

# Keep the LIGHTS

ON

OFF

## Decoding The Darkness Caused By Light

Agamya Doharey

AIS VYC Lucknow, XII A

*Twinkle, twinkle, little star  
How I wonder what you are  
Up above the world so high  
Like a diamond in the sky  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star  
How I wonder what where you are!*

But wait a minute! Where have the stars gone? Do they even exist anymore? Well, they do, but remain obscured by the darkness of a phenomenon called light pollution. So, here is shedding light on the dark.

### Chapter 1: The preface

1994, LA, California: Grappling with an earthquake, the residents frantically called 911 to report a 'giant silver cloud' gradually filling the sky. The cloud was actually the Milky Way Galaxy, shrouded by the city's light pollution, and this light pollution dates back as far as the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However, it was only in the 1970s when the problem became rampant. Since then, light pollution has swallowed several dark spaces in the vast skyscape. It usually occurs when artificial lights from different sources such as streetlights, illuminated billboards, stadium floodlights et al., interfere

with the dark sky. Most of these outdoor lights are poorly targeted, overly bright, inefficient, and at some points, unnecessary.

While artificial lights help us perform the basic functions such as safe navigation and several commercial and industrial operation after dark, we also need to note that when it is used inappropriately, it becomes a pollutant. As per International Dark-Sky Association, one third of all the light in a developed country is being wasted by poorly directed or unshielded lamps. Another research states that approximately 80% of the planet lives under light polluted skies. No wonder, then, that 80% of Americans have never seen the Milky Way, even on a cloudless night.

### Chapter 2: When lights are on

Earth's daily cycle of light and dark governs the behaviour of every living thing on the planet, we know that. But sadly lighting up the night with artificial lights disrupts this said cycle and subsequently our behaviour. For instance, in case of human beings, exposure to blue light from laptops and smartphones at night reduces the release of a hormone called melatonin which regulates the sleep cycle, so say goodbye to a peaceful sleep at night

if you love staring at your phone.

Not only humans, but a recent lab study of domestic pigeons and wild-caught magpies highlighted how the bright light at night disturbs the rapid eye movement (REM) and non-REM sleep of both the animals. Magpies lost 76% of their sleep and pigeons lost four hours of their total sleep, which resulted in various behavioural and health problems. Also, when plants are exposed to continuous source of artificial lights at night, they become more susceptible to diseases namely leaf chlorosis, impaired starch metabolism, leaf blotching, and impaired chlorophyll synthesis. Furthermore, the coastal lights affect marine lives in multiple ways. Sea turtle hatchlings live in the ocean and hatch on the beach at night. When the hatchlings try to seek the bright horizon over the ocean, they are fooled by artificial lights on the beach, and they move in the wrong direction, away from the ocean. It has been reported that millions of sea turtle hatchlings die in Florida every year.

Continued on page 3...



Illustration: Palak Verma, AIS VYC Lucknow, IX B

Page editor: Smita Bharti, AIS VYC Lucknow, IX A

### THE GT POLL

With misleading ads on the rise, do you think ASCI and FSSAI need to come up with stricter guidelines to prevent false advertisement in food business?

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

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

Coming next

Charting the course

Follow us on: @theglobaltimesnewspaper @the\_global\_times



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, VYC 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 twelfth and last edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2023-24'.

### What's inside

The art of diplomacy, P3

Enemies or allies?, P4

Ghastly ghostwriting, P6

It's tea time, P7

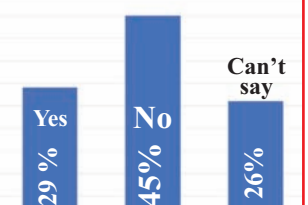
Too human to be an alien, P8

Butt! It's serious!, P10

### POLL RESULT

for GT Edition April 1, 2024

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?



Results as on April 6, 2024



# Around The WORLD

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



USA

### Forbes billionaires list

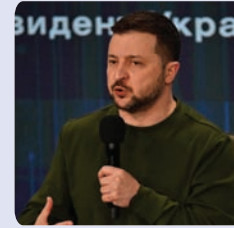
Forbes has released its list of the world's billionaires for the year 2024, with a greater number of people making the cut than ever before and with more money. As compared to the 2023 list, there are 141 more billionaires in the world in 2024, with the total adding up to 2781 people whose net worth adds up to 14.2 trillion USD. This combined figure has risen by two trillion USD since 2023. With 813 billionaires, the USA has the most billionaires.



UKRAINE

### Funding from World Bank

PM Shmyhal has announced that Ukraine has received a 1.5 billion USD funding under a World Bank programme as an aid to help pay for its budget and social expenditure. "The funds will cover budget spending for social and humanitarian needs and reconstruction," he posted on X (formerly Twitter). Earlier, Kyiv managed to garner nearly nine billion USD via external financing with donations coming from the EU, Canada, Japan, the IMF, and Britain. The latest financing from the World Bank aid is funded by Britain and Japan.



SOUTH KOREA

### Huge population decline

According to the Ministry of Education, around 157 elementary schools across the nation have reported a record-low number of enrollments in the first grade for the new school year. As per the ministry, 369,325 children have been confirmed to enroll in primary school as compared to the predicted figure of 396,533, going lower than 400,000 for the first time since 1970. As per Worldometer data, the nation's yearly population growth in 2024 is estimated to be just 0.08%. As of April 2024, the population of South Korea is 51,752,215.



SENEGAL

### Youngest president elected

Bassirou Diomaye Faye, a 44-year-old leftwing pan-Africanist, has been sworn in as the youngest president of Senegal. Just ten days after his release from prison under an amnesty announced by the previous president, Faye's victory comes after three years of instability in Senegal. Faye, who previously served as a tax inspector, has become Senegal's fifth president since independence in 1960.



ISRAEL

### Foreign news banned

A bill granting the top officials the authorisation to forbid the broadcasting of foreign news channels, primarily Al Jazeera, has been approved by the parliament. The law was passed with a vote of 70 to 10, with the majority voting in the favour. The law provides prime minister Netanyahu and the minister of communication the right to close media outlets if they are deemed to be "an actual harm to the state's security."



INDIA

### AGEL's epic milestone

Adani Green Energy Ltd has announced that it has commissioned 2000 MW of solar capacity at the Khavda Solar Park, Gujarat, surpassing 10,000 MW of renewable energy capacity. It has become the first Indian firm to achieve this mammoth milestone with an operating portfolio of 10,934 MW, which will power more than 5.8 million homes. Additionally, it will help curb about 21 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions yearly.



