

## PM Bal Puraskar for Innovation

### SO-APT – A Young Genius's All-In-One Solution For Our Small Scale Farmers

Arpita Chakraborty  
GT Network

Suhani Chauhan, a student of AIS Pushp Vihar, is a true role model for everyone who aspires to bring about a positive change. On the occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> Republic Day, she was bestowed with the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar for her innovation SO-APT (Solar Operated Agricultural Vehicle with Portable Tools), a technological marvel aimed at helping small scale farmers. She speaks to GT about her extraordinary journey.

#### The genesis

Suhani always found herself drawn to the challenges that come with a dynamic environment. Howbeit, it was a school visit to a Manesar farm in Class VIII that sowed the seed of this mission. "Seeing the plight of small farmers, I wanted to work in the field of agri-tech and help our farmers," she says.

#### The support

In a quest that took almost five years, Suhani confronted all challenges with an unyielding resolve and a strong support system. She shares her gratitude towards Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan for providing a nurturing learning environment, the collective support of her school, principal, and teachers. Dubbed as the 'innovator in the



Suhani Chauhan of AIS PV receives Bal Puraskar from President Droupadi Murmu

family', by her grandfather, Suhani has a family, supporting her every step of the way. "My mother has been my constant pillar of support. The assurance that someone is diligently handling and managing everything behind the scenes to ensure a smooth path for me made it very comforting," she notes.

#### The delicate balance

Skilfully managing academics, extracurricular pursuits, and personal life, Suhani sure has got her balancing act right. Refraining from making any traditional or rigid

timetables, she plans her day with a simple morning ritual of setting mental goals that guide her through the day. "I make sure to complete all the tasks that I have listed before going to bed. This helps me keep things on track," she adds.

#### The success mantra

Our Founder President Sir's mantra BHAAG (Behavioural Sciences, Hardwork, Attitude, Ambition, and faith in God) has been Suhani's guiding principle throughout this journey. "Everybody has the same number of hours in a day and a lim-

ited number of resources, but what sets you apart is how wisely you employ these resources. It is crucial to maintain the right attitude and consistently making the effort to move a step forward."

#### The 'apt' marvel

Explaining the concept behind SO-APT, Suhani says, "This compact vehicle has a unique feature, encompassing almost all the tools necessary for agricultural purposes." This innovative vehicle is not only crafted for ploughing, irrigation, fertilisation, or digging



holes for seeds, but also serves as an everyday vehicle for storing crops and seeds and transporting them to the market. Beyond being a farmer-friendly investment, this vehicle is a boon for the environment. Equipped with six solar panels, it utilises five panels to power the vehicle and one to power the tools. With tools designed to cut costs and promote sustainability, SO-APT is the innovation we are in need of in the agricultural world.

#### The shining legacy

Suhani Chauhan's achievement is another feather in Amity's hat crowned with Bal Puraskar award-ees. The prestigious honour was earlier bagged by Taksheel Budhadeo, AIS Gur 46 (2014); Gauri Mishra, AIS Gur 46 (2020) and Sanchita Tiwari, AIS Vas 1 (2020).

With her unique innovation, Suhani has not only inspired us to usher change, but also motivates us to comprehend the limitless possibilities of the human mind. 🇮🇳

#### THE GT POLL

Do you think RBI's decision to barr Paytm Payments Bank from accepting new deposits after February 29, 2024 is correct?

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

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the\_global\_times

#### Coming next

Good luck for your exams!

Follow us on: [@the\\_global\\_times](https://www.instagram.com/the_global_times)

#### What's inside



##### A chat with the chief

In conversation with Dr N Kalaiselvi, director general, CSIR and secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

...more on page 3



##### Spirit of freedom

Celebrating the 75th year of our Republic Day as we unfold the lesser known information about this highly celebrated day of pride.

...more on page 7



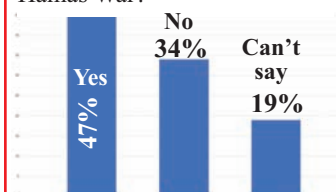
##### Be body positive

Have a look at experts discussing the vital topic of body positivity as part of the panel discussion organised by YP team of AIS Noida (2022-23).

...more on page 10

#### POLL RESULT for GT Edition January 29, 2024

In light of South Africa's genocide case against Israel, do you think International Court of Justice's verdict can change the course of Israel-Hamas War?



Result as on February 3, 2024



# Around The WORLD

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



## USA

### Brain chip trial a success

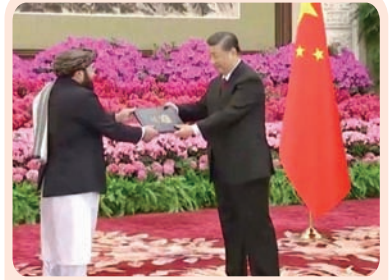
A revolutionary first was accomplished by Elon Musk's Neuralink where a brain-computer interface chip was successfully implanted in a human on January 30. Musk announced the move on X (previously Twitter), saying that the test subject is "recovering well". The invasive surgery was allegedly carried out by a robot, which removed the patient's skull to place 1,024 electrodes on the movement-related area of the brain.



## GERMANY

### 4-day work week on trial

Starting Feb 1, 45 companies began participating in a pilot study to test a four-day work week. A shortage of skilled workers along with rising inflation had encouraged employees to seek increased wages and more flexible timings. Seeking an employer-employee balance, the companies are set to test out the merits of working fewer hours with the same output. The six-month-long programme is going to offer employees one day extra off from the work per week without any pay cuts. Rigorous research will track impacts on employee productivity, wellness, and broader economic growth.



## CHINA

### Taliban envoy welcomed

On January 30, President Xi Jinping welcomed Taliban's Bilal Karimi as an ambassador to China and accepted his credentials as an envoy from Afghanistan. This move reflects China's motive to include Afghanistan in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as China has declared it wouldn't meddle in Afghanistan's domestic affairs. China declared last year that the Afghan Taliban should not be kept out of the world community and that it must undergo reform to receive full diplomatic recognition. This is the first official acknowledgment of the Taliban government by any nation.



## FRANCE

### Farmers block the highways

To oppose agricultural policies and high taxes, thousands of farmers have taken to the streets blocking major roads in Paris. Seeking support from the new PM, farmers are seeking relief from low-cost imports, underpayment for produce, and marginalisation due to environmental regulations. To stop the tractors from going into protest towns, the government has deployed over 15,000 officers.



## SAUDI ARABIA

### WEF meeting in April

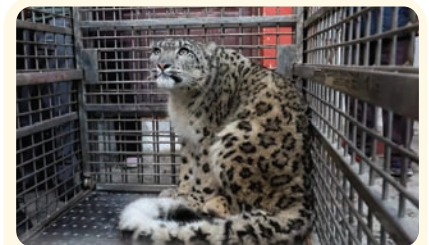
The World Economic Forum summit is scheduled to take place in Saudi Arabia on April 28-29, 2024. To boost the global profile of the kingdom, worldwide cooperation, growth, and energy will be among the primary subjects of discussion. To promote international collaboration and discussion between nations, the event aims to bring together around 700 global leaders from the public and private sectors.



## MALAYSIA

### 17<sup>th</sup> king crowned

Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, the ruler of the state of Johor, was sworn in as the 17<sup>th</sup> king. The 65-year-old monarch will be the first king from Johor since the 1980s. The oath-taking ceremony was held in Kuala Lumpur in the presence of other royal families, PM Anwar Ibrahim, and other lawmakers. Even though the position is merely ceremonial, the Sultan has indicated that he would not waste his five years on the throne as a 'puppet king'.



