

Vidhav Avasthi & Abhiraj Srivastava  
AIS VKC Lko, IX A

Thousands of dejected faces standing in long queues to fill empty containers with water is the current scenario of the Silicon Valley of India aka Bengaluru. Well, it is not the only city that has been struggling with an acute water crisis because statistics show that nearly 2.2 billion people around the globe lack access to safe water. Known to be the most abundant resource on the planet, water, the elixir of life, has been a great matter of concern where the drip of a faucet echoes the weight of various global repercussions, and the thirst for solutions is as pressing as the need for hydration itself. Pondering over the scarcity of this resource, here are a few notable questions that might help us decipher the reasons behind the scarcity of this valuable resource that connects life.

## A thirst trap

### The Water Problem, One Drop At A Time

#### How much water is enough?

Water crisis happens when the availability of fresh water is not able to match up to the needs of the growing population. Research says that around 1.1 billion people do not have access to water and around 2.7 billion people face water scarcity for about one month of the year. Often it is not sufficient for people to carry out even their day-to-day tasks. So, to answer the question raised above, in numeric terms, a person needs at least 1000 metre cube of hygienic water per year to perform all their routine functions. And even though water covers about 70% of the earth we reside so happily on, only three percent of that resource is actually usable. Moreover, even out of this three percent, 74% is in the form of glaciers, which are melting anyway, as one might argue. However, it is more the reason for us to worry and not rejoice, since water crisis hasn't really been a one-time occurrence, bringing us to the next question...

#### How much have we bore?

Well, if we look at history, water shortage for the first time ap-

peared in 1800s on historical records. Even now, in the world, there are at least 25 countries, if not even more, that are facing this crazy water crisis. Bahrain, Cyprus, Kuwait, Lebanon, and Oman are at the top of that sad list. Between 2017 and 2021, India's thermal power plants lost 8.2 terawatt-hours of energy due to a shortage of water to cool them down. This amount of energy could have powered 1.5 million Indian households for five years. Shocking, right? And in 2021, one of the UNICEF surveys showed that 1.42 million people around the world, including 450 million children, reside in areas which have high or extremely high vulnerability of water crisis. As many believe (and they would honestly be right), much like the wars that were fought in the name of oil and industrialisation back in the day, the day isn't far when wars will commence for fresh water supply. But just talking about the problem does not really solve it, prompting the question...

#### How do we quench this crisis?

While there is no concrete global framework to address water crisis, the recent one

has been the UN summit on water held in March 2023, the first-of-its-kind conference where around hundreds of participating countries, businesses, and non-profit organisations came together to sign a Water Action Agenda. On the other hand, in 2022, the USA administration under Joe Biden launched an action plan to work towards global water security as one of its critical agenda under US foreign policy objectives. Further, Namibia, the desert capital, has been recycling wastewater into drinking water and countries like China and USA have been transforming byproducts from wastewater into fertilisers. Even our own land, India, with its Jal Shakti Abhiyan that began in 2019, has been trying to save water, recharge, and harvest rainwater in around 256 water-stressed districts.

Echoing the paradox of abundance amidst scarcity in our modern world, the timeless lament of "water, water everywhere, nor any drop to drink" fits aptly in the current scary scenario that the world is facing. If we have to move forward, we must understand that it is not just about the availability of water but rather it is a wide-scale topic that all of us must collectively work on if we want to achieve a positive result. Unless we drastically reduce the amount of water being consumed or make the sea water hygienic in a more efficient way, we're expected to run out of clean water by 2040. Ultimately, we're all in deep water, or just this once, we wish we were.

Graphic: Aryaveer Singh, AIS VKC Lucknow, VIII A

Page editor: Parth Gupta, AIS VKC Lucknow, XI C

#### THE GT POLL

Do you think Aaron Taylor-Johnson, rumoured to be the next James Bond in the movie franchise, will do justice to the iconic Agent 007 role?

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

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the\_global\_times

#### Coming next

AIS VYC Lko contest edition



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, VKC Lucknow, as a part of the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the **eleventh edition** of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2023-24'.

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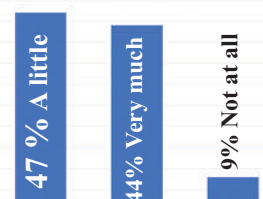
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#### POLL RESULT

for GT Edition March 25, 2024

To what extent will Mahindra & Mahindra partnering with Adani Gas to establish EV charging infrastructure across the nation boost its sector?



Results as on March 30, 2024



# Around The WORLD

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



USA

## Baltimore bridge collapse

After one of its support columns was hit by a large container ship, the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, which was more than 2.6 km long, collapsed. The ship is said to have lost power and had issued distress calls before the crash. Six workers, who were fixing potholes on the bridge when it plummeted into the Patapsco River, have been presumed dead. The Coast Guard has also suspended its search and began a recovery effort using boats and helicopters.



UK

## 550 million for nuclear defence

According to local media, as part of a 'critical national endeavour', the Rishi Sunak-led government is all set to commit around 550 million GBP to the country's nuclear deterrent and energy infrastructure. The aim is to 'safeguard the industry and protect the country'. The plan also mentions another 200 million GBP being invested in Barrow-in-Furness, the town in northwest England that's home to UK's nuclear submarine programme, to regenerate the area over the next ten years, making it a place worth living and building a nuclear career.



RUSSIA

## Moscow terrorist attack

In a brazen terrorist attack, Moscow's Crocus City Hall was attacked by camouflage-clad gunmen who killed at least 139 and injured over 100 people. The attackers broke inside the complex, where a rock concert was scheduled to take place, opened fire, and then used flammable liquid to set off flames. Despite immediate efforts, it took over 10 hours to douse the fire. The ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack. Russia's Federal Security Service has arrested eleven suspects so far, four of whom are accused of being directly involved.



NIGERIA

## Abducted children released

After weeks of captivity, over 130 Nigerian school kids were rescued by the Nigerian military. The abduction took place on March 7, 2024 when gunmen on motorcycles attacked a school in Kuriga, Kaduna and kidnapped the students along with a staff member. Information minister, Mohammed Idris, in his statement, mentioned that no ransom was paid and the kidnappers will be punished by security agencies.



PALESTINE

## UNSC calls for ceasefire

On March 25, 2024, the United Nations Security Council called for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza strip as well as an immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. The call was made after a vote was held on the Gaza resolution following over five months of hostilities in the area. The resolution came to pass after USA abstained from the voting and the remaining 14 council members voted in favour of the resolution.



