

**Status of the week**

Every time I picture Snape, I see a man with an unchanging costume & black hair. Every time I'm in wonderland, I imagine absolem with a deep voice. Alan Rickman had a way of capturing minds and hearts alike. I'm still shocked over this news, but I hope he was prepared for his next great adventure.

**Namrata B, AIS PV, XI**

**INSIDE**

**Even out the odds, P 2**

**Creative Contraptions, P 4**

**AMITe poll**

**Do you think the Odd-Even experiment in Delhi was a success?**

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

*To vote, log on to [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)*

**POLL RESULT**  
for GT issue December 21, 2015

**An accused for a heinous crime should not be considered juvenile.**

Response	Percentage
Yes	76%
No	7%
Can't say	17%

**Results as on January 14, 2015**

**Coming Next**

**AIS Gur 46 contest issue**

# Leaping through the Leap Year

Welcome to 2016 – the year that has just leaped out to us, giving us the gift of a brand new day. And with it, ample reasons to celebrate that ‘extra’ day in the calendar!



Imaging: Pankaj Malik, GT Network

every two years. Now that’s way too complicated, ain’t it? So to ease out the strings, Caesar’s astronomer opted for a 365-day calendar, with an extra day every four years. Wonder if the generations to come would consider this as convoluted!

### When’s ‘the’ day?

Ask anybody and they would tell you that Leap Year falls every 4th year. Not so simple. If the year happens to be perfectly divisible by 100, then whoosh, no Leap Day! But, if the year is also divisible by 400, then the previous rule gets nullified and the Leap Year comes back into action. So, while 2000 was a Leap Year, 2100 will skip this phenomenon. Confused? Pretty sure, mankind would not be able to witness a Leap Day skip twice in their lifetime!

### Marriage traditions

Different cultures come with different ideologies, which can leave one confused. The movie ‘Leap Year’ touched upon the Irish version of this tradition (don’t we all love Matthew Goode!) with great preciseness. The Irish believe that a woman should

propose to a man on the 29th day of February for good luck whereas, the Greek traditions consider a proposal on the 29th to be inauspicious. And those from Finland and Scotland believe that while such a day can prove to be lucky, the woman should wear a red petticoat, which will act as a signal! Can’t get weirder than that now, can it?

### To celebrate or not to celebrate!

Almost all of us have had a question bubble about this one: when do people born on leap days celebrate their birthdays? This might sound like a dumb question, but it’s definitely not a rare one! No, people born on February 29 don’t celebrate their birthdays once in four years (that would just be cruel!). The answer to this question lies in the hands of the government: some might take the official date to be February 28 while the others might choose it to be March 1, but yes, they age normally! The world is full of wonders which will continue to inspire theories. Leap years will come and go; are you ready for this one-2016? Here’s wishing all of you - a Happy New ‘Leap’ Year!

**Leap-in-facts**

One Earth revolution around the sun takes

**365 05 48 46**

Days Hrs Min Sec

**40,000,000**

people may be born in leap year

**Julius Caesar**

introduced Leap Year in 45 BC

**Leap Year Flow Chart**

```

graph TD
    Q1[Is a year evenly divisible by 4?] -- YES --> A1[It is a Leap Year]
    Q1 -- NO --> Q2[Is a year evenly divisible by 100?]
    Q2 -- YES --> A1
    Q2 -- NO --> Q3[Is a year evenly divisible by 400?]
    Q3 -- YES --> A1
    Q3 -- NO --> A2[It is not a Leap Year]
        
```

**1 in 1461**

people are born on a Leap Day

**Rob DenBleyker of ‘Cyanide and Happiness’ fame**

# Stick figure specialists

*Funny, hilarious and sometimes controversial, the web-comic series ‘Cyanide and Happiness’ has a huge fan following online. One of its creators Rob DenBleyker, shares his views on the turnback evolution of stick figures and more, in a candid interaction with **Aditya Sundaray, Amity Institute of Forensic Science, AUUP at Delhi Comic Con 2015***

**When Cyanide and Happiness started way back in 2004, were you expecting such a success?**

When we started in 2004, our team of four (Kris Wilson, Matt Melvin and Dave McElfrick and myself) were working from four different places. While I was in Texas, Kris worked from Wyoming, Matt was working from California and Dave joined us all the way from Ireland. The only expectation from such a team was to make people aware of their individuality.

**Running a long-distance workforce,**

**how did the team keep in touch?**

21st century dynamics and Skype kept the spark alive. We used to make the strips individually and then discuss them on Skype. All the rectifications in the comics were made during these chats and then published. Having worked together for three years, we never met face-to-face until the San Diego Comic Con of 2007.

**At a time when 3D images are the rage, what made you stick with ‘stick figures’?**

It’s impossible to expect a generic art from every artist. People tend to have a certain genre which they follow to create something magical, stick figures being our specialty. Through stick figures, we attempt to convey messages that others find awkward to discuss in an enjoyable mode.

**What was the inspiration behind the concept?**

Well, I was pursuing college in Dallas, majoring in computer graphics. I was greatly influenced by classic comics like The Far Side by Gary Larson and a web-comic that ran way before C&H, called The Perry Bible Fellowship by Nicholas Gurewitch. These gave me the idea of combining stick figure comics with the internet and thus sticksuicide.com was born.

**A web-comic from ‘Cyanide and Happiness’ series**

**Amity University students with Rob**

**C & H has sometimes invited wrath for its candid, surreal and controversial issues. How do you deal with criticism?**

People are open to have their views. And we face such criticism every now and then. But had we been affected by that, then we wouldn’t have been able to post a single comic in the last 10 years. We had received a lot of hate mails in the beginning of our journey. But we channelised all the negativity into something positive by creating a poster on it and today, it is the most popular poster we ever made!

**Your advise for young artists of Amity who want to pursue their passion for cartooning.**


Every person has the capability to make something really awesome that people would love and appreciate. If we, four young aspiring guys from different corners of the world, could start doodling stick figures and go on to be known as the guys from Cyanide and Happiness, then I’m sure anyone can be a comic artist. I’ve seen the work of quite a few artists of Amity and the talent is remarkable here. So, all I can say to the young aspirants is to keep working and their passion will find its own path.



# If it's odd, let's make it even!

According to WHO, Delhi's air is 11 times more polluted than the prescribed level, and if we don't act immediately, we might just end up being suffocated in this very air. However, Delhi government's anti-pollution experiment to allow selective movement of odd and even numbered cars on alternate days, brought about much of a stir in the country. But the big question is, what will be the repercussions if the odd-even rule is implemented permanently? **Riya Arora, AIS Vasundhara 6, XII A** explores the various facets.




**Thumbs down**

**Lack of public transport:** Delhi's improper and insufficient public transport infrastructure is ill-equipped to take the brunt of the new rule, if implemented. Although the metro has provided relief to many, there are countless others who remain unconnected with it as there are swathes of the city far away from metro stations. As for buses, neither are they on time nor do they have adequate spaces to step in, forget about sitting or standing.

**Cab service:** If cars are restricted, cabs could be the next best option. But then commuting every day by cabs can be extremely expensive. And as far as the safety of women traveling in cabs is concerned, let's not even get there.

**The big fat Indian wedding:** In a country like India where marriages are a huge affair, half of the people might not turn up because of this system. That would be such a downer for the hospitable hosts, for whom the number of guests is directly proportional to their prestige.

**Jugaad janta:** In a city like Delhi where the number of vehicles is almost 50 times that of police officers, how many of us are likely to be caught while breaching? And then, India is called the land of *jugaad*. The govt makes rules, the public devises 1000 ways to flout them.

**Thumbs up**

**Sharing responsibility:** Both road and air are public resources shared by all. Regardless of creed, caste or economic status, all of us breathe the same air and travel on the same road. Since we are entitled to equal rights, we have equal responsibilities. The move is just one step towards shouldering your responsibility for the environment.

**Better late than never:** As rightly pointed out by the Delhi High Court, "Living in Delhi is akin to living in a gas chamber". We all know we are inhaling poisonous gases every day. Even if the odd-even rule feels like a miniscule

move, at least we are making some progress.

**Emission levels:** When this step was introduced in Beijing, it helped cut pollution by 40%. Also, less number of vehicles on the road translates to decreased demand for fuel and hopefully, reduced number of road accidents.

