

There's a little bit of UN in all our lives

To quote Dalai Lama, "Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive." This universal philosophy underlines the existence of United Nations. October 24, 2009 marks the 64th anniversary of the enforcement of the United Nations Charter. **GT travels with Ms Shalini Dewan, Director, United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi as she sheds light on UN's India leg and more...**

'No war' zone: The greatest achievement of the UN since its inception is that it has succeeded in preventing a war on the scale of World War II, which had led to the formation of the world body more than six decades ago. The UN has succeeded in saving future generations from the scourge of war by creating a platform where all countries of the world can discuss, debate and resolve their differences. The other successes are that the UN created a global environment which recognizes the need to respect human rights, awareness about addressing poverty across the planet and also saving the earth from the ravages of climate change.

Children, our assets: UNICEF advocates for the protection of children's rights, helps meet their basic needs and expands their opportunities to reach their full potential. Various UN agencies work in close cooperation with each other as also with local governments and communities to address issues like child malnutrition and trafficking of children. The UN has established a global online teaching and learning project, UN Cyberschoolbus

(www.un.org/cyberschoolbus) which disseminates information and resources about international affairs, as well as bring together diverse communities of students from around the world. The UN Information Centre is in regular communication with thousands of schools in India and Bhutan and helping them to organise UN clubs, Youth Associations, Model United Nations (MUN) conferences, etc.

Nuke deal: UN is committed to create a nuclear weapons-free world. The UN and its agencies continue to spearhead the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament movement.



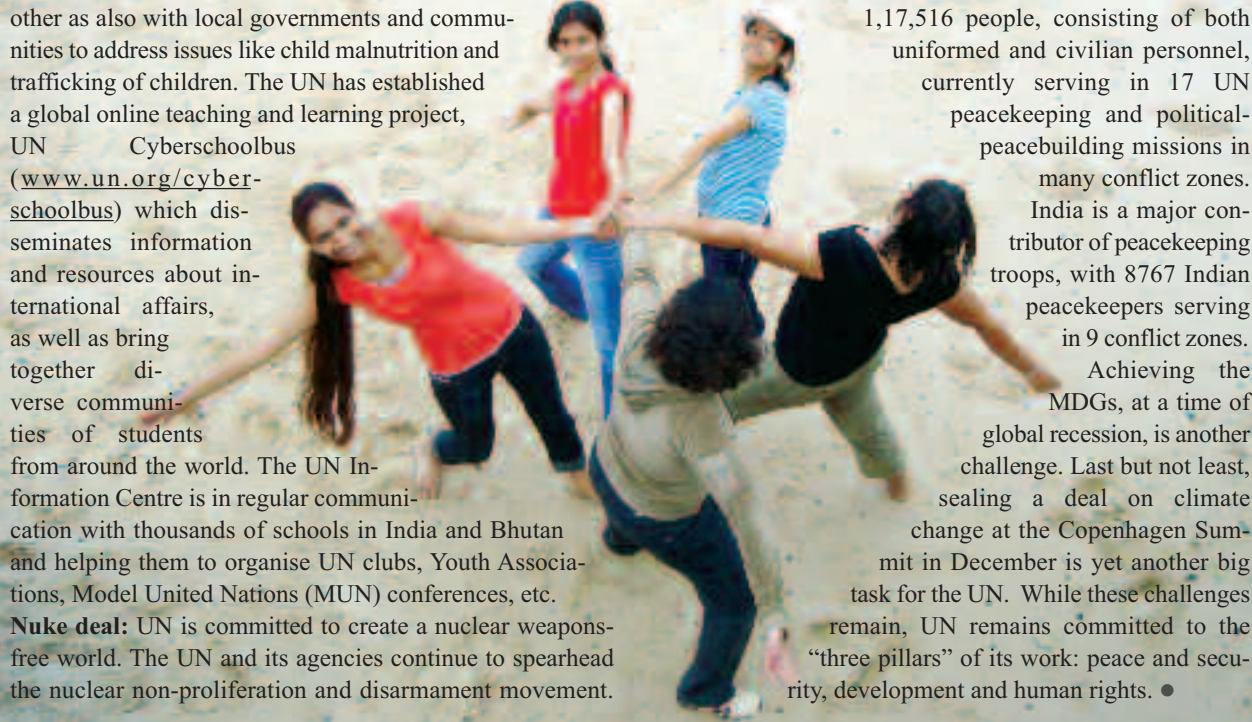
Ms Shalini Dewan

The Secretary-General himself led a 100-day campaign called *WMD – We Must Disarm*, that had a huge online presence in Facebook, Twitter and My-Space. Conflicts continue to occur, but the UN is still the only global organization that is sought by parties in conflict to mediate, negotiate and maintain peace, as also to assist in and monitor democratic elections in many countries emerging out of civil conflict, dictatorship, war or insurgencies.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Eight anti-poverty goals called MDGs are to be achieved by the year 2015. MDGs are goals or promises made by all the member governments of the UN to their own people. UN and its agencies act at best as active collaborators, facilitators and evaluators for the fulfillment of these promises. It takes the conviction and political will of the countries themselves to achieve these goals. UNAIDS is the agency dedicated to addressing HIV/AIDS. Our planet faces the grave threat of climate change and addressing climate change is a top UN priority. UN is the umbrella under which all such major global issues are addressed.

The challenges: Finding resources for its ever-expanding peace building and peacekeeping operations is one of the biggest challenges. There are over 1,17,516 people, consisting of both uniformed and civilian personnel, currently serving in 17 UN peacekeeping and political-peacebuilding missions in many conflict zones.

India is a major contributor of peacekeeping troops, with 8767 Indian peacekeepers serving in 9 conflict zones. Achieving the MDGs, at a time of global recession, is another challenge. Last but not least, sealing a deal on climate change at the Copenhagen Summit in December is yet another big task for the UN. While these challenges remain, UN remains committed to the "three pillars" of its work: peace and security, development and human rights. •



Anantdeep & Sanchit with under-privileged Children at Deepalaya

School Kids take-off educating the Young

Youth Envoys 2009-10 set off enthusiastically on their crusade of making a difference to the society, as part of **Youth Power Phase IV**. The crusaders took up the mantle of lighting up the lives of their underprivileged counterparts by spreading literacy; each Envoy dedicated 16 hours of service to their respective NGOs.

Lighting lives at Deepalaya: Anantdeep and Sanchit Kumar, Youth Power finalists of AIS Noida

and AIS Vasundhara, respectively, were at absolute ease as they spent 16 hours with the underprivileged children at Deepalaya Education Programme in Patparganj Village. Quips Sanchit, "The task assigned to us was to prepare the children for their annual "Latent Talent Hunt" competition in which there was Story writing, Drawing, Poster making, Art & Craft and Mehendi. It was very heartening to see that many of them reproduced the same essay, that I had taught them a day before." Confesses Anantdeep, "I have a bad handwriting which I try to camouflage by writing neatly. While correcting their copies, I was amazed that most students have beautiful handwriting as they

give a lot of emphasis to it. Story writing competition devoted 10 marks simply to handwriting." For the duo, it was a great learning experience. Seemingly comfortable with the stench and pollution, they took no time in mixing with kids, dancing and making friends. At the end of the programme, Sanchit was sure of one thing, "I would love to come back here once again, but I don't want to be a teacher. Its fun to interact with kids, but correcting copies is the most tedious task."

People volunteering their services at NGOs is a noble initiative, but when it includes school students, the impact is different. Shares Vasudha Sondhi, Senior Manager, Human Resource & Programs, Deepalaya, "Usually we are flooded with volunteers at a time when the schools have vacations. This is perhaps the first time school students are here during a non-vacation period. Children learn faster when they are taught by someone from outside. And if the outside contact is a school student, the enthusiasm is even more. In fact, for both, this is their only contact to the 'outside' world."

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**YOUTH POWER
2009-10**

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Amity's Double Whammy



Tulika Banerji

The festivity in the month of October lent its exuberance to Amity, bestowing it with two noteworthy recognitions back to back.

Amity International School Noida, was presented 'Special Merit Award' among 'India's Most Respected Schools', an EW-C Fore Survey conducted by Education World, a Banga-

lore based Human Development Magazine. The award was given away at a glittering ceremony hosted by Education World at Taj Mahal Hotel on October 10. Dignitaries from education fraternity graced the occasion- principals and educationists from the best schools across the country including Doon School Dehradun, Mayo College Ajmer, Woodstock School Mussoorie, Bishop Cotton School Mumbai, DPS RK Puram, Path-

ways World School Gurgaon, etc. Schools were evaluated on the basis of twelve parameters of excellence viz., academic reputation, co-curricular and sports education, competence of faculty, individual attention, value for money, leadership management, parental involvement, infrastructure, quality of alumni, integrity and admissions transparency.

Mr Dilip Thakore, Publisher and Editor

of Education World, showered words of appreciation, "Amity has charted a rapid growth, having established many K-12 schools in Delhi/NCR and universities across the country and abroad. Under the visionary guidance of Founder President Dr Ashok K Chauhan, Chairperson Dr Amita Chauhan and their two enterprising sons Mr Atul Chauhan and Mr Aseem Chauhan, Amity is only headed for progress." The Special Merit Award was collected by the eldest member of the Chauhan family-Nanima; Mr Aseem Chauhan, Chancellor Amity University Rajasthan; Ms Pooja Chauhan, Chairperson ASFT; Ms Sapna Chauhan, Chairperson Amiown; Ms Pooja Chauhan and Ms Mohina Dar, Principal AIS Noida.

The award came close on heels of Amity topping the 'Best School in Noida' Survey conducted by Hindustan Times. AIS Noida ranked first in the HT-C Fore list of ten best schools in the city, ahead of DPS, Apeejay, Somerville, etc. Amity featured tops on most of the parameters undertaken by the survey viz., academic rigour, co-curricular, moral & social values, sports, faculty, individual attention, value for money, infrastructure and reputation. Way to go, Amity!



Tejisvita's story time



Chirag: shows the light

Young crusaders up in arms with NGOs

...Contd from page 1

Imbued in their educational framework, Sanchit and Anantdeep also had the good fortune of bumping into Amity School of Business Alumnus Divya (2009 batch). Enrolled with Deepalaya as part of the Teach India Programme, Divya visits the centre twice while preparing for her MBA entrance exams simultaneously. Teaching the kids, gives her immense satisfaction and a pleasant break from the stressful competitive environment.

Chirag Ginglani from **Dev Samaj Modern School, Delhi** who spent time with Deepalaya School in Gandhi Basti, Okhla, learnt a lot, "I feel satisfied working with Deepalaya kids on their Disability Project. Although most of the children were hearing and speech impaired, the zest in them to learn new things is amazing. It's a different thing to teach such kids through sign language. Through this Youth Power Project, I have not only been able to teach them some-

thing new, but also learnt so much about their world. Mr Arvind Pandey, working as Speech Therapist there elaborated, "It's a great initiative by Amity to send their children here. These 16 hours will remain with them when they choose their careers. For instance, if they go into aviation, they shall be able to understand the needs of the blind and hearing/speech impaired and thereby help make airports barrier free for such people. It may also inspire them to take up voluntary service during their vacations as well." "Service" for Youth Power Envoys was not just a task assigned to them to be forgotten later, but an invaluable component of their learning curve.

Tryst with Saakshi- Centre for Information, Education and Communication: "By teaching at MCD Primary school, Giri Nagar, I discovered the other side of life. These schools do not have proper infrastructure, class rooms are without chalks and

dusters, there is scarcity of potable water, even cleanliness and hygiene aren't up to the mark. There is a huge difference between the kind of education these children are provided with, and the facilities we enjoy. These children aren't aware of the benefits of education. Yes, they do come to school but with a sense of burden," expressed **Simran Sachdeva, Youth Envoy from AIS Pushp Vihar**. Moved by the entire experience, Simran hopes to set up a school that will cater to the marginalized section of the society so that they can also contribute in shaping the nation's future.

Story time at Nagar Nigam Prathmik Vidyalaya, Andrews-ganj: **Tejisvita, Youth Envoy from Vasant Valley School, Delhi** discovered the joys of story telling through her teaching experience. She quips: "It was truly once in a lifetime experience and I enjoyed every bit of it. The first day when I had to teach the kids numbers, I couldn't move beyond number 1. Now that was some learning. I realised that kids pay more attention when standing in a circle as each one can see the other and that stops them from talking. So I used the circle method in my next class, and it worked! I taught them numbers in a story form, which was good fun. I learnt a quite a few things myself; one, I'm quite a chatterbox myself and I realised that it's really irritating for a teacher to have talkative students. And then, that despite having an underprivileged existence, these kids are more interested in studying than we ever were as kids!"

(Inputs from **Vira Sharma** & **Tulika Banerji**)



Simran Sachdeva at work

Is old always gold?

