

New Year has ushered again  
 Bringing spring, fall and rain  
 Time to compose fresh resolutions  
 Thinking about issues & solutions  
 Saving earth from terrorism  
 and pollution  
 Is the greatest concern for the  
 world and nation  
 Eco-friendly green technology is  
 our mission  
 Scientific discoveries having  
 aftereffect vision  
 Toxicity of mind and environment  
 Needs remediation & improvement  
 Mankind and nature are  
 blazing and crying  
 They need help, care,  
 protection and healing  
 Time to rise, act and work together  
 To fight terrorism & global disaster  
 Before it gets futile and too late  
 Spreading peace and love  
 as mandate  
 With every emerging  
 New Year date!

Tanu Jindal, Head, AIETSM,  
 Amity University, UP

## Out in the Cold

**Maitreyi & Meha of AIS Sec-46 Gurgaon, walk the streets of Delhi on a New Year morning to bring alive pictures of the India we live in. Lest we forget, join their resolution.**

It's that time of the year again when revelry knows no bounds and people rock the dance floor with wild abandon, welcoming the New Year with open arms! More often than not, we eagerly await the wintry chill that gives us an opportunity to strut around in fancy jackets bought in Europe and America! We cannot imagine winters without heaters and sweaters, jackets and shawls, scarves and caps, hot soups and moisturizers, and of course, *gajar ka halwa*! Whew! What a long list! While we enjoy the advent of a brand New Year with glee, how many of us spare a thought for the millions for whom the winter season is not a minor discomfort to be borne nor is it something to look forward to?

**Braving the chill:** Do you know that over 1.4 lakh people live on the streets in Delhi and around 100 die in the killing cold wave almost every year? The Capital shivers at 1-2 degrees Centigrade when the most ruthless cold waves hit. Those on the street resort to burning paper, dried leaves and wood to make bonfires to keep themselves warm. They even experiment with drugs and alcohol to keep them warm! Smoking and drinking is one of the most common ways used to avoid feeling too cold. It was indeed an eye-opener for us when we decided to talk



to a few people on the street one cold winter morning in the New Year.

**Terribly overdressed!** Snug in your warm wooly sweaters? Believe me! You are one of the luckiest people in India. We felt terribly overdressed while approaching a cluster of tin shanties and sheds near village Chakkarpur in Gurgaon. The air was thick with smoke as women cooked their morning meals on earthen stoves out in the open. The atmosphere was filled with gloom and people were not willing to speak to us initially. We were told that the small community was mourning the death of an infant who couldn't survive the bitter cold the previous night.

**Basic instincts:** Mansi Hasan, who claimed to be in her early twenties, married to a rickshaw-puller, lives in a crammed shed shared by three families. While her husband strives to eke out a decent wage of about Rs.100 a day, she works in two houses as a maid but earns very little. Our efforts to point out to them that burning green

twigs and leaves was harmful to the environment were met with blank stares and indifferent shrugs. One can't really blame them- their own survival was far more important to them than saving the environment.

**Little things:** Moved by their plight, the Interact club of AIS-46, Gurgaon have made a commendable effort to improve their miserable conditions by donating woollen clothes, shoes and blankets contributed by the students of the school. However, our efforts seemed to be just a drop in the ocean.

What is it that we can do to help them? Maybe if each one of us goes without our New Year parties or a couple of treats during the year, we could contribute that amount to an NGO actively involved in their upliftment and help save or improve someone's life.

Isn't it a resolution which should top our list of New Year's resolutions? Give it a thought! ●

For complete story, visit [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)

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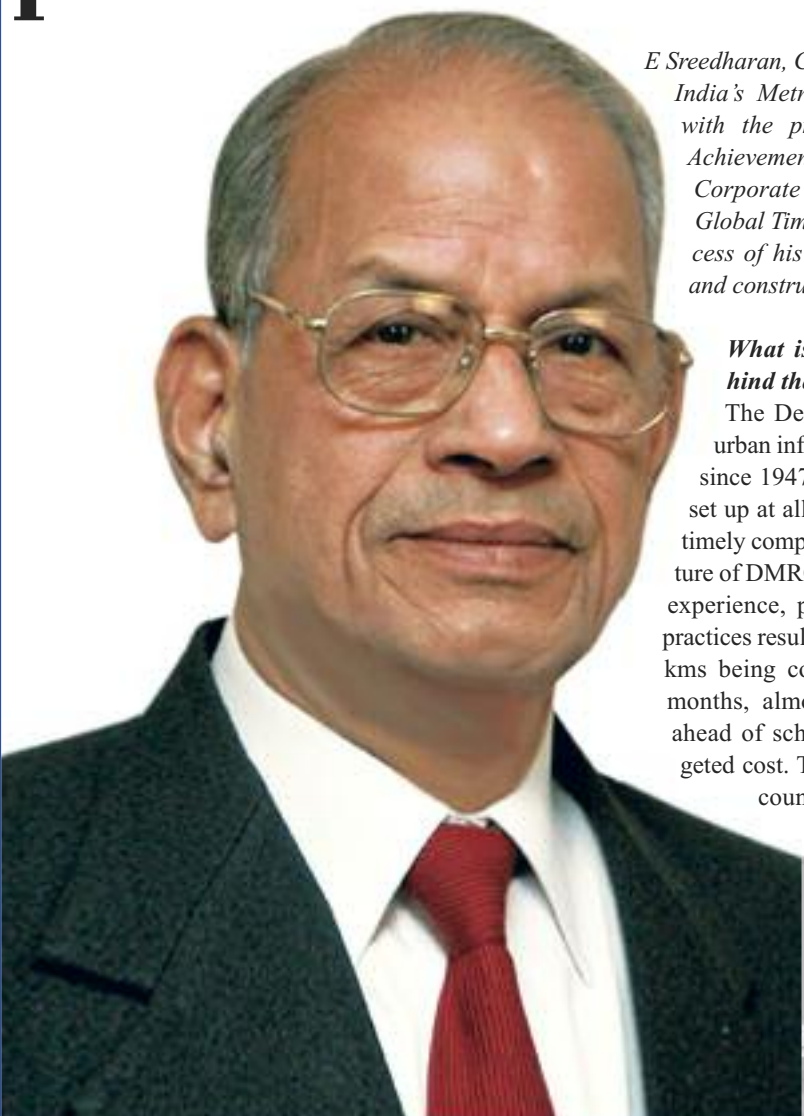


Cellular mania, pg 5



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## “The secret of my energy is that I derive pleasure and satisfaction in whatever I do”



*E Sreedharan, CMD DMRC, synonymous as India's Metro Man, recently honoured with the prestigious ICSI Life Time Achievement Award for Excellence and Corporate Governance, speaks to The Global Times via e-mail about the success of his Metro project, work ethics and constructing future India.*

**What is your success mantra behind the Metro project?**

The Delhi Metro is India's largest urban infrastructure project challenge since 1947. Reverse time clocks were set up at all Metro work sites to ensure timely completion. The unique work culture of DMRC which is a mix of practical experience, professionalism and ethical practices resulted in Phase I, covering 65.1 kms being completed in 7 years and 3 months, almost 2 years and 9 months ahead of schedule, and within the budgeted cost. Transparency, efficiency, accountability, service-orientation and participation of constituents are equally important ingredients behind the success of the Delhi Metro.

*Today, Delhi is struggling*

*with traffic jams, despite huge flyovers, DND and BRT. To what extent, will the Metro ease the situation?*

According to a study conducted by CRRI, since DMRC began operations in December 2002, people have progressively shifted to the Metro from road-based means of travel. According to estimates, the Metro has taken the load of 40,000 vehicles by the end of 2007 and saved 57,858 tonnes of petrol, diesel and compressed natural gas (CNG). In this regard, DMRC has already started providing immense environmental and social benefits to the city. These benefits have resulted in passenger time saved, fuel cost saved, reduction in capital and operating cost of vehicles, reduction in environmental damage, time saving and less maintenance cost on infrastructure, reduction in road accidents, improvement in road traffic conditions, etc.

**As compared to world standards, where does India figure?**

Out of the 135 metro systems in the world, Delhi Metro figures in the top 5 metros that are earning an operational profit.

**Unveil the secret energy of the 'Metro Man of India'.**

The secret of my energy is that I derive pleasure and satisfaction in whatever I do. I also combine spirituality with my work. My energetic team around me makes me feel full of energy at all

**“I believe that there are four basic qualities for a successful life: Punctuality, Integrity and Good Morals, Professional Competence and Good Health.”**

times. I lead a disciplined life both in the personal as well as the professional sphere and avoid stress. I lay special emphasis on keeping myself healthy and regularly rejuvenate and relax myself by doing yoga and meditation. Reading the 'Bhagawad Gita' also motivates and inspires me.

**You are a role model for many of us. Who has been your role model?**

My role model is the Late G P Warrier. He was the Chairman of the Railway Board and BHEL. He was a man of character and courage and always wanted results and also knew how to achieve them.

**You have been decorated with several honours for your contribution. Which award means the most to you and why?**

One award that I cherish immensely is the Railway Minister's Award I received in 1963 for restoring the Pamban Railway bridge that was destroyed by a tidal wave. It was initially estimated that the restoration would take six months, but we completed the work in just 45 days.

