

Status of the week

NASA found water on Mars. Good, they didn't find oil, otherwise Mars would've needed democracy.

Medha Mathur
AIS Pushp Vihar, XI

INSIDE

Peon with a PhD, P 2

INSEF achievers, P 6 & 7

AMITepoll

Do you agree with the govt proposal to dump garbage of Gurgaon & Faridabad in the Aravali range?

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

*To vote, log on to
www.theglobaltimes.in*

POLL RESULT
for GT issue October 5, 2015

Can Delhi afford a car-free day, just like Gurgaon's car free Tuesdays?

100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%

2% Yes 92% No 6% Can't say

Results as on October 10, 2015

Coming Next

Explore the history of gleaming Delhi

Will Mars quench it?

The discovery of water on Mars has opened new frontiers for space exploration and settlement. The possibilities of it being our new home seem endless...

Anwesha Sen Majumdar
GT Network

Fishing on Mars? Growing vegetables on the Mar-tian soil? Sounds far-fetched? It seem these ideas will soon be a reality in near future since NASA scientists have discovered and confirmed the existence of ‘Water’ on the red planet, implying the potential for human settlement and colonisation of the red planet in near future.

It started with Lujendra Ojha
A young Nepalese grad student, Lujendra Ojha identified hydrated salt in the dark streaks on the surface of Mars. He then co-authored a 2011 paper, ‘Journal Science’ at the age of 21 about the possibility of surface water on the red planet. This research led NASA to search for possibilities of water on planet Mars.

Further research
Mars exploration programs have been instrumental in sending back positive data home to the scientists to understand. Discoveries by the 2001 Mars Odyssey, Mars Exploration Rovers (MERs), Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), and Mars Phoenix Lander have been helping scientists answer questions about abundance of water and its distribution on Mars.

The planet right now
The images captured from Mars appear to show flowing rivulets of water. These rivulets are about 12-15 ft wide and more than 300 ft long. They apparently consist of wet soil and not

still water. It contains magnesium perchlorate, magnesium chlorate and sodium perchlorate which prevent water from freezing at extremely low temperatures. No wonder, water is able to exist in liquid form on Mars despite the fact that its temperature drops down to -81 degrees F. NASA’s Curiosity rover has now provided the strongest evidence of lakes. Yes lakes! Scientists believe that the lakes could have been formed when Mars was warm and had flowing water year-round. This fuels the theory that Mars was once hospitable and could have supported life.

Is the water palatable?
Yes... but there are problems galore. Water doesn’t really flow on the surface of Mars, it seeps. Think more like wet dirt. We would need to find source of water that can offer drinkable supply.

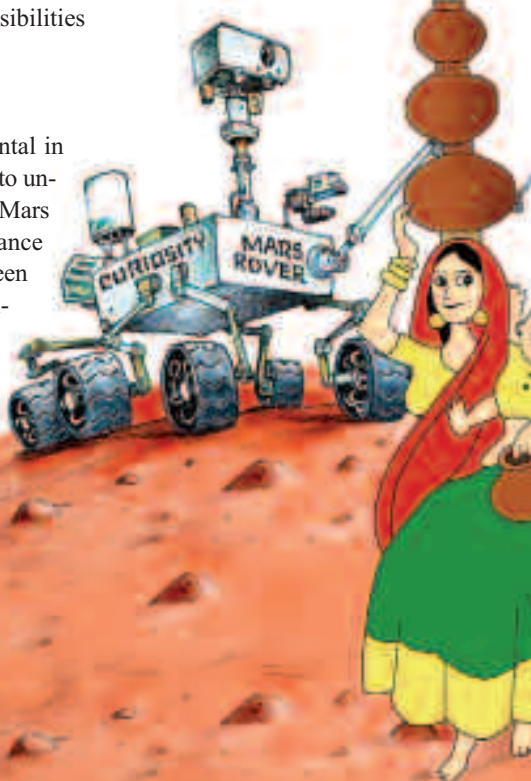


Illustration:
Ravinder Gusain
GT Network

A new lease of life?

- NASA's goal is to send humans on Mars in 2030s
- Tesla founder Elon Musk & SpaceX founder wants to nuke the planet. He thinks it will create two ‘suns’ which will lead to more warmer conditions.
- The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 (Article IV) prohibits every nation on Earth from testing weapons, conducting military maneuvers, or establishing military bases. Exploration of space should be for benefit of all countries.

What it means for us
Look around you, the world is slowly changing. It is a fact that one day, the Earth as we know it will become inhospitable (due to overpopulation, war, environmental disasters etc). It is therefore imperative for humanity to find a way to survive. Searching for other planets to live and making it hospitable is currently the only possible way to survive.
The discovery of water on Mars currently paves way for us to continue life on another planet. This remarkable feat in the space exploration is a catalyst in our endeavours. In the near future, hopefully when and if we do restart humanity on another planet, we won’t be making the same mistakes again.🇮🇳



Be a leader with a heart

...says Padma Bhushan awardee Shekhar Gupta. Editor-in-chief of Indian Express for 19 years, presently vice chairman of the India Today Group, he is known for his unique take on politics in his show ‘Walk the talk’ on NDTV 24X7. Here, he shares his perspective

Raunak Sood & Satvika Kalia
AIS Gurgaon 46, XI

What has been your ‘seventh heaven’ moment in such an extensive journalistic journey?

According to me, success, especially in a journalist’s life, is transitory. Any article you publish now is as good as your next article. Unlike ‘creative writing’, where there is a difference between your previous poems/prose and the next ones, every article captures the attention of the reader momentarily. At one moment you will have great influence but one hour later, it will be forgotten. So, I haven’t had a seventh heaven moment as such.

What or whom would you like to credit as your support structure?

The newsroom that I have been surrounded by, has to be given credit for pulling me through for so long. Whether I was a ground reporter or the editor-in-chief, my



A token of appreciation by AIS Gur 46

colleagues have always been an integral part of my journey. If I am alone, I’m like a fish out of water.

Which guest was the most enjoyable to host on your show ‘Walk the Talk’?

First, let me talk about the most boring one. It has to be, without any doubt, the former British Secretary of State for Business, Vince Cable. His rigidity was a hurdle in the interaction. Sonia Gandhi was by far the most interesting guest as she opened up a lot on my show. On another occasion, a self proclaimed Godman named Chandra Swami provided me with a great deal of entertainment when he was quick on his feet to justify his own actions.

What is your take on India’s success as a democracy?

I most certainly feel that we have been relatively successful as compared to other democratic countries. And since India is a multicultural country, it is a great achievement in itself that we have stayed united as one, accommodating so many diverse cultures.

Do you plan on coming up with something new after ‘Walk the Talk’?

Yes, we do plan on coming up with something, but it will be more on the boring and serious side. As for books, I haven’t written a real one yet. My recent publication ‘Anticipating India’ was a compilation of all my political journals, so I wish to write a real one.

What message would you like to give to our fellow Amitians?

Let me advise you on being a good journalist and a good leader. To be a good journalist, stay curious and keep searching for reasons. To be a good leader, be humble and have a big heart. In my opinion, our former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a great human being who went onto become a great leader. Take inspiration from such people. Also, ask for help whenever needed, as in life you’ll always find someone who is better than you. 🇮🇳

Peon with a PhD?

Overqualified people are applying for govt peon jobs. Where does the loophole lie? Students of *Amity University Gwalior* ponder...

Anwesha Sen Majumdar, GT Network

Reported: Graduates, postgraduates and even PhD holders were among the 23 lakh people who responded to an advertisement seeking applications for 368 posts of peons in the Uttar Pradesh government secretariat. Shocking! Isn't it? What makes overqualified students apply for such jobs? Time for a recce.