Prapti Alok & Shubhi Singh
AIS Vasundhara



What's the image that comes to one's mind when we think of an Indian politician? Grey matter? Personality? Or none of the above. Is it a disadvantage for a politician to be old? Or is it a blessing for a political party? Old age as a disadvantage; far from it! An old politician has the wealth of experience. He has been around for a while, and has seen the country go through development, having been a vital participant. Our previous President Dr. Abdul Kalam is a perfect example. As he has been a familiar face, citizens have trust and confidence in him, believing that he can do no wrong. Can it be disagreeable? Sure! Age can sometimes be disagreeable, especially when situations get out of hand. Older politicians are generally less liberal and less open than their younger counterparts. They tend to be rigid and dogmatic in their way of thinking, especially the likes of LK Advani.

BJP persists in resisting a generational change of leadership. The leader of the opposition, LK Advani, is 80; his British counterpart



David Cameron is almost half his age. Yet many in the party still dream of a Vajpayee-Advani era conveniently forgetting that the two octogenarians do not represent the future anymore. Oldies enjoy the heady feeling of power and refuse to let go even when they have one foot in the grave, like K. Karunakaran with his own ideas of dynastic rule. It's a proven fact that efficiency goes down as old age sets in. In India where the majority consists of young people, such old politicians stand firm, creating roadblocks and impeding the progress of their younger counterparts. Isn't it time the younger generations take over from them? What do people think about it? We had a survey conducted about the people's views about old and new politicians. Our readers will be surprised to know the result that only 26% people supported the so called greying old! And 74% people think the rope should be in the hands of young generation. Wake up youngsters, its time for you to take on the reins of the country! ●

Campus speak

Shweta Jain

Students of B.Sc. (H), Amity Institute of Forensic Science, Amity University, UP, speak their mind on the debate:

Mamta Bansal: I am in favour of young people joining politics. As they are the future of this country, they should invest their energies in development rather than getting corrupt in politics.

Sanchit Neema: BJP should take in

young people to be successful because youngsters are more active and know so much more. Young generation is the backbone of a young country like ours. **Ritu Nagri:** I definitely feel young people should take lead into politics. When one is young – s/he is full of fresh ideas and is more hard working. Selfless spirit is more found in youngsters, who are also better aware. And unlike old politicians, their minds are still not corrupt by power and money.

The 'Nobel' Questioned @ facebook

Arjun Hans, AIS Saket: I thought this was a hoax... some ridiculous rumour. Obama has done absolutely NOTHING to deserve the Nobel. He'll probably leave a good legacy, but let's be reasonable... he's been in office for not even a year... this proves that the Nobel Peace Prize is a farce. Gandhiji never got it, as the prizes aren't awarded posthumously and yet the Nobel Commission gave the prize to Dag Hammarskjöld after he died in a plane crash. Hammarskjöld was a Swede... nothing more need be said. **Sumedh Kapoor, Teacher AIS Saket:** Why lower the status of Mahatma Gandhi? He is above the Nobel. The Nobel Peace Prize is a farce; everyone knows that. In fact if Gandhi was associated with it, it would benefit Nobel. It always goes to undeserving people. It doesn't hold any value to me... **Arjun Hans:** Let's be reasonable. Morgan Tsvan-

GT View: The debate and surprise over the Barack Obama receiving the Noble Peace Prize is justified. Not even a year old into administration, armed with ambitious plans that still await implementation, it's too early to bestow the Award. Agreed, he is performing, but it is too early to judge him. Why the haste? One may have heard an award being given posthumously for the good work done, but have you

ever hear of someone who is alive and still struggling to prove himself? We respect the sanctity of the Award with the hope that the recipient keeps the honour by fulfilling his duties, living to the expectations of Nobel.

Sparks fly as Obama bags the Nobel

girai deserves the award a lot more... he's suffered so much to become the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe... he is Zimbabwe's only hope against the tyrant who is Mugabe. If Obama has any self-respect, he will voluntarily refuse the prize. It's not unheard of. **Akshat Boobna, AIS Saket:** He got it for all melodramatic speeches I think **Arjun Hans:** He'll get the Oscar next. **Agrim Singh, AIS Saket:** This is a joke. Seriously, this is NOT the time! **Arjun Hans:** Awarding Obama a Nobel Prize is ludicrous, but I think he's doing his job well. The USA has a right to defend its people and its allies... **Akshat Boobna:** NEWS- Obama accepts award. Promises not to let too many bloodstains get onto it. **Sumedh Kapoor:** USA is a self centered country. Arjun, how can you say that Obama is doing a good

job? Explain what has he done in the economic or international front which justifies the Nobel. **Arjun Hans:** What should Obama do-withdraw from Afghanistan and Pakistan? It's a difficult decision. Not when terrorists are proliferating and concocting new schemes to kill innocents. It's all about self-preservation (for the USA and its allies). Sometimes, a country simply must retaliate. **Sumedh Kapoor:** Yes you are right. I am not questioning America's right to retaliate, I am pointing out that mass murders cannot be peace makers. Killing or taking away innocent life has no justification. ●

Courtesy: Mr Sumedh Kapoor's Facebook Wall



Thematic teaching

Anshu Mital

Teacher, AIS Saket



All children need intellectual development, motivation and skills that equip them for successful work and lifelong learning. Research by Yorks and Folio (1993) suggests that children learn more from thematic, integrated teaching than from traditional, single-subject curriculum. In education, it is far more important to teach the child how to think than to communicate various bits of knowledge to him.

Thematic teaching is a more natural way to teach. It is multifaceted method of planning, a dynamic process; it is a way of organising curriculum around a particular theme. A variety of traditional subject areas - such as mathematics, language, arts, science and social studies - as well as dispositions such as critical thinking, cooperation, and collaboration can be woven into inter-disciplinary thematic units which centre on a unifying theme.

When planning a thematic unit, there are several approaches that we can take. The first approach is to select a topic and have one activity related to the topic in each curricular area. The second approach is to shape the entire classroom procedures and routines around the selected subject. A third approach is to use the seven intelligences given by Howard Gardener to appeal to the student's learning styles under a given project.

When creating a thematic unit, we try to integrate all three approaches. For eg: Environment is a subject which brings together all curriculums, as the environment is literally 'all around us.' The themes can be chosen from Environmental Studies (EVS) and other subjects can be linked to the theme irrespective of the order of the lesson in text books. Like animals, plants, sun, water, seasons, etc for primary classes. While working within a theme, students are encouraged to conduct research, prepare reports and presentations. These activities help develop basic skills such as reading, writing, mathematics, and science and enhance conceptual clarity. Thematic learning emphasises on the relationships among concepts.

Each thematic unit begins with an 'inspirational activ-



Thematic teaching is powerful and effective because it integrates learning with life.

ity.' It is a day off timetable -for example a field trip, project work, debate, story telling dramatization or any other activity which excites the students about the theme to come. Books, audiovisual equipment, visitors, etc. can also help bring a theme to life.

The next step is what we call 'The Perfect Brain Storm.' We encourage teachers to begin a lesson by having students brain storm on what they already know or what they think they know. After this, they construct

a new list 'what we want to know and at the conclusion of the lesson they make the final list of 'what they have learned.' This is called K-W-L approach given by educationist Ogle in 1986. It makes the curriculum more meaningful, useful and relevant to students.

At this stage, children are encouraged to make a booklet by stapling few papers together. This is their 'Personal Research on Basically Everything and Anything' on the given theme. Kids personalize their booklets by decorating it colourfully to their own liking. It gives them freedom of choice and encourages them to take pride and ownership of their work as, there is no fear of making mistakes or checking.

Internet is an excellent place to find information over a variety of topics. Reference books such as encyclopedias are also made available. This is a way to introduce basic research skills of exploring and discovering in children, while also improving basic skills of reading and writing.

While planning a theme, it is very important to keep the following points in mind:

- Don't try to integrate every subject area into every theme. Integrate only the areas that fit naturally, and save the others for your next theme. Make sure your themes are the right size. A mini-theme might last less than a day (magnet) in kindergarten while a major theme (animals) would last about four weeks in kindergarten.

- Don't be afraid to cut short a regular or major theme that's dragging, or extend a theme that children have become absorbed in.

- Connect the theme to children's prior experiences. Find out what children know or want to explore.

Share what's been learned by making a display or making a film strip or video.

- Invite parents and friends into the classroom to learn about the theme. Ask children and parents to give you feedback on the theme itself. Our Project Presentations are a step towards this.

Thematic units are great tools for teachers in an early childhood classroom. However, when creating a unit it becomes essential that the teacher consider the academic appropriateness for their individual classroom. A thematic unit is only effective when it meets the student's academic and personal needs as a learner. ●

Online beats classroom Education

Education trends

A recent report on online education, conducted by SRI International, has unraveled a most intriguing conclusion: "On average, students in online learning conditions performed better than those receiving face-to-face instruction."

The report examined the comparative research on online versus traditional classroom teaching from 1996 to 2008. Some of it was in K-12 settings, but most of the comparative studies were done in colleges and adult continuing-education programs of various kinds, from medical training to the military. The analysis found that, on average, students doing some or all of the course online would rank in the 59th percentile in tested performance, compared with the average classroom student scoring in the 50th percentile. That is a modest but statistically meaningful difference.

"The study's major significance lies in demonstrating that online learning today is not just better — it actually tends to be better than conventional instruction," said Barbara Means, the study's lead author and an educational psychologist at SRI International. This hardly means that we'll be saying good-bye to classrooms. But the report does suggest that online education could be set to expand sharply over the next few years. Until recently, online education amounted to little more than electronic versions of the old-line correspondence courses. That has really changed with arrival of Web-based video, instant messaging and collaboration tools.

Source: Internet



Nandini Mukherjee
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Fair for languages coupled with an understanding of basic grammar and hardwork can help students score high in a foreign language.

Applied Grammar – 40 marks

Grammar is considered the most scoring part, however It also needs lot of practice and understanding to avoid mistakes. Therefore make it a point to go through all Grammar covered in the recommended text books. Important Grammar topics which need more attention: Relativpronomen, Perfekt, Adjektivendungen (Nominativ, Akkusativ, Dativ, Genetiv, ohne artikeln, Adjektiv als Nomen), Präpositionen (Akkusativ, Dativ, Wechseln und Feste), Konjunktionen (wenn, weil, wie, dass)

Translation – 25 marks

A small paragraph for translation from the prescribed text book from German to English carrying 15 marks. While translating, the most important thing to consider is that it should not be a word to word translation. No additional vocabulary should be given and no rele-

vant information should be missing as well. Students should limit themselves to the given glossary. To translate the city's name it is preferable to write in German along with the English translation e.g Königstraße (Kingsreet). Simple sentences or passage(s) to translate from English to German carrying 10 marks. Punctuation marks (like comas, acclamation), verb conjugation and verb positioning, tenses should be considered appropriately.

Comprehension - 25 marks

Read the comprehension very carefully at least twice and then go through the questions given. Again the conjugation of verb and their positioning in a sentence is very important in a language. Always write full sentence answers. Writing short passage in German on a simple everyday topic -10 marks: The passage should be written within the word limit of 100–160. Content and Grammar are key to write a passage. A passage should have good content i.e within the topic, choose the opening and closing lines appropriately, and it should be grammatically correct. Error in verb positioning, spellings and capital form should be avoided.

General Instructions

- Read the instructions given on the question paper

- Neatly write full sentences instead of just providing one word answers for fill in the blank type of questions.

- Leave a blank line after every sentence and 4 lines after every complete answer. Revise the whole paper at least twice to check for any errors.

Communicating in English: A gaffe or a gift of the gab

Suvarna Upasani, Training in-charge, Communication
Amity International Schools



Lee Iacocca once said, "You can have thousands of ideas, but if you cannot express your ideas, your ideas won't get you anywhere." That's what communication is all about – the ability to express and share your thoughts and ideas. Communication skills in today's day and age, can serve as a tie breaker between two equally qualified individuals. Good communication skills can help you enhance your career, sell a point of view and increase your productivity.

Have you ever wondered how much effort we take to look good? We don our best clothes and accessories, the best perfume; do we take that much effort to speak well? Unfortunately not! The minute we open our mouth, we are tongue tied. Although we study English as a subject in school for almost ten or more years, the fact remains that the kind of English we learn in school is not really geared towards enhancing our spoken English. Our level of fluency while speaking in English, cannot be judged by the way we chat with our friends; the language fails us when we need it the most – while facing job interviews, making presentations for our prospective partners or clients, while participating in group discussions - the list is endless - when not being able to speak English correctly and confidently can make you a social outcast. What we need to ask ourselves is not how good our English is, but how confidently can we face the English speaking world? English is not our first language. Our first language is our mother tongue, and then comes Hindi followed by English. Our language skills are by and large shaped by our environment. At home we speak in our mother tongue; with friends we use our language of comfort – Hindi. Usage of English is

confined to the English classes. The minute the stern English teacher marches out, we burst into Hindi or Hinglish. Our English rusts as we do not use it enough. End of the day, what is it that we really need a language for, as a medium to communicate? If we can communicate very comfortably in Hindi or our mother tongue, why in the world would we stretch out for English?

Learning a language is a slow process and requires time and effort. We might know all the language tips, yet not be able



to speak with facility. Unless we change our language habits, we cannot change the way we speak the language. Language learning rests on three pillars – exposure, practice and confidence building.

