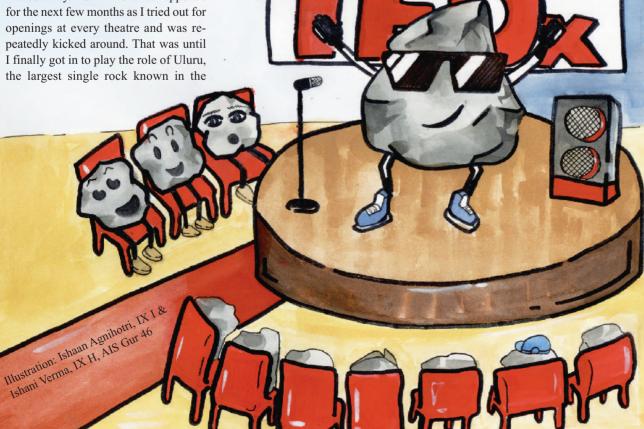
For my first Broadway play, I enacted Blarney Stone, a rock embedded in the walls of Blarney Castle, near Cork, Ireland. Tourists couldn't get enough of me – there's a legend that says kissing the stone imparts the gift of eloquence. Into the shoes of a Loverboy I had to go! After that, it was like a domino effect for my acting career – roles after roles!

I stepped into the shoes of dozens of characters, mostly famous personalities like Wave Rock in Australia, Antelope Canyon in USA, Goreme Fair Chimneys in Cappadocia, Rock Of Gibraltar and many more. It was not easy, each character leaving me with more wisdom. One such enlightening experience was essaying the role of Balanced Rocks or

Krishna's Butterball, native to the town of Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. A theory says that this family was carved by gradual natural erosion which gave them their spherical shape.

Currently I'm working on a play about Digby from Nova Scotia, a tightrope artist defying gravity as he stands on the cliff in Saint Mary's Bay, Long Island. As tall as a tower, this nine-meter athlete is a descendant of the ancient volcanic rock that once existed in Canada.

All these years and all these characters I have played have taught me a lot, like no rock, how big or small, perishes the same way, just as you humans. So, the next time you walk the earth, don't just tread; listen. The whispering sands, the echoing cliffs, the smooth pebbles beneath your feet – they all have stories to tell. Stories of fire and ice, of empires built and dreams carved in stone. And remember, even a small rock, like myself, can carry a universe within.





### **@INS Khukri**

### **Aboard Brave Ship**

Parth Chhabra, AIS Pushp Vihar, II D

uring the winter break, I got the golden opportunity to visit the famous and historic INS Khukri vessel, which has now been converted into a memorial museum in Daman and Diu. The ship is located at a distance of three km from Diu Bus Station. This ship was the lead vessel of her class of corvettes in service with the Indian Navy and is the only Indian Navy ship ever to be lost in combat. Khukri was decommissioned after 32 years of service on December 23, 2021. During her service, the ship was commanded by 28 commanding officers and had traversed a distance of over 6,44,897 nautical miles, which is equivalent to navigating around the world 30 times.

40 years ago, on December 9, 1971, INS Khukri was torpedoed by a Pakistani submarine in the course of the war. Over 18 officers and 176 sailors lost their lives as Khukri sank 40 nautical miles off the coast of Diu. It is said that the captain of the ship, Capt MN Mulla, refused to abandon the captain's seat and opted to go down with the sinking ship. It is also written in history that another frigate, INS Kirpan, which was present there when the torpedo hit Khukri, maneuvered to deflect the torpedo attack. The brave ship stood by its motto, 'bal, sahas, josh aur dum, Khukri nahi kissi se kam', and so did the soldiers in it.

Visiting this museum was indeed a once in a lifetime experience. The fascinating facts on display surely inculcated the value of patriotism in me. And being a proud Indian, I, too, wish to become an Indian Navy Officer one day and serve my country with pride. Jai Hind!