The perks

There are numerous perks associated with a government job - be it healthcare benefits, retirement policies, insurance schemes and other fringe benefits. Even though the private sector is taking huge strides and offering great pay packages, it still cannot match up to the job security and stability offered by government jobs.

Deboshree Das, BJMC, Sem III

Unfair parameters

It is indeed disheartening to see that even after 70 years of establishment as a nation, we have not been able to come up with a concrete curriculum for 10th and 12th standard. While we are talking about being at par with international standards, we are still muddling with major revisions in our syllabi. It is impossible for an unstandardised education system to



produce standard products. 29 states, 29 curriculums and one common ground for selection, is a totally unfair parameter.

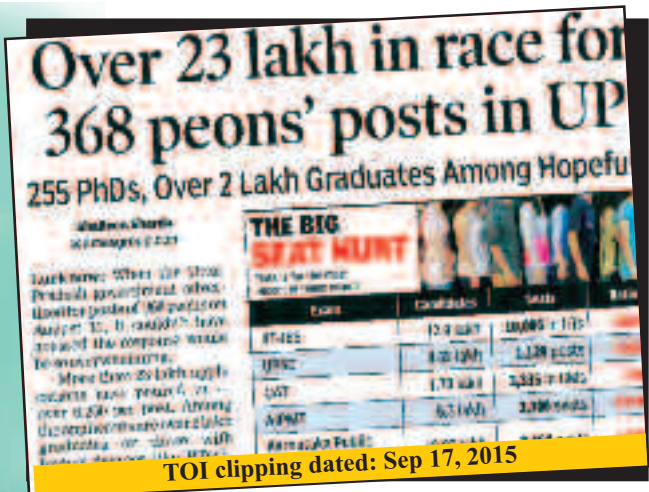
Stanlin Jhonson, MBA, Sem III

A poor base

Even though the candidates are highly qualified,

many of them lack the basic communication and knowledge application skills. This is because teaching is not considered a lucrative career option and the creamy layer of candidates stays away from the profession. Substandard teachers imparting substandard knowledge leads to poor basic education.

Anuja Naidu, BCom LLB, Sem V



Rising unemployment

With so many overqualified applicants for a peon's job, one thing is certain that unemployment is on the rise. With no jobs available, people have no choice but to take up jobs that are below their qualification level. After all, it is better to be earning something than sitting at home and earning nothing at all. The increasing population is worsening the situation further as while people are more, the number of jobs remains the same.

Aditi Sharma, BA J& MC, Sem I

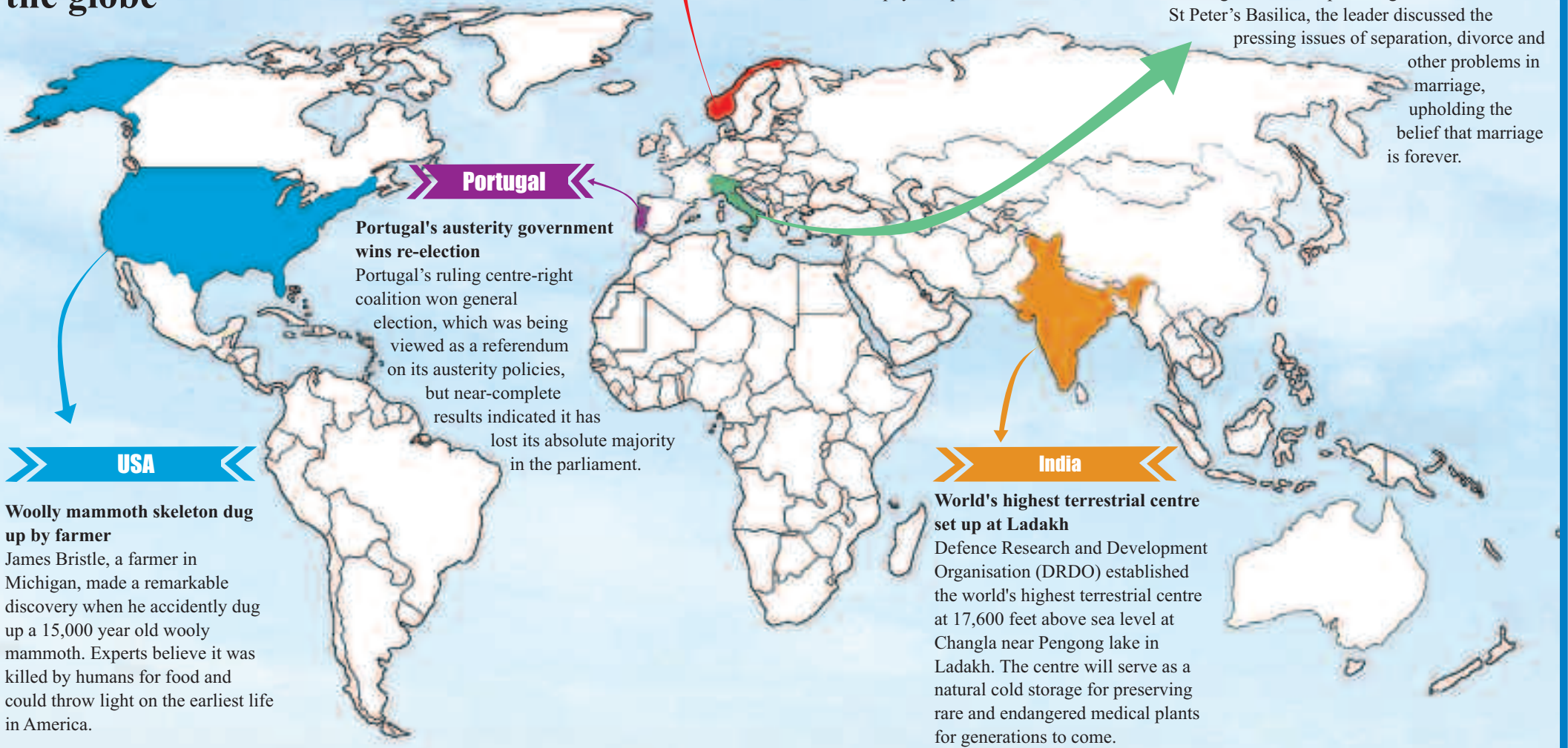
Dignity of jobs

In India, there are only certain jobs that are considered respectable and dignified, among which government jobs take the top spot. In foreign countries, jobs of mechanics, plumbers, etc are considered dignified. However, in India, people look down upon these jobs and hence, everyone who receives even basic education wants a chair-and-table job. Perhaps, if people start considering other professions as respectful, there wouldn't be an exodus of people applying for government jobs.

Tanvi Sharma, LLM, ALS

World at a glance

GT keeps the newswire ticking by bringing you news from around the globe





I dislike gender discrimination because it is a prime example of the unspoken truth of humanity.

Vasvi Yaksh, AIS Saket, VIII C

From internship to employability

AIHE, Mauritius invited experts from various industries to discuss the importance of internships. The occasion also saw the launch of varied programmes

Amity University, Mauritius

On the occasion of the successful completion of internships of over 100 students, AIHE, Amity University, Mauritius, shed light on translating internship into employability and launching MQA approved programmes. Honorable Soodesh Callichurn, minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, Republic of Mauritius was invited as chief guest on the day. The occasion was graced by many prominent personalities. The minister, at the outset, thanked all the corporate firms for giving a first hand internship experience to the students. He described internships as a learning experience that gives the students an edge in future endeavours. He elaborated on the number of programmes in place to assist young graduates, such as the Youth Employment Programme (YEP) and the dual training programme. He also highlighted the importance of skill development and training in key areas. He concluded by offering best wishes to students and the



Prof Parsuramen (L) presents Amity shield to honourable Soodesh Callichurn in the presence of Dr Kesar

Amity family.