TAIWAN

### Earthquake jolts Taipei

Taiwan was shaken by a powerful earthquake which measured 7.4 magnitude on the Richter scale, claiming the lives of seven people and leaving at least 700 more injured. It is said to be the strongest earthquake the nation has experienced in the last 25 years. The aftermath of the earthquake has forced the authorities to release a tsunami alert for the southern Japanese islands and the Philippines.

## News Flash

▶ North Korea: Plans to switch to solid-fuel missiles for faster launches ▶ Germany: Inflation eases to 2.3% ▶ Singapore: Olympic champion Joseph Schooling retires ▶ Zimbabwe: State of drought disaster announced





# The art of diplomacy

Prakash Gupta, The Man Of Many Hats, Talks All Things Consular

**Kainaat Arif, XII B & Vaishnavi Yadav, IX B, AIS VYC Lucknow**

When the Consulate General of India was established in Seattle, Prakash Gupta was appointed as its first consul general. This is yet another feather in the cap for this diplomat who has served in various capacities in Beijing, Shanghai, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, and Indonesia. He speaks to GT about his illustrious career in the prestigious Indian Foreign Service.

## Settling in Seattle

During our PM's visit last year, it was decided that the Indo-US bilateral partnership would focus on high-end technologies. This was the reason why we set up base in Seattle, the home to some of the biggest high-tech companies, with a hope to leverage technologies in the field of open artificial intelligence, quantum computing, aerospace industries etc. Additionally, Seattle boasts of a sizable Indian population, which all the more motivated us to establish a

physical presence in the area.

## Serving the nation

When I took the UPSC exam, my aim was to get into the Indian Foreign Service. For me, being part of the IFS meant representing my nation with every word and every stance that I took, I can imagine no greater pride than that. You get to speak on behalf of the entire nation at so many political and international forums. At a personal level, of course, there is the opportunity to see the entire world as we are assigned to a different country every three years. So, if one is willing to travel, experience new cultures, meet new people, and explore the world, there's no better service than the IFS.

## Shaping of personality

An immersive experience like mine can really shape your personality, whether it is by improving the art of articulation or learning the skills of negotiation. There are so many crucial aspects one gets to learn and experience when representing one's nation. How do you best represent your country's commercial interests? How do you best secure not only your country's political interests and trade interests but also security interests? All of this is achieved through our missions abroad, through what we call our High

## INTERVIEW

Commissions and Embassies.

## Dealing with challenges

Like any other profession, there are some challenges in this field as well. Dealing with a foreign country is not a cakewalk. Sometimes you have to live in unsafe terrains or conflict zones. Being posted in countries like Syria or Afghanistan can always pose difficulties, so you must know how to conduct yourself in difficult situations, but I believe that this also adds a unique dimension to our work.

## Art of negotiating

The biggest skill of a diplomat is to negotiate well. Conflict resolution requires dialogue. All parties, regardless of number or complexity, must come together to talk. This has been India's consistent stance, even in the Ukraine crisis. Our prime minister has said to the world, "This is not the era of war." While diplomacy can be time-consuming and tedious, it ultimately offers the only pragmatic path to peace. History is filled with innumerable diplomatic breakthroughs that resolved seemingly intractable issues. Therefore, diplomacy remains paramount in navigating global conflicts.



Prakash Gupta, consul general, Seattle

## Blinding lights

...Continued from page 1

### Chapter 3: When lights are bright

Studies by The Revelator (2018) show that 80% of people on earth have lost their view of the natural night sky due to the overpowering artificial lights. What's worse is many maybe losing their culture because of it. Maori people in New Zealand depend on astronomical information for the functioning of various aspects like growing of crops, spiritual practices, navigation etc. They celebrate the festival of Mataraki, which literally translates to a cluster of stars and marks the beginning of a new year. For them, maximum number of stars is a sign of warm and prosperous

crop season and on the other hand, few stars call for poor crop production and cold weather. To keep such traditions alive, unpolluted night dark sky is a must, and hence, in 1988, International Dark-Sky Association was formed. Following which, in 1990, the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada introduced Light Pollution Abatement and Dark Sky Preserves programmes to address light pollution. Since then, several laws have been formed and the prominent ones have been adopted by The International Union for Conservation of Nature (Dark skies and nature conservation (2012) and Taking action to reduce light pollution (2020)), all in a bid to promote the preservation of natural darkness.

### Chapter 4: Let's switch it off

When you switch off the light that isn't serving any purpose, you immediately stop the pollutant from entering the environment. Many countries have come up with laws and policies to combat light pollution. Czech Republic, in 2002, became the first member of the European Union to have a national law solely for light pollution. This was followed by Slovenia. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005) was passed by the UK, Public Health Act (2008) by Scotland, and STARS4ALL project (2015) by the EU. Apart from these regulations, three major dark sky certification programmes have been implemented around the world - The International Dark-Sky Association's International Dark Sky Places Program (functional in 23 countries), The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, functional

**Czech Republic, in 2002, became the first member of the European Union to have a national law solely for light pollution.**

only in Canada, and even The Fundación Starlight programme, which can be seen being followed in around six countries.

In the constellation of environmental concerns, light pollution shines brightest, so let's do our best to dim it out. Let's switch off unnecessary lights to illuminate not just our skies, but also our commitment to a greener, star-filled future. After all, the best constellation is one where every light shines purposefully.



# Enemies or allies?



## A Wonderful Albeit Chaotic Tale Of The Three States Of Matter

**Vaishnavi Yadav**

AIS VYC Lko, IX B

This is the story of Moleculeville – the city of matter, where particles mixed and bonded together. Despite the residents being in stark contrast to one another, the force of attraction between them remained strong. Everyone lived amicably, but for one trio - Solidish Icy, Liquidy Waters and Gaseouso Vapouro. Such was their animosity that bringing them together only meant disaster.

Solidish stood proud and as hard as a rock. He belonged to the family of bodybuilders of the city, who supplied food for the residents of Moleculeville. Liquidy, on the other hand, flowed with disdain for Solidish and Gaseouso. She had the legacy of belonging to the faction who quenched the thirst of all citizens and provided them with the heavenly liquid - water. And then there was Gaseouso Vapouro, who rode the high horse, for his ancestors provided the very essence of life – oxygen.

The three of them attended St Atomous College, giving each other cold shoulders and death stares at every opportunity. Trying to one-up the other, they eventually grew to be so self-absorbed that they lost sight of the other kids. For them to come together, their worried

teacher, Mr Matterate, gave them an assignment. He gave them the task to keep the surroundings comfortable for all the residents of Moleculeville. For the same, they were given a device called 'Temperature', the trickiest apparatus in the science lab.