(as shared with GT)

# Nurturing scientific spirit



Or Amita Chauhan Chairperson

From boiling of water to curdling of milk, from mobile telephones to motorised vehicles – almost everything in our daily lives has been made possible by science. And, Amitians are learning about and exploring this everyday science in a fun and interactive way through the science quiz 'Bazinga' which was started by Amity's R&D Department in 2013. Focusing on students of Class IX-XI, this annual quiz is drawn from their prescribed syllabus and latest scientific de-

velopments. The competition has transitioned from being an Inter-Amity Physics Quiz to an inter-school event which also includes concepts of Chemistry and Biology. The format of 'Bazinga' ensures that every question is supported by an image or a video, thus making it visually appealing. Various segments include concept testing, numerical computation, graphical analysis, live demonstrations, connecting images, and a rapid fire round. The quiz also promotes soft skills like maintaining deadlines and managing people, as Amitians prepare and conduct the quiz themselves.

Over the years, Bazinga has built a huge repository of fun and interactive tests that have helped learners practice real life applications of scientific concepts. What's more, several of our quiz winners, who have made it to prestigious educational institutions all over the world, fondly recall their experience at 'Bazinga' as the foundation for their passion and further prompted them to explore and innovate.

### It's Time To Say, Hip, Hip, Hurray!

Seven budding artists from AIS Vas 6 have featured among the top 200 at the 9th edition of Japan on Canvas event, a prestigious national-level painting competition conducted by Experience Japan. More than a thousand students from all over the country participated in this mega event.

### Innovative minds



Amity is constantly trying to create opportunities for young minds to be agile, empathetic, and to think beyond textbooks. It is honourable Chairperson ma'am's drive to instil five core skills for Amitians to become the future innovators – to observe minute details, be inquisitive, associate with like-minded, experiment in collaboration, and network with mentors for support. She believes that education imparted should empower students to ac-

quire 21st century innovative skills in a bid to deal with the changing world. It is amazing how The Global Times encourages innovators to share their innovations in their newspaper that stirs feeling of self-accomplishments. The innovators from our GT team have come up with a brilliant contest issue that delves into the matters that need patience, problem-solving, and an eye for detail as they have created mental models of their own aspirations. I wish to compliment this team for making the most of the opportunities provided towards creating their own contest issue, truly reflecting their value system and innate thought process to unleash creativity, unravel happiness quotient, and reflect good behaviour science. The making of this newspaper has helped in enhancing their creativity, critical thinking, communication, project management, and data analysis, thus shaping them to be Amity's true ambassadors to the global community.

# Deans to Daristas



### The Epic Tale of Coffee Houses Across Time

Arshiya Tyagi, AIS Gur 46, XII B

Tailed as a catholicon that houses the potential to power a gush of intellectual (or other) conversations, coffee has, since the beginning of time, played the part of a catalyst, rousing us and also, at times, the world. Its aromatic soul has bequeathed us with numerous vestiges of its distinctiveness and ever-evolving identity. Akin to it, the coffee shops we frequent for the taste of this symphony, too, have witnessed their essence metamorphose. For better or for worse, we are no one to judge, but ponder we must.

Introduced in 1958, the Indian Coffee House, for one, stands as the earliest indicator of this euphony of change. An *adda* for famed muses, filmmakers, activists, and leaders then, it served as an exhibition of when Indians took the idea of "let's talk about it over coffee" quite literally. Today, the blues-induced rush for that one quick cup of caffeinated alertness, the necessity of spending some quality time alone, the occa-

sional catching up with friends, or the everyday hurried sipping and typing on keyboards - all have altered its traditional definition. While some might favour this transition, especially the modern-day coffeehouses that have witnessed a jump in their clientele (Starbucks recorded a revenue increase of 11.6% to 35.9 billion USD in 2023 alone), others like Manna Dey, Indian musician, loved the olden days more, as gets conveyed in the nostalgic air of his famous song Coffee Houser Sei Addata Aaj Aar Nei (That Coffee House adda is long gone now).