Prof Parsuramen GOSK, chairman of Amity Advisory Board, addressed the students and captains of the industry. He emphasised the importance of staying up to date by taking up study courses that lead to employability. He encouraged the youth to make a thoughtful decision while selecting their stream of study. He thanked the corporate world for absorbing Amitians as trainees in their esteemed organisations. He added that internships are beneficial to the corporate sector and students.

Dr Dhananjay Kesar, director & vice chancellor, Amity Institute of Higher Education made a pertinent presentation on the seven MQA programmes on offer by Amity Education Private Ltd. He mentioned that the programmes are in line with the government's vision 2030. He underlined how the courses would contribute towards making Mauritius a knowledge hub and 'Smart Island'. The presentation gave an idea about the composition of the training programmes, together with the profiles of the trainers. Dr Kesar also announced that the

launching of several new courses was in the pipeline. Honourable minister Soodesh Callichurn, showed a keen interest in the presentation. Student Luvna Pirthee shared her experiences as an intern. Manish Sharma, sales manager, Island Life Insurance and Deepak Balgobin, HR director, Shanti Maurice Hotel provided a testimony to the highly valuable internship programmes of Amity University. Manish Sharma offered certificates of internship to Amity interns and a stipend voucher to the students who had got a placement

Amity Institute for Competitive Examinations

Presents



Brainleaks-151

FOR CLASS XI-XII

Calculate the minimum number of hydrogen atom, which is required to obtained 10 spectral lines in the emission spectrum of hydrogen.

(a) 8
(c) 10

(b) 6
(d) 14

Last Date:
Oct 22, 2015

correct entries win
attractive prizes

Ans: Brainleaks 150: (d) 5/2 m/s²

Name:.....

Class:.....

School:.....

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

with the organisation.

The programme culminated with the presentation of a token of appreciation to the minister by the chairman and the director. Stephane, president of the student council, presented the vote of thanks. The guests at the event were apprised with the details of the courses after the conclusion of the event. 🇮🇳

Pic: Pooja Pant, AIE, AUUP, Faculty

Workshop on communication

ALS II held an invigorating workshop to help aspiring lawyers communicate better

Amity Law School-II

Sumitra Singh, ALS II, Faculty

Pic: Prajyot Rai, ALS II



ALS II organised a guest lecture cum workshop on communication skills for lawyers. The eminent speakers of the day comprised an intellectual panel of Sudhanshu Ranjan, senior anchor and correspondent from Delhi Doordarshan; Satyaprakash, legal editor, Hindustan Times; Dipak Sharma from S & S Legal Associates; Siddhant Sahni, regional manager for career development portal, Mylaw.net and Niharika Swaroop, associate, Sagar Chandra Associates. Around 180 students, faculty members and the staff of ALS II marked their indispensable presence on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sudhanshu Ranjan pointed out the impact of media on judicial trials. Satyaprakash talked about the importance of legal language and its accurate usage in the courts of law. Dipak Sharma shared the importance of communication skills by sharing the importance attached to Hindi in India. Siddhant Sahni conducted an interactive session with the students and also gave away small prizes to motivate them. Niharika Swa-

roop also talked about the the importance of communication skills for lawyers in the contemporary scenario of globalisation. Dr Aditya Tomer, deputy director, ALS II, unravelled the concept of the newly launched Amicomm Newsletter, committed to the cause of improving communication skills. Sumitra Singh, assistant professor, ALS II, spoke at length about the emerging dimensions in communication worldwide. Sumitra Singh and Parveen Kumar were the faculty in-charges of the enriching workshop.



A poem recital during the Hindi Diwas celebrations

Celebrating Hindi Diwas

AIE, Saket paid a memorable tribute to the national language on Hindi Diwas by inviting school students to recite Hindi poetry

Amity Instt of Education, Saket

Dr Neetu M Shukla
AIE Saket, Faculty

The poetic recitals of young students in Hindi language, from over 25 schools based in Noida, Delhi and NCR reverberated through the seminar hall of AIE, Saket to celebrate Hindi Diwas. The theme for the day was 'Ehsaas: Hindi Kavya Path'. The event, held on September 25, saw the enthusiastic participation of over 40 students. On the occasion, students performed mesmerising recitals of poems of Harivansh Rai Bachchan, Om Vyas Om, Suryakanth Tripathi 'Nirala', Gopaldas Neeraj, Subhadrakumari Chauhan, Kaka

Hathrasi, Bhawani Prasad Mishra, Shiv Mangal Singh 'Suman', Ayodhya Singh, Praful Joshi, Arun Mittal and Dr Archana Panda. The students also recited famous ancient poetic masterpieces such as the *dohas* by Kabir and Rahim Das and 'Ramcharitmanas' of Tulsidas. The event was inaugurated by Prof (Dr) Ranjana Bhatia, mentor, AIE and Dr Alka Muddgal, head of institute, AIE, AUUP by lighting the auspicious lamp. Prof (Dr) Ranjana Bhatia accentuated the role of today's youth in the proliferation of Hindi language by terming them as 'karnadhaar'. She entreated all the faculty members, participants and guests in the gathering to make a significant contribution to the progress and development of Hindi language.

The judges for the event were Dr Vijay Pandey, senior faculty, Amity Instt of Psychology & Allied Sciences; Dr Alpana Kakkar, deputy dean, Students' Welfare, AUUP and Suman Tiwari, faculty, GD Goenka University, Greater Noida campus. The audience, judges, participants and guests enjoyed the event thoroughly. The duo of Noor Sharma and Stuti Kakkar from Amity International School, Saket bagged the second runners up award on the occasion. The event concluded with the message of Dr Alka Muddgal, who reinstated the significance of Hindi language in nation building and called upon every citizen of the country to use the language with a sense of pride, and not limit its use to a particular occasion. 🇮🇳



1,700,000

i.e 1.7 million young children die every year before the age of 5 due to diarrhoea and pneumonia. The act of hand washing with soap can help prevent many of these deaths.

80%

of all **infectious diseases** are transmitted by touch.

10,000,000

ie, 10 million bacteria come in contact with a typical office worker's hands in a day according to a study by University of Arizona.

