

**Status of the week**

At the funeral of inspiration; a sly hope whispered to an ailing imagination, "I think you're next"

**Ishan Rai**  
Alumnus, Amity Institute of Biotechnology, AUUP

**INSIDE**

RIP Earth, P5

Meet Bickram Ghosh, P7

**AMITEpoll**

Are you aware of your Human Rights?

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 November 19, 2012

Will a common entrance test benefit the students?

Response	Percentage
Yes	86%
No	6%
Can't say	8%

Results as on November 24, 2012

**Coming Soon**

AIS Vasundhara 6 contest edition...

# CET Reset

With HRD ministry and IIT arriving at a common ground to resolve the admission imbroglio to the premier institute, via a Common Entrance Test (CET) **Shubham Sharma** of **Amity School of Economics** finds out whether the students are the new victims or benefactors of the CET

## Admission Standoff

Keen to end the autonomy of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and set the flawed examination system right, Human Resource Development Minister Kapil Sibal suggested a Common Entrance Test to the 16 IITs. He also recommended taking into consideration the class XII marks scored by the student in CBSE. However, IITs stiffly resisted the one nation-one exam proposal, with three IIT senates terming the proposal ‘unsound’.

## Bridging the row

The two warring parties walked halfway to arrive at a compromise formula, spelling tougher years for IIT aspirants. Under the new format, the marks scored in class XII would be used to select candidates, while the IITs would conduct their own admission tests. About top 20 percentile students from every board would qualify for entrance to IIT. The cut-off percentage for a student appearing under the CBSE board has been set at 78% while for those appearing from UP state board would need 65%-66%. The original proposal of one nation-one exam drew flak for missing out on the objective of reducing dependence on tuitions.

## Gloom or boom

The new eligibility criterion would hit the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) students the hardest. Come next year, immaterial of their scores in the IIT Joint Entrance Exam, the candidates have to figure within the top 20 percentile of their Class XII boards. This marks the beginning of tough times for students appearing from competitive boards like CBSE. The move is likely to spark a rage amongst parents and may compel students to



change over to less competitive state boards.

## Amitians speak up

I think the intent is right but not the approach. These modifications are causing unnecessary chaos and confusion. These new reforms, be it in the JEE or AIPMT, are highly irregular and are just making students worry more. This extra stress is uncalled for. Things need to be simplified.

**Navjot Singh, XI, AIS Mayur Vihar**

The decision shows that a premier institute of India is raising the bar and selecting students who are proficient in all spheres. I think the students will be up for this challenge

and put an end to their single-minded craze for IIT. Besides, they will also have good boards result to fall back on.

**Vallari Suharsh, XII F, AIS Noida**

The students anyway study for Class XII and now they have to work a little more to crack IIT.

**Twinkle Taneja, X D, AIS Pushp Vihar**

The whole point of changing the entrance procedure was to reduce the number of exams and difficulty level for getting into IITs but what they came up with frankly doesn't change much.

**Sakaar Khurana, XII, AIS Mayur Vihar**

# Wild India’s lone ranger

**Wildlife Crusader: Bittu Sahgal**

- Member of the National Board for Wildlife of the Ministry of Environment and Forest India
- Author of India Naturally, The Bandhavgarh Inheritance, The Sundarbans Inheritance
- Producer of over 30 conservation related documentaries
- Founder of Kids for Tiger Programme

Join **Smita Jain, GT Network** as she gets candid with Bittu Sahgal, renowned environmentalist and Editor Sanctuary Asia, India’s premier wild life and ecology magazine

**What made you give up a lucrative career in advertising and take up the cause of tigers?**

I fell in love with nature. And when I saw people harming what was beautiful I jumped in to protect it. One thing led to another and I found myself happiest in the heart of nature. My wife Madhu stood by me and taught me that we do not need much to live. We never wasted too much time trying to make money for things we did not need. This left us free to do what we wished for ie living with and for nature.

**When did you get associated with the Project Tiger?**

A year before Project Tiger program was launched, I met Tiger Man Kailash Sankhala. He explained me how saving tigers saves the ecosystem. He was rational and touched an emotional chord too. From then on, I was hooked for life!

**Tell us about the inception of Sanctuary Asia magazine.**

It is a strange story. During my visit to Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, I asked the Field Director Fateh Singh Rathore about how I could do my bit for mother nature and save wildlife. He appreciated my gesture but turned down my offer politely saying that city dwellers could

hardly work for the cause. On constant persuasion, he asked me to come up with a wildlife magazine. In an emotional response, I told him that I would return back to the reserve with a magazine and that’s how Sanctuary Asia was born.

**You were among the first ones to sound the bugle about global warming and now the threat has become apparent. What do you have to say about that?**

I was not the first one to press the panic button. People like late Edward Goldsmith, Editor, The Ecologist, and envi-

tion. Climate change is the most dangerous threat that has ever faced life on earth; it has largely been driven by economists who seem to know the ‘price of everything and value of nothing’.

**What factors are responsible for the decline in number of tigers?**

The double barrel attack- habitat destruction and poaching are the main reason behind the dwindling numbers of the big cat. The tiger is sinking faster than ever before. The best habitat for a tiger is the human heart and there too it seems

The best habitat for a tiger is the human heart and there too it seems to be losing ground to greed.

ronmental organisations like Greenpeace were raising this alarm at least a decade before I even considered it a grave threat. But when I did, I decided to share this knowledge and concern with others. Today, the entire Sanctuary Asia family works towards the objective of restoring the lost glory of ecosystems.

**What do you perceive as the biggest environmental challenge before India?** Climate change coupled with deforesta-

to be losing ground to greed.

**Tell us about Kids for Tiger program initiated by you?**

We have been successful in reaching out to about 500 schools in over 15 cities. We narrate a simple story to kids to emphasise on the importance of conservation. We tell them, “You can’t save the tiger without saving its forest. By saving it, we save every tiny plant and animal that shares the same habitat as tigers.”





# Amitians vote for US Prez

Amitians relish the flavour of the mock US Presidential elections at an extraordinary event, where they learnt about the electoral process and interviewed barons from the Embassy amidst merrymaking

Lakshya Manwani

Amity School of Communication

In the wake of the US Presidential elections, the American Center organised an election simulation event on the morning of November 7, 2012, at Imperial Hotel, New Delhi. Seven Amity students from AIS Pushp Vihar and Noida were fortunate to attend the event, as were the students of Amity School of Communication (ASCO).

From the Amity family, Jyoti Arora, Head, Amity Education Resource Center; Col R K Dargan, Director, Amity School of Communication and Debjani Roy, faculty member, ASCO, accompanied the students.

## Reporting live

The occasion was marked by the presence of Nancy J Powell, US Ambassador to India; Walter Douglas, US Embassy Minister Counselor for Public Affairs; Peter Vrooman, Spokesperson US Embassy; Stephanie Muramura, In-charge for School Exchanges and Anna Arambulo Martz, Second Secretary to the Ambassador. Renowned journalists including Ritu Joshi, Aaj Tak; Mandeep



Nancy Powell, US Ambassador to India with Amitians and students of ASCO (R) soak in the spirit of elections

Bevli and Pankaj Pachouri from NDTV and Philip Turner from CNN, added thrill to the event by reporting live on the race for the Presidential elections.

## Election frenzy

The venue was infused with the spirit of

the elections as the Imperial Lawns were decked up with red and blue balloons signifying the colours of the US flag. There were supporters for both Romney and Obama at the event.

In a simulation of the US Presidential elections, polling booths and vote banks



were set up where mock voting sessions were held. A stall was also put up where candidate profiles and US flags were being disseminated. LCD panels sponsored by CNN IBN provided live coverage of the minute-to-minute developments in the electoral process.

## A quick glimpse

\*The event of the mock US Prez elections was a culmination of a quiz organized by CNN. The winners won themselves invites to the event.

\*Games and quizzes raised the fun quotient of the event.

\*Following the session of mock-voting, the voters received stickers which read "I voted". The stickers are actually given out in the US after voting sessions to signify that the citizens are proud to be a part of an electoral system that represents each and every American. Wearing these stickers on the Election Day also encourages others to be a part of the historic exercise.

Amitians also gave interviews to media channels. As results of Obama's reelection as the President were announced, an atmosphere of joy was created. All and sundry made merry by singing and dancing. Amitians received souvenirs for their participation.

# Straight from US Embassy

Amitians **Dhruv Singhal**, **AIS Pushp Vihar, XI C** and **Venika Menon**, **AIS Noida, XI J** interacted with some of the most influential diplomats in the country as they got candid with the young, enthusiastic interviewers

Walter Douglas

US Embassy Minister Counselor for Public Affairs

**Do you think the change in the US President would change the country's foreign policy towards India?**

US-India relations are a bi-partisan issue. We don't see anybody ever launching an attack on India. India is in a secure position that way.

