

Status of the week

One thing that I've learnt from Economics is that the moment the graph reaches its minimum, it has to rise.

Simran Sachdeva
AIS Pushp Vihar, XII

INSIDE

Flood of sorrow, P2

Sabse chota Rupaiya, P7

AMITEpoll

What is more important?

(a) Course
(b) College
(c) Both

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT
for GT issue July 8, 2013

Has the 'Himalayan Tsunami' swept away the faith in God?

Response	Percentage
Yes	42%
No	37%
Can't say	21%

Results as on July 12, 2013

Coming Next

Watch out as Amity touches the top ten mark in the next edition

E for Elitist Education

As Right to Education became a fundamental right in 2009, right to quality education started to elude anyone scoring below 95%. Has elitism crept into the higher education system in India...wonders **Venika Menon, AIS Noida, XII J**

The prospectus of one of the prestigious (read elitist) colleges in DU advises its students to “apply to other institutions as well because only about 2 per cent of those who apply to this college succeed in securing admission.” Well, of course, haven’t we heard that admission to these high profile colleges means much more than joining just any other college in India? So how high is India’s premier education institution

ranked in comparison to the top 100 institutions around the world?

On the global front
Not a single Indian university features in this year’s World University Ranking published by Times Higher Education listing the top 100 schools to study. Before you accuse this poll of focusing on ‘western’ countries, you may want to take a closer look at the list, and you will find that it even contains universities from South Korea, Israel and Turkey! In the top 500 institutes of the world, IIT Kharagpur falls at 225-250 and is followed by two more IITs, but that’s it.

Where did we go wrong?
So why is it that mother India, who once prided herself for imparting education to the world, is no longer a prime education hub? This could be because of elitism in two forms: our education system and our educational institutions. Currently, the Indian education system focuses on a very specific skill set and is taught in the one-size-fits-all method. The current form of education emerged in the 18th century to meet the requirements of the industrial revolution. In case you haven’t noticed, we have moved way past the industrial revolution. The job market is overflowing with millions of people who specialise in the same field (Economic Times reported over a million unemployed engineers in India) because of schools concentrating on only a few subjects, primarily science. And as far as our educational institutions are concerned, they pride themselves on selecting some two percent of the appli-

cants, perhaps based on their ability to rote and purge it during a three hour paper. And with the cut offs reaching a crazy 100% at some odd college or another, such institutions believe that there should be no difference between a student scoring 60% and another 90% because both automatically become ineligible for admission.

The road less taken
While our institutions form small exclusive clubs and compare salary packages each year, their foreign counterparts believe in reaching every part of the world using the internet through platforms like coursera.com (courses from universities like Stanford, John Hopkins, Princeton, etc), edxonline.org (joint partnership between MIT and Harvard), futurelearn.com (partnerships between King’s College, Warwick, Birmingham, Bristol, etc.), etc.

This kind of exclusivity has prevented a trickle-down effect from our top universities to our not-so-good-ones, which has ultimately led to stagnation in both.

Let’s debate
Parents, teachers and students are increasingly becoming aware of the gaping loopholes in the system. As a result, we see a growing number of students opting for education abroad despite the Rupee at 60/\$. And just as these arguments are open for debate as they may be flawed or prejudiced, the people on top too need to reconsider and re-look into the flaws of the present education system. It is high time they face the challenges of providing quality education to the masses by dialoguing with parents, teachers and students. 🇮🇳

The views and opinions expressed are entirely the writer’s own and do not represent the ideology of the newspaper.

Be prepared for a third world war

Harish Rawat, union minister of water resources, during his visit to Amity University, Noida urged the youth to use water judiciously or be prepared for a third world war due to the impending water crisis ...

Water is our second most important natural resource. But are we using it wisely? The current water crisis suggests otherwise. However, we still haven’t hit a dead end. Harish Rawat, in an interview with Shivang Sharma of Amity School of Engineering and Technology, talks about the ongoing efforts to salvage the situation and more...

Every drop counts
It is important to encourage judicious and wise use of water to avert a third world war. The dwindling water table and acute shortage of potable water across the world would be responsible for this war. I welcome each and every effort made by the society, educational institutions and public organisations to educate people about the importance of keeping rivers clean. River Ganga, which is a symbol of Indian culture and pride, itself is in danger because of the rising pollution. It is our duty as citizens of this country, to protect our rivers and pre-

vent them from turning into drains.

Interlinking of rivers
In 1990, the NDA government was given the man-



date to interlink rivers of peninsular India, but later on, a Himalayan component was also included in that. Now, 16 peninsular and 14 Himalayan rivers are being surveyed. We are going for inter state

linking too. I think 34 or 36 such links are in the offing now. By the end of the 12th Five Year Plan, we should be able to add one or two more inter-links. The interlinking of the peninsular, Himalayan

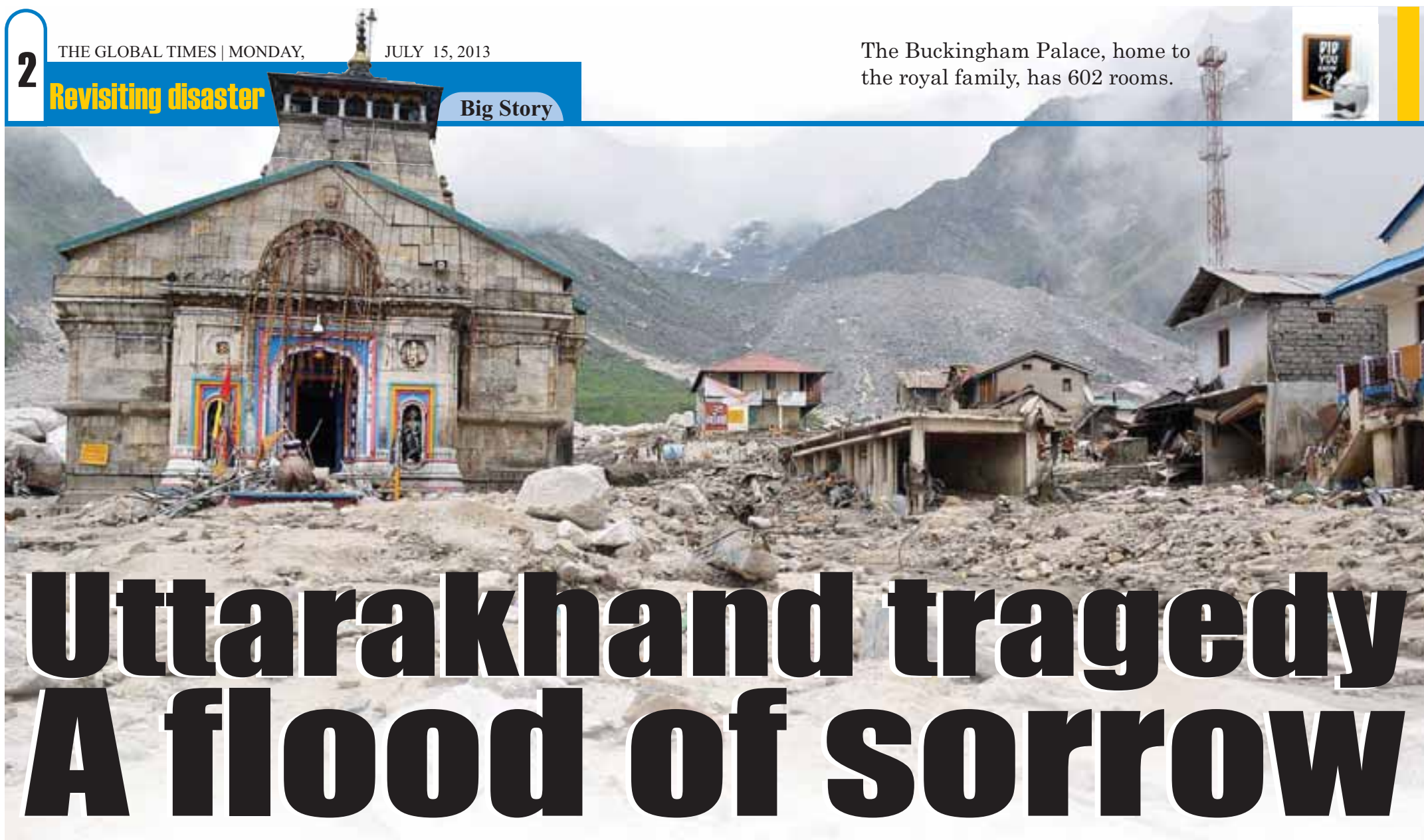
the hour for a power starved country like India.

