

THE GLOBAL TIMES

Vol 15, Issue 36 | Monday, December 18, 2023 | Language: English | New Delhi | DELENG /2009/30258 | Price: Annual Subscription ₹900 | www.theglobaltimes.in

Arya Singh, AIS Vas 6, XII D

While tiny bags may be the ‘it’ thing this season, but, as a society, our fascination with miniatures goes way back. From childhood toys and dollhouses to intricate dioramas and minuscule masterpieces in art, the allure of the minuscule has left an indelible mark on our collective consciousness. Even in contemporary times, this fascination has found expression in the thought-provoking film ‘Downsized’ where Matt Damon embraces miniaturisation for a simplified life. But what makes this pint-sized world so enticing? Here’s a minuscule glance.

Miniature food

Six million – that is the number of results you are likely to find as you search for ‘miniature’ or ‘tiny food’ on YouTube. Each of these pages present to you nail sized dishes being prepared in kitchens that could fit well within your palm, using pots and pans the size of thimbles. This obsession with tiny food can be traced back to Japan in the 1930s when restaurants created miniatures of the food they were serving to entice passersby, paving way for a trend known as ‘kawaii’, Japanese for ‘cute’. Social media, as always, added fuel to the fire in 2014, when a YouTube channel named Miniature Space uploaded its first video making drinkable coffee in a pot smaller than a thumb. In fact, miniatures in the kitchen are now a sensation, so much so that today they amount to an entire industry being 90 billion USD. So, it barely comes as a surprise when top brands are tapping on the power of miniatures to create a big impact.

Miniature fashion

When it comes to the world of fashion, micro pouches are now climbing the fashion charts as countless celebrities have been spotted with small handbags. The Brooklyn based art col-



Illustration: Shailja Agarwal, AIS Vas 6, XII B



It's a small WORLD

Little Things That Pack A Grand Punch

lective MSCHF recently sold ‘microscopic handbag’ modelled after Louis Vuitton’s popular OnTheGo tote. Measuring 657 x 222 x 700 micrometre, the bag is only visible with a microscope which is included in the price of the item, which, by the way, is a not

so itty-bitty 51 lakh INR. With a size comparable to a speck of dust, the brand has called the bag as the ‘final word in bag miniaturisation’. While they have become a fashion statement, their increased demand and subsequent boost in manufacturing concerns the sustainability mindset.

Miniature gaming

Miniature has expanded its horizon to games as well. Monopoly, a board game that teaches kids about investment, banking, loans, math, and finance, is basically a whole real estate world packed in a box. Due to rising popularity, Hasbro has upgraded the board game to a high-technology version with inbuilt calculators and credit card machines. Dollhouses, again a minuscule version of an entire living setup, instills interior design knowledge in children, offering a glimpse into a world that has evolved since the 17th century. Moving away from the traditional and steering into the tech zone, the mini takes the form of miniature war games (MWG). Individuals who often got their hands on MWGs to socialise were high in openness and extraversion.

Miniature building

With the rising popularity of miniatures, designers have a new canvas to explore by using exaggerated scales to create optical illusions. Movies such as Inception, The Lord Of The Rings, Harry Potter series, Batman etc., blew our minds with their extravagant visuals. And let’s not forget to highlight the makers of these magnified magnificent beauties who spend hours painstakingly shaping delicate features, textures, and vibrant paintworks. Creating miniature sets for movies is a real-time job, and their work can be seen in blockbusters where intricate miniature sets are brought to life through advanced cinematography and special effects.

The roots of miniatures trace back to ancient Egypt where the earliest miniature glories were carefully handcrafted. It wasn’t until the Industrial Revolution that companies began mass-producing these replicas. While some of these mass-produced miniatures may lack the intricate details, yet their ability to captivate people remains unchanged.

Page editor: Manya Aggarwal, AIS Vasundhara 6, X C

THE GT @ POLL

Do you think the UK govt. is right to consider ousting foreign students from the country, studying on two-year graduate visas, who fail to achieve high enough grades?

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

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

See you after winter break



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Vasundhara 6, 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 **fifth** edition of ‘GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2023-24’.

What's inside

Dancing divas, P3

Forbidden friends, P4

The epic clash, P6

In the heart of devotion, P7

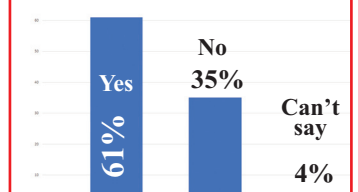
Being real, P8

Call of planet, P9

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition December 11, 2023

Do you agree with Time magazine’s decision of crowning Taylor Swift as their ‘Person of the Year’ for 2023?



Results as on December 16, 2023

Follow us on: @theglobaltimesnewspaper @the_global_times

Published and Printed by Mr R.R. Aiyar on behalf of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan from E-26, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024 and printed from HT Media Ltd, No 8, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida (UP). Editor Ms Vira Sharma. | Published for the period December 18-24, 2023



amiown

Amity's Caring Preschool

WE NURTURE

HAPPY AND

LIFELONG

LEARNERS

ADMISSION OPEN

amitots (14+ months) • **Prenursery** (2+)

Nursery (3+) • **LKG** (4+) • **UKG** (5+) • **Daycare**

Age as on 31st March, 2024

Apply at www.amiown.com/admissions

Noida (Sec.44)

98-187-04663

Vasundhara (Gzb.)

98-187-04663

Pushp Vihar (Delhi)

99-100-36580

Gurgaon (Sec.27 & Sec.46)

99-711-33582

To apply
Scan the QR Code



www.amiown.com

Gargi Jhunjhunwala, XII B &
Diya Mishra, XI B, AIS Vas 6

Two bodies, one soul – this is perhaps the only way one can describe the sister-duo, Nalini and Kamalini Asthana, who are renowned internationally for their clarity, precision and perfection in the Benaras Gharana style of Kathak dance. The Padma Shri awardees, with a record for performing Kathak at a height of 18,000 feet, tell us about their spell-binding journey into the world of rhythm and *raagas*.