Surround yourself with English – read more English books, watch English movies, listen to English music - the more you expose yourself to the language, the more you will absorb it. The more you soak and practice, the more confident you will feel. Speak better, feel better and work better. ●

ABC of abbreviations

A for accelerator, B for brake and C for clutch.

Shivank Bhatt
MAE-I, Amity University, Noida

There used to be a time when these were the only short forms your dad told you the very first time you asked him about cars. Since then everything has changed, from engine to gearbox to rear-view mirrors, all are now short and to know these new short terms clearly your dad is too busy with his work and he’s not at all bothered about these mechanicals. Manufacturers today use different or rather complicated abbreviations to confuse or impress car buyers. Chevrolet says it has TCDi working for its powerful Magnum diesel, Hyundai has CRDi for its cars, Swift has DDiS. But as far as I know all these mean the same i.e. Diesel Injection or injector whereas ‘T’ means a Turbocharged engine. VGT means Variable Geometry Turbo whose badge you would have seen in the all new Fiat Linea and some of the Vernas



Imaging: Pankaj Mallik

(just below the side indicator). Then you have the gearbox-MT, AT or CVT. MT is Manual Transmission whereas AT and CVT have their usual meanings as Automatic and Continuous Variable Transmission respectively. The latter mostly concerns with non-geared scoots like Axtiva or Kinetic. The next is car category - SUV means Sport Utility Vehicle -Prado, Pajero, Endeavour, etc are some of them which are mainly

meant for off-roading or dune-bashing purposes. MPV or MUV is multi-purpose vehicle (Qualis, Tavera, Innova). Sedan is a closed automobile having two or four doors and a front and rear seat (Linea, City). A hatchback is an automobile having a sloping back with a hinged rear door that opens upward (Swift, Fabia, i20). Coupe is a two-seater sports car (Audi TT, Porsche Boxster). There are terms which tell you about dri-

ving wheels (power is actually sent only to those wheels) - 4WD, AWD, FWD and RWD. Technical term like NVH means noise, vibration and harshness level related to a particular vehicle. SOHC and DOHC explain the arrangement of cylinders. SOHC means Single Overhead Camshaft and DOHC means Double Overhead Camshaft. ORVMs are outside rear-view mirrors. ABS is Anti-Lock Braking System

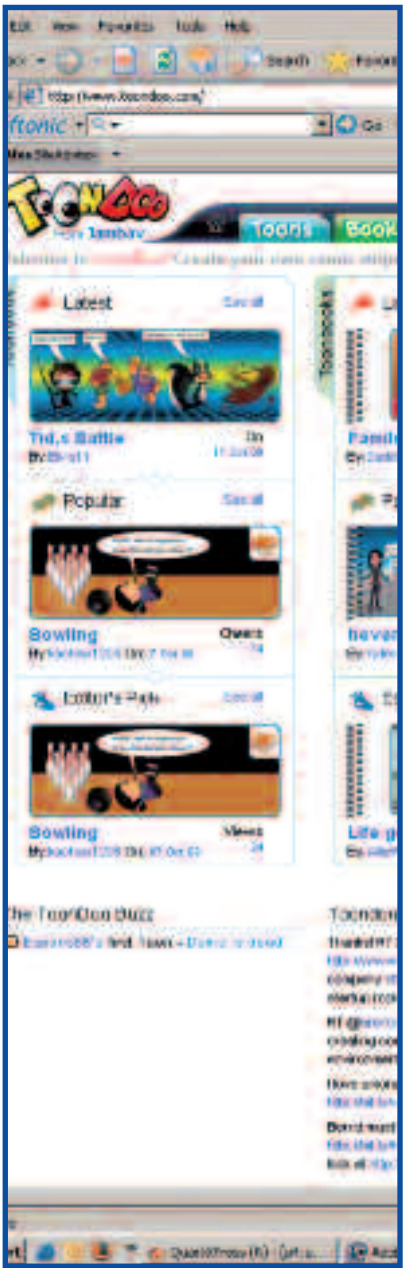
which is very useful in severe braking conditions like in sand, gravel and doesn’t allow car to slide or skid. An additional feature to this is EBD- Electronic Braking Device. ESP is Electronic Stability Programme and it mostly concerns with performance cars for stability at high speeds and hard cornering. Some manufacturers also denote vehicle’s power in PS (Pfdferstarke-German for horsepower) instead of BHP (brake horse power). As PS has slight advantage over BHP it’s easy to fool performance oriented buyers particularly bikers. Though these words seem easy to understand, they attract a lot of attention and are misunderstood as very good or additional features in an automobile. That’s why we feel the product has lots of goodies, just because of these short forms. The main purpose of this article is not to explain you in detail the science and technology of the car but to give you an idea what all these actually mean and how simple are they, so that while buying your next car you won’t be giving any chance to the showroom manager to fool your father by these shortcuts.●

A vibrant image of a planet with a bright, glowing ring system, set against a fiery orange and yellow background. The text "Planet Going The Wrong Way!" is prominently displayed in a bold, stylized font.

Dhvanii Chawla
V-A, AIS, Mayur Vihar

A team of scientists has found a new exoplanet (exoplanet is a planet outside our solar system) which orbits the wrong way around its host star. The planet named WASP-17 which is orbiting a star 1000 light years away in the constellation Scorpius is found by the UK’s Wide Area Search of Planets (WASP) in collaboration with Geneva Observatory. Since, the planets are born out of the same swirling gas cloud that creates a star, they are expected to orbit in the same direction that the star spins. But, WASP-17 is orbiting the wrong way, making it the first planet known to have a ‘Retrograde’ orbit. The likely explanation is that WASP-17 was involved in a near collision with another planet early in its history and appears to have been the victim of a game of planetary billiard, flung into its unusual orbit by a close encounter with a Big Brother planet. ●

Blogger’s Park



Playing with WWW

Free fantastic online tools you probably have never heard about

Karan Dwivedi, VIII D
AIS Gur- 43

Dumpr’s interesting effects
www.dumprr.net

Delight yourself and your family and friends with the assortment of interesting effects that this site can render on your digital photographs. No, don’t look so bored, it is not run-of-the-mill stuff at all. Just look at it: Photo Rubik’s cubes, photos inside a photo, photo mosaics, making photos look old, Lego-styled pictures, photographs in circles, and on Easter eggs, creative reflections, giant portraits of yourself adorning a museum or gallery wall and visitors gazing at you...All done in a jiffy. Oh man, this you gotta try...

Go comic at ToonDoo
www.toondoo.com

Ever wanted to create your own comic strips but never got around doing it? Primarily because though you think you have a great sense of humour and love caricatures, droll drawings and all that jazz, somehow the sketching and drafting capabilities of your forelimbs are sorely in absentia. Never mind now, zip down to ToonDoo, this comic creating tool. A decoction from Jambhav, a company backed by Chennai-based software house AdventNet Inc., ToonDoo allows you to drag- and-drop the available characters on a web canvas, or upload your own pictures, change backgrounds at will, and

add speech bubbles with your own mad-cap wacky witticisms. You will be working in a slick, intuitive, easy-to-use Flash interface. And yeah, if your creations are comical enough, they may even be featured in the ToonDoo Hall of Fame.

Pirates on ye fave site
Facebook tweak

Bored with the same old Facebook? Then, maybe it’s a good idea to go pirating mateys! Time to look at your home port a little differently. All you have to do is change the language to ‘Playing with WWW English Pirate’ (find the option on the bottom-left of the Facebook page). And you are all set to sail the seven seas. Instead of the same old ‘What’s on your mind’, you’ll find a rather cheeky ‘What be troubling ye... Divvy spoils t’ all ye mateys’. While photo albums and groups become ‘Shinin’ Treasures’, friends requests begin with a sardonic ‘Sorry Louts Think They’re Yer Mates’. Your profile page becomes the Home Port and you can always Abandon Ship (logout), leaving behind friends –‘Me Hearties.’ Scrolling through, you can always ‘Make yer mark’ (comment) or say ‘Arrr, this be pleasin’ to me eye’ (Like). Remember to open yer ‘Bottle O’ Messages’, which is your inbox. Then, of course, you have grog fests (events) whose depths you can peer into if you are sailing to one or declare... keehaul! Mayhaps you would want to say set sail to your old Facebook and say Ahoy there! The Pirates rule. ●



+

Medicinal Plants

A close-up photograph of a green, leafy plant, likely Ocimum sanctum (Basil), growing in a pot. The leaves are vibrant green and have a serrated edge. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the plant.

Ocimum sanctum

Botanical Name	: Ocimum sanctum
Family Name	: Labiatae
English Name	: Basil, Sacred Basil, Holy Basil
Common Name	: Tulsi
Used Part	: Leaves, Seeds
Active Principle	: Eugenol, Carvacrol, Methyl Eugenol

Description: Numerously branched herb. Leaves are dark green in colour & hairy opposite. Stem purple, hairy, giving out numerous branches. Flowers purplish-pink, small.

Propagation: Propagated by seeds. The plant grows in wide variety of soil and climatic conditions. Well-drained soil, humid weather, long days and high temperature are favorable for good growth.

Uses: The herb is widely used in cough, cold and fever. It possesses anti fungal, antimicrobial, antiviral, insecticidal, activity.

Courtesy: Amity Institute for Herbal Research & Studies (AIHRS)

A photograph of a young penguin chick, likely a King penguin, standing on a snowy or icy surface. The chick is small and fluffy, with a dark head and back and a lighter belly.

Arunima Sachdev, VIII-B
AIS Gurgaon-46

- You share your birthday with at least 3 billion people in the world.
- Thomas Edison, the inventor of elec-

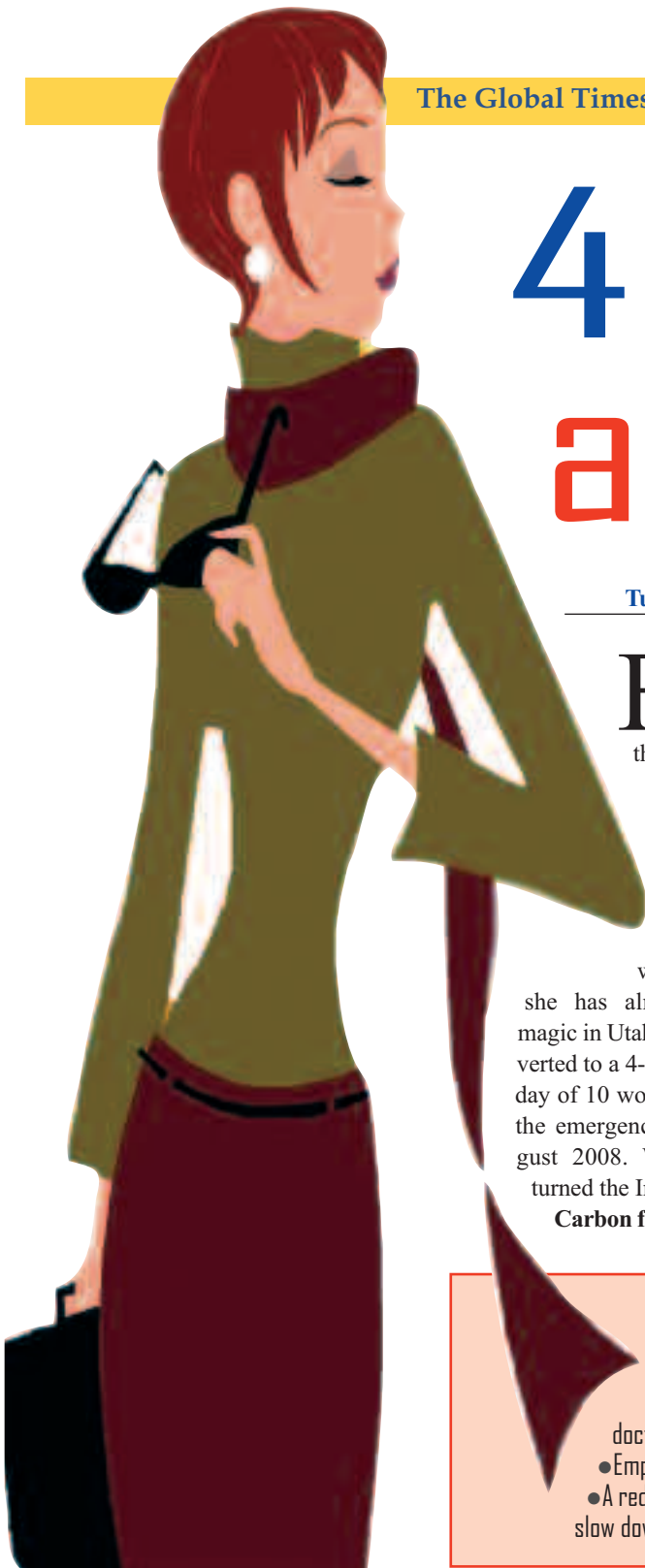
tric bulb was afraid of the dark.
● Bill Gate’s house was designed using a Macintosh computer.
● More than 25% of the world’s forest area is in Siberia.
● Spiders have transparent blood.
● When pitched, the Major League Baseball rotates 15 times before hit.
● The first product that Sony came out with was the rice cooker.
● The penguin is the only bird that can swim but not fly.
● Food can only be tasted if it is mixed with saliva.