Saving Yamuna
I recently assured the ‘Save Yamuna’ marchers from Vrindavan that sewage and other waste from Delhi would not be released into the Agra Canal, rather we would try to treat the water from drains in Delhi and consume it locally. I have also agreed to release 225 to 250 cusec water from Hathnikund for the Braj Mandal area through a canal and construct new parallel drains on both sides of the river bank in Delhi for diversion of waste and sewage, which was earlier openly released into the river

Heal the world
It is the responsibility of the young leaders of our country to prove to the entire world that Indians are the best. I call upon the privileged sections of the society to come forward and support their less privileged counterparts. The inclusive growth and development of the society is possible only when the privileged and less privileged learn how to work in tandem. The onus of making India a superpower lies with the youth. It is only through the active participation of youth that India can lead in all spheres. 🇮🇳



The Buckingham Palace, home to the royal family, has 602 rooms.



Uttarakhand tragedy A flood of sorrow

As India struggles to come in terms with a natural calamity that wiped over 10 000 and left many missing, the big question before us is, was the tragedy that struck on June 16, nature's balancing act or a result of divine fury. The tragedy dealt a heavy blow and jarred the nation glum

The flash floods triggered by incessant rain and cloud burst on the ill fated night of June 16 and 17 in Uttarakhand, also popularly known as Dev Bhoomi, spelt doom for more than a lakh pilgrims and locals who were caught unguarded in nature's worst fury. Thousands were washed or buried under debris and over 5,000 reported missing. Though, the state government has pegged the number of those killed at 1,000, it fears that more than 10,000 could have been killed. The Indian Armed Forces emerged as the real heroes in the tragedy, working day and night, without caring for their own lives in an inhospitable terrain, surviving harsh weather to rescue those stranded. The state, heavily dependent on tourism to run its economy, suffered a staggering loss of nearly Rs 3,000 crores, with road repairs alone costing Rs 250 crores. Find out more about the natural disaster touted as one of the worst in India

Natural tragedy or a man made disaster?

Man

VS

God

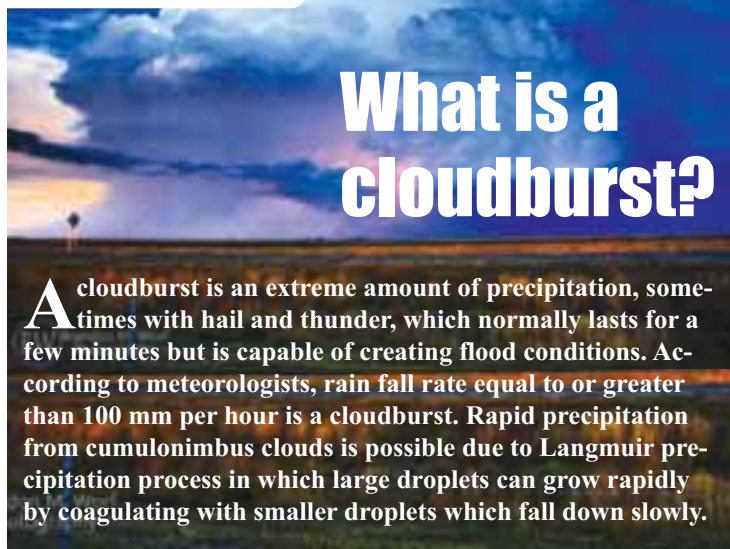


Bhagvat Bali, IX C & Akshat Parmar, IX I
AIS Noida

The tragedy at Kedarnath points out the imbalance between human greed and environment conservation. In the name of providing adequate facilities to *yatris*, road-widening schemes, erecting makeshift structures and setting up sewage treatment plants; the state authorities put the security of its people in danger. Unregulated tourism led to the proliferation of ill-designed, ecologically unsound hotels and guest houses that collapsed like a house of cards. The Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) that deluged Kedarnath was the result of melting of glaciers caused by climate change. Drilling of huge tunnels to facilitate construction of over hundreds of dams at the cost of forests and even heritage sites was one of the major factors that led to the disaster. An RTI query filed by activists in 2010 revealed that the state government planned to construct 557 dams across river Ganga and its tributaries. This is an astonishingly high number, and mindless construction of 'bumper to bumper' dams is a complete environmental hazard. According to ecologists, we cannot have roads on the Himalayas like the ones on the Alps because Himalayas are young mountains and so appropriate

technology has to be used for road construction, which we lack. However, these norms were violated blatantly by the authorities. Uttarakhand must be allowed to dream a better future for its people, and for the pilgrims, but without impairing the precarious balance between humans and nature. [G T](#)

Did you know

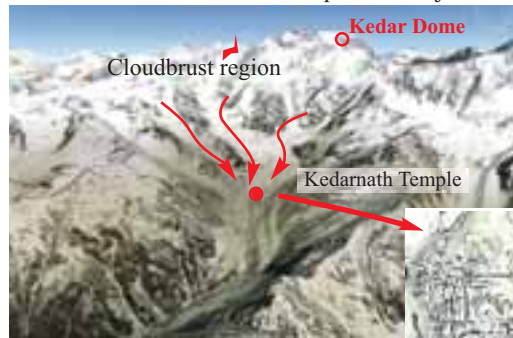


What is a cloudburst?

A cloudburst is an extreme amount of precipitation, sometimes with hail and thunder, which normally lasts for a few minutes but is capable of creating flood conditions. According to meteorologists, rain fall rate equal to or greater than 100 mm per hour is a cloudburst. Rapid precipitation from cumulonimbus clouds is possible due to Langmuir precipitation process in which large droplets can grow rapidly by coagulating with smaller droplets which fall down slowly.

Making of a Himalayan tsunami

Graphic: Pankaj Mallik



Sparsh Kataria & Samridhi S.
AIS Noida, IX C

Even as Uttarakhand tries to lurch out of the worst ever natural tragedy, the environmentalists are locked in a debate trying to probe reasons behind the Himalayan tsunami. Uttarakhand and adjoining areas received heavy rainfall from June 14-17, which was about 375 percent more than the benchmark rainfall during a normal monsoon. This caused sudden and rapid crumbling of Kedar Dome. Eruption of the Mandakini river, led to heavy floods near Kedar Dome, Rudraprayag and Uttarakhand. This flooded the Charbari Lake and then Kedarnath, resulting in drowning of people and a panic driven stampede that caused several deaths. Of all the places, Kedarnath was the worst affected. The incessant rainfall coupled with the melting down of a glacier and a cloudburst caused loss of life and property. However, several man induced factors like deforestation, tourist influx, giant hydro electric projects, wreaked havoc in this eco fragile zone. [G T](#)

Facts about Kedarnath

Svasti Malik, AIS Noida, IX C

- 🔴 Located in the Himalayan range in Uttarakhand, Kedarnath is a meeting point of five rivers, Mandakini, Madhuganga, Kshirganga, Saraswati and Swarnadwari.
- 🔴 The town is named after king Kedar who ruled in *Satya Yuga*.
- 🔴 The 1200 year old Kedarnath temple, located about 3,583 m above sea level near *Chorabari* glacier in Himalayas was built by Adi Guru Shankaracharya in the 8th century.
- 🔴 Considered the highest of 12 *Jyotirlingas*, Kedarnath *linga* is pyramid shaped.
- 🔴 There are many legends associated with the origin of the place, which is also considered to be the most remote of the *Char Dhams*.
- 🔴 The temple is about 85 feet high, 187 feet long and 80 feet broad with walls of 12 feet breadth.
- 🔴 The walls of the temples are embellished with scenes from mythological stories and images of deities.
- 🔴 Unlike other temples that open in east, this one opens in the southern direction.
- 🔴 It is built using huge rocks welded together using inter-locking technique which contribute to its strength. [G T](#)

Nature's fury or divine wrath?