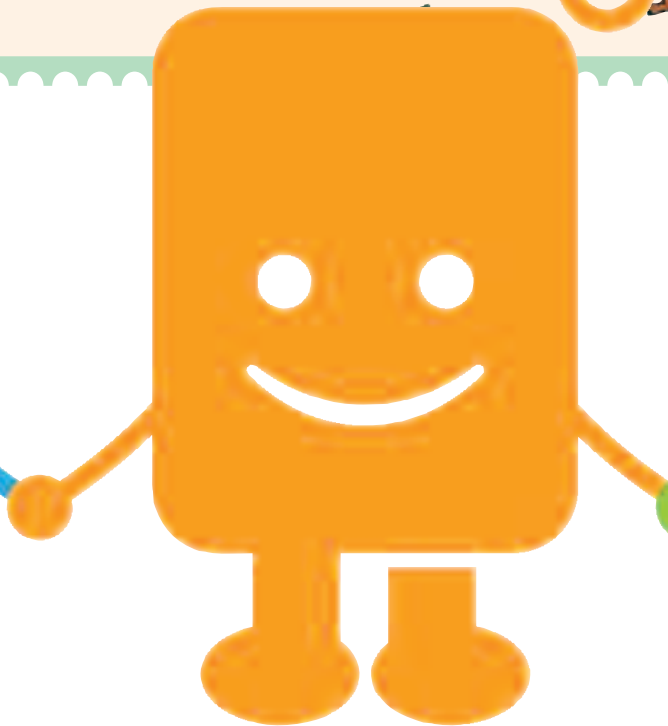
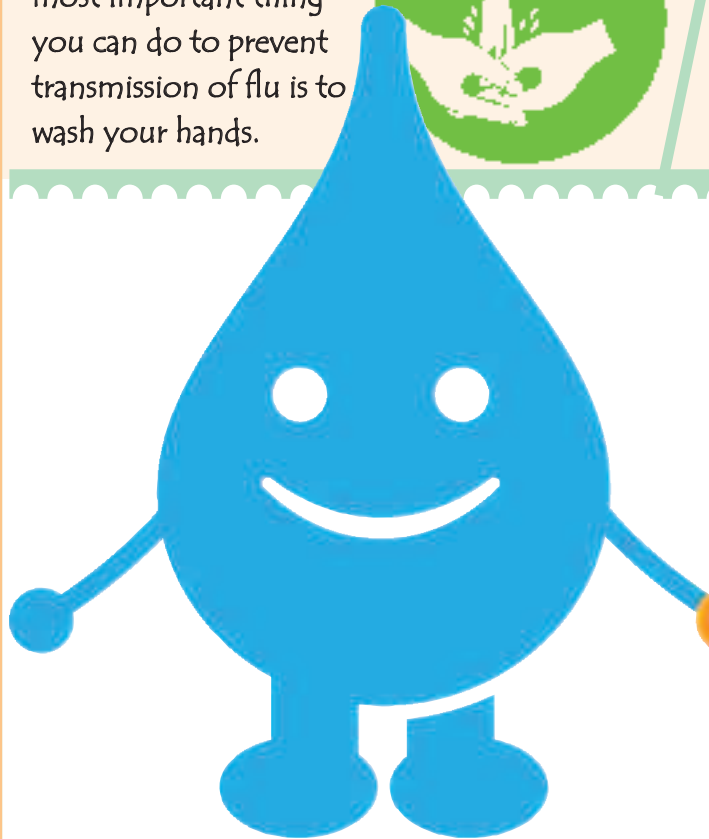
According to experts, without a vaccine, the most important thing you can do to prevent transmission of flu is to wash your hands.



While **soap may not kill all viruses**, thorough hand washing will decrease the viral counts to a point below the infectious threshold.



When it comes to hands, the fingernails and surrounding areas have the most bacteria.



Global Handwashing Day, Oct 15

It's all in your hands

The secret to a healthy you lies in your hands, literally. As the world celebrates Global Handwashing Day on **October 15**, here are some facts on hand washing that you must know...



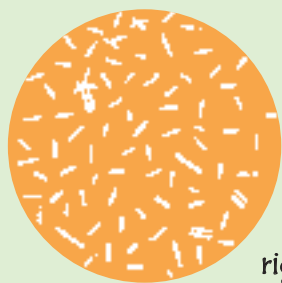
✓ Hand washing can be a critical measure in controlling **pandemic outbreaks of respiratory infections**. Several studies carried out during the 2006 outbreak of severe

acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) suggest that washing hands more than 10 times a day, can cut the spread of the respiratory virus by 55 per cent.

✓ New studies have suggested that hand washing promotion in schools can play a role in reducing absenteeism among school children. In China, for example,

promotion and distribution of soap in primary schools resulted in 54% fewer days of absence among students compared to schools without such an intervention.

✓ Re-usable cloth towels harbour millions of bacteria. Disposable paper towels are the safest and the most recommended option for drying hands.



The **bacteria count is the highest** on the dominant hand. Yet right-handed people wash their left hand more thoroughly than their right hand, and vice versa.

50%

estimated diarrhoeal disease associated deaths can be prevented and reduced by the simple act of washing hands with soap and water.

Alcohol based hand rubs are faster, more effective, and better tolerated by our hands than washing with soap and water.



10X

more bacteria are removed for every 15 seconds spent washing hands with soap and water.



20 Secs

is the recommended time for effective hand washing, whereas an average person spends less than 10 seconds washing hands.



30 Secs

of using a good hand sanitizer kills as much bacteria and germs as 2 full minutes of handwashing.

Damp hands are 1,000x more likely to spread bacteria and germs than dry hands.

Find the likeable



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

The possible introduction of the Dislike button on social media platform Facebook, is much like real life. Just as on FB, in the real world too, not everything pleases us or is to our liking. Sometimes, in a world off the social media too, we must press the Dislike button to bring in a change or a revolution. Back in days of the British Raj, for instance, Mahatma Gandhi, lovingly known as Bapu, pressed the Dislike button against social evils, discrimination and colonialism. More recently, social activist Malala Yousafzai pressed the Dislike button to express her vehement disapproval of societal discrimination and voiced her support for female education. These bravehearts are golden examples of how stepping out of one's comfort zone to question the hostile established norms accepted by the society out of fear, brings the greater good of the society, regardless of factors such as age, the social or cultural milieu. History is replete with many more examples of personalities who resorted to rebellion to usher in revolution. However, the means adopted for a social rebellion are as important as the rebellion itself. To begin with, peace is one of the best weapons. While Bapu adopted the principle of non-violence, Malala chose her words and language as her weapon. As for Facebook and other social media, they have also proven to be catalysts and initiators in bringing about a revolution. My dear Amitians, use your right to the Dislike button, both on Facebook and off it, wisely, because it can yield unimaginable power. 🇮🇳

Art of liking



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Like it or dislike it, life is a lot more than the two options we see in life. Last week, I happened to attend an Art of Living class that concluded with a pooled lunch. We all had brought some home-made food that was spread out for all. We were asked to bring our own paper plates too. For a person like me who believes in eating with comfort, I carried my own steel plates. We all took servings from each spread according to our likes. Just before we could eat, came the instruction to hand our plates to the person sitting on our right. Taken aback, much to my 'dislike', I handed my steel plate served with my favourite food, to my neighbour and took a paper plate instead, with food items that were the 'likes' of my neighbour. Like it or dislike, I had to eat the same. This simple act of sharing had lots of lessons in it. Life is a lot more than pressing a Like or Dislike button. On many occasions, you may want something, but might end up with something different. It can be better or worse. Yet, take it with a stride. Times are not always the same. I did not get to eat the way I planned or taste the food I liked the most. Yet, I learnt to appreciate what God gave me. I was hungry. I was offered a plate that showcased a variety of food items, cooked in different kitchens from produce that came from different corners of the country. The art of living is all about this...going beyond the buttons of 'like' and 'dislike' and extending the same to all aspects of life. 🇮🇳

As you ‘Dislike’ it

Imaging: Dinesh Kumar, GT Network

An opportunity for the entrepreneur, a nightmare for the popular kid at school, a check on the perspective driven writer, the ‘Dislike’ button ought to change the status quo

Pranali Batra, AIS Noida, Alumnus

There is, perhaps, nothing that is more appealing to the youth as Facebook. So, when the first strains of the possibility of FB's alleged novel initiative- the 'Dislike' button- fell upon our ears, a myriad of thoughts passed through our minds. Emotions ranging from sheer shock, passive acceptance to violent upheavals and even suppressed excitement, this buzz generated it all. It's quite interesting to imagine how our little world would transform, if the 'Dislike' button comes into existence! Here's a quick peek...

Not every moment is a good moment

All of us have had the awkward moment when our FB friends post bad news, like the fact that they are unwell or that their pet is no more, and our most foolproof medium to express acknowledgement of the post- the LIKE BUTTON- fails us miserably. It ends up conveying a sentiment which is exactly opposite of the effect that we aim for. This is where the messiah- the DISLIKE BUTTON- steps in. *Drum roll* The robotic action of hitting the like button with every new update can be done way with, courtsey the dislike button.



A treat for the sadists

There are, of course, those who take immense pleasure out of inflicting pain on the vulnerable, in this case, the FB fanatics. The dislike button is like a voodoo doll in the hands of these merciless meanies who will use it to avenge their enemies and fulfill their personal vendetta through this newfangled button. Moreover, the use of the dislike button can even take on extreme forms like cyber bullying, further aggravating the fear of unacceptability among teenaged introverts, who are much too dependent on self-approval received via social media.

