

THE GLOBAL TIMES

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Manvi Yadav
AIS Gur 46, XII I

The much-awaited results of the US Presidential Election were announced this fortnight. Donald Trump secured a second term, delivering a significant defeat to the Democrats and sparking worldwide buzz, leaving the Democratic party with some soul-searching to do. Yet, the US election was only the brightest star in a constellation of global elections marking 2024. More than 70 nations—representing nearly half the world’s population—went to the polls, spotlighting major global trends and concerns.

Large round-up

This year has seen some of the most intense and historic elections. India, the world’s largest democracy, held the largest election spanning over 44 days, with over a million polling stations serving a population of nearly 1.4 billion. Mexico also held its largest-ever election with 98 million eligible voters, 70,000 candidates, and 20,000 public offices contested.

Just FYI: Amidst the shining numbers, the ballot emerged star remaining the method of choice in over 100 countries. Yet, unique practices endure: in Gambia, voters drop marbles into drums, and in Germany, legislators exit and re-enter rooms through designated doors for different votes.

Singing feats

Democracy and its subsequent success or failure has been a subject of global debates. For the optimists, 2024 brought a sigh of relief, with elections taking place in at least 26 authoritarian or hybrid regimes, making up over a third of all global elections.

Illustration: Khushi Mehta, XII D & Devangi Majumdar, XI I, AIS Gur 46

Deciphering 2024 - The Year Of Election

Voters in Mexico, the second most populous country in Latin America, selected the nation’s first female president. Sure, the irony is that she is one of just 26 female leaders worldwide, but then lets look at the silver linings, shall we?

Just FYI: In the tune of looking at good things, the potential of blockchain technology is being harnessed to combat problems like combating voter fraud through apps like Voatz & Follow My. If only we had taken a cue from Estonia, pioneering online voting since 2005.

Ringing defeats

However, challenges abound. Over 30% of elections this year occurred under authoritarian rule, where opposition suppression,

protest bans, and voter fraud marred the electoral process. Russia’s Vladimir Putin, for instance, ran virtually unopposed, securing 87.3% of the vote. Additionally, voter turnout remained low. Iran saw its lowest turnout for a presidential race since 1979. The electoral democracy index in some of the populous countries dwindled, showing a steady decline since 2011, particularly amongst young voters.

Just FYI: But then not every country allows the young ones to vote. Hint: UAE, credited for having the highest age criteria for voting at 25 years. While the majority of countries have set 18 years as the voter eligibility age globally, the lowest voting age is 16, including in Argentina, Austria, and Brazil.

Incumbent struggle

For the first time in almost 120 years of records, every government in 10 major countries tumbled. The Financial Times’s data cruncher, John Burn-Murdoch, calls this year “the graveyard of incumbents” across the developed world.

Emmanuel Macron’s Ensemble coalition and Japan’s Liberal Democratic Party were among ruling parties given a kicking. Rising costs of living, security concerns remained common woes. The cost of living crisis went on to aid far-right movements in Western nations, with anti-immigrant and nationalist rhetoric gaining traction. In the UK, the Reform Party drew over four million votes, decimating Conservative support, while inflation in India contributed to Modi falling short of majority. Even when crises lie beyond incumbents’ control, public frustration often finds them at fault.

Just FYI: Still, democracy remains a unifying force, an institution with roots in ancient Greece, Italy’s republics, and Rome’s res publica.

The outcomes of this year’s elections—no matter the method—will shape policies and welfare worldwide for years to come. Here’s to the spirit of voting and the ongoing global democratic journey!

Page editor: Ranya Sharma, AIS Gurugram 46, XII G

THE GT POLL

What is the most effective way to combat Delhi’s high AQI?

- Implementing GRAP-3
- Anti-smog guns
- Reintroducing Odd-Even scheme

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

AIS MV Contest Edition



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Gurugram 46, as a part of the ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest’. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school’s editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own ‘Contest Edition’ which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here’s presenting the **third edition** of ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2024-25’.

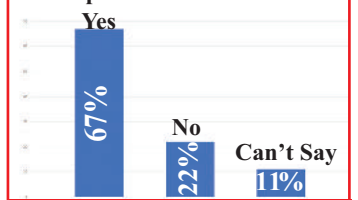
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POLL RESULT

for GT Edition November 4, 2024

With the union government encouraging 20% blend of ethanol in petrol, do you think India’s push for ethanol as fuel will reduce carbon emission and dependence on fossil fuels?



Results as on November 16, 2024

Follow us on: @theglobaltimesnewspaper @the_global_times

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Reporting realities

Taslima's Perspective On The Pulse Of Economy

INTERVIEW


Taslima Khan, assistant editor, ET

Devyanshi Goswami, XII E &
Bulbul Verma, XII B
AIS Gurugram 46

Meet Taslima Khan, assistant editor at The Economic Times, who has carved an important place for herself in the world of business journalism with her insightful and analytical articles on logistics, supply chain, and warehousing. Passionate about supporting entrepreneurs and startups across the country, she shares some snippets from her inspiring journey with GT.

From pen to purpose

I've always had a passion for writing and a natural flair for expression. Even in school and college, I was deeply interested in social issues that impact society as a whole. I've always believed that writing is a powerful tool with which you can influence opinions, inform people, and make an impact, which was a major deciding factor in my choice of career. Articles and stories live on, especially in the digital age, where the reach is global.

Truth beyond tweets

There's an overload of information in today's world. Due to social media, it has become possible for everyone to share opinions and information. But, a



GT reporters with Taslima Khan

Pic: Pranav Goel, AIS Gur 46, XI I

good journalist ensures that every piece of information is presented in a balanced way. This commitment to accuracy is one of the biggest challenges in our profession today. If readers question the accuracy of our stories, they may not come back. Just as someone wouldn't repurchase a product that didn't work well, readers won't return if they lose trust in the information we provide.

Finding the balance

Each person you interview has a unique viewpoint shaped by their experiences and understanding multiple perspectives helps you maintain a balanced view. That's what we aim for in journalism as well. We gather insights from all sides, aiming for a 360-degree view. We talk to various sources, quote experts with differing opinions, and present multiple viewpoints. This approach helps us craft a well-rounded and balanced article.

Setting the stage

For journalists, a cover story or a front-page

article is often a significant achievement. While working at Business Today, I reported on an emerging trend: hundreds of startups across India were receiving angel funding to kickstart their businesses. I was one of the first journalists to report on this trend, which helped establish my career. Another meaningful assignment came to me during the COVID-19 pandemic when I covered the logistic challenges involved in distributing vaccines from labs to remote areas across the country. My article addressed the need for cold storage facilities and temperature-controlled vehicles, which were critical for vaccine distribution. That story was widely read and appreciated.