Gauri Khandelwal, AIS Noida, IX C

The massive flood at Kedarnath that left behind a trail of death and destruction did not even spare the 1200 year old Kedarnath temple. The temple which was abuzz with pilgrims till the fateful night of June 16, today stands in a sea of debris. And if the locals are to believed, it is the result of Dhari Devi's fury. The *devi* was removed from her holy abode and shifted to another temple to facilitate the construction of a dam on June 15. And the very next day, the holy town of Kedarnath and several other cities in *Dev Bhoomi* were washed



away. Similar attempts in the year 1882 had also resulted in havoc. Though, the environmentalists might blame ruthless construction, urbanization and deforestation for the tragedy, the legend continues to hold strong ground. [G T](#)



Tomato ketchup was once used as medicine in the united states; it was sold as “Dr miles compound extract of tomato”.

UShering a new start in US



Intern: Sangamitra Sankariah, Amity Law School, Noida

A student shares how the opportunity of an international internship programme offered by Amity University gave her wings

Amity Law School, Noida

Mokshda Bhushan
Asst Prof, Amity Law School, Noida

Sangamitra Sankariah, a student of Amity Law School, Noida, was among the four students selected from India to attend a fully sponsored internship programme called ‘Prudential Foundation Global Citizens Program’. She was the only one with a law background chosen for the programme, extending from January to May 2013, organised in collaboration with The Washington Centre for Internships and Academic Seminars, Washington DC. She shares her experience ...

Tell us about your internship experience.
My internship was at the Office of Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) and I was also working with the Office of the General Counsel for the Metropolitan Police Department, under the OAG. It

was an altogether new experience for me. I worked for a government agency for the first time and that too a law enforcement agency. I got an opportunity to work on various relative cases in protecting the police department along with the government of District of Columbia in all the law suits against them.

Did the internship prove to be a good learning experience for you?
I gained an in depth knowledge about the workings of the Police Department in Washington. It gave me an opportunity to meet influential personalities like - Chief of Police of DC, Cathy L Lanier and John Strangfled, the CEO of Prudential Finances.

What were your job responsibilities?
My job responsibilities included; providing assistance to the attorneys who in turn assisted the attorney general’s office, processing litigation holds for the preservation and protection of documents in a law suit and writing arguments in favour of the Department/DC government in law suits. I also had the opportunity to work for the labour and employees’ relations unit. I also helped them prepare documents required to take necessary disciplinary action against erring police officials.

How challenging was the selection process?
We were required to fill up an application form and provide required documents such as transcripts, recommendation letters, essays and statement of intent. The application forms were further shortlisted. I appeared for seven levels of interviews which were very challenging. I am extremely thankful to Amity University for providing me this opportunity. I would also like to thank Maj General Nilendra Kumar, Director, ALS and faculty members Neha Srivastava Ma’am and Superna Venaik Ma’am.

Share some memorable moments of your experience with us.
The most enjoyable experience was attending the Prudential Spirit of the Community Awards at the National History Museum. I had the opportunity to listen to Kevin Spacey, an Academy Award winner and Alison Felix, a three-time Olympics gold medallist. Other activities included shooting at the police range and going for gun recovery. Besides, I got to learn a lot from my room mates, who hailed from different countries. **Watch out this space in the July 22 edition as Harini S, AIB who participated in the same program shares her experience.**

Well published!



Amity University Press, New Delhi bagged the ‘Award for Excellence in Publishing’ at the Indian Education Awards 2013. The prestigious award ceremony was organised by The Federation of Indian Publishers, the representative body of the publishers in Hindi, English as well as other Indian languages and regional office for South Asia of International Publishers Association. Amity University Press received the coveted award for its book ‘Amrit Hindi Pathmala’ in the ‘Text books, School (Hindi)’ category.

Lend me your voice!

Ever wondered what it takes to be the voice behind an animation or a cartoon character? Ponder no more!

Career Watch

Apoorva Pandey & Navjot Singh
AIS MV, XII

Ever wished to be the voice behind your beloved cartoon character? Well then, get ready to flex those vocal chords of yours, which, if good enough and well-practiced can earn you a career in voice overs, the heart and soul behind characters or animation.

Who is a voice over actor?: A voice over actor (or artist) is anyone who lends his or her voice for TV commercials, documentaries, movies or on the radio. Put simply, voice over is a technique wherein the voice is modified to complement the visuals of a tele-film, documentary, etc.

Parameters: Fortunately, this is one profession where academics is not the only parameter for getting a job. Good command over language, correct diction and voice clarity make a good voice over artist. Additionally, the artist should also



be able to synchronize his lip movements, tone, voice pitch and silence with the gestures and body language of the character on the screen. It is most important to perfect one’s pronunciation and preferably, take a course on how to express emotions through voice. Build confidence and start giving audi-

tions as and when you are ready. **Institutions:** Although, not many institutions offer a separate courses in this field, but off late many new institutions have come up with specialized programs. Institutions like Aaroha, Mumbai; R K Films and Media Academy, New Delhi offer lucrative courses. Institute of Voice Culture and Digital Dubbing Studio, Mumbai; Film Academy, Mumbai; and Accent & Communication Training Institute India, Mumbai are other options too.

Renumeration: The salary of a voice-over artist depends on several factors like length, complexity, and popularity of the program. For a TV serial, a good voice over artist can earn anywhere between Rs 5000 and Rs 8000 for every episode. For a corporate film or even a documentary, one can easily make Rs 15,000-20,000. For a film, on the other hand, a voice-over artist earns at least Rs 25,000-75,000 for lending his/her voice to a single character.

Armed with skills



Dignitaries at the inaugural ceremony

A six-month certificate course in videography, photography and editing for Indian defence personnel was inaugurated on July 2 at AUUP. Veteran media personality Arup Ghosh, CEO of Network 1 presided over as the chief guest at the inaugural function. The course, to be added in the curriculum of Amity School of Mass Communication (ASCO) under the aegis of Amity Institute of Education and Training (AIET), is aimed at equipping the personnel with an alternate career op-

tion in media once they retire from the Armed Forces. Maj Gen Subash Bindra, VSM (Retd), senior director, AIET, welcomed the participants warmly. Maj Gen K J Singh (Retd), Group vice chancellor, Amity University and executive senior vice president, RBEF said that the course is perfectly suited for those who take a keen interest in photography, videography and editing. Prof Col. R K Dargan, advisor, ASCO, said that ASCO is equipped with state-of-the-art studio and the latest technology.



A falling star, caught!

Adding another feather to Amity's glorious cap, students of AIS Pushp Vihar do us proud by identifying an asteroid and also getting it provisionally named. Read on to know more...

Pallavi Joshi, GT Network

“This time I began to gambol like a mad pup, grunt like a crazy bull and tweet like a happy canary! Well, we had actually done it,” says Gaurav Pati, one from the two young budding astronomers from Amity. “I feel like a star myself now, on spotting our star-like 2013 LS28 asteroid,” grins Shourya Chambial.

A prized catch...

As a child everyone gazes at the night sky, wishing that they could catch a falling star; but our budding astronomers Gaurav Pati and Shourya Chambial, Class VII of AIS Pushp Vihar actually did catch one! As part of an asteroid search campaign held by IASC in collaboration with SPACE, the young stargazers

What is an asteroid?

