

A **BIG** slice of cake. A **BIG** heart. A **BIG** smile. We certainly do love **BIG**, for the planet we live on also came from the **BIG** bang theory. You've probably got the idea by now. Welcome aboard 'The **BIG** GT' edition where things get bigger and better. 12 **BIG** stories packed into the brilliance of one special edition. It just does not get any **BIGGER**.

## INSIDE

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## AMITE poll

What do you like the most about India?

- a) Diversity
- b) Culture
- c) Rich value system

To vote, log on to [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)

## POLL RESULT

for GT issue July 28, 2014

Should Delhi go for re-elections?



Results as on August 2, 2014

## Coming Next

Yeh jo des hai mera, swades hai mera

# Will India bend it like Beckham?

*"It's better to not participate in football rather than getting knocked out in the first round," quipped Harsha Bhogle on being asked when India would play the football World Cup. The comments heard during the India-England test match, gave some food for thought. Is the cricket-fanatic nation being bowled over by football? Is India, the 'sleeping giant of football' as once called by FIFA president, waking up to enter the football world with all its might? Amlaan Kumar, AIS Noida, XI J, traces India's association with this sport*



### IT'S A GOAL

The ball certainly did roll in history

If you thought that India was always a pro-cricket nation, wait till you get your facts right. Soccer was introduced in India by the British in 1950s, much before it came to Brazil. The next two decades were said to be the golden years of football as India won several prestigious football matches, including the 1951 Asian Games. It qualified for 1948 and 1952 Olympics and finished 4th in 1956 Olympics.



### OH NO! IT'S A RED CARD

The fall of the ball

But, that was till India was disqualified from the FIFA World Cup in 1950 as the Indian players used to play barefoot. Post 1964, India witnessed a steady decline in the popularity of the game. It lost one match after the other, till India was relegated to a 2nd tier football nation. This year, South Korea, Japan and Iran cut a sorry figure in Brazil. And as for India, it did not even qualify for the Asia Cup!



### IT'S A GOAL

What a shot!

India happens to be the home for some of the oldest football clubs. Though the clubs as The Town Club, Aryan Club, Mohan Bagan Athletic Club, etc primarily drew the native players, they even challenged and displayed their skills against powerful clubs of the times as Rangers clubs and even the British military. These clubs produced some of the best talent, despite lack of requisite infrastructure and training.



### OH NO! IT'S A RED CARD

Alas, there was a penalty too!

On the flipside, the football scenario in India never made an effort to move out of its comfort zone and learn from its counterparts across the world. They remained content with the matches played within their clubs. As the world progressed developing new technicalities and intricacies, India lagged behind, losing miserably. And soon arrived a time when football in India meant the big match between Mohan Bagan and East Bengal.



### IT'S A GOAL

Decoding the ball game

We may not be playing on the field but we are definitely cheering on the sidelines. Messi is a name *bacha-bacha* reckons with. And Indians did stay up all night to watch the World Cup finals, cheering for their favourite team. A recent survey conducted by TAM Media Research, football revealed that football was the 3rd most watched sport in India (after cricket and freestyle wrestling). The viewership during FIFA showed a record increase of 60% during the period 2004-2009.



### OH NO! IT'S A RED CARD

Only on the touchline

We are cheering, albeit only in our upscale, urban homes. The game is watched mainly by the upwardly mobile middle class. What cricket is to England, football is to India, ie a 'posh' sport. Despite the rise in viewership, football fever dies with the end of FIFA because much of the hype is driven by the marketing barons that enter the game for making millions. **Oh the irony!** Even though football continues to wear the elitist tag, many of football talents even come from humble backgrounds from north eastern states.



### IT'S A GOAL

Dribbling the ball

The game is making inroads in the country. A proof of the same is prestigious European football clubs as Real Madrid, Liverpool, Arsenal opening football training academies in the country. These academies have seen almost a 300% rise in the participation of school children in the sport. Several new initiatives as Indian Super league and the seventh edition of FIFA under-17 to be held in six cities across India, shall witness a huge movement in this high-adrenaline sport.



### OH NO! IT'S A RED YELLOW CARD

A far post?

Opening academies to spot talent – a good thing. The reach? Not so much! Since most of these academies remain a profit venture enterprise, they limit the reach only to the upper classes. Heralding world class soccer champions from these affluent factories seems a far-fetched dream. As for the ISL, it may allow players to earn more money, but this will not necessarily make them world class players, fit to compete with other nations.



## TIME OUT

Sorry! No, free kicks there!

To regain the former glory of football in India, we need to focus on what this sport requires and build upon it. We need to see how other countries are reaping goals, where India only watches to cheer. A close study of countries like Japan and Korea reveal that football requires space for speed and quick reflexes, something which Indian players from north east are blessed with. There is immense talent in India, but what we require is a focussed programme and opportunity to bring out the hidden talent. So India, stop waiting for free kicks! Pull up your socks and bend it like Beckham.

# Aftermath of FIFA

dark circles was the new cool!

### Eye candies

Messi, Ronaldo, Neymar, Pique. The list goes on and on. Admit it! Some of you did watch the matches only to feast your eyes on them.

### Almost unused jerseys

In the craze and our love for football (and favourite players), a lot of us bought the jerseys of the teams we supported and sported them proudly.

### The Google doodles

The Google employees' creativity oozed out in the most amazing manner. The doodles were fun, interactive and witty. Consequence? The original doodle seems to bland and boring now!

### The controversies

Whether it was the biting incident

Akshara Srivastava, AIS Vas 6, XII D

Even if you are not a diehard football fan and maybe Brazil's exit didn't really affect you as much, you in most probabilities, are missing the FIFA fever. So while we debate on India striking a goal, here are the things we're going to miss the most about the football world cup.

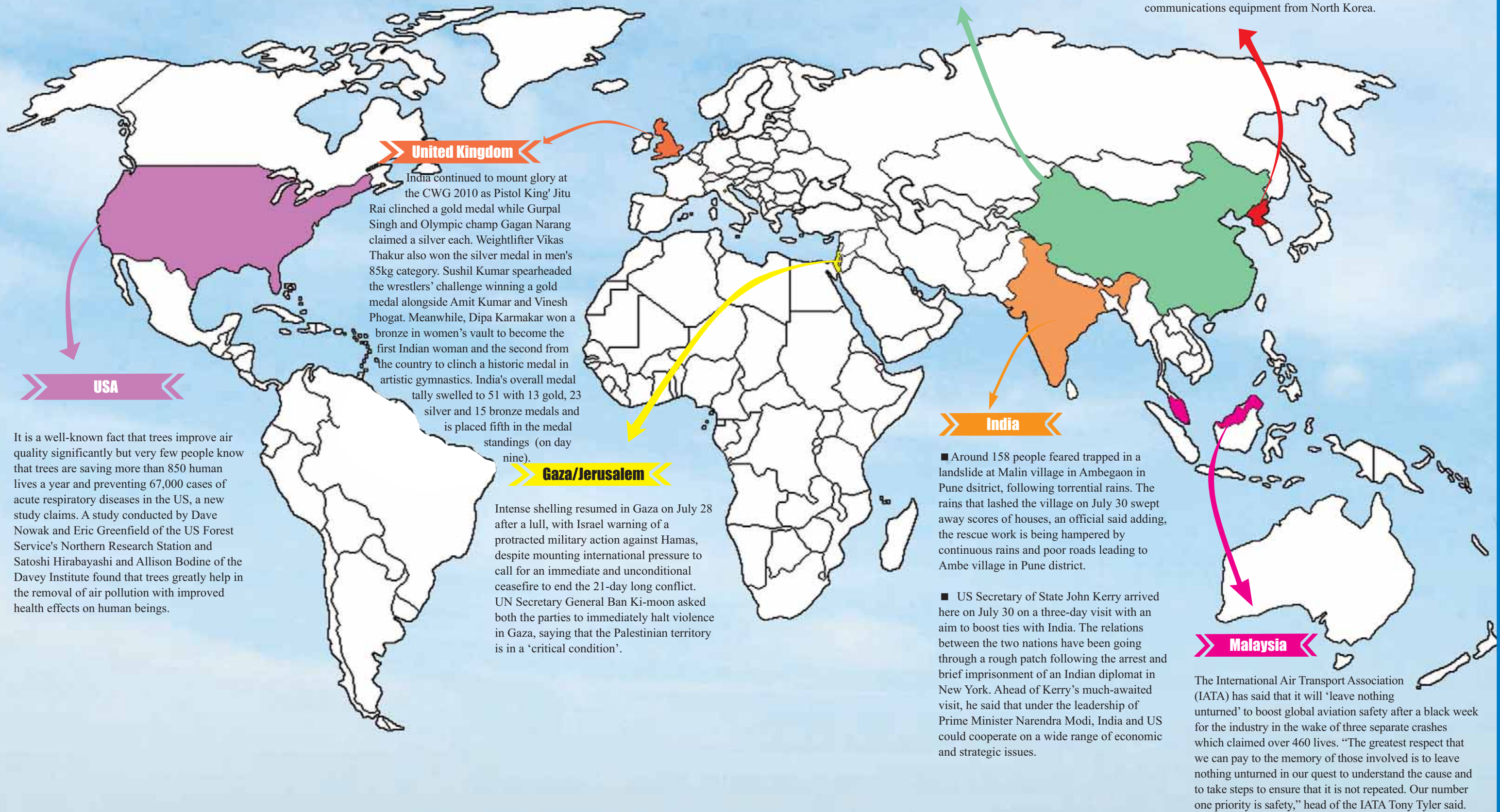
### Insomniac nights

Bound to be point number one. Missing any match was considered a sin. The world might have shifted but it was in no way possible that we could've missed a match. Sleep, hunger was all secondary. Sporting