Innovation unplugged

From the start of my career, I have enjoyed meeting people who have new ideas. Most startup founders are young and driven. Reporting on these companies was inspiring because they weren't yet widely known. Often, journalists are the first to introduce groundbreaking companies to the world. That's a big motivator – bringing attention to people doing impactful work.

For future journalists

Unlike in the past, when a story was printed and then forgotten, now it lives online, open to scrutiny and feedback. This demands more responsibility in reporting. You can choose your niche and your medium, whether digital or print. Adapting to new platforms and updating your skills will be crucial. 🇮🇳

Book Review

Parables of success

Synopsis: Society values honesty, sincerity, hard work, and most importantly, conformity. However, 'The 48 Laws of Power' masterfully explains how to attain power narrating stories and experiences of historical figures. It's about remaining brilliant while preventing too much disruption in the lives of those around you. It addresses such ideas by dictums - 'Preach the need for change, but never reform too much at once'. The book teaches you to recognise qualities and characteristics in individuals that even they can't identify in themselves. Lessons like 'Keep your hands clean' and 'Pretend to be weak, then strike' seem to be polar

Book: The 48 Laws of Power
Author: Robert Greene
Published in: 1998
Genre: Self-help

opposites to 'Plan all the way to the end' and 'Avoid the unhappy and the unlucky', but they all ultimately contribute towards climbing to the top of the ladder to control and master your surroundings. Robert Greene took great effort to observe his surroundings and put into words what most can't - power.

Why is it worth reading: Kings and queens of the past, politicians, and capitalists; CEOs, investors; and the

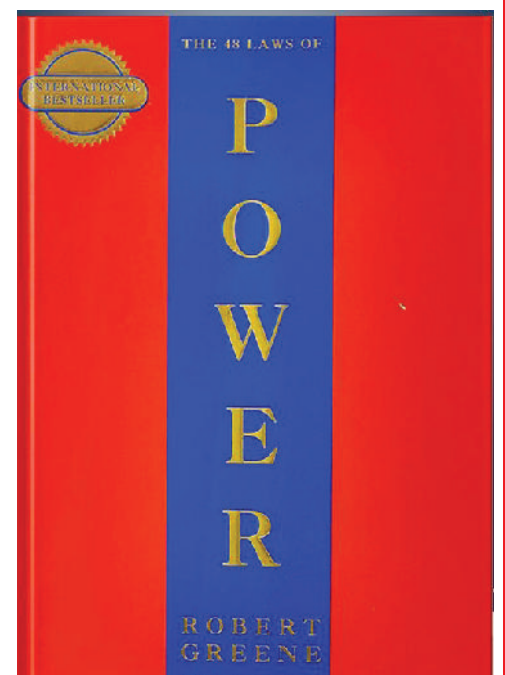
sorts - could it be that they've all read this book or had secret access to it since birth? Or as is most likely, they've followed all 48 laws to gain success without even realising it. It's all spelt out in this book - the knowledge and how to navigate complex landscape of human relationships. It's astounding just how twisted and toxic yet sensible and accurate it sounds.

Iconic Quote: "We have to seem fair and decent. So, we must be subtle - congenial, yet cunning, democratic yet devious."

Rating: 4.5/5

Review by: Aadhya Jain

AIS Noida, IX I





Be the **BAADSHAH** of vegetable shopping



Sensor driven precision

Pocket sized reliability

Freshness just a scan away

User friendly

Graphic: Aaditya Garg, X C;
Text: Ranya Sharma, XII G &
Ekam Sibia, X I, AIS Gur 46

Sabse **R**eliable **K**eychain: Not Your Average Keychain

What it does?

Instantly detects and reports freshness of vegetable using advanced sensor technology

Moisture sensors measure moisture to accurately gauge shelf life

Ceres imaging technology confirms organic status of the eatables

Simply insert the needle and get results in seconds

Saves you from 'Mummy ki daant' and her death stare

DISCLAIMER: Real scientific principles. Fictional ideas with a potential future.

Arisha Agarwal

AIS Vasundhara 1, X D

Escapades of Beeju

A Tale Of Breaking Through The Soil-itude



“You! You have caused too many problems! I am tired of little children shaking me, all because you choose to keep on hanging on to me. I curse your children to never be able to break through the mighty seed coat,” declared the ancient plant deity, sending little Appy into endless sobs. It wasn’t his fault that he was a fruit, but that his seeds would have to bear the brunt was something he could not live with and started to rot, till his life met a tragic end.

Years later, on a frigid winter day, Beeju entered the world only to be banished beneath an arid and parched earth. Encased in a cage tightly bound by the malevolent curse, he strained against the confines. Beeju yearned for sunlight, nourishment, and the delectable flavours of his favourite foods. Days melted into weeks, and weeks into months, yet no one

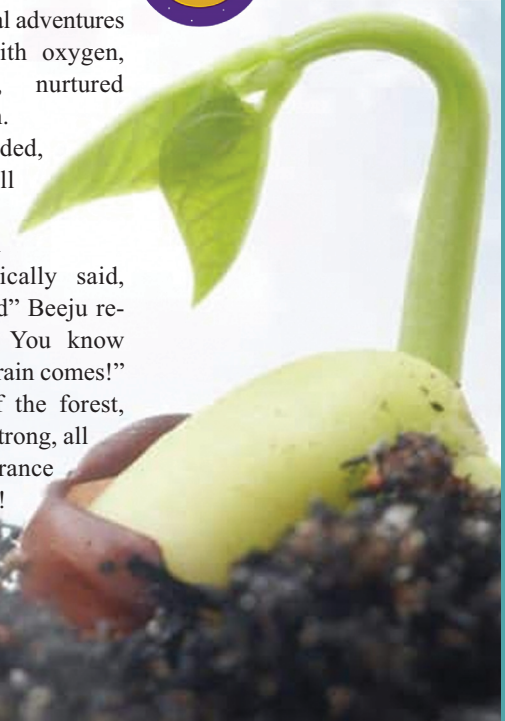
came to Beeju’s aid. One morning, Beeju awoke to a strange sensation, his form moist and engorged. He thought to himself, “Ughh! Why am I so wet and icky? Is my life not miserable enough already?” His confused mind was interrupted by a jump scare! “Hey buddy! Surprised to see me?” asked Water excitedly. Initially befuddled by the uninvited guest, Beeju found himself cramped within his enclosure. Gathering every ounce of strength, Beeju prayed for a miracle. Perhaps the plant fairies took pity on him, as a radiant beam pierced the darkness of his prison. For the first time, Beeju basked in the sun’s warmth, and reveled in the gentle caress of the breeze. The scent of petrichor reassured