INDIA

## Delhi CM jailed

In connection with the purported 600 crore INR liquor policy scandal, the Enforcement Directorate remanded Arvind Kejriwal, the CM of Delhi, to be sent to jail for seven days. The agency has designated Kejriwal as the 'key conspirator', claiming that he was responsible for AAP receiving illegal kickbacks which were used for various purposes. However, no funds have been recovered yet and Kejriwal has refuted all the accusations.



CHINA

## US microprocessors banned

In response to growing sanctions on tech products by the United States of America, China has unveiled guidelines to phase out US-made microprocessor chips by Intel and AMD from government personal computers and servers. According to reports, government agencies have been instructed to prefer 'safe and reliable' processors and OS, for three years, which are to be sourced from Chinese companies instead.



# The grand vision

## Deepak Bhardwaj's Insight Into The World Of Entrepreneurship

Abhiraj Srivastava & Aditi Singh  
AIS VKC Lucknow, IX A

**A** visionary entrepreneur and CEO of Launchspace, Deepak Bhardwaj has been a key contributor of cutting-edge inventions in the IT, automobile, and defence sectors. Some of his achievements include setting up the world's largest mobile display plants, creating e-governance programmes for several Indian states, designing the first e-rickshaw, conceiving smart-class programmes, formulating the first broadband policy, and many more. He speaks to GT about the world of entrepreneurship.

### Being an entrepreneur

When at least one per cent of our population becomes entrepreneurs, that will be the turning point for our country. It is definitely a risk to put all your savings in your own start-up but it is a risk worth taking. The most important thing as an entrepreneur is to focus on the product or solution you are offering rather than focusing on yourself and wondering how much profit you can make. One also has to be different. The journey of creativity needs to start at an early age and a lot of research needs to be done to understand the vocabulary of the industry you wish to capture. Motor skills have to be well developed through regular exercise and activities. Lazy people

don't make successful start-ups.

### Explaining the trend

South Indian states are leading when it comes to entrepreneurship. Such places are called incubation centres where you can turn an idea into a business with the help of mentors and tech. Unfortunately in North India, such places are under-utilised as everyone wants to have a government job or become a civil servant. In the South, however, places like Hyderabad, Kochi, Bangalore etc., have driven the trend for start-ups immensely. If we have to grow as a nation, North India must catch up.

### Overcoming challenges

It is important to unlearn what you already know. I had to let go of everything I had learnt in the corporate world. To become an entrepreneur, you have to think differently and innovate constantly. The other challenge is funding. I come from a humble background and the risk of putting all my savings in my start-up was a huge step. So, I had to simplify my life to the extent that I started taking train journeys instead of flying. Similarly, we need to let go of many habits we acquired when we had a cushy and comfortable life if we want to become a successful entrepreneur.

### Finding motivation

The biggest motivation for an entrepreneur

is curiosity. I became an entrepreneur at the age of 55. And, even today, I spend a few hours reading something new and if it interests me, I go to the extreme of finding every little detail about the interesting subject. Know that age need not be a barrier to learning something new. For the new generation, especially, it's very important to be self-directed, target-oriented, and hardworking. Being passionate about our country is also important. I can accept criticism for myself but will always react when someone criticises my country. The feeling of doing something, however small, for your country is beyond any other gratification. I remember the time when I was able to create affordable laptops so that India could achieve computerisation.

### Message for Amitians

I think, as kids, it is vital that you try to do your very best to discover your own true self. Please remember that even if you fail sometimes, you should never stop the learning process and never stop chasing knowledge. In life, always be energetic, cheerful, and try to be positive.

## INTERVIEW



Deepak Bhardwaj, CEO, Launchspace

# The exam hall

## A Potpourri Of Several Expressions

Sidhant Sinha, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII H

**T**he month of March and April calls for exam season, when thousands of students appear for their annual exams and give their best shot to ace the exams with flying colours. It's interesting to note the expressions of students while entering the examination hall. Some step inside laughing, some scratching their heads with pencils, some cramming last minute formulas while some of them are confused with sweat tricking down their neck; making the examination hall appear

like a war zone. The real battle begins when the question paper is distributed and the bell rings. Hurriedly, the students tick the questions they are sure of and start writing answers in the most beautiful calligraphy on their answer sheets. And while they are engaged in the process, wide open eyes of the invigilator tries to catch hold of any notorious activity in the exam hall. Even the smartest ones cannot escape from the invigilator. Moreover, all the tips and tricks fail in front of the invigilator.

As time passes by, the atmosphere of the examination hall becomes more tense when



the call for extra sheets begin. Every time a student asks for an extra sheet, s/he is met with an unusual stare from his/her fellow mates in the hall. And hence, the beautiful calligraphy transforms into an doctor's prescription note because the focus now shifts to 'extra sheets for extra marks'. Nonetheless, the students carry on writing and the announcement "last ten minutes

left" by the invigilator makes their heart skip a beat.

The bell rings and as they step out of the examination hall, a replay of the same expressions with which they entered the hall can be seen. But this time, they also keep their fingers crossed and pray to secure the best of the scores, just to enter another exam hall next year.



# THE MYSTERY OF MIRAGES



## A Perplexing Performance Of Heat And Light

Aalap Mittra, AIS VKC Lucknow, IX A

This is the story of Layla, a small girl who lived in the Sahara Desert, where the sun scorched the earth and the sand danced in waves of heat. One blistering day, as Layla roamed the dunes, she stumbled upon a mesmerising sight: a shimmering lake. Her parched throat danced at the sight, but as she ran towards it, the lake disappeared. Each time the lake seemed within reach, it vanished, making Layla wonder if some spell was at play.

Exhausted and baffled, she decided to retire home with a resolve to continue her search the next day, at a time when the temperatures were relatively cooler. She woke up the next day at the crack of dawn and set out on a quest for the lake. The sun was yet to rise and the sand soothed by the cool of the night, felt cold against her feet. Her expedition was certainly more comfortable now, but more elusive, for the lake was nowhere in sight.

Soon, the sun was overhead and the heat had again begun to get the better of Layla. Sweat trickled down her forehead when she saw another glistening lake. This time, it was even bigger than the last time. But it was just as fleeting, too. No matter how hard she tried, each time she got closer to the lake, it would disappear into thin air. She tried and tried, until she grew exhausted and decided to retire home and resume her search at night, when the weather would be cooler.