A star like minor planet that revolves around the sun in orbits lying mostly between those of Mars and Jupiter, is called an asteroid. There are thousands of small bodies of 480 miles (775 km) to less than one mile (1.6 km) in diameter. Asteroids in ancient Greek literally means ‘star-like’ or ‘star-shaped’.



Illustration: Ravinder Gusain

discovered an asteroid and got it provisionally named as 2013 LS28.

How they did it?

The duo's journey towards the discovery of the asteroid began in May, when they happened to attend the All India Asteroid Search Campaign, an astronomy workshop for the students. The project's aim was to provide a platform to students and amateurs in India to discover asteroids. Under the guidance of their physics teacher, Rashmi Shehrawat, they were taken to an asteroid search campaign. The two joined students from 30 other schools to learn more about aster-

oids. During the course of the workshop, they were briefed about the use of three telescopes, 24 ft., 32 ft. and another new one, about 30 ft. in length and a search program called ‘Astrometrica’ that helps spot asteroids. The students also learnt about the correct methodology of identifying an asteroid. The information provided at the workshop proved beneficial to the duo when they set out to spot asteroids and submit their Minor Planet Centre (MPC) report.

Eureka!

“June 11, we submitted our Minor Planet Centre (MPC) report with a total of 62



Gaurav Pati and Shourya Chambial stand proud with principal and vice principal, AIS Pushp Vihar

moving objects. Soon, we got a mail that one of our asteroids had been considered as a preliminary discovery. Then we received another mail that our asteroid is now a provisional one. Now what follows next is the wait and hope for it to be placed in the world's official minor body catalogue maintained by Astronomical Union (Paris),” says an elated Gaurav.

So, the next time you hold your head up, stargazing the night sky, follow the correct methodology and you too might spot your very own asteroid! 🇮🇳

Can we spot it too?

An asteroid is a moving body of rocks and dust. Want to spot one? Follow these easy steps.

Step One

Download an asteroid searching program called Astrometrica. Now you are all set to test your skills and luck! However, choose a clear and dark night for your quest.

Step Two

A good way to spot an asteroid is by following blinking method. Here, you need to blink the three photos, initially captured by the telescope. By doing so, you can find any object that had moved in a fraction of a second.

Step Three

To make sure that the moving object is an asteroid, you need to follow three sub steps. As an astronomy enthusiast, you first need to make sure that the object is moving in a straight line. Second step in the road to discovery is that the picture in the right should have white dots sticking onto the red line. Last but not the least, the SNR should be more than five.

Education

AICE

Amity International Olympiad

Taking a giant step towards making India a knowledge superpower, AICE held its second Amity International Olympiad under the aegis of Amity Centre for Science Olympiad



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan (C) and Meenakshi Rawal pose with distinguished faculty members and participants from all over the world at second Amity International Olympiad 2013; (Below) Founder President Dr Ashok K. Chauhan and Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan declare the Olympiad open

Smita Jain, GT Network

Over 150 students participated in the second Amity International Olympiad for Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology held at Amity University from May 19 to 25, 2013 by Amity Center for Science Olympiad (ACSO). The Olympiad organised under the aegis of Amity Institute for Competitive Examinations (AICE) saw foreign students from as far as Malaysia, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan take part in the workshop that aimed at nurturing a brigade of young people who would be competent and competitive enough to bring laurels to their countries.

Setting the ball rolling: The meet was declared open by Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools; eminent psychologist Dr Rick Levy, and other distinguished academicians, like Dr R P Singh, director, Amity Institute of Nanotechnology; Prof Sitaraman, senior vice president, RBEF & advisor, Amity Center for



Guidance and Counseling; B N Bajpai, advisor, R&D, Amity Group of Schools and several others on May 20. The event began with the ceremonial lamp lighting. Declaring the meet open, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan said, “India represents a beautiful amalgamation of ancient wisdom and advanced scientific development. It would be wrong to see India only as a land of snake charmers. It is a country which is making significant progress on all fronts, especially in science and technology.”

Seven girls from Amitasha, Noida competed with over 100 students from prestigious schools of Malaysia, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan and India. Jyoti Singh of Amitasha, Noida also received a medal in special mention category for biology.

Experts show the way: The students had the privilege to learn under the expert guidance of faculty members from Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Srinivasa Ramanujan Institute of Mathematics Olympiads, Sastra University, Kumbakonam and other universities. Dr R Bapat, Dr Srikant, Dr K Kannan, leading physicist Dr Ravi Bhattacharjee and renowned chemistry expert Dr S V Eswaran conducted invigorating sessions during the course of the workshop.

Tasting Indian hospitality: India is known for its hospitality and culture across the world. Amity, with its insignia of ‘where modernity blends with tradition’ took the Indian legacy of *Athithi Devo*

Bhava a step forward by providing state-of-the-art accommodation facilities, quality meals and a warm stay. To provide the foreign students a glimpse of Indian life and culture, a tour of historical cities of Delhi and Agra was organised on May 23 and 24.

Meritorious students shine bright: Over 67 students were felicitated with gold, silver and bronze medals in the area of physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics on May 25 at the valedictory function. The others received participation certificates. **The closing note:** The valedictory function saw many eminent speakers share their valuable insights. The event began with Meenakshi Rawal, director, AICE, sharing significant progress made by AICE since its inception. Those present on the occasion included Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools; Dr Amit Roy, director, Inter University Accelerator Centre; HE Doulat Kuanyshev, ambassador of Kazakhstan; Dr Debapriya Dutta, director, Indo French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) amidst many others. 🇮🇳



Americans eat 45000 burgers per minute.

Sabse chhota rupiya

With the rupee hitting rock bottom, prices have touched the roof. Inflation is at a new high and our currency's credibility is under duress. Will the rupee be able to bounce back ever?

Sangeet Khurana, XI F, **Aditya Singh** and **Kritika**, XI D, AIS Gurgaon 46 investigate

Reported: India's GDP growth dipped to 4.8% in the January-March quarter and fell to a decade low of 5% for the entire financial year 2012-13

What is GDP? What does it indicate?
How do you know if a person is in good health? By checking his vital parameters. Similarly, to know if a country's economy is in good health, we need to measure its GDP or Gross Domestic Product. GDP represents the total value of all goods and services produced over a specific time period. It is also known as GDI or Gross Domestic Income. Usually, GDP is expressed as a comparison to the previous quarter or year. For example, if the GDP is up by 3%, it means that the economy has grown by 3% over previous year/quarter.

What impact does decreasing GDP have on rupee?
When GDP falls, it brings down the value of rupee. It makes imports expensive, exports are hit and FDI takes a beating, leading to a rise in inflation. The declining GDP leads to a depreciation in the rupee. Simply put, the value of rupee in comparison to the dollar declines, ie, people have to shell out more rupees to buy a dollar.

When was GDP the highest in India?
The GDP touched a high of 9.6% in Financial Year 2006-07. It fell to its lowest in five years to around 5% in FY 2012-13 after rising to 6.5% in FY 2011-12. India is one of the fastest

growing economies but the depreciation of the rupee has led to a major dip in the GDP.

What factors cause a decline in GDP?
A huge fiscal deficit, increased subsidies, policy paralysis of the Indian government and falling Indian rupee are the domestic reasons. Other factors are global economic slowdown, poor performance of agricultural and manufacturing sector, sluggish demand for Indian textiles abroad; inadequate infrastructure and increased subsidies and protection by the government.

How can India overcome the decline in GDP growth rate?
The government needs to cut subsidies on fuel, fertilizer and food; open Indian markets for FDI; control inflation; curtail expenditure on unnecessary ventures such as the proposed Mars Mission and expensive military purchases and make investments in developing infrastructure, instead.