**What message would you like to give to the youth today?**

There are many qualities in today's youth that are admirable, especially their competitiveness, tenacity and zeal to succeed. However, there has been an all-round erosion of moral values that has extended to the youth as well. I believe that there are four basic qualities for a successful life: Punctuality, Integrity and Good Morals, Professional Competence and Good Health. ●

# Split wide open

Akhil Bhardwaj, XI  
Youth Envoy, Saket

Five years in a row, Delhi has been the uncrowned leader in crime. The national capital occupies the top slot for almost all violent crimes including murder, rape, dowry death, molestation, kidnapping and abduction. Delhi seems to be gripped in a crime wave. With the growing development of the capital, even crime seems to have increased at a similar rate. The previous year showed that Delhi is unsafe for women, but this year is different, no one is safe in the Crime Capital! 14-year-old Aarushi was found dead with her throat slit and multiple injuries on her face. The police immediately named the Talwars' missing Nepali servant Hemraj as the prime suspect and dispatched a team to Nepal to look for him. But his

body was discovered lying on the terrace. After months, the entire saga comes back to page one – who killed Aarushi? Aarushi's murder investigations have raised a lot of questions on the media. But media's role has been signif-



icant, as it exposed loopholes of the investigation, otherwise the police had already declared it as an open and shut case. A whopping 53,244 criminal cases – including 467 murders, 581 rapes,

1764 dacoity and other heinous crimes, go unnoticed or remain unsolved. They came, ruled prime time slots and then relapsed into convenient amnesia. When I spoke to school mates, one student remarked, "Media is a small child, left alone in a room made of candy. It starts licking the floor and soon has its feet stuck in the very thing it craves for." However, in this dark underground bunker, there are shards of light too. The conviction of Manu Sharma by the Delhi High Court in the Jessica Lal murder case redresses a gross miscarriage of justice. It will certainly reinforce public faith in the capacity of the criminal justice system for self-correction. We, as citizens of India, revel in such successes of democracy. Yes, the Aarushi murder, Nithari scandal and kidney scam cases have disappeared off stage, but don't you see- you, I and the spotlight are following! •



Shivangi Mittal, VIII-C  
AIS Gurgaon 43

# Is it really Obama's victory?

he was duly elected. But, to what extent can we say, that it is Obama's win? In fact, it is more of a win of the entire American race; their victory over the orthodox nature of the society; their conquest over the prejudice existing since centuries; their triumph over the policy of apartheid. This is the most historic win anyone has ever achieved in the world. Once again, America has set an example for others to follow. Although, we have many politicians elected as Chief Ministers of states who are from not-so-established backgrounds, we are still very far from where America has reached. "He is a true fighter, may more heroes like him enlighten the world," quips Chirag Agarwal, VII C, AIS Sec-46 Gurgaon.

Jyotsna Bhardwaj, Lecturer in Law College observes, "Obama should succeed in what he is doing as it will lead to the removal of discrimination in USA and Americans will get to know that it doesn't matter that a person is American or African-American, a person with qualities can lead them." If wealth could be measured in terms of knowledge, well, Obama just earned a fortune! Let's all start now and be the next billionaires! •

# The world at my feet

Shefali Roy  
AIS Noida

On the 4th of December, 2008, Parvathi Omanakuttan had the world at her feet, literally, when she was announced the 1st Runner's Up at the Miss World 2008 pageant held in Johannesburg, South Africa. From being one of the 15 semi-finalists, to the Top 5, was in itself a real challenge. "I was just seven when I saw Sushmita Sen and Aishwarya Rai winning the pageant. I decided then that one day I would also be like them", she was quoted as saying. With their beauty, intelligence and oozing confidence, these Indian women have made an international mark in fashion and lifestyle. And I think that Indians are finally developing a global



outlook. We are finally shedding our prudery and understanding that morality is not threatened by western wear. However, Shubhankar Singh, class IX, AIS Noida begs to differ, "I feel that we

are feeling too happy with too little. Indian women have won the top crown in this pageant before, and we could have done it again!" "The decision of the jury is necessarily the imposition of the perspective of a few people and not the masses. What we feel, and what the results are, they need not match", says Imraan, XI-I, AIS Noida. "Winning this pageant only touches the people directly involved, it does nothing to finish the atrocities and social evils faced by women in our country. It only helps the sales, cosmetics, magazines, not the actual progress of the society of the nation", bemoans Vagisha Singh, XI-I of AIS Noida. Despite what some people feel, it surely is the time of Indian beauties on the global ramp! •

As America gears up for Obama's swearing in as US President on January 20, 2009, let's take stock of his road to victory. We have witnessed history being made. A black man will control, modify, change and hopefully, improve the lives of billions of white people. We should also not forget that he didn't impose himself as the most powerful man on earth - as President of the USA; rather

# Cricket for Mumbai

Navanshu Agarwal, VII-D  
AIS Sec-43, Gurgaon

A number of people lost their family members, relatives, friends and associates who were taken hostages. Celebrities agonized over the terror attacks in Mumbai. But the spirit to fight terror is still alive. Due to the terror attacks the India-England series was postponed. The England Cricket Team Captain Kevin Peterson dedicated 50% of his match earnings to the victims. After his recent century, Sachin Tendulkar hoped it will bring back the smiles on the faces of the Indian people. Even though India won the ODI series, it didn't feel the same. People have fear in their hearts. Will they be able to overcome their fear? Quips Amogh Gupta, VII D, AIS Gurgaon, "Can cricket bring the smiles back after the devastating Mumbai terror attacks? Definitely not, but it can at least try and compensate for the victims' losses. The England team's generosity has shown that they care for India. Master blaster Tendulkar tried to bring the smiles back by knocking a marvelous ton. But this time, the one day series triumph didn't feel the same, even I get nightmares after those heart tearing at-



tacks. The Taj and Trident have opened after bearing the brunt of the shocking attacks. Marches and campaigns are happening daily all over the country against the atrocious terrorists. To erase terrorism, we have to raise our voice and stand up as a united nation." •

## AMIT-e-POLL

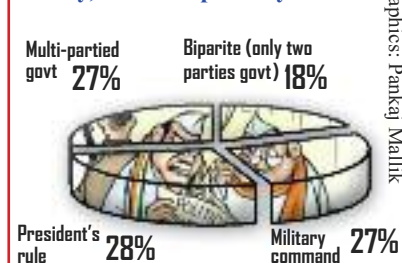
A political candidate's minimum qualification should be



Electoral candidate can stand for elections from



Today, India desperately needs



Graphics: Pankaj Malik

# CM's hat-trick

Alankrita Srivastava, IX-A  
AIS Vasundhra



The GT Crown for December goes to none other than Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit. Her electoral hat-trick only goes out to prove that today, the public is immune to smirky jibes and cheeky political gags. The CM has shown results, and people have been smart enough to sieve the chaff from the flour!



Already into her third term as Delhi CM, Sheila Dikshit has made history, and not merely for being the longest serving women CM in the country. Dikshit 'reign' of 10 years in Delhi is the fourth longest by a native in last 300 years, since the death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1707 AD. Now 71, Dikshit may not be able to persist longer than the Mughal King Muhammad Shah (29 years), Muhammad Akbar II (31 years) and Shah Alam II (47 years), but if she wins a fourth time, she could very well draw level with the last Mughal- Bahadur Shah Zafar, who ruled for 20 years. •

# Rab ne bana di baat

Sinjini Guha & Sakshi Gupta, IX-A  
AIS East Delhi

The Mumbai spirit is limping back to its original fervour, though gradually, for life is not a sentence with full stops, but commas. The terrorists have once again failed to attenuate the mordant knot between common people and their Bollywood heart-throbs. Mumbai blasts shook the hearts of the people but the 'cyclone' that rose over the commercial capital of India has been calmed down by the conciliatory jodi of



Shahrukh Khan and Anoushka, and their droll chemistry. Cinema audiences in Mumbai fell to a trickle in the aftermath of last month's mayhem. But the saying 'Slow and steady wins the race' has proven itself to be true once again as

Rab ne Bana Di Jodi grossed Rs 90 Crores worldwide in its opening weekend and is thought to have the potential to finish as one of the biggest blockbusters of 2008. Quips Kalpana, VII, AIS ED, "It's a matter of disgrace that time and again India has been made the hotspot of terrorist activities. Only God knows when all this will come to an end." "It is very clever on the part of government officials to shrug off the incident by saying, bade-bade shaharon mein chhoti chhoti baatein hoti rehtin hain," remarks Mr. Jayanti, grandfather of Kopal from AIS ED. •

## Attitude Pill

Chitra Jain, AIS Vasundhra



"We should resolve to fight against the coils of corruption, ills of illiteracy and the fire of terrorism." -Amna Ali (II B) AIS Saket.

# The GT Classroom

**Class - IX**

- Number of  $\text{NH}_3$  molecules in 11.2 lit. of  $\text{NH}_3$  at STP will be approximately  
 (1)  $6.02 \times 10^{23}$  (2)  $3.01 \times 10^{23}$   
 (3)  $1 \times 10^{23}$  (4)  $6.02 \times 10^{12}$
- Penicillin, the first antibiotic exerts its effect by  
 (1) making holes in plasma membrane and thus altering its permeability  
 (2) interfering with metabolic reactions  
 (3) inhibiting protein synthesis  
 (4) inhibiting formation of bacterial cell wall

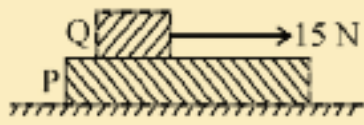
**Class - X**

- A set of  $n$  identical resistors, each of resistance  $R$  ohm, when connected in series have an effective resistance  $X$  ohm, and when connected in parallel, their effective resistance is  $Y$  ohm. The relation between  $R$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$   
 (1)  $Y = RX$  (2)  $R = XY$   
 (3)  $X = RY$  (4)  $R = \sqrt{XY}$
- Find the number of real roots of the equation  
 $(x - \alpha)^2 + 2(x - \beta)^2 + 5(x - \gamma)^2 = 0$   
 where  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$  are real numbers.