After a few hours, she resumed her mission in the evening only for the lake to be nowhere in sight. Disappointed, she buried her head in the sand, when an elder from her tribe approached her. Layla shared the story of the lake, only to be met by a friendly laughter. Wise and weathered by years of desert life, the wise man had seen everything there was to see

### The science of it

**A mirage is a naturally occurring optical illusion that produces a displaced image of a distant object or water body. In hot surface regions like deserts, mirages occur when light rays bend due to refraction in the hot air layers.**

in the sand dunes. “You’ve seen a mirage, child,” he said, “it’s a trick played by the desert, a dance of light and heat that deceives the weary traveler.”

“In the desert,” he began, “the sun beats down upon the sand, heating it to scorching temperatures. This intense heat creates a stark contrast between the air close to the ground and the cooler air above. As light passes through these layers of hot and cold air, it bends and refracts, creating optical illusions that trick the eye into seeing things that aren’t there. The shimmering lake you saw was nothing more than a reflection of the sky, distorted by the desert’s heat.” As Layla absorbed the elder’s words, she marvelled at the intricacies of the natural world. “So, the mirage is not real?” she asked, her mind buzzing with newfound understanding.

The elder nodded, a smile playing on his lips. “No, dear child. But in its illusion lies a deeper truth: the desert is a land of mystery and wonder. The mirage reminds you to see through the illusions of life and find clarity in the shimmering heat of truth.”

With a sense of enlightenment, Layla rose to her feet, carrying with her a newfound wisdom that would guide her through the endless expanse of the desert and beyond.



Graphic: Aryaveer Singh, VIII A & Arjun Sharma, XI, AIS VKC Lko



## The unique clock

### One That Ticks Once A Year

Saara Mathur

AIS Noida, Alumna

All of us look at clocks multiple times a day. Whether it is digital or analog, it keeps us in check. An important asset but pretty basic, right? We won’t travel miles to see it...well, not until it is the Big Ben, however, a new clock has been added to that list. Say hello to the Clock of the Long Now aka the 10,000 year clock – a mechanical clock built by the Long Now Foundation which aims to keep time for 10,000 years.

The idea was first thought of by Danny Hillis in 1986 and its first prototype was set up on Dec 31, 1999. The project is currently being funded by Jeff Bezos, and in the words of Stewart Brand, a founding member of the foundation, “such a clock would embody deep time for people.” Of course, he also mentioned how the Clock would be charismatic to visit, interesting to think about, and famous enough to become iconic. So, it was in 2018 that Jeff Bezos took it upon himself to let this idea be a sight the world will remember. The initiative began with an excavation at the Sierra Diablo mountains in Texas. Once it was complete, the installation took place where enormous time-keep-

ing components were assembled, including the drive weight, winder, and main gearing.

The Clock serves the purpose of marking time with astronomic and calendric displays and a chime generator that will produce over 3.5 billion unique bell chimes. With 42 million dollars being spent on the Clock, it is entirely mechanical and made of long-lasting materials like titanium, ceramics, quartz, sapphire, and 316 stainless sheets of steel.

But how will the Clock run for 10,000 years? Well, the Clock has a special technique through which the sunlight enters a 12 ft cupola whose focus is shifted downwards to the synchroniser of the solar. This heats up the chamber of air which is considered as the solar noon’s mechanical signal, hence keeping the Clock working. This 10,000-year Clock is made with a vision to make us aware of how time moves. The Clock is to make us introspect the generational impact of our decisions and try to be better ancestors. It reminds us to take better care of our planet for the generations to follow because, at the end of the day, it all comes down to doing better for humanity. [GT](#)

(Saara is pursuing BA (Hons) English from Gargi College University of Delhi)





# Beyond the bling

A Bangle's Journey Through Time, Utility, And Tradition

Ritisha Jaiswal

AIS VKC Lucknow, XI A

Born in fire and cooled in water, I emerged as a smooth circle made of glass. In the glistening threads of time and the shimmering circles of destiny, my life began, silently witnessing the ebb and flow of human stories, transcending generations and embracing the profound beauty of tradition and change. Made from glass, sea shells, copper, bronze, gold etc., the artisan's touch had etched delicate designs on my body, whispering my story. My first embrace was the cool and dark velvet of a jewellery box, a haven shared with dozens of my shimmering siblings. Then came sunlight and I found myself amid a bustling market with voices clamoring everywhere and the curious glances of women fell on me. To be honest, I felt exposed but then a young woman slipped me on her honeyed wrists and the world became a kaleidoscope of sights and sounds – the rhythmic clatter of your beloved bangles.



Pic: Siddharth Tripathy, AIS VKC Lucknow, XII B

As I rest upon the wrists of beautiful women embarking on a journey of their future as grown-ups, I have been passed down from generation to generation; my oldest form found in Mohenjo-Daro from around 2600 BC.

In India, I am a part of the *solah*

*shringer* of brides, holding a special place for all married women – a symbol of their marital status, prosperity, and well-being. So much so that different colours have different symbolic meanings in the Indian culture; red symbolising energy and prosperity, while

green is good luck and fertility, yellow bangles means happiness, and orange denote success. As we signify the long life of the husband, breaking the bangles is considered inauspicious because when a woman's husband dies, she breaks me in an act of mourn-

ing. Firozabad in India is one of the largest producers of bangles.

I am also a part of many traditional South Asian cultures. In Bangladesh and Pakistan, bangles or *churiyan* are treasured accessories of women. No wonder I feature in so many Bollywood songs and folk songs, be it Kareena Kapoor adding oomph with her dance moves in *Bole Churiyan* or Sridevi clinking me in *Mere Haathon Me Nau Nau Churiyan Hain!* The world is certainly crazy about me. With evolving times, the Indian market for me has also evolved. Now women prefer to wear modern designs, stacking metal and glass bangles together, perfectly blending the modern and traditional styles.

But now, to most, I only hold an ornamental role, worn only during the traditional ceremonies or on auspicious days. A simple bangle, adorning shelves and not hands, that's what I have become nowadays. Sure, there are so many who wear me on the daily, my clinker still bringing a smile to many faces. Perhaps that's what keeps me going.