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● It is estimated that millions of trees in the world are accidentally planted by squirrels who bury nuts and then forget where they hid them.
● In the early 1960’s Porsche commercially manufactured Farm Tractors.
● The sloth moves so slowly that green algae can grow undisturbed on its fur.
● It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
● The average American consumes 9 pounds of food additives every year.
● Emus & Kangaroos can’t walk backwards.

● A queen bee uses her stinger only to sting another queen bee.
● Honey bees have a type of hair on their eyes.
● 40% of Americans have never visited a dentist.

A close-up photograph of a queen bee, showing its long, segmented body and its stinger (ovipositor) at the rear. The bee is positioned on a light-colored surface, and its wings are partially visible.



4 day week, anyone?

Tulika Banerji

Forty five hours a week, 2340 hours a year—that's the time an average person clocks in office, that is, in case of a five day week. What if, the fairy godmother grants a 4 day working week? Well, she has already worked her magic in Utah (USA) which converted to a 4-day week with each day of 10 working hours (except the emergency services) in August 2008. What if, the fairy turned the India way...

Carbon footprint: What does

a 4-day week bring- reduced traffic, less electric usage and lesser stress? That's exactly what Roshni John, who works with an International Development Agency, feels, "We have an Alternate Work Schedule (AWS) arrangement under which a person can work for 9 hours and can take the Friday (2nd & 4th) off. With offices and schools closed, we would be able to save electricity and water and hence reduce our carbon footprint."

Quality vis-à-vis Quantity: In cities, people are trying to squeeze endless chores into a 24 hour-day. Weekends, for most is just a Sunday. In that case, what quality of life are they leading? On a scale of 10, India gets 5.7 in the Quality of Life index (it includes 98 parameters like health, family life, material well being, etc prepared by The Economist Intelligence Unit) and a rank of 73 that is

much below countries like Singapore, Ireland, Estonia and Morocco. Will a four day week help sort things? Parul Chandra, a NIFT alumnus working in Seattle (USA) believes, "Who knows, people might work more efficiently? They'll get an extra day to finish off important domestic chores like payment of bills, grocery shopping, catching up with children, etc. In fact, some offices in the US are also suggesting that employees work from home all 5 days a week." Now, that's pretty cool.

Home alone, not any more: Of all the stakeholders to profit from shorter work weeks, children rank the highest. "Three offs will give people an opportunity to unwind and spend quality time with their kids. The only area I'm not sure of is education; increasing hours for teachers is fine for those four days, but for children? Won't it be hectic for the little ones?" wonders Aditi Vishal Mathur, Teacher and mother of one from Atlanta (USA).

4-better or worse? Research on Utah says that employees were more satisfied, thus nurturing a happy workplace! Sidharth Mukherjee, Senior IT Manager from Hyderabad lists the pros and cons, "Positives: People can plan vacations, leisure trips and other activities more often than earlier. They get more time to relax, which reduces stress and may result in higher productivity. However, the problem will be for those who are lazy and like to sleep long hours; the move may cause some serious health issues!" In India, if not a four day week, but at least a 'five day week' *toh banta hai!*●

The side effects

- 52 extra days off a year to do whatever the worker wants.
- Less absenteeism as employees have less need to miss work for doctor's visits and other obligations.
- Employers can save on energy, custodial and security costs.
- A reduction in exhaust emissions from commuter cars; less pollution and slow down of global warming.

Parenting a Teen

Shipra Kukreja
AIS Gur 43

Teenagers want independence and to be treated like an adult but often lack the necessary maturity, which only comes through experience. Giving them freedom of choice in some matters will help them to mature, yet won't seriously harm them or others.

Teens need a lot of healthy eating and they also need a lot of positive inputs to grow emotionally and intellectually. It is important for parents to establish positive communication when their kids are younger and keep it up as they get older.

Then, they will be more likely to receive direction from their parents during the tough teen years. Parents should help their teens grow into adults by teaching them to put responsibility before fun.

Let them flap their wings within reasonable limits but make sure they know you are always there for them. Help teens set their goals that are challenging and attainable. Parents may not be able to understand any better than the teens understand themselves.

A teenager's friends are going to have good or bad influence on them, so get to know them and try to bring out the best in them. Hearing them out really helps taking the parent-teen relationship to newer levels of understanding and warmth.



Hot or cold, how d'you like it?

Winters



Angad Singh, IV-A
AIS Saket

Winters in India become bone chilling in the months of November to February. The mornings are cold and

foggy. Nothing less than a hot cup of tea is required to bring on the day. As the sun's rays disperse through the fog, it's a sight to behold. One can enjoy nature in its full bounty. The bird sanctuaries in India are flocked by multitude of beautiful migratory birds.

It's the time to eat winter delicacies like *makki ki roti* with *sarson ka saag*, stuffed paranthas, mouth-watering kebabs, deserts like Gajar ka halwa, etc.

Winter is also the time to shop for gorgeous silks and woollens that look stunning and also keep us toasty warm.

One can enjoy the winter holidays in palm-specked beaches of Goa or snow

clad hill stations as it's the season of adventure sports like skiing, trekking, ice-skating, etc.

Summers

The summer season in India lasts from March to June. It is the most unbearable season in the plains of India. The varied topography of India offers some very charming destinations to hide away from scorching sun and relax like Shimla, Manali, Nainital, Ooty, etc.

If beating the heat becomes difficult, enjoy it. Summers with its soaring temperature is perhaps the best time to enjoy refreshing and delectable scoops of icecream, *malidaar lassi*, *til ka*

gajak, *naariyal paani*, *chuskis*, etc.

Summers are synonymous with mangoes. One can enjoy sumptuous mango delights from spiced raw mango drink to mango cheese cake and jellies. We, as kids, look forward to the most awaited summer holidays, when there is no school, no studies, only fun and frolic!●



Teen
trails

Ankita Marwaha, XI
AIS Mayur Vihar

You might be thinking that I'm a jerk to pick a topic as heavy as 'self realisation' to write on; but if one

Self realisation

actually goes deeper into the meaning, one finds that it contains an invaluable treasure, which, if utilised by us teens, can make a good human being out of a devil.

What is self realisation? To some, it may sound like Greek or Latin but for me, it is the ability to realise one's good qualities as well as the negative ones. But it does not just end there. Realizing one's calibre, aspirations and negative traits and ignoring them would be like sitting on a chest of gold and not opening it.

How to go about it-Knowing a long or heavy word and using it in your vocabulary does not necessarily mean that you've understood it. You should know how to use it in your life as well. For some, self realisation may just strike like a thunderbolt one day when they suddenly realise that they are so good at something that they can actually remove it from the 'non-serious' part of their brain to the 'serious' part; or they are so bad at something that they can either improve upon it or make a resolution never to depress others with their misgivings!

And now, the difficult part: To wake up to your negatives, you must set a yardstick for yourself to determine what holds good for you and what does not. You

must keep alerting yourself each time you do something, to check if you are doing it right or not. The difficult part is 'realising your mistakes' since one mostly tends to ignore them. This holds true for the 'over-confident class' of the society.

Giving an instance where this incredible secret magical formula has worked would be like approaching the ocean for a drop of water. I am a teenager and during this incredible process of growing up, I, who used to be into spirituality—the difference between me and others—was getting addicted to TV, movies and page 3. My studies suffered a decline, if not a drastic one. But my parents kept quiet and let me learn the lesson myself. Once, as I sat out of my 'dream world' of glitterati, I realised that I was hopelessly falling into the clutches of being a 'typical' teenager. I remembered the days when I used to do so much more than just laze around and I was amazed to see that when I tried to gain back my previous qualities, it wasn't all that difficult! It was merely self realisation that helped me to regain myself. Wherever I am today, I would not have been without self realisation!●

Counsel's Korner

Shikha Vij
Counsellor, AIS Saket

If there are two siblings, one is young and other a tween; it is very difficult to treat them differently. How does one manage them separately without showing any preferences?

Parent of two

Often, differences between siblings arrive when parents start making comparisons between children. Just make sure that you are not doing so directly or indirectly. Also, encourage them to do a lot of things as a team, for example, they can both make a collage for their room or bake a cake together. This will give them time to bond and appreciate each other without vying for your affection separately. Assign them some responsibility for each other, and verbally praise them for the same. Encourage them to verbalize what they like about each other. Try and balance your time between both children equally. They both also need separate quality time with you as some problems may be unique to their age group. Fix 'my 15 minutes' for both of them separately, so that they know if they have to discuss some private matter then they have their own individual block of 15 minutes with you. This kind of time period discourages unnecessary jealousy as they both get a fair share of time to talk.

Success Saga

“I feel that this award was not made to me as a man, but to my work — a life’s work in the agony and sweat of the human spirit, not for glory and least of all for profit, but to create out of the materials of the human spirit something which did not exist before. So this award is only mine in trust.”

William Faulkner

(William Faulkner, used his Nobel Prize money to establish a fund to support and encourage new fiction writers”, eventually resulting in the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.)



The words spoken by William Faulkner, American short-story writer and novelist, the Noble Peace Prize winner for Literature in 1949 sums up my feelings. The series of awards bestowed to the Amity institution as an ace educational institution is recognition of its growing presence and might in all spheres. The verdict of surveys conducted by leading media houses, only reiterate this fact with conviction.

For me, this award is a reminder, that I have a lot more to do in my lifetime. Amity Institution is still young and growing. It’s a feeling of great pride to experience that you are a product of India’s most prestigious institution. The ranking earned in a short sphere of time speaks immensely of the Amitians who constitute this success saga. The award is also a gentle reminder of the many new paths to tread in pursuit of excellence. A pioneer in educational vistas, Amity has changed the face of education in India, bringing it at par with international excellence.

Amity, adjudged one of India’s most respected schools, thanks all for their support, with a promise to deliver the best. The award belongs to every Amitian.●

Diwali Post



Diwali is over, but the mood still lingers. Wake up Sid, the long festive weekend is over. Ahoy! The six day working schedule cut short, sparked the diyas, (en)lighting my Diwali celebrations. Diwali 2009, was truly historic.

Joining the celebrations for the first time was US President Barack Obama. The recipient of Nobel Peace Prize, surely seems to be working hard to retain the honour, spreading the message of global harmony across India. Lighting the auspicious diya in the White house on the occasion of Diwali, he certainly lit the Indian Spirit. 10, Downing Street, London wore a festive look too, as their Prime Minister Gordon Brown celebrated Diwali for the first time, terming it as an ‘historic event.’

Celebrated across the world in Australia, Barbados, Britain, Canada, Guyana, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America among the Hindus, it was even observed as an official holiday, in many countries. As for our neighbours, the business was brisk. Rumours of the Indo-China tension brewing at the borders, made no difference. When it comes to Diwali, the borders unite. Colourful crackers ‘Made in China’ illuminated the sky while the ‘Ganesha and Laxmi’ statues once again ‘Made in China’ stood in most Indian household temples being worshipped.

Someone truly pointed out, “There are two forms of light one that is reflected on the diya and the other which we see in the mirror.”●

Published and Printed by R.R. Aiyar at HT Media Ltd, B-2, Sec 63, Noida (UP), Edition Vol I, Issue 4 /Price both for free distribution and annual subscription of Rs. 240.
Opinions expressed in GT articles are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or publishers. While the editors do their utmost to verify information published, they do not accept responsibility for its absolute accuracy.

“Only the new generation can put in place a new value system”



Mr. Omar Abdullah shares ways to restore peace and normalcy in J&K, during a Lecture organised by The Global Economic Forum (TGEF) at Amity University Campus, Sector- 125, Noida.

To identify the basic ingredients for peace, progress and prosperity in J&K, it is important to focus on its people. The basic ingredients can be postulated as 5 R’s as discussed below...

Restoring the political structure: Autonomy for J&K has been designed to address genuine issues of identity borders and governance. A democracy prevents these issues from escalating and taking the form of nation, territory and statehood, which sow the seeds of cessation.

Revising the civil society: J&K has never occupied the mental space of the Indian civil society quite in the same way as it has in the political arena. For a vast majority of people in India, it’s either a beautiful place to be visited or a dangerous one not to be visited. That’s all. We have to find

ways and means for the Indian civil society to engage with and own Kashmir, Kashmiris and Kashmiriat.

Reconstructing the economy: One sure way is built stakes for the entire system is to ensure that the J&K econ-

For a vast majority of people in India, J&K is either a beautiful place to be visited or a dangerous one not to be visited. That's all.

omy is a vibrant one with diversified groups. The economy needs to be rebuilt. For this, we need to create an enabling environment and provide the right kind of public policy support - be it infrastructure, skill development or economic regulations. We must also adapt, to secure the benefits of globalisation and open global trading environment. The Genetic problems have to be dealt through a package of economic reforms and integrated reconstruction initiatives. A key ingredient to bringing about prosperity is to improve the employability of youth, especially the existing unemployed youth here.