**Class - XI**

- If the function  $f(x) = (x - a)(x - b) + k$ ,  $a < b$ ,  $k > 0$ , has real roots, then  
 (1) only one of the roots lies between  $a$  and  $b$   
 (2) both the roots lie between  $a$  and  $b$   
 (3) none of the roots lies between  $a$  and  $b$   
 (4) either both roots are smaller than  $a$  or both are greater than  $b$
- A long plank P of mass 5 kg is placed on a smooth floor. On P is placed a

block Q of mass 2 kg. The coefficient of friction between P and Q is 0.5. A horizontal force of 15 N is applied to Q, as shown in figure and you may take  $g$  as 10 N/kg. Now,



- the reaction force on Q due to P is 10 N
- the acceleration of P relative to the floor is  $2.0 \text{ m/s}^2$
- the acceleration of Q relative to P is  $2.5 \text{ m/s}^2$
- the acceleration of P relative to Q is  $2.0 \text{ m/s}^2$

- When meiosis terminates, the four microspores are surrounded by layers of  
 (1) Pectin  
 (2) Cellulose  
 (3) Both (1) and (2)  
 (4) Callose

**Olympiad Level**

- A football player exhibited the following symptoms after a third quarterly play in which he was injured leaving following symptoms :

- Uncontrolled rhythmic contraction of skeletal muscles
- Abnormally great tension in muscles

The injury probably involved what area/areas of brain

- Medulla oblongata and hypothalamus
- Medulla oblongata only
- Cerebellum and cerebral cortex
- Cerebellum only

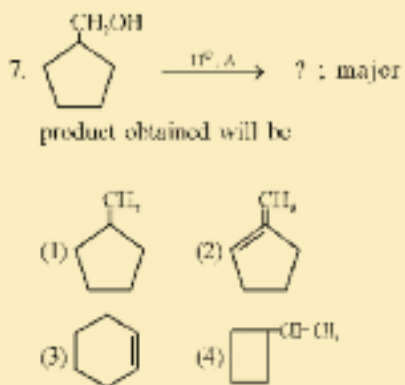
- If each person in a group of  $n$  people is a friend of at least half the people in the group, then prove that it is possible to seat them in a circle so that every one sits next to a friend of his/hers.

## GT Question-2 Win Sur Prizes

Why does the moon shine?

Send in your answers at  
The GT Q, AKC House,  
E-27, Defence Colony,  
New Delhi-110024

**Class - XII**



## Ans: GT Q-1

What is the minimum size of a mirror that is required to see your full image?

Ans: Half your size

Winner : Salman Balvant Rai Mehta Vidyalaya, AICE

Question courtesy: Amity Institute of Competitive Exams (AICE)

For answers, login to [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)

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Office : 0124-2337 650 / 642/ 643 ; Mob: 98106 99633

Col Ravinder Singh, (Retd) Adm. Officer, AIMC.  
Office : 0124-2337 642 / 643; Mob: 98106 99595

Psychologist and Alternate Healing Therapist Pooja Anand, the first youngest Reiki Grandmaster, Psychologist and an Amity University Alumnus, talks of the benefits of Healing as an Alternate Career.



# Healing as an Alternate Career

Career in alternate healing therapies is an upcoming field, attracting the attention of many. Regardless of the stream chosen, healing can be learned by any one. Just like other careers, this too requires devotion and commitment, and right skill to practice. Besides giving you fame, money, and power, it also enables you to become a more balanced individual. Students, who have curiosity in occult sciences, mysterious energies and the intention to serve the society, thirst for knowledge, have patience and are empathetic, can do wonders in this field. Besides the intrinsic job satisfaction of serving someone, the contentment one feels is incredible. The respect earned is unparalleled.



Pooja Anand

**Courses**

There are different courses in healing therapies; most popular among them are reiki, karuna reiki, hypnotherapy, color therapy, tarot, music healing, magnified healing, lama-fera, feng shui, mudra, acupressure, etc. Opting any of these as a career does not only provide you flexibility of time but it can help you well depending upon your efficiency, continuous practice, dedication and knowledge.

**Guides**

At a time when alternate career are mushrooming everywhere as a commercial venture, the success of pursuing it as a career depends on the choice of the right guide to impart the correct knowledge. A credible teacher is one who teaches the subject by explaining the entire dimension that includes psychology, scientific, philosophy and spiritual base. A teacher who is well educated, possess a counseling background with good practical and theoretical experience in these disciplines are most suitable.

**Scope**

The demand for these courses are increasing especially among students of medical sciences and those who have soft skill, creative talent, manager, designer, engineers and others. Students who learn these courses benefit immensely as it complements their selected streams, enhances their knowledge, gives clarity to their mind, increases creativity and makes them wiser.

Reiki, one of the most popular alternate healing career connects us with our higher consciousness, increasing clarity and inspires us. Remarkable positive changes can be perceived in the student's performance, confidence, learning ability and concentration level. It complements the self esteem and life skills. •

## Schoolastic alerts

**Institute/Exam:** Faculty of Medical Science, DU

**Course/Discipline:** Medical Science

**Entrance Exam:** PG Medical Entrance Test (PGMET)

**Website:** [www.du.ac.in](http://www.du.ac.in)

**Institute/Exam:** All India Management Association (Also in Jun, Sep and Nov)

**Course/Discipline:** Management

**Entrance Exam:** Management Aptitude Test

**Website:** [www.aima-ind.org](http://www.aima-ind.org)

**Institute/Exam:** PG Courses with MHRD Scholar/Asstship

**Course/Discipline:** Engg/ Tech/ Architecture

**Entrance Exam:** Graduate Aptitude Test in Engg.

**Website:** [www.iitb.ac.in/gate](http://www.iitb.ac.in/gate)

**Institute/Exam:** Indian Military/Navy/Air Force Academies

**Course/Discipline:** Defence

**Entrance Exam:** Combined Defence Service Exam (CDS)-I

**Website:** [www.upsc.gov.in](http://www.upsc.gov.in)

**Institute/Exam:** IGNOU

**Course/Discipline:** Management

**Entrance Exam:** IGNOU OPEN MAT

**Website:** [www.ignou.ac.org](http://www.ignou.ac.org)

# Cloning closet

Rumia Chatterjee  
AIS, Vasundhara

The arrival of Dolly, the much-celebrated sheep aroused the world's interest. Dolly, signified a major breakthrough, raising several interests and concerns because of its scientific and ethical implications. The success of Dolly brought to light the concept of Cloning. In a lay man's terminology, cloning is the process of creating an identical copy of a living being. It may be an organism or cell (cell cloning) or DNA fragments (molecular cloning). It is used by researchers in Human Genome projects, where scientists use technology to multiply a single common ancestor gene, cell or an organism.

While Dolly signified only one aspect of cloning, there are different types of cloning technologies that have other purposes besides producing the genetic twins of organisms.

**Therapeutic cloning:** Also called 'embryo cloning', it refers to a particular procedure which produces cells, specific body parts and organs to be utilized for medical purposes. The goal is to harvest stem cells that can be used to study human development and treat diseases. The extraction process however destroys the embryo, which raises a variety of ethical concerns. Scientists hope to generate an organ or tissue that is a genetic match to the recipient. It would also check the illegal organ trade in the medical industry.



**DNA Cloning:** Refers to the transfer of a DNA fragment of interest from one organism to a self-replicating genetic element such as a bacterial plasmid. The DNA of interest can then be propagated in a foreign host cell.

**Reproductive Cloning:** This is a technology used to generate an animal that has the same nuclear DNA as another currently or previously existing animal. Dolly was created by this technology. Some day, it may be used to produce whole human organs from a single cell that can replace damaged or degenerated cells and enabling humans to find a cure for many incurable diseases.●

## Reportedly Replicated

Himanshi Upadhyay &  
Soumya Gupta, XI, AIS, Saket

Cloning flouts nature's tried-and-true 'birds and bees' techniques of reproduction. While reproductive cloning is advocated by few, Therapeutic Cloning, faces ethical questions. Therapeutic cloning does not strive to make whole humans. Because embryonic stem cells can grow into any body cell, they might be cultured into nerve cells, skin cells, even hair follicles for the bald. But,

as it seems, there are too many odds. The opposition is mainly due to the prospect of creating new human life solely to be exploited and destroyed in this way has been condemned on moral grounds by many as displaying a profound disrespect for life. However, medical ethicists argue that, anyone who says that the chance to save a life through therapeutic cloning is wrong, would have to explain why they have not been upset by the practices that go on under IVF (in-vitro fertilisation) which

## Cloned Baby: a simple task for scientists

Sachit Tandon, IX-B  
AIS, East Delhi

When Dolly, the sheep was cloned, it was a step forward in science at the fact that science can be used to create exact replicas of animals! The question rises: Can humans be cloned? Scientists at the U S Biotech Company, Advanced Cell Technology believe that a human baby can be cloned.