The trio were not aware of the real powers of Temperature and his allies, heat and cold. They had served the ends of many. One such day, in the month of June, Temperature decided to mess with them. To do so, he invited his friend Heat. As Heat played his tricks, something started to happen to Solidish. His tightly packed body started to loosen up. The force that bound his body started to grow fainter. He realised that he had begun to liquify and turn into Liquidy! As Solidish's melted, his molecules collided with Liquidy. Meanwhile, Liquidy Waters had started to evaporate and turn into vapours, mingling with Gaseouso. Gaseouso was so proud of himself and thought that he was the origin, the superior amongst them all. He was so self-absorbed that he forgot to notice that Temperature had sent his ally, Cold

now. As Cold started to seep in, Gaseouso saw himself condense and his gaseous parts started to come together. He could feel himself turning to liquid, his molecules squeezing closer together in a metamorphic dance. Liquidy had started to solidify as the temperature went lower. Her volume started to shrink, and her parts started to attract each other, coming very close to each other. Unable to move, Liquidy took the form of Solidish.

Mr Matterate, well versed with Temperature and his tricks, knew that he was up to some mischief. His suspicions were confirmed when he saw the three in a haphazard state. Mr Matterate reclaimed the

strange apparatus, and was delighted to see that Solidish Icy, Gaseouso Vapouro, and Liquidy Waters had given up their egos. As they reverted to their original forms, they realised that although they had lived in distinct forms, they had shared the same fundamental elements. They expressed their gratitude to Mr Matterate for teaching them a valuable lesson. 🇮🇳

### The science of it

Matter is made up of atoms and exists in three states namely solid, liquid, and gas. It can also change states by using or releasing energy, usually associated with changes in temperature.



Illustration: Aayushi Singh, AIS VYC Lko, X A



## Detecting deepfake

### When AI Steps Into Real World

**Prisha Verma, AIS Noida, XII**

Have you recently come across the video of Medanta Hospital chairman Dr Naresh Trehan promoting a weight loss drug? Then you have come across a deepfake video. With the rise of AI tools, the world of AI-generated fake videos is on the rise. The deepfake videos are becoming more and more convincing by the day. But what is this tech-

nology about? The deepfake technology is a master tool used to modify photos or videos and create synthetic media, in the form of videos or audio recordings, manipulating content to appear as real footage. It is presently being used for malicious reasons such as spreading rumours and fake news. This tech uses two critical algorithms - a generator to create counterfeit content and a discriminator to assess whether the content is



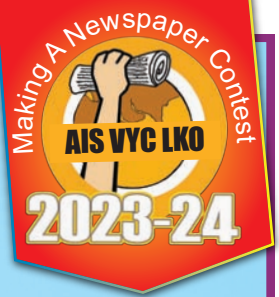
synthetic and can be passed as 'human'. These algorithms work under the GAN (generative adversarial network), which focuses on examining patterns, mimicking authentic characteristics, and using

those to create a fake version. It includes the usage of original videos and manipulation of words or actions, or the faces can be swapped with that of another individual. Detecting these deepfakes is be-

coming an arduous task due to technological advancements. However, studies show these videos can be detected by noticing the blinking of eyes, mismatched lip syncs, inconsistencies of skin tone, misaligned shadows etc. Even still, experts estimate that perfectly realistic digitally manipulated videos could emerge in near future, which would be harder to track through the naked eye. Companies like Facebook & Microsoft have initiatives underway to develop technologies to detect AI alterations in videos, underlining the need to stay ahead of the evolving deepfake threats. At the end of the day, deepfakes are fakes and real will always be unique and true. 🇮🇳



# I to the S to the R to the O



## The Ultimate Rags To Riches Story Of The Indian Space Agency

**Ayushmaan Banerjee**  
AIS VYC Lko, VII A

When science, creativity, and patriotism coalesced, I, the Indian Space Research Organisation, fondly called ISRO, was born. My founding father, the great Indian physicist and astronomer, Dr Vikram Sarabhai (oh, how I miss him) birthed me so I could put India on the world map in the field of space research. Just like every other public servant's parents thus, papa had a lot of high

hopes from me and boy, did I make him proud!

Not to brag, but, today, I am one of the biggest space agencies of the world, ranked sixth best to be precise. If that doesn't sound enough, hearken, I am also one of the world's only six space organisations that possess full launch capabilities, can deploy cryogenic engines, and operate a substantial fleet of artificial satellites. I believe I am the most popular too; NASA can cry in the corner (read: cosmos) for all I care. And why not? The oper-

incredible space missions that are not just reliable, but at the same time also cost efficient. This is not to say that my efficiency and popularity are all owing to my

lite Aryabhata ... well, it was launched in 1975, just four years after I lost my father. Guess I wasn't lying when I said I gave in my blood, sweat, and tears to make my nation proud.

And the rest, as they say, is history! My first moon mission Chandrayaan-1 (2008) became a resounding success. The entire nation echoed with my victory. Soon after, I became the fourth space agency in the world to successfully send a space craft to Mars orbit. Some say that my over-

all travel cost for the same was even cheaper than the famous Hollywood movie "Gravity". No doubt the world is after my secret success mantra!

Howbeit, I also had my fair share of downfalls. I was ridiculed to no end post my failure to launch the nation's second moon mission. I cried, my nation cried, but I was not ready to give up and swore to bring back the lost glory,

*Autobiography*

as papa always taught me - "When you stand above the crowd, you must be ready to have stones thrown at you."

My existing chairman, S Somnath, swore to help me attain my footing in the space back. Under his guidance, I worked on Chandrayaan-3 that aimed at landing on the moon's south pole, a region where no one ever dared to reach. And guess what? I aced it on August 23, 2023, as the world watched - some praying for my triumph and others for the worst of falls, and the universe talked in my favour!

At present, I, along with my efficient team of scientists, am focused on Aditya-L1 to study the sun's solar atmosphere. For science is a tool that can transform our dreams into reality, and Using this tool, I wish to take my fellow earthlings to new horizons that are yet to be explored. For my desires are endless; my dreams are endless; the sky is the limit, and I am meant to fly!



father's benedictions. I have come a long way and I have worked hard to reach this pinnacle. My humble beginnings should get accredited for it too. You would be surprised with eyes wide open and probably chuckle a little too if I tell you that my first rocket was brought on a bicycle. Yes, a bicycle! Talk about rags to riches! And my first satel-

ating expense I put on my founding nation ever since my inception on August 15, 1969, is just half of what NASA says is its "annual budget". My father played a significant part in making this a reality for me. He ensured that I become capable of



Graphic: Yuvraj Dixit, AIS VYC Lko, XI B

## A 'scripted' presentation

### An Assembly Of The Writing Systems

**Mansimar Kaur, AIS Gur 46, XII D**

**Presenter:** Aristotle once said, "Speech is the representation of the experiences of the mind, and writing is the representation of speech." The invention of the writing system is believed to be more than 6000 years old, evolving into more than 4000 languages. Let's look at the four commonly used scripts around the world...