And it's not just about a change in the clientele, the ways in which the coffeehouses, both those of yore and those present-day, operate has a world of difference too. In the age of exorbitant cups served by CCD, Costa Coffee et al, all of which are a part of profit-oriented corporate chains and monetise not only the food items served but also the time spent and services provided, the likes of Indian Coffee House still

serve a mugful for just 50 INR. Not to forget the former lot's exaggerated yet picturesque décor and menus with a variety of coffees and patisserie gourmet products, contrary to ICH whose business model was, and still is, rooted in providing affordable items to the public.

Like the aroma of ground coffee thus, the contradictions between them are endless. Howbeit, what binds the present and the past is our unadulterated love for this beaned drink. The coffeehouses, just like the days gone by, are the ideal place for us, or as sociologist Ray Oldenburg puts it, as the "third place", drawing a fine line between the too personal confines of home and too rigid settings of work. So, make use of it as a dais to voice your opinion, showcase your talent, or simply quench your craving for solitude; the coffeehouse's your oyster! We may or may not have spoken a different plot a century ago, but the moral of the story will always be the same - camaraderie, conversations, and coffee.



### For the nostalgia

The blip from 2020 to 2022 led us to the task of helping the students connect with reality again. Suddenly, the VIII graders were in X and the IX graders in XI. Therefore, the GT team's visit in 2023 for the first physical edit meet in a while was a one-of-a-kind experience. It is the human touch that we had started missing, so the re-establishment of

Aristotle's "man is a social animal" made a happy teacher feel the tangible essence of a hard copy and experience the bibliosmia once again. Oh, how the hindered learning process.

the hindered learning process picked up pace again! Dear readers, this carefully crafted

Regina Mukharjee GT Coordinator talgia, whether through musical rhythms, meeting old friends, or the aroma of coffee over the years, is an endeavour to tackle the blip by re-living the past in order to appreciate the present. My sincere thanks to our chairperson ma'am, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, for gift-

edition with a tableau of nos-

ing Amitians an artistic platform like GT with its array of mentors hand-holding students and teachers alike.





Join Disha Dhir, IX D & Ranya Sharma, XI G, AIS Gur 46, as they uncover the world of absurdly high-priced products that make even diamonds second-guess their worth.

Globes by Bellerby Globemakers
Price: Over 100,000 USD I Origin: London, UK Why is it so expensive: At Bellerby, nearly 20 craftspeople are required to make a single piece of globe. From cartographers who design the gored maps to artists who paint on the details with a steady hand, highlighting borders, coastlines, and other geographic details, the entire team works together to give each globe a handcrafted touch. The waitlist for these globes spans around two years due to a meticulous precision required for

### Patan patola sarees

Price: Over 5000 USD I Origin: Gujarat, India Why is it so expensive: Patan patola sarees need motifs to be coloured onto the silk threads themselves, as opposed to being stitched onto the material. The yarn, both vertical and horizontal, is coloured and then crosswoven to display the design. In fact, the displacement of even a single yarn can disrupt the design. Plus, their bright colours and reversible factor make them priceless!

### Reborn baby dolls

Price: Up to 15,000 USD I Origin: USA Why is it so expensive: To give them the appearance of real newborns, the dolls are painted, constructed, weighted in a highly detailed manner. They are made with medical grade silicone, alpaca hair, nail resin, and soft vinyl. Every single part of the doll is handmade, and they even have animatronics in them to imitate the actions of a real baby, such as breathing and movement of eyes.





Illustration: Khushi Mehta, AIS Gur 46, XI D

### Martin acoustic guitars

Price: 125,000 USD I Origin: Pennsylvania, USA Why is it so expensive: Every guitar at Martin is handmade and one of a kind. It is an ideal combination of high quality tonewoods, a special type of bracing called scalloped bracing, and abalone multi-stripe binding (only skilled labourers can perform this type of binding). All these factors give Martin the monopoly in the guitar making business in the sense that their quality of sound is difficult to match anywhere else.