GDP Growth rate chart 2000-2012
Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Rupee Raag \$un raha hai tu... ₹o raha hu mai...

Reported: Rupee fell to a new low of 61.2 per dollar - dubbed worst performing Asian currency!

What factors led to the rupee's crash?
Plunging stock markets, falling foreign investment inflows and strengthening of the dollar caused the rupee's downfall. Rising fiscal deficit and untamable inflation added to its woes. High crude oil prices, inflated the import bill and resulted in further widening of the current account deficit, which accelerated the rupee fall.

What does the increase and decrease in the value of rupee signify?
An increase in rupee's value means exports are more than imports, leading to a trade surplus. This means more foreign currency comes into the country

than what is paid for imports. This also signifies falling prices and an economy in control. Conversely, a falling rupee indicates rising prices, fall in purchasing power, increase in imports and rising exports leading to a trade deficit.

How is the value of rupee measured?
In international trade, value of rupee is the amount of dollars it can be exchanged for. The Reserve Bank of India manages the rupee's value by changing interest rates, controlling fund flows in the country, tweaking the cash reserve ratio, and selling or buying dollars in the open market.

How can the rupee be strengthened?
The value of Rupee can be stepped up by some RBI and government measures like controlling inflation, increasing FDI, reducing imports and promoting exports. Stronger rupee=stronger India.



Oil on boil: With a weak rupee, the import prices of fuel and edible oil are on the rise, thus hiking petrol and cooking oil prices.
Un-smart choice: Prices of smartphones are expected to rise by 6-10% soon. Buy fast or you'll have to shell out more later.
Care for cars? Car prices are likely to shoot up. Hold your horses if you are planning to buy an imported beauty.
Dark Chocolate: If imported chocolates up your mood, their prices won't. Also to be hit are packaged food and drinks.

Rupee is doomed, are we doomed too?



AC's smoking hot: ACs and refrigerators are fast becoming too hot to handle, what with their rising prices. Get ready for a smoldering summer!
Skies on fire: Going by the escalating air-fare, you might have to reconsider your foreign travel plans. As the rupee comes down, so do you.
'Fee' the pinch: Those of you who have been eyeing foreign universities, take a deep breath. Brace up for expensive course fees as rupee falls down.
Switch off: Perhaps, some good did come out of the depreciating rupee. With the shooting prices of CFLs and LED bulbs, you can finally switch off!



All graphics: Pankaj Mallik

Reported: Gold falls to Rs 26,850 per 10 grams after hitting a low of Rs 25,758 earlier.

What defines the value/price of gold?
The price of gold is determined by its supply, demand for use in jewellery and speculative demand to hedge against inflation and economic uncertainty. As gold is a luxury good, a rise in income could lead to a bigger demand for gold.

Where does India stand in terms of global gold import?
India imports 800 tons of the 2500 tons of gold produced each year, accounting for nearly one thirds of the world demand for gold.

Do we need to curb gold import? Why?
Gold forms a great part of India's imports but it is largely an unproductive item as by itself, it cannot do anything much. Also, keeping in perspective, the current account deficit (the difference

between the outflow and inflow of foreign currency) that had touched a record high of 6.7 % during the last FY, it is all the more important to curb gold imports.

Why is a slowdown in US and Europe affecting India?
Europe and US are trapped in a vicious cycle of unemployment, financial sector fragility, fiscal austerity and low growth. This leads to a weaker demand for Indian exports, great volatility in capital flows and rising prices of imports.

HIT A NEW LOW

61.21

2013

July 8, 2003 - Rupee fell to an all time low

Rupee timeline

1947	1\$ = 1₹
1950	1\$ = 4.79₹
1955	1\$ = 4.79₹
1960	1\$ = 4.77₹
1965	1\$ = 4.78₹
1970	1\$ = 7.56₹
1975	1\$ = 8.39₹
1980	1\$ = 7.86₹
1985	1\$ = 12.36₹
1990	1\$ = 17.50₹
1995	1\$ = 32.42₹
2000	1\$ = 44.94₹
2005	1\$ = 44.09₹
2010	1\$ = 44-50₹
2011	1\$ = 48-51₹
2012	1\$ = 50-55₹

The actual height of the Eiffel Tower is 984 feet but it grows by 6 inches in summer, as metal expands and shrinks back to normal in the winter, as metal contracts.



Are you lucky?

We always complain about things we don't have, but are we making good use of the things we are blessed with?



Imaging: Deepak Sharma

Himanshu Agrawal

Amity Institute of Space Science & Technology

I was in Kathmandu at that time, having just cleared my Class XII boards. I was idle, having nothing much to do. Wondering how to keep myself busy, one day I luckily found my sister's cellphone loaded with the best of tracks. I immediately grabbed it and began to enjoy the numbers till I was instructed by my



mother to get something from the market. I left home with my earplugs on gyrating to the music.

Suddenly, my eyes fell on a young boy, around 15 years of age. Dressed in a smart school uniform of light blue shirt and dark blue pants, he had something pleasant about him. Pretending that he wasn't



worried about anything, he was walking on the road, despite the fact that he could have easily used the pavement. He wasn't even respecting the horns of vehicles



behind him. Then I saw three more youngsters dressed identically at a short distance. As they turned towards him, he raised his hands high up in the air, as high as possible. To my surprise, they reciprocated his gesture. Just then, a bus came and the kids boarded it.

Children of all age groups were seated in it and they all had one thing in common- a smile on their face. To my utter surprise, they all raised their hands to greet each other.

Soon, the bus took a U turn and my eyes fell on the text written on it, which pricked my conscience. I had been so wrong all this while. The kids didn't have one thing in common, they had two. They all were deaf! The text read, 'School for the Deaf'.

In no time, the bus disappeared, and I was left with the music playing in my ears. That was the most silent school bus, I had ever come across. I wondered how strong were these kids to find happiness in hiding their pain under the blanket of smile.  

To read more, log on to www.thethoughtshower.blogspot.in





Shahi paneer

Paresh Bali, Asst Professor
Amity School of Hospitality

Ingredients

Paneer	250 gms
Ginger-garlic paste	10 gms
Coriander leaves.....	a few sprigs
Onions	100 gms
Tomatoes	200 gms
Cinnamon	½ inch stick
Bayleaf (small)	1
Cumin seeds	2 tsp
Black cardamom	1
Cloves	3-4
Butter	2-3 tbsp
Red chilli powder	1 tsp
Turmeric powder	1/2 tsp
Coriander powder	1 tsp
Fenugreek leaves	a few
Cream	1/2 cup
Salt	to taste

Method

- Chop the onions finely.
- Cut *paneer* into cubes or diamonds.
- Puree the tomatoes.
- Heat butter in a *kadhai*. When hot, add cumin seeds, bayleaf, black cardamom and cloves.
- Add ginger-garlic paste and fry till golden.
- Add onions and cook till light golden in colour.
- Add tomato puree and powdered *masalas* and cook on slow flame till it begins to leave oil.
- Add *paneer*, a little water and cook for a few minutes.
- Add fenugreek leaves before removing from the flame.
- Garnish with cream, juliennes of ginger and coriander leaves.
- Serve hot with *paranths*.  

Brush 'n' Easel



Bhavya Parashar,
AIS Gur 46, XII B



Tongue Twisters

Vasundhara Dagar

AIS Vasundhara 1, IX

- How can a clam cram in a clean cream can?
- There was a fisherman named Fisher who fished for some fish in a fissure till a fish pulled the fisherman in; now they are fishing the fissure for fisher!
- If Stu chews shoes, should Stu choose the shoes he chews?
- Wayne went to Wales to watch whales.
- Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards.
- Gobbling gargoyles gobbled gobbling goblins.
- When you write copy, you have the right to copyright the copy you write.
- A big black bug bit a big black dog on his big black nose.
- Sheena leads, Shiela needs.  