Content filtering (Thank the Lord!)

The dislike button will empower us to veto the unnecessary and completely useless flow of information, something that the social media attention seekers keep boring us to death with. We need not tolerate the agony inflicted upon us by those who make it their personal mission to update the whole world about their every movement; right from when they get up to where they go from time to time, and even when they are buying groceries for themselves!

Social media insecurity

Social media, with its immense popularity and outreach, often acts as a medium of self-evaluation, especially for the teenagers dealing with identity issues and looking for social acceptance. They often seek



comfort from the number of likes on their post or pictures. The dislike button would enhance their identity crisis and social insecurities. Now, they would not only have to work hard to generate likes, but also avoid the menacing dislikes!

Opportunity with accountability

Since Facebook works on the algorithm of 'likes', the dislike button will allow customers to express themselves in a better manner. Consequently, companies that make increasing use of social media to promote their brands will get a better insight of the demands of the viewers and will have to revamp their promotional strategies to ensure a better transparency. The dislike button would align them better with the aspirations of the next-gen users. 🇮🇳

Procrasti... I will complete the word later

Procrastination - the action of ruining your own life for no apparent reason

Sheel Chandra,
AIS Noida, XI

There are some things in life which will always hold you back from reaching your goals. Procrastination is one of them. In fact, Procrastination is the 'President of the Self-Sabotage Club'. It is a word found in almost every individual's dictionary with a string of troubles attached to it and everyone, whether young or old faces it many a times. There's no archetype of procrastination other than the classic- "completing an assignment before a deadline." Here's what happens in almost every teen's life- a homework is due tomorrow, you prepare yourself, take out your books and complete one question. And then, it's time for a break. But watch out, for that's the tipping

point and as you reach for your phone to check WhatsApp, you're slowly being dragged into a dark, sinister, procrastination zone. Once you reply to even a single message, there's no turning back and you easily wile away an hour on WhatsApp. And then, dinner's probably waiting for you, so you forget about your task. You go back to your room only to check Facebook and so on and so forth. What about the reverberation caused by this process? It's 2 a.m. and your assignment is still due. You're anxious and contemplate over why you chose Facebook over your teacher. The rest is decided on the basis of your speed and whether you choose to procrastinate further. Nevertheless, you are sleep deprived the next day. The bottom line is, procrastination is daunting. It not only delays your work



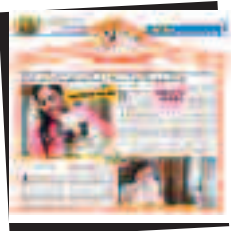
and gets you into detention, it pulls you down and stops you from exploring your true potential. Even if the must-do things in your list, in this case your homework, are completed, your bucket list - exercise, learn how to play the guitar, read 1984 - is still longing for you. How you can tackle it? "Get over procrastination!" The simplicity in this phrase, is however, not that simple. But don't fret fellow procrastinators, it might sound clichéd, but perseverance is the key! Set your priorities. Take baby steps and complete them with utmost sincerity instead of planning big steps and fulfilling none. Minimise all the distractions around you. If it's the TV, hand over the remote to your sibling. If it's your phone, turn on airplane mode while studying. If all this doesn't work, get help from your parents or friends to set up a 'procrastination jar' where you have

to deposit a certain amount of money from your pocket money each time you fail to complete a task. Now that's encouraging isn't it? Good luck unprocrastinating yourself! 🇮🇳



Dear editor

Thank you for publishing my article 'Pepper, the cute kitten' in the edition dated October 5, 2015, wherein I wrote about my pet cat. Everybody admired my cat and I became famous in my class! Thank you GT for bringing so much excitement in my life.



Manya Tyagi
AIS Vasundhara 1, V D 🇮🇳

Digging the gold mine of INSEF 2014

Nearly 40 different and unique projects from Amity International Schools were showcased at the Indian Science & Engineering Fair (INSEF) 2014. Hosted by Amity University, Uttar Pradesh, the national fair brought together bright young minds who demonstrated innovative experiments in the field of science and technology



Kavya and Akriti demonstrate the working of the air conditioner for vegetables and fruits

An AC for veggies

To help roadside vendors keep their fruits and vegetables fresh for a longer period of time with the use of an ordinary umbrella and *khus*

Innovation: Air conditioning umbrella

Innovators: Kavya Aggarwal & Akriti Dhasmana, AIS Vas 6, Class IX

Mentor teacher: Ekta Soni

What it is? Come summers, and the fruit and vegetable vendors have a hard time trying to keep the products fresh and prevent them from wilting in the scorching heat. The only solution they have is a portable fridge, which they can't afford. The low cost and easy-to-carry air conditioning umbrella is here to keep the fruits and vegetables, fresher for longer. This small innovative product can save vendors a lot of money.

How it works? This innovative model makes use of an umbrella which has been covered with *khus* (a type of perennial grass native to India), which has cooling properties. A bottle filled with water is attached to the top of the umbrella. To create a drip that would carry the water from the bottle to different parts of the umbrella, a long spiral ring with punctures at regular junctions is used. This spiral ring is meant to distribute water at regular intervals. When the water is released from the bottle, it flows through the spiral ring. The water is then distributed through the perforations onto the umbrella.

As the water evaporates, it results in a cooling effect. A regulator has also been attached to regulate the amount of water reaching the umbrella. Also, despite the

grass being constantly wet, the region beneath the umbrella is not humid as the structure of the umbrella allows for proper air circulation. This low cost and innovative mini AC has been specially designed keeping in view the vendors' need to keep fruits and vegetables cool and prevent them from being spoiled.

Cost: Primary expenses for this model include metal rod, metal rings and the cost of welding the same. Old umbrellas can be used for this model. If developed on a large scale, these umbrellas can turn out to be quite cost effective.

USP: This model makes use of renewable energy to keep fruits and vegetables cool instead of using a refrigerator that uses electricity, and is expensive. ■■

Floral freshness

From being thrown in water bodies to refreshing the environment with fragrance, flower petals find a constructive use as natural dehumidifier

Innovation: Natural dehumidifier cum air freshner

Innovators: SM Anshuman & Kashvi Singh, AIS Vas 6, Class VIII

Mentor teacher: Krishna Veni Vedula

What it is? Too humid? Expensive dehumidifiers available in the market seem like the only solution. However, we can use petals of marigold flower, as a natural dehu-

midifier cum air freshener.

How it works? This project centers around a device through which dried flower petals can serve as a dehumidifier cum air freshener. Marigold flowers are used in this device as they can absorb moisture and have pleasant fragrance. Marigold flower petals are kept in a bag flannel of about 7cmX12cm. A heating pad is also kept in this bag. The heating pad is used to ensure that dehumidifier works for longer. When the petals absorb moisture from the environment, they

are sundried before they can absorb more moisture again. The heating pad dehydrates the flowers, enabling them to absorb more moisture again. Besides, the pleasant fragrance makes it a natural air freshener.

Cost: Flowers from homes and temples can be used for this model, which makes it an absolutely zero cost model.

USP: Zero cost and simple to use, this model is a win-win solution for used flowers and reducing the pollution too. ■■



SM Anshuman demonstrates the dehumidifier cum air freshner



Young gold medal winners of INSEF regional round



Vaishnavi with her 'Cooling panels on walls' project

Cool as cucumber

That is exactly how your walls are going to be with cooling panels that make use of modern day technology and traditional knowledge

Innovation: Cooling panels for sun facing walls in buildings

Innovator: Vaishnavi Thakur, AIS Gur 46, Class IX

Mentor teacher: Anjali Saxena

What it is? It's scorching summers and no matter how much you lower the AC temperature, the room still remains hot; courtesy – the walls that have been heated up. If only, there was something to cool the walls. The cooling panel does just that!