## INDIA

### Snow leopard census at 718

The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India identified the country's snow leopard population to be at 718 after a four-year investigation between 2019 and 2023. Its highest concentration could be found in Ladakh, followed by Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Jammu & Kashmir. The survey covered approx 70% of the animal's natural habitat in the trans-Himalayan region.

## News Flash

► **Pakistan:** Ex-PM & his wife get 14-year jail term in corruption case ► **Japan:** Moon Lander SLIM regains functionality after nine days ► **Antarctic:** First bird flu death reported in penguins due to H5N1 virus



# A chat with the chief

## Insights From The Forefront: Dr N Kalaiselvi On Shaping The Future Of Nation

Pic: Deepak Sharma, GT Network

A revered scientist celebrated for her trailblazing work in the field of electrochemical power systems, **Dr N Kalaiselvi**, at present, serves as **director general, CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research**. Remarkably, she created history as the first woman to hold this esteemed position in the 80-year legacy of CSIR, one of India's premier R&D organisations. She was also the first woman scientist to head the CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute). As she graced AUUP to deliver an oration on "Energy Management - Indian Perspective", GT reporters caught up with her to know more about her passion for science and research. Here are excerpts...

### Fascination for science

I have always been an ardent nature lover and observer. "Why are the leaves green?", "Why are the trees moving while we are travelling?", "Why does the moon seem to follow us?" et al were some of the questions that used to tickle my fancy a lot. In that regard, I was blessed to have great teachers who gave us enough freedom to ask as many questions as we wanted and made sure to provide us with beautiful answers for each one of them. It was from that point onwards that my passion for science, especially



GT reporters with Dr N Kalaiselvi

chemistry with all its reactions and phenomena, grew stronger.

### Future of green energy

To have a greener planet is certainly the dream, but one that can be easily realised if efforts are made to move to a circular economy, where we recycle, reuse, reconsider, and reorient, not leaving any parasitic waste behind. Though many consider plastic as something that our Mother Earth cannot digest, scientists have found special worms to prove otherwise. Then comes the notion of 'Waste to Wealth,' i.e., to make use of waste in a way that it turns into wealth, this is

where the essence of a circular economy and the path to a green future lies.

### Far away from disparities

Fortunately, there are no gender-related disparities in the field of science. Any work done towards science will get the same amount of recognition for both men and women. Sometimes we, as women, do face difficulties while balancing work with family life. However, science is a domain where you can restart your career even after a break for any length of time. And once women put their mind to it, they never stop till they reach their goals, isn't it?

## INTERVIEW

### Fostering research

If you are interested in research, our government provides several scholarships for students of Class X and XII. Then, of course, there are some exams, qualifying which will get you research stipends from the government. These will help you complete your doctorate for five years. You also have the opportunity of getting fellowship offers, both from within India and abroad. Our country offers immense financial support to researchers, you only have to find where the opportunity lies and truly devote yourself to the pursuit of science. Connect with your nearest laboratory, engage in internships, and take up different projects. You can also follow and reach out to scientists from your nearest CSIR laboratories. Just go for it! **GT**

**Interview conducted by: Suhani Chauhan XI & Samaya Chauhan, X, AIS PV; Ishaan Pradhan, VIII & Praneel Dev, XII, AIS Noida; Aditya Agarawal, AIS Vas 6, IX; Kanishk Chauhan, AIS MV, X; Yashika Das, AIS Saket, XI; Rajbir Singh, AIS Gur 43, XI; Abhay Bailey, AIS Gur 46, IX; and Shaurya Pratap Singh, AIS Vas 1, IX**

## India This Week

Arisha Agarwal, AIS Vas 1, IX D

While we sit on our couch just breathing, a lot of things happen around us, and sometimes in our very own country. We bring you the ones worth mentioning...

### First private Helicopter FAL

**News:** Airbus Helicopters and Tata Group joined hands to establish India's first private helicopter Final Assembly Line (FAL) in the nation. The FAL will manufacture Airbus' renowned single engine H125 helicopter for the Indian market and also make their supply to the neighbouring countries possible, strengthening the 'Made in India' initiative. It would require over 24 months to establish a production line, which would include aircraft assembly, component part manufacturing, and engineering, and would begin to deliver the first 'Made in India' H125s latest from 2026.



**Views:** This collaboration will help boost the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' ideology of India and would reduce our reliance on imports. In addition to this, it will strengthen India's standing as a center for aerospace production, paving the way for international collaboration and boosting economic growth. The new facility is also anticipated to be crucial in transforming

helicopter use in India, fostering both civil as well as military purposes. Moreover, it would lead to the growth of human capital and support businesses. The production of the undisputed H125, as such, will become a symbol of the confident new India. **GT**

Aditi Gupta

AIS Vasundhara 1, XI B

### First female mahout gets Padma Shri

**News:** Parbati Baruah, the first female elephant mahout in India, was conferred with Padma Shri for her exceptional contribution to elephant conservation and care. In her extraordinary career that has spanned over five decades, she has helped numerous state administrations apprehend untamed wild tuskers and tackle other human-elephant issues. Her endeavours in the profession earned her the nickname 'Hasti Kanya' (Daughter of Elephants) and brought her various other accolades as well, such as the Global 500-Roll of Honour from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Assam Gaurav Award from the state government of Assam.

**Views:** Parbati Baruah has dedicated her



life to bridging the gap between humans and wild tuskers since she was 14 years old. She broke numerous preconceptions and set the path for upcoming generations of female mahouts, all thanks to her father's training. Her in-depth knowledge of these magnificent animals has not only reduced man-animal conflicts, but also guaranteed the security of both. This award, as such, is a celebration of a life devoted to protecting the relationship between humans and animals, demonstrating that compassion has the power to tame even the most ferocious of beings. **GT**

Kanishka Sharma

AIS Vasundhara 1, IX D



# The e-book revolution

From the crack of dawn, technology stirs us with its reliable alarms, and caresses us with the cooling breeze of our ACs as we drift off to sleep, weaving its wonders into our everyday lives. GT pays homage to this silent saviour that simplifies and enhances our existence with a brand new series, unwrapping A to Z of iconic tech pieces, one letter at a time. Here's presenting the **K** in this series that changed human life as we know and live it.

Saisha Gogia, AIS Saket, VIII C

**The tech:** Kindle

**The inventor:** Gregg Zehr

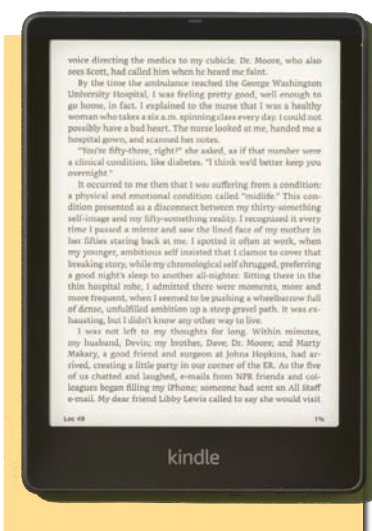
## How was it invented?