# World at a glance

Go globetrotting with The Global Times as it takes you on a newsy ride across the seven seas and brings to you news as and when it happens



It is a well-known fact that trees improve air quality significantly but very few people know that trees are saving more than 850 human lives a year and preventing 67,000 cases of acute respiratory diseases in the US, a new study claims. A study conducted by Dave Nowak and Eric Greenfield of the US Forest Service's Northern Research Station and Satoshi Hirabayashi and Allison Bodine of the Davey Institute found that trees greatly help in the removal of air pollution with improved health effects on human beings.

## United Kingdom

India continued to mount glory at the CWG 2010 as Pistol King' Jitu Rai clinched a gold medal while Gurpal Singh and Olympic champ Gagan Narang claimed a silver each. Weightlifter Vikas Thakur also won the silver medal in men's 85kg category. Sushil Kumar spearheaded the wrestlers' challenge winning a gold medal alongside Amit Kumar and Vinesh Phogat. Meanwhile, Dipa Karmakar won a bronze in women's vault to become the first Indian woman and the second from the country to clinch a historic medal in artistic gymnastics. India's overall medal tally swelled to 51 with 13 gold, 23 silver and 15 bronze medals and is placed fifth in the medal standings (on day nine).

## Gaza/Jerusalem

Intense shelling resumed in Gaza on July 28 after a lull, with Israel warning of a protracted military action against Hamas, despite mounting international pressure to call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire to end the 21-day long conflict. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon asked both the parties to immediately halt violence in Gaza, saying that the Palestinian territory is in a 'critical condition'.

## China

In an unusual attempt to address the traditional preference for sons, Chinese parents are being offered cash rewards to give their newborns the mother's last name. According to the newspaper Jianghuai Morning Post, couples taking part in the "surname reform plan" will be getting \$162 from the officials in Changfeng county in the eastern province of Anhui. The newspaper also adds that the ratio has reached nearly 130 boys for every 100 girls in Changfeng county.

## North Korea

North Korea has slammed the allegations that it supplied missiles to Hamas and material support to Hezbollah as 'sheer fiction' and a 'sinister' effort to link Pyongyang to Middle East disputes. The rebuttal from the foreign ministry was carried by the official KCNA news agency. The statement came after a report in Britain's daily Telegraph cited western security sources as saying, that the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas had already made an initial cash down payment to secure additional missiles and communications equipment from North Korea.

## India

■ Around 158 people feared trapped in a landslide at Malin village in Ambegaon in Pune district, following torrential rains. The rains that lashed the village on July 30 swept away scores of houses, an official said adding, the rescue work is being hampered by continuous rains and poor roads leading to Ambe village in Pune district.

■ US Secretary of State John Kerry arrived here on July 30 on a three-day visit with an aim to boost ties with India. The relations between the two nations have been going through a rough patch following the arrest and brief imprisonment of an Indian diplomat in New York. Ahead of Kerry's much-awaited visit, he said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India and US could cooperate on a wide range of economic and strategic issues.

## Malaysia

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has said that it will 'leave nothing unturned' to boost global aviation safety after a black week for the industry in the wake of three separate crashes which claimed over 460 lives. "The greatest respect that we can pay to the memory of those involved is to leave nothing unturned in our quest to understand the cause and to take steps to ensure that it is not repeated. Our number one priority is safety," head of the IATA Tony Tyler said.







**W**e have gone through wars, we've gone through bloodsheds. But have we wondered whether the real fighters, the soldiers, ever enjoyed the battle? What if we had a mind-machine to gain access to the minds of soldiers and read their thoughts?



# Diary of a sepoy

## Sepoy mutiny

May 8, 1857; 11:30pm

Dear Diary,

This might be my last conversation with you. The times are hard. Life has changed so much with the advent of the British rule. Who would have thought that the people who came to us begging for trade, would have the audacity and power to plot against our emperor?

It is shocking that these people could attain so much power just by winning the Battle of Plassey; that too, not by valour, but by sheer deceit! Earlier, many of us were lured by their sweet words and false claims. But now, we have realised that they have just come to usurp our motherland with the worst of intentions.

However, revolting now might just be too late as they have already asserted their authority in Bengal. Anyway, this will not make us lose hope. We, the sepoys of Meerut, have decided to launch an offensive on the British and march to Delhi on 10th May, 1857.

I'm not sure if we will be victorious because their weapons are much more advanced than ours, but

we might have a good chance of success if we take them by surprise!

Mind reader: Dipanshi Bansal  
AIS Vasundhara 6, X D

## Battle of Haldighati

June 18, 1576; 1:00am

Dear Diary,

Today might just go down in the annals of history as a day of reckoning. The infamous battle between my revered king Maharana Pratap of Mewar and Mughal emperor Akbar is in full swing. By now, nearly all Rajput kingdoms have surrendered to the Mughals except Mewar. Akbar had sent many envoys for peace talks to persuade our young and valiant king Pratap.

Our king had agreed to sign the treaty but on his own terms, that he would not tolerate the kingship of any foreign ruler. This infuriated Akbar, and led to this war.

The Mughal army was huge, and ours, quite tiny in comparison. Not letting the numbers take a toll on our morale, Pratap led the Rajput army by sheer bravery and orchestrated a full frontal attack on the

**Watch out!**  
Keep your 'Date with history' in the next edition.

Mughals, taking them by surprise!

Pratap is a courageous, vigilant and valiant fighter. He fought with all his might and killed numerous Mughal soldiers.

All charged up, I and my soldier friends managed to put up a strong fight against the Mughals. However, their numerical superiority and efficient artillery began to tell on our army. Only a handful of our soldiers remained and soon, they began to flee from the battlefield. I also scammed to safety and hid behind a huge rock in the nearby forest.

After a four hour haul, Pratap got severely wounded and started feeling weak due to loss of blood. He was riding his faithful, obedient and intelligent horse Chetak. Undoubtedly, the battle was favouring our enemies. Hence, our generals persuaded Pratap to flee to be able to fight another day. Chetak rode his master Pratap out of the field. I hope they escape successfully. This is just a temporary victory for the Mughals. I'm quite sure my brave king will come back again stronger and reclaim his motherland from the Mughals.

Mind reader: Rishabh Goel,  
AIS Vasundhara 6, X A

## World War I

Aug 14, 1917; 10:00pm

Dear Diary,

Finally, the war has come to an end, or so I think. It had been going on for the longest time. I can't even remember when it started because I have lost count of the number of days I have spent fighting. The war has been disastrous. I have seen dozens of men from my regiment die in front of me. Some of them were so brutally killed that even their kith and kin couldn't recognise them.

Oh! How I wish I could have gone back in time and not enrolled myself in the US army. I might have even tried preventing the US from entering the World War, a battle which started because of one misunderstanding and has taken such a mammoth shape that the entire world has been pulled into it.

My life would have been so different had I not

been a soldier. A soldier, whose parents do not know where and how their son is, whether he will ever return or not! The memory of my recruitment in the war is so vivid in my mind even after all these years.

The war had started. My village was bombed and completely destroyed. We were hopelessly waiting for evacuation trucks to come to our rescue. Just when we were about to lose all hope, we saw some US trucks come our way. We were relieved thinking we would be rescued.

Little did we know that the US army had come to recruit more soldiers, and it was not a rescue operation at all!