# Mischief managed

Avni Munjal, AIS Gur 43, XII D

In 1971, four children arrived  
At Hogwarts School Of Wizardry  
Being Gryffindors together they lived  
And drove their teachers to misery

Out of the four, Padfoot was witty  
Amongst all other Moony was wise  
Prongs was all brilliant and cheery  
Wormtail always hung by their side



Remus was then bit by a werewolf  
And was now declared a lycanthrope  
But fine as their friendship stood

For all three showed utter support  
In his wolf form, Moony lost control

To help him, the three did enroll  
Together they all became animals  
Wizards were known as Animagus

Tasted mandrake leaf for one month  
Waited for a stormy wand at heart  
'Amato Animo Animato Animagus'  
Together they speak to hear a heartbeat

When the immense lightning appeared  
They drank the potion of blood-red  
Again, they all spoke the incantation  
And completed their transformation

The process took them many long years  
To metamorphose their skins into furs  
They waited for the nights of a full moon  
That was the day the Marauders bloomed

It was a beautiful and enchanting tale  
Of the strong friendship that prevails  
Padfoot, Prongs, Wormtail, and Moony  
Together kept their friendship all divinely.



# Nurturing cultural pride



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Amity's holistic education has always aimed to nurture children who are not only academically brilliant but also deeply aware of their culture and heritage. It is for this reason that we initiated the Inter-Amity Heritage quiz twenty years ago, a concept which was in sync with CBSE's own heritage quiz and which remains unique to Amity schools till date. Embracing our culture provides us with a sense of belonging towards our society and nation. Second, it helps us all connect with each other. Activities such as the Heritage Quiz reflect the core of Amity's vision, which seamlessly merges tradition with modernity.

Each year, a theme is adopted across Amity schools that ranges from states, rivers, mountains and forests to dialects, music and dance. Several activities are conducted concurrent to the theme, that help students learn valuable lessons about their culture and heritage. The Heritage Quiz tests this very learning, whilst reinforcing the knowledge they have imbibed during the year.

The quiz is conducted professionally by the adept quizmaster Aditya Nath Mubayi. In fact, perennial participation in this quiz has been instrumental in honing numerous Amitians over the years. This signature programme of ours has successfully inculcated pride among students for India's cultural diversity and at the same time, taught them respect for each other and pride in the melting pot that is India.

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

AIS Vasundhara 6 has been felicitated with a certificate of excellent participation in the ATL Marathon 2023-24. It is one of the few schools to have submitted 33 ideas which involved 95 students. Earlier, the school was declared as the ATL School of the month in November 2023. [GT](#)

## The power of art



Rachna Mishra  
Principal, VKC Lucknow

*"Aisi vani boliye, man ka aapa khoeye, auran ko sheetal kare, aap hu sheetal hoye."*

Amity relentlessly encourages its students to imbibe extraordinary communication skills which comprises effective listening and persuasive speaking skills – values indispensable for success in both personal and professional realms. As Peter Drucker aptly stated, "The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said."

Effective listening involves empathy and understanding of another person's perspective. To become effective listeners, one needs to prioritize active engagement, empathy, and the ability to ask clarifying questions. Respectfully reflecting and responding to others' viewpoints cultivates meaningful communication. Similarly, persuasive speakers tailor messages, structure arguments logically, and use compelling language to invite patient listening. We are indeed blessed to be empathically guided by our honourable Chairperson ma'am whose polite and inspiring words flow like an elixir in the veins of every Amitian. These skills not only benefit academic and professional pursuits but also cultivate confidence, nurture relationships, and foster collaborative teamwork. Our GT team exemplifies all these skills with their creative endeavours, so let us all harness the positivity of art to help, heal, and humble the world. [GT](#)

# The unreachable

## In Spotlight: The Sentinelese Tribe

Sargun Kalsi, AIS VKC Lko, XI

The concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) seems to crumble when confronted with the case of Sentinelese, the indigenous people inhabiting North Sentinel Island in the Bay of Bengal. Vehemently repudiating contact with the outside world, these, dubbed as the world's 'most isolated tribe', have been living the life of a recluse for around 60,000 years now. To abandon them to their fate or make them accomplices of the modern world is the question we set to mediate on.

### Not-so-forced welcome

Since the North Sentinel Island is a part of an island chain that's susceptible to natural calamities, establishing contact will only make

alerting them and evacuating them unharmed, if needed, easier. The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami caused massive tectonic changes and the world is still unaware of how it affected the Sentineli lot. Transfer of knowledge would serve as another one of its benefits, for not only will the move give them access to modern way of living (technology, modern medicinal practices, weaponry etc.,) but it would also help the modern world learn a thing or two about indigenous cultures.

### Not-so-welcome inclusion

Any sort of outside influence, as witnessed throughout human history, is bound to unsettle their conventional way of life, endangering their distinctive cultural practices. Besides, several attempts at contact have been made thus far, with most

of them resulting in lethal attacks by the Sentinelese. The most recent one, though illegal, was by an American Christian missionary John Allen Chau in 2018 who was killed on his visit. If this wasn't enough of a reason to stop, the fact that Sentinelese lack immunity to even the most basic of diseases, making them and the entire world more susceptible to outbreaks, should do the job. And so the question remains - is mankind ready for all the challenges involved?

### Somewhere in the middle

Any decision made in this regard should consider their need for autonomy, vaccination, protection of cultural rights etc., for a better inclusion. Would the world be able to find that? Let's wait and watch.

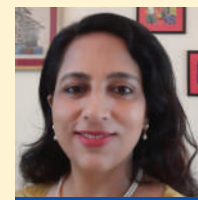


Illustration: Ananya Pandey, AIS VKC Lucknow, XI C

## Result of hard work

We are fortunate to be a part of The Global Times, an eclectic platform providing myriad choices of excellent reads. Our sincere gratitude to Chairperson ma'am for providing this exposure to students to delve into research and creativity. For students to get an opportunity to present their vision in front of the world is incomparable. This contest edition is a zesty blend of heart,

mind, and humour. While our ground reporting on the Mango Man of India tells a captivating tale of grit, the tinkling bangles take you on a trip down memory lane in the autobiography section. We are most certain to tickle your funny bone with our take on an attempt at social media



Nidhi Barthwal  
GT Coordinator

detox. The writers impressed us with their literary efforts, our skilled graphic editors and artists deserve credit for embellishing the edition with vibrant hues and remarkable designs. We would like to extend our gratitude to respected principal ma'am, Rachna Mishra, for extending her unflinching support in all our amazing endeavours. It gives us immense pleasure to bring our ideas to fruition in this edition.