In 2004, while looking for solutions to develop business in the digital arena in response to Apple's iPod, Amazon, one of the biggest online booksellers at the time, started to develop an e-reader device. Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, asked Lab126, an Amazon subsidiary, to come up

with such a device that would allow consumers to buy, download, and read online every possible book at a low price. It was originally developed under the codename 'Fiona', but was later renamed as 'Kindle', meaning to light a fire, by branding consultants Michael Cronan and Karin Hibma.

## When did we get to know it first?

Amazon launched the 1st-generation Kindle in November 2007. The device had an asymmetric shape, a full-size keyboard, a white bezel, a dark 6-inch e-ink display, a headphone jack, and an SD card slot for expanding memory. Priced at around 399 USD, it also came with an internal storage of 250 MB, good enough for 200 medium-length books. Amazon also made around 90,000 books available for purchase and download upon its release, owing to which, the device was sold out within 5.5 hours of its release, providing an appealing and comfortable eBook reading experience to the buyers.



## Why do we use it?

Kindle has completely revolutionised the way people read books. It provides a portable, convenient, and lightweight way to carry an extensive library of books in a single device. The look and feel of a paperback, a built-in dictionary,

search functionality, wireless connectivity, and accessibility to thousands of titles are features unique only to Kindle. With multiple variants ranging from 6-inch displays to a 10.2-inch screen and even a Wacom stylus in some variants, it serves all kinds of readers. The device's battery life is long too, reducing the need for frequent charging. Additionally, Kindle's e-ink technology minimises eye strain, making it comfortable to use for extended reading sessions compared to traditional screens.

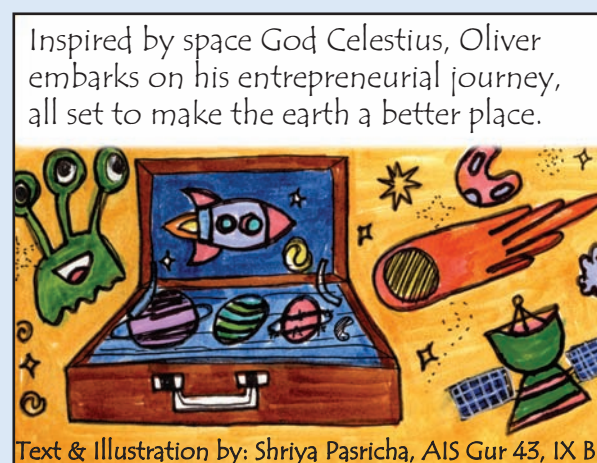
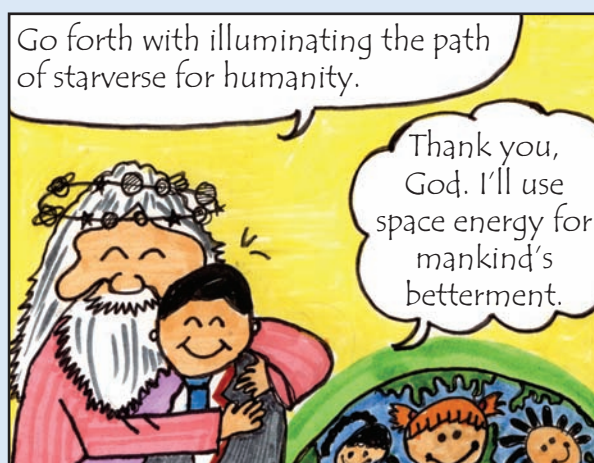
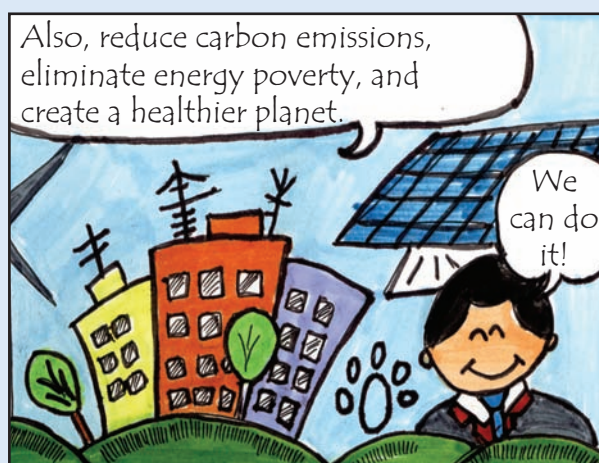
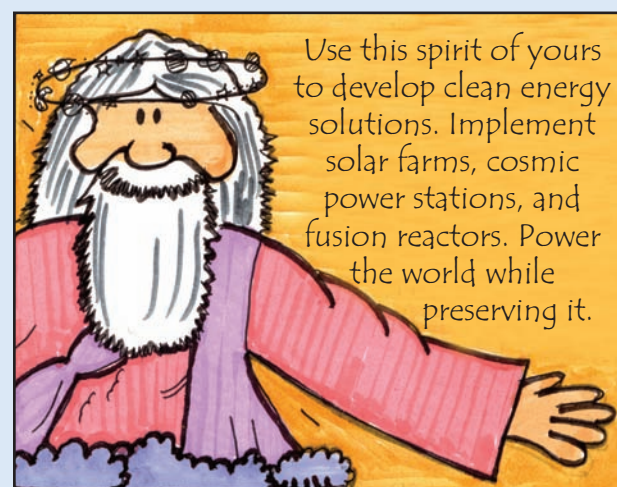
## How has it helped our lives?

The device became popular among readers because Amazon stayed true to its original



**Fun fact:** A Kindle's display is made with millions of microscopic capsules that are filled with particles floating in a clear fluid which are covered with a thin film on top.

objective of encouraging people to read books. The extent is such that, today, more than 63% of eBook readers use Kindle, because it provides an optimal way to read books. Furthermore, by enabling independent writers to readily share their work with the world through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing, Kindle has revolutionised publishing, too. If that wasn't enough, the Kindle app can be used on a variety of platforms and devices, allowing users to pick up where they left off when reading on whichever device they choose. So, if you read extensively, a Kindle is sure to make your reading experience seamless and enjoyable. **GT**



Text & Illustration by: Shriya Pasricha, AIS Gur 43, IX B



# The shining medal

Here's The Saga Of The Highly Coveted and Craved Laurel

Autobiography

Nurina Amin, AIS Pushp Vihar, X C

You know all about the event, the sport, the winner, and the glory, but do you know about me? I think you might, because I am such a huge part of the Olympics, but my complaint is that none of you have ever stopped to properly think about me. Well...I could whine about it, but today, I'd rather take this time to educate you on my rich history. Oh, who am I, you ask? Well, I am the one and only, the team of three legendary metals that adorn the neck of every winner; I am an Olympic medal. Yes, the same one that every athlete dreams of. I am granted to the winners of Olympic Games and come in three classes – gold, silver, and bronze, which are awarded to the first, second, and third placeholders respectively. This much, I am sure you already knew, but what you didn't know is that my very first form was not a medal, but rather an olive wreath introduced by Heracles at Ancient Olympic Games. It was only in 1896, when Olympics as we know it today began, that I, a medal, was designed by the French sculptor Jules-Clement Chap-

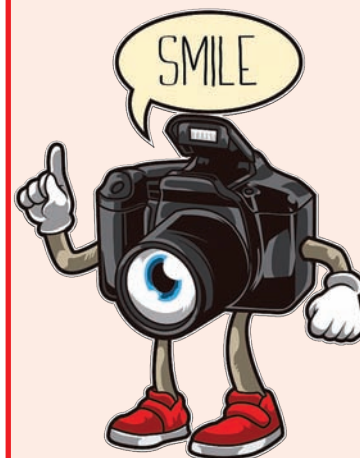
lain and was given out to players. However, my gold form was still not created. The winner, back then, got a silver medal, whereas the others received a copper or bronze medal, and in 1900, I moved to having gilt silver for first place holders. It was only in 1904 Summer Olympics in USA that I was given the classic gold, silver, and bronze division.