I don't know if it was my ill luck, but I, along with my three brothers, got recruited in the army. We were sent to a training centre. But the course was all hasty and rushed. What would usually take four to five months, was completed in four weeks. However, since I was an avid reader of arms and ammunitions, I learnt everything quite easily.

Post training, we were moved to many locations but nothing much happened for some time. It was after six months that I saw and killed my first enemy soldier on the Mexican border. One year into the war, I took my first injury.

A bullet severely injured my my right foot and it took me four months to recuperate. Soon after recovery, I rejoined the army and I would have died if my best friend Henry had not sacrificed his life to save me and a few other soldiers. The enemies attacked us with a grenade. It was in the line of fire, so no one could think of going out and throwing it back. But Henry jumped out of the bunker, threw back the grenade and killed six enemy soldiers but was shot down by the seventh soldier. I was so shocked and heartbroken after the incident that I couldn't concentrate. During this time, I sustained my second injury. The doctor said that it would take me around six to seven months to recover.

After recovery, I went back home, only to see my parents miserable as two of my brothers had died in the war and the third was missing. I was the only one left. Alas! If only I could prevent all the mishappenings, I could have saved so many lives. I could have saved my brothers and my best friend Henry. But, can anyone travel back in time to change the past?

Mind reader: Sparsh Bansal  
AIS Vasundhara 6, X B





# HINDUSTAN KA DIL DEKHO

*Nestled in the heart of the country, Madhya Pradesh has everything that the Indian heart vouches for - wisdom, beauty and culture. AIS Gurgaon 46 offers a sneak peek*



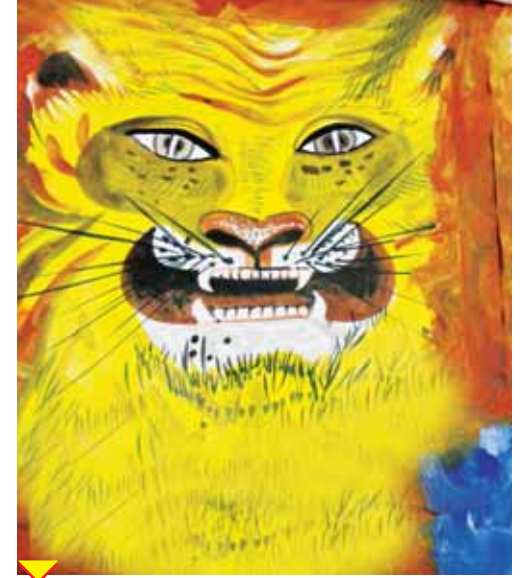
▼ Til dekho



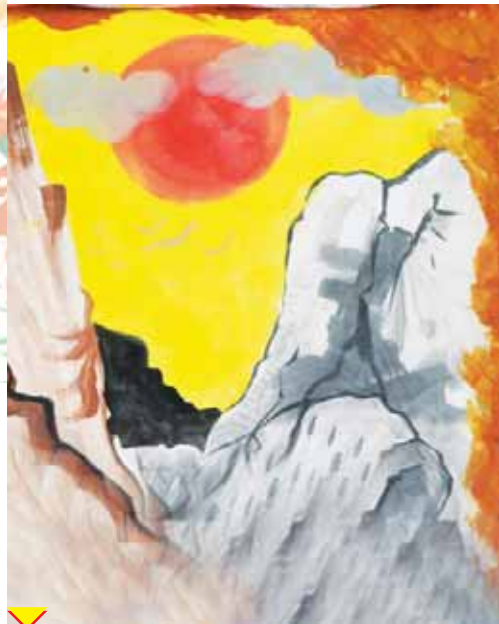
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▼ Aankhen phad phad dekho



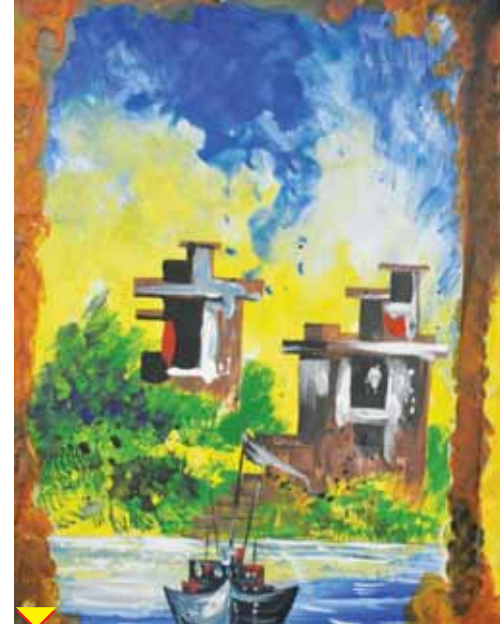
▼ Sher ki dahad dekho



▼ Marble ka pahad dekho



▼ Chanderi ki saree dekho



▼ Bandhavgarh ki jhaadi dekho



▼ Mandu ka mahal dekho



▼ Jungle ki hulchul dekho



▼ Cheetal dekho



▼ Aur mor dekho



▼ Barasingha dekho



▼ Ujjain ke sant dekho



▼ Baudhik mahant dekho



▼ Ta thaiya ta nana dekho



▼ Aankhen meeche meeche dekho



▼ Aankhen phaad phaad dekho



# Stop Cruelty to Animals

**T**hough, there has been an increased awareness on animal rights, the human conscience seems to have taken a dip. Unfortunately, the human race continues to exploit animals for its own selfish gains. *Tushar Jain, Amity Instt of Biotechnology, sheds light on various forms of animal abuse*

## The ugly beauty

**The cosmetic industry relies heavily on animals for research; irrespective of the fact that these "scientific" tests cause pain to the animals or reduce their quality of life. Here is a sketch of the torture that animals undergo and its impact on them.**

### Rabbits

**Numbing numbers:** More than 241,000 (in USA alone)

**Medium of torture:** Draize eye irritation test (cosmetic and cleaning substances dripped into the animals' eyes)

**Impact:** Swelling, discharge, haemorrhage and blindness

### Primates (Monkeys)

**Numbing numbers:** More than 125,000 primates in US alone are held captive in laboratories. They show abnormal behaviour that range from back-flipping to going insane. They often engage in acts of self mutilation.

### Mice and Rats

**Numbing numbers:** 100 million under threat (in USA alone)

**Medium of torture:** Toxicology tests and electroshock

**Impact:** Depression, anxiety and terror

## The dogged dog

Dogs and cats top the list when it comes to keeping pets. However, this love is expressed in different forms in different countries, such as Thailand, China, Philippines and Korea where love finds expression in consumption of their flesh. In these countries, dogs are kept in extreme deprivation and killed slowly, thereby increasing the animal's pain. This technique is believed to add more taste to the flesh.

Dogs and cats are forcibly boiled alive in hot water and in some cases, even the young puppies are baked alive.

More recently, Greenland police rescued 19 sled dogs who were subjected to extreme abuse in the continent.

## Animals in plight

The world is witnessing a gigantic leap in purchase and sale of lifestyle products. The products that include fluffy accessories and fur coats, cater to the needs of the elite. PETA has revealed that leading apparel brands like Topshop and Zara use angora rabbits' fur. The review added that fur can be plucked from rabbits without causing them pain if done very slowly over the course of a few weeks. However, this process isn't efficient

enough for mega stores as they require mass amounts of fur to meet the increasing market demand. Thus, hundreds of thousands of rabbits are tortured to death as their fur is plucked in heaps, all at once. The next prey on the list is- rats. Rats are subjected to enormous torture during scientific experiments. In some cases, holes are drilled into their skulls for invasive brain experiments, or the creatures are placed on hot plates for long hours.



We demand the right to live

## Research on animals: must or must not?

The bewildering results obtained over years of research on animals and humans revealed that some medicines in use could have never been developed if animal model study was the cornerstone of scientific breakthroughs. Pfizer, a pharma giant wasted a whopping \$2 billion over the last decade on a drug called 'Lipitor'. The drug used for reducing cholesterol, did not yield results in early experiments on animals. Its effects could only be proved when tested on a small group of human volunteers. After decades of failures on animal model study, the scientists tasted success when they grew virus in human cell in cultures in vitro.