An American team produced a baby mouse from genetically altered skin cells of adult species. The team inserted reprogrammed skin cells from an adult mouse into mice embryos to create offspring. Hence it is possible to take a human cell, reprogram it back to its embryonic state and then insert it into an early human embryo to produce 100% clones! So, for us it's a new beginning where we might see people sharing same features and faces like us.

is basically the same thing. Another argument is that Therapeutic Cloning should be opposed on the "grounds of risk of misuse", such as selling of lab-created embryos without the approval of their biological parents. The potential for abuse is unimaginable. Also, if you get your own cells back in an attempt to repair a disease with genetic roots, you would be only restoring the disease. Health Organisations have demanded that cloning be banned until ethical and safety issues are resolved.●

## The earth rocks



Kaveri Modayil and Tvisha Goswami,  
VII-B, AIS Pushp Vihar

The students of Amity, Pushp Vihar attended a workshop based on Disaster Management by Santosh J Thomas. (District Project Manager). We earnestly listened to all what he had to say and gained valuable knowledge that would come in handy when we most needed it. His talk included the projects that the DRM had started in India. These projects commenced in 2001 and is now successfully running in 175 districts and 17 states of India. We learnt that floods increase the fertility of the soil when they deposit alluvial soil. We were astonished to hear that about 65% of the land in India is prone to earthquakes, 13% is prone to floods and 8% is vulnerable to cyclones.

Doesn't the thought of living in such a country send shivers down your spine? We were even more surprised to hear that Delhi lies in seismic zone number 4, which is the high risk zone.

We learnt that it is not earthquakes that kill people; it is the man in the role of a builder who kills people. We need to understand disasters and be smart enough to save ourselves from them. He shared the following earthquakes safety tips:

- Cover your heads with arm to protect from falling debris.
- Avoid rushing out to avert stampede.
- Switch off gas and electrical appliances.
- Park your vehicle on the left side give way to ambulances and rescue teams.
- Avoid using elevators.
- Maintain emergency kits (water, food, medicines, a small transistor radio, a flashlight and extra batteries and a list of emergency numbers) ready.●

## Fact File

- The coldest place on earth is Vostok in Antarctica, where temperatures can be up to -89 degree C.
- Grassland animals eat different bits of grass to avoid competition - zebras eat the tops, wildebeests eat the stems.
- The biggest hailstone on earth was as big as a watermelon in USA in 1970.
- If you would collect the energy inside a hurricane for 1 day, and turn it into electricity, it would run the whole USA for 6 months.

Compiled by Aditya Aggarwal, V B,  
AIS - 46, Gurgaon

## Unseen Lives

There may be a world outside our Earth with some creatures like us, which may speak in their own languages. These creatures are known as aliens. May be they are trying to reach out to us in some or the other way. Many people have seen UFO's and have taken great pictures of them. UFO's or Unidentified Flying Objects have captured scientists' imagination for long. There is a still a cloud of mystery shrouding

<b>UFOs sighted Chihuahua in Mexico,</b> Aug 1974
<b>Ely Nevada,</b> 14th August, 1952
<b>Aztec, New Mexico,</b> 13th Feb. 1948
<b>Texas in USA,</b> 19th April 1897

their existence. However, with new UFO sightings popping up every now and then, they just can't be ignored. Many such sightings were rumoured to have been reported in India, just before the tsunami struck, as if they were fore-warning the impending disaster. Let's see in the coming year, if we can find aliens and their dwelling place.●

Saumya Josan & Rupali Maheshwari, AIS Vasundhara

## The death of E-m@il

Tamanna Dhawan  
GT Reporter, AIS Gur 46

In the past few years, everyone I know has become an Internet convert. Gone are the conventional ways of correspondence and letter writing has almost become extinct. I use the term extinct, as literally there are just a bunch of people who still believe that a letter should be on a piece of paper. People older than 25 can't imagine a life without e-mail. For the new 'Facebook' generation, it's hard to imagine a life of only e-mail, much less a life before it. But now, e-mail is also looking obsolete. Almost all Web-using teenagers prefer to chat with friends via instant messaging rather than e-mail. As sites like Orkut and Facebook have become more popular, those old Yahoo and Hotmail

accounts are catching dust. 'You're not cool if you're not on Facebook' is the mantra of the Gen-X.

From our perspective, we would never send an e-mail to 200 friends saying, "Exams have finished, Yay!" But with a Myspace or a Facebook status update, we can broadcast such a message to all of our buddies in an instant. It's also speedier to exchange IMs amongst friends. If we then need to tell those friends how awesome they are for joining us, we just post a message on our Facebook or MySpace page so that the world can see.

E-mail writing is methodical and time-consuming, a closer relative to letter writing than to conversation. Even the delivery speed of e-mail ensure, it takes only a few seconds, is now considered frightfully slow.

## Trendz



As is well known, most teens are signed in to IM or Facebook from the time they get home from school until they are told to turn off the computer. When everyone's online, they never have to leave the company of their pals.

I think we all agree...

Email,

R.I.P.

And...

Long live IM! ●

# Cellular Mania

Going crazy over your cell phone when you're not big enough to drive? Then you might be a mobile maniac

Chitra Jain  
AIS Vasundhra

“Kids are idols of innocence,” Jawahar Lal Nehru had once said. Do you think this stands true even today? Sadly, it doesn't. Today's kids or 'teens' are everything but innocent. And I feel bad saying it since I am a teen too! And who is to blame for it? Name it and you see it. Internet, television, movies, friends and the mobile phone. If you are rich enough to go to a reputed school, then you must own a mobile phone. Over the decade, families have become smaller and incomes larger than ever. This has resulted in more fun for kids. That's good, no objections. Owning a mobile is perfectly fine, but going all maniacal about it is certainly not. I've seen people squandering away on the latest N series or anything that's tagged 'cool'. Today cheap phones won't work. We want cell phones that

can be shown off. The purpose of Mobile phone is immaterial. We believe it to be uber cool to own mobile phones, that too expensive ones. But the ones who do not or cannot own one, how do they feel? If you own a phone, keep it to yourself! Why are you taking it out every five minutes and showing it off? “One popular girl in my class takes out her phone and pretends to take a call just because it's imported and it's pink!” comments Saumya, a student of Class IX. There are countless features in a mobile today and exploring them takes hours. Couldn't that time be used for more fruitful purposes? Also mobile maniacs check every five minutes to see if some other maniac is texting them. Weird! True, mobiles do give us a break from our supersonic lives. Plus, it's a cool way of communicating wherever you are. Graham sure made an awesome invention. But the one who made it into a mobile phone surely deserves an Oscar! Three cheers to the inventor of mobile! ●

Martin Cooper invented the first mobile some 35 years ago.



# A day in a teenager's life

Bhargavi Reddy, XI-B  
AIS Noida

I studied my friend's woebegone countenance as I walked through the labyrinthine roads of the Thursday market on my way back from school. She had been whimpering since morning for having failed in her examinations. I have come to the firm belief that exams leave our teenage souls wretched. We tend to do “things which are either immoral or unconventional.”

I dumped my bag hastily on the table, my mind crammed with chemical equations and mathematical formulas. I sat down lazily to recite my marks probably for the tenth time that day to my parents and I waited for a satisfied look on their faces which never came. I am unaware of their expectations but whatever they might be, I am



Teen Diary

unmindful of them but I still feel that I carry the burden of the earth on my shoulders. I am focused about my goals and aims though I easily get disorientated. I do not know in which category I fall in. Am I still a kid or have I grown up? Each and every day looks like an obstacle for me. I feel I am challenged by everyone. “Age carries everything, even the mind away”. Ignoring all the “go and study” orders from my mom, I did what I loved doing, making those irresistible phone calls to my friends and of course the essential daily dose of TV followed and the birthday party I had to attend, the game of snooker I promised my friend, et al. Gosh! I had so much to do in one single day.

But in spite of my active and occupied moments, my mind buzzes with all types of vague and unanswerable questions. Why am I not conscious of my faults? Why do I crib and fuss for every small thing? Is my age to be blamed? As my head touched the pillow that night, my eyes closed sinking into the deep and impenetrable mysteries of teenage melodrama. ●

## Cookie love

Easy-to-make banana choco-chip cookies

Alankrita Srivastava, IX-A  
AIS Vasundhra

**Ingredients:** Flour 2 1/2 cup, Vanilla extracts 1 tsp, Mashed ripe bananas 1 cup, Semi-sweet chocolate chips 2 cups, Baking powder 2tsp, White sugar 1 cup, Butter- softened 2/3cup, Eggs 2, Salt 1/2 tsp

**Method:** Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease cookie sheets. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt & baking soda together and set aside. Cream the butter with sugar until light & fluffy. Beat in the eggs & vanilla. Mix in the mashed bananas. Add flour mixture and stir. Add the chocolate chips. Drop by spoonfuls onto prepared cookies' sheets. Bake in preheated oven for 12 to 15 minutes.