### Miyazaki mangoes

Price: Up to 4000 USD I Origin: Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan Why is it so expensive: The temperate climate of Miyazaki Prefecture with abundant sunshine, high humidity, and volcanic soil contribute to the cultivation of mangoes which are rich in flavours, having an exquisite balance of sweetness and acidity. Each mango is hand-pollinated by the farmers, which leads to a controlled cross-pollination process. Moreover, the meticulous pruning techniques contribute to the composite production costs, inflating the price even further.

# Not such a fairy tale!

Sana Joseph, AIS Gur 46, X D

It was the annual Christmas meeting of all the characters in children's fairy tales. Everyone was allowed to air their grievances and convince others that they should have had a bigger part in their stories.

The Pea came first, cleared its throat, and said, "I come from the story The Princess And The Pea. I have been treated unfairly. I started as a brand-new pea celebrating the fact that I had ended up in a prince's palace! In fact, on the royal bed!" Everyone started clapping but stopped when the Pea raised his voice, "Only to be suffocated under 20 royal mattresses!" Everyone booed the 'royal brats' and nodded in sympathy as the Pea continued. "Imagine being placed under so much weight just because the queen wanted to check if the young girl was a princess or not. I was finally the reason the queen decided that the girl was indeed 'delicate' enough to be a princess, for the girl claimed she couldn't sleep the entire night with something, meaning me, hurting her. I got her all the fame and wealth

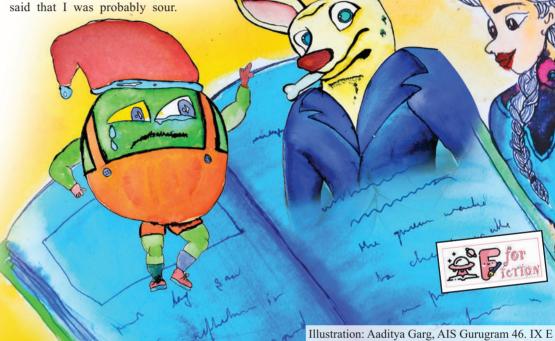
and I have not even gotten a thank you!" The Pea stormed out as everyone starts commending him for his patience towards the royalty. Next in line was a reflection of a dog. "I come from the story The Dog And Its Reflection, and yes, that reflection is me. But why am I still so underrated? I was the one who taught that foolish dog to not be greedy! It was his fault for letting go of such a delicious, mouth-watering, flavourful..." he stopped as he saw the confusion on others' faces. They better not think of him as a bone-obsessed dog so he shook his head vigorously and continued. "Anyway, I was offended and still am at the way he barked at me!" With that, Translucent Dog picked up the bone and marched through the crowd with his head held high. Now a bunch of grapes took the opportunity to come forward. But no one could recall the story she came from, so she let out a dramatic sigh and said, "I am from the story The Fox And The Grapes. I am the juiciest and most tantalising bunch of grapes ever. It is honestly disappointing to see that you did not know me. Anyway, one day a hungry fox tried to

catch me but he..." She waited as murmurs broke out. A teacup asked, "Did he catch a bunch?" Rolling her eyes, she said, "Obviously not! The brainless fox failed and then did the most unspeakable thing, he broke my heart forever." "What did the fox do?" a wolf wearing glasses and a grandma's shawl inquired. In the most melodramatic way, Grapes cried out, "He insulted me! Just because he could not catch me, he said that I was probably sour

It was his fault for letting go of such a delicious, mouthwatering, flavourful..." he stopped as he saw the confusion on others' faces.

Who does that? He'll never know a bunch of grapes as delicious as me!" With that, Grapes stomped out. The time was up and

this signalled the end of this year's Christmas meet. Some sad, some happy, but all characters lined up to go back into their storybooks. But worry not, for others will get their five minutes of fame next year.