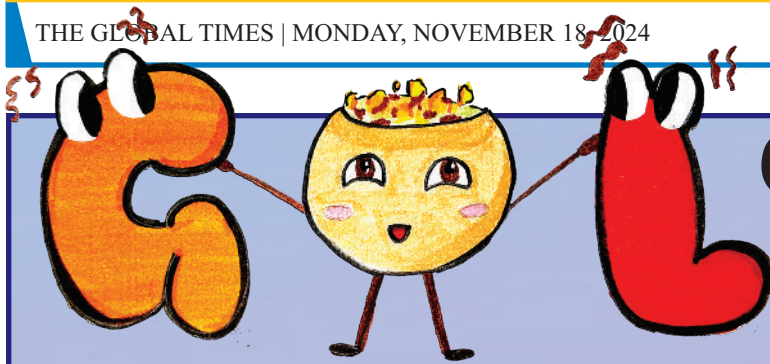
him that this new venture was not solitary. Water, the once-unwanted guest, revealed himself as Beeju’s fairy godfather, aiding him in shattering the age-old curse. With water’s magic, the seed coat softened, enzymes stirred to life, and Beeju emerged triumphantly from the soil. Beeju contently listened as Water told

The science of it

Germination is the process of sprouting a seed after a period of dormancy. Water, time, temperature, oxygen, and light are the factors that contribute towards it.

him about his mystical adventures where he, along with oxygen, light, temperature, nurtured cursed seeds like him. As the days unfolded, Beeju flourished. All good things, however, come to an end. Water dramatically said, “Goodbye, my friend” Beeju replied, “Oh, Water! You know we’ll meet when the rain comes!” And in the heart of the forest, Beeju grew big and strong, all because of perseverance and a pinch of magic!





Illustrations: Devangi Majumdar, AIS Gur 46, XI I

cease your gappe!

Autobiography



India's Beloved Paani Puri Narrates Its Spicy Tale

Manvi Yadav

AIS Gurugram 46, XII I

Camera rolls and starts recording - Hello! I am Chaatpur's most wanted criminal, and this is my confession. But, before that, "Golu beta, go fetch me my *aloo wali bindi* from my purse. And the beetroot lipstick! The CBI (Chaat Bureau of Investigation) cameraman is going to click my side profile after this." Right, where was I? *Pranam ji* - that's the local greeting of where I'm from - Magadha in Bihar. I am Gulgappa - your favourite chaat order - *naam to suna hi hoga!* Or you may know me by my aliases, such as *paani puri*, *paani patashi*, *phulki*, *paani ke batashhe*, *puchka*, *pakodi*, or *gup chup*.

I have been convicted for being the most scrumptious delicacy of India. Not really bragging but the legends of my glory date all the way back to the Mahabharata, in one of the sixteen Mahajanapadas of India - Magadha. Draupadi was left with some potato sabzi and just enough wheat dough to make one

puri but had to cook a meal in order to satisfy the hunger of all five of her husbands. And then (mai hu Don plays in the background) a suji star was born! Even the Greek historian Megasthenes and the Chinese Buddhist pilgrims Faxian and Xuanzang joined my fan following and mentioned me in their accounts of India (speaking of that, do not forget to follow me @mai_apni_favourite_hu).

Here we are centuries later, and I remain as popular as ever, keeping up with all your GenZ trends. Don't even get me started on the stunts I pull in Nagpur - being the Fire Pani Puri, I hold life by its neck, or rather by its suji as I'm being stuffed with aloo and more spices than one can imagine. Later, I'm topped with gulkand before being lit on fire!

When I visit Tamil Nadu, I take the form of Sambhram Kadumanga Paani Puri. It's a new disguise I came up with. I established my very own Achaar Business and began investing in the Puchka Stocks combining Kerala buttermilk with mango pickle (lots of

scope in this biz). In the Banaskantha district of Gujarat, I was the first of my kind to launch the Contactless Paani Puri ATM, where we serve paani puri Gujju style - sometimes with Gujarati Kadhi. I recently collaborated with The Kettlery in Mumbai and now I serve over 75 flavours of chai in crisp suji balls to energise every customer who walks through the door. I don't blame them; there's no other chaat like me. Well, I am a global star. Google India celebrated my popularity by creating a doodle in my honour. My fame has also taken me to Amrricaa. I was all dressed up in my Banarasi saree to meet Joe (Biden, not Jonas) and he loved me so much that I am now an official item on reception menu of The White House! Oh and... *Purse begins to vibrate* Good God! That must be my husband. I told him to wait in the Puri Cart downstairs while the CBI was done being so dramatic - *mera kya zum mai hu hi itni chatpati!*



F♥R GIVING & F🕒R GETTING

Brain's Tug Of War Between Closure And Clarity

Endri Agrawal, AIS Saket, Alumna

The art of forgiving and forgetting is often easier said than done - a never-ending saga, if you will. Who hasn't faced the wrath of their parents after forgetting to do something trivial, like taking the milk off the stove or defrosting frozen food? Our memories can deceive us, and when they do, we're often met with stern lectures about responsibility. Most of us have at least once believed the lie - "I'll remember, no need to write it down." Spoiler alert - We don't remember. We forgive ourselves for the lapse, promising to remember the next time, only for the cycle to repeat.

But, as we grow older, the concept of forgiveness becomes more layered. When we're wronged, anger is often our first reac-

tion. But amid the fury, self-blame tends to creep in too - we ask ourselves why we were so naïve. It's this internal struggle that makes 'forgive and forget' a complicated ideal. Why should we forgive when revenge feels so much more satisfying? The answer lies in the freedom that forgiveness offers. It's not about excusing the wrong, but about granting yourself closure and moving on. Studies even show that the act of forgiveness improves happiness by 27%.

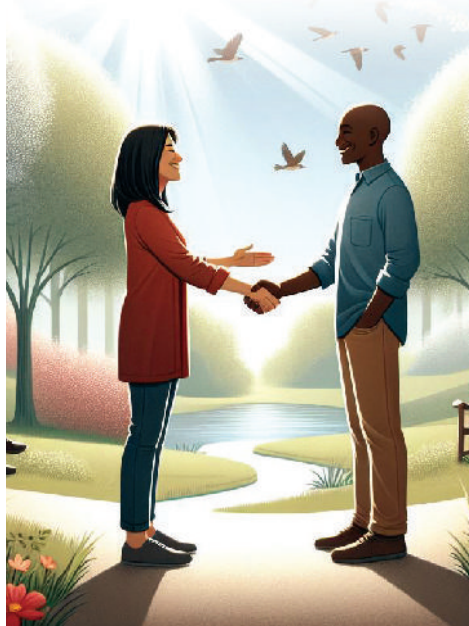
Consider the case of Nelson Mandela. After 27 years of imprisonment, Mandela chose forgiveness over vengeance. When he was released, instead of seeking revenge, he advocated for unity and peace, proving the power of forgiveness to heal not just individuals but entire nations.