## Dude! Wear your attitude

Karan Gosain & Shagun Nayyar  
IX, AIS East Delhi

Watch out, wristwatches are not just telling time these days. They are actually talking aloud about you and your status! Fastrack, Swatch, Tag Heur, Tommy Hilfiger, Timex, etc. are some of the names seen commonly tied around a teenager's wrist. Yes, we're talking about the funky watches that we change with every new dress. Youth doesn't wear their watches to look at time but to flaunt them around in school. Boys choose watches according to the brand and their cool-quotient; whereas girls pick their watches according to the design and color. Watches are now accessories to show off. The actual importance being lost in the wrist race! When it comes to watches, brands matter more than the design and even the time



Teen fashion

they are telling. Expensive and premium quality watches like Rolex or Chopard are found on the wrists of the rich and famous. Other classic brands that are in the most aspired list include Omega, Armani, Titan, Seiko and Timex. Watches

that just tell time and date are rather too simple for this date. For the metro-sexual man, a watch must be multi-functional and complicated. Two of the most popular complications in a watch are the chronograph complication, which is the ability of the watch movement to work as a stopwatch, and the moon phase complication, which is a display of the lunar phase. Chronometer watches, which are more accurate than others, are also most popular amongst watch enthusiasts. There was a time when people passed their life with one wristwatch; today one carries scores of them and yet keeps an eye on the upcoming models. Watches today have to gel with the spirit of the occasion, and the dressing of the day. Stylists believe that wrist watches add to the persona and people must take a lot of care while selecting one for an important occasion. So, what's your power statement? Looking at your wrist, aren't you? ●

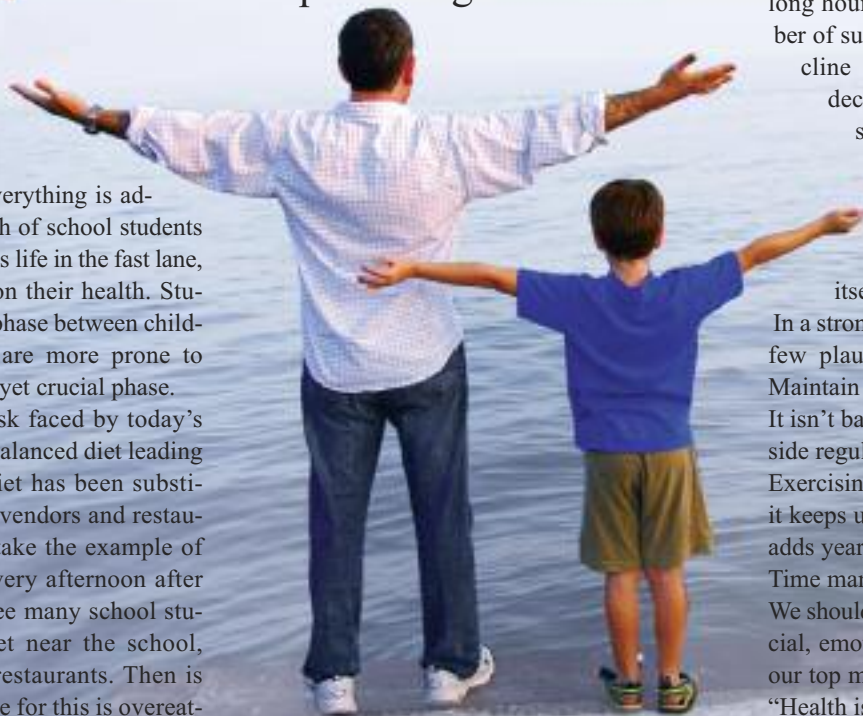


# Are you healthy, wealthy and wise?

In today's fast life in the fast lane, are students compromising on their health?

Kartik Kaul & Shushant Narang  
AIS Saket

In the space-age where everything is advancing rapidly, the health of school students is on the decline. In today's life in the fast lane, students are compromising on their health. Students are in the intermediate phase between childhood and adulthood. They are more prone to chronic ailments in this brief yet crucial phase. The most common health risk faced by today's school student is the lack of balanced diet leading to malnutrition. Balanced diet has been substituted by food from roadside vendors and restaurants. For instance, we can take the example of our own school students. Every afternoon after the school is over one can see many school students, in the J-block market near the school, crowded near vendors and restaurants. Then is the issue of obesity. The cause for this is overeat-



ing and lack of exercise. Add to that, sitting in front of the television, computer or studying for long hours. There is also an increase in the number of suicides which indicate that alongwith decline in physical health, there has been a decline in mental health too, the main reason being the pressure of performing well in exams. Exam stress preys on students' mental health. In Delhi alone, during the month of March 2008, 5 suicides took place in the first fortnight itself due to exam stress.

In a strong body resides a strong mind. Here are a few plausible options to prevent health risks: Maintain a proper balanced diet It isn't bad to have restaurant food but eating outside regularly can be unhealthy in the long run. Exercising or doing yoga daily has dual benefits, it keeps us fit, acts as a stress buster and not only adds years to life, but life to years. Time management is the key to handle stress. We should remember that our physical, mental, social, emotional, moral and spiritual well-being is our top most priority and of course, not to forget, “Health is wealth”. ●

## Counselor's Korner



P. Anjali Mehta  
Sr. Counsellor  
AIS Noida

*My parents, teachers and tutors are pushing me to work hard as my senior school exams are approaching. I feel terrible and incapable at times and am scared what if I fail?*

- Pawan

It's natural to feel like this, but I am happy that you have at least realized the pressure and its outcome. Our well wishers get more anxious than us at times and start putting extra pressure. The best way to handle this situation would be to take charge of it. Be more responsible towards your studies and think positive. Tell yourself that you are also capable of success. Think of students who are in better control over their studies, how they are managing time and working hard. Think of situations when you have been successful. Reflect on preparation style that gave you best results. Analyze and find out when and under what conditions you are capable of studying better. Put forth your requisition to your parents. Solicit help and individual attentions from your teacher. Find a classmate with whom you can study boring and difficult subjects. Eat good nutritious food and last, but most important, stop worrying and start studying. ●



# The present

"Here we are in a month named after the Roman god Janus, an appropriate personification of the start of the new year. This particular Roman god had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future and back at the past at the same time. As we get rid of an old year and look forward to a new one, we all try to be a little like Janus. We know through experience what we did wrong and what we did right, and hope to do better this year. Some people make ambitious new year's resolutions; others just take a deep breath and hope for the best..."

- Anonymous



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

As we look into the year gone by and welcome 2009, one thing is certain, God's creation is supreme. He controls us in his manner, giving us opportunity to learn and mend our ways, while continuing to march ahead.

This New Year is His biggest present, to cherish and live. It is His blessings showered on his precious children. It is an occasion to learn from the year gone by and welcome the new one with new resolutions.

At Amity, every year is a new beginning and every year brings new opportunities. We Amityans have never hesitated to lead and set an example for others. Amity was not made on a single day or by a single person. We all together have made it. In over a decade, it has grown and prospered. As always, I shall to my utmost continue to lead you, be your mentor and your partner. This new year, I promise that this pace shall continue unabated and will continue for many long years. And so, let us move forward and make the best of our present. ●

## Spirited 2009

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

-Lord Tennyson



Vira Sharma

They say 'All's well that ends well'. And as we prayed 2008 to conclude on a good note after a spate of tragic terrors, the Mumbai carnage rocked the nation. Whether it was the 2000 plane hijack or the 2004 Tsunami disaster, year ends have continued to shake us with their evil designs, manmade or otherwise. Wounded, but not defeated, we enter 2009.

But this time, we are prepared. With Mind and Soul. I will not review the past. Bygones are by-gones. Let's forgive the mischiefs of the evil mind. Forget, no way! The new generation does not have a fifteen minute memory span, a la Amir Khan in Ghajini. For them, life is more than 20-20 or a Ghajini memory space. They know that Santa Clause are not real and Fairies are only in stories. They have their own mind and watch adults with keenness. I can already see the New Year unleash a fighter's spirit in the young ones.

The Global Times cartoonist Chitra Jain confirms that The Attitude (pill) is in place. We can do without gifts. But: "This year free us from bad politics and punish terrorist," demands Anagha of Class II.

No more debates. No more tears. What they need is a trusting environment where they can breathe the freedom. No material comfort doled out can compensate for their demands. Udit Khanna, (II B) of AIS Saket pens...

"A hope shines bright in my heart/That there will be a better tomorrow/That there will be joy in everybody's lives

And no road for sorrow"

With this spirit, let's welcome 2009 ●



# Bride & Prejudice

"I believe that everything that men can do, I can do better. But I think it is unfair to have to prove myself...about being the superior genetic make..."

Aanchal Chaturvedi, XII-C  
AIS Noida

**Chauvinism is extreme and unreasonable partisanship. A frequent contemporary use of the term in English is male chauvinism, which refers to the belief that males are superior to females.**

- Wikipedia.org

I'm struck by the irony of it all. Male chauvinism is almost as bad a term as male bastion. Or the locker room, impregnable fortresses of testosterone and sweat. An abundance of everything masculine, these terms are the very embodiment of a gender divide that has led to gender inequality in every part of the world.

How does such prejudice affect me as an adolescent? I believe that anything men can do, I can do better. But I think it is unfair to have to prove myself, time and again, about being the superior genetic makeup in this heap of genomes that surround us.

For as far back as I can remember,

geriatric members of innumerable seemingly progressive but fundamentally parochial Indian families have supported and encouraged male chauvinism. Come home before dark. Don't talk to strangers. Don't go here. Don't do that. Don't wear this. Always travel with your brother/father when you travel to such and such place. The list is endless!

Agreed that some of the above are actually relevant - given that we are surrounded by psychopathic anti-social elements that threaten the well being of most women living in my city, others border on archaic paranoia and have no thread of logic running through them. The female species have

been considered the weaker sex since the dawn of civilization. Stereotypical examples of this hoard virtually every Hindi movie produced since technology made it possible to craft celluloid. Women couldn't participate in warfare. Neither could they fend for their families by working outside the home. This used to be an unruly world (and

probably still is, in more ways than one) and chauvinism was born in an attempt to protect women from the lascivious leering of the Neanderthal man. So really, what it boils down to is brute force.

Fortunately, I was born into a family where there is no distinction between my brother and me. Indeed, I have the veto on decisions that involve the family and a free hand to pursue my dreams.