# The magical herb



**O**f all the herbs used within Ayurveda, Tulsi (holy basil) is pre-eminent, as it has many beneficial properties needed to reduce physical, chemical, metabolic, and psychological stress. In India, this ubiquitous plant assumes even greater significance as Hindus regard it as a sacred manifestation of Goddess Lakshmi, and worship it for good luck, wealth, and prosperity. So read on as Advika Singh, AIS VKC Lucknow, XI C tells you all about this one-plant-many-benefits herb.

## The popular ones



### Rama Tulsi

**Botanical name:** *Ocimum Sanctum*  
**Known for:** With a clove-like scent & mellow flavour, Rama Tulsi has bright green leaves with white/purple flowers. It is the most common variety and is used for medicinal purposes.



### Shyama Tulsi

**Botanical name:** *Ocimum Tenusiflorum*  
**Known for:** Dark purple or blackish leaves & pepper flavour, Shyama Tulsi has a distinct strong aromatic smell. The plant acts as a rectifier for several infections for throat, respiratory & skin. In fact, the oil from this plant is widely used as drops to treat ear pain.



### Vana Tulsi

**Botanical name:** *Ocimum Gratissimum*  
**Known for:** With anti-ageing properties, Vana Tulsi or Wild Tulsi is native to Java, Sri Lanka, India & Africa. The lemony aroma and flavour of this plant makes it a popular ingredient in the making of tea to boost one's immunity as well as for improving physical endurance. Also, its strong scent repels insects.



### Kapoor Tulsi

**Botanical name:** *Ocimum Kilimandscharicum*  
**Known for:** With a distinct camphor-like fragrance, Variegated Tulsi or Kapoor Tulsi has glossy & serrated green or purple leaves. It is the most favoured herb in the making of ayurvedic medicines & has the essential qualities to treat acne & eczema.

## Back in time



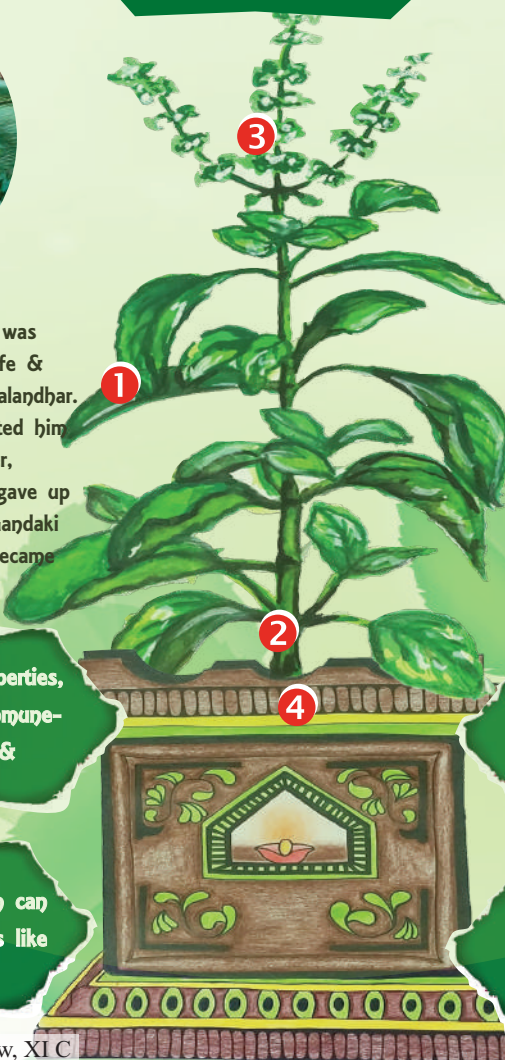
### Tears of Vishnu

As per a legend, Tulsi originated during the Samudra Manthan when Gods & demons churned the cosmic ocean for the elixir of immortality. Lord Vishnu shed tears which fell on Earth & sprouted as Tulsi plant.



### The pious wife

A legend tells that Tulsi was born Vriinda in another life & married to demon king Jalandhar. When Lord Vishnu defeated him in battle, Vriinda, in anger, cursed Lord Vishnu and gave up her life to become the Gandaki River, wherein her hair became the Tulsi plant.



### Worth more than gold

Once Satyabhama, one of Lord Krishna's wives, wanted to prove that she could donate gold equalling Krishna's body weight, but all her gold couldn't measure up. Rukmani suggested that one Tulsi leaf be placed along with the gold & immediately the scale moved up.



### Tulsi Vivah

Vriinda gained the status of a goddess named Tulsi & her earthly form is the Tulsi plant. In popular tradition, in accordance with a blessing by Vishnu to marry Vriinda in her next birth, Lord Vishnu, in the form of Shaligram, married Tulsi on Prabodhini Ekadashi.

**1 Leaves:** Used in traditional medicine for their therapeutic properties, the leaves of Tulsi have anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory & immunomodulatory effects. They are also used to treat coughs, colds & respiratory disorders.

**2 Stem:** The stem possesses anti-inflammatory properties, which can help reduce inflammation & swelling associated with conditions like arthritis & rheumatism.

**3 Seeds:** Tulsi seeds are diuretic, anti-diabetic & antioxidant. They are used to improve renal function, reduce blood sugar levels & manage diabetes. The seeds are also suitable for skincare treatment.

**4 Roots:** The root of this plant is known to detoxify the body & support liver health. Chewing the root or using it in toothpaste or mouthwash can help fight against dental problems.



# The forgotten lullaby



Sargun Kalsi, AIS VKC Lucknow, XI A

Hidden away from the outside world, deep inside a dense forest existed a small hamlet where humans and nature co-existed in harmony. The people of this community were content with their limited resources and always helped each other. Their days were full of singing together peacefully, but all of

this halted when a haunting melody enveloped the village one night. Even though the villagers went to sleep in peace, they woke up in the middle of the night shivering as they saw horrifying nightmares about fire accidents. And yet, no one ever thought of delving deeper into the mystery of this song, except a young girl called Aurora.

Aurora was just a twelve-year-old, but she had always been a sensitive kid. When she saw her mother toss and turn through the night not getting a moment of rest after a full day of toiling in the sun, she knew she had to find the answers. Armed with a flashlight and a flask of water, Aurora set out on her exploration in the middle of the night. As she walked towards the point where the village almost ended, she noticed

an old house which was obscured by a huge peepul tree. The melody grew louder as she came closer to the house.