## Banned in India

May 6, 2014 is a day that marked a new beginning for the country with regards to animal rights; the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare introduced a draft notification to ban the import of cosmetics tested on animals abroad. If the ban is implemented, India will become South Asia's first cruelty-free cosmetics zone. Besides, Be Cruelty-Free India is part of the largest campaign in the world to end cosmetics animal testing. Globally, there are Be Cruelty-Free campaigns running in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Russia, Taiwan and the US. In another milestone, the Supreme Court banned a Tamilian bull race called *Jallikattu*. The apex court said that the race was depriving the rights guaranteed to bulls under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

### Cruelty free

Some products that are not tested on animals

- Clean & Clear
- Clearasil
- Clinicare
- Clinique
- Colgate
- Disprin
- Dolce & Gabbana
- Donna Karan
- Dove
- Dufour
- Elizabeth Arden
- Estee Lauder
- Fruitrience
- Garnier
- Gillette
- Giorgio Armani
- Gucci Fragrances
- Head & Shoulders
- Herbal Essences
- Hugo Boss
- Impulse
- L'Oreal\*
- Lux
- Lynx
- MAC
- Mary Kay\*
- Max Factor
- Maybelline
- Michael Kors
- Neutrogena
- Nice 'n Easy
- Nurofen
- Olay
- Old Spice
- Optrex
- Oral B
- Palmolive
- Pantene
- Pearl Drops
- Pears
- Pert
- Plax
- Sanex
- Saturn
- Savlon
- Scholl
- Sensodyne
- Shiseido
- Shu Uemura
- Simple
- SK-II
- Speed Stick
- St Ives
- Stayfree
- Strepsils
- Tampax
- Tom Ford
- Tommy Hilfiger
- Tony & Guy
- TREsemme
- Vaseline
- Veet
- Venus
- Vicks
- Vidal Sasson
- Viktor & Rolf
- V05
- Waxeeze
- Wella

### Household

- Ambi-Pur
- Armor All
- Autan
- Baygon
- Bloo
- Brasso
- Dettol
- Domestos
- Drano
- Drive
- Duck
- Dynamo
- Easy-Off
- Harpic
- Mortein
- MrMuscle
- Vanish

For the Cruelty-free list, visit: <http://www.choose-crueltyfree.org.au/cruelty-free-list/>



When someone utters the word BIG to me it means lie back and have a big laugh to your heart's content.  
Parth Khullar, AIS Saket, V C

# MASKED



*Masks hide. Masks expose. Masks conceal. Masks divulge. There is a story that each mask has to share. Students of AIS Saket bring you some stories as they present a step by step guide of DIY masks, with a dash of 'alien'. Go try making some of your own!*

## Three Eyed Monster

Vidushi, AIS Saket, VI

**Things needed:** thermocol plate, scissors, punching machine, paint, sketch pens, thread/ribbon

- Take a thermocol plate and cut an oval out of it. You can also cut out any other funny shape if you want.
- Draw three round eyes on the plate. Using a punching machine, make a hole in the center of each eye.
- Paint the entire plate with green colour, leaving the eyes.
- Paint small yellow dots all over the face, again leaving out the eyes.
- Make the mouth using a black sketch pen.
- With the punching machine, make



- two holes at the sides of the oval.
- Put a ribbon inside the hole and tie it. Repeat with the other hole. Your mask is ready!

## Rhinestoned Beast

Sapriya Sharma, AIS Saket, VI

**Things needed:** thermocol plate, paints, ribbon, sequins, glitter foam, glue, glitter, punching machine

- Cut a paper plate, in the shape you want your mask to be.
- Paint it with maroon colour.
- Make eyes and a scary mouth with glitter tube. Decorate with sequins.
- For the nose, cut out a triangle from the green coloured glitter foam and paste it on the plate.
- Cut two triangles of the same size from the plate to make the horns. Paste it on top of the plate. Punch holes and tie a thread.



## Triple View Villain

Rachita Khuntia, AIS Saket, VI

**Things needed:** thermocol plate (with sections), paints, punching machine, thread/ribbon



- Take a thermocol plate and turn it upside down.
- For the eyes, paint the small compartments on the plate with yellow colour. With a red coloured paint, paint a circle on each of these compartments to draw the eyes.
- Paint the remaining plate with green colour.
- To beautify the mask, you can paint different sized dots in various colours on the green coloured portion of the mask.
- Paint the mouth and make some sharp teeth with white color.
- With a punching machine, make holes on the sides of the mask.
- Put a ribbon inside the holes and tie it.
- Have fun with your mask!

## Mad Hatter

Tanya Sachdeva, AIS Saket, VI

**Things needed:** paper plate, paper cutter, chart papers – black, white, light blue & dark blue, feathers, thread/ribbon

- Take a paper plate and paint it with any colour of your choice.
- Using a paper cutter, cut out two shapes of human eyes in the plate.
- Cut out a small circle from the black paper to make the nose. Paste it in the center of the plate.
- For the mouth, cut out four small triangles of the same size from a white chart paper and a small semi



- circle from a black chart paper.
- Now, paste the black semi circle on the plate below the nose. On top of this circle, paste the four white triangles in a slight curve formation. The mouth of the mask is ready.
- For the hat, take the black chart paper and draw a hat on it. Now cut it out and paste on top of the plate.
- Paste some feathers on the hat to decorate it.
- Make two ears out of dark blue chart paper. Cut and paste them on the sides of the mask.
- Punch two holes near the ears on the sides, and tie the thread/ribbon.

## Eerie Eared Alien

Ananya Bansal, AIS Saket, VI

**Things needed:** Paper plates, paints, stapler, red sticky stone, drawing sheet, punching machine, ribbon

- Take a paper plate and cut two quadrants out of it.
- Staple these two quadrants to another paper plate for ears.
- Paint the plate to make a mask. Draw the eyes and mouth and paint it with the colours of your choice.
- For added effect, paste a large red sticky stone on the head of the mask.
- For the nose, cut out a small triangle from a drawing sheet.
- Fold the triangle along the centre. Paste two sides of the triangle on the plate to give the nose a 3D look.
- Punch on either sides and tie a ribbon through it.



## Foiled in Horror

Tanisha Adhikari, AIS Saket, VI

**Things needed:** aluminum foil, paints, ribbon, glue, punching machine

- Take an aluminum foil and cut it in the size of your face. Make 10 such shapes and paste them together to increase the thickness of the mask.
- Cut out two eyes from the mask.
- For the nose, press the foil from the edges to create contours of a nose.
- Paint the mask in bright colours. Draw some scary shapes on it.
- Make holes on either side of the mask. Tie a ribbon through them.



## The Devil Tooth

Kumar Aryan, AIS Saket, VI

**Things needed:** paper plate, paints, punching machine, scissors, thread/ribbon

- Draw a monster like face on a paper plate (refer to the picture).
- Cut the plate along the shape.
- Paint the entire plate with light green colour. Towards the edges, paint the plate with a darker shade of green.
- For the eyes, paint two white circles. Now, paint two smaller sized yellow circles within these white circles.
- Now, punch small holes inside the yellow circles. The eyes of the monster are ready.
- Make a scary mouth by painting big white teeth.
- Punch two holes near the corners and tie a ribbon.



1. In Chinese opera, masks are colour coded, with each colour describing the personality of the character. It helps the audience to understand the characters and their relationships more quickly.

2. In ancient times, Greeks used masks that had brass megaphones for theater. This was done in order to amplify what the actors were talking.

3. A special category of masks, known as Duk-duk masks were used in New Guinea to intimidate other members of the tribe and enforce social codes.

4. Masks are extensively used in 'Topeng', an Indonesian dance. A topeng dancer can use 30 to 50 masks. However, these masks are for the exclusive use of the dancer. It is believed that if anybody else uses those masks, it offends the spirits that reside in the masks.

5. The carnival of Venice was revived in the 20<sup>th</sup> century after being banned earlier. When the carnival was reinstated, a new mask called the "Medico della peste" was introduced to commemorate the carnival.

6. In Venice women wear an oval mask known as "Moretta muta", during the carnival. The unique thing about this mask is that it does not have straps that can be fastened to the head. Instead, it has a button on the inner side that is held in the mouth and with that the mask is held to the face.

I associate the word BIG with the big apple my mom gives me in the morning which I devour happily.