POEM

Loneliness

Navya Khanduja, AIS Saket, X

In today's so called
fast paced busy life,
oh there's absolutely no life.

There she goes and here she comes,
so many different things she learns.
But when the child looks for mum
she's forced to stay dumb.



When for dad her little eyes search
on the blank clouds, they have to perch,
as daddy is nowhere to be seen,
he's as busy as mum has been.

Abandoned at home,
the adolescent puts up with
buddies outside, with whom she has all
the joy she might.

Friends are close and
they stay together tight
and make her burdens of grief light.
But when they turn out
to be mean beasts,
she forgets all their parties and feasts...

Discarded by them,
the young girl ventures out for true love
which she's sure will be sweet as a dove.
And when she finds it,
her joy knows no bounds,
like a fairytale, it seems and sounds.

But when that sweetheart
cheats on her, life goes down like a purr.
Her world breaks down,
her dreams are shattered!
She couldn't even frown
as to no one she mattered...
She hopes for no more,
her ship will never come to shore.

She waits for her wings to soar,
so she may fly away and,
see the world no more...
All she has now is helplessness,
because her only respite
lies in her loneliness.  

CAMERA CAPERS

Bhuvan Ravindran, AIS Noida, Alumnus

Send in your entries to
cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



Birds of a feather



Ready to take off



Peek-a-boo!



King Louis XIX ruled france for a total of fifteen minutes.

The tale of compassion

Wisdom Tale

Maansi Anand, AIS Vas 1, VI D

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Tara. She did not have any pet for company, so one day she went to a pet store to buy a kitten for herself. Upon reaching the shop, Tara was delighted to see so many cages full of lovely little kittens. She went and examined every cage, searching for a pet for herself. Suddenly, her eyes fell on a huge cage which had four lovely little kittens with cream and sandy brown fur. She happily asked the shopkeeper the price of a kitten and he replied that each kitten cost the same. As she was about to pick the one with sandy brown fur, her

eyes fell on a little kitten, which was kept in a dark corner. She asked the shopkeeper why the poor animal was huddled in a corner.

The shopkeeper replied that nobody wanted to buy the little kitten as it had lost one of its legs in an accident. Tara went over to the injured kitten and picked it up.

As she cuddled the kitten, it licked her hands. Tara knew from that very moment that this was the pet she was looking for. She picked up the kitten and went up to the billing counter to pay the money for it.

The shopkeeper was astonished to see the injured kitten cuddled lovingly in the girl's small arms and he could not resist asking her, "Child, why have you bought the injured kitten?"

Tara replied "I bought this kitten because I can feel its pain and understand how lonely it would be feeling." The shopkeeper was confused and could not understand a thing. But he soon realized what Tara meant. As Tara was about to leave the shop, he noticed that the little girl herself had an artificial leg.

So what did you learn today?
We should treat others in the same way we would like to be treated.



Illustration: Deepak Sharma



Tri colour coconut laddu

Taksheel Buddhadeo

AIS Gurgaon 46, I B

Serves: 6

Preparation time: 5 minutes

Time to make laddu: 10 mins

Ingredients

Coconut powder1 bowl
Sugar½ bowl
Condensed milk3-4 tsp
Saffrona pinch
Milk3 tsp
Green cardamom1
Basil leaves (tulsi)12-15 leaves

Method

■ Take a bowl and add powdered sugar & coconut powder.

- Mix the two well for nearly 5 to 10 minutes.
- Now add condensed milk to the above mixture and mix.
- Soak saffron in milk and leave it for some time.
- Prepare small round balls of the mix..
- Decorate the laddus with basil leaves and saffron soaked in milk and serve. 🇮🇳

(This recipe was featured in Master Chef column in Friday Gurgaon newspaper. Refer snapshot)



POEM

In love with nature



Alan J Antony
AIS PV, VIII A

One sunny noon in May,
I sat with my books to ponder away.
History along with chemistry
is still a mystery.

Here we go- my English book,
what's there, let's have a look,
oh, chapter seven, 'Captain Cook',

chapter eight, oh my God, it's 'Nature',
as tough as making a Mughal miniature!
Leave chapter nine, 'Theory of relativity,'
let me do some activity,
which brings about sensitivity.

Hives of bees, whispering trees,
olive trees, like in Greece,
birds and animals, big and small,

all inside my compound wall!
Sounds so beautiful to be heard,
of a pretty koel bird,
vines and creepers, cattle keepers,
leaves and feathers and life so full!
"Whose feat is this, may I find?
Please tell me, please be kind."
"Mother Nature," said God from the hill,
what beauty does she fill!

Just like a mother, with lot of care,
in beauty does she also fare,
taking care of plants and trees,
big and small, lions and fleas.

But we destroy her, pollute her,
killing animals, cutting trees,
poaching deer and swatting bees.

Mother nature will give you back,
trouble filled in a sack.
Hurricanes and storms,
even a tornado in mighty form.
Don't cut any bush or hedge,
and come let's all take a pledge;
"I will protect mother nature." 🇮🇳

Riddle Fiddle

1. Which month has 28 days?
2. What goes up and doesn't come back down?
3. What has a thumb and four fingers, but is not alive?
4. What occurs once in every minute, twice in every moment and yet never in a thousand years?
5. If there are 4 apples and you take away 3, how many do you have?
6. Where do fish keep their money?
7. What kind of meals do math teachers eat? 🇮🇳

Answers

1. All of them
2. Age
3. Glove
4. The letter m
5. You took 3 apples so obviously you have 3
6. In a river bank
7. Square meals

Painting Corner

Mansvi Sharma
AIS Vasundhara 6, V A



It's Me

My name: UdayAeri
My class: KG D
My school: Amity International School, Saket
My birthday: June 20, 2008
My hobby: Playing with my super hero toys
My best friend: Madhav
My favourite book: Spongebob's Birthday
My favourite mall: TGIP, Noida
My favourite teacher: Komal ma'am, Rajni ma'am, Reena ma'am and Bharti ma'am
My favourite poem: Humpty Dumpty
My favourite subject: Computers
I like: Running and playing games on iPad
I dislike: Getting a scolding from my parents
My role model: My father
I want to become: A pilot
I want to feature in GT because: I am proud to be an Amitian 🇮🇳



Learning along with Amiown

At Amiown, learning is imbued with life through engaging and interactive classroom teaching practices

Art of association

Amiown Pushp Vihar



Prabha Singh
Teacher

At Amiown, we as teachers are always striving to make learning fun and stimulating for our little ones. We are encouraged to use innovative techniques and practices to achieve this end.

A typical day at Amiown starts with prayers followed by circle time, which is greatly enjoyed by all the tiny tots as it is the time to express themselves freely and learn



Circle time Knowing each other better

about varied topics and concepts cheerfully along with friends and teachers.

One day, while taking attendance, I observed little Harsh helping his friend. As his name came up, I referred to him as helpful Harsh. He looked so proud and delighted on hearing this that from that moment on, I decided to identify the uniqueness and quality of each child and add an appropriate adjective to their names. Naturally, this thrilled the little ones as they realised that the teachers know them well, while it also enriched their word bank.

Intelligent, helpful, cheerful, jovial, polite, beautiful, handsome, amazing, brilliant, confident, creative, smart, smiling...the list of adjectives used during the attendance time is extensive. The little ones have also learnt to appreciate themselves through this practice. Since this approach has yielded marvelous results, we have adopted this practice across the board, including music and sports classes. Amies now value themselves and their peers much more. They are more familiar with adjectives and have started prefixing similar words with their friends' names.

An extension to this activity in the new academic year is that, adjectives have been added to class names by class teachers, for example, Brilliant Bees, Elegant Eagles, Dynamic Ducklings, etc.