### **A masterpiece**



Pic: Pranav Goel, X J | Model: Ranya Sharma, XI G; AIS Gur $46\,$ 

### **Bulbul Verma, AIS Gur 46, XI B**

A hand on my shoulder jolts me Awake from my sleep at midnight I turn around and glance - the spot Is a pall of enmeshing thoughts

A ring of black choking anxiety More fatal than poison besides me Encloses me like a vicious snake Leaving no way for me to escape

It traces me to the time I slept Reminding me of the way I wept Hours and hours swished by The despair never called its byes

I cup my face in trembly hands My head sinks in deepest sands Of misery, grief, guilt and regret Leaving me feeble like a silhouette

I close my puffy, kohl-filled eyes Weary of tears that do disguise The guilt of lashing out at myself "You're not the masterpiece Anyone wants on their shelf."



# A tapestry of fait

anuary 22, 2024, saw the Indian city of Ayodhya aka 'Ram Janmabhoomi' celebrate the inauguration ceremony of 'Ram Mandir' and the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of 'Ram Lalla' idol. From thousands of earthen lamps lit in every part of the country to live screenings to the chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' reverberating in the air, the event saw Indian citizens thrum with excitement. Read on as Disha Dhir, IX D & Afia Mubashir, IX SC, AIS Gurugram 46, decode why the temple holds a special place in the hearts of millions of people.

THE GLOBAL TIMES | MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2024

### A grand journey

From communal upheavals to legal battles, the Ram Janmabhoomi has seen it all. Here's a glimpse of a few key events...

- The Ram Temple movement emerged when Mir Baqi, a Mughal commander in 1528, built Babri Masjid. The strong belief that the mosque was created on the remains of a Hindu temple set the stage for debate between Hindus and Muslims.
- The first legal claim by Nirmohi Akhara in 1885 to build a temple on the courtyard

outside the mosque added fuel to fire.

December 22, 1949, saw the occurrence of an intensified situation where Ram Lalla idol was placed inside the mosque.

Between 1950-1959, there was a huge surge in legal suits, where Nirmohi Akhara wanted the permission to worship the idol, and the Sunni Central Waqf Board, on the other hand, sought the possession of the site.

The event reached its climax in 1992 when the Babri Masjid was demolished by Hindu activists, followed by riots across India.

In 2002-2003, Archaeological Survey of India began excavations and found the remains of Hindu temple beneath the mosque, intensifying the battle.

The Liberhan commission submitted a report after 399 sittings spanning over 16 years, outlining the details of the mosque's demolition. Following which, the Allahabad Court in 2010 gave its verdict to settle the dispute.

A historic judgement was passed in 2019, where the Supreme Court announced the entitlement of the land to Hindus for the construction of Ram Mandir. Also, an alternate site was offered for the construction of the mosque.

Rejoiced by the win, on August 5, 2020, the foundation stone of Ram Mandir was laid and Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust was formed.

January 22, 2024, scripted a historic moment where the consecration ceremony

### A grand temple

As the third-largest Hindu religious structure in the world, the temple has been built for over 1800 crore INR in a sprawling 70acre area. Here are some of its eye-catching features...

> A blend of traditional and modern, the temple's design was conceived by Sompura family.

The structure reflects the Gujara-Chaulukya style of Northern Indian temple architecture, adhering to the Nagara style architecture in the temple.

> It is 235 feet wide, 360 feet long, and 161 feet high, and stands on an elevated platform. The three-storey structure of the temple, each representing three different Lokas, is adorned with nine *shikharas*, featuring five mandapas, namely Nri-

tya, Rang, Sabha, Prarthna, and Kirtan around the main sanctum, or Garbhagriha, where the main deity now

With durability of 1,000 years and an earthquake resistant design, the temple is made up of 600 thousand cubic feet of sandstone from Bansi Pahadpur, Rajasthan, and is constructed without iron.

All the 390 pillars of the temple have carvings representing stories of different Hindu Gods and Goddesses engraved on them. Additionally, the sanctum sanctorum jewels embellished with rubies, emeralds, and diamonds.