**What are your thoughts on Model United Nations?**

Model UN is a fantastic concept! I think it gives you a taste for foreign policy and

what happens in such international organizations. I served as a part of a mission to the UN and was a part of the Security Council. It's interesting to see how the talent of an ambassador of a country can make a difference. In fact, it makes a very big difference if you have a good ambassador who can conduct negotiations. The size of a country represented by an ambassador doesn't matter as much as the diplomatic skills.

Peter Vrooman

Spokesperson, US Embassy

**Please tell us about the election system in the US and its inclination towards a two party system.**

The elections in the US are not technically a direct election. We vote on a ballot which has the names of the two presidential candidates, but we are actually voting for a group of electors who are pledge to one or another candidate, not the candidate himself/herself. These electors will then cast their vote for the candidate. This creates a winner-take-all situation, discouraging third party can-

didates in the structure of our electoral system. Predecessors in government and Congressmen designed such a system so that US would move to a two party system. These two parties were meant to be as broad as possible and include as many people as possible But there are critics, people who support a third party candidate system.

Stephanie Muramura  
Cultural Attache for Exchange

**What does the 'election day' mean to the US citizens?**

The 'election day' is always exciting for us. It's a day to celebrate democracy in the US. We are always eagerly waiting to see who wins but the basic idea is the reaffirmation of how our system works. It is a peaceful transition from one president to another.

The dignitaries from US Embassy including Anna Arambulo Martz, Second Secretary & Vice Consul Staff, Staff Assistant to the Ambassador, provided an invaluable experience to the students.



In conversation with Mr Walter Douglas US Embassy Minister Counselor for Public Affairs



In conversation with Peter Vrooman, Spokesperson, US Embassy



In conversation with Ms Stephanie Muramura, Cultural Attache for Exchange

# Newsreels

Bringing you news that will tickle you, amuse you or surprise you, or all at once!

## Hamburger junks space

Five Harvard University students launched an unusual space operation, called "Operation Skyfall" by sending a hamburger into space. The fun Science project aimed to film the adventures of the burger in space. The hamburger was coated with lacquer so it could withstand the elements on its trip into space. It was connected to a camera and a GPS system and then attached to a helium balloon to be sent into space. The balloon made it to an altitude of almost 100,000 before it burst



and came back to earth. Last month, the students had sent a patty into space from Massachusetts.



the words he speaks and they are just a medium to bond with humans.

## Woman fails 105 tests

A British woman from Essex has failed her driving theory test 105 times despite having spent more than £3,000 in her attempts to pass it. The woman shelled out £31 on each test. Her nearest competition at failing the driving test is a man from Peterborough who has failed 84 times. But the insurmountable world record for the taking the maximum number of driver theory tests is held by a South Korean woman who passed it in her 950th attempt in November 2009.

## Talking elephant

Koshik, an Asian elephant, has surprised scientists by learning to speak Korean, albeit through whistles. The mammal, which lives in the city of Yongin in Korea, housed in the Everland Zoo can imitate human speech and can say five words; some of them are 'hello', 'sit down' and 'good' in the Korean language. Researchers say that the elephant has no understanding of

## The fire brigade of goats

Brush Goats 4 Hire, a company in Santa Barbara county (California), employs goats to eat away fire fueling vegetation that makes the municipalities and residences more fire resistant in the county. The company will hire 60 goats to eat grasses that spark fire hazards.





The first game of chess played between space and earth was on June 9, 1970 by the soyer-9 crew.

# Learn to face an interview



Major General JP Singh

A workshop held by AICC on interview skills focussed on key areas like communication and grooming

Lekha Rani Singh, Faculty, AICC



Interview skills are an important skill set that every student pursuing a professional course must possess. Catering to this important attribute, Amity Institute of Corporate Communication (AICC) organised a one day workshop on honing interview skills on October 17, 2012 at Amity University. The welcome address was delivered by Nisha Misra, Asst Prof, AICC, followed by the felicitation of the chief guest Mohd AK Rao, Marketing and Communication Consultant at SAP Labs India Ltd, Gurgaon. The objective behind holding the workshop was explained by Capt HA Arfi, IAS (Retd), Director AICC and AIESR



Interview workshop in session

(Amity Instt of English Studies & Research). He also discussed the relevance of mastering communication skills to crack interviews. Capt HA Arfi further added that AICC has been regularly conducting such workshops. In his address, the chief guest spoke about the importance of networking, personal branding and also shared tips on grooming and social networking. He advised the students on how to market their skill sets

in an effective manner. He further emphasised on the importance of research, blogs and corporate communication, which was followed by an interactive session. Major General JP Singh, Director Alumni & Specialized Trainings, Amity University, spoke about important dos to be kept in mind while facing interviews, for example, the first impression of the candidate forms an everlasting impression on the interviewer. This was fol-

lowed by an interactive session by Eshani Saraswat, Asst Prof, AICC, on interview techniques in real time. The workshop was conducted by Lekha Rani Singh, Asst Prof, AICC while Sumitra Singh, Asst Prof was the compere. Prof (Dr) Ajay Rana, Director, Amity Technical & Placement Cell, AUUP, also extended his support. The workshop was an extremely stimulating one.  

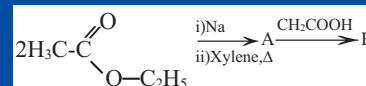
## Amity Institute for Competitive Examinations



Presents

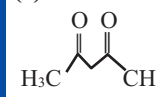
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FOR CLASS XI-XII

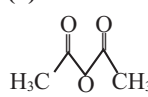


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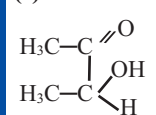
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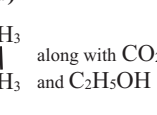
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(c)



(d)

Last Date:  
Dec 5, 20123 correct entries win  
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Ans: Brainleaks 58 - (b) 5

Name:.....

Class:.....

School:.....

Send your answer to The Global Times,  
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## Scholastic Alerts



**Institution:** National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)

**Eligibility / Examination:** NIFT Entrance Exam 2013

**Course:** B.Des; B.F.Tech

**Application Forms:** Available online from Nov 6, 2012-Jan 14, 2013

**Last Date of Submission:** January 14, 2013

**Examination Date:** Paper Based Test (PBT): Feb 10, 2013

**Computer Based Test (CBT):** April 6-7, 2013

**Website:** [www.nift.ac.in](http://www.nift.ac.in)

**Institution:** NIITs, IIITs, DTU, Delhi and other CFTIs

**Eligibility / Examination**

**Courses:** JEE (Main- offline and online) & (Advance) for B.E./B.Tech and Offline mode only for B.Arch/ B. Planning

**Application Forms:** Online submission of application from Nov 8, 2012- Dec 15, 2012

**Last Date of Submission:** Online Submission: December 15, 2012. Receipt of applications by post: December 26, 2012

**Examination Date:** Offline Exam is on April 7, 2013 while online exam is scheduled for April 8-25, 2013

**Website:** [www.jeemain.nic.in](http://www.jeemain.nic.in)

**Institution:** Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore

**Eligibility / Examination:**

Admission is based on Class XII results. Actual results need to be submitted within 3 days after release of final decision

**Course:** Engineering; Sciences; Medicine; Business; Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences; Education; Sports Sciences

**Application Forms:** Available from Oct 1, 2012

**Last Date of Submission:** April 1, 2013

**Examination Date:** Refer to the website

**Website:** <http://admissions.ntu.edu.sg/undergraduateIntlAdmissions/Pages/InternationalOthers.aspx>

**Taruna Barthwal, Amity Career Counselling & Guidance Cell, Career Counsellor & Resource Coordinator**



## Spreading Chinese Cheer

Double Ten Day celebrations saw Amitians taking a vow to preserve and spread the rich Chinese culture globally

Shubham Sharma, ASE

**What:** Double Ten Day

**When:** October 10, 2012

**Where:** India Habitat Centre

**How(lights):** Celebration of Chinese culture and song recital

The students of Amity University participated in the celebrations of the National Day of the Republic of China (RoC), also referred to as Double Ten Day or Double Tenth, on October 10, 2012 at India Habitat Centre. Accompanying them were Maj Gen RK Dhawan, Sr Vice President and Director, International Affairs Division, Amity



Amity School of Economics

and Ravi Kochar, HR, Vice Chancellor, Amity University.

The event furthered the aim of the Taiwan Education Centre to spread and preserve Chinese culture globally. The event was graced by the ambassadors of Taiwan, viz, Wenchyi Ong, Representative of Taiwan, ROC, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India and Frances Chung-Feng Lee, Deputy Representative, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India; both shared their thoughts with the audience. Maj Gen Dhawan also motivated the students with encour-

aging words.