#### The Latin alphabet

Hello! I'm also called the Roman alphabet, the most used script in the world. Languages like English, Spanish, French, and German use me, making up nearly 70 per-

cent of the population.

**Fun fact:** The Latin alphabet consisted of 23 letters, but during medieval times, I was differentiated into I and J, and V into U, V, and W, raising it to 26.

#### The Chinese alphabet

Ni hao, you can also call me hanzi, kanji, or hanja, one of the oldest forms of written language. With over 1.3 billion users, I have symbols and characters that are used to represent whole words or parts of words.

**Fun fact:** Chinese script was the most widely used writing system, and until the



18th century, most books were written in it.

#### The Arabic alphabet

Shukran. Read in a peculiar right-to-left style, I'm used in Urdu, Persian, Pashto,

and Arabic languages. Commonly spoken in the Middle East regions, I have nearly 660 million users.

**Fun fact:** Arabic writing system uses letters to depict only consonants and marks are used to depict the vowel.

#### The Devanagari alphabet

Namaste! You might know me from more than 120 Indian languages! I have about 600 million active users around the globe. Just like Arabic, I too have letters that depict consonants and symbols to signify the vowel.

**Fun fact:** When Devanagari is used for writing languages other than Sanskrit, conjuncts are used mostly with Sanskrit words and loan words.

**Presenter:** Thank you, esteemed scripts. Hope our audience had fun knowing you.



# Nurturing ace archers



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

In Mahabharata, Arjuna is depicted as an exemplary archer whose precision with the bow and arrow symbolises not only physical skills but also mental strength, self-control and inner determination. Even though archery has transitioned from being a means of hunting and warfare in ancient times into an international level sport, these qualities continue to define a successful archer. Archery, a high priority game as per the ministry of youth affair and sports, is a

regular sport across all branches of Amity Group of Schools. In fact, Inter-Amity Archery Championship is held annually where students get an opportunity to show their prowess in this sport. Trained by qualified and professional coaches, our young archers have been consistently winning medals for the country. Here, a special mention must be made of champions like Sanchita Tiwari (2017 World championship and 2018-2019 Asian Championship Medallist), Rishabh Yadav (2021 World championship and 2021-22-23 Asian Championship Medallist) and Aishwarya Sharma (2023 World championship and 2022 Asian Championship Medallist). Not to miss, Sanchita won Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar in 2020 (National Child Award), and was also a flag-bearer during the opening of first Khelo India Youth Games in 2018 with the honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Amity remains committed to nurturing more such talented archers who will continue to make us proud on the world stage.

## It's time to say Hip Hip Hurray!

Once again, Amitians have won 56 awards as part of the International Award for Young People (IAYP). Organised by the National Award Authority (NAA) in India, IAYP is the world's leading youth achievement award which nurtures truly committed global citizens. 🇮🇳

# Be a marigold



Roli Tripathi  
Principal, AIS VYC Lko

In the realm of education, guided by our Chairperson ma'am, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, there's an enduring vision captured by the metaphor of the marigold flower. Much like the marigold's vivid blooms elevate neighbouring flora, shield a diverse array of plants from detrimental intrusions, and retain their resplendence through seasons, so must every partaker in our educational tapestry aspire to embody the marigold's essence, radiating positivity, bolstering support, and fostering encouragement.

Amity is akin to a lush flower bed, tenderly nurturing every seed sown and each sapling until it blossoms. Young minds learn to form opinions, express them, engage in discussions, and respectfully learn to disagree. The Global Times offers a platform to appreciate the power of language, the art of self-expression, and the delight of sharing ideas. As a team, AIS VYC Lucknow delved into various writing styles and genres, and confidently connected with the consulate general of India, Prakash Gupta who appreciated Amity. Such initiatives foster a scientific mindset where inquisitiveness, analytical thinking, and an open-minded approach wins. So, I request Amitians to be like marigolds and aim to uplift their peers, fostering a culture of empathy and inclusivity. Like marigolds, we, educators in companionship, shall continue nurturing you to thrive and flourish. 🇮🇳



Pic: Vaishnavi Yadav, AIS VYC Lucknow, IX B

# Ghastly ghostwriting

## The Dichotomy Behind The Spectral Scribe

Kainaat Arif

AIS VYC Lucknow, XII B

Ghostwriting? That sounds like something an ex-best friend would do, but really it refers to the practice of writing a literary piece to be published under someone else's name. And you get paid for it because ghostwriters can rack up a fee as large as 150 USD an hour. Sounds intriguing, right? Millie Bobby Brown, Michelle Obama, and many others thought so! If we delve into it deeply, ghostwriting is a trend found in many best-sellers including the Red-headed royal's tell all - Spare, and JFK's Pulitzer winning essays 'Profiles In Courage.' Many will argue that such ghostwriting is for the best because when celebrities write on their own, more often than not, they turn in a work that is, at best, laughable and, at worst, a waste. On the other hand, while it is easy to digest memoirs and autobiographies being written with some (read: entirely by) help, it seems like a betrayal when we

find that these novels aren't written by the name boldly plastered on the cover. Case in point – The Count Of Monte Cristo, The Three Musketeers, Nancy Drew, every book that ends with 'and James Patterson', and even the Jason Bourne series (with 11 books written after the original author's death).

Shocked? Us too, but should we be this surprised? When celebrities release a cosmetic item, we don't believe them to be playing around with chemicals, yet we get mad when their written word is not actually written by them. And it is no surprise when songs aren't written by pop stars, so why is ghostwriting the only factor looked at differently? Is it because literature seems more artistic than making blush? Or are we so captivated by the picture of a soulful writer pouring out thoughts that we get outraged when this imagery is threatened?

When it comes to ethical considerations, it is easy to envisage ghostwriting as legal plagiarism but when we look at the facts, we must realise

that it is actually a mutually beneficial business strategy – the client gets to use their brand to sell books and make big bucks, and the writer gets to put out their work, make a name in the industry (even if it is hidden in the acknowledgement), and get paid hefty amounts.

So if it isn't an injustice to the authors or the audience, why can't we wrap our heads around it? Maybe because we believe that these phantom-penned releases divert money and attention away from real upcoming writers. But that seems further from the truth as these famed 'writers' create a demand for books that churn money into the market, which allows publishers to invest in new talent and those struggling to stay afloat in an industry that prefers familiar faces over fresh ones.