How it works? The project makes use of double wall, 'low-e glasses' (which minimizes the amount of light passing through it) and the mud *shakoras* (an item made out of baked clay in a curved shape) to induce cooling in heated walls. As a model representation, the project makes use of a wooden piece, whose centre has been cut out so that only the edges remain. This means that the resulting piece is a wooden frame. Inside the frame, there is a pipe at the top. It has several holes, each at equal distance from the other. This pipe is used to circulate the water. There is another pipe at the bottom of the frame (again inside the frame), which collects the water. An e-coated glass is placed on the frame, nailed at each of the four corners. Now

mud *shakoras* are pasted on the glass in a pattern. The pattern is such that when water is released, it flows from one *shakora* to the other and reaches the bottom of the frame in a cascading effect. Now when water is released from the top pipe, it falls on the *shakoras* and reaches the bottom of the frame, in a beautiful waterfall effect. The water is then collected at the bottom pipe. In this process, each *shakora* absorbs some water as it is made up of mud and clay. When the water absorbed by *shakoras* evaporates due to the heat, it results in a cooling effect. Further, the top and bottom pipes are connected to each other to ensure that the same water gets reused, thus promoting recycling.

Cost: The concept can be commercialised and used on windows or walls for cooling. 2x4 ft panels (made of specially designed mud plates or more durable material such as pumic stone) can be hung by hooks on horizontal rods. The project is very cost effective, as it uses low cost materials.

USP: The project is successful as it incorporates traditional knowledge with the use of modern technology. It is simple, cost effective, sustainable and requires low maintenance. It serves the purpose of cooling by maintaining the internal temperature of a building. ■■



Unnat and Surina demonstrate the phenomenon of Automatically Shifting Road Dividers

Adios congested traffic

A real time traffic management system that works by shifting the divider towards the side of the road with less traffic, offering an innovative solution for peak traffic hours

Innovation: Automatically Shifting Road Dividers

Innovators: Unnat Ramjiyani & Surina Jaidka, AIS Pushp Vihar, Class X

Mentor teacher: Radha Kumari

What it is? How many times have you been hopelessly stuck in traffic on one side of the road only to watch the other side of the road empty with despair? In times like these, have you not wished that the road shifted a little towards the empty side? The Automatically Shifting Road Drivers can make all these wishful dreams come true!

How it works? This traffic management system uses two mechanisms in order to shift the divider – firstly, sensors that sense the volume of traffic on the road and second, the motors that move the divider. The Automatically Shifting Road Dividers comprise ultrasonic sensors that are present on the either side of the road. The sensors sense the traffic and relay the information to the main CPU located in the underground system. This CPU processes the information provided and issues out instructions to the motors, that help move the divider, which moves horizontally on the road. This pattern of movement decreases the width of one side of the road and increases the width of the other side of the road at the same time. When the divider moves, the street lights on the divider begin to

blink as an indication of movement of the vehicles on the road. The wireless buttons move the divider in whichever side it is required. However, these would not work in case there is traffic on both sides of the road. The divider also boasts of special features like built-in buttons for emergency vehicles like ambulance, police car, fire brigade, etc. The divider is autonomous and can be controlled manually too.

Cost: According to the standard cost of concrete, each divider will cost Rs 12,500 (approximately).

USP: The divider is high on safety level, autonomous and low on cost. It is not just cheap to install, it's maintenance cost is minimal too. ■■

An endless wait



Merina Davis
AIS Vasundhara 6, IX A

She kept wiping her tears every minute and consoled herself by saying, “Don’t worry Riti, baba would reach any minute and take you home.” Nine year old Riti was waiting at a red light for her father who left her there in the morning and told her that he was going to the nearby market to meet his client. He told her that as he had a business deal to attend, she should wait in the park for him. Riti obeyed her father and sat there on a bench, next to a middle aged man. Addressing the elderly

Every day, she would wait for them to come, not realising the fact that it was an endless wait.

found two more children of almost her age which made her feel comfortable. But very soon, she got to know that the two kids were brought there forcibly and compelled to beg. Riti spent her night in great anxiety and hoped her father would return to take her home. The next morning, Riti was also fixed at one of the intersections and commanded to beg. Fearing worse consequences, Riti did as she was told. But with every auto she would cheer, “Ah! See baba is here to take me home. Ma would have cried a lot the whole night worrying about me, hence baba has come so early looking for me.” Unfortunately, no one came and the day passed by. “I will not tell ma that I was treated so bitterly, else she would feel depressed,” Riti consoled herself every passing hour. She just longed for the warm arms of her ma and baba, who seemed to have forgotten her for their life time. Every day, she would wait for them to come, not realising the fact that it was an endless wait.🇮🇳

gentleman as uncle, Riti said, “Do you know where my father has gone?” The man declined, and told her that until her father returned, he would take care of her. Riti believed him and sat beside him till evening. And as it began to grow darker, Riti started to miss her mother. “Ma would be really worried now; she would surely fight with baba if she gets to know that he had left me waiting here all by myself,” sobbed Riti. Looking at her anxious expressions, the man humbly asked Riti to come with him to his house. She resisted, but since it was dark and she was all alone, she agreed to go with him. At his house, Riti



Heaven canapés

Lavanya Kandhari, AIS PV, IX E

Ingredients

Potato (boiled)2

Canapés 5-6

Green chillies1-2

Curd50g

Saltto taste

Coriander leavesto garnish

Bhujijato garnish

Mint chutneyto garnish

Method

■ Fry the canapés and keep aside.

■ Mash the boiled potatoes. Add green chillies and salt to it.

■ Make small heaps of the mashed potatoes and put in each canapé.

■ Pour some curd over each of the canapés.

■ Garnish the canapés with mint *chutney* and coriander leaves. Sprinkle *bhujija* and serve.

WORDS VERSE

A bad day

Riya, AIS Gurgaon 43, X D

It was a bad day, a bad time
16 December 2014
Heartless terrorists entered the school
Firing was done as showers
Is this a terrorist’s power?

It was a bad day, a bad time
Oh! This bad deed
Made our hearts bleed
Our eyes filled with tears
And also with fear.

It was a bad day, a bad time
How can someone do this
With small innocent kids?
We all observed a two-minute silence



Because of this act of violence.

It was a bad day, a bad time
We all cannot fight against terrorism
But we all can just pray
God might listen to what we say
In words we cannot say but
It was a bad day, a bad time. 🇮🇳

Under the moonlight

Satvika Kalia
AIS Gurgaon 46, XI C

She stepped out in the open
Took a deep breath
Set her mind free
The wind came full of tales
Whispering them to the trees.

She looked up at the dull sky
The colour was a fading grey
Moonlight resembled silver arrows
In the twilight, cold and pale.

The breeze came with anecdotes
Flowing from eternity
And gushed out all the stories
Easing the little girl of all her worries
Making the respite her brief infinity.

And time just flew
Waiting for no one
Every thing seemed fresh
Her frail little dress
Had hints of dew.

These little joys made her glow
The gust was blowing
Steady and slow
She felt awake, she felt content
She had an evening with the night sky
For her to attend. 🇮🇳



Brush ‘n’ Easel

Amisha Garg
AIS Noida, XII I

SHAKE A LEG

Can you spot some famous dance forms in the grid?