Artistic roots

It is believed that Lord Nataraja or Shiva, the God of Dance, is all around us in nature, but since we cannot see him, he has provided us with dance as a medium to feel his presence. Similarly, Lord Krishna himself danced to the ecstasy of divine love, swirling around in *ghunghroos*. Hence, kathak is born out of this divine dance. We are fortunate that our mother, herself a Hindustani vocalist, introduced us to Jitendra Maharaj, a revered Kathak dancer. In our Kathak journey, we have discovered the profound reach of sound. Music and dance possess the power to transcend language barriers. Life, to us, is defined by *Sur-Lay-Taal*, where emotions dictate our expressions.

Sisterly bond

We rarely disagree, as our Guruji trained us to achieve perfect coordination between us, and this dual approach, where one monitors the other's energies, has deepened our bond. Even if there is a moment of annoyance, a mutual understanding prompts us to step back and reunite. Our connection

Dancing divas

In Conversation With Renowned Kathak Artiste Duo

Pic: Aditya Tyagi, AIS Vas 6, X A



GT reporters with Nalini and Kamalini Asthana

thrives on shared preferences and the ability to navigate differences, reinforcing the enduring strength of our sisterly camaraderie. Together, we have set up the Sangeetika Institute of Performing Arts in Delhi to train students in classical dance and music.

Himalayan triumph

The most memorable performance has to be the one at Pashupati Nath Ji Temple. We were touring the location and had everything we needed - jewelry, costumes, musicians - so we thought, why not dance here? Despite the cold weather, we danced at Mansarovar on Guru Purnima. At minus 26-degree temperature, we dressed in traditional Kathak attire. But at the time we were unaware that it was at 18,000 feet. Our love for Kathak was so deep that the cold never bothered us. Unknowingly, we helped create the world record for dancing at a record-breaking height.

Dazzling the stage

Our first overseas trip was in 1983 to attend the UFTAA Conference in Paris, and even though the tour was planned for only two weeks, we continued to perform for nearly two and a half years in places like Madrid, Dublin, and London. Our motivation transcends winning; if we win something then it is great, and even if we don't, it doesn't matter. The Padma Shri Award, hasn't shifted our focus. Guruji's prediction of a National Award became a reality in 2022, adding a unique layer to our journey. At the award ceremony, we broke convention with a distinctive mudra, garnering appreciation from everyone. It was not just a recognition but a celebration of our journey. 🇮🇳



Nalini and Kamalini Asthana, Kathak dancers

INTERVIEW



Welcome to Examsville

An Insight Into Parents Behaviour During Exam Season

Amaira Shrivastava
AIS Noida, VII L

Once upon a time, in the mystical land of Examsville, there dwelled two peculiar creatures, collectively called parents, my parents. These fascinating beings had a unique set of behaviours that were particularly prominent during the dreaded exam season. In the wee hours of the morning, when the world is still enveloped in the soothing embrace of dark-

ness, the parents would oft embark on their noble mission - The Wake-Up Call. Armed with enthusiasm that rivaled a marching band, they'd burst into my room, chanting the mantra, "Wakey, it's exam day!" as if the rising sun was some grand revelation. As if sensing my impending doom, the parents would then lay out a feast fit for a king at the breakfast table. Pancakes, eggs, fruit, and mysterious juices that they called 'health smoothies' would be pre-

sented as the ultimate brain fuel. The more I protested, the more they insisted on cramming nu-



trients into me, as if I were a car running on rocket fuel. Before I left for the battlefield aka the examination hall, my parents would gather around, hands on my shoulders, and deliver the legendary 'motivational' speech. With a twinkle in their eyes, they'd proclaim, "You're going to ace this exam, my dear! Just remember, it's all about confidence, not the hours spent on YouTube!" The irony was palpable. In the meantime, at home, the parents would set up an entire shrine dedicated to the Goddess Saraswati. Incenses, curd and sugar, and a sacrificial pencil were involved in this sacred ritual. They'd spend

hours praying for my success. As I emerged from the exam hall next, the parents awaited me like detectives in a crime thriller. They'd bombard me with questions like "How did it go? Did you answer every question?" et al. The most suspenseful part of the entire saga, howbeit, was the wait for results. Once out, their reactions would range from ecstatic dancing to deep despair, depending on the grades. And thusly, the tale of the parents during exam time continues year after year, filled with rituals that are nothing short of entertaining. For, in the end, their unwavering support and quirky antics are what make the journey through Examsville a tad bit more bearable for us children, isn't it now?

Forbidden friends

A Tale As Old As Time, The Brotherhood Of Water And Oil In Their Prime

Gargi Jhunjunwala, AIS Vas 6, XII B

In the domain of Liquidea stood two empires - De Olie and Adam's Ale. Reigned by King Olio and King Aqua, the chronicles of their opulence spread far, and so, determined to form an entente, King Aqua invited King Olio for a feast in his palace beneath the waves. Having heard of the empire's mighty grandeur, King Olio readily agreed.

As the day approached, both kingdoms were tingling with nervous energy for the great alliance to be formed. The aquatic objects of Adam's Ale decorated their palace to welcome King Olio. On the other side of Liquidea, the oily substances prepared barrels of oils, ranging from cooking to mechanical, as a token of their love.

The day arrived and King Olio was welcomed with a grand procession. But as he and his ministers tried to enter the watery realm, they realised that some invisible force was preventing their ingress. After hours of toiling, finally, a few ministers were able to enter the kingdom, but they were compelled to spread out and float on the surface of the sea, thus unable to cross the threshold. King Aqua was bewildered as he had never seen such a spectacle, for they had always been able to dive and swim

in the embrace of his waves!