The image I have created now seems to be set in stone (or rather in circular gold, silver, and bronze), but I was not always like that. In fact, I was not always circular. In 1900, the Olympic Games witnessed rectangular versions of me, as designed by Frederique Vernon, for the first and the last time. I was also not awarded to the winning players of all the sports back then. Only limited games like shooting, racing, gymnastics, rowing etc., saw my distribution, whereas the other sports were awarded with cups and trophies. My name comes with its own pride, and if achieving me is not easy, trust me, giving me away isn't a piece of cake either. Of course, I demand great care. As per the rules dedicated by the International Olympic Committee, I have to feature an attachment of a chain or ribbon, and my diameter should be a minimum of 60 mm, and thickness 3 mm. The gold version of me (the one I am proudest of) is to be composed of at least 92.5% of silver, plated with 6 grams of gold. The silver one is the same, minus the gold plating, and the bronze one needs to be 97% copper with 0.5% tin and 2.5% zinc. I also have other details engraved on me about the event, with the name of the sport being a necessity. From being minted by the host city to my gold medals being made of solid gold till 1912, my variations have changed a lot through the years. What hasn't changed, however, is my legacy, soused in gold, silver, and bronze, rewriting the tales of athletes, countries, and the sports alike.

POEM

## Through the lens



Ishika Kapoor, AIS Saket, IX C

In fleeting moments, I'm your guide  
Here to capture life's endless rides  
With one click, I freeze every view  
A silent spy, capturing what's true

With my lens, life's a vibrant show  
I preserve memories, gems to stow  
From dawn to night's gentle shush  
I record it all, in every little brush

In bustling streets or nature's grace  
I find beauty in every person's face  
From big days to tiny stuff at play  
I snap them all, no matter the day

I catch your smiles and its delight  
Capturing memories day and night  
In every click, a fresh view appears  
One-of-a-kind, soothing your fears

Hold dear the stories that I've won  
I'm your camera, taping everyone  
In the digital world, you shall see  
A forever witness to your history.

Lavanya Mishra, AIS Vas 6, X B

As the festive season begins, there are certain things we wholeheartedly indulge in, yet overlook and never give credit to; things that make sure that the enthusiasm in the house remains wild. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that we are talking about festive movies. Of course, the general opinion, mostly our mom's opinion, dictates them as a relaxing form of entertainment or an excuse for not helping her with the household chores, but festive movies aren't limited to just laying like a motionless zombie on the couch, or are they? Imagine sitting in the drawing room with your childhood friends watch-

# Festi(pals)

ing 'The Christmas Chronicles' on Christmas Eve, with some hot chocolate on the side. This simple movie can take the warm, fuzzy Christmas spirit to a whole new level, reminding us to live in the moment and to be with our loved ones. Likewise, watching 'Hocus Pocus' during Halloween season and turning the whole atmosphere spooky, too, is an experience in itself.

You see then how festive movies not only set the mood, but also remind us of the magical memories that we

have created through the course of our life. They jog our memory with the small things that matter like decorating the house with our cousins, getting cozy and eating uncountable sweets with our family, playing dumb charades, and whatnot. They bring the scent of warm caramel popcorn, sour candies, and cold drinks back to our kitchens and make us create a thousand new prized memories that will stay with us forever, even if it's our thousandth hit on the play button over the years.





# Nurturing a great future



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Children are naturally impulsive, and it's understandable that they keep changing their mind about their future career. They are often unsure of their own interests, or not aware of their strengths. Also, they are prone to getting influenced by parents and friends. This is why the Amity Career Counseling and Guidance Cell (ACCGC) devised a process to administer standardized Psychometric Career Assessment Tools in 2011 to guide children towards making an informed career choice. These tests provide an insight into the students' natural abilities, personal interests and personality traits. Divided into four phases, these tests follow a systematic and scientific methodology. In the first phase, an orientation session sensitizes parents about the importance of this test, while the second phase includes an online 3-dimensional psychometric assessment for all Class X students. In the next phase, a comprehensive report is formulated, and individual profiles are drafted. The final phase comprises of a personalized counseling session for students and their parents. The purpose is to discuss a student's personal area of excellence and provide detailed information about future academic streams and related career prospects. Having guided more than 15,000 students till now, this initiative has played an extremely crucial role in navigating students through the evolving landscape of today's professional world.

## It's time for Hip, Hip, Hurray!

Suhani Chauhan, of Class XI, AIS Pushp Vihar, has been recently awarded the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Award 2024 for her innovation 'SO-APT', a Solar Operated Agro-Vehicle, which will help small farmers. 🇮🇳

# The triumphs



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Every year on Jan 26, millions of Indians sit glued to their television sets, their hearts full of pride and joy as they partake in the grandeur of the Republic Day parade. This year's 75th Republic Day celebration, with the theme of 'Viksit Bharat' and 'Bharat - Loktantra ki Matruka', has been even more extraordinary as it boasted of several firsts. Whilst women in sarees playing percussion instruments replaced traditional military bands, ISRO presented the historic landing of Chandrayaan-3. Amitians too weren't lagging behind, matching steps with India's spirit to make strides. Suhani Chauhan of AIS Pushp Vihar, developed 'SO-APT', a Solar Operated Agro-Vehicle, to help the small farmers immensely. Her innovation won the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Award 2024.

As Suhani walked the steps to receive this prestigious honour, each heart at Amity jumped with glee. The echoes of similar triumphs in the past resonated, underscoring the victory of three other Amitians who were bestowed with the same award. The Republic Day celebration became a dual jubilation for Amity, symbolising not only the nation's progress but also the institution's integral role in shaping future leaders and innovators.

In every stride, from the majestic parade to the innovative endeavours of individuals like Suhani, this Republic Day left an indelible mark on the collective consciousness. May this spirit of progress permeate each future celebration, propelling India towards greater heights of glory and distinction. 🇮🇳

# The sixth extinction

## A Myth Or An Impending Doom



Samaira Sachdeva

AIS Saket, XII D

Forests ablaze, oceans suffocated by debris, wild-life perishing—humans scramble for survival. Is this the ominous Sixth Extinction? Over the course of former five mass extinctions, humans were the luckiest ones for they are amongst the 1% of creatures our planet has ever seen that are still alive. But how long will humans' golden run continue? Or, will our fate be self-inflicted?

## The big five

The five greatest mass extinctions, were all distinct from one another. The Ordovician Period extinction, brought two waves of climate change, killing 86% of species. Extreme volcanic activity in Siberia caused the End-Devonian extinction, leading to the loss of 75% of species. Another Siberian volcanic activity became the driving force behind the End-Permian extinction, eliminating 95% of all species. Favourably, the demise of apex predators made room for the first dinosaurs. Next the Atlantic Ocean became the geological troublemaker during the End-Triassic extinction, eliminating over 80% of the species. The End-Cretaceous extinction, the most recent one, put an end to the

dinosaur era, enabling mammals to approach the Holocene era.