Reform the Government: The basic idea is to change the mindset of the government. The reforms have to be such to forge a scientific decision making body; unblocked and easy to monitor administrative management system that will optimise composition and improve working efficiency.

Rallying the Youth: Like all, the youth of J&K sees very real problems ahead - social, economic, gender and environmental.

●But in the existing political system, they have so far perceived no leadership on the issues that concern them. As a result, one side of the younger generation is less politically engaged and exhibits less social trust in the government.

●If the new generation is rallied to participate, it would bring about the minimisation of the ethnic class, regional and ideological distinctions that have independently and collectively made a bearing on the core of what we call a Kashmir Issue.

●A similar change has to happen in the business arena too. We need younger business leaders. Only the new generation can put in place a new value system that is based on integrity - professional, intellectual, personal and ideological.●

(The lecture was delivered by Mr Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of J&K. To read the complete lecture, logon to www.theglobaltimes.in)



won’t out of your life’s vocabulary. One of life’s greatest laws is the law of circulation.

*Do all the good you can,
In all the ways you can,
At all the places you can,
In all the ways you can,
To all the people you can,*

Remember: It is never too early to begin and never too late to continue. Just keep going ahead with full confidence!●

Please be polite

**Srishti Malhotra, VII B
AIS Vasundhra**

Politeness in today’s world has become a great virtue. A man who behaves politely towards others is not only respected by them but also loved. People speak well of him on all occasions. No one can be angry with such a person.

Politeness is necessary to achieve success in life. Rough, rude and selfish people are disliked whereas kind, polite and unselfish people are popular. A rude shopkeeper or businessman is never liked by the customers. Politeness is described as ‘The Oil of the Social Machine.’ In the society, if we are not polite to others, then why will others be polite to us?

Besides, it has been said, “Politeness costs nothing but buys everything.” A kind word does not cost anything. Yet the world is full of those who always try to behave in a way that is offending.

Politeness is a duty we owe to ourselves as well as to our neighbours. A man is polite to others to show that he is cultured and has good manners. A real polite man is he who is equally polite to his superiors, equals and subordinates.

So let the virtue of politeness be cultivated by all. It is that jewel which gives us success, joy and popularity.

Pearls of wisdom

●**Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit.**

*Meaning-*If a person quits, it means that he has put up no effort and will not get the reward. But if, the person puts up the effort and does not quit, then only he will receive the reward in or the other way.

●**Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment. Full effort is full victory.**

*Meaning-*Pleasure is found in the effort, not in the achievement. Only complete effort is complete victory.

●**Do a little more each day than**



you think you possibly can.

*Meaning-*What you do each day is not effort. What you do more each day than your limit is effort.

●**Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.**
*Meaning-*If you continue efforts daily non-stop, it adds up to result as the success.

●**Be willing to give that extra effort that separates the winner from the one in second place.**

*Meaning-*The person who ranks 1st is because he put up that extra effort to achieve that.

Contributed by Mayukh Sinha, VIII- D, AIS Gur-46

"Reaching the unreachable and voicing the voiceless have been our major concerns."

MS Swaminathan, recipient of the World Food Prize for Green Revolution in India, a Member of Parliament and Founder Chairman of MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, in an exclusive interview with The Global Times Managing Editor Vira Sharma, shares the success of Green Revolution and the current need for adopting eco-technology in agriculture.



Your name is synonymous with 'Green revolution' in India. You've been a recipient of the World Food Prize and many other awards for your contribution in this field. How crucial a challenge was it at that time, when food security was a major issue? How did you conceptualise HYV (High Yielding Variety of seeds)?

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in his first speech after independence said, "Everything else can wait but not agriculture," because he could not forget the Bengal famine (1942-43) where nearly three million people died of starvation. Hence the government gave immediate priority to agriculture. Many power projects, irrigation projects and fertilizer factories, agricultural universities, etc were established. But, inspite of all these efforts, our production and yield were stagnated and that is where I stepped in. I wondered why is it that despite all our efforts we were not being able to make a breakthrough in the yield productivity. I came to the conclusion that we lacked in 'variety'. Our earlier varieties were not developed for making use of nutrients and water available at that time and so there was the need to develop short plants with strong roots so that they can use the nutrients and water most efficiently and also the sunlight. This is how the High Yielding Variety (HYV) programme was born. Fortunately at that time, there were some genes/genetic material with the kind of plant architecture that we wanted in Japan, United States and Mexico. We procured seeds from Mexico because the ruling conditions in Mexico were closer to ours than the United States or Japan. Some of the Mexican varieties did very well with. As a method of purchasing time, we imported some seeds and led demonstrations in the poorest farmer's field in 1964 because anything you show in a rich farmer's field will not be attributed to technology but money. In 1964 I started national demonstrations in Delhi State with poor farmers operating Persian wheel to the camels. In 1964-65 we started spreading the new variety. There was such a big demand for seed and we started 'seed villages' zones' and by 1968 we were able to double the wheat production from 10 million tonnes in 1964 to 17 million tonnes in 1968. This was more than what we could accomplish in the previous 4000 years. Wheat cultivation in India started from Mohenjodaro time (2000 BC). For 4000 years until 1947, Indian farmers learnt to produce 7 million tonnes of wheat. From

1964-1968, we had another 7 million tonnes. We were able to condense 4000 years of history in four years, that is why it was called a Green Revolution and not a Green Evolution. The green revolution was a very great morale booster. It gave us self confidence. It gave confidence to our political system and farmers, because until then we were described as a nation which was leading a ship to mouth existence, ie, a ship had to arrive before you can feed the mouth.

From 1964 when the Green Revolution took place till today, how do you rate India's agricultural and economic growth? How much of a problem is world food security now?

The Green revolution made good progress but only in two crops – Wheat and Rice. Their production rose from 7 million tones in 1947 to 75 million



in Varanasi, I stated that if you overexploit all round water, apply too much of pesticides or fertilizers then productivity cannot be sustained and you will have environmental problem. There I coined the term Evergreen Revolution. Evergreen revolution means increase in productivity in perpetuating without ecological harm, ie, when you produce more and more income per drop of water, more crop per drop of water, more crop per unit of land. We were a population of 300 million in 1940 and are now nearly reaching 4 times more; land is shrinking. This implies that we have to produce more from less land and less water. This is why the Evergreen Revolution has become important. What is Green revolution? You marry technology with ecology and what you get is eco-technology i.e. environmentally sustainable technology.

As an economist, what do you think is recession's

"Evergreen revolution means increase in productivity in perpetuating without ecological harm i.e when you produce more and more income per drop of water, more crop per drop of water, more crop per unit of land."

"Indian economy is to a large extent insulated from the global economic recession because of our agricultural progress and self reliance than other economies."

"We were able to condense 4000 years of history in four years that is why it was called a Green revolution and not a Green evolution."



tones. Today, we have ten times more than what we had then. In fact, we are able to produce enough to feed our population. Any problem of undernourishment and malnourishment is not because there is lack of food in the market but because people do not have the money or purchasing power. That is why the government launched the National Rural Employment Guaranteed Programme (NREGP) to reduce malnutrition in the country. Unfortunately what happened was that even before the term Green Revolution was prescribed in January 3, 1968 while addressing farmers at the Indian Nation Congress

impact on India? What are the possible measures to cope with it?

Economic recession in India is related to the economic recession in the world. India's growth rate of 9% in the last four years was partly triggered in the IT, knowledge and export sector. Indian economy is, to a large extent, insulated from the global economic recession because of our agricultural progress and self reliance than other economies. 93% of whatever we produce are consumed by us while only 7% is exported. Our major problem pertaining to oil has been solved with the price of oil

per barrel coming down from 145 dollars to less than 50 dollars per barrel. Our major problems are going to be job losses at two levels - the high end technology level and the export manufacturing of textile products handlooms and handicrafts. So long as we are able to consume whatever is produced locally, there it won't be too much effect.

As Chairman of M.S.Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), what are your current projects?

Presently we are working on the Coastal System Managements project in Chennai. We expect that in another 30 years the sea level will go up as a result of climate change. Therefore we have pre-planted mangroves in many coastal areas. In the field of Bio-diversity and Bio-technology, our young scientists have developed new rices which can tolerate sea water as well as a lot of draught. In the area of IT, we have a programme called every village a knowledge centre, ie, 'Gramin Gyaan Abhiyaan.' With the support of government and ITC companies in a public-private partnership, our aim is to cover 2,40,000 panchayat villages by 2010. Besides, there are over 700,000 hamlets that can be reached by mobile phones. We operate at three levels. At the Block level there is the Village Resource Centre with satellite connection. With the help of Indian Space Research Organization, there are teleconferencing facilities, e-medicine and e-education. At block panchayat level there is the Village Knowledge Centre 'gyan chaupal' with internet, radio and cable TV. The last and final level of connectivity is through internet and cellphone. To tackle fear of Tsunami, there are cell phone which help to know the wave height and use technology to find the fish. Through technology, we aim to reach out to the rural poor. Reaching the un-reached and voicing the voiceless has been our major concerns. **What are the government plans for education and students in general?**

This five year plan is called the education plan as the outlay has been increased several fold for education. The major problem would not be setting up new educational institutions as IIT's, IIM, etc, but the faculty. So there should not be so much proliferation in number, the quality of education is important. Simply resource allocation is not enough. There is a need for knowledge management. To be able to impart quality education, it is important to create an atmosphere in our university for the need for quality and the need for excellence. ●

Soccer for World Peace

Tulika Banerji

Mr Rohit Parasher, Chief Coach of AUFC (Amity United Football Club), unearths fascinating facts about the world's most loved game, Soccer.

Say 'Peace'! Despite causing much violence on the field and off it, soccer is the only game in the world to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001 as it felicitated peace between nations on many occasions. In 1967, when Pele was to play in Nigeria which was embroiled in a Civil War with Biafra, a two-day truce was declared so that both sides could watch the match. Such is the power of the game!

The origin: Many countries claim the origin of soccer, including Britain, China and India. Legend has it that football was played even at the time of Lord Krishna; in fact when his friends threw the ball into the Yamuna river, Krishna dived into it and fought with Sheshnaag to retrieve it.

British legacy: Though Britain was the first country to form an official body called FA (Football Association, 1871),

it was the establishment of FIFA (1904) that gave football a regulated outlook. All football clubs and countries have to be registered with FIFA to be able to play internationally. It is a unique feature in football that laws are province of the International Football Association Board which was formed in 1871, consisting of FA, the Scottish FA, the FA of Wales, the Irish FA and FIFA, which was given representation in 1913.

Indian roots: Football fast gained popularity in India beginning from Bengal which led to the formation of IFA (Indian Football Association). Till date, the West Bengal Football Association is known as IFA. However, when it was felt that IFA can't handle everything, AIFA (All India Football Association) was formed in 1935 which could manage football on a pan India basis.

The long and short of it: The length and breadth of a Football field were decided in the 11th century but didn't come into practice until the 19th cen-



Rohit Parashar

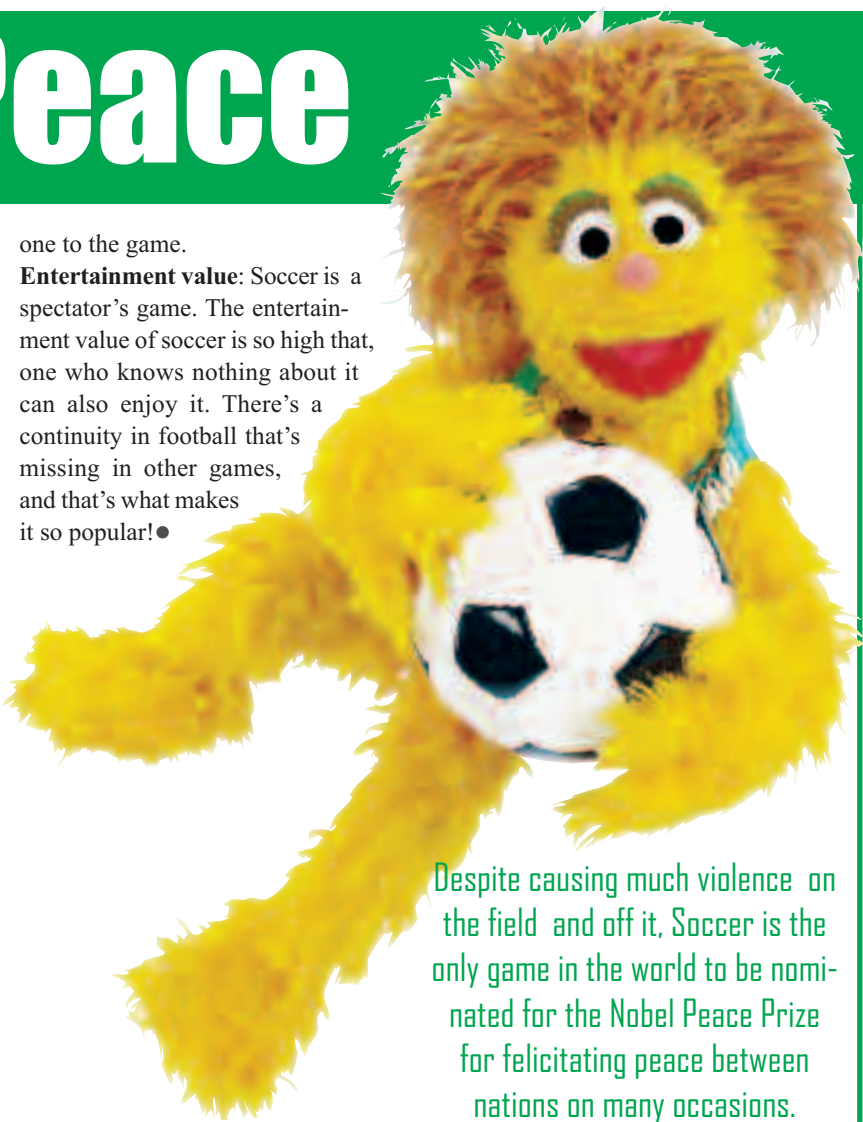
ture. Even now, the dimensions are pretty much the same.