**Public transport:** On its part, Delhi govt has asked Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and Delhi Transport Corporation to increase their services so as to meet the demand once the law is implemented. If it happens, it will not only significantly reduce our carbon footprint, it will also give us a healthier future. Can we ask for more?

# The boy who solved the odds

Govt made rules and gave us the news. He found a solution and made news. Meet **Akshat Mittal, AIS Noida, VIII J**, whose website odd-even.com marked a whopping 30,000 registrations

When the Delhi state government announced the odd-even rule - the city went on an overdrive. Memes flooded social media, trolls were on a roll. Reactions and over-reactions swamped the capital. Some debated it will never work; others shrugged it off as a political gimmick. All this while, a young Amitian applied his common sense to create something uncommon but incredibly useful for the impending situation the capital city was about to land in. And voila, odd-even.com was born - a match-making website that matches 'odd' number plate car owners to their 'even' counterparts.

**Odds in your favour**  
The problem: escalating pollution levels. A



Akshat Mittal and a snapshot of his website (L)



users can record their start and end points of travel and a subsequent search will help them find similar user profiles, matching their preferences. To ensure the security and safety of commuters, the website also asks for Aadhaar Card number and employee code. Extremely user-friendly, the website uses filters to help users find commuters they won't mind sharing their vehicle with.

**Challenging the odds**  
The very idea of making a website brought along a mammoth challenge for Akshat – coding! Though fascinated by it, he hadn't cracked a single code before that. Not one to take it easy, he battled numerous odds to learn Javascript, PHP & jQuery, his sturdy tools in the journey. There has been no looking back ever since. He used his newfound coding expertise to develop the website with the help of his father, constantly fine-tuning and upgrading its features to provide the best possible combinations for commuters.

**Breaking even**  
Once the website was ready, it was up for grabs. With registrations touching a massive 30,000

**‘Amipool’ing**

Amitians have proved time and again that they are not only sensitive to the society's problems, they are also capable of offering responsible solutions. A group of Amity University students have created a Facebook page 'Amipool' that is helping students and teachers from Amity as well as many other institutes to share carpools, to counter the odd-even formula effectively. Let's kill pollution guys!

already, the website gets about 200 queries daily. What's more – around 60 corporate bigwigs have already registered on the website including Mother Dairy, Jabong, Magicbricks, etc. With appreciation mails, design propositions from professional graphic designers, even a job offer – Akshat's surely on a roll. Best moment so far? His website crashing on the day it featured in TOI! Now that spells success loud and clear.





The leap I want to make in 2016 is to dream big. Only dreams give birth to change.

Alaska, AIS Noida, VII J

# Vidya dadati vinayam is a way of life...

...says **Amol Chauhan**, alumnus of AIS Saket. Getting into a prestigious university like Harvard is a dream that many of us cherish, but there are a select few who manage to turn the dream into a reality. Amol had the chance to live his dream. So, what does it take to live your dream? He tells us in a candid interview with **Saumya Chauhan, AIS PV, V**

**What inspired you to get into Harvard?**

My brothers and sisters all of whom went to great universities were my biggest inspiration to get into Harvard. Their constant guidance, support and confidence in me inspired me to dream big.

**How did you feel when you finally achieved your dream?**

Getting into Harvard was a very special feeling. Studying at a top global university had been my dream since childhood. I also felt extremely thankful to my family and

## Illustrious Alumnus

**School:** AIS Saket (2009)

**Higher Edu:** Harvard (2013)

**Currently:** Investment banker, Deutsche Bank, London

everyone at school, without whom this would not have been possible. Getting into a good university was the ideal start to the goals that I want to achieve for myself, my family and my country.

**What are the pre-requisites for success?**

Hard work. It is impossible to achieve desired outcomes on a consistent basis without continuous hard work. Innate ability is good, but it needs to be supplemented with hard work and desire to achieve goals that one wants to achieve.

**Who is your role model?**

My role model is my father. His hard-working and altruistic nature is unparalleled to anyone else in the world. We are very lucky to have the opportunity to learn from such a dynamic leader and should try our best to fulfill his mission and vision for the country and the world.

**How did the values you learnt in school help you in life?**

The values I learnt in school help me everyday in life. 'Vidya dadati vinayam', our school motto is a very good way to approach life. It conveys





Saumya Chauhan

the values I learnt in school very well. Hard work and dedication lead to knowledge, knowledge helps us in achieving our goals and succeeding in our endeavours gives us happiness.

**What has been the most memorable incident of your school life?**

I cannot think of one particular incident at school that stands out. I think everyday was enriching and taught me a great deal about tackling different situations that one might face in life.

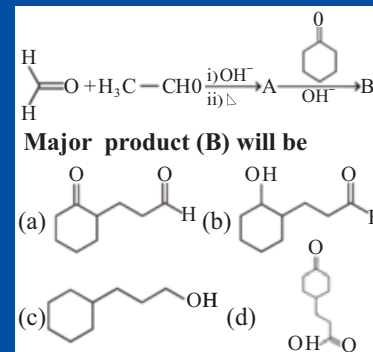
**Your message for Amitians...**

My message to all Amitians would be to leverage the good opportunity they have at Amity to prepare themselves for achieving their mission in life. With continuous hard work, opportunities and guidance available, there is no target that an Amitian cannot achieve.  

## Amity Institute for Competitive Examinations

Presents

## Brainleaks-160 FOR CLASS XI-XII



Last Date:  
Jan 27, 2015

3 correct entries win attractive prizes

Ans. Brainleaks 159  
(c) 2n

Name:.....

Class:.....

School:.....

Send your answers to The Global Times, E-26, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 24 or e-mail your answer at [brainleaks@theglobaltimes.in](mailto:brainleaks@theglobaltimes.in)

## SCHOLASTIC ALERTS



**Institute:** Manipal University  
**Courses:**

B. Tech. - Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT);  
M.B.B.S - Kasturba Medical College

**Eligibility:**

**For MBBS**

Pass in 10+2, A level, IB, American 12th grade or equivalent with Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Biotechnology and English individually with a minimum of 50% marks in Physics, Chemistry and Biology/Biotechnology taken together.

**For B Tech**

Pass in 10+2, A Level, IB, American 12th grade or equivalent with Physics,

Mathematics and English as compulsory subjects along with Chemistry or Biotechnology or Biology or any technical vocational subjects as optional, with a minimum of 50% marks taken together in Physics, Mathematics and any one of the optional subjects.

On the basis of rank in the All India Manipal University Online Entrance Test (MU-OET) 2016.

**Online Application Forms:** Available from October 2015

**Last date for receipt of Application:** March 11, 2016

**Online Entrance Test Schedule:** Attempt I & II: April 11 - May 18, 2016; Attempt III: May 21, 2016

**Website:** <http://manipal.edu/>

**Institute:** Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Govt of India, Department of Space

**Courses:**

4 yr B Tech Program in Aerospace Engineering; 4 yr B Tech Program in Avionics; 5 yr Dual Degree (B Tech and MS/M Tech) Program

**Eligibility:**

Candidates must appear for the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) -2016 conducted by CBSE and Joint Entrance Examination (Advance) -2016 conducted by IITs.

**Release of Admission Brochure:** May 2016

**Online Registrations:** June 2016

**Website:** [http://www.jeeemain.nic.in](http://www.jeeemain.nic.in;);  
[http://www.jeeadv.ac.in](http://www.jeeadv.ac.in;);  
<https://www.iist.ac.in/admissions/undergraduate>

**Taruna Barthwal, Manager, Amity Career Counseling and Guidance Cell (ACCGC)**

For any query, write to us at [careercounselor@amity.edu](mailto:careercounselor@amity.edu)

# Amitians at IFFI

Pic: Shivam JE'mini, ACSO, AU Mumbai

*A fiesta of movies and stimulating ideas, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) held in Goa, provided the perfect platform for learning*

## Amity University, Mumbai

Four students of Amity School of Communication from Amity University, Mumbai attended the 46th International Film Festival of India as student delegates. Saurav Chatterjee, Shivam JE'mini, Pooja Vaswani and Rhea Bali were the lucky ones who got the opportunity to be a part of the magnificent film festival which was held in Goa from November 20-30, 2015.





ASCO students with Madhur Bhandarkar (C) at Intl. Film Festival of India

For the first time, interactive sessions with eminent directors like Shyam Benegal, Raj Kumar Hirani, Vetrimaaran, Aanand L. Rai and many others were held at IFFI. The students learnt many a lesson from the nuggets of wisdom shared by them...