The students of Amity University studying Chinese language at the Taiwan Education Center performed the song 'Mein Hua', dedicated to the national flower of Taiwan (ROC). 'Mein Hua' is the symbol of strength and indomitable spirit of Taiwanese people. The celebrations of the National Day of the Republic of China also saw the presence of Taiwan Education Centre Director, Ann, and faculty members Jessica Wang, Amber and Zoe.

"The learning experience was ineffable. It escalated our confidence," said Dominic, an ABS student. The event concluded with a grand feast.  



# High on innovation, low on Cost

A water pump that doubles up as a pesticide spray: too good to be true? Nothing’s impossible for these engineering students from Amity!

## Pro@Project

Every year, an in-house project is assigned to engineering students at Amity, to foster the innovator inside them. The basic aim is to create something that is economical, useful for the common man and simple enough to be manufactured at an ordinary workshop. This year, the mechanical section of ASET came up with several projects that were high on innovation and low on cost.

**Germ of an idea:** Currently, pesticide spraying systems are very expensive. Indian farmers cannot afford pumps that cost anything between Rs 15000-55000 just to spray pesticide. Keeping this in mind, **Arohan Sharma, Nitin Vashist, Gaurav Bharadwaj** and **Bhupesh Sehgal**, students of ASET, Mechanical Engineering, III Year, came up with a cutting edge technology - a Push Based Water Pump, after two months of hard work.

**The innovation:** The Push Based Water Pump is not as complex as its name. It is a fairly simple system which pumps water when pushed. The system converts rotary motion, of wheels into reciprocatory motion which helps to drive a hand pump attached on the body of the model. This project makes judicious use of

water and can also be used to spray pesticides. The project had a total budget of Rs 4000, but with the right use of resources and some innovation, the team was successful at completing the project in just Rs 2500.

**The design:** The pump has been professionally designed in such a way that it can carry maximum water in the least possible space, without deformation in its basic structure. The joints used in its chassis are reinforced with mild steel plates just to make the pump design stable. Before making the model, its design was studied in Solidworks, a software used by mechanical professionals to analytically judge a design before investing time and resources on it.

**The feasibility:** The Push Based Water Pump can be made in a village environment and care has been taken to ensure that all the components are easily available in a small town or village. Being affordable, it can be made available to households. The push based pump has huge potential to enhance the agricultural growth of the country. [G I](#)

*(Compiled by: Arohan Sharma, Amity School of Engineering & Technology)*



## Random Jottings

# Myths bole toh logical hai!

What if you knew the logical explanation behind the myths and superstitions prevalent around you in the society since forever? Would you still follow them?

Surabhi Kashyap  
Amity Institute of Biotechnology

It is often said that one man’s belief is another man’s superstition. We may conveniently laugh off others’ beliefs and superstitions, but what if the men of

logic also stand by them? Several myths and beliefs have been in existence in our social milieu from centuries. However, it has been found that most of them have some relation to common sense and scientific knowledge. The reason behind the existence of these myths may not be clear, but can very well



be estimated. Some of them could perhaps have been ...

**Breaking a mirror will bring years of bad luck-** This belief could have been set to warn people to handle a fragile and potentially injurious object like mirror with utmost care.

**It is considered unlucky for babies if they look in the mirror in their first year-** The reason behind this belief could be to protect the retina of a baby’s eye as the reflections from the mirror might damage it.

**Girl who takes the last cookie will be an old maid-** The general idea behind it could be teaching young girls manners, as polishing off the entire food being offered would seem indecent and rude.

**Resolutions taken on the New Year’s day are always accomplished-** It’s all about faith, for resolutions taken on any day can serve to be equally important.

**Whistling at night can attract snakes-** In older days, this was done to put an end to a kid’s boisterousness.

**One should not sweep the house or eat after dark-** People believed in this as, due to the poor lighting system during the night especially in older days, one could lose valuable items while sweeping. Also, splinters from the broom were prone to catch fire. As far as eating in the dark was concerned, some insects could go inside the mouth along with the food.

**Sleeping with feet towards the south is considered to be a sign of disrespect to the elders-** As we all know, our body serves as a magnet, so sleeping with the feet towards the south would have the head in the north direction, which will repel the magnetic north of the earth, causing irritations in the mind. By now, some of these beliefs would appear logical to you. It makes sense to find out the logical explanation behind a myth than following it blindly. [G I](#)



## Facts you’d not know!

Paridhi Sachdeva, IX, AIS  
Noida & Ridhima Somra, V A,  
AIS Vasundhara 1

- Research indicates that mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.
- Only 55 percent of Americans know that the sun is a star.
- An average person consumes nearly 350 strands of hair in his entire life unintentionally.
- Mosquitoes have teeth.
- Spotted skunks do handstands before they spray.
- Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.
- Bats always turn left while exiting a cave.
- The largest river in Asia is Yangtze.
- Tropical cockroach is the fastest runner, clocking 5 kmph.
- The largest library in the world is the Congress Library, Washington. It has more than 28 million books.
- The brightest star in the universe is Sirius.
- A 3 year old’s voice is louder than 200 adults in a crowded restaurant. [G I](#)

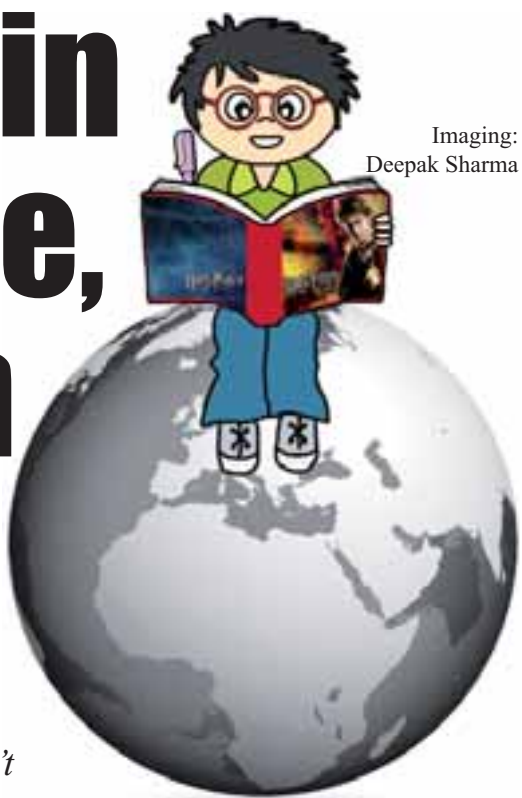




The longest game of chess possible involves 5949 moves.

# Rest in Peace, Earth

Imaging:  
Deepak Sharma



Ishani Ghoshal &  
Manasvi Shrivastava  
AIS Mayur Vihar, VIII F

*Imagine what would happen if the world was to come to an end! Don't panic, we are here at your rescue with advice!*

**What to do?** If the world is really going to end, there are some things you should definitely do like taking lots of loan from the bank since you won't be repaying it anyway (heehee)! Eat all you can and stop dieting and party all the time!

**Where to go?** Find your hidey hole and seek shelter in one of these movie inspired burrows:

*Library, courtesy Day After Tomorrow:* Remember, when Sam, Brian, Laura and J D took shelter in the New York Public Library?

*Underworld, courtesy Percy Jackson:* As death comes to collect its due, what better place to hide than the house of the king of death himself- Hades?

The list is incomplete without the mention of Harry Potter inspired Hogwarts!

**If you're the lone survivor:** Suppose it destroys everything which comes in its way except you, (although unlikely to happen, you must prepare for the worst!). Start with reinventing everything. Next, write the Harry Potter series again and become a billionaire. If you're too bored, clone yourself (like Molly the sheep)! Don't make too many of you as you might just get sick of yourself. On second thoughts, who will read the Harry Potters and exploit the inventions if no one is left!

**If nothing happens:** You could make another prediction to terrorise future generations and lead an anti-Mayan campaign (hey, they made the prediction of the world coming to an end!). Also, you can watch the movie '2012' in 2013 and laugh over it! 🇧🇷

(With inputs from Class VIII F,  
AIS Mayur Vihar)

# A walk through secret societies

Welcome to the world of resounding chants, masked faces and mysterious rituals in a slice of secret societies

Devika Oberoi & Disha Oberoi  
Amity Instt. of Biotechnology

*In ancient times, mystics with spiritual knowledge banded to form seclusive fraternities, instructed in secrets preserves for ages, all through mysterious rites. Many such cults vanished without revealing their secrets, but a few have survived the test of ages. Take a look.*

**The Illuminati** refers to a conspirational group with members belonging to 13 wealthiest families of the world. This Black Nobility ruled the world from behind the scenes and sought to create a One World Government by masterminding events and world affairs. It is said that they were in communication with alien life forms. The member families, Kennedy, Rockefeller, McDonald, Disney and Reynolds, however, portrayed a charitable front admired by populations. The original brotherhood was broken down into cults to keep focus away from the organized, secret plays.