First cousin Rugby: When the popularity of football started gaining momentum, people started playing with hands as well. That's when, football rules were made stringent and that it will only be a kicking game. That also led to the development of Rugby football, which began to be played with an oval shaped ball. Then the term 'soccer' was inducted to differentiate it from other forms of football.

Agriculturists to hunters: Man has always had hunting tendencies. Ever since the evolution of early man, he went to hunt for animals for food. As man went on to become an agriculturist, sowing seeds and planting crops; the basic instinct for hunting resurfaced again. Hence, hunting was developed as a competitive sport. Football, if you see closely, is no different. Many players are trying to hunt for an object-the ball! It is the togetherness, the team work, the adrenalin rush...that draws every-

one to the game.

Entertainment value: Soccer is a spectator's game. The entertainment value of soccer is so high that, one who knows nothing about it can also enjoy it. There's a continuity in football that's missing in other games, and that's what makes it so popular!●



Despite causing much violence on the field and off it, Soccer is the only game in the world to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for felicitating peace between nations on many occasions.

New Sporting Holiday Trends

Swayami Navangul
AIS Gur 46

Pain, the risk of deliberate injury, fear- they don't sound like ingredi-



ents of a traditional holiday on the face of it. But a growing number of young executives throughout India are spending their time off, rafting down rapids, scuba diving in exotic locales, scaling sheer rock faces, or hurtling down a mountain side on a bike praying to the heavens that the brakes work! These new sporting holiday trends in India have motivated me to write a series of articles about these activities.

Waterfall Rappelling

Imagine standing atop a 60-foot waterfall, rappelling and being asked to walk backwards on a slippery, moss-covered rock with raging water below. Now, imagine the rocky patch you're 'walking' on is at an angle of 90 degrees! That's waterfall rappelling- one of the ultimate sports which can be enjoyed in the western ghats of Maharashtra during the monsoons. The water comes crashing down over you, it knocks you off your feet, and it's a total rush of adrenaline. The technique is very much the same as conventional rappelling but the rushing water scares you to the nadir.



Rafting

Standing on the rocky banks of a raging river in the lower Himalayas, watching people rafting is an experience in itself. The whitewater experience is about as intense as the outdoors gets if you're prepared to get very, very wet! Rafting is a challenging activity utilizing a raft to navigate a river or other bodies of water. The raft is manned by 'armed forces' that fight valiantly, disappearing for a second into a raging eddy only to reappear moments later wet, but miraculously unharmed. These are elite rafters who raft in grade four rapids. Tons, along with Zanskar river in upper Himachal, are the happy hunting ground of those who really know their way around a paddle. But if you do it for the first time, then best stick to safer waters of Ganga above Rishikesh or lower Alaknanda near Rudraprayag. So, go ahead and have a rip-roaring time! ●

Little Tennis Champ

AIS Mayur Vihar

Six years old **Aryan Sinha**, studying in **class I A, Amity International School Mayur Vihar**, has made remarkable achievement in Lawn Tennis. With consistent practice from the last six months, he has claimed the following awards in a span of a month during his summer vacations:

- Penninsula Tennis Championship at Defence colony club (May 2009) - Runner's Up trophy in Under 6 Boys & Girls category.
- Saffiya Tennis Championship at Bharti Nagar (June 2009) – Winners trophy in Under 6 category & 2nd Runners up position in Under 8 categories.

Aryan has been practising tennis at Win Tennis Academy at Patparganj, for 2-3 hours regularly each day under proper guidance. Currently, during his hectic school days, he wakes up at 5 in the



morning for an hour of tennis practice before going to school, as well as a couple of hours again in the evening. With proper time management, he is able to attend other activities like drawing, music, Kumon Mathematics as well regular tutoring. He also achieved Overall Improvement trophy in KG. Aryan had been an introvert and shy guy earlier. But from the time he plunged into sports, capitalizing his energy in the right direction, there has been a remarkable improvement in both academics as well as in sports. It not only boosted his self confidence, concentration level but also increased his energy level. Currently, he is practising regularly to mark his foothold to play in under 10 yr old categories. He is the youngest player to play Lawn Tennis in under 8 and under 10 categories. GT wishes the young, promising tennis pro the very best in his future endeavours!●

Little Equestrian



Karn Nag of V-D, WA of AIS Noida was awarded a Bronze medal, in Dressage, by Colonel GM Khan (Arjuna Awardee and renowned horse rider) at the Annual General Meeting of the Equestrian Federation, DSOI for winning in events under JNEC [Junior National Equestrian Competition] held in Delhi.●

Rahul Bose shares Sports ke positive effects

Vira Sharma

The advantages of Sports are many. Besides building a career in sports, it enables one to secure admission in a college, or a job and all of this while you continue to play. Vice Captain Indian Football Team Sunil Chettri admits, "As a student I used to just manage my academic scores. Though I loved to play football, there was nobody to tell me that to be good footballer you need to be disciplined. My only aim was to get Indian Team Certificate to secure admission in a good college, which I managed." While the *junoon* to play took Sunil Chettri into pursuing a career in football, there are

many who choose sports as a path to secure admission and later carve a successful career in different fields. Actor Shah Rukh Khan played hockey at Inter University Competitions. Director Vishal Bharadwaj of *Omkara* fame was an avid cricketer during his Hindu days. Politicians Rahul Gandhi and Sachin Pilot made it to the Delhi University via sports quota. The advantages of sports are many. What's important is to have the *junoon* and play. **Rahul Bose** shares four benefits of playing a sport in life...

- Sports help you to stand straight and keep your values straight. If you can't keep your body straight, how can you keep your principles straight? Sports

taught me to keep my body straight, eyes straight, head straight, heart straight and my principles straight.

- It teaches you to play your best. It taught me to give my cent percent to anything I do. Sports teach you to care. It teaches the very basic lesson of life that it's not about You or Me, but about Us. It teaches that you care about me today and I shall care about you tomorrow.
- It teaches one to perform under pressure. It is a common observance that the worst side the people come out under pressure. However in sports it is different. One learns to play together and work closely under pressure.
- The friends made on playgrounds are the best who remain loyal all your life.



It's not always essential to play a sport to carve a career. Sports are important for health and many other reasons as shared by experts. If you have the *junoon*, you never know where it might lead you. Play sports for the fun of it.

Fairy - My friend

Short Story

Sanjoli Mathur, VIII – B
AIS, East Delhi

Once upon a time there was a girl named Mary. She did not have any friends. She thought nobody wanted to talk to her. One day her parents decided to shift from London to the farm so that Mary could make some friends over there. Soon Mary got to know that Lily, her new neighbour at the farm, believed in fairies and lees (male fairies). That night she woke up at 2 am and saw that there was a fairy and a lee, sitting on her windowsill, talking to each other in whispers so that Mary couldn’t hear them. When she woke up, she thought that it was just a dream, but then she saw a tiny sock on the floor. She took it to Lily. Lily said that it belonged to a Lee. She told her to keep a chocolate and the sock on her windowsill so that the owner of the sock could take it. The following night Mary did as she was told by Lily. She tried her best to keep awake and get a chance to talk to the fairies but she was so tired that she fell asleep. The next morning she saw that the chocolate and the sock were nowhere to be found. She again went to meet Lily and asked her to suggest another way of meeting the fairies. Lily told her to wake up early the next morning and to go to the edge of the forest where the fairies collect flowers and leaves to make clothes for



their families. Mary woke up at 5 the next morning and went to the forest. There she saw a tiny fairy collecting some leaves. The fairy got scared and asked her whether she had come to steal the leaves or she wanted to borrow

some of it. Mary laughed and replied that she had just come to be friends with her and she wanted to know more about fairies. After a long chat Mary got to know that the fairy’s name was Cassie, that she loved chocolates, that she loved dressing up and that fairies even had a queen whose name was Queen Tracy. Mary asked Cassie to come over to her house. Cassie agreed. Mary gave her some juice in one of her toy tea set cups. After having the juice and some chocolate cake, which Mary had specially made for her, she went back and resumed her work of collecting leaves. It is said that in order to be able to see fairies, you have to first believe in them. Mary’s mother did not believe in fairies and soon started worrying that Mary was talking to some imaginary friends of hers. She got so worried that she decided to take Mary to see a doctor. On their way they met Lily who asked them where they were going and why. Mary’s mother told her that Mary kept talking to some ‘fairies’. Lily told her that the same had happened with her when she was young and the doctor had said that there was nothing to worry about, many people could see fairies and even talk to them, but inspite of this Mary’s mother took her to the doctor. The doctor said the same thing that Lily had said. The next morning Mary woke up and realised that she was back in London with her parents. She was sad that her new best friend was just in her dreams, but she kept keeping chocolates on her windowsill and waited for Cassie to come and eat the chocolates. The only thing that happened was that the chocolates melted and her parents thought she had gone crazy. One day she decided to keep her favourite chocolate on the windowsill. When she woke up the next morning the chocolate had gone. What she did find on the windowsill was a tiny little sock.●

September (16-30) winners

- Prashant Rao, VIII A, AIS Gur 46
- Arnav Agrawal, II C, AIS PV
- Himanshi Batra, VI C, AIS PV

Toon Gyan (Oct 1-15) winners

AIMC Manesar Cadets

- Deepanshu Kalaria, VIII
- Gaurav Ahlawat, VIII
- Aditya Saraswat, VIII
- Gurkirpal Singh, VIII
- Parth Singh, VIII
- Nitin Khutel, VIII

Enjoy A Little Humour

Aanchal Jain, IX C
AIS Vasundhra

Teacher: Alex, where have you come from?
Alex: America.
Teacher: John, you?
John: Canada.
Teacher: Rex, you?
Rex: Actually my father is from Iceland and mother is from Cuba.
Teacher: Oh you are an Icecube!

Doctor: I have some bad news and some very bad news.
Patient: Well, Might as well give me the bad news first.
Doctor: The lab called with your test results. They said you have 24 hours to live.
Patient: 24 hours! That’s terrible! What would be worse? What’s the very bad news?
Doctor: I’ve been trying to reach you since yesterday.

Amazing language facts

Mudit Sharma, V-A
AIS Gurgaon 46

The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating any alphabet is uncopy-rightable.
●The word “listen” contains the same letters as the word “silent”.
●ALMOST is the longest word in the english language with all letters in alphabetical order.
●There is only one word in the English language with three consecutive sets of double letters. It is BOOKKEEPER.
●Out of all eight letter words in English language, just the word STRENGTH has only one vowel in it.



- Only three words in english language end in “ceed” : a) proceed b) exceed c) succeed
- FOUR is the only number whose number of letters in the name equals the number, 4.
- The sixth sick sheikh’s sixth sheep’s sick is said to be the toughest tongue twister in English.
- UNDERGROUND is the only word in the English language that begins and end with the letters und.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, silver or purple.
- A word which means the same when pronounced either way (Left to right or right to left))- MALAYALAM. ●

Brain Teasers

Vartika Joshi
AIS Vasundhra

1. Which room has no floor, roof, doors or windows?
Mushroom
2. What ring is actually a square?
A boxing ring
3. Which ship is actually not a ship?
Worship/Friendship
4. Which city gives us shock?
Electricity!

Soldiers

Anshuman Bhasin
VI A, AIS Gur-43

The night is dark and the night is black,
This is a battlefield; not a racing track.
Standing on the border,
With discipline and order.