Days turned into weeks, but their resolve didn't. They decided to set up a review committee, comprising the most intellectual subjects. Suspecting a conspiracy against the alliance, the committee interviewed everyone from fishermen to oil miners. The former recalled that when their fish neared De Olie's ministers, their life force was sucked out, whereas the latter complained

about the degradation of their oil produce in the presence of Adam's Ale's subjects.

After months of inquiry, the review finally came to a shocking result. It so turned out that all the subjects of King Aqua have a distinct disposition which makes them polar in nature. On the flip side, De Olie's personality was found to be non-polar. This filled tension throughout the empires; the kings were troubled but were not willing to

The science of it

Water molecules are positively charged at one end & negatively at the other, whereas oil is the opposite, which is why their respective molecules stick together. Hence, water sinks to the bottom, leaving oil sitting on top of it.

give up. Feeling that they had reached a state of stasis, the committee went to the old sorcerer of Liquidea, who reminded them of the Maxim of Liquidea. There stood the rule of 'like dissolving like', forbidding two contrasting traits to mix. Furthermore, this idiosyncratic nature was such that if even attempted to change, would lead to the annihilation of the two empires. The two kings were disheartened but admired these unique qualities. While the Sea of Adam's Ale provided sustenance to life below and above the surface, King Olio's oil fueled innovation in his empire. And so, in the domain of Liquidea, the waters and oils flowed their separate ways, but the kings stood as a symbol of cooperation.



Illustration: Vincy Bansal, AIS Vasundhara 6, IX E

Life on Mars

What You Need To Live On The Red Planet

Aarish Malhotra, AIS Saket, X A

Mars, the planet we sometimes see in the sky, is not just our neighbour; it might soon end up becoming our home, if we are to believe scientists. Howbeit, compared to Earth, the atmosphere on Mars is 100 times thinner. It contains 96% carbon dioxide and 1% oxygen. To exacerbate things, the planet has a 38% lower gravity. We have also been made aware of the volume of subsurface water and icy craters the planet houses, indicating that a catastrophe wouldn't be far if the poles melted. Would then we ever be able to become proud Martians? Let's find out.

How will we grow food?

One of the main obstacles is the production

of food, for the red planet has no ecosystem. An ecosystem helps produce new food, handle waste, filter water, and provide essential services we often take for granted. Thus, the challenging long-term goal for colonists would likely be to establish a viable ecology. Though many scientists are discussing the potential of hydroponics to attain the same, its feasibility is yet to be tested. We also need to figure out a mechanism to store stuff we grow on Mars because of how unpredictable the atmosphere there is.

Where will we stay?

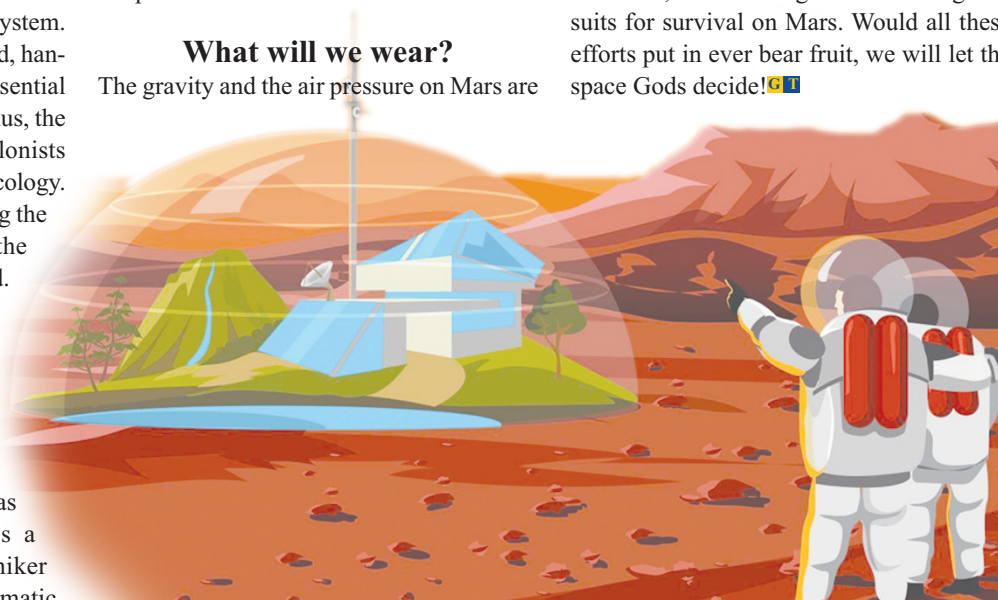
The notion of making Mars livable has long been a topic of research; it's a theory that has given Mars the moniker 'Planet B'. To be able to resist the climatic

problems there, such as temperatures of -63°C and radiation exposure, we will have to develop dwellings that can withstand it all. Though discussions about producing bricks from Martian sand or living in lava tubes have been doing the rounds since long, only time will tell if these can solve the problem for us.

What will we wear?

The gravity and the air pressure on Mars are

exceedingly low for human existence, making it challenging to walk about. The changing temperatures are a major source of worry, too. Radiation is another issue to consider. Keeping all of this in mind, we require radiation-blocking clothing to keep us warm. NASA and other such organisations, therefore, are working hard on designing suits for survival on Mars. Would all these efforts put in ever bear fruit, we will let the space Gods decide! 🚀



BEAR HUGS NEEDED!



The Plight Of The Snuggliest Inanimate Being To Ever Walk On This Earth

Avya Roy

AIS Vasundhara 6, X B

Conceived in the spirit of compassion, I came into existence, bearing the weighty name of Theodore Roosevelt, one of America's most esteemed leaders. But don't be fooled, for my nomenclature, no matter how royal it sounds, bears no resemblance to my reality. In fact, quite contrary to appearances, mine has been a journey fraught with silent struggles and the poignant burden of an unspoken, unavowed purpose.