Number boat Fun with Math

Amiown Gurgaon



Sunita Palliwal
Teacher



Swati Agarwal
Teacher

At Amiown, efforts are taken to ensure that play and enjoyment in learning stimulates the kids' imagination, insight, communication skills and ability to think and solve problems. Children explore and experiment with mathematical concepts. By assembling jigsaw puzzles and making towers of blocks, they learn to recognise and identify simple shapes. The concepts are reinforced through practical learnings of mathematical concepts. For instance, the idea of size is reiterated through holding

Animating Math

hands to make a small or a big circle. Math is made simpler through activities that involve touching, talking, reasoning, playing and doing. Prenursery children are acquainted with an activity called 'Mr Number Jar', wherein they feed a jar a certain quantity, thereby understanding concepts of measuring. Progression is taught to the precious little gems through visual and imaginative mediums.

Little Amies learn math by living it; a mock market is often created in the classroom, wherein they buy and sell using mock currency. A role play for transportation theme was organised recently and the Amies played passengers who had to look for their seats from the seat numbers mentioned on their tickets. The concept of greater and less than was taught using an alligator stick puppet. Every time the puppet opened its mouth, it gave the little ones a visual display of the symbols used for less than and greater than. This technique helped reinforce the concept well in their minds.

Various number games played in teams boosts the confidence of Amies as they hear their classmates cheer for them. Besides, the tiny tots play various games that enhance mathematical thinking and facilitate larger motor movements in them.

Making sense of senses

Amiown Noida



Ritu Kashyap
Teacher

A child's social, emotional, cognitive, physical and language development are stimulated during multisensory experiences. In the classroom, the Amies are encouraged to understand the five senses through rhymes and touching their own

nose, eyes and ears. Sensory learning is imbibed through exploring various textures, thus enhancing the observation power and descriptive and expressive vocabulary of the tiny tots who grow every day at Amiown.

Nature walk is a teaching tool that help them greet the world around them through the use of their senses. New language tools are given to them so that they connect with language and cognitive concepts in simultaneity.

Sensory play is a part of classroom routine. Herein, several sensorial games are played to help the Amies concentrate on a particular theme. Natural materials are delightfully open-ended and can be used by the children in a myriad of ways. Messy play is another important part of sensory exploration through ice cubes dipped in colours, where



Splish splash! Touch 'n' feel

they also get an understanding of concepts such as melting and freezing.

There are a range of classroom activities that create a multisensory environment in the classroom through music or texture plates. The sense of sound is demonstrated through a game wherein a child is blindfolded and asked to identify particular sounds in the classroom, such as the sound of opening a window, or closing a door. During snack time, the tiny tots use descriptive words for the flavour and texture of food.

Towards happier Amies

Amiown Vasundhara



Puja Malhotra
Teacher

Early childhood entails a succession of transitions as young children develop fast. Beginning preschool is a transition that holds many changes for children. At Amiown, challenging transitions are made successful and rewarding, while respecting

that every child has a different starting point. To make this transition even smoother, workshops are conducted for the parents of Amies that equip them in dealing with anxiety issues their little ones may face when joining Amiown and at the culmination of the year, while stepping into formal school.

Transitions between various activities are planned as a meaningful part of the Amiown curriculum to

promote learning, set a positive tone and help Amies to move seamlessly through the day. The transition might be from free play to washroom to circle time to activity to lunch to outdoor play to learning centres. For children, doing what they must or should rather than what they feel or want to is an important lesson.

To excite the little ones at circle time, the 'magic box', with various props inside is arranged. This way, Amies look forward to singing the Magic Box song and are excited about the new surprises in it. Amies, who feel apprehensive initially, are also fascinated by the surprises and join their peers in the group during circle time.

Familiar songs, stories and finger play form a part of the daily routine that guides Amies about where they are to go for the next activity. Puppets may be used to give directions, but the clues are given verbally accompanied by a big smile on the face.



AMITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
NEW DELHI • GURGAON • NOIDA



FOR A PROMISING CAREER IN TEACHING

APPLY FOR PROGRAMMES IN
PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY
AND ELEMENTARY
TEACHER EDUCATION

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR

Programmes	Duration	Eligibility
PG Diploma in Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) (0-8 yrs.)	1 year	Graduation
PG Diploma in Elementary Teacher Training (0-12 yrs.)	1 year	Graduation
Certificate Course in Teacher Training	1 year	10+2
Certificate Course in Montessori Method	4 months	Graduation
Certificate Course in Management of Learning Difficulties	4 months	1-2 years teaching experience

All programmes commence in August, 2013

To download Application Form and for more information on Programmes and schedules, please visit www.amity.edu/acert

100% placements In branches of Amity International School and other reputed schools in Delhi/NCR and abroad

*Part time programme for working teachers. Classes are held for 2 hours twice a week

Follow us on Facebook

REGISTRATION ALSO OPEN FOR

ONGOING WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS, FUTURE PARENTS & CHILD CAREGIVERS

Build a more positive relationship with children through workshops on

- How to deal with Separation Anxiety - Managing transition from home to school
- Sibling Rivalry
- The importance of Play

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS OR ASPIRING SCHOOL LEADERS ON THEMES LIKE

- The Whole brain approach to learning
- Teacher Self awareness for Personal and Professional excellence
- How to talk so kids can learn at home and at school

ACERT branches in Delhi NCR: Pushp Vihar (New Delhi): 88-266-98199, 011-32545957
Gurgaon: 98-733-98164 • Noida: 98-733-98129, 0120-3272270 • Hyderabad
Email: admissions@acert.amity.edu | Website: www.amity.edu/acert



A hippo can open its mouth wide enough to fit a 4 ft tall child inside; nothing to worry, though....they are herbivorous!

AIS Gurgaon 46 wins AYVM 2013

Amity Yuva Vichar Manch is a platform provided by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools, to inculcate scientific temper. The comprehensive programme that entails various stages saw students from all branches of Amity come together to discuss and debate various issues concerning the nation. AYVM 2013 saw AIS Gurgaon 46 walk away with the rolling trophy.



Winners of AYVM 2013, AIS Gurgaon 46, with their prized possession

Amity's Children Science Foundation

Stage 1 Mera Vichar: An essay writing competition was organised for students of Class IX to XII across all AIS branches. The students were free to choose any one of the five topics ● Managing waste is the responsibility of government ● Population is boon not bane ● Are we ready for implementation of RTE ● Interlinking of rivers will solve water crisis ● Expanding scope of nuclear energy will boost Indian economy.

Stage 2 Vichar Vimarsh: The round saw students engage in group discussion which was facilitated by the teachers on

their chosen topic.

Stage 3 Tark Vitark: This stage comprised intra school debates held in the respective schools during November. Three best teams were selected from each school for each topic, resulting in a total of fifteen teams per school.

Stage 4 Abhivyakti: This stage saw teachers writing papers on the selected topics, giving examples of various case studies. They presented their findings on April 6, at AIS Mayur Vihar. Three best presentations were awarded. The first prize winner in each category were ● Managing waste is the responsibility of government - Hem Lath R Kumar, AIS Noida ● Population is boon not bane, Anumita, AIS Noida ● Are we ready for

implementation of RTE - Nandini Mukherji, AIS Gur 43 ● Interlinking of rivers will solve water crisis - Sarita Singh, AIS Vas 1 ● Expanding scope of nuclear energy will boost Indian economy - Shubham Chakraborty, AIS Vas 1

Stage 5 Youth Parliament: The programme culminated with this stage that was organised on April 12 and 13 at AIS Saket. The opening day of the 'Youth Parliament' saw chief guest Dr Arjun Ray, member of parliament, Lok Sabha grace the occasion. A Gautam, deputy speaker of Delhi Assembly presided over as the chief guest on the concluding day. The two-day long session saw intense discussion and debates on an array of topics concerning the nation. [G I](#)

Reading Mahotsav 2013



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan and Ms Jaishree Chauhan with budding readers from AIS Gurgaon 46

AIS Gurgaon 46

To inculcate reading habit among students, AIS Gur 46 organised a week long Reading Mahotsav from April 30 to May 10, 2013. The celebrations saw several competitions and activities like making comic strips, inter-house literary quiz, making a book jacket, solving crossword puzzle, collage making, etc take place. A book fair was also organised within the school premises to acquaint children with the latest publications. Following the Reading Mahotsav, the school organised a felicitation ceremony on May 3, 2013 to award the winners of the various competitions.