A little scared, but still determined, she went up the creaking wooden steps and opened the door.

Aurora shone her flashlight around the house and found it dusty and empty, with cobwebs hanging all over the place.

She squinted her eyes against the darkness and sensed that the sound was coming from a huge trunk

“When she saw her mother toss and turn through the night not getting a moment of rest after a full day of toiling in the sun, she knew she had to find the answers.”

lying in one corner. With all her might, Aurora opened the trunk and saw a music box. With a deep breath, she opened the box, and lo and behold! The past unfolded in front of her eyes revealing a sad story hidden in the town’s history. The lullaby, once a happy tune sung by a mother, now echoed loss. The music box belonged to a woman who had sung this lullaby. A fire had ended the life of both the woman and her precious child, and the mother’s spirit was trapped in that music box.

Aurora realised that this lullaby has protected people from painful memories, but the grieving mother’s spirit had also led to painful nightmares. Aurora shared this story with the villagers the next morning, who immediately invited a priest to bless the dead mother’s soul. Everyone sang the lullaby together, unafraid of it this time. That night, everyone slept peacefully. It seemed that the woman’s spirit had finally found closure and moved on. After all, it’s when we share stories of loss, instead of burying them deep within ourselves, that we find love again. Loss is transient, love is eternal.

Illustration: Shubhanshu, AIS VKC Lko, X A

Ayati Jauhari, AIS VKC Lucknow, IX A

## The dream keeper

In a world of slumber, where visions fly  
Resides a silent guardian, beyond the sky  
A figure that goes against the tide of time  
Embedded with stars, ethereal and bright

Through starlit meadows and oceans blue  
He captures dreams like fireflies in flight  
Each dream he cradles is a jewel of night  
Sparkling with promise and pure delight

Everything’s different and incredibly vast  
Yet no one can ever escape from his grasp  
In the silence of night, it holds our desires  
Igniting the flames of a deep creative fire

Across the corridor of sleep, it softly treads  
A silent sentinel, who feeds all the dreams  
In its care, we find sweet solace and flight  
A dream keeper, in the hush of the night

So honour this guardian, this silent guide  
It keeps alive all our great dreams inside  
In the dead of night, its presence gleams  
The guardian of every dreamer’s dreams.



Illustration: Ritisha Chaturvedi, AIS VKC Lko, VIII B

## Read Play and Win 48

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



Q.1 What is the top story on page 1 about?	Q.2 Deepak Bhardwaj is the CEO of _____.	Q.3 What is the byline of the article 'The unreachable' on page 6?
Q.4 Name the editor in chief of AIS VKC Lucknow.	Q.5 Who has made the graphic for 'The mystery of mirages' on page 4?	Q.6 What is the full form of CAA?
Q.7 Name the four useful parts of the holy Tulsi plant mentioned on page 7.	Q.8 Who is the narrator of the autobiography 'Beyond the bling' on page 5?	Q.9 How many mangoes is the 'Mango Man of India' known for growing on a single tree?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-47: Sarthak Biswas, AIS Saket, V D; Armaan Mittal, AIS Noida, IX L; Kanak Verma, AIS Gur 46, IX H



# Bridging or building divides?



**I**t was last month, in March, that the Ministry Of Home Affairs notified the Citizenship Amendment Rules 2024, enabling the implementation of CAA that was first passed by the parliament in December 2019. But ever since we have heard these three letters, they have always been surrounded by controversy, debate, protests, reform, and much more. As the country has been navigating through the complexities of identity, inclusivity, and religious diversity of the act, **Vanshika Srivastava, XI C & Anoushka Sahney, X B, AIS VKC Lucknow**, are here to tell just the facts of the same act that has emerged as a crucial turning point in defining the boundaries of citizenship.

## WHAT IS IT

- The Citizenship Amendment Act, commonly abbreviated as CAA, was first passed in the Indian parliament on December 11, 2019. The bill is designed to provide protection to individuals who have fled to India due to religious persecution. It is made with the aim of shielding these refugees from the risk of facing illegal immigration actions.
- The act is actually an amendment to the Citizenship Act of 1955, and its aim is expediting the process for persecuted minorities (including Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh to acquire Indian citizenship.
- The act offers a streamlined pathway for those who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.
- The legislation actually excludes the names of Muslim migrants, focusing instead on the minorities facing religious persecution in the three specified Muslim-majority countries.
- On March 11, 2024, the Ministry Of Home Affairs formally announced the rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act. This action came in response to the union home minister Amit Shah's pledge to implement its rules and regulations before the 2024 national elections.

## WHAT IS ITS HISTORY

- Though most people got to know about CAA in 2019 through the news, the act first came into the picture in 1955 when the Indian government granted citizenship to all individuals born in India (with certain restrictions).
- Revisions in this act were done in 1985, as the Assam Accord was signed by the Rajiv Gandhi govt., after the tumultuous protests in Assam against the migrants from Bangladesh. This amendment now granted citizenship only to Bangladeshi migrants who arrived before 1971, with certain conditions and provisions.
- The Citizenship Act was further amended in 1986, 1992, 2003, 2005, and 2015 with various different revisions.
- The modern form of the act, as we see it, was first introduced in 2016 by the BJP govt., proposing eligibility for Indian citizenship for non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh.
- Despite being passed by the Lok Sabha, the lower house of the Indian Parliament, the bill stalled in the Rajya Sabha due to widespread political opposition and protests against the same in Northeast India.
- On December 9, 2019, the bill was again introduced in the Lok Sabha by the minister of home affairs, Amit Shah. Despite efforts by the opposition to filibuster the bill, it was passed.
- The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha



on December 11, 2019 with 125 votes in favour and 105 votes against it.

- The act came into force on Jan 10, 2020.

## WHY IS IT SUPPORTED

- CAA aims to look out for the minorities by granting Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan who have been living in India illegally or on long-term visas.
- According to the Ministry Of Home Affairs, around 31,313 persecuted minorities (Hindus, Parsis, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, and Christians) could benefit from CAA. The immediate beneficiaries will include 25,447 Hindus, 5,807 Sikhs, 55 Christians, two Parsis and two Buddhists.
- The act will provide identity and community to the migrated minorities who see themselves as nation-less.
- The bill aims at providing legal recognition for illegal migrants so that they

can gain a pathway to citizenship.