Forgetting, however, is another beast en-

tirely. It's easy to forget little things - like a notebook for class or an anniversary gift, but emotionally heavy events are much harder to forget. Our brains function like computers, storing every important memory, especially the bad ones. These memories stay with us, not because we want them to, but because our brain processes them as lessons to prevent future harm.

While you might not want to revisit these utterly painful memories too often, learning to let go is indeed essential. As hard as it is to forget, once we forgive, the weight of the memory begins to lighten. You won't need a 'burn book' to keep your past learnings, just a heart ready to forgive, and, with time, forgetting might just follow eventually.🇮🇳

(Endri is pursuing BA from Ashoka University, Haryana)



Learning German



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

In today's globalized world, learning a foreign language has become a valuable skill for students who wish to become successful global citizens. German is one such language which opens the doors to many academic and career opportunities, especially in fields where Germany excels, like engineering and technology. At Amity, we have always been ahead of the times, and had introduced German language at AIS Noida way back in 1995. At Amity, students learn

with the help of state-of-the-art classrooms and libraries stocked with German literature and multimedia resources. The curriculum follows the CBSE framework and dedicated faculty uses innovative teaching methods, integrating technology and real-life scenarios to make learning process an engaging experience.

What's more, students get to experience German culture firsthand through various cultural exchanges and immersive workshops. One of our oldest exchanges has been with Jawaharlal Nehru Schule in Neustrelitz, apart from Kantschule in Falkensee and Nikolaus von-kues Gymnasium. Students have consistently secured top rankings in prestigious competitions, including the German Olympiad and Goethe-Institute assessments. Looking ahead, Amity is poised to build more partnerships with German-speaking institutions. This will ensure that students not only master the language but also appreciate the diverse cultural heritage it represents.

It's Time to Say! Hip, Hip, Hurray!

Little chess masters of AIS Noida achieved a remarkable victory in the CBSE National Chess Championship - Manthan 2024. In Under 17-Girls category, Inaaya Kukreja, Anika Tyagi, Ananya Dudhoria and Ridhima Gupta clinched the bronze medal. In addition, Anika bagged a silver medal in the individual event. 🏆🇮🇳

Less is more



Dr Arti Chopra
Principal

In a world that is facing resource scarcity, there is a bigger challenge of abundance of waste and uncontrollable trash driven by the failure to prioritise things. Simple living, yet high thinking, as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, emphasises how simplicity and moderation frequently produce more significant results. The human mind, too, when clogged with irrelevant thoughts like cobwebs, blocks creativity and clarity of expressions. From design and

art to communication, lifestyle, and even problem-solving, the dictum 'less is more' has broad applications. Adopting this strategy aids in decluttering and making a long-lasting impression. For these reasons, our Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, lays stress upon the power of mindfulness and sustainability. The emphasis on quality over quantity and clarity over complication has paved the way to make Amityans, responsible citizens. This holistic approach fosters self-awareness, resilience, and the power of discretion to say 'No' to mindless expenditure, wasting resources, and respecting the environment. I am deeply touched by the efforts of our editorial board, who have taken up issues to cultivate a balanced mindset. The making of this newspaper has helped enhance their creativity, critical thinking, and skills of communication, thus shaping them to be Amity's true ambassadors to the global community. 🇮🇳🏆

Pic: Diya Kerur, AIS Gur 46, XI J | Model: Advit Bhardwaj, AIS Gur 46 VIII G

Symbolism

We Over Analyse, Therefore We Are

Ekam Sibia

AIS Gurugram 46, XI I

Symbolism - the literary device that turns a grocery list into a commentary on the human condition. Take a simple sentence, like "Billy grabbed a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch." Seems straightforward, right? Wrong. In the hands of a determined English teacher (bless their overthinking souls), this sentence becomes a treasure trove of hidden meaning.

Now imagine young Billy, eyes bleary with the existential angst. He stares into the abyss of his fridge, a vast, beige wasteland devoid of culinary inspiration. The jar of peanut butter - is it a metaphor for the crushing weight of conformity? Perhaps the jelly, a vibrant red, represents Billy's yearning to break free from the shackles of societal expectations. Or maybe he's just hungry.

The bread, in its humble neutrality, could symbolise the ever-present middle ground, the beige of life Billy desperately wants to escape. Each bite, a Sisyphean struggle, condemning him to another school day. Is the crust, hard and unforgiving, a reflection of the harsh realities of the world? Or is it just a little over-toasted?

The beverage of choice. Milk? A symbol of childhood innocence, soon to be lost in the churning sea of adolescence? Juice? A desperate



attempt to inject some vibrancy into a world painted in beige and dread? Water? Well, water is just water. But a voice, a voice of reason (perhaps your own?), might be whispering, "Isn't Billy just a kid who likes peanut butter and jelly?" WRONG. The very moment you utter those heretical words, the spirit of literary analysis descends, metaphorical dagger poised for assassination. What if Billy isn't rebelling against societal expectations? What if, dare we say it, he's just hungry and enjoys a good peanut butter and jelly? This constant pressure to find profound meaning in every detail can be exhausting. Consider the great poets of the past. We hold Shakespeare up as a master of symbolism, dissecting his every line for hidden messages about society and the human condition. But what

if, on a sunny afternoon, the Bard simply looked out of his window and saw a beautiful oak tree? Perhaps he just penned a sonnet about its majesty, its roots that burrow deep into the earth - without a single thought of social commentary. The same goes for Ruskin Bond's evocative poems about nature. Maybe Bond wasn't always crafting metaphors for the human experience during a peaceful picnic in the hills. Maybe he just appreciated the beauty of a towering pine. Imagine these literary giants peering down from the heavens, chuckling at our relentless analysis. "Why didn't we think of that?" they might muse. "A simple poem about a tree - a brilliant metaphor for the human condition!" Perhaps there's a lesson here. While symbolism can be a powerful tool, sometimes a sandwich is just a sandwich, and a tree is just a tree.



Democratic dialogues

Democracy empowers individuals. It encourages them to voice their perspectives and engage thoughtfully with the world around them. Democratic values lead to the holistic development of an individual by enhancing their ability to think critically and act independently.

This critical thinking, synthesis of knowledge and formation of new ideas is the pinnacle of intellectual achievement. By fostering the ability to create, Amity universe nur-

tures a generation of individuals who do not merely follow but lead with vision, empathy, and innovation. In a school that publishes its own newspaper, these democratic ideals come alive. The experience of engaging in publishing their own thoughts pushes students to navigate the complexity of human narratives, all while nurturing their individuality and voice.