So, maybe it is time to stop being so creeped out by ghostwriters, re-evaluate our thoughts, and realise it is better to be haunted by something so transparent. Remember: much like ghosts, ghostwriting, too, gets a bad rep and is largely grey.

# The wordsmiths

"To be a well-favoured man is the gift of fortune, but to write and read comes by nature," said William Shakespeare, and it stands true for the AIS VYC Lucknow's editorial team as they have worked tirelessly throughout the year to bring out their second contest edition. The spark of winning numerous awards in their first edition ignited their inner spirits to work even harder.

With the support of our dynamic principal Roli Tripathi, the young minds have crossed the realm of imagination to create a world of beauty through words. The zealous articles of our young writers are indubitably sufficient to hold the interest of the readers. Students have put forth



Namrata Sharma  
GT Coordinator

their ideas and thoughts that are too deep to be expressed and too strong to be suppressed. Helen Keller rightly said that the world is moved along not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker.

Hence, I am sure that the positive attitude, sustained efforts, and innovative ideas exhibited by our young buddies will surely stir the minds of the readers.



**D**inking tea together is the perfect time to share special moments with friends and family. Join **Vaishnavi Yadav, AIS VYC Lko, IX B**, as she dives into the world of different teas from around the globe and the unique traditions associated with each of them.

# It's Tea Time



**Roots of flavour:** India

**Brewing time:** Before the British came to India, masala chai was made with herbs and spices and did not contain any tea leaves. When the British began to promote tea consumption, vendors started using milk and sugar to keep their brews flavourful while keeping costs down, as black tea was an expensive ingredient.

**Dancing leaves:** Now, water, milk, sugar, and various spices are boiled together to make masala chai.

**Timeless tradition:** Masala chai is the go-to drink for welcoming guests in the Indian households. A popular time for chai is around 4 PM and is served with an afternoon snack.



**Roots of flavour:** China

**Brewing time:** Made from the *Camellia sinensis* plant, Oolong tea is mentioned in the texts of the Ming Dynasty. This traditional tea is withered under the sun and oxidised before curling.

**Dancing leaves:** A Yixing teapot or a Gaiwan is traditionally used to make oolong tea. The leaves are brewed for a short time, so that they can be reused.

**Timeless tradition:** When a couple gets married, they serve oolong tea to their parents as a symbolic way to say thank you to them.



**Roots of flavour:** Taiwan

**Brewing time:** Bubble tea, or boba tea, was invented during the 1980s. The bubbles are small balls of tapioca that sit at the bottom of the glass.

**Dancing leaves:** The boba pearls are made from a mixture of water, brown sugar, and starch. They are boiled until they turn glossy and chewy, then they are added to a brewed concoction of milk and black tea leaves.

**Timeless tradition:** Boba tea is usually served at grab-and-go establishments that operate at a super-fast speed.



**Roots of flavour:** Japan

**Brewing time:** A vibrant green powdered tea, Matcha was introduced to the Japanese by Zen monks. Matcha is utilised in many customary rituals like weddings and memorial services.

**Dancing leaves:** Matcha powder is sifted into a shallow bowl and hot water is added to it. It is whisked ferociously until froth appears.

**Timeless tradition:** Japanese tea culture has been greatly influenced by monks and samurai warriors. Their tea ceremony, which is still



in use today, is a form of mindfulness and spirituality.

**Roots of flavour:** Russia

**Brewing time:** Its popularity increased during the Russian Civil war, as the concentrated brewing method of Zavaroka allowed Russians to stretch their tea supply.

**Dancing leaves:** This tea is traditionally made in the Russian 'Samovar,' a heated metal container with a spigot, that is used to boil and dispense water, with an attachment that holds the tea concentrate.

**Timeless tradition:** Often a sugar cube is placed between the teeth and then the tea is sipped through it.



**Roots of flavour:** Paraguay

**Brewing time:** Its origin can be traced back to the Guaraní, an indigenous tribe in Paraguay, South America.

And is known to have been popularised by the Spanish colonisers. **Dancing leaves:** It is sourced from *Ilex paraguariensis*, an evergreen tree. Brewing yerba mate involves placing the dried leaves and twigs in a hollowed-out vessel and adding hot water to it.

**Timeless tradition:** The tradition of this tea is for the drinkers to sit in a circle, pass the 'mate', which is served in a gourd shell and is sipped using a metal straw.





# Too human to be an alien

Smita Bharti

AIS VYC Lucknow, IX A

Evelyn had always been a little different. When the teacher asked everyone to draw, she would love to practise math sums. During the games period, when other kids would be happy to escape the confines of the classroom, she would sit close to window staring at the open, blue sky. Yet, Evelyn was loved by all her classmates and teachers. No one bullied her or treated her with disdain. How happy Evelyn was to be at the Evergreen Academy where every child had found a home away from home!

Today was Sunday, and Evelyn wanted to sleep till mid-day and then spend a warm afternoon with her favourite book and a bowl of hot noodle soup. Well, her friends at the residential campus of Evergreen Academy had other plans for her. Outside the building of the Academy, where beautifully manicured flower beds were bursting with colours of spring, hundreds of students and teachers were ready to get started on an adventurous road trip. The excitement was pal-

pable. Younger children bounced about like popcorn in a microwave while the older ones had an air of responsibility and seriousness as they ushered in some order into the chaos.

"Evelyn, hurry up!" yelled Olivia, barging into her room. "Why are you not ready yet?" Evelyn replied with a half-hearted smile, "All I can think of is crashing on my bed." "Come on, don't be such a killjoy. Look alive. This trip will never be fun without you," chimed Olivia. How these words made Evelyn's heart sing! She ran towards the front seat, ready to have the best time of her life. But just as the bus started, a loud crash shattered the windowpanes, plunging everything into darkness. When Evelyn came to her senses, her head was spinning and her vision was blurred. It seemed that she was bang in the middle of a sci-fi movie. She looked around, her mouth agape, eyes wide, and the

"Terror froze her but something felt strange. All these lights, the spaceship, the strange-looking creatures...all fit like a puzzle."

knuckles of her hands turning white from clutching her shirt too tight. There were bright lights, police sirens, and the unmistakable silhouette of a UFO looming ominously in the distance. She turned around to talk to her teacher but stopped dead in her tracks when she saw the bodies of her friends and teacher lying on the floor. A spine-chilling scream left her throat, tears trickled down her eyes and her hands covered her mouth.