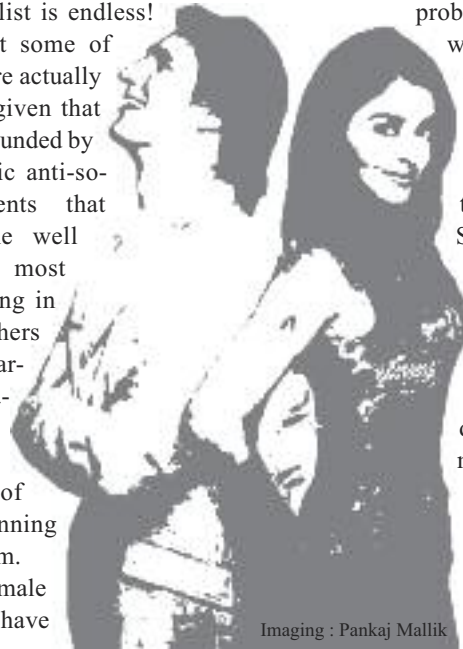
My parents have provided me with a canvas that stretches beyond the horizon and I can paint it any colour I want.

It's time we all wake up to the revolution that feminists and advocates of equal rights & gender equality have sparked in every corner of the world. Women, don't need chauvinism.

I am proud to belong to the gender that has sired the likes of Indira Gandhi, Kalpana Chawla, Orianna Falacci, Sania Mirza, Golda Meir, Kiran Bedi, Oprah Winfrey, Indira Nooyi, Mother Teresa, Barkha Dutt, Medha Patkar, Aung San Suu Kyi and so many more!

These women achievers have made a difference in many ways. They have challenged the prevailing wisdom, ideas, tags and stereotypes that governed the way the world looked at women.

Women bring a much more humane touch, wisdom and practical solutions to problems of all fits and sizes. So the next time you decide to deride me because of my gender, remember, "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world." ●



Imaging : Pankaj Mallik

## Lighting a candle is not enough

Vasudha Singh, XI G  
AIS, Saket

The Mumbai carnage evoked a unified response from one and all. Even before any action was taken, people trickled towards India Gate in silent rebellion, occasionally dotted with posters demeaning the government and its every official. People lined up in front of cameras and mikes belonging to NDTV or CNN to make full use of their liberty of speech, openly criticizing every act of the government for lack of security, lack of implementation of laws and seldom referring to the lack of cooperation on part of the citizens. All from a safe distance. My question is, if people are so furious about the sad state of affairs, have they ever wondered about their role in the scheme of things? Is lighting a candle enough? Will such people ever join the Territorial Army? The answer is No!

Funnily enough, many of us here

don't even know the meaning of these two words. Territorial Army is a training program which incorporates in the volunteers the correct behaviour one should put forward at the time of crisis. The volunteer is then required of his services when needed like at the time of the recent terror attack. But since it is voluntary, no one really joins it. Criticize army as much as you may but do you know that presently there are 15000 vacancies, in which not even one post has our name. That surely gives us a right to criticize them, doesn't it? Many of the readers may know people who got injured in the Mumbai attack. But be sure of the fact that none of you knows anyone who went to the police at the time of crisis providing the much needed help.

When people heard of the terror attack, all they wanted was their neighbourhoods to be secured by the police and when the protection couldn't be provided, as if the in-



efficiency of the police was further proven. If at the India Gate, it was to be announced "All those wishing to join Territorial Army please submit their names", the page would be as empty as ever signifying the intensity of our patriotism. People would crawl back into their comfort zones lulling themselves into a fake sleep in the wake of a terror attack which did not, at least, affect them. But yes, again next time, if assured that no such announcements would be made, they will come back to light a candle. ●

The Global Times is a remarkable publication. Some of the articles written by school students are quite inspiring for everyone in general and the teachers in particular, who are their makers. They deserve congratulations for such a splendid grooming. A student of literature, I wish to share the following with the GT readers...

**Making or Spoiling of the Image or Impression**

It takes a long time (sometimes Years)

To make or leave a good impression, BUT

Image or impression may be lost or Spoiled in the fraction of a second Be therefore

quite particular While performing any act or conduct, Or making any speech or expression, Or showing inclination or disinclination in the discharge of duties.

Narhari Sharma (IAS) Retd.  
Registrar, Amity University,  
Rajasthan

As a GT reporter, I have contributed to the newspaper from time to time. In my opinion, the editorial page is the best as it enriches my vocabulary besides dealing with important issues. Though, I would like to see more humorous articles which would tickle



our busy minds.  
Raghavi Maheshwari,  
IX B, AIS East Delhi

My favourite page is 'Big Story' as every month, there is something new, interesting and educative! I'd welcome some more varieties of jokes, riddles, cross-words and other fun activities for children.

Sonal Jain, X E, AIS Noida

The lifestyle page is my favourite as it has a good mixture of fashion, information, facts, famous personalities and counseling! I'd appreciate some more science write-ups and cartoons.

Shreya Singhal, IX C, AIS Saket

I really like 'Big Story' and 'Wassup' the school page as we come to know what's happening in the other branches of Amity. I look forward to more short stories, poems, art and other articles that can be comprehended by small children.

Kopal Gupta, VI B, AIS East Delhi

I'm fond of the 'Sports' page as I'm interested in various games and the 'Wassup' page as I like to know what's happening in different competitions. The USP of the newspaper is that it encourages mass participation of students.

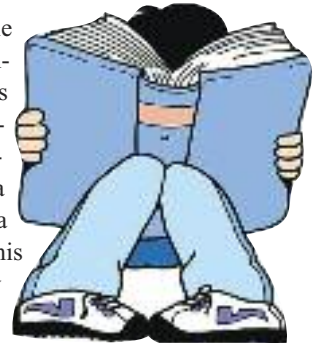
Ruhi Kumar, X D, AIS Noida

## 1% Inspiration 99% Perspiration

Medha Rawat  
AIS, Pushp Vihar

It's very simple to say that someone is rich or successful. Nobody sees the hard work behind that success. In our country people get inspired very soon. A girl sees P.T. Usha winning medals at Olympics and decides to be like her someday. The next day one lap of the ground makes her faint and she gives it all up!

But there are people who not only get inspired themselves and become successful, they inspire others too. There was a man who worked in a petrol pump, but his ambitions were very high, which made him work hard and achieve his goals to become a successful business man. He said, "Our dreams have to be bigger, our ambitions higher, our commitment deeper and our efforts greater." His hard work and efforts led him to become one of the most successful entrepreneurs of the world. He was none other than Dhiru Bhai Ambani. Today, his sons are counted among the world's rich and powerful people. Someone rightly said, "Success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration!" ●



# Happy New Year!

Come 1st January and the world wears a different hue, people across the globe immersed in merry making to welcome the advent of a brand New Year. We Indians, too, look forward to parties and fun events to usher the New Year. But every region in India welcomes the traditional New Year on different days with symbolic festivities and special connotations...

Imaging: Dinesh Kumar



Yajur Narang, XI-B  
AIS Saket

Festivals in India, rich in its cultural inheritance, are an intrinsic part of Indian ethos. Some festivals welcome the seasons of the year, the harvest, the rains or the full moon. Others celebrate religious occasions, the birthdays of divine beings, saints, and gurus, or the New Year. One such occasion that calls for revelry and celebrations is the New Year. Though Hinduism is followed by the largest percentage of people in India, even within the Hindu community it is not celebrated at the same time of the year and in the same fashion. New Year dates of many religions coincide with each other.

## Nabo Barsho

In West Bengal, Nabo Barsho (New Year) is celebrated during spring. The Brahmaputra valley is green and cuckoos sing in the woods. Fragrant flowers and orchids bloom. People decorate their houses with colorful flowers. Women wear yellow clothes as it is symbolic of spring.

## Bitter 'n' sweet Ugadi

In Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh too, New Year is celebrated in the spring. In Telugu New Year known as 'Ugadi', family members and friends sit together for the traditional sauce called Ugadi pachchadi. On this day, it is customary for people to eat a small helping of a salad made of neem leaves, jaggarey, raw mangoes and bananas. By eating this, the person is symbolically accepting everything bitter and sweet that is likely to come his way throughout the year. In Kerala, on the night before New Year's Day, mothers prepare a special tray consisting of special food, fruits, flowers and gifts. This tray is the first thing that one should see on New Year's Day. So, as soon as the children are awake,

they are led with their eyes closed to the tray.

## Festival of lights

In Gujarat, New Year coincides with Diwali, an important Hindu festival. Religious fervour paralleled with ample fun and merry-making marks the festival. People light oil lamps around their houses to welcome God, so do the people of Uttar Pradesh. Hindu new year is celebrated with the very first day of Kartik month following Diwali Amaavasya and is popularly known as **Vikram Samvat**. It is believed that Goddess Laxmi comes to bless each house. People pray to the Goddess to bring them good luck and fortune.

## Kashmiri Navreh

Navreh is the lunar new year celebrated in Kashmir and many other parts of the country. This coincides with the first day of the Chaitra (spring) Navratras. It is observed as the New Year's day in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (as Ogadi), in Maharashtra and Goa as (Gaudi Parva), by Sindhis as Cheti-Chand and in the northern parts of India as Chaitra Shukla Di i.e. the first day of the lunar fortnight of Chaitra.

In Kashmir, on the eve of Navreh the Kulguru of a Pandit family gets a new almanac and an illustrated scroll. Late in the evening, the housewife gets a big plate and fills it up with rice or paddy, the new almanac and scroll are placed on the rice. Early morning on the New Year day, a boy or a girl gets up at dawn and, after taking the lid off the plate, takes it to the head of the family and his wife and then to others in such a way that every member of the family gets a glimpse of the things kept in the plate and looks into the mirror as the first thing in the morning. This signifies as prayer for food,

wealth and knowledge in the coming year.