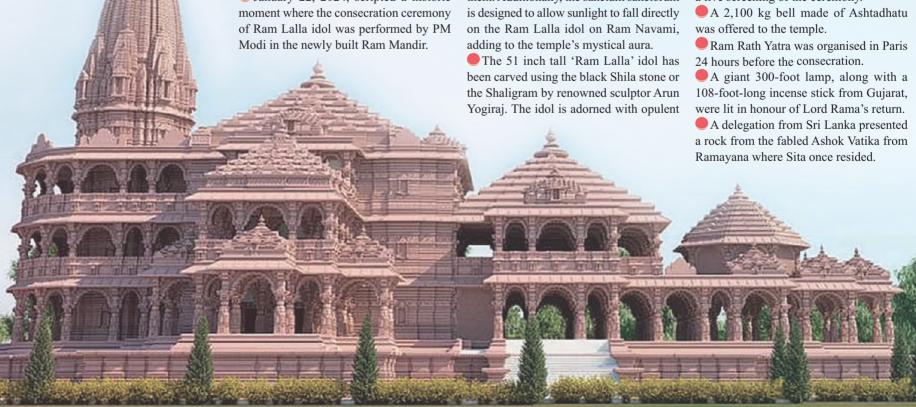
Apart from the temple, the complex offers a wealth of attractions for visitors-The Shri Ram Kund - Yagyashala, a home for holy offerings; Karm Kshetra - Anushthaan Mandap, for holy rituals; a huge statue of Lord Hanuman - the Hanuman Gadhi; the Guru Vashishtha Peethika, a Centre for Research on Vedas, Puranas, Ramayana & Sanskrit; and Tulsi, an openair theatre to witness cultural renditions of the Ramayana. Other than this, the Laxman Vatika, a lily pond, and musical fountain will offer a retreat to the visitors and the Bharat Prasad Mandap will hold feasts and celebrations for devotees.

### A grand celebration

- A majestic spectacle unfolded with the Pran Pratishtha ceremony, followed by an aarti as the Ram Lalla idol was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi.
- The celebrations extended to the sacred grounds of Kuber Tila, where a Lord Shiva temple was offered worship and a statue of Jatayu was unveiled by the prime minister.
- Over 8,000 guests, from political leaders and religious figures to Bollywood stars, attended the ceremony.
- 20,000 packets of 'mahaprasad' were distributed among those present.

### A grand tribute

The iconic NYC Times Square featured a live screening of the ceremony.



### **Ground Reporting**

# The Akshar family



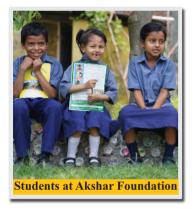


GROUND REPORTING Trading In Plastic For Knowledge And A Better World

Nandini Aggarwal, XII D & Devyanshi Goswami, XI E

AIS Gurugram 46

ituated in Assam, Akshar Foundation is not your ordinary school. Imbibing a holistic learning model and plastic bottles as fee, this institute is as different as it gets. At Akshar, just 25 pieces of plastic per week is enough for students to learn in classes. Mixing history, vocation, and environment in a single attempt, the school is a breath of fresh air in the world of learning.



### The road taken

Anamika Suresh, the administrative director of the place, shares, "Akshar Foundation is an alternate education model where students learn through working and vocation than just a schooling where we sit and learn through chalk. We've been conditioned to look at education in a model where the teacher is the authority, but at Akshar, we promote peer learning, and teachers are only seen as the facilitators. Peer learning is where students are paired, one on one, with an older student because it is always easier to learn from your peers than a teacher. Working at such a place made me better understand the fact that learning does not have to be rigid."

#### The solution found

When the question of mixing education with plastic at Akshar came forward, the team presented their reasoning. "Our education system is based on being one with nature, and plastic goes against that value,



which is why we planned our fee structure as a step to stop plastic pollution. We ask our students to pay their school fee in plastic i.e., 25 plastic wrappers each week, which are then segregated. The recyclable plastic is washed, cleaned, moulded, shredded, and made into different products (flowerpots, jewellery, dog bowls, keychain etc.) including eco bricks, which are used in the school premises. For the school's functioning, we have CSR funding and donors," testifies the team behind the novel project.