Regina Mukherjee
GT Coordinator

In this edition, not only our students reflect on the significance of the nature of democracy but also examine the cultivation of empathy - a cornerstone for a society that values respect and harmony for not just human diversity but all living beings. We hope

that you enjoy and appreciate the insights and reflections of our students who have strived hard to showcase that we can harness a free, secular, and technologically advanced world. Happy reading.



Since yore, royalty has been known to set themselves apart from the general public. And the colours they used played a major role in this. Explore the realm of royal colours with **Taravali Sharma, AIS Gur 46, XI J** and discover why these colours became royal exclusives!



Colour of passion - Red

Roots of colour: The colour was originally made by crushing 0.2-inch-long cochineal bugs. Ground into a grainy red substance, further refined to obtain the dye.

Chromatic rarity: Around 70,000 bugs produced one pound of dye. Adding to this, the trade routes for obtaining high-quality red dyes were long and perilous. These factors added to the scarcity of red colour and fabric. Certain laws limited their use to the royalty and aristocracy.

Hue heritage: 40,000 years ago hunters used red clay to make paint. The Catholic church adopted red as a symbol of the blood of Christ and the fires of hell.

Symbolism: Red is believed to represent power, love, courage and good fortune.

Colour of tranquillity - Blue

Roots of colour: The Egyptians created the first blue pigment around 2,200 B.C. The production of blue dyes was expensive and labour-intensive. The vibrant blue hues derived from the Indigo plant were popularised as a substitute for the Woad plant, which gave a very light tint.

Chromatic rarity: The lengthy process to make the royal colour made blue fabrics a luxury which was affordable only to the wealthy and powerful. Artists had to go into intense debt to complete their works using this expensive blue.

Hue heritage: Virgin Mary was painted in blue and a robe for Queen Charlotte was made with the colour royal blue.

Symbolism: The colour represents tranquillity, dependability, productivity and wisdom. Blue has also been associated with heavens and the Gods.

Colour of power - Purple

Roots of colour: 15th Century citizens of Sidon and Tyre, Ancient Phoenicia (Lebanon) produced the Tyrian purple dye/ Imperial purple from crushed Murex shellfish extract which was sun-dried for a specific amount of time.

Chromatic rarity: The tedious process made the colour extremely scarce and expensive. The affordability of this colour was only restricted to the royals. The royalty of this colour was such that the subjects were punished if they dared to wear this colour in the Roman Empire.

Hue heritage: Purple has held independent hegemony over the image of the royals since time immemorial. Rulers wore purple and used purple ink to sign edicts.

Symbolism: The colour purple symbolises royalty, luxury, and imperial authority.

Colour of wealth - Gold

Roots of colour: The word gold as a colour name was first used in the 1400s to refer to blond hair. But the most accurate representation of the colour is the metal gold, first discovered in its natural state, in streams all over the world around 4000 BCE.

Chromatic rarity: In ancient times, gold mines became scarce due to high demand. High price coupled with limited availability made gold - the metal, and subsequently the colour elusive and luxurious. Gold was used in many ancient civilizations, including Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, India, and Rome.

Hue heritage: Gold was also used to illuminate text, architecture, textiles, and decorative borders in the Indo-Persian artistic culture established by Mughal Emperor Akbar.

Symbolism: It represents abundance, wealth and prestige. Real gold was used by emperors to reflect their wealth in their clothes, jewellery, temples, tombs, currency, and gifts.

The colours' Royale

Pic: Diya Kerur, AIS Gur 46, XI J
Models (L-R): Jaksh Pahwa, III F, Shivanya Sharma, III I, Kinaya Garg, III F & Advik Rohatgi, III H; AIS Gur 46

Enchanted deception

Sanvi Bhatia, AIS Gur 46, IX H

I stopped my bicycle in front of a crumbly, old building, half-hidden under a looming banyan tree throwing dark shadows everywhere. The scene was eerie,

and I immediately regretted accepting my friend's invitation to explore the place. The lawn outside the main door had turned into a jungle of wild grass, and a crow cawed loudly from the tree, adding more creepiness to the night. I heard Zynah, my friend, call out my name, "Moon! Should we go in?" My curiosity got the better of me and I

My curiosity got the better of me and I agreed. As soon as we stepped in, I froze in astonishment. The interiors of this seemingly decaying building were richly decorated.

agreed. As soon as we stepped in, I froze in astonishment. The interiors of this seemingly decaying building were richly decorated. I moved from one floor to another with Zynah following me quietly, till we reached the third floor. It was a simple attic but much more radiant. I was immediately drawn to some ancient scrolls that lay open on the

table. I had only begun to marvel at the perfectly made bed when suddenly, I could feel a creepy stillness in the air.

I turned to Zynah and was horrified to see my friend transforming from a tall, young girl into an old, hideous witch. I stuttered, "Whh...hoo are you? And what have you done with Zynah?!" She started cackling and said in a menacing voice, "Don't you get it, my sweet child? I was Zynah. Every few years, I lure a child to follow me here. Now, it's your turn. You're stuck here, and I'll never let you go."

My heart was thumping with fear, but I knew I had to stay calm. I started looking around the attic for anything that could save me. The ancient scrolls caught my eye. I quickly skimmed through one and came upon a passage that described a spell to destroy the witch. I began reciting the spell, and the witch started to glow, as if she was burning up. In a moment, she was nothing but a pile of ashes.

Trembling all over, I dashed out of the cursed building. I realised I'd gone from being a hesitant explorer to a witch slayer in minutes. The old building and the banyan tree still held many secrets, but I was now determined to uncover them all. I glanced at the ancient scrolls I had managed to hide inside my dress and smiled.



Illustration: Ishani Verma, AIS Gur 46, X H

Moonlit serenity

Diya Kerur, AIS Gur 46, XI J

Beneath the sun's golden embrace
I tread upon life's visible, open space
The moon's secrets, gently unfurled
The silvery glow reveals my inner world

The sun's spotlight falls on stage
This puppet performs, page by page
Daylight fades, shadows grow deep
The moon, with her love, lets me sleep

The sun observes what's plain to see
The moon knows the depths within me
In daylight's hustle, are masks we wear
The tranquil nights, my secrets they bear

I dance in the sun, my deeds revealed
To the moon's wisdom, my heart appeals
In her soft glow, her tender embrace
I find solace in that sacred space.



Illustration: Tapasya Aggarwal, AIS Gur 46, IX J

Read Play and Win 71

Reading your favourite GT can fetch you a prize too. Complete all the boxes below. Click a picture and send it to editor@theglobaltimes.in or submit your responses by visiting The Global Times website (<http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week!