## Dance fest

Bohag Bihu, the Assamese national festival marks the beginning of a New Year. It is actually a dance festival where special Bihu dances and songs are performed. Gudi Padwa is Maharashtra New Year - Gudi that is Brahmahwaj or Flag of Lord Brahma is hung at doors of each house. People clean & paint houses, perform prayers and create beautiful rangoli.

Despite so many diversities, people in India are united and they feel proud of their culture and tradition. Festivals in India are mainly a symbol of peace & prosperity, good harvest and happiness. Festivals of India are what keep the diversity of the culture integrated. In spite of all the hardship people come together to greet each happiness and prosperity. This feeling of harmony is what keeps this diverse nation intact.

## Baisakhi – the harvest new year of Punjab

Bhuvan Ravindran, VIII C  
AIS Noida

My earliest memories of Baisakhi are those of flying kites with my cousin on the terrace of my uncle's house in Chandigarh, eating the rich 'kada prasad' dripping with pure ghee and dancing to the tune of Punjabi folk songs.

Celebrated on the 13th of April, Baisakhi is essentially a harvest festival and New Year rolled into one for the large farming community of Punjab. The grueling task of harvesting the rabi crop is rendered light by merry community festivities in ful-

fillment of the year long hard work of the farmers. What amazes any visitor to Punjab at this time of the year is the lush green bounty of nature. Added to this, the bright colours of the traditional attire of the people. Men and women perform 'bhangra' and 'gidda' the popular folk dances.

The festival holds a special meaning for the Sikhs. It was on this day in 1699, that the tenth Guru Gobind Singh organized the 'Khalsa panth'. Guru Arjun Das was martyred by the Muslim rulers on this day. Again, it was on this day in 1875, that Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj, a sect of the Hindus that discards idol worship and is devoted to the Vedas for spiritual guidance. Gautam Buddha also attained enlightenment on this day. In the Golden Temple in Amritsar, water drawn from all the sacred rivers of India is poured in the pool surrounding the holy shrine on this day. Furthermore, the 'Granth Sahib' is taken in a procession, led by the 'Panj Pyaras' or five senior Sikhs who are symbolic of the original leaders.

'You must visit the gurdwara in the evening when it is beautifully lit and decorated', my grandmother, a Punjabi herself, never fails to remind me. Indeed, Sikh devotees through the Gurdwara and listen to 'Kirtans' and discourses. I particularly look forward to the 'langar' or the community lunch served by volunteers. As a child, I would often wonder why people would strain themselves to bend and serve. 'When you bend to serve, you also surrender your ego to His worthy cause', my grandmother, as always, would have an answer for everything I asked. I did not quite understand it then. But I do, now. Though most states celebrate it, to experience the gusto and exuberance with which Baisakhi is celebrated, Punjab is the place to be. The colourful fairs, the procession of 'Panj Pyaras' and the unforgettable taste of 'kada prasad' and many other exotic dishes can be experienced only in Punjab. Kudos to India's rich and glorious cultural heritage mirrored in its myriad festivals!●



# Premier League: The show continues

The multi-billion-dollar industry that is the Barclays Premier League is in full swing. While last season was generally regarded as having been the best for years, the 2008-09 promises to be grander and more entertaining than ever.

## English Premier League

Promoted as "The Greatest Show On Earth", the Premier League is the world's most popular and most watched sporting league, followed worldwide by over half a billion people in 202 countries. Regarded as the world's best league football competition, most watched and richest, it is contested by 20 member clubs that act as shareholders. The season runs from August to May, with teams playing 38 games each. It comes under the jurisdiction of the Football Association (the FA), a member of UEFA affiliated with the world's governing body - the Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA).

## History

The 1980s saw a nadir in English football. Stadiums were crumbling and hooliganism was rife. English teams were banned from Europe following the death of 39 fans at Heysel Stadium in Belgium. In 1989 over 100 fans died during the FA Cup semi-final. Lord Justice Taylor recommended a complete overhaul in the way football grounds were run and structured. A radical restructuring was needed if English clubs and the game in general were to develop and flourish. In 1991, The Founder Members Agreement was signed for the setting up of the Premier League, independent from the Football League and FA, leaving it free to organise its own broadcast and sponsorship agreement. On 20th February 1992, it was established as a limited company.

## Commercial Calls

Television Rights assigned for the first time by the league saw the value of the Premier League soar. From the initial deal of £191million, Sky and Setanta have paid a staggering £1.7billion. Sponsorship has played an enormous role. In 1993 Carling paid £12million and the competition became known

as the FA Carling Premiership. In 2001 Barclaycard paid £48million, and renewed the same in 2007 with £65.8million for three seasons of Barclays Premier League.

## Ticket to UEFA

The top two sides in the Premier League qualify automatically for the UEFA Champions League, going straight through to the group stage. The teams that finish third and fourth qualify for the UEFA Champions League but must play in the 3rd qualifying round - the winners of these matches are then admitted to the group stage. The fifth-placed team qualifies for the UEFA Cup, as do the FA Cup winners and the Carling Cup winners.

ball to tackle social exclusion, raise educational standards and promote community involvement.

## FAQs

Over 200 countries show Barclays Premier League matches on television.

50 per cent of total money goes on an equal share basis to the 20 Premier League clubs, while relegated clubs also receive some of this money in the form of a parachute payment.

25% of the money is paid as facility fees, which are determined by the number of appearances on tele-

## Premier League Clubs

Arsenal  
Aston Villa  
Blackburn Rovers  
Bolton Wanderers  
Chelsea  
Everton  
Fulham  
Hull City  
Liverpool  
Manchester United  
Middlesbrough  
Newcastle United  
Portsmouth  
Stoke City  
Sunderland  
Tottenham Hotspur  
West Bromwich Albion  
West Ham United  
Wigan Athletic  
Manchester City

## Top Earners in English Premier League

Amlaan Kumar, V-F

AIS Noida

1. **Frank Lampard (Chelsea)**-Tops the list with an earning of £ 140,000 a week. he is a great midfielder and penalty taker too.

2. **John Terry(Chelsea)**- Gifted with a stron-gense of defending hie earns £131,000 per week. Currently the Chelsea Captain, he also Captains the England team.

4. **Andriy Shevchenko (Chelsea)**- Earns £121,000 a week. He did not have many expectations when he arrived in Chelsea.

3. **Michael Ballack (Chelsea)**-Earns £ 121,000 per week. A German midfielder, he has played in, he has always possessed the number 13 shirt.

5. **Steven Gerrard (Liverpool)**- Makes £ 120,000 a week. He is usually employed in the box-to-box midfield role, although he has often been deployed as a right-sided midfielder and occasionally as a second striker.

vision. 25 per cent is paid in merit payments, determined by the position that a club finished in the league.

There are currently over 337 foreign players registered and eligible to play in the Barclays Premier League. 66 countries are represented.

## Club Membership

Out of 42 clubs that have competed in the Premier League, only four have won the title: Manchester United, Blackburn Rovers, Arsenal and Chelsea. The current champions Manchester United, won their tenth Premier League title in the 2007-08 season, the most of any Premier League team. Seven clubs namely Arsenal, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United, and Tottenham Hotspur have been members since its inception.●

Rank	Player	Goals	Rank	Player	Goals
1	Alan Shearer	260	6	Teddy Sheringham	147
2	Andrew Cole	187	7	Michael Owen	143
3	Thierry Henry	174	8	Jimmy F. Hasselbaink	128
4	Robbie Fowler	161	9	Dwight Yorke	123
5	Les Ferdinand	150	10	Ian Wright	113

# Shuttle show offs

Karan Gosain IX-B  
AIS East Delhi

**J**IANZI!What is the first thing which strikes your mind on hearing this word? A dish? Maybe from China or Japan? That's the thing, which I thought. But when I went deep into this sport, I got to know that it is a traditional Asian game in which players aim to keep a heavily weighted shuttlecock in the air using their feet and other parts of the body (but not hands). The game, which goes by many different names, may be rules, based on a court similar to badminton, or played artistically, among a circle of players in a street or park, with the objective to keep the shuttle 'up' and show off skills. In Vietnam, it is known as *da cau* and is the national sport, played especially in Hanoi.

## History

The first known version of Jianzi was in the 5th century BC in China. The name *ti jian zi*, means simply 'kick shuttlecock' ('ti' = kick, 'jian zi' = little shuttlecock). The game is believed to have evolved from

*cuju*, a game similar to football that was used as military training. Over the next 1000 years, this shuttlecock game spread throughout Asia, acquiring a variety of names along the way. Jianzi came to Europe in 1936, when a Chinese athlete from the province of Jiangsu performed a demonstration at the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin. In Germany and other countries people began to

## Sport Spotted

learn and play the sport, now called 'shuttlecock'. The sport continues to receive greater recognition, and was included as a sport in the 2003 Southeast Asian Games and in the Chinese Games. Vietnam and China are generally considered best, while in Europe, Hungary and Germany are the strongest.

## The Game

The shuttlecock, called a 'jianzi' in the Chinese game and 'Chinese hacky sack' in English, typically has four feathers fixed into rubber sole or plastic discs. Some handmade jianzis make use of a washer or a coin with a hole in the centre. During play, various parts

of the body, but not the hands, are used to keep the shuttlecock from touching the ground. It is primarily balanced and propelled upwards using parts of the leg, especially the feet. Skilled players may employ powerful and spectacular overhead kicks.