### The unique learning

Just like the learning model is different, the demographic is too. "The students at Akshar are usually school drop-outs who work in nearby shops etc. They come from different backgrounds and have reasons why they do not fit 'regular' schools, and a lot of times, it is difficult for them to adjust to these schools whilst being the breadwinner of their family, which is why we let the students set their own routines, work alongside learning, which helps them earn a

little money. Many students here do not aim to go into higher education, which is why our model is a perfect fit for them. We focus on vocational training, numeracy, foundation literacy, language skills, digital lit-

eracy, gardening, carpentry, electrician classes, recycling classes etc., all of which empowers them in its own way. We follow our own curriculum where students, when they think they are ready, write their exams at National Institute of Open Learning, which is the equivalent of Class X and XII."

Akshar Foundation, as a place of learning and growing, runs on being "intuitive and organic", focusing on giving learners equal opportunities, an eco-education, and a better world. With their aim of expanding their model to around 100 schools all over the country in the next two years, this little foundation is making big changes, one student at a time. GT













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# Innovation fest

### Dhananjay Mohan ATL Fest Returns To Amity

### AIS Noida

he school organised the 22nd chapter of Dhananjay Mohan ATL Innovation Fest on December 2, 2023. The annual inter-school science and innovation fest as envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, is a platform to augment scientific temperament and the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in young minds. The event witnessed 160 students from 20 schools of Delhi/NCR take part in five different competitions of scientific innovation and novel business ideas, proving their mettle in deploying science as an agent of change in the society.

AIS Pushp Vihar bagged the overall winner's trophy with other branches of Amity Group of Schools also winning several



awards in different categories of the event. In e-paper presentation, AIS Gurugram 43 stood first, followed by AIS Gurugram 46 and AIS Pushp Vihar at the second and third place, respectively. Project display competition saw AIS Vasundhara 1, AIS Mayur Vihar, and AIS Noida at first, second and third place, respectively. In entrepreneurship unfold event, AIS Saket secured second position, while AIS Pushp Vihar finished third. Biz Teen Tycoon had AIS Gurugram 46 at first place, AIS Noida at second, and AIS Saket at third place. Tech synergy saw AIS Vasundhara 6, AIS Mayur Vihar, and AIS Noida at first, second and third position, respectively.

# Chairperson and school principal with the award

### **Future is here!**

### AIS Gurugram 46

ducation World Learning Exposition - Innovative Integration of New Technologies in Education, has honoured the school with the Special Merit Award for Digital Innovation for its unwavering commitment towards fostering a dynamic and future-ready learning ecosystem.

The award won under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita

Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, was received by the school principal Arti Chopra at a glittering award ceremony held on December 2, 2023.

Notable personalities like Bhavin Shah, managing director, Education World, and Jatin Paranjpe, founder, Khelo More, graced the award ceremony with their presence. The award testifies Amity's resolve towards holistic education.

### **Omnium Gatherum**





A sci-walk in style

### AGS Noida

he school organised its 12th science colloquium: Omnium Gatherum, on December 21, 2023. The annual inter-disciplinary, inter-Amity competition held in hybrid mode witnessed participation by 91 students from 12 branches of Amity International Schools and Amity Global Schools.

The objective of the event was to enhance the knowledge of students on current scientific development issues through three different competitions, namely: 'Sci-walk', a science themed fashion show for Class IV-V; an awareness campaign competition titled 'Eco Scaping: Plant local, thrive global, planting the seeds for a sustainable tomorrow' for Class VI-VIII; and forum deliberation on the topic 'Can AI Supplant Humans, and who bears responsibility for AI's Missteps?' for Class IX-XII.