- With a reduction in requirement, it bestows accessibility to Indian citizenship.
- Organisations from 12 countries representing minorities of Bangladesh have described it as 'humanitarian'.

## WHY IS IT DEBATED

- The act faces backlashes as the protestors claim that it grants facilities to various communities but not Muslims, the second largest religious community in India.
- Critics claim that the act can, along with the National Register of Citizens, render many Muslims in the country stateless as they may not be able to meet the strict identity proof requirements.
- The opposition alleged the act to be 'decisive politics'. The second biggest political party of the country, Indian National Congress, claimed the act to be politically strategised. Congress general secretary, Jairam Ramesh, questioned the timing of implementation along with stating expected deadline for formation of law.
- Sharad Pawar, president, Nationalist Congress Party, has claimed it to be "an assault on parliamentary democracy."
- West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee remains unclear over notifications of CAA and doubts its legal validity.
- The act has also received accusation of being a 'polarisation tactic' by Waris Pathan, spokesperson for the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen.
- The Office of the UN high commissioner for human rights called the act "fundamentally discriminatory".

- Critics have also questioned the exclusion of other religious minorities from Tibet, Sri Lanka, Myanmar etc.

■ CM of MP, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Punjab, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Puducherry have stated that they will not implement the act, though the Union Home Ministry said that states have no power to do so.

■ RAW, India's foreign intelligence agency, has expressed concerns over the act, stating that using it, foreign intelligence agents will be able to infiltrate India legally.

■ Political representatives from Malaysia, USA, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Australia, and Bahrain have expressed concerns against the act.







Manavi Chandra &amp; Avika Mishra

AIS VKC Lucknow, X B

**D**asheri, chausa, langra, totapuri, kesar... oh the sweet variants of mango! Each offering a unique flavour, texture and soothing the soul in its own unique way. Imagine having all this delicious summery goodness from a single tree. Don't go looking for unicorns to make this thought a reality, for Padma Shree awardee, the Mango Man of India, Haji Kaleem Ullah Khan, with an honorary mention in the Limca Book of World Records, has done this already, by growing over 300 varieties of mangoes on a single tree.

### Humble beginnings

"My whole childhood was spent growing mangoes and I am emotionally connected to them. Mangoes are a gift of nature and can be used in multiple ways by humans. It is grown to be eaten by families and shared amongst others, and there are many medicinal uses of its extract as well," says Mr Khan taking us through the beginnings of his mangolicious journey. Growing up, Mr Khan may not have had a proper roof on his head, but what he did have was a supportive family, who enabled him to take up his passion to another level. "At the age of 17, I started to learn using asexual propagation technique of grafting as well as hybridisation of mangoes from my father and grandfather. The first tree I ever grafted was

# The mango effect

## The Sweet And Sour Story Of Mango Man



Haji Kaleem Ullah Khan with his miracle tree



Mangoes from the orchard

one with seven varieties of mango on it. And since then, I have been constantly trying to add more and more mangoes," he says.

### Ek aam, anek aam

For many, mango maybe just another fruit, but for Mr Khan, they have a human like quality. He says, "Just like humans, each mango on a tree is different. Each one of them has a different texture, flavour, and smell." He has tried to bring this very uniqueness together on what he calls the "miracle tree" that houses over 300 varieties of mangoes. "This tree is like my baby, I tend to its needs just like a mother cares for her young one. Even the balcony from my bedroom overlooks the tree. It's not just a tree, it's a universe in itself," he explains.

### A scientific marvel

Sharing the science of this century old miracle tree, he says, "While grafting a new variant, I slice a branch and then insert a piece cut from the branch of another type of mango tree and tie them together, so they generate new tissue. The result is that the same tree bears various kinds of mangoes, each with a distinct flavour and texture. Many scientists have conducted studies into the genetic composition of the tree to identify the reason behind such flavours, textures etc., but they've been inconclusive." The miracle tree, however, is not the only marvel by Mr Khan. Walk into his orchard, you will be surprised with mango varieties, you have never seen before. "A few years ago, I grafted this mango and named it Anarkali. It

has two skins, one thin and slightly black and then another showing a beautiful red and yellow hue. But the surprising part is actually the middle which has two kinds of pulps inside, each of a different flavour, colour, texture, and sweetness," he explains.

### Mangoes for life

For Haji Kaleem Ullah Khan, mangoes are not just his source of income, but his lifeline. Having spent over six decades, grafting mangoes and tending to his miracle tree, he has earned himself the title of 'Mango Man' of India. His creations vary from tender to firm, juicy to supple; some named after personalities like PM Modi, Aishwarya Rai, and Amitabh Bachchan. He wishes to continue this legacy by imparting the knowledge he has accumulated all these years. "Over the years, I have had many visitors from various countries who visited the nursery to understand the techniques I use in grafting trees. I wish to give more to the society by sharing this knowledge to others, for the biggest thing in the world is knowledge. It is a power that stays with you wherever you go. The more you spread it, the more it'll grow. I wish to see coming generations bringing laurels to India and making us feel proud," he says, signing off. [G I](#)

Pics: Siddharth Tripathy, AIS VKC Lucknow, XII B



Adding a touch of magic, the editors



Hustle and heart is what sets us apart, the editorial team of AIS VKC



Picture perfect, the photographer



Sprinkling joy, the artists



Bringing colours to life, the illustrator



Strategising and planning, the EB

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# Spardha 2023

## Annual Sports Day: A Reflection Of Sportsmanship



School principal Arti Chopra with winners of Spardha 2023

### AIS Gurugram 46

The school proudly hosted its annual sports day 'Spardha 2023' for Class I-XI in the months of December 2023 and February 2024. The sports day festivities were graced by Sapna Chauhan, Vice Chairperson, Amiown Schools, Ram Niwas, district sports officer, Anoop Yadav, captain, National Kabaddi Team, Padamjeet, commentator and motivational

speaker, and ACP Kavita, Women's Cell, Gurugram.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the torch, and a mellifluous welcome song. The adorable mascot 'Hope and Desire' captivated everyone's imagination. Students from the primary wing and their parents enthusiastically participated in races and various sports activities featuring displays of athleticism through mass drills, yoga presentations, and meticulously choreo-

graphed formations. Noteworthy was the active involvement of students from Amitasha, who participated in 100m race and won medals in the same.