H	L	I	V	C	R	T	F	H	R	G	I	A	C	B
Z	Y	V	C	V	T	L	R	W	S	N	R	E	A	T
B	H	N	F	Z	A	Q	K	V	R	I	I	L	P	X
E	H	B	U	M	K	O	J	Q	T	W	R	S	O	A
O	W	A	E	P	D	H	S	H	O	S	P	H	I	J
I	R	N	R	D	Y	M	V	H	S	O	M	R	E	U
X	C	E	Q	A	Y	N	C	S	I	T	Q	V	R	A
O	V	H	O	D	T	Y	U	R	C	K	P	A	A	D
C	I	R	B	E	W	A	A	G	Z	K	Q	Z	J	V
X	W	A	J	O	E	R	N	E	N	B	H	S	C	B
B	D	U	K	G	G	F	O	A	Z	W	Q	V	V	O
T	E	L	L	A	B	N	X	I	T	S	Z	O	R	V
I	S	Z	Z	Z	Q	R	A	W	S	Y	T	T	Q	S
X	A	V	I	T	X	J	Q	T	K	E	A	U	R	P
G	B	M	O	M	F	T	U	V	M	P	O	M	Q	Q

BALLET	BHARATANATYAM	CAPOIERA
FLAMENCO	SWING	TANGO



I dislike missing school for any reason.
Ravina Rastogi, AIS Saket, IV C

Shibu’s little sister

Illustration: Deepak Sharma, GT Network

Short Story



Shibu to wander around the baby. “Ma, why do you give so much importance to her? Why does she scream most of the time?” His mother replied, “Shibu, she is your little sister whom you will have to take care of all your life.” One day, Shibu was alone in the house with his sister. Her mother had to go to the market for some urgent work. Realising the **opportune** moment, Shibu went to his sister with an intent to hurt her. “Today, I will teach her a lesson for stealing the love of my parents,” he thought to himself. He reached his sister’s cradle where she was playing with her toys. Looking at Shibu, her sister stretched out her tiny hand and gave a warm smile that melted him instantly. Shibu took her hand and she smiled even more, her eyes now twinkling with joy. He realised how silly he had been to dislike someone who was so cute and adorable. And from that day onwards, Shibu and his sister were inseparable.🇧🇩

So what did you learn today?
A new word: Opportune
Meaning: Favourable

Avya Roy, AIS Vasundhara 6, II
Once upon a time, there was a six year old boy Shibu, who was loved by his parents. But, things changed for him after his sister was born. Shibu felt neglected as his mother was busy taking care of his newborn sister. He was not able to accept the fact that he had to take care of his sister and share things with her. He considered her to be a creature who was always crying.

Once, Shibu even tried to hit her to make her stop crying. Her mother saw this and shouted at him saying, “Will you just stay away from her?” Shibu silently stood there staring at the little creature who had replaced him now. Shibu was curious to know more about those twinkling eyes, but he was disturbed by the sudden screams of the little one, who was nothing more than a moving creature for him. His mother was always alert and she never allowed

POEMS

White winter



Katayun Negahban
AIS Saket, VII B

As I wake up in the morning
I see a snowflake
Twinkling on my foot
I shiver in the cold yawning
As I wear my hood.

I see the snowflakes on the ground
And also see the frozen lake
As I turn round and round
Makes me go crazy around.

I feel astonished to see the beauty
As if it’s the land of pure and divine
It’s all white and serene
Everything becomes still at that time.

I pass through the woods
And build a snowman
I take off my hood
And wave to the mountain man.

I come back home
And say good night
To the snowman
Who was there all the time.🇧🇩

From movies to books

Saksham Khanna, AIS Gur 46, IV C

Movies in heart
Movies in mind
Ask me about any movie
Not even a single minute,
I will take to find the movie.

When teachers ask
Why are you late?
Then students state,
“Film Tiger got the highest rate.”

My mother told me to read a book
And don’t have a single look
at movies now
I was sad to hear this
But somehow
Managed to get into books.

I did so
And got to know
That life is beautiful inside books
And life is worthless without books.🇧🇩



Chocolate cookie cake

Anoushka Jain, AIS PV, V C
Ingredients
Chocolate cookies 1 packet
Cocoa powder100 gm
Butter.....50 gm
Icing sugar250 gm
Milk½ cup
Method
■ Mix butter, icing sugar and cocoa powder in a bowl.
■ Now add milk to this mixture and make a thick batter.
■ In a glass container, spread a thick layer of this batter.
■ Place cookies in the chocolate paste one by one.
■ Now, again spread a layer of chocolate paste and add another layer of cookies.
■ Keep it in the refrigerator for approximately 30 minutes. Your chocolate cookie cake is ready.

It’s Me



My name: Tavish Khandelwal
My school: AIS Gurgaon 43
My Class: I
My birthday: March 5
I like: Listening to stories
I dislike: Sitting idle
My hobby: Craft work
My role model: My mother
My best friend: Ronit Mishra
My favourite book: Ugly Duckling
My favourite poem: Johny Johny, yes papa!
My favourite game: Car racing
My favourite food: Vegetable hakka noodles
My favourite mall: GIP, Noida
My favourite teacher: Richa Gupta Ma’am
My favourite subject: Math and Computers
I want to become: A scientist
I want to feature in GT because: I want to be famous in school and make my parents happy.

Painting Corner

Samara Chauhan,
AIS Pushp Vihar, II



Rhyming Pairs

Directions: Tick the words that have the same ending sound. Put a cross on those that do not rhyme. (The first one is done for you.)

Name: _____
Class: _____

 fox	 box	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 net	 map	<input type="checkbox"/>	 cap	 cake	<input type="checkbox"/>	 hat	 bat	<input type="checkbox"/>
 map	 kite	<input type="checkbox"/>	 jar	 star	<input type="checkbox"/>	 dish	 fish	<input type="checkbox"/>	 fan	 can	<input type="checkbox"/>
 book	 bottle	<input type="checkbox"/>	 feet	 meat	<input type="checkbox"/>	 sun	 leaf	<input type="checkbox"/>	 rat	 pig	<input type="checkbox"/>
 bug	 rug	<input type="checkbox"/>	 sock	 clock	<input type="checkbox"/>	 hose	 nose	<input type="checkbox"/>	 boat	 goat	<input type="checkbox"/>



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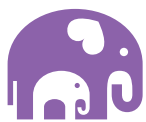


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I dislike eating bitter gourd.

Aditya Khuntia, AIS Saket, V B

An ode to Sanskrit

To give the ancient language the due it deserves, the school engaged in Sanskrit Week that culminated with Sanskrit Day



Chairperson addressing the students



Students presenting a dance on the occasion

AIS Saket

Sanskrit is one of the world's oldest languages. It is the vision of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, to propagate a wider base for the language around which our religion, history, past and future are entwined. AIS Saket has been celebrating Sanskrit Week and Sanskrit Day in the school for the past seven years. This year, Sanskrit Week was celebrated from August 24 - 28, under which several activities were conducted for students of Class VI-X.

Sanskrit Olympiad: For Classes VI - VIII, Sanskrit Olympiad was organised wherein Rishika Gupta (*Class VI*), Adyot Bose (*Class VII*) and Abhiniti Gupta (*Class VIII*) bagged the first prize in their respective classes.

Verse Reading: Rishika Gupta (*Class VI*) and Tanmay Goswami (*Class VIII*), bagged the first position in this activity.

Prose Reading: Students of Classes VI and VII eloquently read out the



A Sanskrit presentation in progress

Bhawanasura prose. Prashast Kolhe (*Class VI*) and Sanya Dureja (*Class VII*) won the first prize.

Sanskrit quiz: Meant for Class VII, the first prize was won by Adyot Bose.

Dialogue presentation: This activity garnered much enthusiasm from students as they presented dialogues from popular movies and comics in Sanskrit. Sahil Vasishtha and Aryan Malhotra (*Class VIII*), along with Ashutosh Maurya and Yash Jain (*Class X*) won this exciting round.