All the three competitions were held in both online and offline categories and winners of both the categories were declared separately. In the online category, AIS Navi Mumbai clinched first rank in all the three competitions, while AIS Raipur stood second in

Sci-walk and AGS Gurugram bagged second spot in campaign and forum deliberation. For offline category, AIS Vasundhara 6 was at first position in Sci-walk, with AIS Saket at second spot. AIS Pushp Vihar stood first in awareness campaign, with AIS Mayur Vihar following at second place. AGS Noida and AIS Saket both won first position in forum deliberation, with AIS Noida bagging the award for Best Media Person in the competition. AIS Saket bagged the overall winner's trophy. The event was a grand success with learning and innovation woven with fun. GI



### A creative rush

### AIS Vasundhara 6

even budding artists from the school won stellar awards and featured among top 200 at the 9th edition of

at the 9th edition of Japan on Canvas, a prestigious national level painting competition, organised by the Experience Japan NGO on December 10, 2023.

A total of 1651 students from across India participated in the competition, held in two categories with different themes, namely Japanese Anime (8-11 years) and Buddhism in Japan

(12-15 years). Medha Jain (XI) emerged as winner in the latter. Saanvi Verma (VI), Vikhyat Agrawal (V), Vincy Bansal (IX), and Advit Parashar (X) were awarded for outstanding performance,

while Tannishtha Gupta (VI) and Aadya Sharma (VIII) were presented the extraordinary performance award.



each and everything.

ceed to casually rip one of

my family members apart

and chew on them,

oblivious of their

petrified screams.



### ...Keeps The Doctor Away, But Science Bites Away Nature's Delight

Sanvi Bisla, AIS Gur 46, IX J

oes the name Newton ring any bells? This is the exact man responsible for single handedly ruining thousands of lives. He did not in fact stop at gravity, but also went on to discover calculus and a hundred other things just as torturous. Recent studies actually show that every time someone says Newton, two out of three humans experience a spike in blood pressure and four out of ten apples plummet to their deaths. We, the clan of apples, lovingly refer to him as a new ton of nonsense.

For context, let us go back a century or two 10 10 and set the scene in late summer of 1666, at Woolsthorpe Manor House. You see, dear reader, pesticide was yet to be invented and so there was no way to avoid and remove this pest of a man. By the age of 23, he should have died of cholera but somehow, he Happy was alive and annoying.

Every morning, he would take a seat under the shade of our trees. Instead of pondering over why no one wanted to be associated with him, he would overanalyse worthless topics such as: "Why is that ball at rest?" Because, mate, it is a ball. "Why is that carriage

moving?" Because, my brother in Now, we apples are an irenic Christ, there are literal horses species, followers of Gandhi, but driving it forward. Ugh, humans this was crossing an apple. We and their irrational need to justify had had enough. Our elders Tired from overly overusing his nonexistent brain, he would pro-

thought long and hard about what to do. If our generation was to continue, this man would

have to go. A decision was finally made. We would be the next Ted Bundy of England before he was even born. We'd show him how it's done. We'd demonstrate Newton's first law to him. A body at rest stays at rest because it's a dead body.

The murder scheme? One of us would let go of the rope that held us together. And with a THUMP! Explode on Newton's

head. That's it, that was the plan. A genius one we know, but our ancestors were pretty weak in those days. Reader, they may or may not have forgotten they weighed barely a 100 grams. Honestly, they should have just asked the watermelons to do it. Or the family tree.

And hence, gravity was born. And boy, did it have a huge ego. All it did is say "I'm this, I'm that, I'm the reason why Earth orbits the sun, I cause tides, I'm the reason why two bodies with mass are attracted to each other." Gravity, last I checked, you weren't Cupid. Gravity's discovery brought Newton fame from esteemed

> scientists of his time. And it brought shame. Reader, I don't think you understand gravity of this situation. Now all the

students hate us, and our business is going through a loss.

But, the apple species is tired of receiving death threats from tenth graders. It is not our fault physics makes students lose sleep. The truth is physics would have been much easier if Newton didn't have overthinking issues. Moral of the story: if you experience overthinking, see a therapist before your brain invents something more dreadful.

Illustration: Khushi Mehta AIS Gur 46, XI D

Pics: Pranav Goel, AIS Gurugram 46, X J





One team, one dream, the unstoppable team of AIS Gurugram 46