**Shyam Benegal:** "I usually work with a script but while making the movie, I start losing the script as I tend to rely on improvisations."

**Madhur Bhandarkar:** "As a child,

poverty forced me to sell video-cassettes door to door. My favourite moment came when we organised the first screening of 'Chandni Bar' for bar dancers; it was overwhelming to see tears roll down their cheeks."

**Priyadarshan:** "My biggest achievement in life was to wake up Salman and Govinda at 6 o'clock in the morning and bringing them to the set."  

Contributed by Saurav Chatterjee, ASCO, BJMC, Amity Univ Mumbai

# Perspectives in education

## AIE, AUUP



Amity Institute of Education, AUUP organised a national seminar with the theme 'Changing perspectives of teacher education with respect to preparing skilled teachers.' The seminar aimed to provide a common platform for eminent researchers, to put across their views to initiate and develop ideas to improve student learning. Chief guest Prof CB Sharma from NIOS, expressed the need

for fearless teachers who can work towards national growth and development, besides calling for professional loyalty, autonomy and robust policies.

The seminar saw two technical sessions chaired by Heena Sharma, principal, JP School, Greater Noida and Dr Niradhar Dey, school of education, IGNOU, New Delhi. The sessions involved discussions on 27 papers with topics like 'Developing skilled teachers with global perspectives', 'Quality assurance in teacher education', 'Issues of inclusive educa-



Prof CB Sharma being felicitated

tion', 'Challenges in the implementation of new curriculum', etc. The event turned out to be a huge success.  



# Creative contraptions

What makes the ordinary ‘extra’ordinary? That ‘extra’ bit.  
Bringing you four extraordinary inventions to simplify your life!



Edible spoons: Enjoy the bite, relish the spoon too!

Nalini Gupta, AIS Gur 43, XI A

After groundbreaking inventions like the wheel and electricity, we can’t expect major breakthroughs in the 21st century anymore. But every now and then, some incredible innovations blow us away. Who knew small tweaks to everyday items could give us these quirky inventions?

### Jeevan bindi

Almost every Indian woman wears a *bindi* and its transformation into an iodine patch could possibly save the lives of

many! The *bindi*, when stuck on the forehead delivers the required amount of iodine to the wearer through the skin. Say goodbye to the hassle of swallowing pills to stay healthy!

### Edible cutlery

After a long day, no one likes to wash up the dishes after dinner. Imagine if you could just eat them all along with your food! Well, that’s exactly what edible cutlery offers. A Hyderabad based company, Bakeys has designed tableware made out of edible flours and they even offer them a variety of flavours.

### Shoes for visually impaired

There are many instances in our life when we wish we could commute faster. But

have we ever stopped to think about the blind, for whom even walking is a Herculean task? Anirudh Sharma has made his own shoe line “Le Chai” to simplify the lives of such people. The shoes provide assistance to the visually impaired through vibrations which are then transferred to smart phones, hence simplifying the task.

### Cycle-cum-washing machine

Remya Jose, a student of National Innovation Foundation, Ahmedabad, has invented a washing-cum-exercise machine which lets you pedal as it washes clothes with the energy generated thereby. The machine gives you a dual benefit: as you reduce your electricity bill, you can reduce your weight too! 🇮🇳🇮🇳

## Scientist

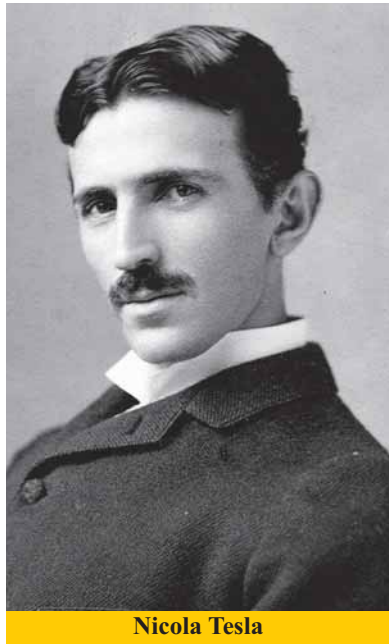


## Watch

# Designer of AC system

Aayushmaan Narayan  
AIS Noida, VI L

**Who:** Nikola Tesla  
**Born:** July 10, 1856 in Croatia  
**Died:** January 7, 1943 in New York  
**Nationality:** He was a Serb, and later became a US citizen  
**Field of expertise:** Electrical projects & experiments  
**Awards:** IEEE Edison Medal (1916), John Scott Legacy Medal & Premium(1934), Elliott Cresson Medal (1894)  
**Early life and education:** Nikola Tesla was born in a town of Smiljan (Austrian Empire), in an orthodox priest family. He studied at the Austrian Polytechnic in Graz as an electrical engineer and later attended the Charles-Ferdinand University in Prague. But after his father’s untimely death, he left the university after completing only one term of the course. Tesla joined a Budapest telegraph company in 1880. Later, he migrated to Paris to work for the Continental Edison Company as an engineer.  
**His greatest invention:** Tesla made public the first successful wireless energy transfer to power electronic devices in 1891. One of the most important contributions given by Tesla is the use of alternating current (AC). This technique was first implemented by Westinghouse Electric Company by lighting the World Colombian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Tesla’s inven-



Nicola Tesla

tion of alternating current (AC) system to transport electricity in a grid, proved to be a more efficient method than the direct current (DC) system of Edison. The technology went on to become the basis for most modern electricity distribution systems. Tesla also helped in the development of generators and turbine, known as Tesla turbine. The earliest demonstration of fluorescent lighting was his accomplishment.  
**Trivia:** In the 1890s, Tesla invented electric oscillators, meters, improved lights and the high-voltage transformer known as the Tesla coil. The unit of Magnetic Flux Density has been named ‘Tesla’ in his honour.

# Weird ideas. Weird societies

It is fair to expect the Illuminati to get the limelight in most situations, but not today. For once, let’s shift the spotlight to a few lesser known but equally weird societies.

Kreetik Thakur, AIS Noida, VII J

It is only natural for all of us to believe in what we do, as we have theories backed by evidence. But at the same time, there seem to be umpteen mortals who have their allegiances tied to some diametrically opposing theories. Take a look!

### Flat Earth Society

Did you ever have the feeling that all we’ve been told about the Earth being round is wrong? That science has been wrong all along and that Earth is actually a flat disk. That gravity isn’t real and actually Earth is moving upwards at the speed of 9.8 meters per second. Well, if it’s so, today is your lucky day and you are not the only one who thinks so! In 3rd century BC, Eratosthenes measured the distances cast by the shadows from two poles, one in Syene and the other in Alexandria. He used these measurements to calculate the circumference of Earth with incredible accuracy for that time. So, word got around that the Earth was round. But in 1906, Wilbur Glenn Voliva became the head of a religious sect which pretty much ran the city of Zion, Illinois. Voliva believed that the Earth was actually flat.



Modern day Flat Earthers say that a journey around the globe is really a circular path on a plate, time zones are caused by a spotlight sun, gravity isn’t real and all Earth photos from space are fabricated and therefore, a hoax. Is it a mere coincidence that the logo of Flat Earth Society, which is the projection of the globe with the north pole at the centre of the Earth, is also a projection used by the United Nations?

### Voluntary Human Extinction Movement

The VHEMT (pronounced as vi-he-ment) believe that humans are a negative impact on the world and it’s our moral obligation to just stop reproducing so as to give the other species some peace. However, they do not rejoice whenever disaster strikes or encourage suicides. Roots of VHEMT run as deep as human history. When Ice Age humans hunted animals to extinction, at least one of the sapient, Neanderthals among them may have reasoned beyond bewilderment. As the Fertile Crescent became a barren desert and the Cedars of Lebanon were sacrificed for temples,

someone must have thought “this bodes ill.” When Romans fuelled their empire by extracting resources from near and far, surely someone remarked, “Humanus non gratis”. While a large portion of today’s volunteers were vehement extinctionists before they learned of the title ‘VHEMT’, the true origins of this movement can be found in the natural abundance of love and logic within each one of us as our in-born sense of justice guides us to make a responsible choice. The motto of VHEMT is “May we live long and die out”. Now if that’s not weird, what is?