## The end is approaching

The Sixth Extinction, as established by scientists, is currently transpiring. But humans are the harbingers of the end. An impending extinction is mostly attributable to habitat destruction brought on by land clearing for agriculture, killing and poaching of species, climate change, etc. Our ecosystem is under a lot of stress due to the interconnectedness of the food production, environmental degradation, and ecological imbalance. All of them act synergistically on biodiversity, and their threats cannot be

tackled in isolation. In actuality, Homo sapiens run the risk of both causing and becoming a part of the sixth extinction. If we don't change our trajectory, we'll keep losing the biodiversity. At best, this will take decades to recoup these losses, leaving the earth less equipped to feed both the present and the next generation.

## What can we do

All around us, we can clearly see the disastrous effects of human-induced environmental changes, particularly climate change, which has triggered the sixth mass extinction.

However, the answer to the query is in our hands. We must re-assess our adherence to the Paris Agreement and establish goals for reducing climate change. A global effort is required to stop the inescapable destruction of the earth's lungs, which are home to numerous species. This makes the need to protect Amazon Rainforests a top priority. It is imperative to utilise and include private players in active conservation, given the impact they have.

We may have little control over factors like acidity of seas, global warming, and the effects of asteroids, but we must stop contributing to the annihilation of the earth. Let's work together and step up our efforts to survive the future geological eras and continue to be among the fortunate 1% changemakers. 🇮🇳



Graphic: Ruhani Chawla, AIS Saket, XI E

## Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article "An apple a day" published on page twelve of the GT edition dated January 29, 2024. The article written using satirical humour perfectly represents the feelings of every science student. It subtly gives a glimpse of Newton's discoveries and how and when gravity was discovered. It is one of the most cleverly written pieces I've ever read. This article shows the readers that scientific concepts are important (albeit lengthy), but when you think about it, they are



GT M@il

all a result of overthinking on the part of the discoverers. I laughed uproariously at every sentence of the write-up. All in all, even though the article is a fictionalised one, it gives a very realistic-sounding comical narrative with humorous exaggeration from the apple's perspective on the consequences of Newton's discoveries. At the end, the reader is left with a sense of relief, exclaiming "Thank God, I am not



the only one who feels this way!" My inner science geek and comedian high-fived after reading this brilliant and hilarious piece.

Ranya Sharma  
AIS Gur 46, XI G



# Spirit of freedom!

## A Look At The Majestic Republic Day Parade, The Diamond Jubilee Way

**Preksha Nair, AIS Mayur Vihar, XI A**

One of the oldest civilisations in the world, Bharat is a nation like no other. Its exceptionality, in this regard (and every other), stems from the assortment of traditions, religions, and social practices it boasts and venerates year after year. The Republic Day, observed each year on January 26 ever since the adoption of the Constitution in 1950, marks this spirit of diverse and independent India and is commemorated with great grandeur and pride. As we celebrate its 75th chapter, here's all you need to know but so far perhaps didn't.

### Rajpath: the final destination

Contrary to popular belief, the Republic Day parade was not always held at Rajpath, New Delhi. From 1950 to 1954, it was instead held at the Irwin stadium, Kingsway, Red Fort, and the Ram Leela maidan, respectively. Rajpath was bequeathed the status of being its permanent venue in 1955.

### Burn the midnight oil

Organising the parade is not a child's play, and so the arrangements for it begin from July of the preceding year. Participants are required to join the practice sessions every day at 3 am. They have, as such, already practiced for 600 hours before the final performance on January 26.

### Pachees topo ki salaami

The 21-guns salute that takes place during the ceremony is not done using 21 canons but the 7 canons of the Indian Army, com-

monly called 25-Ponders, which are fired in a total of three rounds. An intriguing fact is that the time of the gun salute firing corresponds to the time at which the national anthem is played. The first firing takes place at the start of the national anthem and the last firing occurs right after 52 seconds.

### The magical march past

18-24 different divisions of the Indian Army march past at the parade. All participating army personnel are required to pass four levels of investigation before entering the premises. Their arms, too, are thoroughly examined to ensure they are not loaded with bullets. The contingents are judged on 200 parameters during the parade, based on which, the 'Best Marching Group' title is awarded.

### A caravan of camels

The most fascinating sight of the parade is the camel mounted Border Security Force contingent, which is currently the only camel mounted force in the world.

### Make haste slowly

22-30 tableaux demonstrating the cultures of the various Indian states take part in the parade. The music of the particular state accompanies each display. 5 km/hour – that's the speed of these tableaux. This is so that the guests can watch them thoroughly.

### The regal invite

The PM, president, or the ruler of any na-

tion gets invited as a guest for the parade. The former Indonesian president Dr Sukarno was invited as a guest in its first edition. In the years 2021 and 2022, however, the arrival of foreign chief guests to the parade was restricted owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### The common man

In 2022, the autorickshaw drivers, construction workers, frontline soldiers and sanitation workers were invited to witness the patriotic spectacle for the very first time.

### Pawrade

36 Indian canine soldiers, comprising 12 German Shepherds and 24 Labradors,

marched down the majestic Rajpath during the 67th Republic Day parade in 2016. It marked the return of K-9 Dog Squad to the parade after a long gap of 26 years.

### A twist in the tale

'Abide With Me', Mahatma Gandhi's favourite song was played at every Republic Day celebration until 2023, when it was replaced by 'Aye Mere Watan ke Logon'.

### Flypast ahoy!

The parade concludes with the dare devil motorcycle riding exhibition by the Armed Forces and a flypast by the Indian Air Force jets. The flypast involves the participation of around 41 aircrafts, all of which take off from distinct centres of the Airforce to reach Kartavya Path at a preset time.

## Republic Day Parade 2024 Spectacle

✦ The theme for India's 75th Republic Day was 'Bharat - The Mother of Democracy' and 'Viksit Bharat'.

✦ France's president Emmanuel Macron graced the parade, making it the 6th time a French head became the chief guest for Republic Day.

✦ Two French Rafale jets and around 95 French Foreign Legion troops also partook in the event.

✦ This time, President Murmu arrived at the Rajpath in a traditional horse-drawn buggy, a practice that had been halted 40 years ago.

✦ An increased participation of women in contingents, tableaux, and performances was witnessed during the parade. Glimpses of a few...

- An all-women band, comprising four women sub-inspectors and 81 women constables from the Delhi Police, participated in the parade for the first time.
- The first ever all-women tri-service contingent took part in the parade this year.
- Donning sarees, a band of 112 women artists played folk percussion instruments at the parade, replacing the traditional military bands.

✦ As part of the government's vision of *Jan Bhagidari*, some 13,000 special guests from different walks of life, most notably women workers of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Central Vista Project, women space scientists of ISRO, Paralympic medalists et al, were also invited for the ceremonious parade.

✦ 1900 sarees from different parts of India were put on display during the event.





# The brave roar

## Storywala

Yousuf Adnan Siddiqui

AIS VKC Lucknow, Alumnus

In the realm of Bandhavgarh National Park, came to live a young and adorable tiger cub. The cub was curious about his new home, so he embarked on a journey of discovery. As he roamed the park's outskirts, his innocence led him to chase a particularly fast squirrel, but little did he know that an unexpected encounter awaited him. The cub came across a group of poachers who were looking for wild animals. Confused about the men's intentions, the cub stopped in his tracks when, suddenly, he was shot in the leg with a bullet. He had been maimed, resulting in restricted movement. The poor cub was in excruciating pain, but he was determined to drag himself away from the evil poachers who were following him still. He was scared, and was just about to give up when came a compassionate man, a man who would become not only his saviour, but also a good friend.