Poetry recitation: Ayushi Singh (*Class IX*) and Ashutosh Maurya (*Class X*) bagged the top honours in this round for displaying their poetic talent eloquently. The school commemorated Sanskrit Day on August 27. Sanskrit scholar Rama Kant Shukla was the special guest on the occasion. An entertaining cultural programme comprising patriotic songs, dances, verses and a play 'Prachinbarte Angdanm' was presented by the students. The students who won awards in various activities during the Sanskrit Week activities received their prizes from the special guest. On the occasion, the winners of Sanskrit Olympiad 2014 were also felicitated, wherein AIS Mayur Vihar bagged the rolling shield. The celebrations evoked a great admiration for Sanskrit among the students. Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan lauded the students and teachers for capturing the essence of the ancient language in such a beautiful way.

(Report translated by Aditya Aeri, AIS Saket, VI A)



Little ones enact extracts from Krishna Leela



Janmashtami celebrations

An aura of divinity was created as the students celebrated Lord Krishna's birth

AIS Saket

In keeping with the vision of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, of inculcating traditional values in the students from an early age, AIS Saket organised Janmashtami celebrations for the little ones of Class Nursery and KG on September 3, 2015. Amongst the audience were the parents of the students. The day began on a serene note as school principal Divya Bhatia inspired the audience with her words of wisdom. As part of the celebrations, the students presented glimpses from Lord Krishna's life that

form a part of Krishna Leela, and enacted extracts from the same including 'Krishna janam', 'makhan chor' and 'Kaliya vadh', creating a divine aura.

The melodious songs on Lord Krishna presented by the children, mesmerised one and all. The dancing skills of the students were appreciated by parents and teachers alike. Beautifully crafted *mukuts* and flutes were distributed to the students that served as souvenirs of the day. The children enjoyed the eventful and fun filled Janmashtami celebrations replete with group photographs and selfies, as the day enlightened them about their country's rich cultural ethos and tradition.



Spellathon in progress



Enthusiastic participants at ISMUN



ISMUN 2015

ISMUN 2015 saw charged up debates and discussions from zealous delegates

AIS Pushp Vihar

AIS Pushp Vihar organised the 5th Inter School Model United Nations from August 25 - 26, 2015 in the school premises. The two-day event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all the delegates as they discussed and debated on issues of international importance.

Committees: ISMUN 2015 saw students simulating various committees of the UN with different agendas...

UN General Assembly: Transnational organised crime

UN Security Council: Development of nuclear weapons and programmes

UN Human Rights Council: Rehabilitation of refugees and IDPs

European Union: Greek Crisis

Day 1: The first day began with instructions given by the executive board of the committees, amply visualised by all the delegates. The delegates, each representing a different country in their

committee, showed great enthusiasm and defended their countries with valid arguments. Those who participated for the first time were equally confident and vocal during the discussions. Under the guidance of the executive boards, the committees progressed with their respective agendas.

Day 2: The second day reinitiated the previous day's debates. The executive boards of the General Assembly and the European Union introduced a crisis in the committees and the rules and procedures were suspended as the committees entered an emergency situation. The energy meter went even higher on the second day as the delegates were thorough with their research on the assigned country's foreign policy. The hour long debates resulted in the committees coming up with feasible solutions. The day ended with the award distribution ceremony wherein the executive board gave away numerous awards like special mention, verbal mention, high commendation and the best delegate award.

Heritage dance competition

AIS Pushp Vihar

AIS Pushp Vihar organised a heritage dance competition for KG students on September 14, 2015 in the school auditorium. The competition was an effort to implement the vision of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, to instill a sense of pride and belongingness amongst students about the country's rich cultural heritage. The competition saw various dance forms of Chhattisgarh being presented by the budding dancers of the school. Students dressed up in traditional attires of the state and wholeheartedly enjoyed tapping their feet to the folk beats of Chhattisgarh. The different dance forms performed on the occasion included the famous 'Mahua' and 'Karma' dances. The auditorium came alive with their breathtaking performances. To maximise the outreach of the competition, 100 percent participation was ensured. The aim of the competition was not only to acquaint the children with the different dance forms of Chhattisgarh but also to create awareness about the cultural heritage of the state.



Children present a folk dance from Chhattisgarh

Spellathon

AIS VYC Lucknow

Students of Class I to IV of AIS VYC Lucknow, had the opportunity to participate in Spellathon, a spelling competition held on September 18, 2015 in the school premises. The competition was aimed at emphasising on the importance of spellings as a tool for language improvement and to promote healthy competition amidst students, ensuring better learning and performance. For the competition, students were divided into four groups

namely group A,B,C and D. Each group vied with the other to give the correct spellings of the words. The competition comprised several rounds viz, audio round and visual round apart from the regular word round. The competition was conducted like a game that ensured an enthusiastic participation from all students. Team C with participants Agamya Dohare, Amisha Soni, Asutosh Verma and Samanyu Walia emerged as the winners of the competition. All the participants were applauded and appreciated for their efforts.

I dislike fighting because by fighting, we lose friends and waste time. I believe that both friends and time are precious.

Vidushi Adhikari, AIS Saket, IV A



Bizarre Festivals

Do celebrations require a reason? No, they don't, but people around the world are coming up with different reasons to organise fiestas. Ranging from catching fish to celebrating the presence of pigs, there are multitudes of bizarre and whacky reasons to enjoy. Read on as **Vaishali Soni**, GT Network brings to you some of them...

Cheese rolling festival

Where: England

When: May

Bizarre quotient: Every year near Gloucester, England, locals chase a huge cheese off the top of Cooper's Hill and tumble a few hundred yards to the bottom, from where they inevitably land up in a hospital. However, if they win, they get the cheese.



Argungu fishing festival

Where: Nigeria

When: Mid-february

Bizarre quotient: The festival, lasting for 3-4 days, culminates in an hour-long frenzy, where participants line up along the river and at the sound of a gunshot, jump into the river to catch the largest fish. Only traditional fishing tools are allowed, and many prefer to catch fish entirely by hand.



Festival of the pig

Where: France

When: August

Bizarre quotient: Also known as La Pourcailhade, this festival started in 1975, celebrates and honours the 'humble swine'. It involves various activities such as pig race, pork sausage eating contests and other competitions related to pigs.

Lantern floating festival

Where: Hawaii

When: Full moon of the 12th month according to the Thai calendar

Bizarre quotient: Hundreds of lanterns float in the sky to celebrate the Memorial Day. Started by Her Holiness, Shinso Ito, Head priest of Shinnoyo-en; it acknowledges the diverse cultures of Hawaii.



Agni Kheli

Where: Mangalore

When: April (Night before Mesha Sakramana Day)

Bizarre quotient: Daredevils wearing loincloths throw fireballs at each other. Divided into two teams, the player who catches the fire gets treated with holy water called Kumkumarchane.

Near death experience festival

Where: Spain

When: July 29

Bizarre quotient: In a group therapy session, people in northwest Spain who have had near-death experiences climb into coffins. The boxes are carried to church Santa Marta de Ribarteme with the coffin's inhabitants playing dead or cheekily peering down at their solemn bearers. Thus, people thank God for giving them another chance to live.



Monkey buffet festival

Where: Lopburi, Thailand

When: November

Bizarre quotient: The town of Lopburi, Thailand is home to over 3000 monkeys. A lavish buffet is laid for the monkeys and people gather around as the monkeys feast on the offered delicacies. The festival started in 1989 to boost tourism.



The night of the radishes

Where: Mexico

When: December 23

Bizarre quotient: Noche de Rabanos is a radish carving tradition turned into an official celebration. The merchants carve intricate shapes in the radishes and sell them as Christmas centerpieces.

GT Travels to Srinagar



Hardit Sachdeva, AIS Saket, Nursery A poses with his copy of The Global Times at Shalimar Bagh, Srinagar. It is a Mughal garden, linked through a channel to the northeast of Dal Lake. Now a public park, it was built by Mughal Emperor Jahangir for his wife Nur Jahan, in the year 1619.

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