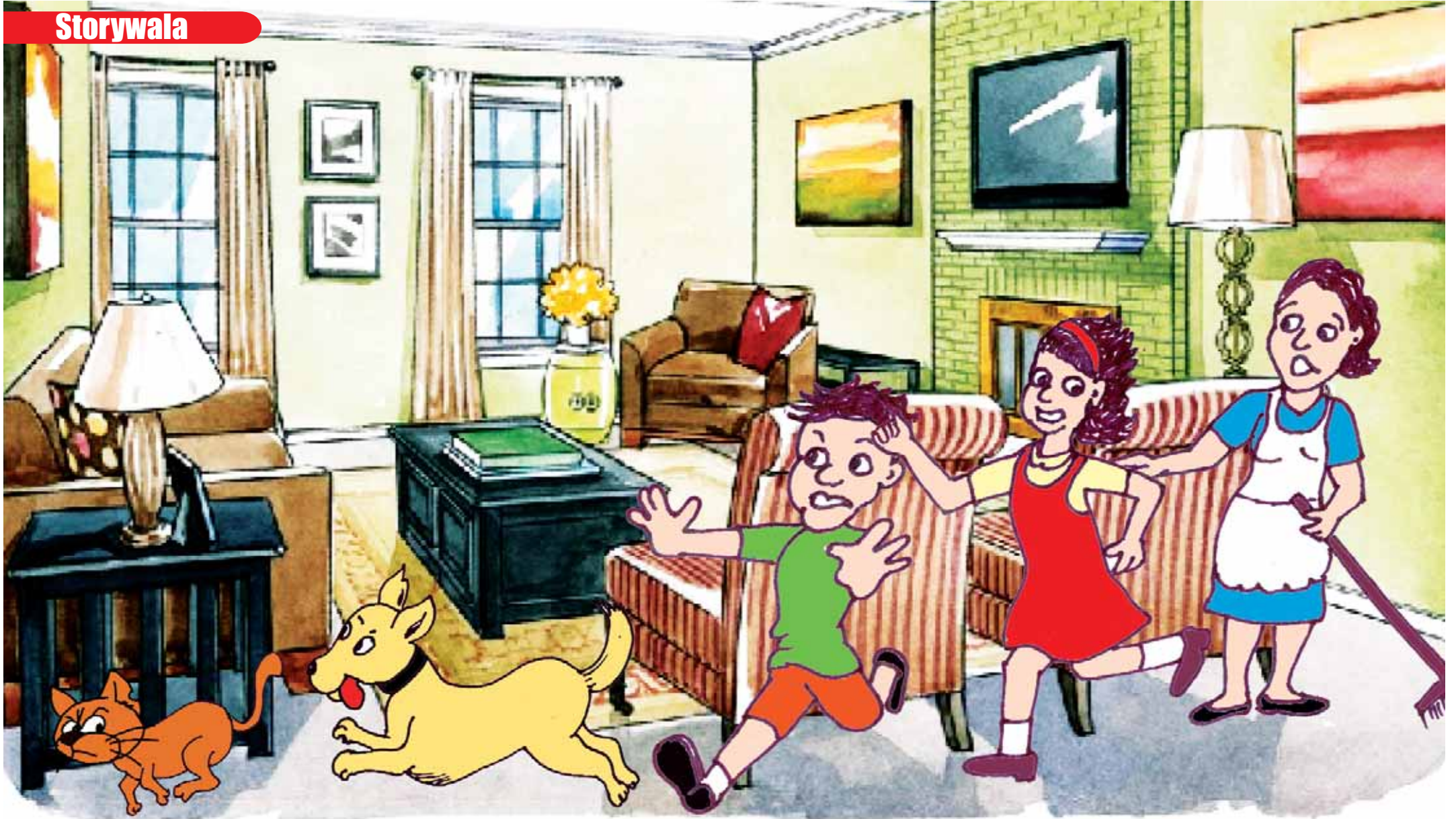
Swati Sahu, AIS Saket, V B



# The cat, the dog and the shrieking maid

Illustration: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

## Storywala



Aashna Agarwal, AIS Gurgaon 43, Alumnus

It all started in the summer of 1996. It was raining and I was 4 years old, just returning from play school, having lost my stuffed bunny.

Continued in 2001... It was a bright sunny day and I was returning from the beach. I had everything. The wind in my hair, sand on my clothes and a smile on my face. What I didn't have however, was my pair of shoes.

And then in 2008...I was returning from my school to my house, sitting amongst my teachers and bus mates in the school bus, with the bus driver winding his way along the beautiful country roads. Except it wasn't my bus, he wasn't my bus driver, and the destination "not-my-bus" was heading for was certainly not home. **18 years later....**

So I'm labeled irresponsible by my parents while I've always maintained that I'm a person who always finds herself at the wrong place at the wrong time. And I land in episodes that end with 'You-did-it-again' looks from who else but my parents.

So, here goes yet another episode of my 'irresponsibility'. The principal stars of this particular episode of eccentricity stars my German shepherd, Thunder; my maid, Mariam Didi and sweet brother Aashraye. Truly though, if one day the Mayans did turn out to be right and the world did end; and if I were given the choice between life on mars and their collective brains, I would choose Pluto.

I was in my room when my parents walked in. They informed me they had to leave town for a few days and so wanted me to take charge of the house. Then they proceeded to their favourite routine. The routine where they first tell me kindly how they are confident that I will "rise to the occasion" and behave like "a mature young woman". The hint of doubt creeps in and they move on to step 2, 'The Dangers of being an Irresponsible Youth'. Step 3 has that seed of doubt now firmly planted in their heads and they talk eloquently of all the mishaps they are convinced I will get to the moment they

step out of the house. Not believing in procrastination, step 4 sees them starting to scold me for all the aforementioned mishaps. Step 5, always in a series of inexplicable events, manages to put me on the back foot, gives my parents yet more ammunition, and generally makes them go back to Step 1. **Needless to say, it's never my fault.**

I locked up the door, and feeling rather grand, I decided to check on my inmates before pushing off for a 6pm nap. Like the calm before the storm, all was well. Brother Aashraye was busy picking out stinky socks for ammunition, Thunder was busy peeing on the furniture, and Mariam didi was apparently having a voluble fight with herself in the kitchen. Leaving them to themselves, I went for my nap.

I woke up to a volley of barks. Though my first instinct was to sink into my pillow once again, I could almost hear my dad mumbling about "being irresponsible" and so I decided to make my way over to investigate.

Walking over to the scene of the crime, I saw my maid standing in the corner winding and unwinding her hair while my brother seemed to be totally

**Brother Aashraye was busy picking out stinky socks for ammunition, Thunder was busy peeing on the furniture, and Mariam didi was apparently having a voluble fight with herself in the kitchen.**

engrossed in jumping up and down. Thunder was in the meanwhile trying to defy all the logics of physics and scramble under the bed.

Now I am a considerate person, who minds my own business. If my brother wants to jump up and down, he can do so by all means and he has my blessing. If Mariam didi wants to wind and unwind her hair, she can continue the process till pigs fly. And if my dog has sudden urges to scramble under beds, he can scramble away to glory.

**I was about to turn back when I saw a flash of white under the bed. I asked all present if they could explain this strange occurrence, but they maintained a silence Charlie Chaplin would be proud of.**

I was about to turn back when I saw a flash of white under the bed. I asked all present if they could explain this strange occurrence but they maintained a silence Charlie Chaplin would be proud of. My curiosity agog, I bent under and peered under the bed. A pair of green eyes and claws were duly noted and registered before I leapt up yelling. I'm always up for a bit of fun, however, being nearly eaten by a cat is where I draw the line. I cursed my luck under my breath. One day my parents agree to leave me alone, and that is obviously the time the entire cat universe decides to conspire against me.

As I was pondering over this problem, the cat sung his last prayer, and decided to make a run for it. This, I know, sounds like the best solution to most people. What most people however were unaware of, was the closed window and that the only means of escape was the doorway in which my brother, my maid and I were all huddled.

With a blood curdling scream each, my brother and I took to our heels and started running around the dining table, with Aashraye taking the lead, me a close second, the cat at my heels with Thunder bringing in the rear providing us with a thrilling melody of his loudest and deepest barks. Mariam didi watched this from close quarters, producing truly marvellous shrieks alongside.

My stamina started wearing out after 4 successive laps around the table, and I managed to pull my brother out of this devil's circle. **And then there were just two...**

While many may argue that this situation is definitely a handful, God evidently had a high regard for me and my abilities, and chose to differ. In all

this confusion, Mariam didi had left the kitchen tap running and the water had now crept into the dining room, contributing its share to the confusion with gusto. Aashraye had succumbed to jumping up and down and after a moment's thought, I followed suit. Mariam Didi, hats off, maintained her piercing shrieks while Thunder and the cat spun around the table, while the water kept swirling at our feet.

After what seemed like centuries, this grand prix climaxed with the cat dashing off towards my mother's room. In a flash, I shut the door.