The man fought off the poachers and saved him. Naming him Babur, he took the cub home and



nursed him back to health. Under his care, Babur healed and found solace in an unlikely friendship with Cooper, a black labrador, that was the man's pet. Together, the trio formed a profound family unit. Time passed, and Babur grew into a magnificent tiger, embodying strength and grace. But a part of his wild spirit was restricted in the human home, the man could sense that. So, with a heavy heart, he took the tough call of returning Babur to his natural habitat. And away went Babur.

Time passed and soon, Cooper, the man's labrador, passed away, leav-

He was scared, and was just about to give up when came a compassionate man, a man who would become not only his saviour, but also a friend.

ing him very lonely. To fill this void, the man sought comfort in revisiting the park, hoping to catch a glimpse of his beloved Babur. To his dismay, Babur was nowhere to be found. Disheartened, he began his journey home, but as fate would have it, a group of men, the same poachers he had faced years ago, ambushed him. Fear gripped him as the attackers approached him with knives, but before they could even hurt a hair on his head, a majestic figure leaped from the shadows. A familiar roar resonated through the air, and the man saw that it was none other than Babur. In a swift display of bravery, Babur fiercely confronted the evil men, driving them away. The man, overwhelmed with gratitude and disbelief, realised that this noble creature had not only remembered him but also risked his life to save him. So, as they stood together, facing the retreating poachers, he whispered his gratitude, acknowledging the courage Babur had displayed, and Babur, in his heart, replied with the same gratitude. 🇮🇳

## Read Play and Win 44

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



**Q.1** How many students participated in Amity Heritage Quiz?

**Q.2** Who is the author of the article 'Festi(pals)' on page 5?

**Q.3** On which page can you find an article on the potential extinction of mankind?

**Q.4** Dr N Kalaiselvi is the director general of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Q.5** What was Kindle originally called?

**Q.6** Name the four panellists featured on page 10.

**Q.7** What was the theme for India's 75th Republic Day?

**Q.8** Which poem is written by Ayaan Talwar, AIS Gurugram 46, VII B?

**Q.9** The movie 'I am Kalam' was released on \_\_\_\_\_.

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

Results of Read Play & Win-43: **Reyansh Srivastava**, AIS PV, V D; **Shailain Bose**, AIS Saket, VIII C; **Aaradhya S Chauhan**, AIS VYC Lko, IX A

## WORDS VERSE

### Astrophile

Kashish

AIS Mayur Vihar, Alumna

They say stars shine the most  
In the murk of the night skies  
And I being a tyro to the world  
Believed that it was true

But when I'm left alone in dark  
I feel myself break into pieces  
As I wonder if I'm able to shine  
Like the stars in the night sky

But if I've to hurt to shine  
Then I shall not, for stars burn  
In their own flames to glow  
Better than they used to before

[Kashish is currently pursuing B.Com (Hons) from Gargi College, University of Delhi.]



## Lemon tart



Anika Garg

Anika Garg, AGS Gurugram, XI

### Ingredients

#### Pie crust

All-purpose flour .....157g  
Granulated sugar .....35g  
Cold unsalted butter ....60g  
Cold water .....30ml  
Melted butter ..1 tsp for greasing

#### Lemon cream

Lemon juice .....60ml  
Sugar .....75 g  
Turmeric powder ..one pinch  
Cold butter .....80g  
Milk .....15ml

### Procedure

#### For pie crust

- In a bowl, add flour, sugar, and cold butter, and work them together until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs.
- Now, slowly pour cold water into the bowl and knead the mix to form a dough.
- Once the dough is ready, shape it like a ball and place it on the countertop. Make sure you dust some flour on the countertop before placing the dough on it to prevent it from sticking.
- Flatten the dough into a disc shape using your hands.
- Once done, wrap it in a cling film and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.
- Once your dough is firm enough, roll it until it fits the size of your pie dish.
- Now, gently grease the pie dish using melted butter, and place the rolled dough in it. Trim the excess from the edges, if any.
- Using a fork, prick some holes at the bottom of the crust to prevent it from puffing up while baking.
- Place the dish in refrigerator for about 30 minutes. Preheat the oven to 160°C.
- Once the crust is nice and firm, take the dish out of the refrigerator and cover it with a tin foil.

- Place the dish in the oven and bake it for about 10 minutes.
- Now, remove the tin foil and bake it again for about 20 minutes until the crust turns golden brown and biscuity.
- Once done, put it aside to cool down.

#### For lemon cream

- In a pan, add some sugar and lemon juice, and mix them.
- Now, heat the mix on medium flame till it reduces to a thick consistency.
- Turn off the heat and add cold butter to the mix. Keep stirring as you pour.
- Add a pinch of turmeric powder to the mix to give it a yellow colour.
- Once done, strain the mixture using a sieve to remove any potential solids and achieve a smooth texture.
- Now, gradually add milk to the mix and keep stirring to give it a creamy consistency.
- Let the mixture cool down.
- Next, pour the cream mix over the pie crust and bake it for about 20-25 minutes.
- Now, take it out and let the tart cool down at room temperature for about an hour.
- Once it cools down, place it in the refrigerator until it becomes firm.
- Your lip-smackin' lemon tart is ready! Serve it cold.



# Swami and his clever plan

## Short story



**Dhairya Singh, AIS Noida, IX K**

Nearly 2000 years ago, in a village called Narayanprastha, lived a little boy named Swami. Though ordinary looking, he was quite clever for his age. And his parents, well, even his elder sister Sarita to some extent, loved that about him. One fine day, as his parents had to leave the village for some work, Swami and Sarita were left alone at home. It was a dark moonless night, yet the duo decided to make the most of their time alone. Howbeit, **unbeknownst** to them, a dacoit was standing right outside their house, keeping an eye on them and making plans to loot them. As he entered their house unannounced, both

Swami and Sarita were taken by surprise. "Give me all the money you have or be ready to get your throat cut!" he said as he pulled out a knife from his sack. This made Sarita tremble in fear. Scared, she decided to go fetch all the money that was kept in their house and hand it over to him. Swami, on the other hand, remained silent, as he tried to come up with a clever rescue plan. Before his sister could execute her plan, Swami secretly told her to make a cup of tea and add some sleeping pills into it. Sarita, having understood what Swami was intending to do, yet a little hesitant, still went ahead to do as she was told. "I am trusting you. Make sure this doesn't land us in more trouble," she whispered, before leaving.

Scared, she decided to go fetch all the money that was kept in their house and hand it over to him. Swami, on the other hand, remained silent, as he tried to come up with a clever rescue plan.