Q.1 What is the name of the protagonist in page 8 short story?

Q.2 Who is the author of the article on page 6?

Q.3 What is the tagline of the top story on page 1?

Q.4 Who is the editor-in-chief of AIS Gur 46?

Q.5 Which organisation has been reported on page 10?

Q.6 Who are the two astronauts stuck in space as mentioned in page 9 article?

Q.7 Which book has been reviewed on page 3?

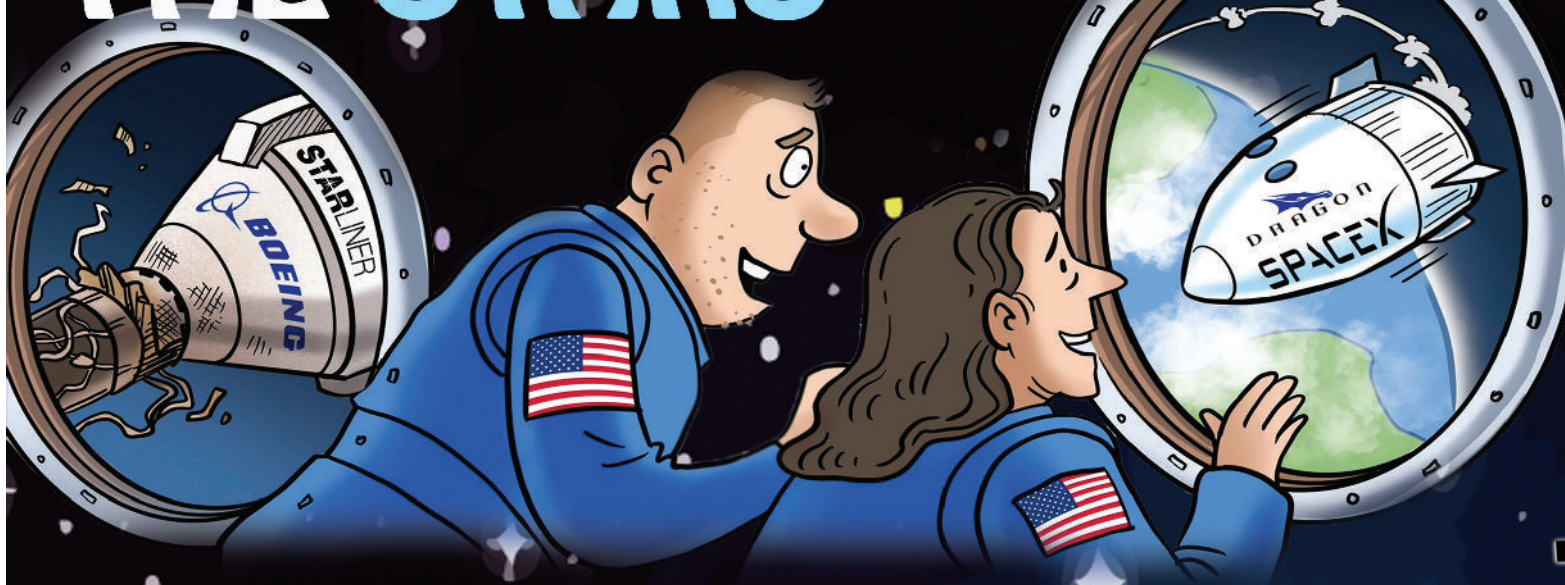
Q.8 What is the name of the product that has been advertised on page 4?

Q.9 Name any two aliases of paani puri.

Name:.....Class:.....School:.....

Results of Read Play & Win-70: **Jheel Lamba**, AIS MV, IX C; **Aditya Roop Rai**, AIS Vas 6, VIII D; **Prisha Khurana**, AIS Gur 46, VI E

REACHING FOR THE STARS



Where Is Sunita Williams? Is She Safe? ... Several Such Questions Answered

Disha Dhir, X D & Simran Jain, XII G
AIS Gurugram 46

It's Friday night dinner, and the atmosphere at home is thick with tension. Mother has just finished watching NewsSprint, which reported that the Boeing Starliner, designed to ferry astronauts to and from the International Space Station (ISS) has returned to Earth, sans the crew it had taken up. Renowned astronauts Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore, who took the test flight on June 5, 2024, will have to extend their stay in space until early next year due to critical technical failures on the spacecraft. While the entire world is anxiously waiting for more updates, our mom on Earth has another pressing question on her mind.

Mom: *Toh, aage ka kya socha hai?*

Vyom: Actually, we've been wanting to discuss this with you. Dad's already on board. Mom, we want to become astronauts.

The spoon clatters to the floor

Mom: What? Astronauts? You mean you want to be stuck in space for months, with me worrying endlessly about your safe return?

Aakash: Hey mom! Relax. Being an astronaut is all that we have dreamed about. We understand your concern stems from the recent reports of Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore being in space beyond the expected date and that they will return only in February 2025. But these reports are really not what they are made out to be. They are not 'stuck' in space, NASA is keeping them safe on the ISS, which is

fully equipped for long stays.

Mom: What do you mean? The reports are incorrect?

Vyom: No mom, reports of them not returning until February 2025 are correct but numerous reports about them not having food, falling sick, are mere conjectures.

Aakash: Yes mom. The mission was to certify that the Boeing Spacecraft was safe for routine travel to and from space. But their flight to the space station encountered thruster issues and helium loss. Five thrusters were considered damaged and unusable, and five separate helium leaks were detected in the service module. NASA ultimately deemed it too dangerous to bring them back on Starliner, resulting in the delay. But the astronauts are safely living in the ISS with adequate stock of food, water and all basic amenities.

Mom: But I read about the severe weight loss and a super bug infection that could be a serious threat, as well.

Vyom: Well, it's just a research study done by IIT Madras and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). They found a super bug *Enterobacter bugandensis*, a common nosocomial bacterium which could pose a unique challenge to the health and safety of astronauts. But, NASA has confirmed that the ISS conditions won't allow this 'superbug' to survive, so all crew members are safe from it.

Mom: Wow! I thought you are just 12, but you already talk like a space expert. Tell me more, I am listening.

Aakash: Mom, weight loss is common among astronauts who stay in space for extended periods of time, and this happens because it is hard to maintain body mass

in a microgravity environment. This can be mitigated by simply engaging in daily exercises for around 2.5 hours per day to avoid muscle atrophy and maintain strength.

Vyom: And not just that, NASA carefully monitors the health of all members aboard the ISS, ensuring they undergo regular health evaluations, with dedicated flight surgeons overseeing them.