"This is all a nightmare..."

nothing else," she said to herself. But all her friends were gone. Terror froze her but something felt strange. All these lights, the spaceship, the strange-looking creatures...all fit like a puzzle. In a flash, all her memories buried deep inside came flooding back. She wasn't Evelyn, she was one of them, the aliens responsible for the chaos. Panic gave

way to a chilling truth. She remembered everything now, her journey to Earth, her mission of human destruction; everything. She took a deep breath. It was the moment of profound realisation. Her time on Earth, with all those loving and kind people, had taught her that she could have been an alien, but she was never a monster. Evelyn made her choice - to save the world she'd begun to love.



Illustration: Palak Verma, AIS VYC Lucknow, IX B

# The contemptible mistake

Aarnavi Singh, AIS VYC Lko, X B

I own a gigantic garden  
Full of picturesque flowers  
Howbeit, I lost the one  
That I reared for hours

I cherished it the most  
To protect it from the frost  
But now that it is gone  
My life feels utterly lost

For it, I toiled hard and cared  
Wanting it to bloom forever  
But because it was so pure  
I guess God wanted it in his lair

Our trip together was short  
And I had to bid it goodbye  
But every time I miss it  
I'll look at the fireflies and smile.



Illustration: Vaishnavi Yadav, AIS VYC Lucknow, IX B

## Read Play and Win 49

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



Q.1 Who is the author of the article 'Keep the lights on/off'?	Q.2 On which page can you find the interview of Prakash Gupta?	Q.3 Name the scientist behind the establishment of ISRO.
Q.4 The founder of Code Effort Pvt Ltd is _____.	Q.5 Which country has banned the broadcasting of foreign news channels?	Q.6 Matter exists in three states: _____, _____, and _____.
Q.7 Who is the graphic designer for 'It's tea time' poster page?	Q.8 The editors-in-chief for AIS VYC Lucknow are _____.	Q.9 Mention the top five recipients of electoral bonds.

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

Results of Read Play & Win-48: Raj Chandra, AIS Vas 1, IX B; Aarohi Mittal, AIS Noida, III F; Leelansh Goyal, AIS Saket, IX D



# The name is bond, 'electoral' bond



## A Rollercoaster Ride Of The Financial Tool Funding Our Political Parties

Avantika Shukla

AIS VYC Lucknow, IX B

If you have been following news headlines, chances are you are already familiar with the term 'electoral bond'. If not, it would be interesting to know that it has been recently struck down by the Supreme Court as 'unconstitutional' and 'violative of voters' right to information about political funding. Critics have argued that the key feature of electoral bonds, of being anonymous, leads to a lack of transparency, the much-needed pillar of constitutional democracy. Let us find out what all the fuss is about.

### What are electoral bonds?

Electoral bonds are securities or financial instruments used to provide monetary contributions to political parties. Any Indian citizen or organisation registered in India can buy these bonds after fulfilling the KYC norms laid down by the Reserve Bank of India. These can be procured by a donor through cheque or digital payments in various denominations (one thousand, ten thousand, one lakh, ten lakh, and one crore) from specific branches of the State Bank of India. The most contentious feature is that electoral bonds are anonymous, as there is no disclosure of the donor's name or information.

### When were they introduced?

Former finance minister Arun Jaitley presented them during the 2017 budget session, which was then made public in January 2018. The ruling party said that it was being implemented to 'cleanse the system' through eliminating the 'threat of unaccounted money penetrating the country's economy through political funding'. The government also claimed that it would safeguard the donor's identity but their donations would still be transparent.

### Who could receive them then?

The Election Commission provided a verified account to political parties registered under the Representation of the People Act 1951. Within 15 days of the bonds being purchased, the funds are deposited into this account. In the event that the 15-day deadline is not met, neither the donor nor the political party receives a refund for the issued electoral bonds. Rather, the fund value of electoral bond is remitted to the Prime Minister Relief Fund.

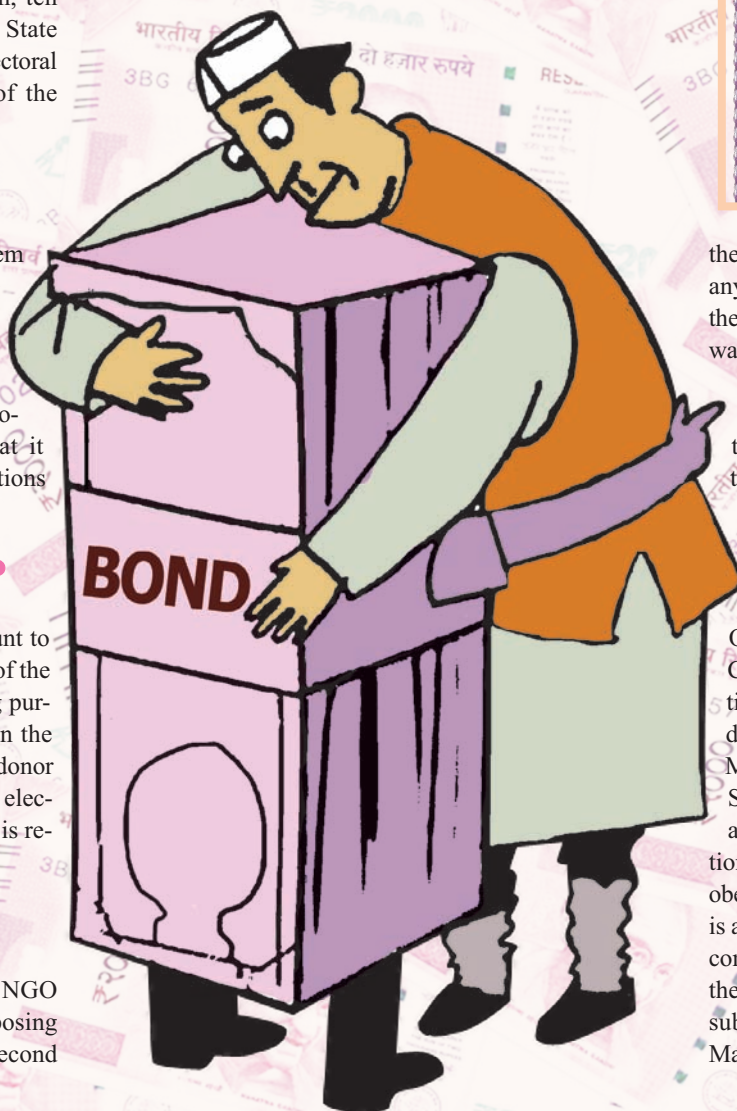
### How did the fire start?