**The Priory of Sion** was the name given to multiple groups both real and fictitious. The most controversial of these groups is a fringe fraternal organisation



The infamous Thuggee group

planted by a French draughtsman called Plantard, who created a fictitious history of the organisation. He claimed to be a Merovingian (a descendant of the Great Monarch) as prophesied by Nos-tradamus. Plantard strived to place the Merovingian dynasty in a powerful position in Eastern France.

**The Thuggees** was a band of robbers and murderers belonging to the 13th century who posed as pilgrims and merchants. They would befriend fellow trav-

ellers, wait for a signal ie "Bring the tobacco" and then strangle and rob. Murder was both a way of life and a means of worshiping Goddess Kali. Each member had a speciality, such as making noise to drown out any cries.

**NUM, Nine Unknown Men**, an ancient secret society founded by Ashoka the Great, was a council of nine scholars (*navaratnas*) each responsible for guarding potentially hazardous knowledge accumulated over 2,000 years. 🇧🇷

# Winter Wonderland

Megha Jha, AIS Gur 46, VIII A

It's finally here! The time that all of us subconsciously crave for, after braving the heat and humidity every single day of the year. The time that insists on at least two layers of clothing - WINTERS! Finally, the season of chill has arrived.

There's a nip in the air, a slight chill that makes us want to cuddle in the warm quilt and sip on hot chocolate. December is already descending in all its glory and even though we are far, far away from the possibility of a white Christmas, it is indeed a pleasure to behold the sight of everyone decked up in sweaters and stockings.

And it is not just the colourful winter outfits that make the season magical. The cold season brings along several tales and legends. December is about be-



lieving in Santa and his reindeers, the elves who bring us the gifts, revel in the birth of Christ and the belief that love can conquer all!

How can anybody remain untouched from the magic, the aura, the joy that is winter? So here's welcoming the season with open, yet sweater clad arms! 🇧🇷



# F1 Indian Grand Prix

Yash Gupta, AIS Pushp Vihar, III A

I was among the few lucky ones to enjoy my first ever Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix held recently in Greater Noida. This is the second year that the race was held in India. The huge racing track is known as the Buddh International Circuit, a popular name by now.

I considered myself privileged to have watched all the action unfold from very close. The racing cars went 'vroom' with great speeds, making loud sounds. After the race was over, I got my pictures clicked in one of the racing cars. I dream to drive a racing car like Narain Karthikeyan and Michael Schumacher one day. 🇧🇷



# AMITY-UNESCO heritage heroes

**Do you own a valuable possession that's been handed down from one generation of your family to another? Let us know, just like Shreya Jain, AIS PV, VIII, did**

**Silver glass:** My maternal grandmother handed over this glass made of silver to my mother. During her childhood days, my mother loved drinking milk in it. The glass used to be among my mother's favourite possessions as a child.

The silver glass is indeed an invaluable

part of our family heritage.

**Toy suitcase:** My maternal grandmother gave a toy suitcase to my mother when she was a child. My mother has fond childhood memories attached with the suitcase. She enjoyed playing with it as a kid. When I was born, the suitcase was given to me by her. I used it to keep my playtime doctor's kit in it. After my twin brothers were born, I gave the toy suitcase to them. I hope they too will make good use of it while playing and take as much care of it as both my mother and I did! 🇧🇷

**Send your entries to:**

**AKC House  
E-27, Defence Colony  
New Delhi-110024**

**gtmail@theglobaltimes.in**



**UNESCO –United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is an organisation, which was established in 1945 at the end of World War-II with the aim to create peace through education, science and culture.**





## Befriending Examinations



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

In life, it is always easy to criticise others but very difficult to put your own self at test. This is where examinations step in. They are the best way to assess one's caliber.

At times, we disapprove of the entire idea of examinations. Preparation for exams is disliked by many as it calls for a lot of hard work. However, what we overlook is that fruits of success cannot be borne without the seeds of hard work and labour.

Examinations are not just an opportunity to prove one's capability, but also offer the chance of improvement. Even if one fails to attain the preset goals, the next examination will always welcome you to prove yourself, yet again.

The best way to win the examinations is to befriend them, as however one may try to escape them; they will still come to test at some point or the other in our lives. If you choose to close a door, they will jump in from the window; and if you close a window they will slide in beneath the door. So, one should not fret about them, rather face them with confidence so as to win over them. It is important to take examinations as a self-evaluation procedure. It is not only the level of knowledge, theory or practical understanding that is tested through examinations but also the underlying confidence levels.

Passing the exams with flying colours does not always guarantee a great career but it surely proves one's worthiness. Don't fear school examinations as there are more challenging tests that life will put you through. These exams are just tools that will brace you for the future. Remember, nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending. So, start today for your exams. 🇮🇳

## Freedom and Responsibility



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

A headline "India ranks 131 in the Press Freedom Index" in one of the leading newspapers of India deserves a special homage. As an editor of a youth newspaper that encourages the young to read, write and express, the realisation is concerning.

What's happening? Didn't we pride ourselves in being entitled to freedom of speech and expression? Considering that we belong to a nation that espouses the teaching of holy Vedic scriptures which claim "Speech is the essence of humanity", it certainly calls for pondering. Then why were the two girls victimised for their comment on a social networking site? Be it the recent arrest of a cartoonist or furor over tweets about FM's son...the signal being sent is - be wary of what you say, the freedom of expression, after all, exists only on papers.

While freedom of expression is important and as all of us talk of our rights, be it fundamental or human, very few talk of duties and responsibilities. Yes, with freedom, come responsibilities. With rights, come duties. It's important to realise that every word we write or speak to express a thought has the power to impact our immediate environment. Hence, be right responsibly.

The GT edit team has to undergo this ordeal everyday as it engages in the challenging task of selection of stories, reframing articles and convincing the young minds to maintain a safe balance between freedom of expression and being responsible simultaneously. 🇮🇳

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# A ray of hope

**Malala Yousufzai has beckoned hope for millions of girls across the world by initiating a fight for their rights. Aishwarya Sharma, AIS Noida, XI A brings you an insight into the struggle of this National Bravery Award recipient**

Malala Yousufzai, that's the name the world is talking about, of late. This 14 year old from a small village in the Taliban hit Swat Valley of Pakistan became the most admired and sought after person after she stood up for the rights of girl child. Malala is an epitome of will power who braved the atrocious Taliban terrorists. It all started when Malala, a National Bravery Award winner, wrote a blog describing the condition of girls and how they were being denied education. In her blogs, she had been condemning the Taliban for banning girls from watching movies or stepping out of their houses.

**Malala wrote a blog, detailing condition of girls in Taliban rule. Outraged by seeing a rebellion sparking in the country, Taliban hit back in a sinister way.**

Outraged by seeing a rebellion sparking in the country, Taliban hit back in a sinister way. On her way back home from school, Malala encountered Taliban fighters who shot at her. Braving the inevitable death, Malala opened her eyes in Buckingham Children's hospital, London. She battled for life in coma for about three weeks. Support has been pouring in for this little angel, who has now recovered. Obama has also shown support for Malala who is fondly called 'Benazir ki beti' in Pakistan. We can't imagine a day without Facebook or Twitter or even our cell phones. Even thinking about staying at home, locked from the outside world appears as a nightmare to us. However, lakhs of girls like Malala suffer due to the narrow minded attitude of people and experience coercion. Her fight for 'Right To Education' is not over. As she continues to fight, she remains a ray of hope for millions of girls across the world. 🇮🇳



Braveheart: Malala Yousufzai

# My Guardian Angel

## Perspective

Mridul Jaiswal  
AIS Lucknow, VII

My mother often told me a story about how every child has a guardian angel looking over him/her. As a child, I believed every word she said. However, with each day I grew more cynical about the theory. But on the eve of my mother's birthday, something happened that changed my opinion. Our family was on a vacation in Mumbai, at our cousin's place. Every evening, we would go to the beach to play and have fun. However, on April 9, 2012, we decided to go to Juhu beach, as it was my mother's birthday. We were all playing in the water when my mother told us to be careful about how far we could venture into the sea.



**All of us have a guardian angel looking over us. While some of us recognize our angel, there are others who live in oblivion. Have you found your guardian angel yet?**

After sometime, we heard a lady shouting for help. Our attention immediately shifted to a young boy of

about 3 or 4 years drowning in the sea. People started calling for the lifeguard. However, he was not around. All of a

sudden, we heard a splash; that's when we saw our eldest sister swimming furiously to save the child.