### Last Thursdayism

Is it possible that everything popped out of existence last Thursday and pictures that you believe to

be real, didn’t actually happen? That our recent surroundings have been made to look billions of years old. The Last Thursdayists, followers of Last Thursdayism, believe:  
■ that the universe was created on last Thursday, and will expire on next Thursday  
■ that the universe was created by you as a test for yourself  
■ that you will be rewarded or punished when this universe expires based on your actions here  
■ that left-handedness is a sinful temptation  
■ that everyone but you was placed here and pre-programmed to act as parts of your test environment  
■ that everyone, but you, knows this  
So which one would you want to believe? 🇮🇳🇮🇳

Graphic: Dinesh Kumar, GT Network







## Penning a new story



**Dr. Amita Chauhan**  
Chairperson

There's something magical about New Year. Though everything is just the same, the fresh new day seems to envelop everything in a fresh haze, spilling newness all over. It is a time to explore new horizons, make new resolutions and embark on new journeys. The aroma of New Year is such that it implores everyone to set new goals with a fierce determination.

As Delhi braces to face the biting chill in the New Year, the govt's odd-even initiative to attack the menacing problem of rising pollution levels is on a test drive. Teething problems notwithstanding, the initiative inspired myriad sections of the society to pour in novel solutions not only from Delhi, but from around the world. Under such a scenario, how could my Amitians be left behind? My heart swelled with pride when Akshat Mittal, a student of Class VIII, AIS Noida, developed a website to offer an effective solution for the problem. A feat that was covered by many national dailies, it garnered a record number of registrations with several corporates and designers offering professional support. A group of students from Amity University, Noida also made a Facebook page 'Amipool' to organise car-pooling groups for students and teachers. With students of other universities also joining the group, it gained substantial popularity.

These initiatives just go on to prove that the ideals imbibed at Amity to serve the society ride strong in Amitians' hearts. It gives me immense satisfaction to know that my children are on the right path. This year, I'm sure each one of them will write a new memorable chapter in their lives. 🇮🇳

## Responsible beginning



**Vira Sharma**  
Managing Editor

The New Year brings with it lots of responsibilities, promises, experiments and action to unfold this year. To begin with, the year commenced with the possible-impossible-act of Odd & Even that Delhities braved peacefully. Despite not making too much difference to the pollution level (blame it on just 15 days), the eased traffic chaos that had almost choked the city, came as a respite. Kudos to the Amity kid (pg 2) who pitched just in time, to make the 'Odd & Even' journey, easy for the commuters. Thanks to Riya's article (pg 2) that summarises the ups and downs of this experiment. And the schools, who were really patient with the extended holidays. While the outcome of the experiment is yet to be explored, one thing remains certain - every Dilliwalla was made to feel responsible for making Delhi a pollution-free capital.

It's about time we take responsibility for our acts and make amends. In the quest for more development and comfort that comes at the cost of the environment, we have done enough damage. It's time for restoration in order to recover the 'lost winter' unless we want a reminder of the year 1816 also known as the 'Year Without a Summer' that caused severe climate abnormalities causing volcanic eruptions at Mount Tambora for four months.

The New Year certainly embarked with enough food for thought, set in motion to think and pause, if this is the picture for the year ahead. Perhaps in the game of Odd & Even, lies the beginning of new amendments. It's not just an experiment but a game for life. Gamble it, you lose a life. Play it and you win the race. 🇮🇳

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# The diseased cans

‘**Y**e dil maange more’, ‘Aaj kuch toofani karte hai’... sound familiar right? Yes, you guessed it - these are famous taglines of aerated drinks - Coca Cola, Pepsi, Thumbs Up, et al. We are not only being trapped by these taglines but these drinks as well. Can we imagine life without these canned drinks? **Sara Baijnath**, AIS Noida, XI C brings out the harmful consequences of the diseased cans that we are enslaved to.

The set notions of the population about multimillion dollar companies being too powerful for their own good were splintered when a lawsuit on the capitalist company Nestle, caused worldwide unrest and agitation. The maggi ban was when we realised, not everything that looks good, is actually so. Truth be told, aerated drinks aren't too far behind either.

Lemonade, *thandai*, water - they don't really sound as thrilling as a can of coke after a tiring day, do they? Well, statistics confirm that the root cause of obesity and diabetes are aerated drinks; their key ingredients being phosphoric acid, aspartame and tap water. In 60 minutes, an artificially flavoured drink performs a magic show in our body; a magic show that doesn't have a happy ending. In the first 10 minutes, it magically changes form, from a delectable soda to 100% of your recommended daily intake of



Illustration: Simranh Kakkar,  
AIS Noida, X E

sugar. The next act that takes place within 20 minutes, is not really a magician's trick but a natural response of our body. The rise of blood sugar levels causes the liver to produce an insane amount of insulin, thereby turning massive amounts of sugar into fat. By the time we're 40 minutes into the show, the caffeine absorption is complete. The drink turns into a hypnotic magician, dilating our pupils and raising our blood pressure. By 45 minutes, the hypnosis starts taking a toll on the pleasure centre of our brain,

a response identical to that of heroin. In its final act, the magician itself dissolves into a health deteriorating bomb which explodes with a sugar crash! No less than magic, is it? Well, it looks more like sorcery. In the long run, aerated drinks can damage our DNA, courtesy sodium benzoate, a common preservative found in many drinks; it's no less than the silent killer cancer. These diseased cans are akin to bombs planted in our bodies by the most lethal of all terrorists. Time we bid them a fizzy goodbye! 🇮🇳

# Respect your teachers

Pic: Shrey Saxena, ASET, AUUP

...advised Dr (Mrs) Santosh Jain Passi, public health nutrition expert and former director of Home Economics, Delhi University as she engaged in a conversation with **Himanshu Poswal**, ASET, AUUP at the Convocation ceremony 2015

*Please enlighten us on the study of home economics.*

Study of Home Economics is very practical oriented; it is designed to take care of all life skills and every individual's requirements. There are five major disciplines in home economics including nutrition, human development, fabric apparel science, extension education and resource management. Each of these disciplines covers the needs of all the individuals of a family as well as the community in a very holistic manner.

*As a nutritionist, what is your prime area of concern?*



**Himanshu Poswal (L) with Dr Santosh Jain Passi**

For a nutritionist, the primary goal is to take care of the health and nutritional needs of an individual family and then, the community. If proper care is taken, we will be able to control a large number of nutritional deficiencies and chronic degenerative

diseases. An added benefit of studying Home Economics is management of the individual's health during various stages of life.

*Do you recommend Mendability, a treatment for autism?*

I am dealing with special children as I like to call them, from quite some time. My personal inclination is more towards chronic degenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, etc. Though studies indicate that a considerable amount of cases have shown improvement through Mendability, but the results may vary depending upon the severity of symptoms.

*What is your message for Amitians?*

Pursue your education wholeheartedly. Always keep in mind that we have taken a lot from the society and we must give back. We must ensure that whatever we do, it must show our nation, institution and family in a positive light. You must take care not only of yourself and your family but also your alma mater, as whatever success you achieve, it is because of them. Respect your teachers as your academic parents. They are the ones who mould our life and I personally salute my academic parents equally as my biological parents. 🇮🇳

## Pearls of wisdom

## Ekla cholo re

God helps those who help themselves.  
This axiom holds true at every stage

**Col D K Sharma**, AUUP, Faculty

“Jodi Tor Dak Shune Keu Na Ashe Tobe Ekla Cholo Re” commonly known as ‘Ekla Cholo Re’, is a Bengali patriotic song written by Rabindranath Tagore in 1905. The song exhorts the listener to continue his or her journey, despite abandonment or lack of support from others. The song is often quoted in the

context of various political or social change movements.

I have made use of the song in my own way. While commuting to Noida Golf Course off and on, I was using my car. However, I was facing incessant problems of congestion and parking space. Not only did the caddie charges keep increasing, many-a-time one had to wait for a caddie. So, I figured out a smart solution to my prob-

lem. I purchased a small golf bag for keeping 7-8 clubs. I think those many clubs are enough for an average golfer. The other thing I did was, instead of coming by car, I started using my bicycle that would easily transport me and my small golf bag through a distance of about 1.5 km in no time and I would land up bang on the entrance. Also, parking a bicycle is not a problem at all. It was now that I began to truly follow ‘Ekla Cholo Re’. Dependence of any kind is not good. Everyone knows how terrible the housewife feels when the maid servant does not turn up. Goswami Tul-sidas had said: ‘Paradheen sapphi sukh nahin’, ie, ‘It is better to rule in hell than to serve in heaven’.