Morris Michtom, a Brooklyn candy shop owner and my creator, whimsically christened me "Teddy's bear", a name that denied me an individual identity of my own, signalling the start of my hopeless sojourn. From the moment I took my first breath of plush existence, I found myself shouldering the world's weight on my limp, tear-soaked shoulders. You'd be silly if you think of all those teddy museums as a symbol of their love. They are perhaps just following the trend stired by the first museum set up in England in 1984. The truth is, passing from home to home, I tread a blurred

line between being a foster child and a foster parent, a silent witness to the loneliness of each child who sought solace in my furry embrace. About six billion new teddy bears join me in this unspoken camaraderie every year, only to share the same fate.

Amid the privileged moments of being cradled in the itty-bitty arms of tiny tots, becoming their constant companions and confidants, a poignant truth unfolds. But our worst enemy, the dog, takes the title of being the 'best friend'. And this is when NAPLC created the Teddy Bear Cops program to distribute teddy bears to police, fire, and medical responders throughout the United States.

What do these dogs even have over us? Much like them, one of our



Autobiography

own, Magellan T. Bear, was sent to space in 1995 on Space Shuttle Discovery. Appointed as an 'education specialist' on the mission, he later flew around the world and even visited the South Pole! In the early 1900s, bears like me served as comfort dolls for soldiers during World War I, happily offering gentleness and reassurance in times of turmoil.

As if that wasn't enough, we now have the latest gadgets to compete with. Once we were one of the most gifted items in the world, but now, with more sophisticated technology being invented, it's only a matter of time before we become obsolete. Truth be told, it's the arctophiles who are keeping us afloat during these turbulent times. Otherwise, we only trend one day of the year; February 10, famously known as Teddy Day.

To some extent, our slow disappearance from the limelight

also has to do with the infamous announcements at public places. It's beyond my comprehensive abilities to understand that some people are vile enough to tarnish something as innocent as me to plant bombs. It is bizarre that something that is meant to be played with by children is being used to blow up places and cause mayhem. Where exactly is your humanity, humans?

Despite all this negativity in the world, I have one person to be grateful for - someone who understood the plight of my kind and found a solution for the problem - and that's Maxine Clark. Maxine introduced a distinctive concept of Build-A-Bear workshop where people of all ages can create their own teddy bears from scratch. From customising their creation with sounds, scents, stuffing, outfits to the iconic special heart that holds all the love, these bears are indeed lucky. But one thing that makes me envy them is that they have their own official birth certificate to boast of! Having to go through life without questioning your bear-y existence must be a cakewalk, isn't it, mates?

Illustration: Shailja Agarwal, AIS Vasundhara 6, XII B

SERIES REVIEW

A town of mysteries

Series: Gravity Falls
Director: Michael Rianda
Released on: June 15, 2012
Starring: Jason Ritter, Kristen Schaal, Alex Hirsch
Genre: Adventure, Mystery

Synopsis: It is the story of twin brothers, Dipper and Mabel Pines, who are sent to their great-uncle Stan's shop in the quirky woodland town of Gravity Falls, Oregon, for the summer break. Though they see themselves living the same monotonous lifestyle in Oregon initially, things change when Dipper finds a strange journal in the

woods while helping their great-uncle run his tourist attraction dubbed 'Mystery Shack', and learns about some strange secrets and otherworldly oddities of the mysterious town.

Why is it watch worthy: Other than being a superb fusion of an old-school storytelling and a modern sense of humour, the show focuses on several other topics, including the struggles attained through youth. It, in fact, resonates with all age groups, providing a balanced amount of mystery, action, humour, and suspense in each episode. The plot of each episode is complex enough to keep adults captivated, all while delivering great punch lines that

induce laughter and keep children amused. Every character in this deliriously strange, yet intriguing show serves its purpose and fruitfully contributes to its roles in the storyline. The animation, and the graphic in general, is incredibly appealing. It's a perfect show in every aspect and a must watch.
Iconic dialogue: "Remember, reality is an illusion. The universe is a hologram. Buy gold. Bye!"

Rating: 5/5

Review by: Jaya Jha, AIS Gurugram 46, Alumna

(Jaya is currently pursuing BA (Hons) Political Science from Hindu College, University of Delhi.)



In the heart of devotion

India, a land woven with the threads of cultural diversity and religious fervour, is home to many unique places of worship. Each one of these has a story to tell, some even bordering on bizarre, howbeit, they are a testament to our religious beliefs nonetheless. Read on as **Arya Singh, AIS Vas 6, XII D**, takes us on this extraordinary journey as we explore some of the most unique holy places of India.

Bharat Mata Temple

Location: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

The oddball: Unlike any other regular temple, the Bharat Mata Temple reveres the undivided Indian Map as its primary deity. Meticulously carved on white marble, the temple is dedicated to the human manifestation of the country, known as Bharat Mata (Mother India).

History: The temple, a part of Varanasi's Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith complex, is a representation of India's enormous cultural diversity. Freedom fighters, Shiv Prasad Gupta, and Durga Prasad Khatri, built the shrine, which was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1936.

Aeroplane Gurudwara

Location: Jalandhar, Punjab

The oddball: Shaheed Baba Nihal Singh Gurudwara, also known as the 'Hawai Jahaz Gurdwara', is a place where worshippers travel great distances to offer toy airplanes. It is believed that offering the plane increases the chances of acceptance of VISA, especially of people travelling to the USA.

History: Frustrated by constant VISA rejections, a group of youngsters visited the gurudwara, where one of them offered a miniature model of an airplane in front of Guru Granth Sahib Ji, and got the VISA approval. That's how the legend caught on. Now, it receives over 200 toy airplanes every weekend.

Karni Mata Temple

Location: Bikaner, Rajasthan

The oddball: The temple is known for 25,000 rats, referred to as 'Kabbas', which live in and freely roam the temple complex. In fact, to eat anything that these rats have nibbled on is considered sacred.