Yes! these are soldiers who are always there,
Who never think of what all they spare.
For the demons they slay,
So that we enjoy each and every day.●

Amazing Questions

- Q.1. How many chambers does the human heart have?
Ans. Four
- Q.2.What is the world’s biggest flower?
Ans. Rafflesia
- Q.3. What is the world’s biggest reptile?
Ans. Alligator
- Q.4. Which is the second-largest river in the world?
Ans. Amazon river
- Q.5. Which is the world’s richest country?
Ans. Switzerland
- Q.6. Which is the poorest country in the world?
Ans. Mosambique
- Q.7.The highest waterfall in the world?
Ans. Angel Falls [Venezuela]



- Q.8. What is as big as an elephant but doesn’t weigh anything?
Ans. An elephant’s shadow
- Q.9.What is white when dirty and black when clean?
Ans. A blackboard
- Q.10. How many seconds are there in a year?
Ans. Twelve [January second, February second, etc]
- Q.11. What always falls but never gets hurt?
Ans. Rain
- Q.12.What did the house wear to the costume party?
Ans. It’s a-d-dress ●

Pleas of a hostage

Siddhant Chandel
AIS Gur 46

For two days you have held me without food,
For no reason which is good,
In the end you’ll all have to die,
For making us cry,
By killing our loved ones,
And making place for them in the high heavens

You have slaughtered,
My husband, son and daughter,
Just listen to me and try for some remorse,
And divert your action’s course.

Mark my words and turn yourself in,
To kill so many is more than a sin,
Just think about what I have said,
And hope that you’re dreaming and safely tucked in bed. ●



My Barbie doll

Chiti Bharadwaj, III A
AIS Vasundhra, Sec-I

She is beautiful, she is cute
She has her own attitude
Her golden hair and dress is pink
I look at her, my eyes don’t blink
She is gorgeous, she is tall
She is my favourite ‘Barbie doll.’

Nature

Stuti Gupta, III A
AIS Vasundhra, Sec I

If you have a fever
Go near a river
Hug a tree
You will feel free.

The sky is blue
And has no clue
Sit in the boat
Let your mind float.

Go over a bridge
Fly like a bird
This picnic will be fun
When there is no sun.

“No qualified Food Technologist shall ever remain unemployed”

Shweta Jain

If you are a science enthusiast and your love for food is quite famous, then you can combine your two interests to pursue a career in food technology. It's everything that's got to do with food, says Dr SC Jain, Director, Amity Institute of Food Technology.

What is food technology?

Food Technology is the application of food science to the selection, preservation, processing, packaging, distribution and consumption of delicious, safe, nutritious and wholesome food. Food Science is infact a highly inter-disciplinary applied science, incorporating concepts from Chemistry, Microbiology, Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Nutrition, Biotechnology, Mechanical Engineering, Agricultural, Dairy & Veterinary sciences.

How does the market for processed food look in India?

In India though the demand for processed and packaged food is growing. As compared to West, it still has a far way to go. The size of food industry in India estimated at around Rs 8,80,000 crores (US \$200 billion) in the year 2006-2007, of which the Food Processing Industry accounted for about Rs 3,74,000 crores (US \$85 billion) is slated to reach Rs 13,20,000 crores (US \$300 billion) by 2015, with the share of processed foods increasing from 43 percent to 50 percent. Further, the Government of India is setting up 53 Mega food parks in the country. Each Park shall have 30-35 food processing units, which will give a boost to the over all development of the Food Processing Industry.

What are the food sector dynamics of urban Vs rural India?

In India we have an abundance of agriculture land, hence fresh raw material to cook food are readily available. Since India has all sorts of seasons and climatic conditions, there's no disparity in availability of food types. All food items can be transported from one state to another, within the country. Though, urbanisation has made processed food quite popular in big cities, women in most part of the country still prefer making fresh food rather than using packaged variety. However due to increased literacy levels, changing life style, more women in the work force, rising per capita income, increasing surplus incomes and changing socio-economic environment, the food consumption patterns are changing.

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What opportunities await graduates of FT in the job market?

Where to study?
Amity Institute of Food Technology
The Central Food Technological Research Institute, (CFTRI) Mysore
University of Delhi, Delhi
Manipur University, Imphal
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathawada University, Aurgangabad
Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam
Kakatiya Univeristy, Waranga
University of Calcutta, Calcutta
University of Madras, Madras
Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Satna, (M.P.)
Jadavpur University, Calcutta
Kanpur University, Kanpur



No qualified Food Technologist shall ever remain unemployed. ‘Vision 2015’, envisages a very bright future for qualified food technology professionals. There are already many major multinationals present in the country while Indian multinationals continue to pour in, offering enormous employment opportunities for qualified B. Tech. (Food

Tech.) graduates. Besides, there are quality control laboratories and marketing management, central and state government positions in different projects under Food Processing Industries Ministry, Government of India and State Agriculture Ministries.

What are the essential pre-requisites to pursue this course?

To pursue it, one needs to have background in science with either PCB or PCM. And to have a successful career one needs a combination of three things – knowledge, skill and desire.

lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs per annum. However, experienced B. Tech. or M. Tech. degree holder can draw a salary in the range of Rs 3 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs per annum to start with, depending upon the individual's skills and calibre.

Processed food category items-

Fruits and vegetables: Jams, jellies, cold stored variety, juices, half-cooked veggies, etc

Bakery products: Biscuits, cakes, breads, etc

Flours and grains: Cereals and pulses, oils and oil seeds, candies and confectionery, etc

Dairy products: Protein milk, soya milk, skimmed milk, ice creams, probiotic curd, powdered milk, variety of cheese, etc

Baby foods: Cerelac, bournvita, horelicks, etc

Health foods & junk food: Burgers, pizzas, fries, mithai, samosas, kathi rolls, chaat, aerated drinks, health drinks, meats and meat products, sea foods, spices, pickles and herbs, etc.

FT course content at Amity-

The first batch of 20 B. Tech students will pass out in 2011. The course offered prepares them to be entrepreneurs – who can open their own unit just out of college. In the last semester of the course every student has to undertake a major project, whereby they will be sent to work in the industry. In all probability, most students are absorbed by the same company. Some of the core subjects taught are – Thermodynamics, Principles of Food Processing, Food Engineering, Food Quality – Analysis & Assurance, Technology of Processing of Milk & Milk products, Principles of human nutrition, Instrumentation and Processed Control in Food Industry, Technology of processing of meat, fish and poultry products, Food Equipment and Plant Design, etc. Some of the elective subjects include - Optimization Techniques, Marketing Management, Food Product Development, Biosensors, etc.●



“Attitude determines the Altitude”

Amity Chandigarh invited Mr Arun Arora, Sr. General Manager, Sales and Marketing, Swaraj Division, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd and Mr. Gurpreet Bhatt, Mktg. and R&D Head, Sebiz Infotech at their Campus. The session was attended by students of MBA, third semester, Marketing and HR specialisation.

Mr. Arun Arora stressed the need of dynamism and willingness to learn and grasp new things. According to him “Attitude determines the Altitude, so positive attitude gives energy and intrinsic motivation to individuals in tough situations to emerge as winners.”

Mr. Arora also highlighted some of the major concerns of Farm Mechanisation in India and suggested few remedies. He emphasised on skill building for making a lucrative career in Marketing. Mr. Gurpreet Bhatt shared his wealth of knowledge in the IT Industry, the downturn and the strategic moves of Sebiz Infotech in the current scenario. He also highlighted new ventures and expansion plans of the company for competitive advantage at a global level. He discussed the various career options in IT industry. The session was well received by third year students and ended on exploring the opportunities for further association with the said companies.

AITTM

Career in army

After its protracted efforts during last year, AITTM has succeeded in getting itself enlisted with Recruiting Directorate – Army HQ, for yearly induction of its B.Tech Electronics and Telecommunication students for Indian Army's University Entry Scheme. Under this scheme, students who are selected by the Service Selection Board (SSB), start getting a stipend of Rs 15000 per month, while they are studying in B.Tech final year. A team from Indian Army visited AITTM to conduct pre-selection for Service Selection Board (SSB) under University Entry Scheme (UES) on 12 October 2009. All students of third & fourth year, B.Tech Electronics & Communications attended the presentation. The team from Indian Army was headed by Col. Sudera. They shared with the students, a presentation titled ‘Life in Olive Green’, which gave the students a detailed perspective about various aspects of life in the Indian Army.

Mental health is the foundation for well-being and effective functioning for an individual and for a community. This core concept of mental health is consistent with its wide and varied interpretation across cultures. We in our society today have started paying attention to physical health. Our awareness about mental health issues is the most neglected. Our focus as a collective group should not be limited to treatment rather should be on promotion of mental health. Life skills have been defined by World Health Organisation (WHO) as “abilities for adaptive and positive behaviour that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life.”

Amity Institute of Psychology & Allied Sciences and Amity Institute of Behavioural Health & Allied Sciences organised a Mental Health Awareness Campaign at Amity with a theme “Enhancing Mental Health: Integrating Mind, Body and Soul” on the occasion of World Mental Health Week at Amity Campus, Sector – 125, Noida. Eminent guests who shared their views with the distinguished gathering included Dr. Rick Levy, pioneer in the field of Mind Body Medicine; Mrs. Lisa Tatum, eminent researcher and CEO, Levy Centre for Healing Arts and Mr. Pooran Pandey, Director, Times Foundation.

In what capacity Food Technologists can work?

They can take up several careers as teaching, supervisors, assistant managers, R&D personnel, quality control officers and marketing/sales personnel in Food Processing Industry. A fresher/trainee after B. Tech. degree in FT can expect a salary package of Rs 2.5



AIPAS & AIBHAS, Amity University Noida

dation. Prof. Abha Singh, Director (AIPS) & Acting Head (AIBHAS) was of the viewpoint that health and mental health needs to be regarded as two parts of the same coin, one is incomplete without the other. Our mind and body are closely related to each other, and as we need to take care of both for a healthy living. Prof. Abha Singh strongly promotes mental health to benefit masses through such events. Since everyone and anyone is a stake-

holder in creation and promotion of mental health at an individual level, society level, national level and global level. Dr. Rick Levy, pioneer in the field of Mind Body Medicine while delivering his enlightening talk on mind, body and soul healing said, “We are entering into a new golden age of spirituality. Meditation is a dynamic, holistic and a purposeful way of living. Highlighting the two main symptoms of stress as depression and anxiety, he advised the students

to use techniques such as Scientific Meditation, Clinical Hypnosis, Subtle Energy Medicine and Cognitive Reprogramming to reduce stress in life.

Laying stress on the importance of meditation he commented that India has provided a great spiritual wisdom to the world which no other nation has given. Therefore, the students should devote time to meditation and mental healing process to change their life. Mr. Pooran Pandey, Director, Times Foundation while addressing the gathering said, “There is a need to sensitise people about mind, body and soul through media awareness.

Mind has its own mysteries and body is something which is tangible. People judge one another with this aspect in mind, therefore mind, body and soul runs parallel to each other.” A short film was screened on the occasion to generate awareness on people's perception of mental health in which student's views including the general public's views were shown. There was an interactive session with Dr. Rick Levy who hypnotised the vast audience and showed the result of mental healing through hypnotic techniques.●

A Spectrum of Teamwork

Saumya Ailawadi
IGCSE Grade10, AGS Gur- 46

On October 1, Amity Global School (Sec- 46, Gurgaon) hosted ‘Art Endeavours 2009’ an inter- school extravaganza, in which students from Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 participated from neighbouring schools which included GD Goenka World School, The Banyan Tree World School, AIS (Sec 46, 43 and Pushp Vihar), AGS Pushp Vihar and AIS Vasundhara. In the event, participants created works of art in a team by using waste materials on themes like “Make Recycling A Better Way of life, Protect Wildlife and World Peace.” The event consisted of two competitions- ‘poster making’ for Grade 9 and 10 students and ‘recycled waste re-use’ for Grade 11 and 12. Innovation was at its best with students using various media such as old tyres, newspapers, broken plastic, glass, discarded

CDs, tapes, used batteries, ropes, etc to create masterpieces. The products made from recycled waste by Grade 11 and 12 students included an enthralling peg table, a dress made of paper and plastic accessories, a centre table made from wood and glass, etc. The students of IGCSE- Saumya Ailawadi (Grade 10), Ritvik Mishra (Grade 9) and Nilesh Singh Rawat (Grade 9) made a poster on the theme “Make Recycling A Better Way of Life”. with the slogan, “Be A Green Hero, Not A Green Zero”. A-Levels students designed a majestic peg table. In poster making competition, the first prize was bagged by GD Goenka World School and the second by Amity Global School (Sec 46, Gurgaon). In the recycled waste re- use competition, the first prize was bagged by AIS (Sec 43) and the second by The Banyan Tree World School. The event was highly commended by everyone.●



Future World Leader’s Summit

Sonal Chopra
AIS Saket

In 1968, Presidential classroom was chartered by President Kennedy in Washington DC. This non-profit organization brings together student leaders from around the world to explore international relations, diplomacy and the changing world economy. On the evening of 18th July 2009, a delegation of eight arrived in the Georgetown University in Washington DC looking forward to participating in the Presidential Classroom in the exciting week ahead. I was offered an accomodation at the university campus with my room mates from Honduras and Jordan. On the first day, we were organized into delegations based on the participating countries and regions of the world. We were also divided into different working groups to tackle the issues that are in the international news. Working groups develop communiqué position papers based on the solutions to the problems relating to the issues to present during the final summit meeting. I chose to be in the working group discussing human rights and

then became the leader of my group by acquiring the maximum votes from the group members. Everyday we had seminars on various issues concerning the youth by some of the important people of the States. During the week we interacted with Adrian Vierta, the Romanian ambassador to the United States,



and George Malick from the Covey Leadership Organization. We went to the State Department and were addressed by David Bame from the office of the special adviser for the Gulf and Southwest Asia from the US state department on International affairs. We also went to the House of Representatives in the Capitol Hill and were addressed by Zach Wamp from the congress in States and Wilson Bill Livingood the Sergeant of Arms from the U.S House of Representatives. We were lucky to meet Erika Eckstut, one of the few Holocaust survivors and David Smith, the deputy director of the United Nations Information Centre, Washington D.C. At the Indian embassy, we met the Indian Ambassador to the United States and also went for sight seeing to Lincoln memorial, the Holocaust, American History Museum, etc. There was a cultural country presentation, where the Indian delegation performed a classical Dance on ‘Jai ho’. The summit ended with a graduation and closing banquet ceremony and a commencement dance. The week long program stirred a new zeal to shape a rewarding career for myself, making a positive difference to the society. ●

AIS Vasundhra, Sec 1 Good over evil

At Amity, “Modernity blends with tradition.” Taking forward the motto of Amity to nurture our culture, traditions and festivals thereby keeping united the whole world, AIS, Vasundhara, Sec-1 celebrated Dussehra enthusiastically, where students from Nursery to class V participated in the Dance Drama showcasing ‘Ramleela’. The parents of the participants were also invited to see the show.