**Col D K Sharma**



# AIMUN 2015

THOUGHTS TRANSFORM THE WORLD

*This special event saw the world converge, bearing testimony to Amity's firm belief in the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', meaning, the world is one family*



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan with esteemed dignitaries at the event



Ambassador of Slovenia felicitated by Chairperson

Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) together with Amity International Schools, organised the 6th Amity International Model United Nations (AIMUN) Conference at Amity University, Noida Campus from November 19-21, 2015. The theme of the conference 'Thoughts Transform the World' echoed the objective of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, who believes in providing a platform to enable the youth to think positively, and build global leaders who can transform the world for the better. The conference saw the participation of over 500 students from nine countries including USA, Japan, Thailand, Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia, Australia and India and over 30 Indian Schools

from Delhi/NCR, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The delegates participated in nine committees, viz, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, UNESCO, UNCTAD, United Nations Security Council, National Security Council of USA, Indira Gandhi Cabinet (1984), AIPPM, FGA and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The committees deliberated upon issues ranging from 'Threat of ISIS' to 'Preservation of National Heritage'. Impressed by the standard of debates, Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe, said that the children of today are so promising that even adults can learn from them. The chief guests for the opening and closing ceremony were HE Jozef Drobny, Ambassador of Slovenia, Em-

bassy of the Republic of Slovenia and HE Laimonas Talak-Kelpsa, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, respectively. The occasion was also graced by Arnaud Gespalt, First Secretary, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium and Istvan Darvasi, Ex-Ambassador of Hungary in Pakistan and Marcus Holknekt, First Secretary, Embassy of Sweden, besides the heads of Amity institutions. Dwelling on the theme of AIMUN 2015, Jyoti Arora, Director, Amity Educational Resource Centre, urged students to channelise their ill thoughts constructively. At the opening ceremony organised by AIS Noida, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, expressed her delight at the overwhelming participation of national and

international students which showed their interest in international affairs and diplomatic relations. A gala dinner organised by AIS Pushp Vihar for the participating delegates, saw the various teams from India and abroad put up an enthralling cultural show. It was followed by a sumptuous dinner and delegate dance. The closing ceremony of the conference organised by AIS Saket, concluded with an award ceremony where the outstanding delegates in each committee were honoured with various awards, including Best Delegate, High Commendation, Best Position Paper and Best Delegation awards. AIS Gur 46 representing Syria, won the Best Delegation award while AIS Saket representing Russian Federation, bagged the third prize.



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan addresses the esteemed delegates



AIMUN trophy presented to Chairperson



Executive board of AIMUN 2015



International press of AIMUN 2015

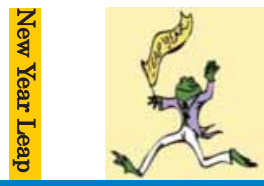


Amitasha students with ambassador of Lithuania



The winning team of AIS Gurgaon 46

The leap I want to make in 2016 is to receive the national Balshree Award in the field of dramatics.  
**Soumya Singh, AIS Noida, IX F**



The leap I want to make in 2016 is to donate clothes and other necessities to poor people and work towards removing discrimination in my country.  
**Khushi Kalra, AIS Noida, VI E**

## Best Delegate Awards

### NATO

**Best Delegate:** United Kingdom  
**High Commendation:** Bulgaria and Albania  
**Special Mention:** Canada, France and Spain  
**Best Position Paper:** Bulgaria

### UNSC

**Best Delegate:** People's Republic of China  
**High Commendation:** Venezuela and France  
**Special Mention:** United Kingdom and Russian Federation

### UNESCO

**Best Delegate:** Syria and Germany  
**High Commendation:** Spain, DPRK, Denmark and China  
**Special Mention:** Pakistan, Canada  
**Best Position Paper:** Bulgaria

### UNFGA

**Best Delegate:** Russian Federation, Syria  
**High Commendation:** China, Mozambique, Argentina and Djibouti  
**Special Mention:** Guinean Bissau, India, Thailand, Iraq and Canada

### USNSE

**Best Delegate:** Secretary of State  
**High Commendation:** National Security Adviser  
**Special Mention:** Chairman Joint Chief of Staff, UN Rep

### AIPPM

**Best Delegate:** Mamata Banerjee  
**High Commendation:** Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley  
**Special Mention:** Sonia Gandhi, P Chidambaram and Chandrababu Naidu

### UNCTAD

**Best Delegate:** China, Lithuania  
**High Commendation:** Russian Federation, Mozambique, USA and Slovakia  
**Special Mention:** Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Spain, Denmark  
**Position Paper:** Canada

### IGC-1984

**Best Delegate:** Director of Intelligence Bureau  
**High Commendation:** Minister of External Affairs, Chief of Army Staff  
**Special Mention:** Director of RAW

### OIC

**Best Delegate:** Chad  
**High Commendation:** Syria, Afghanistan, Mozambique  
**Special Mention:** Russian Federation, Pakistan and Oman

### Best Delegation

**Syria**  
AIS Gurgaon 46 (17 points)  
**China**  
DPS Mathura Road (15 points)  
**Russian Federation**  
AIS Saket (14 points)

## Committees

### All India Political Parties Meet



Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity University at AIPPM

The topic of discussion at AIPPM was the creation of smaller states and cooperative federalism. Emulating our political leaders, the delegates were loud, enthusiastic and dramatic. Witnessing some of the most heated debates of AIMUN 2015, the AIPPM was a huge success. Discussions revolved around the fact that in a culturally diverse nation

like India, partition anxiety exists - a feeling of unity that could be threatened by division. The inspirational presence of Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe, motivated the delegates to surpass the expectations of the Executive Board. He appreciated the enthusiasm of the members and wished them luck for all future endeavours.

### United Nation Conference on Trade and Development



Discussing the status of emerging markets, UNCTAD talked about how emerging market economies (EMEs) have become prominent on the world

economic stage, accounting for a substantial fraction of global growth. The committee progressed with various delegates presenting reports and having heated confrontations. Facing such a large committee, the Executive Board seemed a little overwhelmed at first but then recovered and deftly handled the committee. The UNCTAD ended on an interesting note and had a very commendable run.

### North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

The NATO discussed the conflicts in Eastern Europe, picking up a diverse range of topics related to the insurgency in the North Caucasus. The main players were Russia and several European nations, who were all involved in the argument that threatened to rock the already fragile region. The delegates enthusiastically participated in the debate, placing allegations and defences, questions and answers,

problems and solutions. The Executive Board said, in a feedback session, that they were very happy with the performance of the members.

### National Security Council



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan at the NSC discussion

The National Security Council of the US was a historical committee set in 1979, transporting the delegates into the Iran Hostage Crisis, when approximately 70 American diplomats were held hostage by a group of Iranian students for over 440 days. Being a specialised committee, the delegates had to research a lot and get into the thick of

action so as to stand out in the committee. The Executive Board continuously stirring the members, keeping them on their toes by periodically giving updates about the situation. The committee ended successfully with the EB praising the delegates for their presence of mind as well as their tactical and logical thinking skills.

### Indira Gandhi Cabinet

The committee was set in 1984, at the time of Operation Blue Star, the attack launched on the Golden Temple as a result of Khalistan Movement. With a competent Executive Board leading the way by moderating the debate competently and giving the delegates freedom to make their decisions, IGC was a very interesting committee. Praised by EB, the committee was a great success.



### Security Council



The SC debated on the conflicts in Africa with special emphasis on Central Africa. The committee started with each country taking a diplomatic

stance, thus preventing any debate or consensus. However, realising the ramifications of their decisions, the members started with direct confrontations, allegations and heated discussions. The committee raised many good questions about the legality of international human laws. The EB was happy with the performance of the delegates and the direction the committee took.

### Futuristic General Assembly



Set in 2030, the FGA debated upon the militarization of the Arctic region. The main parties in the conflict were Canada, Denmark and Russia who laid claim

to the same region called the Lomonosov Ridge. The delegates moved through time as each session as the committee put the members in the unique position of visualizing the future and how their actions could potentially change the world. Being such a huge committee, there were a lot of questions on the floor and the Executive Board expertly handled the group. All in all, an out of the ordinary and exciting session.