After much struggle, she caught hold of the child and saved him. When she came to the shore, the mother of the child rushed to her and thanked her profusely. Tears of happiness could not stop flowing from her eyes. She hugged her child endlessly.

I then realised that what my mother said about guardian angel was true. That day, my sister acted as a guardian angel for the drowning child, who would have otherwise lost his life.

All of us have our guardian angels, of course in different forms and manifestations. They could be in the form of a mother, brother, friend, teacher or sometimes, a mere acquaintance. You just need to spot them.

So, when your guardian angel comes along, make sure that you thank him/her. 🇮🇳

# The path of joy



Mona Sinha

Amity Institute of Food Technology

Joy... is it there or is it missing? What delights you? How do you make yourself happy? What is the source of your joy? Does shopping delight you? Do you find happiness in

being popular among your peers? Does accomplishing your goals bring you joy?

Most of us, when we think of happiness, we think of getting what we want. The media has done a good job engraining in our minds that if you want to be happy, then go get something. We have become a society of 'Go Getters', constantly on the lookout for something.

But are we really happy with what we've got? Or do we feel that our joy is incomplete? For most of us, the answer lies in the affirmative. So what can we do to attain ultimate happiness? Shop some more? Work harder towards achieving our goals? Go for another vacation? Perhaps not! St Francis said, "For it is in giving that we receive." Real, deep and abiding joy comes from giving ourselves to others. We can find authentic joy in selflessness and not in selfishness. The 'Go Givers' are happier than the 'Go Getters'. If you still have not found the joy that you are looking for, maybe it is time for you to find it outside yourself. 🇮🇳



GT M@il

Dear Editor,

I am a big fan of The Global Times and always look forward to contribute my articles and paintings for it. It gives me an excellent platform to showcase my creative talents and also be appreciated for it by friends and teachers alike.

To get one's article selected amongst the many creative geniuses is really an honour. So, when my article 'An Artistic Opportunity' got published, I was thrilled.

It seemed like I was winning the award one more time. Thank you The Global Times for always encouraging me to hone my talent further. 🇮🇳

Ayushi Singh, AIS Saket, VI B







About 600,000,000 (Six hundred million) people across the world know how to play chess.



Debolina Goswami poses with tabla king Bickram Ghosh

**M***elody and rhythm define India's greatest tabla player, Bickram Ghosh. Known world over for dabbling in a vast repertoire of musical genres including classical, rock, new-age, fusion and film, he has the unique distinction of creating rhythm using his chest and cheeks too! Join **Debolina Goswami** of **Amity Institute of Biotechnology** as she speaks to the maestro about his diverse avatars, memorable moments of his career and future endeavours.*

### Starting early

I was born into a family of musicians. My father, Pt Shankar Ghosh, is one of the greatest tabla maestros of his times while my mother Sanjukta Ghosh is a very well known singer. So inducted into music was inevitable. My love affair with music started pretty early. During my childhood days, my father used to teach at Ali Akbar College of Music, USA. It used to be a treat to hear many prominent musicians like members of "The Grateful Dead", Saxophone player- John Handy, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Pt Ravi Shankar and Zakir Hussain jamming in the campus. I still remember great ghazal singer Ustad Ghulam Ali borrowing my mother's harmonium for a concert during his first visit to India in 1979. The beauty of music was so prominent that it would've been ridiculous to reject it.

### Music over literature

I did my Masters in English Literature, fuelling rumours that I would either take up journalism or teaching as a career. But I knew all along that my sole interest lied in being a musician. After I finished my schooling, I took up music full time and luckily, things took a positive turn only.

### Inspiration & aspirations

Besides my Gurus, life has been my greatest inspiration. My experiences and feelings have been my greatest teacher. Any form of art is directly correlated to life. Experiences from my childhood, like kids inviting me to play with them, calling out to me "chole ay" (come along), have also found a place in my lyrics. If I am deeply moved, I make very good music. As a kid, I always wanted to play with Pt Ravi Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and I ended up playing with both of them. I was a very big fan of The Beatles and it was my dream to play with George Harrison; that too was realised. As a composer, I would have loved to work with Kishore Kumar, Bade Ghulam Ali Khan Sahib and Nikhil Banerjee.

### The world of rhythm

When you are ill, the doctor comes and checks your heartbeat and pulse, both of which are nothing but beats. If it is irregular, you are out of sync with rhythm and you are sick. This is exactly why the minute rhythm kicks in, we feel that life has been instilled into us. In short, rhythm is life. The tabla has always been considered one of the greatest drums in the world. When it was exposed to the West in the 60s, every drummer in the world was amazed by its power. The instrument has become an indispensable part of classical, film music and Rabindra Sangeet. Every musician at some point has dabbled with the tabla. I think the best days of the tabla are yet to come.

### Music, the healer

All kinds of music have healing powers. In Indian culture, learning of any instrument is accompanied by a lot of practice or *sadhana*. It is like meditation which has the power to elevate you to a spiritual plane. So, when you concentrate and have generated the right flow, you are automatically connected to a higher energy. Music also forms the base of belief of 'Nada-Brahma' ie Sound is God.

### Culture - no bar

Indian music is best appreciated and understood in India. I derive a lot of pleasure when I play in front of a packed audience here and they appreciate my music by breaking into an impromptu "waah waah kya baat!" People in foreign countries listen with rapt attention and if they like your performance, they call for an encore and give you a standing ovation. That's something which you normally don't get in India. Both the experiences have their own charm.

### Reality of reality shows

Sunidhi Chauhan, Shreya Ghoshal and many others have been the discovery of reality shows. Had it not been for these shows, the industry wouldn't have such wonderful singers today.

# Talking *tabla*



Striking right notes:  
Bickram Ghosh

They have the potential to make you overnight stars but if you do not have the capability to sustain that momentum, your career goes for a nosedive. Only a person who is blessed with real talent and continues to do *riyaaz* daily would be able to sustain in the industry.

### Eat, pray, love Bollywood

It is very disheartening to see that classical musicians, despite being international legends, do not enjoy the same popularity as film stars. I avidly remember the day when I introduced my four year old son, who could not stop humming "All is Well" from *Three Idiots*, to singer Sony Nigam. He was really disappointed to know that it was him, not Aamir Khan who

had sung the song. The incident left me embarrassed. India is a country that encourages culture, but we go gaga over actors; while there are so many iconic and talented musicians like Zakir Hussain, who are relatively under appreciated. We are a nation enamoured by films, but music is equally important. I sincerely hope the trend changes in the coming years.

### Fresh from music factory

I am doing soundtracks for a few films. Sonu Nigam and I are working together as the music director duo for two Bollywood films 'Jal' and 'Sooper se Ooper'. I am doing a couple of Bengali films like *Shantiniketan* and also plan to come up with 5 albums, 3 classical tabla compilations, and a

fusion mix. My one-on-one online tabla course, "Repercussion" would also start soon.

### Music Mantra

Struggle is a part of every profession. The *mantra* for achieving success in any field is to practice religiously and rigorously to attain mastery, and only then can you carve a name for yourself. Most of the times, people set out into the professional world half-prepared and without proper knowledge and training. The lack of sufficient preparation soon starts to reflect in their work. One should learn at least one art form thoroughly. My message to The Global Times readers is have fun, listen to a lot of music, especially live music! 🇮🇳



# The child in us

The author reminisces the carefree, innocent days of childhood

Kshitij Bantupalli  
Amity School of Engg. & Technology

Today, a friend of mine, Jessica,, was complaining how her friend wouldn't talk to her- all because she couldn't make it on time to meet her! The conversation took me back to my childhood days. I remember my friend saying *katti* to me for not coming down to play one day. You see, I truly believe that a person's instinct never changes, we just learn to be subtle as we grow up. A major part of this instinct is the inner child in us. We all grow up, it's inevitable, but the child within exists in some way or the other. As we grow up, the world throws many situations at us. We react. We adapt. We diversify. We are all different, and thereby we react differently. Sometimes, we stay calm, at times become hotheaded




in our dealings. In the end, we all struggle to do the same thing: live life comfortably. Well, growing up, after all, is no piece of cake!



Amidst all this and the challenges posed by job, friends, relationships, and the this-and-that; we tend to lose the child in us somewhere and forget what it is like to be carefree and have fun. Some of you may argue that they had 'fun' at a party last night, but are you really happy?