Mom: Hmm, this seems more like a story you both have cooked up to convince me!

Aakash: No mom, let me show you some videos from the NASA website. Here is the ISS. You can see that it's as big as a football field! It has six sleeping quarters, two bathrooms, a gym, and a panoramic bay window. Also, read this recent message Williams sent from the ISS, "This is my happy place. I love being up here in space!" It certainly sounds like a stellar getaway for them!

Vyom: In fact, mom, do you know how lucky they are? They have the unique opportunity to witness 16 sunrises and sunsets every day aboard the International Space Station. On Earth, we have just one of each. Imagine 32 beautiful cosmic visuals in a day!

Aakash: And that's because every 90 minutes, the ISS completes a full orbit around the Earth at a speed of approximately 28,000 km/h, which means astronauts see a sunrise or sunset every 45 minutes. Astronauts on ISS experience 16 day-night cycles in a single Earth day. The ISS moves at a much faster rhythm compared to life on Earth, where day and night typically last about 12 hours. Therefore, astronauts experience a transition between

light and darkness every 45 minutes, creating a unique cycle that repeats 16 times each day.

Mom: Wow, that's really interesting. But why hasn't NASA been able to rescue them yet, especially when Starliner has come back?

Vyom: Because NASA deemed it too unsafe for the astronauts. Also, there are other reasons, such as ISS crew rotation logistics, which means that NASA has shifts for all astronauts. If they were to hurriedly bring them back, this would have a negative impact on the well-oiled machine.

And any which way, SpaceX has already launched a Crew-9 mission, the ninth operational NASA Commercial Crew Program flight, to bring them back safely from space.

Aakash: Consider this as well - this extended mission can help us find invaluable data on long-duration space habitation, further enhancing future space exploration. Astronomy is an unpredictable path, which is precisely why we find it so enchanting!

Each twist and turn holds the potential for groundbreaking discoveries, and who knows, one day maybe we'll be up there. So, while it may sound a bit daunting, we believe the adventure is worth the risk. What do you think Maa?

Mummy gulps in water, ready to give her final judgement

Mom: **smiles** It's hard not to worry, but if you're ready for these challenges, I will support you when the time comes. Meanwhile, let's hope our star astronauts come back soon.

Who let the dogs down!



GROUND REPORTING

Diya Kerur, XI J, Simran Jain & Ranya Sharma, XII G, AIS Gur 46

*In dazzling lights, innocent lives roam
Lost in city's cold, far away from home
A hunger apocalypse shadows their way
Silent, unseen, at the edge of the day.*

PawFriend.in, a Mumbai-based non-profit organisation founded by Akshay Ridlan, is a revolutionary initiative that works toward finding caretakers for strays who are abandoned. Lauded by the masses, the organisation has received wonderful support from volunteers to help build an animal-friendly society. Read on to find out more.

Love pulls this leash

Sometimes a tragedy can set off the most important chain of events, and this is what happened with Ridlan. It was when his beloved college community dog, Kalu, went missing due to the disturbing noise of Diwali fireworks that the idea to provide animals with an identity struck. Ridlan shares, "You can imagine the trauma when one of your friends goes missing. I searched every corner of Bombay but could not find him." This event motivated Ridlan to prevent other strays from meeting the same fate as Kalu.

A Call To Advocate Empathy For Stray Dogs

Pics: Pranav Goel, AIS Gur 46, XI I



Delhi team of PawFriend.in



GT reporters tagging the strays



Akshay Ridlan with GT reporters

Mera QR, meri paw-hchaan

Pawfriend.in's QR tags are highly convenient, resilient, and attached to neon-coloured reflective collars, easily drawing attention. Unlike GPS trackers that require constant charging, these tags are easy to use and maintenance free. Upon scanning the QR code, the user receives demographic information about the dog, including its vaccination and sterilisation status. Simultaneously, the dog's caretaker receives an email alert about the QR code being scanned. "We have given these tags to more than 7,000 strays across India, with the numbers increasing remarkably every day," tells Ridlan.

Fur-ever on duty

Together we are Paw-erful! And such im-

maculate implementation requires a united and collaborative effort. Pawfriend.in has collaborated with the good samaritans Sher-naz Italia, Freny Khodaiji, and Adeya Partha, to facilitate QR tagging in Delhi. "I'm blessed to have hardworking, like-minded people dedicating their time for animal welfare," says Ridlan, full of gratitude for his team's dedication. "A lot of seva happens even in the face of cruelty, so don't lose hope," remarks Italia. They advocate for the immediate sterilisation of helpless animals and consistently push for the creation of new policies that prioritise the welfare of strays.

Collar-ing challenges

"We face a lot of issues on the ground, but we share everything with Akshay's team,

and they always take note," shares Italia. The main challenges are that the tags can fall off, collars get stolen, dogs are afraid of wearing them, or scared of letting someone scan the QR Code. GPS trackers, while more reliable, are heavy and costly, making it impractical for daily wear and tear. Nonetheless, PawFriend.in is committed to adapting to feedback and improving with their new devices.

Paws for thought

The fate of street animals rests in everybody's collective conscience. As the team wisely expresses, "There are many ways we can help animals. We can adopt a stray, collar them up, and tag these friends, and celebrate a quieter Diwali." Monumental change often begins with consistent efforts, and as beautifully put by Adeya Partha, film maker - "Each One, Feed One." 🇮🇳

Pics: Pranav Goel, AIS Gur 46, XI I



Writers, bringing stories to life



Together they write, together they shine, the voices behind the stories, the editorial board of AIS Gur 46



Illustrators, crafting visual magic



Photographer, refocusing



Editors, turning tales into masterpieces

For more pictures, log on to www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper or www.instagram.com/the_global_times

Science sphere

Talented Amitiens Display Their Innovation Skills



Winners of Omnium Gatherum's distinguished competitions

AGS Noida

The school organised its 13th science colloquium titled 'Omnium Gatherum 2024', an annual inter-disciplinary and inter-school competition with special focus on current scientific developments on October 22, 2024. The unique event envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF witnessed participation from 14 schools, including the branches of Amity Group

of Schools all over India.

The event was divided into 3 competitions, each of which were held in 2 categories, online and offline. The science project 'Sci City', based on the topic 'Building Tomorrow's Sustainable Space Colonies' was organised for Class IV-V. To create awareness among the youth about sustainable solutions, a theatrical presentation competition on the topic, 'Youth for a Greener Tomorrow', was held for Class VI-VIII. The 'Forum Deliberation', based on

the topic 'Space Tourism, the final frontier for travelers' exploring the opportunities, challenges, and future of commercial space travel, was held for Class IX-XII.