History: An old legend claims that Karni Mata had a stepson, Laxman, who drowned in Kapil Sarovar while drinking water. Seeing this, Karni Mata prayed to Lord Yama to resuscitate her son. Yama yielded to her plea and reincarnated not only Laxman but also her other male children as rats.

Channapatna Dog Temple

Location: Channapatna, Karnataka

The oddball: This unusual temple worships dogs as one of the principal deities. The locals refer to it as 'Nai Devasthanam', where 'Nai' stands for 'Dog' in Kannada.

History: Folklore has it that two dogs lurked around the temple's construction site and vanished without a trace. It is believed that Goddess Kempamma appeared in the dream of one of the villagers and instructed him to find the dogs to protect the temple against evil. Unable to find them, the locals constructed a little shrine, began to pray, and feed the dogs' idols three times a week with a belief that they guarded their village.

Bullet Banna Temple

Location: Jodhpur, Rajasthan

The oddball: The Om Banna motorcycle, a 350cc Royal Enfield Bullet RNJ 7773, is the primary deity of this shrine.

History: In 1988, Om Singh Rathore, lost his life in a fatal accident while riding his bike. The bike ended up in a ditch, only to reappear at the accident site even after being taken to the police station. Despite the police's attempts to secure it and drain the petrol, the bike kept returning. Witnessing this, locals constructed a temple, believing that Om's spirit resides in the bike and offers aid to troubled travellers.

Being real



Moreover, Adam boasted of little secrets that no one knew about Gail. All this seemed too good to be true, but who could doubt him?

Sachi Pandey

AIS Vasundhara 6, X B

The class stared at Adam in disbelief as he played the video where he was interacting with his favourite star Loren Gail. Adam went on blabbering about every detail of the occasion, where he approached Gail and discussed everything behind the making of her movies. Moreover, Adam boasted of little secrets that no one knew about Gail. All this seemed too good to be true, but who could doubt him? The video was proof and the students from every corner of the school flocked to take a look at it. It was the first time that Adam was getting noticed by his fellow mates. It felt good; it felt exactly how he thought it would feel. Adam had never ever been happier. While he was enjoying all the limelight, Becky, a girl from Adam's class, was quite disliking the attention he was getting. She couldn't believe the fact that Adam, in real, had a chance to meet Gail. With her doubt in place, she thought, "I have to get to the

bottom of this." And putting on a detective cap, Becky visited Gail's Instagram account and saw a post from the day Adam had claimed to meet Gail. "Wait a second. Bali?" Becky read the caption once again. No, the letters were not messing with her. Loren Gail was, in fact, in Bali since the last three weeks. How had Adam met her? Not one to give up, Becky combed through all of Gail's posts, and found exactly the same video on Gail's Facebook account. But it wasn't Adam in the video; it was someone else. How did Adam do it? With a little more research, Becky was shocked to find that Adam had edited the video with deepfake tools available on the internet. He replaced the person's face with his own in the video. The next day, when Adam entered the classroom, he sensed an unusual stare towards him and at the same time, experienced a hint of ignorance from his classmates. Expectedly, Adam turned from a rockstar into a liar within a matter of minutes. The class teacher had got wind of the whole situation by now and she decided to call in the

school counsellor. Adam broke down in front of the kind and gentle Miss Wyatt. In tears, he explained how he was always ignored by the other kids, and that he had trouble striking up conversation. "I understand you are lonely, Adam, but what you did was illegal. Even if it takes lot of time, we must always try to make real relationships. Some fail, some succeed, but we have to keep trying. Why don't you start by sending a friend request to Loren?" "What's the point! She will never accept it." "Well, you will find out, won't you?"
Friend request accepted
 Adam blinked his eyes in disbelief. Little did Adam know that Miss Wyatt had studied in school together with his favourite actress and had already sent a message to Gail. She was friends with Loren Gail! This instilled a new confidence in Adam and made him wise enough to not brag about this in front of others. 🇧🇮



Illustration: Manya Singh & Aadya Sharma, AIS Vasundhara 6, IX E

The blind light

Gyanika Kashyap, AIS Vas 6, X B

Long ago, in a night of visible darkness
 A petite, but hauntingly pretty girl was
 Watching the "Night of the Living Dead"
 Even though she always craved quietness

She grew suspicious as silence unfolded
 A thunderous whisper reached her ears
 And her cherished toy fell upwards
 Its bitter smile cast an eerie magic spell

Soon a blinding light pierced the skies
 Transforming the scene before her eyes
 Next, she saw two lifeless souls walking
 On the soft rock of her kitchen garden

Their eyes were ablaze with frigid fire
 Their skin was a pallid plastic-silver
 As she sobbed and stifled in solitude
 She heard a dull roar in some distance

Beads of cold sweat on her forehead
 Looking behind was the only choice
 There she saw a pretty ugly zombie



Pic: Aditya Tyagi, X A | Model: Samara Malik, VIII B, AIS Vas 6

A knock echoed through an open door

She retreated across the floor's expanse
 The door revealed an enigmatic passe
 She shouted, her mind a chaotic whirl
 And didn't know what she must do here

From the shadows her mother shined
 And enquired, "Why are you so terrified?"
 A silent response from daughter's side
 Reminded her that the little one is visually blind.