The Association for Democratic Reforms and the NGO Common Cause jointly filed a petition in 2017 opposing the scheme. The Communist Party of India filed a second

suit in 2018 with similar grievances. It is comprehensible why electoral bonds were being questioned; they are, after all, anonymous. For instance, with over 95% of the cash earned through these bonds, approximately 210 crore INR, the Bharatiya Janata Party appears to have profited the most from the scheme, with the other political parties receiving a disappointing 11 crore INR in financing. The BJP received donations of 990 crore INR in 2017-18; of those donations, 437.04 crore INR came from recognised sources, while 553.38 crore INR came from unknown contributors, according to ADR.

### Why was it criticised?

One of its major imperfections was that electoral bonds violated the Right to Information of Indian citizens. Article 19(1)A highlights the Right to Information as a fundamental right to know how the government works, what are its functions etc. If citizens have the right to know about candidates, they surely have the right to know who funds them. Second, although it was expressly forbidden to trade electoral bonds,



### Top 5 donors in last 5 years

Future Gaming And Hotel Services PR	₹ 1,368 Cr
Megha Engineering And Infrastructures Ltd	₹ 966 Cr
Qwik Supply Chain Pvt Ltd	₹ 410 Cr
Vedanta Ltd	₹ 400Cr
Haldia Energy Ltd	₹ 400Cr



### Top 5 recipients in last 5 years

Bharatiya Janata Party	₹ 6060.5 Cr
All India Trinamool Congress	₹ 1609.5 Cr
All India Congress Committee	₹ 1421.9 Cr
Bharat Rashtra Samithi	₹ 1214.7 Cr
Biju Janata Dal	₹ 775.5Cr

there were no real safeguards against trading. Hence, anyone who had money in the bank could buy and trade these bonds leading to money laundering. Another concern was that many private companies which were under investigation by law enforcement agencies had bought these bonds. Finally, it was claimed that the money channeled through electoral bonds could be used for purposes other than elections as political parties are not questioned about how they spend their money.

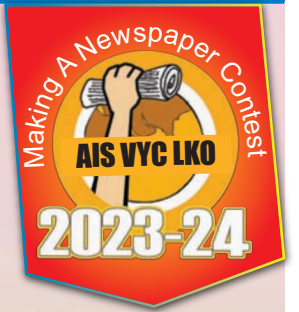
### Where was the issue resolved?

On February 15, 2024, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court concluded that electoral bonds were 'unconstitutional', ordering the Election Commission to make donor data, amount, and beneficiaries public on its website by March 13. On March 4, however, the SBI petitioned the Supreme Court to extend the deadline until June 30. ADR and Common Cause, two non-governmental organisations, have requested that the court act against SBI for disobeying the instructions. The organisations believe that SBI is attempting to conceal the contributors in view of the upcoming Lok Sabha Election. SBI has by now disclosed all the information required for full disclosure. This data was subsequently released by the ECI on their website on March 15, 2024.



# Butt! It's serious!

## Transforming Cigarette Trash Into A Treasure Trove Of Recycled Products



Agamya Doharey, AIS VYC Lko, XII A

It is a well-known fact that smoking is harmful for health. However, they have another side effect – environmental impact of cigarette waste. Only one-third of it is disposed off responsibly while the rest makes it to our landfills. It is to tackle this grave concern that Code Effort Pvt Ltd was started by Naman Gupta.

**THE BIG IDEA:** Gupta noticed the improper disposal of cigarette butts in his college days. There were no assigned dustbins for it and they were not even considered as waste legally. So, he researched and developed an automated process to recycle its waste. This tech became the foundation

of Code Effort, a company making products out of cigarette waste.

**THE PROCESS:** In India, more than 10,000 crore cigarette butts are disposed annually. “Just one cigarette butt can contaminate more than 200 litres of water,” warns Gupta. To solve this, the company employs a 3P model - Procure, Process and Produce. In the procurement phase, branded bins are installed at cigarette shops, restaurants, lounges, tech parks, and corporate spaces. Processing includes segregation of waste into tobacco, paper, and polymer, and production involves the creation of products.

**THE PRODUCTS:** Code Effort makes paper, mosquito repellents, textiles, toys, cushions, and home decor items, all of



Naman Gupta

which can be bought from their social media platforms. “Our commitment to environment is reflected in our ISO 14,001 certification. Additionally, ISO 9001 certification attests to the top quality of products,” he shares. They also hold the Global Recycle Standard certification – a testament to the use of 100% recycled materials in their products.

**THE IMPACT:** In just a few years, the company has become an income source for more than 2500 rag pickers and nearly 200 women who make these products from cigarette butts. Also, the initiative has saved 500 billion litres of water from contamination and, hence, given life to over ten billion marine species. The company’s social im-

pact is emphasised by its collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board, securing contracts and municipal connections across 250 districts in India.

**THE CHALLENGES:** “There were no specific policies and existing recyclers. So, ensuring a continuous flow of raw materials was a problem initially.” This was tackled through social media; the company operates on a C2C model, which requires cooperation from all stakeholders.

**THE NEXT STEP:** “Our goal is to establish a distinct brand identity and expanding into new products,” Gupta says. In addition, providing more sustainable alternatives for construction materials is also in the pipeline. These strategic plans signify the company’s commitment to promote sustainable practices.



Segregation process of separating cigarette butts from trash



Some of the finished recycled products available for sale

Pics: Anushka Shankar, AIS VYC Lucknow, XII A



Creating masterpieces, the illustrators



Making memories that last a lifetime, the editorial team of AIS VYC Lucknow



In focus, the photographers



Exploring the thesaurus, the writers



Words are our compass, the editors



Surrounded by books and fueled by fire, the EB

For more pictures, log on to [www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper](http://www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper) or [www.instagram.com/the\\_global\\_times](http://www.instagram.com/the_global_times)



# Nurturing youth

## Amitians Prove Their Excellence Again At IAYP



Young graduates at the Graduation Day 2024

Winners of IAYP with dignitaries at the felicitation ceremony

### Amity Group of Schools

Amitians brought home a total of 56 awards from the prestigious International Award for Young People (IAYP). The felicitation ceremony was held at India International Centre, New Delhi on March 27, 2024. IAYP is the world's leading youth achievement award which brings practical experiences and life skills together to nurture truly committed global citizens.

AIS Gur 46 won the highest number of awards with 5 gold and 21 bronze followed by AIS Vas 1 with 2 silver and 19 bronze and 7 bronze and silver. Further, AIS Vas 6 and AIS Saket both won 2 bronze awards each, while AIS MV and AIS VKC bagged 6 and 4 bronze awards respectively. Besides, AIS Vas 1 also received the award for 'Exemplary contribution to the community through voluntary service' during the award journey 2023.