### UNESCO



The UNESCO offered its delegates the choice to discuss either of two agendas - first, the empowerment of women through education, and second, preservation of national heritage. The large committee of over a 100 delegates chose the first agenda. The points taken up were voting rights, equal opportunities as well as their role in society and safety concerns. Swiftly moving in a positive direction, the committee

### Organisation of Islamic Cooperation



The topic of discussion in OIC was the threat posed by ISIS. The terrorist group is the root cause of heinous crimes against humanity and has affected people across the globe. The members debated on topics ranging from interpretations of Islam to the financial aspects of terrorist groups. The International Press held a press conference to question the delegates and make the committee fast-

paced. During the informative session, the delegates successfully handled several critical issues, a skill immensely crucial for the human race.

## Quote Unquote



"If we have thoughts that are tolerant, then events like Paris attack will not take place. So, our thoughts should not harm anyone, rather they should lead to a path of unity and harmony."

**Ambassador of Slovenia, Chief Guest**



"Thoughts make you what you are, transforming the world into a better place. And AIMUN is a place where thoughts play a major role!"  
**Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, Convener of AIMUN**



"AIMUN can lead the students on the path of global peace and harmony. It is a platform that helps the students to understand critical discussions. Also the decisions would be concrete."  
**HE Laimonas Talak Kelpsa, Chief Guest**



"Knowledge without humanity is just knowledge; and knowledge combined with humanity, is wisdom. And this wisdom helps in shaping an individual and creates an impact on people around."  
**Arnand Gespalt, Guest of Honour**



"Recycle your negative thoughts into creative and constructive ideas."  
**Jyoti Arora, Head, AIMUN**



"Every year, AIMUN is becoming bigger and better."  
**Sumedh Kapoor, Chef de Cabinet**





# A broken mirror



Storywala

When I looked deep into the monster’s eyes, there was something familiar about them. Even its skin looked like plastic.

room, its pieces glistening like diamonds. “Strange,” I thought out loud. “I remember this mirror being put away. So, how did it end up here?”

I stepped over the glass, careful not to hurt myself. I slowly walked towards the bathroom, taking help of the wall. “Wasn’t the bathroom door closed? I distinctly remember switching off the lights!” I stared at the open bathroom and trudged back to my room. Little did I know that danger lurked right there. As I reached for the switch, a hand gripped mine. I screamed ... that hand didn’t belong to a human! It had long nails that wounded my arm; it’s skin was rough and jagged, akin to a witch! I yanked my wrist out of the hand’s grip and ran, mentally cursing my bedroom for being so far. I heard footsteps not far behind me, so I ran faster. Next thing I knew, I was skidding over the pieces of the broken mirror, but somehow I dodged the glass pieces. The inhuman creature was over me, its hair glistening, as it looked straight into my eyes. Its face was too ghastly to describe. I closed my eyes in deep apprehension, yet astonishingly I remained unharmed.

I opened my eyes, wishing all of it to be a dream. When I looked deep into the monster’s eyes, there was something familiar about them. Even its skin looked like plastic. “Wait! Something’s not right here!” I stretched my hand and yanked the façade off. And who did I see? My little brother! I screamed furiously, “Oh! Just wait till I tell mother!”

Nihaarika Singh, AIS Noida, X A

All alone at home with my little brother sleeping soundly in his room, I decided to revel in a novel. The heavy downpour seemed to cast a spell on the already murky weather. Just then, I heard something being knocked over outside my room. I tip-toed outside. When I opened my door, I saw a broken mirror lying in front of my



## Paratha twist

Khushi Gupta

AIS Gurgaon 46, IX

Ingredients

Flour	.....2 cups
Onion (chopped)	.....½ cup
Capsicum (chopped)	.....½ cup
Tomato (chopped)	.....½ cup
Peas (shelled)	.....½ cup
Carrot (chopped)	.....½ cup
Red chili powder	.....to taste
Salt	.....to taste
Garam masala	.....1 tsp
Butter/ ghee	.....1 tbsp
Water	.....for kneading

Method

- Take a bowl. Add all the ingredients.
- Pour some water and knead a soft dough.
- Make small round balls out of it.
- Roll one ball to make a *paratha*.
- Put a non stick pan on medium flame and add little ghee/butter.
- Put the *paratha* on the pan and cook till it becomes golden.
- Flip it over and cook the other side.
- Repeat with the other rolled *parathas*.
- Serve hot with mint or coriander *chutney* or any dip of your choice.

### DIY WRAP YOUR GIFTS!

Bored of wrapping your gifts in plain Jane style and don’t have time? Try these ways and wrap your gifts in less than a minute.

1

You can repurpose old, itchy sweaters and give a warm gift.

2

Wrap a small gift in a yarn ball, with a nice message.

3

If your gift is an odd shape, decorate a paper bag as giftwrap.

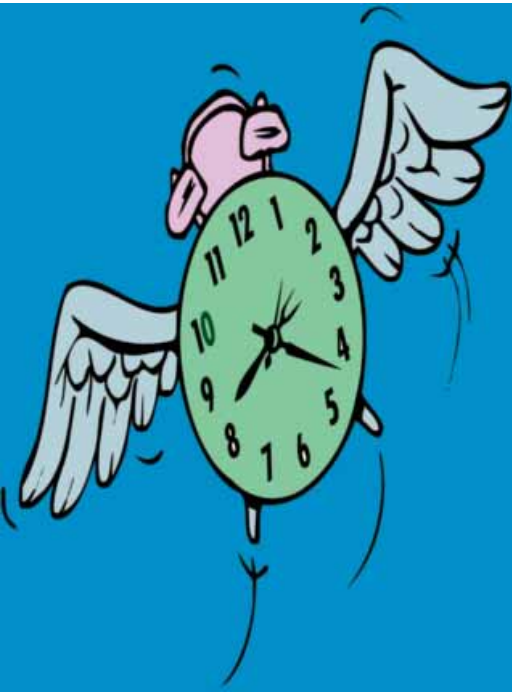
4

Be nature’s friend, reuse and recycle the paper bags from the grocery store.

5

Print word searches on and wrap your gifts up in those.

### WORDS VERSE



## The element of time

Ria Aggarwal, AIS Gur 43, X

Time has no definite meaning  
But many stories  
The moments that pass  
And live in our memories

Is it the moments that lie in the wake  
Of every next change in weather  
Or is it perhaps the collection of the past  
The present and the mysterious future

Maybe only the present counts  
For the past can’t be changed  
And the future is unknown  
But these thoughts plague my mind

And sends a chill to my very bones

Can one travel back in time  
Or see what the future holds  
Can we pause time

Or is it a big continuous wave  
Of momentum that can’t be controlled  
Did time ever have a beginning  
And will it have an end?

The perception of time and its manifestation  
Differs with each new trend  
Progression of change in events  
Is because of time

One perceives motion only because  
Of this phenomenon worth every dime  
Time is a wheel accelerating down a hill  
That doesn’t stop at anyone’s will.

BRUSH ‘n’ EASEL

Manasvi Sharma

Japanese flourish: Manasvi Sharma, Class VII, AIS Vasundhara 6, secured the 1st prize in making a landscape competition with the Katakana script at the National Japanese Fest – ‘Nihon No Kaori’ organized by DPS, Mathura Road. The mega event saw the participation of 30 schools.



## Blinding ego

Sanaa Srivastava, AIS Vas 6, IX B

And now I am a man of ego and pride  
Luxurious cars is what I drive  
Work hard here, and there I strive  
To earn lots of money for me and my wife

This wasn't the case in the early dawn  
When I used to rise in the foggy morn  
And listen to sparrow's chirps and squeals  
All of it gave me such a lovely feel

Going out cycling with all my friends  
And on the way doing small errands  
We had nothing like friendship bands  
But string of hearts and caring hands.





The leap I want to make in 2016 is to make the underprivileged feel that they are equally important in making the world a better place.  
**Anandi Ganguly, AIS Noida, VII H**

# A lesson for Lina



## Short story

**Bhavini Singh, AIS Gur 43, V C**

Once upon a time, there lived a witch whose name was Lily. She was very kind hearted but her sister Lina was a very naughty witch. She always played pranks on unknown people, without thinking about the consequences. One day Lily, the good witch, was wandering in the forest. Suddenly, she came across a little girl who was playing with her pet dog Toto. The dog was limping. Seeing the injured dog, Lily cast a magic spell and healed the lit-

Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

tle puppy. The little girl and the dog were very happy. Suddenly Lina, the naughty witch, came out. Without thinking, she turned the little puppy into a honeybee! Lily was very angry with her sister, while Lina was enjoying the prank. Infuriated, Lily threw a spell at her sister. Lina was surprised at her sister's action. She also threw a spell back at her. Thus, a fight began between the two witches, throwing spells at each other. Finally with a powerful spell, Lily subdued her sister and calmed her down. She said, "Lina, what did you do? The

Without thinking, she turned the little puppy into a honey bee! Lily was very angry with her sister, while Lina was enjoying the prank.

little puppy turned into a honey bee. See the girl, she is feeling so bad and crying for her friend."