Read Play and Win 41

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 'Life on Mars' on page 4?	Q.2 Mention the series reviewed on page 5 by Jaya Jha.	Q.3 Who is reciting the eulogy in 'So long, Grey?' on page 4?
Q.4 Name the teacher coordinator for AIS Vasundhara 6.	Q.5 Which school has prepared this contest edition?	Q.6 What is the slug for the story 'Being real'?
Q.7 Who made the illustrations on page 7?	Q.8 Which novel place has been covered in the section ground reporting?	Q.9 What is the headline of the top story published on page 1?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-40: **Maira Shadab**, AIS Vas 6, IX A; **Priyanshi Bajpai**, AIS Gur 43, IX D; **Madhay Moond**, AIS Gur 46, III E

Call of Planet

Decoding The Fresh Climate Action Plan Devised At COP28



Shailja Agarwal, AIS Vas 6, XII B

In response to the looming concern of climate change, 200 nations collaboratively convened for the monumental climatic summit - the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) 28th Conference of Parties. Held in Dubai from Nov 30 - Dec 12, 2023, the convention was aimed at discerning impactful solutions for climate action, with a central focus on addressing the 1.5-degree Celsius increase in the global average temperature. We bring to you the key points...

The commitment

COP28 establishes a global standard for climate resolution, drawing over 70,000 delegates from diverse UNFCCC member states. Representatives, including business leaders, entrepreneurs, indigenous groups, journalists, and stakeholders, joined the conference, as climate experts engaged in negotiations on climate change mitigation, evaluating each country's advancements since the last meeting (COP27) held in Egypt last year.

The significance

The timing of this convention could not be more critical, as the world struggles to meet the 1.5 degrees Celsius climate goal. 2023 has already confirmed itself as one of the hottest year. Adding salt to the injury were assessments that showed that the world, too, was not doing enough to contain the situation, and the 1.5 degree target would



soon become a distant dream.

The tasks at hand

COP28 addressed many issues, some of them for the very first time - the need to phase out fossil fuel usage and to reduce methane emissions. Other issues included global goal on climate adaptation and operation and capitalisation of loss and damage fund. Another key agenda at COP28 was to carry out a Global Stocktake (GST), an assessment of where the world is in its fight against climate change and what more needs to be done. The GST is mandated by the Paris Agreement to be a periodic exercise, the first one being conducted in 2023, with periodic assessments every five years.

The outcomes

While these discussions are pivotal to

moving forward, COP28 fell short on most accounts, being unable to match up to the need for climate change action plan.

Fossil fuel phase out: This was perhaps the biggest bone of contention at COP28. COP28 brought the role of fossil fuels in global warming to the table, a critical first. The initial draft proposing 'phase out' of fossil fuels was met with outrage by several countries, forcing the final draft to recede to 'transition away'. Howbeit, given the absence of any set targets, even the transition is unlikely to bring any effect.

Renewable energy to be tripled: The conference called for tripling of global installed capacity of renewable energy, and doubling of annual improvements in energy efficiency. This is being hailed as a significant move since it can cut down 7 bln tonnes of carbon emissions, which is higher than the net result of most cli-

mate actions being taken at the moment. But this again is an obscure dream, since the need for tripling is a global target and does not make it mandatory for all countries to triple their capacity.

Reduction of coal: While fossil fuels were discussed at length, coal was singled out, having been discussed at Glasgow Conference 2021 earlier, which called for no new coal-fired power plants to be opened without an in-built carbon capture and storage facility. However, this move was resisted by India, China, and South Africa. COP28 saw reiteration of the same, but once again without mentioning how this phase down would be measured and from what baseline.

Methane emissions: The need to curb methane emissions was discussed too, as it accounts for nearly 25% of all carbon emissions. However, this was strongly contended by countries like India since agriculture and livestock are a key source of methane here and any cut down on methane emissions would only mean tweaking our agrarian economy at large.

Loss and damage fund: COP28 operationalised the fund that was set in motion last year at COP27. It is meant to provide financial aid to developing countries to help cope with the impact of climate disasters. A total of 800 mln USD was pledged during the conference, where the amount falls short of 400 bln USD owing to damages caused due to climate change each year. China and USA, the world's largest emitters, extended only 17.5 mln USD and 10 mln USD, respectively.



A gastronomic adventure



GROUND REPORTING

All Aboard The Railicious Express For A Tasty Delight

Diya Mishra, XI B & Siya Makhija, XI E, AIS Vas 6

In a sea of theme-based restaurants, Railicious: Swaad Ki Railgaadi stands out with its train-inspired ambience, wherein each table is a station and every bite, a destination of its own. As it uses miniature locomotives to deliver your culinary delights instead of waiters, letting the aroma of delicious food mingle with their rhythmic clanging at every step, the experience is sure to lead anyone down the memory lane. Hop on to know how...

Choo-choo chronicles

Taking inspiration from the rising demand for theme-based restaurants, Railicious has been functioning in the Delhi/NCR region since 2022. For Himanshu Deeya and Ankesh Verma, the creators of this unique dining concept, it is about turning dreams into reality. "Nowadays, casual restaurants with a waiter and a table set-up are becoming increasingly obsolete. People, especially youngsters, are on the lookout for different dining experiences. We thought to capitalise on the same in a bid to attract diners and came up with Railicious = Rail+delicious," explained Himanshu.



GT reporters with restaurant manager



A glimpse of the restaurant

Pics: Siya Makhija, AIS Vas 6, XI E

Fueling the engine

Crafting a unique concept like Railicious requires a mix of creativity and market research. "It's about combining the passion for both the theme and gastronomy, while staying attuned to the dynamics of the restaurant. The atmosphere inside the restaurant is crafted in such a way that it resembles the Indian railways. The seats in our restaurant are like benches at railway stations; this is another thing that makes the visitors feel like they are on a train platform. Even the menu card will remind you of the old crackly railway stubs. All in all, our décor represents the treasured moments of the Indian railway, and is sure to transport you back to the days of your carefree and delightful travels," Himanshu tacked on.

Chugging through the tracks

As you step inside the restaurant, you can spot miniature tracks covering all the tables, with each table featuring a different station across India. Describing the mechanism, Himanshu explained, "We strive to make our customers' experience a unique one. The technicality behind the miniature train is in itself marvelous. A central panel in the kitchen houses buttons connected to each station platform. A single train, connected to five tables, navigates the mini server, and the sensor at the end of each platform automatically stops the train from going any further. The restaurant's menu has not been neglected either; our signature items include "mushroom duplex", "paneer Peshawari", and the unique "Jungli roti".