The occasion was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and Ms Jaishree Chauhan. Surekha Panadikar and Rupa Gupta, well-known authors of childrens' books felicitated the awardees and also motivated them to read good books.

Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan in her address to the students said, "Reading leads to the birth of good thoughts which are vital to achieve success in life." She motivated the students to read more and more good books and also make reading an integral part of their daily life. The event concluded with the school song, followed by the national anthem. [G I](#)

Greek Ambassador visit



Ioannis Raptakis, Ambassador of Greece; GT reporters in a tete-a-tete with the ambassador (right)

AIS Noida

His Excellency, Ioannis Raptakis, Ambassador, Embassy of Greece, visited AIS Noida on May 15, 2013. The Ambassador was accorded a warm welcome by the school choir, followed by a spectacular Kathak

recital by a student, Devika Bhowmik. Oditi and Venika Menon, both students of Class XII gave a brief presentation on Indo-Greek friendship. In her address, principal Renu Singh shed light on the economic and political issues faced by the European countries. She also shared the vision and mission of Dr Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe and that of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools. She said the two were devoted to making India a superpower and also nurturing global friendship. His Excellency appreciated the efforts made by Amity to enable its children develop a global outlook. [G I](#)



Little ones from AIS Saket beat the heat with a rain dance and beach party



Beach and rain dance party

AIS Saket

To welcome the arrival of the summer season, AIS Saket organised a rain dance party for the students of KG on May 7 and a beach party for its Nursery students on May 8, 2013.

The venue of the beach party - an open air theatre promised a perfect escape

from the scorching heat for the little ones, who came dressed up in colourful costumes and flaunted their funky sunglasses, straw hats, floaters, crocs and trunks. The Circle time saw teachers and the little ones talk about beaches, water conservation and precautions one must take while on the beach. Several photographs were also clicked whilst the

kids enjoyed splashing in the pool and playing in the water sprinklers. The rain dance party saw the little ones have fun in the pool with their favourite toys. The children relished and shared the home cooked food carried by them for the party. The children were happy to leave for their homes with a gift and a huge bagful of memories. [G I](#)

Enhancing English



Mohina Dar, consultant and director, academic projects, Amity Group of Schools was the sole chosen representative from India to attend an event organised by Cambridge English Global Schools 2013 on May 23 and 24, 2013. The international event was aimed at producing the most valuable range of qualifications for the English teachers and also work towards the further enhancement and development of the English teachers. The delegates from over 24 countries shared their views on the development and implementation of teacher training strategies at both regional and national level. The objective of attending the programme was to imbibe the best practices learnt during the programme as part of Amity curriculum and also guide Amity heads towards implementing the same. [G I](#)

Chess Wizard

AIS Vasundhara 6

Ayushman J S of Class IV, AIS Vasundhara 6 won the first prize in the Under-10 category at the C S Sharma Summer Chess Tournament. The chess tournament, held at the Russian Embassy, New Delhi on June 21 and 22, 2013, was organised by the Botvinnik and Genius Chess Academy. The tournament saw chess champs from many prestigious schools across Delhi, NCR and northern India participate in the tournament with enthusiasm. [G I](#)



Ayushman with his trophy3

AIS Noida in top 20



Salman Khurshid felicitates principal & vice principal of AIS Noida

AIS Noida

Amity International School, Noida was shortlisted in the top 20 schools of the country to be felicitated during Engineering Watch School Summit-2013 that was held at SCOPE Convention Centre, New Delhi on May 21,

2013. Engineering Watch, a prestigious magazine dedicated to the Engineering community, had conducted a survey on STEM education, future readiness, value centricity amongst schools in India. Over 9000 schools from all over the country participated in the survey, out of which 20 schools were finally shortlisted for the Engineering Watch School Summit-2013. Amity International School, Noida was one of the 20 shortlisted schools. The 20 participating teams shared their vision for education in this country before a 9 member jury. Renu Singh, principal, AIS Noida and Jyoti Arora, vice principal, AIS Noida were felicitated on the occasion by Salman Khurshid, minister of external affairs. [G I](#)

Penguin is the only bird that can swim, but not fly.

Compiled by
Ronak Arora, AIS Vas 1, VI



Mandira musings



She made her debut as a tele actor with *Shanti* and was appreciated for her role as a coy village belly in *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge*, but it was her stint as cricket commentator that won her acclaim. Meet Mandira Bedi, the co host of Indian Idol Junior as she gets up close and personal with **Kripi Badonia, AIS Noida, X**

What made you take up Indian Idol Junior?

When I learnt about the concept of Indian Idol Junior, it appealed a lot to me. The idea of hosting a show comprising kids as young as 5-15 years old sounded music to my ears, maybe, because I have become a mother recently. I used to love kids earlier, but now I feel more connected with them.

From being a cricket commentator to a fashion icon to a TV show host; which role do you enjoy the most and why?

I am a very spontaneous person and anything and everything that happens live, attracts me. Whether it is hosting cricket shows or present-



Kripi in conversation with Mandira Bedi

Pic: Ravinder Gusain

FACT FILE

Debut: *Shanti*, a TV soap
Best known for: The first woman to host a cricket show 'Extra Innings'
Less known for: Ambassador of Indian women cricket team
Presently in news for: Hosting Indian Idol Junior

ing live shows, I love doing them all. I love the way the audience is all eyes and ears just before the results are to be announced. I love the suspense element associated with any finale.

Female cricket commentators were very rare when you started off. Who did you model yourself upon?

I didn't have any role model before me to look up to. I simply loved the game. So, when I was called, I just hoped for the best, and went for it! I wanted to fit in the panel, and not stand out.



It's been some time since we saw you act on TV, has acting taken a back seat for you now?

No, it has not taken a backseat. I was inactive for some time, but right now, I am working in an untitled film directed by Atul Agnihotri with more or less an ensemble cast. I have done some theatre too and as far as TV is concerned, well, you'll soon see me hosting these child prodigies!

You have essayed many roles. Which one do you relate the most to?

The role that is closer to my real self even now is that of *Shanti*, a strong woman journalist. She inspired me in many ways, and unknowingly or knowingly, I imbibed many parts of her character in real life as well.

Young participants of reality shows find it difficult to handle pressure and criticism of the judges. What do you have to say about that?

Competition is an integral part of our lives today. Should exams be prohibited in school as a low score can prove morally disastrous for students? Today's generation has to learn to accept rejection gracefully and work hard to improve their skills. Shows like this only provide encouragement to young talent.

Your mantra for a happy and successful life?
Keep working hard, try new things but never give up on your goals!

GT Picture It Photo Contest

3

I want Freedom

Last Date
July 30, 2013

from drugs, from plastic, from peer
pressure, from delayed justice...

As another Independence Day draws closer, it's time to seek freedom and revel in its spirit. So, this Independence Day, tell us what you want freedom from, albeit through your lens. Give a caption to your picture and send them to us at cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in.

All photographs to be attached as JPEG files and should be high resolution with a size of 1 MB or more.

GT Travels to Thailand



The Global Times enjoys a sunny day with **Aadita Madahavan, Amity International School, Pushp Vihar, IV F**, at Tiger temple, Thailand. Here the monks train the tigers and this is the only place where one can pet and touch these wild cats. The temple was founded in 1994 as a forest temple and sanctuary for wild animals.

Got some clicks with GT while on the go? Get them featured!
Send them to us at gtravels@theglobaltimes.in