While Sarita was preparing the tea, Swami insisted the dacoit, being their guest, even though uninvited, first drinks a good cup of tea and then take all the money he wants. The dacoit, all tired and too trusting of the seemingly innocent kids, agreed without a hitch. Little did he know that the duo was scheming against him. As Sarita brought the tea next, the tired dacoit quickly drank it. Within a minute, he fell asleep. Making the most of the opportunity at hand, Swami quickly fetched a rope, tied the dacoit's arms and legs, and locked him in a room. He then asked Sarita to go and call the king's soldiers. Within no time, the soldiers came and took the dacoit with them to be presented in the king's court. Next day, the king sent the dacoit into exile, and to Swami, gave ten thousand gold coins as a prize for his bravery. Swami was delighted, for he had just done what he did best, using his brains, and as a result, became one of the wealthiest people in his village 🇮🇳

**So, what did you learn today?**

**A new word: Unbeknownst**

**Meaning: Happening without someone's knowledge**

## POEM

### Joyous winter

**Aavyaan Talwar, AIS Gur 46, VII B**

Winters greet us with great smiles  
Heaps of snow for miles and miles  
The landscape is full of snowflakes  
As serene and restful get all the lakes

Snowball fights and bonfire nights  
The hot chocolate is full of delights  
The biting cold and our numb limbs  
The locale is full of deserted strings

The lovely sun plays pitch-and-toss  
The snow covers all mountain peaks  
Winter brings us joy and cheeriness  
That's why it's my fav of all seasons.

### Riddle Fiddle

**Agrim Bansal, AIS Saket, VII E**

1. You're in a race and you pass the person in second place. What place are you in now?
2. You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What am I?
3. What has 13 hearts, but no lungs or stomach?

**Answers:** 1. Second 2. Corn 3. A deck of cards

## It's Me

**KNOW ME**

**My name**  
Kenisha Sehgal

**My Class**  
III D

**My school**  
AIS Vas 6

**My birthday**  
May 31

**MY FAVOURITES**

**Friend:** Shrinika

**Teacher:** Ritu Nagar ma'am

**Subject:** English and EVS

**Book:** Crystal and her Lying Ways

**Game:** Basketball

**Mall:** DLF Mall of India

**Food:** Dal chawal

**Cartoon:** Simon

**MY DREAMS AND GOALS**

**My hobby:** Reading books and playing basketball

**I like:** Drawing and studying

**I dislike:** Dirty things

**My role model:** My father

**I want to become:** A doctor

**I want to feature in GT because:** It will help me make new friends.

## COLOURING FUN



Click a high resolution picture (1 MB or more) of the entry and mail the same to: [editor@theglobaltimes.in](mailto:editor@theglobaltimes.in). The best entries will be published in GT.

## Best entries for colouring fun

**Dated: Oct 30, 2023**



**Amishka Garg**  
AIS Noida, I G



**Kiyansh Tiwari**  
AIS Mohali, KG B



# Be body positive

Your Body Is So Much More Than A Number On The Scale; Know It, Own It!

**Y**outh Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion' where experts from different walks of life discuss several aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part IX** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams in 2022-23, and a host of opinions as experts debate on 'Body Positivity', the cause chosen by the YP team of AIS Noida.



The panellists with Youth Power team of AIS Noida

## Beauty lies in good health, not perfect body

**Panellist: Dr Nirupama Pushkarna**  
Dermatologist and cosmetologist

"We are indubitably born with certain looks that come from our genes. Howbeit, post that, everything depends on how we take care of our bodies and the kind of lifestyle we follow. For the very same reason, I advise my young patients to sleep on time and eat the right stuff, for our bodies need sleep and good food to rejuvenate. Still, 99% of today's youngsters fail to maintain a healthy routine, and when it all does not go their way, they opt for cosmetic surgeries. This is because they feel insecure about the way they look, but as a doctor, I believe that I have to first understand where the person is coming



from and why they feel so underconfident about themselves. Is it their looks or just a race to fit in the standards set by the society? As doctors, we should give our patients our most honest advice and not be swayed by what they think they should do owing to any kind of societal pressure."

## Size is just a number, it can't define you

**Panellist: Sonal Mehandaroo**  
Plus size model and actor

"My journey to becoming a plus size model is filled with a lot of bullying, negative comments, and unsupportive people who used to underestimate the fact that someone of my body type can make it big in this industry. There might be a good number of people who are confident of how they look, but the reality is that there is an even greater number of those who hate their bodies. Self-love isn't something that can be bought or taught. Self-love comes from within and once it does, it becomes easier to not only feel good about oneself,



but also about others. I believe that mentality plays a huge role in this. There's a half-glass-full scenario and then there's a half-glass-empty scenario; it's all about how you see it. I am glad that the members of Team DehSaakaar chose this topic. It feels great to see our future generation going on the right path."

Part IX

Expert Speak

## You must dress to express not to impress

**Panellist: Bharti Singh**  
Social media influencer

"I feel proud when people say that I look like my father. In fact, we should all feel good about the way we look. This is not to say that we won't get bullied along the way, but we need to learn to ignore these voices. I often see comments like 'If the wind blows, you will fly off', 'Don't your parents give you food' et al on my posts, but with time, I have learned to pay no heed to them. At the end of the day, my audience follows me because they can relate to me. And I think someone should do this for men too because they too go



through such bullying. Though there are a lot of influencers today, you just need to find that right one to follow in the footsteps of. Invest time in yourself. Try out everything and then make a decision and most importantly, be proud of your body."

## Acceptance is the key to contentment

**Panellist: Dr Jyoti Goel**  
Dentist & laser and face aesthetics specialist

"Learn to start loving yourselves. Learn to have the attitude that I am the best version of myself. If you get this confidence now, you will never lose in life. People can be concerned about their jawlines, acne, puffy cheeks, etc, but these are all superficial factors propagated by people who have undergone a lot of treatments themselves. Not only women but men too face the same thing if they don't have perfect bodies or facial hair. Know that it is not right to criticise ourselves because of



some artificially created beauty standards. I feel that raising awareness and educating people is the most important step in helping the ones struggling with their body image. If people are educated, they will feel more confident about their bodies."



# Ami-Hacks 2023

## Amity's First Ever Hackathon For Young Minds



Young software and hardware experts at Ami-Hacks

### ACSF

Amity Children's Science Foundation (ACSF), in association with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Amity Innovation and Design Centre, launched its first ever Ami-Hacks, an inter-Amity science and innovation competition, on November 29, 2023. The competition, an initiative of

Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, aims to provide the young minds a platform where they can develop scientific hands-on solutions to mitigate the problems existing in the society. Hosted by AIS PV, the event witnessed participation from 96 teams from different branches of Amity Group of Schools, along with virtual participation from 10

teams from Amity branches in Lucknow, UAE, and Sharjah. Dr Sanjeev Kumar Varshney, head, International Scientific Co-operation, Department of Science and Technology, graced the occasion as chief guest.

The competition was divided in two categories - Software and Hardware, both at junior (Class VI-VIII) and senior (Class IX-XII) levels. In junior software, AIS PV, AIS MV, and AIS Noida bagged first, second, and third position, respectively; while in senior software, AIS Noida, AIS Gur 46, and AIS Saket secured first, second, and third position, respectively. Junior hardware had AIS Gur 46 at first place, AIS Saket at second place, and AIS PV at third place. Senior hardware had AIS Gur 46 at first position, AIS PV and AIS Noida both at second position, and AIS Gur 43 at third position. All the first prize winners were given a cash prize of 3000 INR each, while all the second and third prize winners received a cash prize of 2000 INR and 1000 INR each.



Students perform Ramayana in Cambodian style

## Vivacious echoes

### AIS Vasundhara 6

The school celebrated its annual day titled 'Anugoonj -Echoes from the past' on December 15, 2023. As part of the event, around 1200 students from Class V-XI showcased glimpses of Indian heritage and legacy to celebrate India's entrance into its most epoch phase, the Amrit Kaal.