### About IAYP

Organised by The National Award Authority (NAA), in India, International Award for Young People (IAYP) is a globally recognised platform where the students get an opportunity to develop skills and at the same time are empowered enough to improve themselves and their communities. Presently, students from over 320 institutions across India participate in IAYP and so far over 1,30,000 students have received the award. [GFI](#)

## Time to transition

### AGS Noida

The school celebrated Graduation Day 2024 for the young graduates of primary and early years program and for the graduates of Cambridge A levels and IBDP on March 27, 2024. The glittering ceremony was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF; Dr Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University, Noida and Pooja Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity School of Film and Drama & Amity Humanities Foundation along with other dignitaries and guests from Amity Education Group.

School principal Anita Paul in her address shared various milestones achieved by the students, including the fact that many outgoing students of Grade XII have already been accepted for admission in prestigious national and international colleges like University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, University of Waterloo etc. Spectacular music and dance presentations by middle and senior school students added to the celebrations. In her address, Chairperson reiterated Amity's commitment towards creating a happy learning ecosystem, and nurturing every Amitian as a global citizen.



Students raise a call to save forests

## Save forests

### AIS Vasundhara 6

The new academic session for the students of Class VII commenced with a school assembly celebrating International Day of Forests on March 21, 2024. Based on the theme 'Forest and innovation: New solutions for a better world', the assembly kickstarted with students apprising their schoolmates on the

dire to need to save forests as nearly 10 million hectares of forest land is being lost annually to deforestation and another 70 million hectares is affected by fires, floods and other natural disasters. Post this, the students also shared how new technological advancements can help in the same. A street play and a self-composed poem recitation by Nimrit Kaur was the highlight of the day. [GFI](#)

## Bagless days@Amity



Students learn pottery at AIS MV



An exuberance of skills on display at AIS Gur 46

### AIS Mayur Vihar

Bagless days were observed from February 26-March 1, 2024, by the students of Class I-VIII, wherein children participated in an array of activities. Each day commenced with a mass assembly during which students engaged in meditation, physical exercise and bhajans. Workshops on topics such as artificial intelligence, photography, theatre, storytelling, pottery, needle work, were also conducted. Apart from this, the students were also exposed to skill based activities like library

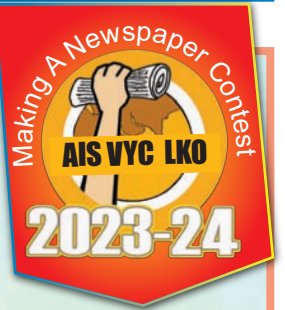
management, practical nursing, cooking, gardening, carpentry etc. The designed activities helped them to develop cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and sensorial skills.

### AIS Gurugram 46

The school observed bagless days for Class I-VII held between February 22-March 1, 2024, wherein students learnt a multitude of skills. Primary class students participated in activities such as roller skating, taekwondo, yoga, western song

renditions, theatre and acting, fusion and folk dances. On the other hand, middle wing students gained hands-on experience in craft and vocational skills like crochet, fabric painting, carpentry, jewellery making, 3D designing sessions, etc. All the participants were awarded with certificates on the completion of their bagless days. Their learning with fun journey culminated with a spectacular program titled 'Exuberance-Learning Beyond Books', where they showcased their newly learnt skills. The show was streamed live and appreciated by parents. [GFI](#)





# From reel to real

## What Would It Be Like If Fictional Characters Were Out & About In Our World?

**Vaishnavi Yadav**

**AIS VYC Lucknow, IX B**

As much as we would love to climb into our favourite fictional worlds, have any of us ever stopped to wonder what would happen if our favourite characters came here instead? Well...

### Confessions of a Dracoholic

**Retailer:** Greetings! Welcome to our shop. Please tell me how I may be of assistance.  
**Draco:** Don't you all make iPhones that can only be unlocked by pure-bloods? I would like all Slytherins to have them so that all the half-bloods like Potter and mud-bloods like Granger can be pushed out.  
**Retailer:** Sir, what are you talking about?  
**Draco:** My father will hear about this!

### If the shoe fits

**Shopkeeper:** What would you like to buy? Glass slippers, I believe.  
**Cinderella:** No, no. Last time I wore them I felt like I was tap-dancing on egg shells with one of them falling off at the ball.  
**Shopkeeper:** Ah! Something a bit more practical then?  
**Cinderella:** Yes, shoes that can help me dodge those midnight curfews and outrun even persistent princes. Give me those sneakers now!

### A Sherlock visit

**Ticket Attendant:** Which movie would you like a ticket for, sir?

**Sherlock Holmes:** My purpose is not to idly watch a film but to investigate a missing case. Someone has been missing for a while and I need to find them.

**Attendant:** OMG!

Someone is missing? Should I call the cops? Who is missing, sir?

**Sherlock:** It's logic.

### At Comicstaan

**Comedian:** You, sir, you look...different. What is your name?

**Iron Man:** Ah, I am Iron Man.

**Comedian:** I feel like I have seen you flying in the sky. So, anyway, how's life going, Female?

**Iron Man:** Female?

**Comedian:** Iron is Fe and you are a male, so Female \*LOL\*.

**Iron Man:** \*All ready to blast him\*

### A whole new world

**Carpet seller:** I've a wide variety of colours and styles for you to choose from.

**Aladdin:** I am looking for something particular today.

**Carpet seller:** What, sir? You want the carpet in a different style or fabric or print?

**Aladdin:** I am looking for one with an in-built GPS. Getting lost in the clouds isn't as romantic as I expected Jasmine to think.

### Transatlantic coffee

**Jack Sparrow:** A glass of rum perhaps?

**Barista:** This is a coffee shop so the only thing you'll get here is coffee, sir, though we have various flavours for you to try.

**Jack Sparrow:** No, I want my rum. The only way I'll have your so-called coffee is if it happens to appear and disappear like rum in a tankard.

**Barista:** So...an Irish coffee?

### A day at daycare

**Mickey Mouse:** Oh, so many people here I can ask for help. Hey, buddy!

**Teacher:** I am not 'buddy'; call me ma'am.

**Mickey:** Well, alright, ma'am, but only if you address me as sir. And could you tell me how to hold this piece of graphite?

**Teacher:** This is not just a graphite; it's a pencil, and you hold it like this!

**Mickey:** Can't you make special ones for my gloved hands, ma'am?

There is only so much I can do outside my club

house \*eyeroll\*.



Graphic: Mohammad Ali Jamee Saeed Khan, AIS VYC Lucknow, VIII B

Pics: Anushka Shankar, AIS VYC Lucknow, XII A

In spotlight



The triad of Editors-in-chief (L-R): Pragati, Kainaat & Gursimran



All in this together, the power-packed team of AIS VYC Lucknow