Look down, deep down and you too will wonder where that little child inside you has gone! Let me take you back to a time, when we were all innocent and joys meant simple pleasures of life. When sitting next to a

person of the opposite gender was not considered taboo, when we did not shy away from hugging our mom in public, when a chocolate was all we needed. Ah! Those were the days when everything was sweet and simple. Ever wondered why those times were so special? Simply, because they were born out of truth and had no fake elements attached. Back then, we didn't know how to lie. No one did. We believed the whole world was a beacon of truth. And we saw everyone as equals. No discrimination, no worries and no schedules. No responsibilities and no deadlines. Let me share another experience that I had a couple of days ago. It was just another day when I was having a good time with my friends. We saw a trampoline set up nearby. And I looked at my friends, I wanted to go. "It's fun!" said the glint in my eyes, but my friends' eyes only sent back ambivalence to me. They were afraid of what people might think, or that they might be judged. This is just what I'm talking about! Sometimes, you just have to let go. Sometimes, you have to let the child in you take over! On an ending note: Take time off. And do crazy stuff. Kiddish stuff. It feels good. Trust me. 

To read more, log on to [www.ishouldprobablygoandsleep.blogspot.in](http://www.ishouldprobablygoandsleep.blogspot.in)




## Choco Cookies

### Ingredients

All-purpose flour (*maida*) .....2 cup  
Baking soda ..... 1/2 tsp  
Salt ..... 1/2 tsp  
Unsalted butter (melted) .....3/4 cup  
Brown sugar (packed).....1 cup  
Sugar ..... 1/2 cup  
Vanilla extract .....1 tbsp  
Egg.....1  
Egg yolk.....1  
Semi sweet chocolate chips .....2 cup

### Method

- Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease cookie sheets or line with either parchment paper or silicon baking pads (e.g., Silpad).
- Sift together the flour, baking soda and salt, set aside.
- In a medium bowl, cream together

the melted butter, brown and white sugars until well blended. Beat in the vanilla, egg, and egg yolk until light and creamy. Slowly incorporate the flour mixture, till it blends. Stir in the chocolate chips.  
■ Chill the dough, then drop 1/4 cup at a time onto the prepared cookie sheets. Cookies should be placed about 3 inches apart.  
■ Bake for 15 to 17 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the edges are lightly browned. Check the cookies after 7 or 8 minutes and rotate the baking sheet for even browning.  
■ Cool on baking sheets for a few minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool completely. Store the cookies in an airtight container. 

## Brush 'n' Easel

Saman Kazimi  
AIS PV, XII C



## POEMS

# War of emotions



Ridhi Anand

Amity School of Communication


The heart is a battlefield, ongoing is a never ending war of emotions. Or is it a war of ending emotions, love, kindness, politeness or aggression, hatred flow with blood, their color is red. The blood stops flowing, when the emotions are dead. How would you greet emotions, be a bill, who runs for the red matador? Or a bride, who loves to adore? Bound, tied, tired we are, but full of rage. Let's make it simple, from now on, start loving your cage.

## DIWALI

Tulika Mathur

AIS Gur 43, IX C

Diwali is the festival of happiness, a festival to light every fadedness. Once upon a time, Lord Ram, Sita and Laxman went on exile, they were put through a fourteen-year trial. People's hearts pined for their return. Finally the day came when people became elated, Everyone had a smile like they had

never been infuriated. With tears of happiness, the virtuous three received a warm welcome, of joy and celebration, Ayodhya became a kingdom. They embellished their homes, and sang songs in beautiful tones. Crackers were burst and spread light, beautiful and pleasant was Ayodhya's sight. In singing and dancing, everyone revelled, love for the empire in the heart of the royal prince swelled. The festival of lights brings fervour, welcome it warmly next year! 

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## CAMERA CAPERS

Lakshya Manwani, Amity School of Communication

Send in your entries to [cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in](mailto:cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in)



Rough 'n' tough



Baby bliss



'Hair' I am



# Tale of a Poor Woman

Shefali Kumar  
AIS Vasundhra 1, VII A

A woman made *chapatis* for the members of her family and an extra one for a hungry passerby. She kept the extra *chapati* on the window sill, for whosoever would take it away. Every day, a hunchback came and took away the *chapati*. Instead of ex-

## Wisdom Tale

Illustration: Deepak Sharma



So what did you learn today?: Don't ever stop doing good deeds, even if it is not appreciated at that time. A good deed has its reward.

pressing gratitude, he muttered, "The evil you do remains with you; the good you do, comes back to you!" This went on, day after day. The woman said to herself, "Everyday the hunchback utters the same jingle! What does he mean?"

One day, exasperated, she thought, "I shall get rid of this hunchback." She added poison to the *chapati* she prepared for him! As she was about to keep it on the window sill, her hands trembled. Immediately, she threw it away, prepared another one and kept it on the window sill. As usual, the hunchback came, picked up the *chapati* and muttered the words, "The evil you do, remains with you; the good you do, comes back to you!"

back to you," and went his way. Every day, as the woman placed the *chapati* on the window sill, she offered a prayer for her son who had gone to a distant land. For many months, she had no news of him. One evening, she was surprised to find her son at the door. He had grown thin and his garments were torn. He said, "Mom, it's a miracle I'm here. I was so famished that I would have died, but just then an old hunchback passed by. He was kind enough to give me a whole *chapati*. He said, 'This is what I eat everyday. Today, I shall give it to you, for your need is greater than mine!'"

The woman turned pale. She remembered the poisoned *chapati* she had made. Had she not thrown it away, it would have been eaten by her own son, and he would have lost his life! It was then that she realised the significance of the words: "The evil you do remains with you; the good you do, comes back to you!"



# Custard Apple Srikhand

Kadambari Bhatnagar  
AIS Vasundhara 1, I C

**Ingredients**  
Hung yoghurt .....600 gm  
Custard apple pulp (blended) ....1 cup  
De-seeded custard apple .....½ cup  
Cardamom powder .....½ tsp  
Sugar .....as per taste  
Dry Fruits (chopped) .....1 tbsp  
Silver *Varak* .....2 sheets

**Method**  
■ Mix the custard apple pulp, cardamom powder and sugar with the yoghurt. Mix well.  
■ Pour the prepared mixture of srikhand in desert bowls.  
■ Keep in the refrigerator to chill and set for some time.  
■ Garnish srikhand with silver *varak* and top with de-seeded custard apples. Serve immediately.

POEM

VII D: The Ultimate Paradise

Anoushka Raj & Tanya Aggarwal  
AIS Mayur Vihar, VII D

From Ayesha's dancing to Mohnish's singing...  
From Namrishi's excellent nail art to Neha's wonderful hand at craft...  
From Muskaan's charming smile to Shambhavi's splendid sense of style  
From Ishita's laborious sculptures to Sonika's traditions and cultures...  
From Anoushka's intelligence and cleverness to Sarthak's diligence and meticulousness...  
From Tanveen's kind-heartedness to Adya's soberness...  
From Debalina's studious nature to Tanya, a charismatic creature...  
From Adit who carries the football gene to Ridhi Mahajan, the dancing queen...  
From Tushar's craziness to Ansh's calmness...  
From Kishluv's mimicry to Kritika's admirable cookery...  
From Isha's creativity and originality to Deeksha's fascination for History...  
From Ritvik's cricket passion

to Anshita's compassion...  
From Rasham's tabla tune to Aishwarya's looks that can make you swoon...  
From Mehak's prominent level of confidence to Riya's marvellous patience...  
From Riddhi-Siddhi, the adorable twins to Siddharth, the music prince...  
From Samarth, who is very gentle to Sahil, who is very sentimental...  
From Karan, the Sanskrit prince to Sahitya, great at getting any work done...  
From Rishi, the Karate boy to Arnav, who spreads joy...  
From Yashasvi who is very bubbly to Shobhit who talks thoughtfully...  
From Rohan who is very polite to Kanishk who has a lot of might...  
From Priyanshi who is very neat to Aditya, whose jokes are sweet...  
Guided by our glorious teacher, who has never acted like a preacher...  
You name it...  
and VII D has everything, it has always lead the ring...  
VII D rocks!

Painting Corner

Agamya Garg  
AIS Gur 46, KG 5

Comic Corner

Amna Ali  
AIS Saket, VI A



# Moment of pride

**Amiown organised Portfolio Day, a day that marked the journey of little Amies from their first day at school to how they became smart, confident individuals**

## Yet another milestone!

*A Portfolio is a reflective teaching tool. It's a lifelong treasure, invaluable for both kids and parents*

### Amiown Pushp Vihar

Assessing a child's progress and evaluating the developmental milestones during early years of education are international best practices. Amiown is equally committed to imbibing these practices and providing the best of education to its students. Keeping this in mind, Amiown Pushp Vihar organised November 10, 2012 as their Portfolio Day.