Workshop on Teaching
On popular demand by parents, a workshop on ‘Teaching Methodology’ was conducted to help them understand the procedure and method adopted by teachers in class Nursery. A power point presentation was shown to demonstrate Phonetics Theme wise allocation; Number drill and listing of day wise schedule. Parents actively participated in the games and rhymes, turning the workshop into an exciting experience.

Let’s Observe and Learn

AIS Saket

For capacity building of teachers and to renew and refurbish the scientific temper and knowledge, Amity Educational Resource Centre with the help of Millennium India Education and Foundation (MIEF) organized a Teachers Training Workshop On Microorganisms, “Let Us Observe and Learn.” The event was catalyzed by Rashtriya Vigyan Evam Prodyogiki Sanchar Parishad (RVSP) and Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The host school for the three day workshop in the Delhi Region was AIS, Saket. The main objective of the workshop was to train science teachers of senior secondary schools as District level master Resource persons for the respective districts. Nearly 23 participants from 17 schools took part in the training program. The first day of the workshop started with inaugural speech of Mr Anuj Sinha, in which he spoke about scientific temper and significance of hands-on experiments in science teaching. An LCD presentation by Dr Patgiri, resource person from Cotton College, Guwahati, demonstrated the actual way of performing the experiments taking care of the precautions and the correct strategy adopted for obtaining the desired results. The main attraction was the



Teaching kit devised by the research team and scientific consultancy with Cotton College Guwahati was also demonstrated to the teachers and which can be useful to explain various topics to students studying in remote areas or even in schools lacking a well established laboratory. The teachers showed great enthusiasm on the second day and learnt the way of isolating micro organisms from Air, Water, Soil, Coin, etc, by observing and analyzing the results and understanding

the omnipresence of Micro organisms around us. Some very interesting experiments like demonstration of Fermentation by Yeast, testing of quality of milk, some cultures were shown to the teachers to explain them about the various ways the microorganisms show their presence in the media. The workshop ended with the valedictory speech of Dr DK Pandey and distribution of kits to each school. The entire workshop was a wonderful learning experience. **Resource Persons:** Dr. Neeru Narula,

Agriculture University, Hissar and Dr. Patgiri, Cotton College, Guwahati. **Participants at the workshop:** Ms Suman Negi (AIS Saket), Ms Shaifali (AIS Pushp Vihar), Ms Nivedita Dutta (AIS Mayur Vihar), Ms Veena Mishra & Ms Ekta Soni (AIS Vasundhra) and many more educators from St Mary’s, Vasant Valley, Modern Public, Army Public School, etc.

AIS Noida

Ms Manju Tripathi and Ms Piyu Mukerji of AIS Noida attended a three day workshop titled ‘Micro-organisms’ at Vishwa Bharti School, Noida from 27th to 29th August 2009 by resource persons, Dr. Neeru Narula, Agriculture University, Hissar and Dr. Patgiri, Cotton College, Guwahati. The event was organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and the Millennium Education Trust. The session provided the participants with a hands-on experience on clear guidelines on how to perform experiments based on microorganisms. The workshop was a follow up on the mobile laboratory kit prepared by DST to teach students about microbes. Other microbiological techniques that could be performed in a classroom setting with the help of the above mentioned kit were discussed.●

AIS Gurgaon-43 Achievement Calendar

CBSE Science Exhibition at DPS, Karnal (August ‘09): AIS Gur 43 qualified to reach the finals being the 1st among 15 projects that got selected out of 170 projects. Team members Soumya Wasdhwa (X), Garima Sayal (XI) supported by Ms Rachna Gilotra prepared the Project ‘Harnessing Heat Energy.’
State Level Swimming Championship at Kurukshrethra (August ‘09): Anwesha Moitra, VIII C bagged the following: In Group II, 2 Gold – 200m free style & 200 m Butterfly stroke; 1 Silver – 100m Butterfly stroke and 1 Bronze – 100 m Back Stroke. In the Women Category, she won – 1 Gold Medal – 200 m Butter fly; 3 Silver – 50 m Butterfly stroke, 100 m Butterfly stroke & 100 m Back stroke; and 1 Bronze – 200 m Individual Medley.
Open School State Championship at Sirsa (August ‘09): Anwesha Moitra, VIII C won 4 Gold Medals in the following: 50 m Butterfly Stroke, 100 m Butterfly Stroke, 200 m Butterfly Stroke and 4 x 100 free style Relay.
IInd Bharat Cup Open State Taekwondo Chapionship 2009 at Yadav Bhawan, Gurgaon (August ‘09): AIS Gur 43 bagged 4 Gold Medals -Kishan Gulia (XII A), Neha Kalra (XI B), Anjali Tewatia (IX B) and Nee-lakshi Yadav (VII C); 1 Silver Medal -Gauri (II A) and 1 Bronze Medal -Chaitanya Kishor.
Inter School Spell Line at Kamani Auditorium: AIS Gur 43 team won the IInd position, got prize money of Rs. 15000/- and a trophy. Team Members: S. Bhuvneshwari, Karan Ganju & Shipra Banga. Teacher Ms Nandini Mukerjee won herself the 1st prize for a teachers event.

They might be studying science but their hearts beat for music. Given an option all of them would like to pursue their respective careers in music. Band Kshitij in a tete-a-tete with **Shweta Jain...**

There's a lot in the name

The guys are known by their nick names. Lead guitarist Retesh Singh as Rikki, lead singer Pallav Dayal as Pallav, Abhishek Senapati on synthesizer as Sena, Ankit Yadav on guitar and vocals as Yadav, Siddharth Jain on drums as SidJ and Shagun on *tabla* as Shagun.

How did your band come into existence?

Rikki: Our band is called Kshitij - so just like there are myriad colours in sky, our band consists of members from different years of BTech (ECE), playing different instrument and each contributing in his own way. A year ago Pallav and I got together to select members to form a band for our forthcoming annual festival ACT (Amity Cultural Techno Fest). I judged the western part and he the Indian while selecting new people.

Fresh talents joined...

SidJ: I play all three - drum, guitar and keyboard but they needed a drummer so when I played it for them they selected me.
Yadav: Since I am one of the two singers, they liked that I am good at the high pitch and all of us complement each other well.
Sena: In a band each member should know not just his instruments but others' also. And we do give each other valuable inputs to improve our overall performance.

Rock echo



Band Kshitij in action

Imaging: Pankaj Mallik

You call yourselves a hind-rock band...

Sena: Hind-rock or Hindi-rock is a fusion of western rock and Indian instruments and lyrics - for instance, collision of a *tabla* or *sitar* with guitar or drums. There are many such bands here like -

Euphoria, Junoon, Kailasa, Jal, etc.

Where all you have performed?

SidJ: So far we have played inside the campus only. We are also heading the Indian Music Society in our college, where

in Rikki and Pallav are managing western and Indian music respectively.
Yadav: Due to our busy exam schedules throughout the year, we cannot participate in other colleges and universities. So we do miss out on major fests like

Chitra Jain
AIS Vasundhara

The Black-Eyed Peas are back and how! Authentic hip-hop lovers brace yourselves for the biggest, loudest, most electrified album is here; The E.N.D. is here! For all those wondering if the apocalypse is here earlier than its scheduled arrival in 2012 as predicted by India TV, The E.N.D (Energy Never Dies) is the newest album released by one of the

most loved bands of all time, The Black Eyed Peas. This album brings them a long way from their breakout with Elephunk in 2003-from traditional foot-thumping hip hop (remember the much-remixed 'Bebot'?) to mind boggling sonic electro-pop.

The album kicks off with a 'vibrating' Boom Boom Pow, a



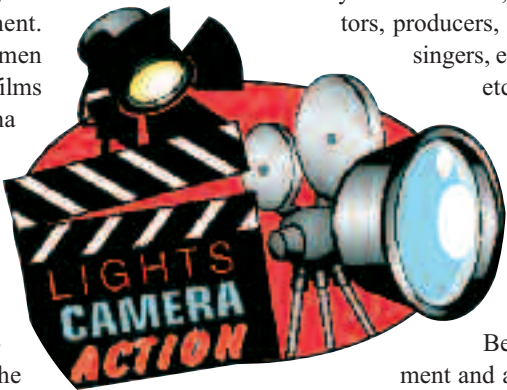
bombastic beat-blasting song that will keep you on your toes, literally. It's one of those songs to which you just can't help but shake a leg. Fergie's vocals reverberate through your head and the beats take you to another level, not to mention that you might end up robot-dancing while listening to it. The song's been topping charts all over the world and there seems no reason why it shouldn't! Next up on the playlist is the hip-sounding 'I Gotta Feeling' that's taken music lovers across the globe by storm! Though it begins tentatively with a slow tempo and soft vocals, it transforms into one gigantic electro-pop song with unbelievably crazy bangs that set just the mood for a happy crazy jig. After listening to the song, your 'night's gonna be a good night!' 'Meet Me Halfway', 'Imma Be' and 'Alive' shake you to the core with their pompous yet light-hearted style. The Peas throw in 'Missing You' at Number 7 which is quite a drastic shift from the paint-the-town-red feel to a nostalgic, gloomy one. On the whole, the album seems to be a runaway success, and 'I gotta feeling' that it'll go on to be the best of all time! For The B.E.P., the energy indeed never dies.●

Influence of Films

Mehek Gautam, VI
AIS Gurgaon 43

Films yield immense influence on masses. Cinema is a mighty medium and commands great popularity. It is a very popular means of cheap and easily available entertainment. Thousands of men and women see films daily in cinema houses, theatres and on their televisions. The mass appeal of cinema is well-known. Its influence on the audience is deep and abiding. People, particularly young men and women consider film heroes and heroines their idols. They are mad after them and follow them in fashion and way of living. They see the same film

again and again which features their favourite stars. Indian film industry is very big and is now almost 100 years old. India produces the largest number of films in Hindi and other Indian languages and thousands of people are employed in the industry as cameraman, technicians, actors, producers, music directors, singers, editors, spot boys etc. India is the leader in the film production and thousands of documentaries and short films. Besides entertainment and amusement, cinema is also a good source of education, instruction, enlightenment and information. We can learn about the distant places of our country and those of foreign countries without actually visiting them.●



It's not The E.N.D for the Peas

Sid in the City

Pranali Batra
IX G, AIS Noida

'Wake up Sid' happens to be one of the most awaited and needless to say, one of the best movies of 2009. And the reason for this, apart from Ranbir's good looks, is a sensational script and some great performances coupled with rocking music. It's certainly time for big-wigs as Yash Chopra (Dil Bole Hadippa) to take makeover tips from debutant director-

Movie Review

Ayan Mukherjee's direction. Irrespective of its box office impact, it managed to strike a familiar chord with the youth. The reason, most teens seem to "identify" with the movie quite well. More so with their aimless existence, unmotivated lifestyle and loads of money they've squandered. Ranbir's 'can't do without' list that comprises friends, camera, credit card, car, x-box, iPod etc. is similar to any teenager's

personal kit. It's a movie where teenagers are bound to see their reflection on the screen at some point of the 2 hours 30 minutes. Take for instance, the fact that Sid holds a strong resemblance to all of us -starting from his messy room to his lackadaisical nature and casual attitude. Why just the teenagers? Parents find the scene no different from their daily household bedroom picture too. And if everything

is so realistic, wouldn't it be boring? NO. The big APPEAL lies in the direction given to this wayward character Sid in rebuilding his life and the romantic love story, thus touching the hearts of viewers. Drawing a parallel with 'Taare Zameen Par' won't be completely wrong. For it does make you shed tears of joy. It awakes the 'Sid' lying dormant in most youth, giving them a direction. It is "Sid" who most of us are, and Aisha (Konkana)-independent, strong and confident- we aspire to be.●