Braving the switchbacks

They say that a challenge-less story and an obstacle-free race are monotonous. "We haven't faced many challenges from our inception till now. However, if the sensor that stops the train at the end of the table malfunctions or any other technical difficulty arises, it becomes troublesome for the staff. We also come across children who are curious and mischievous at the same time; they are naturally drawn to the miniature trains, necessitating constant vigilance from the staff to ensure the safety of the trains. However, their luminant faces make it all worthwhile."

Full steam ahead

Discussing the restaurant's future, Himanshu emphasised, "No idea is too small, and no dream is too big to attain. It is only by channeling our efforts in the right direction that we've reached this point, and so can you. We do ultimately plan on expanding into other chains in the future, but currently, our focus is on nurturing our existing branches. For at the end of the day, the joy our restaurant brings to children's faces is our greatest reward. We aspire to perpetuate these smiles in the years to come, too."



Pics: Ashee Jha, AIS Vasundhara 6, XI E



To ideate for hours, editors have the power



To be AIS Vasundhara 6 Editorial Team, focus on reigning supreme!



To capture beauty, a lensman's duty



To write tales, writers never fail



To draw dreams, illustrators gleam

For more pictures, log on to www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper or www.instagram.com/the_global_times

Youth Ideathon

New Ideas To Pave The Way For A New Bharat



Team Amidea, AIS Saket, pose with their gold medals



Team Menstrumate, AIS Saket

ACSF


Amity students garnered appreciation and clinched several medals at the Youth Ideathon 2023, India's most exciting innovation and entrepreneurship competition for school students, organised by MEPSC (Management & Entrepreneurship and Professional Skill Council) and ThinkStartup, India's largest entrepreneurship education provider. Held from October 6 - November 18, 2023, the competition was based on the theme of 'iStartup a Good Thing for India'. This annual competition aims to encourage the spirit of innovation in children and harness their enormous potential to think big and come up with futuristic ideas. Students are guided to identify societal problems and propose solutions under the theme 'Mera Idea Jo Badal De Bharat'.

The competition was even more special this time as Meenu Kanwar, principal of AIS Mayur Vihar, got awarded with the prestigious 'Principal of Innovation Award' at the closing ceremony for her outstanding contribution in fostering a culture of creativity in the school and transforming it into a hub of ingenuity. This National Award recognises principals who have introduced innovative programs, embraced new teaching methods, and nurtured a culture of innovation from all over the country. All these awards, won under

the visionary leadership and guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, stand as a testament to her commitment towards kindling the spirit of enquiry and innovation in Amity students by giving them world class opportunities to engage and explore a world beyond classrooms and textbooks. It is notable that the participation in this prestigious national level competition of innovation was facilitated by Amity Children's Science Foundation (ACSF) under her visionary leadership. The event witnessed around 1.5 lakh students participate in a five-stage competition. Out of the initial 50,000 entries, 1000 ideas were selected for finals at the all India level, which then competed for the top slots.

Team Amidea, consisting of Viaan Mehta, Aaradhya Chatterjee, Yuvaan Gupta, and Ativeer Rajput, all from Class IV of AIS Saket, clinched the gold medal for their exceptional presentation and delivery. Team Menstrumate, comprising Anupriya Nayak, Vanalika Konwar, and Prisha Dubey, all from Class XII of AIS Saket, secured silver medal, along with a grant of 10,000 INR, and an additional 5,000 INR for their mentor to further support product development. The AI project titled 'Mood Masters' by Amogh Sethi, Arjun Singh, Siddhatman Dhariyal, and Hamsah Roy, all from Class VII of AIS MV, bagged the

silver medal. Project 'Solar Saini Box' by Hitika Mathur (XII), Dhruvi Gupta (XII), and Purvi Gupta (VIII) of AIS Vas 6 received the judge's appreciation. Project 'Work Log' by Class VIII students Aarush Sobti, Adeeb Faiyaz, and Aharshi Kumar of AIS Noida featured in the Top 100.

Further adding to the laurels of Amity were the following projects that featured amongst top 1000 all over India - Project 'Aquadevelopers' by Dhruvika Srivastava, Aahana Gupta, Lavanya Singh, Shambhavi Gupta, all from Class VII of AIS Noida; project 'Third Eye' by Amaar Ali, Arav Khurana, Mrinank Singh, all from Class VII of AIS Noida; project 'Corn Brew' by Tejaswa Pratap and Tulika Guha Thakurta both from Class X of AIS Noida; project 'Medi Bank' by Ranvijay Singh, Perna Mam, and Lavanya Singh, all from Class X of AIS Noida; 'Eco-toys' by Aanya Jain, Anshika Jain, and Stephen Davis, all from Class IX of AIS Vas 6; 'Meditech App' by Samarth Kalra (VIII), Nirvaan Jain (VIII), and Ayushmaan Singh (VII) of AIS Vas 6; 'Solar Panel Cleaner' by Shaurya Arora, Divishee Singh, and Arjun Dubey, all from Class IX of AIS Vas 6; project 'CAMEA' - an ayurvedic dental kit by Pranjal Agarwal (XI) of AIS Vas 1; and project 'Nature Tech' by Saiansh Gupta (VII), Ashmi Mishra (VII), Arnav Sinha (VII), and Aarohi Gupta (VIII) of AIS Vasundhara 1. 