Excitement ruled the air as parents walked into the classes to know about their child's progress and the activities in which their wards had been involved



A walk through the Amiown visual gallery

during the past few months. They were not only briefed about the developmental milestones achieved by their little ones they were also handed over their progress

reports and portfolios.

A portfolio is a 'Reflective Teaching Tool' and also a lifelong treasure. The main purpose behind awarding the port-

folio to the parents, was to make each child's learning at Amiown more visible to them. It involved collection of data from the first day of pre-school, in the form of written observations, photographs, samples of art work, etc to learn more about each child. The goal was not to miss out on any significant moment and achievement of each child. This exercise helps both the teacher and parents to understand their child's learning style, pace and preferences better. It allows them to make necessary modifications and adaptations in their own teaching style. Moreover, the portfolio allows parents and children to revisit their childhood days fondly, later in life.

The Portfolio Day also saw the parents being briefed about the importance of spending quality time with their children. They were taken on a tour to the visual gallery containing photographs of children involved in games, nature walks, celebrations, etc. The tour provided a valuable insight into the everyday routine of the children at school. It also showcased different learning styles, resources and mediums used at Amiown for the child's holistic development. 🇧🇩

## BEST PRACTICES PORTFOLIO DAY

### Dear Parents



It gives me immense pleasure to share with you your child's Portfolio for Term 1. The past few months have been dotted with joyous

moments coupled with achieving developmental milestones, the way we intend learning to be at Amiown. We are eager to share some of these select and proud moments with you through this Portfolio.

**Portfolio as a Reflective Teaching Tool:** Teachers start taking photographs, scribing conversations, asking personal questions, collecting samples of work and art from the very first day of Preschool, so that we do not miss out on any significant moments and achievements. The teachers continuously and constantly revisit the data collected to learn more about each child and based on this deeper understanding of each child's learning style, pace and preferences, make necessary modifications and adaptations in their own teaching.

**Portfolio as a Window to Learning:** One of the main goals of the Portfolio is to make your child's learning at Amiown more visible to you. 'Making learning visible' is an international best practice in Early Years Education and Amiown is committed to this endeavour. We also aim to share with you your child's progress over time in the various developmental domains. This will be evident to you in the Term 2 Portfolio.

**Portfolio as a Lifelong Treasure:** We hope that this Portfolio will give you ample opportunities to bond with your child. The more interest you take, the more meaningful this will be to your child as well as to us. Our greatest reward will be if as adults our children are able to revisit their childhood and remember it fondly with the help of this Portfolio. I thank you deeply for your faith in Amiown and look forward to a long association with you.

**Best wishes**

**Sapna Chauhan**  
Vice Chairperson  
Amiown Schools



Amies wall of fame

## Exhibition of achievements

### Amiown Gurgaon

Amiown Gurgaon organised Portfolio Presentation and Progress Report Day on November 10, 2012. The significant day, envisioned by Ms Sapna Chauhan, Vice Chairperson, Amiown Schools, aims at documenting the pleasurable path of learning through the reflective window of portfolio, a purposeful collection of student work that exhibits his/her efforts and achievements in many areas of the curriculum, thereby documenting the progressive work that leads to an all-round development of a child from the foundation level.

All the work of little Amies were showcased through a presentation in the form of a visual gallery. It was followed by an

interactive session in the classrooms. During the portfolio presentation, the creative thought process behind the portfolio was explained to the parents. All the activities and events that have kept the children constructively engaged were also showcased.

Parents were enlightened about the carefully planned, hands-on experiences and learning tools which facilitate a flexible and richly provisioned learning environment for their children. Each child's contribution in the classroom discussions and activities were put forth in a personalised manner. The Portfolio Presentation was another milestone in cultivating an environment that nurtures relationships by providing opportunities for children and adults to come together. 🇧🇩



## Showcasing e-portfolio

Amiown Vasundhara organised their E-portfolio Day with much enthusiasm on November 10, 2012. The day was marked by the presence of parents who gathered on the occasion. They were full of excitement as they came to collect the first e-portfolio and activity sheets of their little ones for the academic year. The occasion served as a platform to make the parents understand how children work constructively in a playway method at Amiown, while doing age appropriate activities. The teachers gave an interactive Power Point presentation while the facilitators explained the importance of the e-portfolios, a compilation of the pictures of children participating in various theme related activities and how they would aid the holistic development of the child.

The presentation saw many parents coming up with a plethora of questions which



Parents in rapt attendance

were answered convincingly by the teachers, who went on to discuss how the parents can participate in enhancing the learning of their wards at home by spending quality time with them. Dr Bindu Selot, parenting counselor, Amiown Vasundhara, also provided precious inputs to the parents regarding the importance of spending time with their little ones. The day concluded with a one-to-one interaction between the parents and the teachers. 🇧🇩

## Making parents proud!



Presentation in full swing

### Amiown Noida

Going through a child's report card can arouse feelings of joy, excitement, and pride. It marks a new beginning and also reflects on past

work habits and achievements. Most importantly, it is time for parents to reflect upon their child's learning and social-emotional growth. From the day the little ones enter the classroom tagging along their mothers to

the time they develop into confident individuals, the portfolio maps their development and assesses the milestones achieved by them. The e-portfolio prepared at Amiown, Noida displayed every stage of child's learning and development. It captured special moments, experiential learning, and special days, thereby bringing out the uniqueness of each child. It also gave a glimpse of the teaching methodology adopted at the school to enable holistic learning. It was indeed a special moment to see the parents gather for the Portfolio Day. The teachers held a class presentation wherein they provided an insight into the daily routine followed at Amiown. The highlight of the presentation was a video showing the Amies involved in various activities. It was a proud moment for the parents to receive their child's first report card which they would cherish for years. 🇧🇩





A computer called Deep Thought became the first computer to beat an International grandmaster in November 1988 at Long Beach, California.

# Founder's fiesta

Amitians celebrate the birthday of Dr Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe, as Founder's Day. A melange of thoughtful and creative activities glorified the multi hued revelry

## Sur ke Anek Tarang



### AIS Gurgaon 46

Founder's Day was celebrated with a lot of gaiety at Amity International School, Gur 46 on November 7, 2012. Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools, graced the occasion, accompanied by Dr TPS Chauhan, Senior Advisor, Amity and Ms Jayshree Chauhan. The celebrations commenced with a heartfelt invocation to Goddess Saraswati followed by a welcome message by Principal Arti Chopra. The children of classes III-V presented *Sur*

*Tarang*, a musical instrument presentation. Thereafter, a movie dedicated to Founder President was showcased. A *nukkad-natak* 'Chunauti' dealing with the eradication of terrorism, was staged by the children of classes VI-VIII. All the top achievers of classes V-XII were awarded in a prize distribution ceremony. The children were blessed by Chairperson in the ceremony. She urged the students to chart the right path in life and work honestly and fearlessly to achieve their goals. The function culminated with the school song followed by the national anthem. [G](#)[I](#)

## Creative Edge

### AIS Saket

Saluting the vibrant vision of Founder President, 'Creative Edge' was organised at AIS Saket from October 15-November 3, 2012. The theme of the event was 'There is no happiness like knowing that you've made a difference to someone's life'. Class VI students participated in poem writing, ad making and nature walk. For class VII, it was a quiz and power point presentation along with a nature walk. Class VIII had a sequential story writing and poster making on topics 'Save the Tiger' and 'Joy of Giving'. Speech competition, quiz and poster making were part of class IX activities. While class X had article writing and quiz, class XI prepared power point presentations on sustainable development. Class XII wrote articles on 'Spreading Love and Happiness'. It is only under the sagacious leadership of Founder President and Chairperson that young Amitians are filled with the zeal of a crusader with a vigorous desire for success. [G](#)[I](#)

## Promising Potpourri



Students conduct mock interviews as part of Founder day celebrations

### AIS Noida

AIS Noida observed October 15 - 19, 2012 as Founder President's Week. Several activities were organised on the occasion. Students of classes IV-V participated in a mock interview session. Children dressed up as Dr Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe; Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools; Renu Singh, Principal, AIS Noida and Roopma Singh, Consultant, Amity Schools. Some children posed as journalists from newspapers and TV channels. A Hindi poetry writing competition was held for class VII. Classes VI-VIII par-

ticipated in a card making competition. Class VIII was involved in an essay-writing competition. A special assembly by classes IX-X saw many cultural performances. An inter-house debate competition on the topic 'Man is a Child of Destiny' added to the activity galore. Creativity ran riot in the inter-class poster making competition on 'India 2030: Founder Sir's Vision'. A talk on 'Human Values' by a parent, Divya Deswal highlighted Founder President's formula of triple excellence in academics, personal life and human values. The celebrations reached a crescendo with the awards function for students with outstanding achievements. [G](#)[I](#)