The glittering event was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, along with the chief guest Lt Gen Vinod G Khandare, principal advisor to Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India. School principal Sunila Athley shared the vision of Amity with the dignitaries and

2000 parents present on the occasion and warmly welcomed them to the Amity campus after a hiatus of four years. The prefect council then read out the school report and the evening progressed with the tunes of the school orchestra. The highlight of the evening was a colourful and heart throbbing rendition of Ramayana set in the Cambodian style. It was deeply appreciated by all and the students were also invited to perform it at the ongoing Bharat Parv in Delhi.

The chief guest, in his speech, extolled the contribution of every citizen of Bharat. Addressing the children, Chairperson too urged them to adopt the mantra of *Vasudhev Kutumbhham* and strive to build a peaceful society.

## A legacy of heritage



AIS Noida receives the rolling trophy from Chairperson

### AIS Saket

The school organised its 20th inter-Amity Heritage Quiz, a platform to cultivate love and respect for the vibrant culture of India among the students, on January 23, 2024. A total of 189 students from Amity Group of Schools participated in the quiz held online for branches outside Delhi (AIS VKC, VYC, Mohali, Navi Mumbai, Gwalior, and Rai-

pur) and offline for the ones in Delhi/NCR. The quiz, designed by Aditya Nath Mubayi, co-founder, Quizcraft Global, was based on rivers Indus, Mahanadi, and Amazon, and was divided into three categories, namely junior, middle, and senior. Results for online and offline quizzes were declared separately. AIS Noida lifted the prestigious rolling trophy in offline quiz, while AIS VYC bagged the rolling trophy for the online quiz.



Felicitation of Green Olympiad winners by esteemed dignitaries

## Green warriors

### Amity Group of Schools

Amity Group of Schools brought home laurels at The Green Olympiad organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) on October 12, 2023. Total 21 students - 19 from AIS Vas 6, 1 from AIS MV and 1 from AIS Noida, received certificate of distinction, while 183 students - AIS Vas 6 (57), AIS Saket (30), AIS Vas 1 (20), AIS PV (17), AIS VKC Lucknow (15), AIS Mayur Vihar (10), AIS Noida (34), received certificate of merit in this national

level MCQ examination based on environment for the students of Class IV-X. The result of the olympiad was declared on January 7, 2024.

Every year, TERI organises this competition with an aim to enhance knowledge and skills about environment and sustainability issues related to air, biodiversity, climate change, culture, energy, green skills, waste management, water, and other contemporary issues among students. The achievement stands as a testimony to the knowledge of Amitians towards creating a better planet.



Abhigyan Bajpai

AIS VYC Lucknow, Alumnus

“Trust me, I have seen a lot of humans do this, and I am sure that by the end, we will be more like them,” Dr Owl hooted. All the animals had gathered in their clubhouse to hold a meeting to find more ways of becoming human.

“Yes, Mr Ow-” “It’s Dr Owl!” Dr Owl angrily cut off Miss Kitty. “Watching in on a PhD class from outside the window is not the same as earning the degree,” Miss Kitty said to herself under her breath, and turned to address him with a smile. “Ah, yes, Dr Owl, your idea is great. We should have a party.” “Blimey, we should,” jumped in Master Pig, “Time to let loose and enjoy meself human-style, innit?” “Yes,” Dr Owl side-eyed his dirty feet in disgust. “It’s decided then. We’ll have a party in the clubhouse tomorrow,” declared Minister Lion.

The next night came with extreme excitement. The clubhouse was decorated with the finest of bananas, all thanks to Mr Monkey. Bouncer Kangaroo was on stand-by, ready to throw out anyone behaving too animalistically. Baby Chipmunks, too, were there, already tearing up the dance floor; they had recently learnt about something called ‘reels’ and ‘TikTok dances’. Ms Snake was also nearby, pretending to dance with everyone, in a ruse for stealing. Dr Owl told the animals how humans kept

their most precious asset in a wallet, and they were quick to adapt. And so was Ms Snake in learning the humanly act of taking something that wasn’t yours. Dr Owl was seen near the sofas, complain-

ing to Professor Koala how he was too sophisticated to create ruckus like the others; he glared at the dance floor from the corner of his fake glasses. He also scoffed at Miss Kitty and Sir Dog, both of who were in a

heated argument by now.

“Why must you two behave like animals?” he gritted through his teeth. “Because, news flash, we are one!” Sir Dog rolled his eyes. “How dare you? One is human if they behave like one, which is why I am more human than they come!” Dr Owl jerked his head in the air, proudly. “Whatever you say, faker!” Sir Dog huffed and turned to get away. However, he stopped as soon as he heard a loud knock on the door.

“What? Aren’t all of us here already? Didn’t we take attendance?” Dr Owl quizzed. “What’s apttendence?” Miss Kitty asked. “It’s not apttendence, it’s attend-you know what, never mind. You are too pea-brained to understand superior concepts!” Bouncer Kangaroo opened the door, and everyone let out a gasp. At the door stood two humans dressed in shabby clothes. Dr Owl rushed to welcome them; he never thought he would ever be able to interact with one. “Welcome, welcome to our little soiree. Please have something!” “Right on, we will. We haven’t eaten in two days,” shouted one of the humans wearing torn clothes. “It’s fashion, don’t worry!” whispered Dr Owl. “Wowzie, such treats. Dig in, human,” Master Pig called, and together, they jumped on the table, stuffing everything into their mouths. And like George Orwell said, ‘the rest of the creatures looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which.’

## A Bestial Bid To Become More Human



## MOVIE REVIEW

**Movie:** I am Kalam

**Directed by:** Nila Madhab Panda

**Released on:** August 5, 2011

**Starring:** Harsh Mayar, Gulshan Grover, Beatrice Ordeix, Pitobash Tripathy

**Genre:** Drama, Comedy

**Synopsis:** I am Kalam is a tale of redemption that focuses on the need for our society to provide education to the underprivileged class and to eliminate other social inequities. Its storyline revolves around the life of a poor boy named Chhotu who works as a child labourer at a highway side cafe. Regardless of all the problems in his life, he is someone with an indomitable spirit, someone who dreams of breaking free from his circumstances and gain education. Greatly inspired by the life of India’s revered former President, APJ Abdul Kalam, Chhotu aspires to be just like him. Thus, determined to transform his destiny, he renames

## An inspiring journey



himself as ‘Kalam’ and embarks on an empowering journey.

**Why is it watch-worthy:** The film lays due emphasis on how every child, whether rich or poor, has a right to education and quality of life. With its ability to evoke raw emotions, it instils in its viewers a sense of empathy and admiration for Chhotu’s unwavering determination in life, while also shedding a needful light on the gap between the rich

and the poor, which is clearly evident in the recent times, but not worked upon much.

**Iconic dialogue:** “Main dhaabe par kaam karne waala baccha hu jiski zindagi aap ne badal di, main samajh gaya ki har baccha Lal Bahadur Shastri bann sakta hai aur Rashtrapati Kalam bhi bann sakta hai.”

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Ipshita, AIS VKC Lko, IX A

## GT Travels to Uzbekistan



**Jitesh Kumar**, sports teacher of AIS MV, poses with his copy of The Global Times at Amir Tamur Museum, Taskent, Uzbekistan. While attending the ITKF World Cup in Taskent, he presented GT to various eminent personalities, including Dr Gilberto, chairman, ITKF, and Sensei Ibrahim, chairman, Asia Oceania Traditional Karate federation, ITKF.

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