Many things happened at once. My maid, gave her shrillest shriek of the night, and shut herself in the kitchen. My brother, my flesh and blood, gave me a thumbs up and shut himself in the bathroom, leaving me to haul my hysterical dog to my room and shut him in. This accomplished, I waded my way back to the dining room, taking, what felt like my first breath in the past half hour. And then the worst thing yet happened. Something so bad, I would probably switch places with the cat in a heartbeat.

**My parents came home.**

I agree the scene that greeted them was not a pretty one. Our maid was in the kitchen, completely breaking down, sobbing with definite threats of "running away to her village to get married". Aashraye was still locked in the bathroom and no amount of persuasion would bring him out. A cat was shut in their room, while our dog was barking away, shut in mine. And there I was, standing right in the middle, like an angel guarding the gates of heaven. An angel with dishevelled hair, a short breath, and of course ankle deep in water.

And this, in a nutshell, is what happens to me every time. Watching my parents splash their way through the dining room, I waited for them to yell, scream and shout at me. And honestly, I wanted to be yelled, screamed and shouted at. Because what happened was much worse. Much worse than a pair of livid parents waiting to give a lecture till the world ended. My dad looked at my mom, with an indifferent expression and merely said, "I told you so." 🇮🇳





BIG to me is something expensive, precious and something no one has or can have.

Prarthana Aggrawal, AIS Saket, V C

Imaging: Deepak Sharma

# THE TALE OF AN ITCHING WITCH

## Not-so-short story



This story was published in Papua New Guinea newspaper of Australia in 2012. It was among the top 100 stories selected in a story writing contest organised by the publisher Kieth Jackson.



Shairyl Srivastava

Shairyl Srivastava, AIS Lucknow, VIII B

## The thief running to save his life



On a high mountain that no one dared to climb, there stood a spooky castle in ruins. Many people believed that there was a hideous witch residing in it.

One day, the guards of the king were chasing a thief who had stolen king's accessories. The thief hid behind a bush and escaped the guards. Suddenly, the thief started hearing some buzzing noises under the bush. He found himself in a bee's nest. He struggled out of the bush and ran. He climbed the bushiest tree but the bees found him.

## A spooky encounter

The thief finally climbed up the mountain and decided to go inside the castle for protection from the bees. Since he had never heard about the creepy witch, the castle seemed like a decent hiding place. Huffing and puffing, he reached the castle door. He knocked at the door but there was no answer. Then the door creaked open.

He hesitantly entered the castle enveloped in dust and gloom. Suddenly, the lamps started to light up magically and it scared the hell out of him. He turned around to run away but the door slammed shut. He tried to open the door but in vain.

Suddenly, the castle started to shake as if engulfed by an earthquake and the thief started shaking in his boots.

All of a sudden, a witch appeared. She came closer to the thief and said, "Scratch my back, please." Terrified, the thief scratched the witch. "Okay, that's good," said the witch.

## Wish of the witch!

The witch turned around to the thief and said, "What are you doing here? Never mind that, where are you from?" The thief did not say a single word.

The witch stared in his eyes and said, "If you take me to the city as your friend, I will let you go." "No I can't take you to the city because the people of the city will put me behind bars because I steal their things," said the disappointed thief. To this the witch with a hint of triumph in her voice, announced, "Then you will be trapped in my castle as a servant." The thief thought that living in the castle would be better than living in a jail and hence agreed to the witch's demands.

## The weird breakfast & the chores

The witch told the thief about the chores he had to do the next day. She gave him a lamp and said, "Your room is in the basement."

The thief took the lamp and started looking for the stairs that led to the basement. While descending the staircase, he tripped and hurt his head by the lamp. "Owww! What a bad day?" cried the thief. Little did he know that this was just the beginning of his troubles.

He did not find any bed so he had to sleep on the table. Suddenly, a ferocious storm gripped the castle and a loud thunder cracked out of the sky. The thief fell down from the table in shock. Next morning, the thief climbed up the stairs and there stood



the hideous witch.

She asked, "How was the night?" "Tumbling," answered the thief while rubbing his painful head. "Just scratch my back again, please, oh, ooo, ooo," said the witch with pain.

The thief scratched the witch one more time. The witch came closer to the thief and opened her

(hold your noses, boys and girls) stinky mouth. The thief was nearly unconscious. The witch told the thief that it was time for breakfast. He sat down on the ancient chair and a plate slid to him. He was shocked to see the breakfast, it was dry strands of grass.

The witch said, "Finish this fast and I will be back soon." The thief looked at the food, longing for something decent. Unexpectedly, a big, hairy spider swung in front of him. The thief got scared. By now the thief had endured enough of the trouble presented by the witch. Unable to control his anger, he pushed the table forcefully and threw the so-called-food on the floor. However, he soon realised that the witch would be extremely angry if she saw the food strewn all over the floor. Scared of the witch, he hurriedly arranged the table and waited for her.

The witch returned scratching her arm and said, "Let us move on to the chores." She rolled out a list of chores and said, "Here are the chores, do them." "Which one shall I start with?" asked the thief. The witch asked her to broom the attic first. Reluctantly, the hungry thief moved forward to perform his first task. He picked up a broom and went to the attic. Suddenly, he remembered stories about witches that could fly on a broom. He placed the broom between his legs and in a flash he started flying while the tail of the broom swept on the floor. He flew left to right again and again. As soon as the witch heard the noise, she went up to the attic and found the thief stuck in the wall. The witch turned left and saw that the attic floor looked like a shiny penny. "Good job boy," said the witch.

## The witch & the thief visit the city

This went on for a few days and the thief realised that he could not survive in the castle any more. Then, he came up with a plan. He decided to take the witch to the city and then elope at the first possible opportunity.

The thief went to the witch and with a straight face said, "I think you need to see the world outside this castle. I have decided to take you to the city."

"Really, let's go then," said the elated witch.

Both of them started on their journey and climbed down the mountain and headed towards the city. The witch rushed into the crowded road, pushing everyone aside. As usual, she started to itch and asked the thief to scratch her back. As the thief was scratching the witch, he was spotted by the king's guards. They arrested him and took him to the prison. The witch who was witnessing all this, was now left alone. Realising that the thief had gone for good, she ran back to her old castle in fear. The thief begged the guards to let him meet the king once. After several requests, they brought



him to the king and stood by.

"Where are the stolen goods, citizen or shall I say thief?" asked the king. "I will give you the loot, if you promise to help me out," said the thief. "I will help you only if you assure me that you won't steel ever again," said the king.

"I promise," agreed the thief.