## Enroute Vijaypath

### AIS Vasundhara 1



AIS Vas 1 commemorated Founder's Day on November 5, 2012. On this day, meritorious students were felicitated for their brilliant performance in academics for the year 2011-12 by Mohina Dar, Senior Consultant, Amity; Dr TPS Chauhan, Senior Advisor, Amity; V Balachandran, School Principal and the school Headmistress. An invocation prayer lent auspiciousness to the event. The atmosphere was electric with proud parents cheering for their children. Scholarships and badges were given to the students scoring above 90% and trophies to the toppers of classes V-VIII. Thereafter, a cultural programme Vijaypath followed, showcasing a Sanskrit play, which depicted Arjun's unflagging commitment, determination and concentrated focus. The play was dedicated to Founder President who is an embodiment of human values. Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools, blessed the students and motivated them to scale further heights. [G](#)[I](#)

## Rainbow of Feelings

### AIS Vasundhara 6

Founder's Day was celebrated with a special programme on November 5, 2012, with the theme 'Rainbow of Feelings'. The ambience in the auditorium reflected the seven colours of the rainbow. The beautifully crafted programme card and the welcome song also represented the theme. The senior school girls reverberated the stage with an Odissi performance - 'Mahishasur Mardani' depicting good conquers evil. Seven tiny tots dressed in the seven colours of the rainbow read out passages from Dr Chauhan's book, '101 Attributes of An Amitian'. They promised to hold close to their hearts, this valuable *guru*



Students present an Odissi dance performance

*mantra*. Dr Chauhan's telephonic blessings and message for the students added colour to the event. Academically proficient students were felicitated with scholarships, trophies and certificates. [G](#)[I](#)

## Colourful Kaleidoscope



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan addresses the gathering

### AIS Gurgaon 43

Founder's Day was celebrated at AIS Gurgaon 43 with zest and fervour. A week-long celebration ensued from October 15 -19, 2012 under the guidance of Principal Sandhya Awasthi. Nursery and KG kids indulged in card making, while classes I and II made collages on 'Science and our future'. Classes III and IV participated in a drawing competition on the theme, 'Dreams lead to actions'. Classes VI-XII participated in essay writing. A special assembly was held where students recited poems, sang songs and participated in a quiz on the achievements of Amity's educational ventures. A street play was performed on Child Labour, an issue close to Dr Chauhan's heart. [G](#)[I](#)

## Sakaratmak Swapn

### AIS Pushp Vihar

Founder's Day has always been the most awaited and revered day among Amitians. This year, AIS Pushp Vihar celebrated Founder's Day as *Sakaratmak Swapn*, wherein students from class KG - XII participated in various individual and team activities from October 15-20, 2012. KG students participated in school logo colouring, while class I indulged in *doha* recitation and *diya* making. Class II participated in extempore, creative writing and flower making. Class III had an elocution and acronym competition. Children of class IV participated in poetry writing and brochure making. For Class V, it was a listening competition as well as a value calendar making. Class VI had an extempore and they also made a wall hanging on values. Class VII prepared a catch line on Amity and a value poster. Class VIII had a value based *doha* recitation and brochure making. Class IX debated on 'Futuristic India' and also had a Spell Bee competition. Class X had two competitions titled 'Awesome Autumn' and 'Amity Milestones', while class XI and XII wrote essays on their vision for Amity. Founder's Day unleashed the creative fervour among students. [G](#)[I](#)





# Touching Talent

Namrata Gulati, GT Network

**P**opularly known as the breeding ground of enterprising young entrepreneurs, Amity is indeed a treasure trove of talent. Meet one such multi talented young turk from Amity- Misbah Ashraf, a student of Amity School of Engineering and Technology. Misbah is not only a budding writer, an ace photographer but also the Country Manager of [www.touchtalent.com](http://www.touchtalent.com). The portal is aimed at uniting people who share common interests like music, art and literature. It not only provides a platform to budding artists to showcase their work and get varied reviews and opinions from like minded connoisseurs but also from top experts in the field.

## A 24/7 job

Being the Country Manager for an upcoming website that recognises and hones talent is a demanding job, affirms Misbah, "My responsibility entails taking care of the 28 Indian states and about 15 countries from across the world who are an integral part of touchtalent. The primary job involves hunting for fresh talent and then promoting it through social marketing by upholding these artists on all possible social media." Misbah is also constantly in touch with the representatives from various countries who review work as well as check for copyrights. "The biggest challenge is to bring on board connoisseurs and a brigade of mentor for amateurs," he adds.

## Writings on the wall

So what was the motivation behind taking up a 24X7 job that yields no income?



Misbah Ashraf, Country Manager,  
[www.touchtalent.com](http://www.touchtalent.com)

Pic: Ravinder Gusain

"During my school days, I was doing a lot of photography and writing, but couldn't find a mentor or a platform. I didn't want others to undergo the same the agony. And that's how touching talent was born," says Misbah.

## The juggling act

A perfect concoction of business acumen

and social responsibility is a rare quality, but Misbah has mastered that too by co-founding apricott.biz, an e commerce website that specialises in designing college tees, "It is a start-up, so right now, we're investing back into the mission, whatever we are earning." However, Misbah is all dreamy-eyed yet resolute when he looks at his final goal, "Together, we want to make touchtalent the

world's best website." After having gathered a number of accolades for his poetry and photography, Misbah is doing his significant bit for the environment too, "By working with an NGO dedicated to the cause of mother nature, I have been able to spread awareness on environmental challenges by penning articles, clicking photographs and making movies." 🇮🇳

## AIS Noida joins touchtalent!

**O**ver 200 students of AIS Noida are also on touchtalent. Explains Shaurya Athley, XII, the representative from AIS Noida for the website, "I am responsible for increasing participation on touchtalent from AIS Noida. I basically encourage students to interact on the website and also try to get more and more people on board." Shaurya worked with the website for 4 months as an intern before he jumped onto the talent touching bandwagon, "The founder said, 'lead a team from AIS Noida.' And so the journey began with just 5-6 team members. Today, AIS Noida team boasts of more than 200 followers of touchtalent!"



Shaurya Athley  
AIS Noida, XII

It was heartening to see AIS Noida being recognised for maximum participation on the website, "We were awarded the title of Best Performance during the three months of June, July and August this year. The criteria were the number of shares, interactions, viewing." Touchtalent has been very rewarding for Shaurya himself, "I posted my photographs on the website and I got a call from a resort in Manali for an assignment with them. It has been a great experience." 🇮🇳

# FUN WITH TONS



Debaditya Halder

AIS Mayur Vihar, III A

**O**ne morning when I woke up, I rushed to the bathroom to brush my teeth. I looked into the mirror and was amazed to see that I had turned into Scooby-Dooby-Doo (the famous cartoon character)! I found it unbelievable and amusing at the same time. My mother and father too kept gapping without uttering a word. Because I was keen to see everyone's reaction, I rushed to school after finishing my breakfast. When I reached my class, my classmates kept touching me out of joy and excitement. When I shared with my friends about what had happened, they were quite amused. In my Math class, when I stood up to answer the questions, my teacher's eyes almost popped out. Of course, on second thoughts, I was a mere dog! But because I was answering all the questions, she was too impressed. In the Games period, I could jump really high to basket the ball. I was really good at the game and so could help my class to win the basketball match against our greatest competition, class V A. While practicing *sargam* in the music class, I could only say "bow bow". Sadly, the teacher asked me to leave the room, but on explaining to her about my transformation, she allowed

Learn what happens when a little one discovers himself to have turned into a cartoon character, Scooby Doo

me to attend the class. After the school got over, I rushed to the school corridors, where I proved really helpful to the teachers. I carried their bags and books really fast up and down the stairs- a great benefit of being Scooby-Dooby-Doo! When I went back to the classroom, I found my friend Ayaan crying for his lost pencil box as he could not find it anywhere. My talent of mystery solving as Scooby Doo came to his rescue. I could immediately sniff and reach the exact place where it was lying. I was very happy and excited too see a smile return to Ayaan's face. The endless appreciation, cheer and praise by my teachers and friends who could not resist thanking me, made me happy. I silently wished in my heart that I could remain Scooby-Doo forever. Wow! I had a lovely day indeed while playing my favourite cartoon character, the beloved Scooby Doo! 🇮🇳

## GT Travels to Odhisha



**Nitya Sharma**, AIS Saket, KG D, flaunts her copy of The Global Times during a trip to the Golden Triangle of Odisha (Puri, Bhubaneswar and Konark). She holds GT against the backdrop of the Konark Sun Temple, a 13th century temple at Konark, Odisha. It is one of the Seven Wonders of India and a World Heritage Site.

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