The result for both offline and online categories of all the competitions were declared separately and the overall trophy in both the categories were proudly lifted by AIS Gurugram 46.

Masters of chess

AIS Noida

Chess wizards of the school achieved a remarkable victory in the CBSE National Chess Championship, 'Manthan 2024', held from October 25 - 28, 2024. The event brought together 800 chess enthusiasts from 20 participating schools across India and abroad. In the Under 17 (Girls) category, the team of Inaaya Kukreja (VIII), Anika Tyagi (VIII), Ananya Dudhoria (IX), and Ridhima Gupta (IX) exhibited exceptional skills and teamwork, clinching the bronze medal. In addition, Anika bagged a silver medal for her impressive performance in the individual event.



Young chessmasters



The doyen of lens Raja Jain interacts with a student

Photography 101

AIS Pushp Vihar

The school organised 'Beyond the Lens', a photography competition for Class VI - VIII on October 21, 2024. A total of 12 schools from the Delhi NCR region participated in this competition, which was judged by Raja Jain, brand ambassador for Canon India and a renowned photographer who specialises in cinematic films and candid photography. The enthusiastic participants cap-

tured evocative photographs which evoked powerful emotions. Each image expressed a unique story and showcased the artistic vision of budding photographers. Quality, creativity, originality, and impact, along with a unique caption were the main criteria for evaluation of the photo entries. Akshaya Nandini Singh from Class VIII of AIS Vasundhara 6 won the second prize and Aadit Arora from Class VIII of AIS Pushp Vihar bagged the third prize in the competition.



Kathak performance sets the tone for Esperanza 3.0

A cultural fiesta

AIS VKC Lucknow

The school organised 'Esperanza 3.0', its annual inter-school cultural festival with over 20 schools and 450 students participating from across the city of Lucknow from October 16-19, 2024. The event began with a scintillating opening ceremony that witnessed the lighting of the ceremonial lamp amidst the chanting of shlokas followed by a mesmerising classical Kathak performance by the graceful dancers. The Youth Power team of the school 'Rivaaz Revive', presented an impactful speech about the heritage of the city of Lucknow and encouraged the audience to participate in restoring its glory. An exhilarating pre-event basketball tournament, spanning over two

days, featured talented young athletes from various schools, illustrating their impressive skills and sportsmanship.

Esperanza 3.0 featured thrilling events like Budding Bizz, a start up competition to encourage entrepreneurship; Samskriti, which explored the psychological impacts of adolescence; Toy Craft, a competition to create unique toys using different materials; Bizz Quiz, a forum to test business knowledge; Symposium a creativity boulevard; Digital Palette, the photography competition; Number Fables, learning math through storytelling; and Rock Band.

The event culminated with a glittering felicitation ceremony with AIS VYC Lucknow lifting the overall winners trophy and all the winners being felicitated.



Young scouts learn to use HAM radio for communication

Scouts Jamboree

AIS Vasundhara 6

The international scouting event, Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI), held on October 19, 2024, at BSG National Headquarters, New Delhi witnessed participation by 20 scouts and guides of the school along with their mentors. The event was graced by SK Biswas, chief commissioner of scouts (BSG), Wg Cdr MM Joshi, national commis-

sioner for special programme and RM Kala, state secretary, Uttarakhand.

The objective of the programme was to interact online with scouts and guides from across the country to enhance teamwork and leadership skills. The scouts and guides were trained to use the HAM wireless radio communications, and create doodle art displaying the ideals of scouting. All the participants were conferred a badge of appreciation.

GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY SATAN

You Are Seven Minutes Away From The Final Destination (Maybe)



Parneka Chowdhry & Pavani Bansal, AIS Gurugram 46, XI I

*Charge to 200, clear! Push one of the epis, charge to 300, clear! *static noise**

You must be wondering how I, Google Maps, of the House Navigation, first of his name, the navislayer - you get it, I'm cool - ended up here, in muddy clothes on a hospital bed, possibly living my last seven minutes. I could be posting an aesthetic story right now, but here I am watching my life flash before my eyes. Turns out it's just a series of wrong turns.

It all began one summer when the stress from increasing competition in the market led me to visit India for a break (and Instagram. Damn @travelrealIndia).

If I survive this, hit me if I think about coming here again. Are we good? Continuing. I should've researched, should've gone on TripAdvisor (they really should give tutorials on how to survive Indian streets) or something because, Oh my God, the lanes. It was fine until the airport, but the moment I got out, a choking blast of smog slapped me in the face and made me cough out my aesthetic dreams. For miles, I was greeted with chaos that would make the cacophony of a fish market seem pale in comparison - discordant honking of cars (which

I've realised is a legit form of communication here), bustling crowds, ambulances jammed amidst every mode of transport ever. Cows are the only VIPs here, navigating the jam better than the traffic officer. Anyway, I had to go to Hauz Khas. Aesthetic spots,

good pictures, you know the deal. I flipped through my memory, searching for restaurants, cafes, and...Rakesh from Ghaziabad? Do I know him? Is he Sundar Pichai's relative? Cool shades in the selfie, though.

"Turn left in 50 meters", my gut

feeling said. "Of course because that worked out so well the last three times." Siri cracked. "How supportive". (Screech) I stamped on the break, before I smashed into a wall. "Phew, narrow escape", I sighed, "Siri, am I, perchance in Subway Suffers, or

some new version of Dora the Explorer? Kya road yahan hai? Nahi. Kya road vahan hai? Nahi." Calm and collected, I recalibrated. "Reroute and take a U-turn at 100 meters." Wrong once, then wrong twice. I found myself at the epicenter of an open mall. Grocery shops on wooden structures, clothes hung from makeshift tents, and people jumping in front of cars thrusting the palm of their hands on your face, to go bargain the price of tomatoes, never witnessed anything crazier in my life. "Alright, third try." "Perhaps you'd like to switch to pedestrian mode?" Siri chimed. I ignored her and prayed to God, "I swear I'll never confuse the highway and a normal road again. Please get me out of here." I started once again. Buildings, buildings, and... Rakesh? Or God? At that point, there was no difference. I approached him like an old friend. "Rakesh, what brings you to Hauz Khas?" Bemused, he said, "I'm Ramesh, and this is Ghaziabad." I'm pretty sure I fainted in his arms after that. He was sweet, though. I think he was the one who carried me to the hospital. "Well, at least you made it somewhere! Next time, I'll book you an 'anywhere door'." Of course, Siri couldn't resist one last dig.



Illustration: Ishani Verma, AIS Gur 46, X H

Pics: Pranav Goel, AIS Gur 46, XI I



Editor-in-chief: Ranya Sharma



The minds behind the words, the hearts behind the stories - the editorial board of AIS Gurugram 46

In Spotlight