Lina turned to look at the scared little girl peeping through the bushes. It was then that she felt really ashamed of her behaviour. She understood that her prank had gone too far. She said to the girl, "I am sorry for what I did to your dog. Wait." Swoosh and with a flick of her wand, Lina turned the bee back into her dog. The little girl danced away happily with her furry friend. Lina thanked her sister Lily for the lesson she taught her. She had now become a kind witch, having mended her naughty ways. 🇮🇳

**So what did you learn today?**  
**A new word: Limping**  
**Meaning: to walk with difficulty**



## Oreo cupcake

**Shaurya Sawarn, AIS Vas 1, II B**

### Ingredients

Oreo biscuits .....150 gm  
 Milk .....½ cup  
 Eno .....¼ tsp  
 Sugar .....1 tbsp  
 Oil/ butter .....to grease  
 Sugar powder/gems ..... to garnish

### Method

■ Blend the biscuits and sugar in a mixer. Take the mixture in a bowl.

- Add milk slowly to get a smooth batter.
- Add Eno to the batter and mix.
- Preheat the microwave.
- Grease silicon muffin moulds with oil/butter. Pour the batter into the moulds.
- Bake for 2-3 minutes. Insert a toothpick into the cupcakes to see if it comes out clean. If still greasy, bake for 1 minute more.
- Coat the cupcake with sugar powder and decorate with gems.



## Save earth

**Avni Agarwal, AIS Noida, II B**

I am earth and earth is me  
 United with my friend, I promise to  
 save earth with care  
 Earth is like a mother for you and me  
 It's the planet as home we share

Each bit of sand, each bit of land  
 Let's take a pledge to save every layer.

Earth needs grass, tree and stone  
 Let them grow naturally to have clean  
 air  
 We need blood, muscle, skin and bone  
 So does earth need  
 Tree, water, stone and grass  
 Humans, animals, trees and plants

Save these living creatures  
 Set them free  
 I am earth and earth is me  
 United with my friends  
 I promise to save earth with care  
 I promise to save earth with care

## POEMS

Each bit of sand, each bit of land  
 Let's take a pledge to save every  
 layer. 🇮🇳

## Republic Day hues

**Sanjana Saxena, AIS Vas 1, VII A**

Let the colours  
 Fly high,  
 There's no limit  
 In the sky

The tri-coloured flag  
 Held above all,  
 Never shall anyone

Let it fall

It's Republic Day  
 In all its glory  
 Today Indians  
 Wrote their own story

The armed forces  
 Are never weak  
 Under the sea or  
 Mountains peak

It's Republic Day,  
 To honour the people  
 Those who had died  
 Protecting the steeple.  
 Indians salute the brave ones,



Who fought with dangers everyday  
 To protect the people  
 And will be remembered in every way

Thankful we are to God  
 For this wonderful way,  
 And for the Nation,  
 It's Republic Day! 🇮🇳

## Colouring fun

Colour Tweety with your favourite colours



# Double dhamaal

The young students of Amity shine like the brightest stars in every field with their passion and enthusiasm



**Madhav (R) with Sundar Pichai**

## 'Sundar' day of 2015

**Madhav Sharma, AIS Saket, V C**

December 17 was indeed the most 'Sundar' day of the year 2015 when I got an opportunity to meet my inspiration Sundar Pichai (CEO, Google) through #AskSundar. The question I had asked him was - we use Google search for our projects and homework but how did he do his homework when Google did not exist. He replied that his mother



used to help him with his homework and she was better than Google. He also shared how he used to mix the *payasam* made by his mother with *sambhar* and drink it. How I wish I could mix my mother's *aloo paranthas* in the *lassi* and drink it too! What I learnt from him: to follow my heart and be humble.

## An author in making

**Pratul Gupta, AIS Saket, IV**

Reading is a great hobby that increases one's imagination and vocabulary at the same time. I have been reading Enid Blyton, Wimpy Kids and Goosebumps from the last 3-4 yrs. These books inspired me to write my own series. During free periods in



**Pratul with his books**

school, I began to take out my rough copy and jot down my story ideas. Finally, I created 'BROECTIVES' - a compilation of stories about two detective brothers who love to solve mysteries. I typed the first story of the series 'The House Ghoul', took out prints and compiled them into a book. When I showed it to my teachers and friends, they really liked it. It inspired me to write 'The Wall of Voices' also liked by everyone. I can't wait to convert the story plots running in my head into another book series. 🇮🇳



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The leap I want to make in 2016 is to concentrate more on studies instead of games.  
**Rishabh Khullar**, AIS Noida, VII H



Chairperson felicitates the winning students

## Amity bags gold in Quality Circle

**AIS Gurgaon 43**

Seven students of Class XI from Amity International School, Gurgaon 43, participated in the National Convention organised by Quality Circle Forum of India, Delhi Chapter. Their QC presentation 'Shilanyas' which aimed at spreading the message of healthy eating and avoiding junk food won the top honours, bagging the Gold. The winning team was felicitated in a ceremony that took place at Manav Rachna University on November 30, 2015. More than 250 organisations from all over India participated in the Quality Circle Convention, showcasing their work and success stories with the help of impactful powerpoint presentations. School principal Dr Anshu Arora applauded the winners and appreciated the zeal and confidence with which the team participated in the prestigious competition. [G.T](#)

# Amitians are the healthiest!

Winning Dabur Immune Challenge proved that



Principal Sunila Athley being felicitated by Dr Mahesh Sharma and Dabur officials

**AIS Vasundhara 6**

Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, firmly believes that great education begins with great health and it should be the endeavour of each school to physically and emotionally strengthen the little ones of India as they form our world and define our future. Children are the true reflection of the health and progress of a nation and it is the duty of every stakeholder to ensure that they get a healthy environment to grow in. AIS Vasundhara 6 carried the belief forward when they were declared the national winners of the Dabur Chyawanprash Immune India School Challenge 2014. In a glittering ceremony that took place on No-

vember 22, 2015 at The Lalit Hotel, New Delhi, school principal Sunila Athley was felicitated with a trophy and a cheque of Rs 3,00,000 by chief guest Dr Mahesh Sharma, minister of state for culture, tourism and civil aviation. 2600 schools across India were screened for a span of five months for the competition. Students from Classes IV to VI were part of the challenge which was also partnered by Dainik Jagran, Max Healthcare and ABP News. Parameters for selection included average attendance, school hygiene, academic record and infirmary details. The galaxy of dignitaries present on the occasion included Kishore Kumar Chaudhary, controller of exams, CBSE; Anand Burman, chairman, Dabur and Sunil Duggal, CEO, Dabur. The award proved to be a motivation for children to remain healthy. [G.T](#)



Krish Jeswal; With his trophies (inset)

## International champion

**AIS Vasundhara 6**

UCMAS (Universal Concepts of Mental Arithmetic Systems) is a prestigious international programme that trains children for brain development using Abacus and Mental Math. Krish Jeswal of Class V A did the school and country proud by winning the 20th International and 14th National UCMAS competition held at Delhi University stadium on December 6, 2015. The event saw more than 1200 participants from 57 countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai, Kazakhstan, UAE, etc display their calculation skills and mental agility. They had to solve 200 quick numeric calculations in 8 minutes by manipulating the beads of Abacus. An activity like this stimulates both the right and left hemispheres of the brain; it aims to test the quick coordination between the hand and the brain. The school is extremely proud of the sterling performance of Krish Jeswal at UCMAS. [G.T](#)

# MUN shines on Amity

MUN fever gripped the students of AIS Lucknow as the young delegates discussed global issues with great zeal

**AIS VKC Lucknow**

**What:** AIMUN

**Where:** AIS VKC Lucknow

**When:** November 21, 2015

**Who:** Students of the school

AIS VKC Lucknow organised AIMUN 2015 in the school premises to enhance the awareness of students about global issues plaguing the world today. A flagship programme instituted by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, AIMUN aims to groom and nurture the students of Amity as global leaders. The programme truly imbibes the meaning of the school's insignia 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', that implies 'The world is one family.' The conference began with the roll call of countries, delegates and committees.