## A request

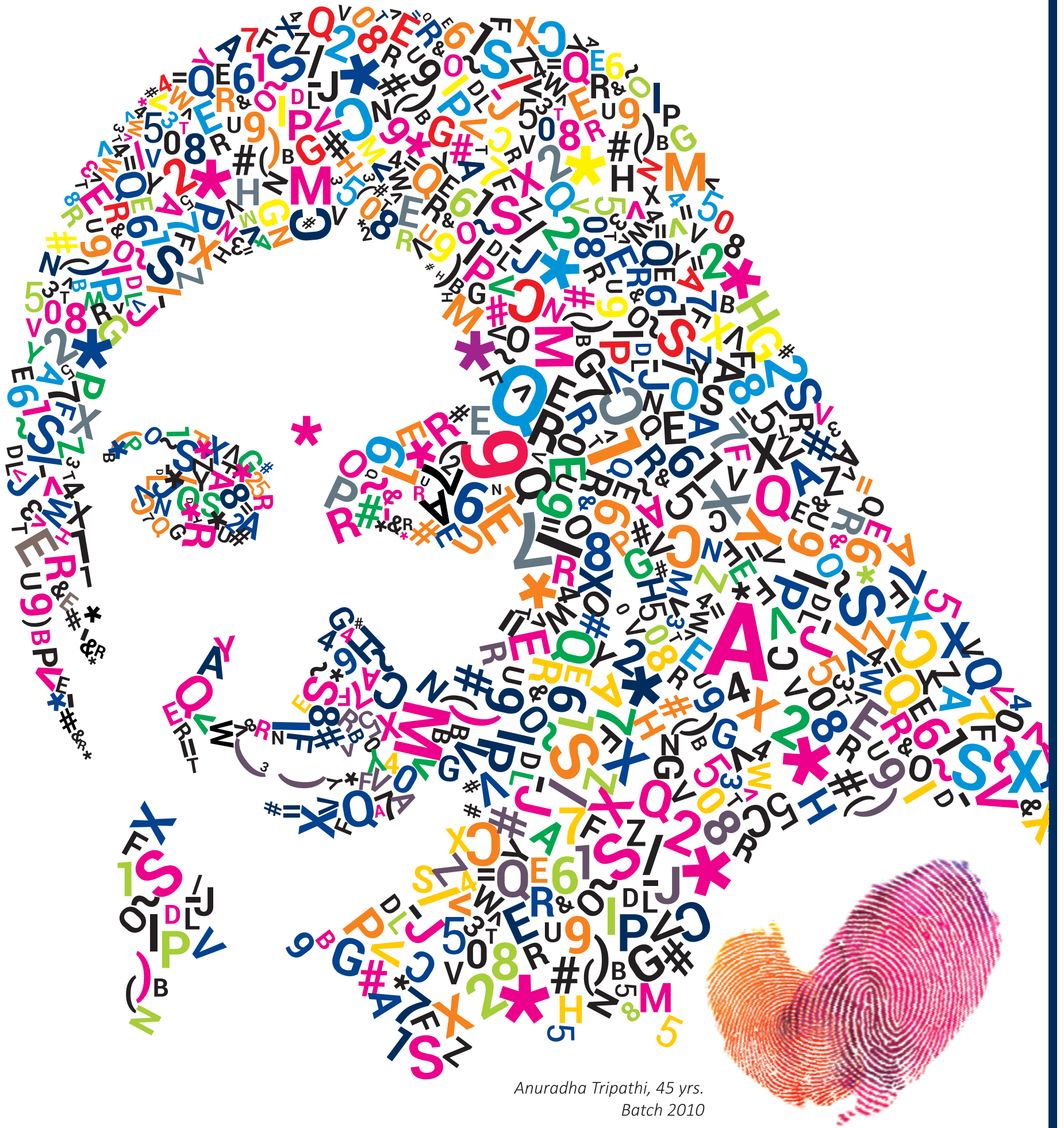
"What kind of help do you want?" asked the king. The thief replied, "I request you to send some people to the castle on the mountain. There lives a nice witch but she is in trouble. Please help her and your stolen goods are also kept there." The king was happy to see the good side of the thief. He sent peo-



ple with him to help the witch. Some people mopped the floor and some even scratched the witch but later they found that the witch was very dirty. They made the witch take a bath.

As she entered the bathtub, miraculously the water changed her into a beautiful woman. Thief was amazed to see this. Later, he married her and lived happily thereafter. 📖

# Empowered and accomplished.



Anuradha Tripathi, 45 yrs.  
Batch 2010

After reaching my middle age, while most of my friends were battling insecurities, I decided to make time for myself. I wanted to contribute towards a greater cause; to find my true calling; to be empowered. And I found just that by joining the Elementary Teacher Training Programme at ACERT.

At ACERT, I perfected the art of nurturing; I mastered the science of pedagogy. And I felt empowered. Today, I am the head of a leading preschool. Thank you ACERT!

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# The economic shift

Falling rupee: inflation or boost in tourism? Is the present economic crisis revisiting the Indian economy of 1991? These and many more pertinent questions pertaining to the world of economics were raised during the ECOM forum, hosted by AIS Saket. While the event saw AIS Vas 6 lift the rolling trophy, it left others with food for thought. Here are some opinions on subjects that matter

## Rupee depreciation

Reason for concern **Vs** The sunny side

**For**  
Depreciation of rupee means that India's currency has lost its value in comparison to foreign currency. The rapid decline in rupee is a cause of concern. The disadvantages of a depreciating rupee are definitely more than its advantages. It is through imports that India meets most of its crude oil needs and due to rupee depreciation, the import cost will rise, even if the price of crude falls in the international market. Other key imports also become costlier, leading to a rise in domestic prices. A depreciating rupee impacts the corporate sector negatively as they have to pay high prices for importing raw materials, which in turn, affects their profit. Travelling abroad becomes expensive causing a pinch in the pockets of frequent travellers. Rupee depreciation leads to costlier foreign education, thus increasing the loan burden for students. Foreign investors also shy away in such a situation.

**Against**  
India is a developing economy where inflation rate is high and hence depreciation of rupee is not so bad as long as it doesn't become volatile. In case of rupee depreciation, the hospitality sector of India will be benefited as the foreigners will find it cheap to holiday in India. It will give a definite boost to the tourism sector as more and more tourists will come to the country. Non-resident Indians who remit dollars to India will also be benefitted greatly as they get more rupees for the same amount of dollars. Rupee depreciation will also stand to benefit export companies as they will receive more rupees per dollar for their sales. If the exporters choose not to bring down the price of their products, with the same quantity of sales, they earn much more in terms of Indian rupees. Investors of gold and international funds also stand to gain from rupee depreciation.

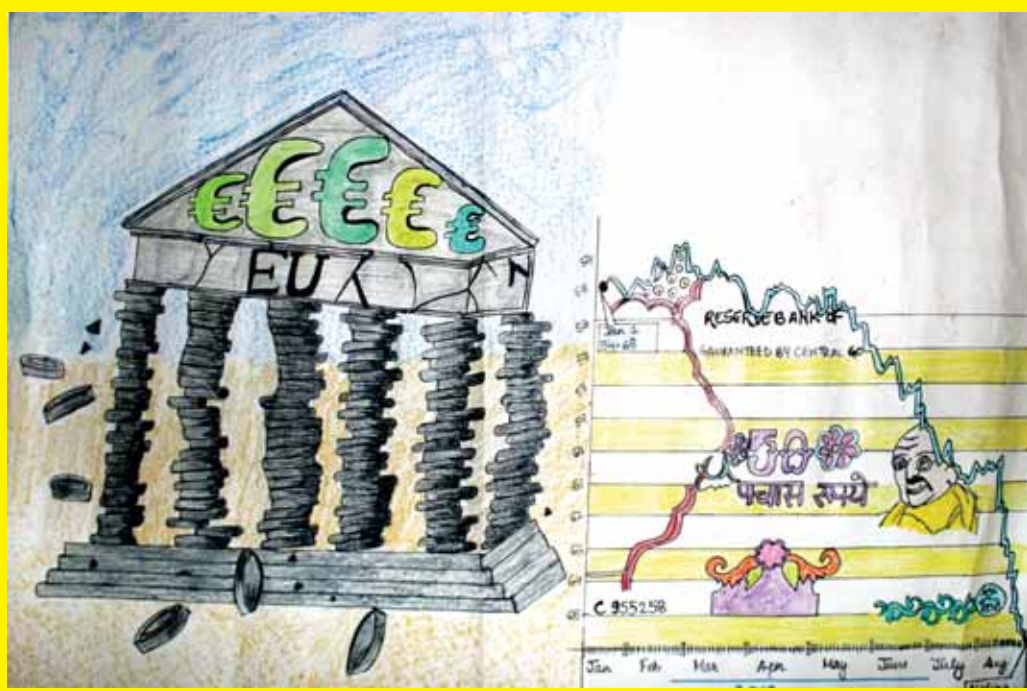


## Indian economy 1991 vs 2013

History repeated **Vs** History created

**For**  
Duvvuri Subbarao, the former RBI governor once conceded that "...in matters of economics and finance, history repeats itself, not because it is an inherent trait of history but because we don't learn from history and let the repeat occur". The economic policy of 1991 was characterised by liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation which helped in the revival of the Indian economy. Two decades have passed since then. And the crisis of 1991 has again come to trouble us. Consider the twin deficits during both these periods. The fiscal deficit was 5.39% of GDP in 1991-92. In 2013-14, it was 4.9%. Similarly, the current account deficit was at 3% of GDP in 1991; the same stood tall at 3.7% in October 2013-14.

**Against**  
Dr Manmohan Singh repeatedly asserted that the economic status of India in 2013-14 was not that of 1991-92. The condition in 2013 has striking differences from 1991. Structural changes have taken place in the economy. Presently, the financial markets are robust, resilient and diverse, which was not the case during the 1991 crisis period. The Indian equity market is more developed and mature. The share of the service sector has increased from 43.7% in 1990-91 to 57% in 2013-14. Forex reserves are much larger now in comparison to the forex reserves just before the 1991 crisis. Present external vulnerability indicators like Debt/GDP ratio, Debt service ratio, etc are much stronger than those that existed during the 1991 crisis.