For the middle and senior school categories, events ranged from the 50-meter dash to broad jump and relay race. The pinnacle of the event was the felicitation of winners by school principal Arti Chopra, with medals and certificates. Spardha 2023 proved to be a resonance of sportsmanship.

# For the grand love

### AIS Vasundhara 1

School hosted Grandparent's Day for the tiny tots of Class Nursery-II on February 29, 2024, with an aim to impart family ethics and values among them.

The event commenced with a prayer followed by school principal Raina Krishnatray's warm welcome to the august gathering. The atmosphere was filled with

joy as enthusiastic children presented an exhilarating show dedicated to their beloved grandparents. They conveyed their heartfelt feelings and deep connection with their grandparents through dance, drama, and songs. The festivities continued with exciting games and synchronised dancing with grandparents. They all reveled as they spent quality time with their grandchildren and created joyful memories.



Tiny tots with their grandparents



A glimpse of the workshop

## Fly a drone

### AIS Vasundhara 6

A drone workshop was organised for 150 students of Class VI-VIII on February 28, 2024 in the ATL Lab. Avinash Chandra Pal CEO, DTown Robotics Private Ltd. and Shashank, an instructor from the same organisation conducted the workshop. They gave students hands-on experience on how to make and fly a drone and discussed the future of drones in India. Students also got valuable insights on the use of drones in multiple fields.



Felicitation of winners of research paper presentation

# Remembering Raman

### ACSF

Amity Group of schools celebrated 'National Science Day' on February 28, 2024, in commemoration of the day when famous physicist Dr CV Raman revealed his discovery of the Raman Effect, to the world.

The programme organised under the aegis of Amity Group of Schools, was hosted by AIS Mayur Vihar. Senior officials from Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT) namely Prof HK Sahjwani, RK Tiwari and Dr MS Bhandari graced the occasion as special guests.

A 3D-printing session was held for Class VI-XII wherein they learnt the basics of designing. Students also presented their innovative ideas and projects prepared during the academic year as the part of research paper presentation competitions. The winners were: Shashwat Prem Narang (X) AIS Mayur Vihar at first position, Prisha Gupta (IX), AIS Saket at second position and Tarush (XII) AIS Pushp Vihar at third position. Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, shared her wisdom words with students virtually and encouraged them to think and innovate.



Certificate of recognition in ATL Marathon 2023-24

# Excellence in ATL

### AIS Vasundhara 6

School has been felicitated by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Niti Aayog with a certificate of appreciation in the ATL Marathon 2023-24 for its excellent performance and submission of 25+ projects in January 2024. The certificate also acknowledges the efforts of ATL In-charge of the school. A pioneer in nurturing an atmosphere of tinkering and innovation among school students, AIS Vas 6 is one of the few schools in India to have sub-

mitted 33 ideas by 95 students. The recognition, won under the leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, reiterates Amity's commitment towards nurturing spirit of innovation and building nation. Earlier, in November 2023, the school was declared as the ATL School of the month. The achievements that made the school eligible for this recognition were Youth Ideathon (Top 100), NCSC (District Level), INSPIRE (District Level), Smart India Hackathon and participation in School Innovation Council, etc.



# A self-fulfilling prophecy

## How To Lose Social Media Addiction In Ten Days Or Maybe Not!



Graphic: Aryaveer Singh & Parth Bhalla, VIII A, AIS VKC Lucknow

Mishti Shukla &  
Vanshika Srivastava  
AIS VKC Lucknow, XI

Every night you go to bed with one dream – having a perfect day where you wake up early morning, exercise, eat healthy, and finish all your tasks. Sounds utopic, right? But reality sets in when your peaceful slumber is disrupted by your phone, buzzing at 3 am with notifications from your night owl friends sending you random reels. “This won’t do!” you tell yourself and decide to take matters into your hands by bidding your final adieu to social media.

### The one with hustle

Endless doomscrolling on Instagram and a zillion *moye moye* later, suddenly the screen time limit notification pops up on your screen and you feel like a kid caught with their hand in the cookie jar. You start to feel guilty for wasting so much time on social media, but then the hustle culture hits you like a truck and you decide to become the next Elon

Musk. With a (non)indestructible resolve, you delete all social media apps. One by one, all of them fade away, as if Thanos snapped his mighty fingers. With alarms up and schedules set down to every minute of the day, you are ready to focus, but really, are you?

### The one with motivation

As soon as you walk into school, you are hit with waves of whispers. Apparently, Taylor Swift announced a brand-new album and BTS is going on tour. While you do lowkey start feeling a little out of touch with everyone, you are too busy flexing everything you achieved in one night, including a good night’s sleep. As you proudly strut down the hallways, you catch your bestie giving you a look of sheer exasperation, because let’s be real: even you have lost count of how many times you have arrived at this decision (and failed!).



### The one with FOMO

Day five of giving up social media and you start to feel like a fish out of water. You suddenly miss all the conversations around someone’s posts, reels, and stories. And let’s not forget about those snap streaks that you worked so hard to maintain – all gone in a poof! As the days pass excruciatingly slowly, you find yourself checking your phone for

notifications out of habit, only to be disappointed every time. And to make matters worse, your friends come up to tell you all about those broken streaks or the mentions in reels. The FOMO starts creeping up on you like a

cat, and you start questioning your so-called sane decision.

### The one with YOLO

The motivation high starts to wear off faster than a cheap pair of shoes. Your heart wins the battle against head, but at what cost? You give in to the temptation of reinstalling social media on day ten, with the forever excuse of, and as the millennials so eloquently put it, YOLO. Suddenly, life is filled with the bliss of aesthetics and the constant background noise of cringe songs. You quickly catch up on everything you missed out on, as if it is your lifeline and the next few days are spent in this returned harmony until the next time this cycle is set into motion like a never-ending game of whack-a-mole.

As you make a triumphant return, you can’t help but feel proud of yourself for attempting a social media detox. You craft a post about your valiant effort to disconnect from the endless scroll – trying to be productive by staying off social media only to end up using it to talk about your failure. It’s a comedic paradox that highlights the absurdity of life. Since we’re in this together, let’s suffer and make the most of it, shall we?

Pics: Siddharth Tripathy, AIS VKC Lucknow, XII B

## In Spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Advika Singh



All smiles, all hard work, and all passion, presenting the majestic team of AIS VKC Lucknow