Students debate on world issues

Spanning across five committees, each focused on a specific agenda: DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee) - 'The world belongs to us'; UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) - 'Status of emerging markets globally and in India'; MOD Court- 'Is RTI Act in India on the

right track'; UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) - 'Environmental factors and international pressure'; UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) - 'Preservation of national heritage'.

To be able to contribute wholeheartedly to the committee discussions, the young delegates undertook research on their respective agendas. Full of enthusiasm, the students took upon the roles of diplomats with sheer brilliance. The delegates represented many countries of the world including Argentina, Thailand, France, Italy, China, Brazil and India. During the conference, the students drafted resolutions, negotiated with supporters, resolved conflicts and in the process, learnt the rules and procedures of the UN. The conference was an enriching experience for the students. [G.T](#)



Children enjoy themselves at the picnic

## Children's day out

**AIS VYC Lucknow**

A fun filled picnic was organised for the students of Class I - VIII of AIS VYC Lucknow, on December 6, 2015. Full of excitement, the children visited 'Eco Park'. Looking forward to a day full of fun, games and activities, they carried their badminton racquets, bats and balls to the picnic. At the Eco Park, the children enjoyed vis-

iting the rock garden and were thrilled to see about 25 varieties of birds and animal sculptures in bronze. They also made a trip to the greenhouses in the park, which boasted of a huge variety of plants. Walking around the massive environs of the park was an educative and entertaining exercise for the young ones. Later, the children relished McDonalds' 'Happy Meal', that added to the fun quotient of the day. [G.T](#)

## Shooting champs



Shooting stars of Amity

**AIS Vasundhara 6**

The pistol and rifle shooters of AIS Vasundhara 6 represented their school in CBSE National Shooting Championship from November 18-22, 2015 at Ratan Convent School, Faridabad and brought laurels to the school's name. The championship saw the participation of 3000 shooters from 15 states. Arjun Veerwal, XII A; Nakul Veerwal, XII D and Sarthak Sharma, X C bagged the team bronze in the U-19 pistol event. The winning trio was felicitated by Dr Anil Sharma, MLA, BJP and Deep Bhatia, general secretary, Haryana State Rifle Association. [G.T](#)



Soumya (R) with Renu Singh

## Korea-India ties

**AIS Noida**

The All India 3rd Korea-India Friendship Essay competition was organised by the Korean Cultural Centre India, Embassy of Republic of Korea. The contestants had to submit entries on - 'Why I love K-Brands', 'Why I love K-Pop' and 'Why I love K-dramas'. Soumya Sharma, a student of AIS Noida, IX A, participated in the competition and secured a position in the top 20 among 6548 participants

from over 400 schools of India. The top 20 winners were invited to the Korean Cultural Centre for the award ceremony. The awards were given away by the ambassador of South Korea and director of The Korean Cultural Centre. Soumya thanked Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, for providing her the golden opportunity. School principal Renu Singh applauded her success. [G.T](#)

*Contributed by Soumya Sharma, AIS Noida, IX D*



# Unseen. Unheard. Unknown

What if we had exam-free schools, four-day work weeks, no-diet weight loss regimes...the list of wishful thinking is endless. But what if our ‘what-ifs’ become a reality in the New Year?

Saumya Kalia, AIS Vas 6, XII D

Ever wondered what makes homo-sapiens so optimistic about New Year? January 1 is perceived to be a ‘restart’ date, where the worries and events of the past year are expected to vanish and the hope of a better tomorrow looks promising. 2016 is no different for it has been garnished with the same enthusiasm, promises and gaiety. As we enter the New Year, let’s turn up the momentum of our hopes and picture our ‘what ifs’ into reality. Take a look!

**Education saturation:** Good news for students! Delhi University had decided to welcome students with open arms, declaring 85% to be the cut off for all colleges, even St.Stephens! Class XII Board examinations have been modified, with a fourth of the syllabus being scrapped and the policy of Score-Choice being allowed.

**Politically economic limericks:** CM Kejriwal and PM Mo di made headlines after they were seen hugging on New Years’ Day. Indians have reported ‘positive changes’ in their surroundings in 2016, with women feeling more confident while stepping out of their house. The #CorruptionHataoAndolan celebrates its 5 month anniversary in May, with politicians taking a pledge to eradicate the social evil. The Prime Minister’s increasing international popularity



SPOOF

has led the foreign exchange market to witness a rise in the Indian currency, and US-India ties are stronger than ever.

**Green capital:** The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 has led to an increase in the number of garbage bins, leading to a decline in land pollution. Delhi has finally secured its position in the top 10 greenest cities of the world along with Stockholm and Bristol. People are not seen

littering anywhere. India has started on the mission to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emission and hopes to make drastic changes soon.

**A new kind of feminism:** Manufacturers are refusing to produce traditional pink and blue dolls; the idea of introducing red, black and yellow colours has gained a favourable response. Even Barbie has gained weight, and sports shorter hair! Priyanka Chopra has been ap-

pointed as the HeForShe ambassador for India. Her speech on National Women’s Day finally cleared the difference between feminists and feminazis.

**Tech age:** The Digital India campaign has successfully established ground in rural areas, improving the lives of the impoverished. Apple announced that it will be releasing iPhone 9 with a virtually interactive Siri acting as a personal

Imaging: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network assistant and also a phone sensor accessed directly by our thoughts.

Too many achievements for one year? These things might not happen in this year, or the next, or the year after. But our hopes are alive that they will; effective policies will be implemented, Indian citizens will become more responsible and these fantasies will soon be ‘Seen, Heard and Known’.

## Master strokes



Dr Nilima Rao (L) with the painting bought by Founder President (R)

A faculty member of Amity Institute of Biotechnology, AUUP, Noida, Dr (Mrs) Nilima Rao brought glory to Amity by participating and garnering acclaim in an exhibition of Kalakriti Foundation. A multifaceted personality, she shares her artistic voyage with Tulika Banerji, GT Network.

**The stirring of passion**  
The seeds of painting were sown in my heart when I was pursuing my Masters in Biotech, in 1976. My roommates were Home Science students and there was an air of art all around. It was then that I discovered my artistic leanings but couldn’t take it up. Two years back, I found my passion stirring again and that was when, I was inspired to join weekend classes at Kalakriti for a



Diploma in Fine Arts.

**A dream come true**  
For an artist, the greatest high is when their work is appreciated. Thus when I was able to present my work at Anugoonj, it gave me immense satisfaction. My dream came true, all thanks to the encouragement of my teachers at Kalakriti, who egged me to participate. Nothing can beat the feeling of gratification when Founder Sir bought my

**Symphony of colours**  
Dr Nilima Rao’s paintings found pride of place at Anugoonj, an exhibition organised by Kalakriti Foundation at Jaipur from Dec 2-6, 2015. The exhibition was visited by students and many distinguished personalities. Her paintings received widespread acclaim.

painting ‘Autumn Beauty’. Many faculty members and students from Amity Jaipur Campus visited the exhibition and appreciated my work. I have also gifted a few paintings to the campus.

**Artist with a heart**  
Art is an expression of my inner feelings; it connects me to the Almighty. Though I enjoy all kinds of folk art, Madhubani and Worli are my favourite. Another of my passions is creating decorative items from discarded material. Give me any throwaway, I can create something beautiful with it. Even now, I’m making a painting on used assignment sheets. For me, nothing is waste.

**Biotech or Art?**  
I like to balance both. From 9 am - 5:30pm, I’m a faculty of Biotech; after that I’m a student of Fine Art. My mother was my biggest source of inspiration. She had a knack for embroidery, and art; I get my strength from her.

**Be all you want to be**  
Everyone has a special talent – one should tap that. Also, age is just a number, you should have the desire to fulfill all your dreams.

GT Travels to Sydney

Inaaya Kukreja, AIS Noida, Nursery J, flaunts her copy of The Global Times at Sydney Harbour Bridge at Sydney, Australia. The bridge is a steel through arch bridge across Sydney Harbour that carries rail, vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic between Sydney Central Business District (CBD) and North Shore. It is the sixth longest spanning-arch bridge in the world and the tallest steel arch bridge, measuring 134 m (440 ft) from top to water level.

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