## Euro tall Vs Asian crawl

Asia falls into crisis **Vs** Asia does not

**For**  
Analysts in Asia are ringing alarm bells that debt in the region is rising, which is a major matter of concern. According to data from Standard & Poor's, lending from financial institutions to the corporate and household sector as a percentage of GDP in Hong Kong, jumped from 143% in 2005 to an estimated 202% in 2012. In South Korea, the same ratio surged from 132% to 166% over that same time period; in Singapore, 91% to 117%; and in China from 112% to 130%. Vietnam's ratio nearly doubled from 66% to 113%. Investors are pulling out millions of dollars from Asia. Even strong South-South trade, which had helped insulate the region's economies from the Western crash, has begun to cool.

**Against**  
Asia is definitely not falling into crisis. Countries like Bangladesh have expanded their GDP by 6.3% in 2013-14 from the previous year. The country will be the world's 31st largest economy in 2050 up from being the 44th largest economy, according to a 2012 projection by HSBC. Indonesia is on its way to become the region's first trillion-dollar economy, and accomplished an investment-grade credit rating for the first time in 14 years in late 2011, something the Philippines also achieved for the first time ever earlier this year. The manufacturing sector has been flourishing in Malaysia and Thailand. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted a rise in Burma's economic growth rate.

### Facts on Indian economy

- The economy of India is the tenth-largest in the world by nominal GDP and the third largest by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).
- India is the 19th largest exporter and the 10th largest importer in the world.
- As the third-largest economy in the world in terms of PPP, India is a preferred destination for FDI.
- India ranks second worldwide in farm output.
- Half the world's outsourced IT services come from India, amounting to a \$47 billion dollar industry.
- India used to account for 33% of the world's GDP; then fell to 3%; now may rise to 25%.

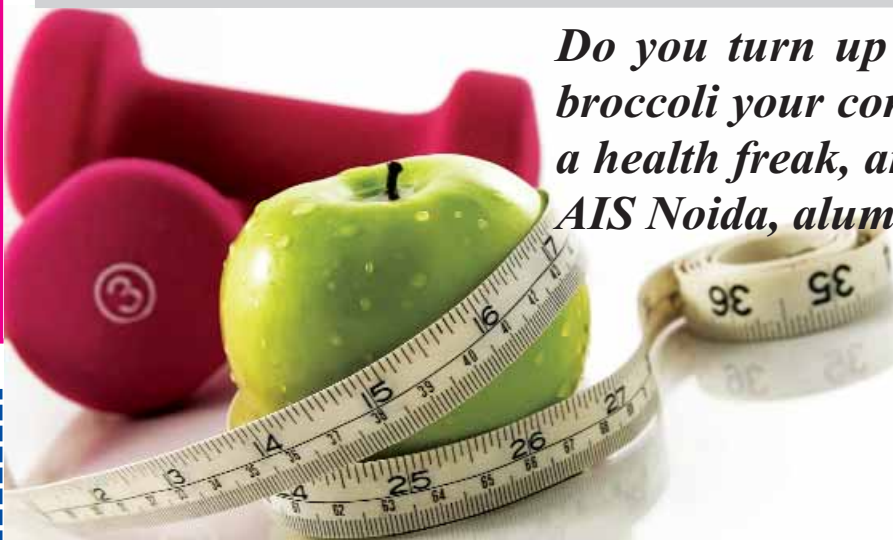


# It's your Day

Each one of us waits for that one free day to do whatever we want, however we want. However, when that fateful day does roll around, we find ourselves... lost. But not to worry, here's your very own guide customised to suit your tastes. In this part 4 of ten part series, we bring to you a day planned for health freaks.

## Health Freaks

Do you turn up at parties with gluten free crackers? Is broccoli your comfort food? If yes, then you my friend, are a health freak, and this article is your bible. **Pranali Batra, AIS Noida, alumnus, tells you all you need to know**



### Move it

Get up and give your body some exercise. Read on and take a look at your options!

**High Intensity Training:** It involves short spurts of intense exercise which is followed by some interval for rest.

**Body-Weight Training:** This requires only the body weight of the exerciser for work-out. Think crunches and push-ups.

**Yoga:** This conventional fitness mantra exercises the mind, body and soul. Try for long term results.

### Eating Out

Eat out, without feeling guilty! Yes, that's possible. A look at some health food brilliance served with a dash of exotica.

**Crostini, Hauz Khas Village:** Goodbye maida, welcome whole wheat. Soya nuggets, Basil & Walnut Daliya, Crunchy Muesli with Soy Milk are some must try picks.

**Bueno, DLF Cyber City, Gurgaon:**

Whole wheat pastas and tacos set the perfect platter. With a 'no preservative' and 'no fizzy drinks' policy, they offer you absolutely fresh and healthy fare.

**Tattva, Hauz Khas Village:** Healthy salads, organic iced teas, cold soups...you name it. With a lot of spinach, beetroot, lentils, sprouts and whole-grain on their menu, your mom will love this place.

### Fitness Cells

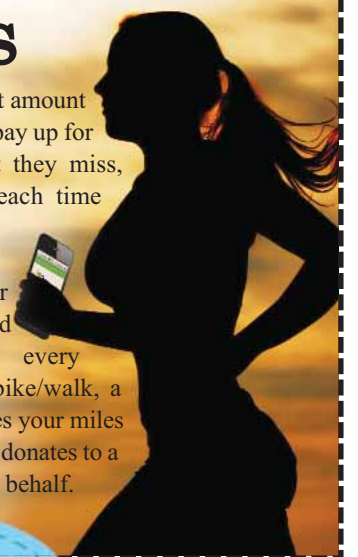
Download these apps and make sure that you are on the path to fitness even on the go!

**Gain Fitness:** Available for free on iOS. This personal trainer app offers more than 1,300 exercises, HD motion images, and step-by-step voice commands.

**Pact:** Available for free on iOS and Android. Users of this app pledge a set number of days they'll work out

along with a set amount of cash. Users pay up for every workout they miss, and get paid each time exercise.

**Charity Miles** Available for free on iOS and Android. For every mile you run/bike/walk, a sponsor matches your miles monetarily and donates to a charity on your behalf.



### Stock Up

Stock up these food items to ensure that your late-night munching is healthy!

- Granola bars
- Nuts
- Yogurt
- Ready to eat oats
- Popcorn (without butter)
- Multigrain crackers
- Cereal
- Pita bread

### Replace

Some simple replacements are all it takes to go the healthy way. Here's what you need to replace.

- Sugar with honey
- Mayonnaise with hung curd
- Butter with margarine
- Sour cream with Greek yogurt
- White bread with pita bread
- Rice with quinoa
- Breadcrumbs with flaxseed
- Cream with coconut milk

### Sip it

Say goodbye to those fuzzy drinks and sinful shakes. Sip your way to good health!

**Watermelon Juice:** Put watermelon chunks and ice into the blender. Voila! Here's a cool, refreshing, low cal solution to beat the heat.

**Green Tea:** This simple drink works wonders. It improves your metabolism, keeps you hydrated and even enhances liver function.



**Soy Milk:** With soluble fiber and soy protein, this one not just lowers your cholesterol but also prevents cardiovascular diseases.

### Simple Blessings

You know you are doing it right if you add these simple yet wholesome elements to your diet on a regular basis.

**Avocados:** Packed with antioxidants, they detoxify the body, making you feel healthier and better.

**Lemons:** Full of vitamins and antioxidants, they aid in overall health and well being if consumed on a daily basis. Just add them to your pulses, soups or veggies or simply sip lemon juice.

**Garlic:** Packed with sulfur, this is another great food to use for body cleansing. It also has antibiotic properties so it can help internally heal your body too.



### Tune in



Need some inspiration to dish out some healthy meals? These TV shows are your mecca!

**Healthy Appetite, Food Network:** Ellie Krieger's show focusses on quick and easy recipes, some of which make you want to dive right into your television screen.

**Healthy Fridge, Food Food:** The items in your fridge may not always mean an unhealthy mid-night snack.

Tune into this show to make healthy recipes from the leftover items in your very own refrigerator. Avoid if you are looking for something fancy. **Healthy Gourmet, OWN:** Nutritionist Julie Daniluk and Chef Ezra Title wage the battle between taste and nutrition. In the process, they create incredible meals that score high, both on nutrition as well as taste.



**COMING NEXT**  
 A day for foodies

### GT Travels to Amritsar



(L to R) **Amey Bhandari, AIS Vas 6, III A; Daksha Tuteja, AIS Pushp Vihar, IV B; Mishika Bhandari, AIS Vas 6, KG F & Saanvi Tuteja, AIS PV, Nursery Discoverers** pose with The Global Times at the historical Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab. The place known for Amritsar Massacre, houses a memorial of national importance.

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