Cadets march past at the Kasam Parade

A vow of valour

AIMC

Amity Indian Military College (AIMC) hosted a military training camp and Kasam Parade from Nov 5-10, 2023, under the supervision of Col. Ravinder Singh, admin officer and supreme commander, Amity Cadet Corps and Military Training Camp. Around 200 students from AIS Gur 46 participated in the camp, along with AIMC students. They were divided into seven platoons, including four platoons for boys and three for girls, with Tanmay Meewati of Class XII, AIMC, serving as the company commander for the parade. Other students namely Vishesh Chaudhary (X) from AIMC served as the under junior officer platoon 1, Ahana Sood (IX) from AIS Gur 46 as the under junior officer platoon 2, Nevan

Joshi (IX) from AIS Gur 46 as the under junior officer platoon 3, Anushka (IX) from AIS Gur 46 as the under junior officer platoon 4, Naitik Dhawan (IX) from AIS Gur 46 as the under junior officer platoon 5, Anwesha Shukla (IX) from AIS Gur 46 as the under junior officer platoon 6, and Aryan Kumar (IX) from AIS Gur 46 as the under junior officer platoon 7.

During the camp, students got an immersive experience in military discipline. They learnt about fire-fighting and tent pitching, played games like football, and got trained in field craft, map reading, parasailing, shooting, river crossing, etc. They also got to listen to insightful lectures on NDA and the 1971 Jaisalmer border war by Col. Ravinder Singh. The camp concluded with the march past, with platoon 4 winning the best parade performance. 

Incredible India!



Travel Troopers as they perform Mayurbhanj chhau

AIS Vasundhara 6

Travel Troopers - the Yuva tourism club of the school, got registered and recognised by the Ministry of Tourism on December 3, 2023. Their journey began on August 25, 2022, in response to a motivational speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in which he urged the youth to become ambassadors of tourism and promote India's culture, tra-

dition, legacy, and history. With 'Wander, Discover, Explore' as its tagline, the Travel Troopers then went on to conduct a list of activities, including a trip to Jim Corbett National Park, creating travelogues and talks, etc., to promote India as a travel destination. Mayurbhanj chhau dance, tiger dance of Sundarbans, a dance on life in Kutch, a song on Meghalaya, etc., were some of the highlights of their campaigns.



Fact file

Divyansh Aggarwal
AIS Gurugram 43, IX A

- Africa, the second largest continent of the world, contains 54 countries and has the world's largest desert and the longest river.
- The Sahara Desert is bigger than the United States of America. It expands over an area of 9.4 million sq. kilometres, and it is still growing.
- Nile, the longest known river in the world, flows for around 6,660 kms across the countries of Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania.
- Arabic is the most widely spoken language in the continent of Africa.
- Blyde River Canyon, the 'largest green canyon in the world', is in South Africa. It is the third largest canyon in the entire world.
- Sudan has a total of 223 pyramids known as Meroe Pyramids, which is said to be twice the number of pyramids that Egypt has.
- The Second Congo War (1998-2003) which has claimed over 5.4 million lives, is the deadliest worldwide conflict since WWII.
- Africa produces at least 50% of gold and diamonds in the entire world. The rest of the world produces the other half.
- 70% of world's cocoa beans is produced in Africa.

So long, Grey

Humans On An Expedition To Kill Their Brain Cells

Manya Aggarwal
AIS Vasundhara 6, X C

Ladies and gentlemen, microbes, and other assorted life forms, today we are gathered here to bid our final goodbyes to the dearly departed Grey Cells family – or as some called them, the Brain Cells family. Yes, the brainy bunch that used to reside up there in the cranial penthouse, enjoying the scenic views of reason and logic. Alas, they met their untimely demise, leaving us to mourn the unfortunate loss of intellect, wit, and the occasional dad joke. Now, let's be honest, we all saw this coming. I mean, humans have been treating our beloved Grey Cells like unpaid interns for generations. From solving complex math problems to recalling embarrassing childhood memories, they worked tirelessly, only to be repaid with neglect. I tried warning them, but they were too busy sending electrochemical signals and forming the brain's complex thoughts, while humans lay on the couch binge-watching cat videos. Talk about betrayal! But that was still only a pin in the coffin. I still remember how even dollops of ice cream were no consolation each time humans chose Google, Siri, and Alexa over those Grey Cells. Really now? Have you ever tried to ask



Pic: Amogh Shukla, XI A | Models: Jeeana Tiwari & Vivaan Mehra, II B, Prisha Goyal, Tvisha Sharma & Harshaditya Datta, II D; AIS Vasundhara 6

Siri to choose between *pakodas* or *samosas* – an ordeal the Brain Cells went through for years without complaining? Their kneeling moments in front of their phone to find out what one plus two equals to, or that auto-correct that stabbed not just them but also the beloved 'Spell Bee' - their episodes of heart break were

way too many to count. Even the couch could no longer bear the burden of the stupidity of those munching on chips all day. "Hey Alexa! Tell me a joke". Well, dear humans, I will tell you one and that is on you, and the intelligence you mortgaged to the technological world. Your idiocy looks like a cosmic sitcom, and I

can almost hear the laugh track playing in the background. So, my dear departed Grey Cells, fear not. I, Heart, your friend in cardiac mischief, swear to avenge you – because nothing says justice like watching humans struggle to remember where they parked their self-driving cars. Rest in laughter, Grey Cells.

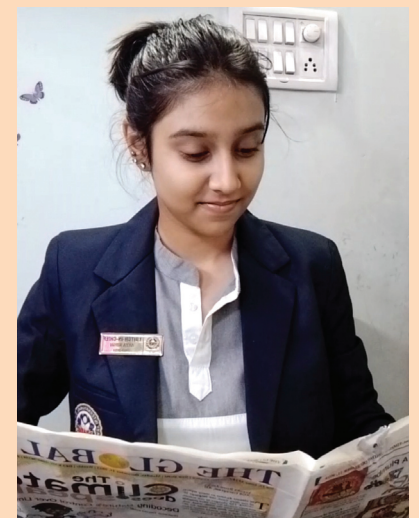
In spotlight



Team in flow, discussions in tow



United by ink, empowered by words: Editorial team of AIS Vas 6



Editor-in-chief: Arya Singh