The sport builds hand-eye coordination and is also good for brain. Besides, it's convenient to play, requiring only a very small area, and can be practised anywhere and any time

## The formal game

Competitively, the game is played on a rectangular court 6.10 by 11.88 metres, divided by a net (much like badminton) at a height of 1.60 metres (1.50 metres for women).

## Official jianzi competitions

The official featherball used in the sport of shuttlecock consists of four equal-length goose or duck feathers conjoint at a plastic base. It weighs approximately 15 grams. The total length is 15 to 18 cm. The feathers vary in colour, usually dyed red, yellow, blue and/or green. However, in the Official Jianzi Competitions, a white featherball is preferred. ●



"This year emphasis should be given to clean environment and measures to be taken to keep it green". -Tannishtha, (II-B) AIS Saket



# Winter

Aditya Harsh, AIS ED

Its time for snowy season  
Everyone enjoys this season  
I like to play in the snow  
I walk on slippery snow on my toe  
I like to make snowman  
Making its nose with the Pepsi can  
Everyday at 6 pm I go to play  
But in this season I don't go to play  
We drink hot tea  
Snow falls above the tree  
Its time for snowy season  
Everyone likes this season.



Arushi Gulati III-A, AIS Saket

**THE UNVEIL ME CONTEST**  
Answer: Yuvraj Singh and M S Dhoni  
Winners: Saurav Mohanty, X-B, AIS Saket •Lakshay Narang, VII E, AIS ED •Saransh Sangal, IV D, AIS Noida •Ankur Jain, V E, AIS Gur-46, •Justin Jacob, IV, MSMS Vidyalaya, Sawai Ram Singh Road Jaipur

**Know THE GLOBAL TIMES CONTEST**

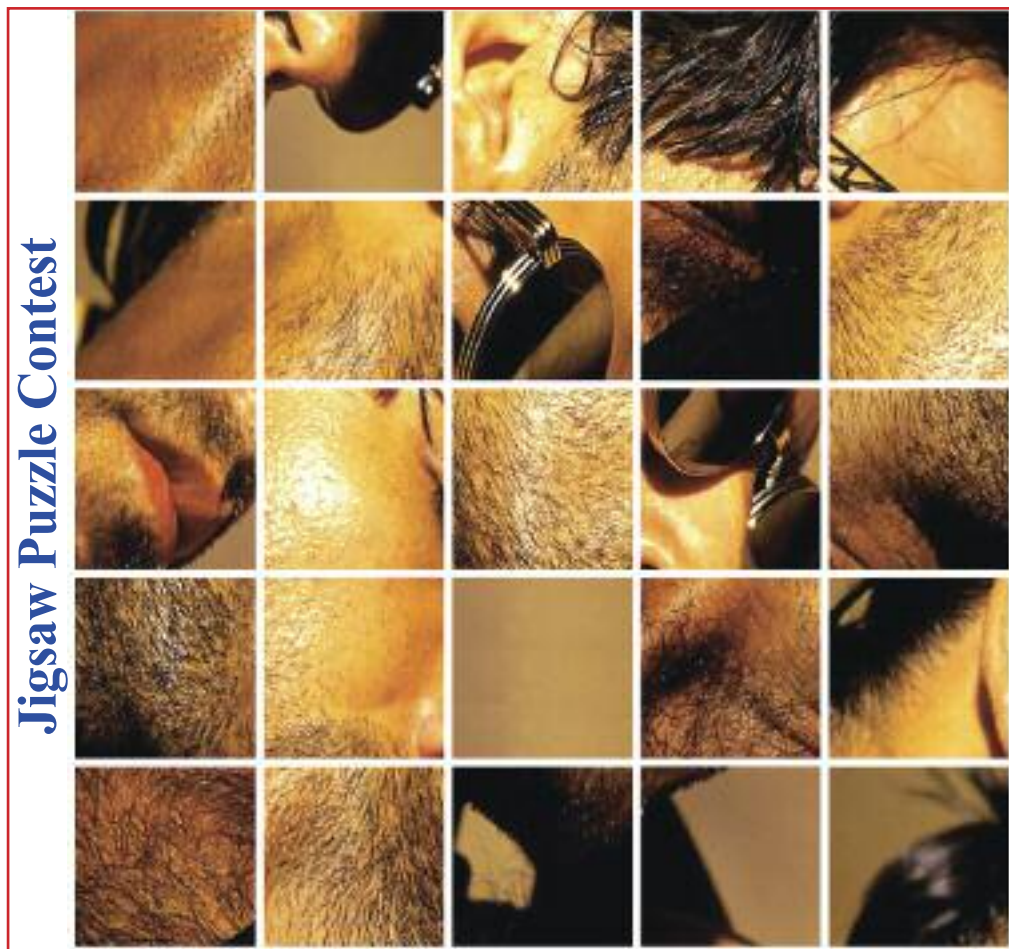
Friends, by now you must have browsed through this issue of The Global Times. Answer the following questions and check how well you know your paper.

1. Which is the coldest place on earth?
2. When is the International Volunteers Day?
3. Which is the national sport of Hanoi?
4. Name the New Year celebrated in Kashmir?
5. Who created the popular characters of Archies digest?

Five early bird entries will win special prizes.

Winners of Know the GT Contest (December):  
Amlaan Kumar Class 5-F, AIS Noida • Kirti Bansal, III C, AIS Sect 47, Gurgaon • Raghavi Maheshwari, IX, AIS East Delhi •Samaksh Gupta, VIII C, AIS ED •Mehak Bakshi, VI C, AIS ED  
The prizes will be delivered to the school

Send your answers for Know Your GT - 6 to:  
The Global Times, AKC House, E-27, Defence Colony, ND - 24



Jigsaw Puzzle Contest

Jig Saw Puzzle Contest: Cut the picture along the white lines, paste them on a sheet of paper to make a complete picture and post it at - Jig Saw Puzzle, The Global Times, AKC House, E-27, Defence Colony, ND - 24

# Merry Christmas

Sarthak Rajpal III-A  
AIS Sec-46, Gurgaon

Christmas is a festival of laughter, gaiety, giving, sharing and celebration. Everybody celebrates Christmas with songs, dances, fun and frolic. The display boards are decorated beautifully with small trees, stars, bells, streamers, balloons and pictures of Santa Claus. Everybody dances cheerfully with the chimes of jingle bells. It is a big surprise for the children when their favourite Santa Claus arrives with a bag full of

sweets and gifts. The children love the roly-poly white bearded friend who laughs loud, distributes sweets and disappears with a promise to show up again next year.

The little tree  
I decorate for Christmas  
It gives all joy and no fuss.  
It bears stars, fruits,  
sweets and lots more  
Santa Claus is to come  
and bring gifts galore.  
I LOVE CHRISTMAS •



# Christmas Gift

Daksh Shah, IV-A  
AIS Sec-46, Gurgaon

Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ

He is very wise,  
He is also very nice.  
On Christmas he came in my dream,  
and asked which is your favorite ice-cream?  
Which is your favorite cricket-team?

He fulfilled all my wishes for which I pleased,  
but he asked me for a small favor,

and that was to be the world's savior. He asked me to eradicate poverty, and punish guilty. He asked me to bring the God of happiness, and kill the monster of sadness.

I need your help to fulfill what God said,  
you have to promise me to fulfill God's, wish before you go to bed.  
Wish you a merry Christmas  
and I hope you will follow the path of Jesus. •

# Theme party on animal kingdom

Dec. 5, 2008



Amiown, Sec. 27, Gurgaon, organized a theme party on animal kingdom on Dec 5, 2008. Children took up the roles of different animals in their performances, dressed bright and colorful in their animal costumes. The campus was transformed into an 'Animal Kingdom' with trees, creepers, vines and life size animal cut-outs everywhere. Through stories, rhymes, puppet shows and skits, Amiown children spread the message of love, harmony and how to care for and share the planet with animals. Vice Chairperson Ms. Sapna Chauhan graced the occasion and motivated the children and staff. •

**Amiown**  
... the caring preschool  
*Curriculum*

As a child we could easily identify a cobbler in the book featuring people of other professions, but perhaps failed to spot them on the roadside. The curriculum at Amiown bridges this difference in the minds of the children as they interact with cobblers in live or follow a sweeper to see what he does with the waste picked-up from the basket. The curriculum is a series of stimulating experiences designed by experts that enable the child to assimilate and imbibe learning with thoroughness and keen interest Says Vice Chairperson Sapna Chauhan; "Our curriculum addresses the developmental needs of each child, providing flexibility to cater to distinct individual potentialities. We also aim to provide a rich environment wherein every child with his unique personality blossoms.

### Highlights:

- Imbibing of Values and Character Building
- Physical And Physiological Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development
- Mathematics
- Montessori Activities
- Various other activities as Art and craft, Dance and drama, Visits and excursions etc.

The child absorbs and learns at his own pace, without any pressure of performance. By conscious awareness, Amiown's environment and curriculum is designed to nurture the child, keeping in view the natural developmental milestones. It caters to the holistic development of the child vis-à-vis physical, intellectual, social and emotional."

# Winter Carnival

Amiown, Sec. 27 organized a winter carnival on Dec.23, 2008. The carnival was inaugurated by the Chairperson Dr. (Mrs.) Amita Chauhan. Children of Amiown Pushp Vihar also joined the fun and frolic. All children boogied with the live band singing Christmas Carols and spreading holiday cheer. The many rides and games, tattoo artists, yummy goodies, magic show and Santa with his gifts made it a truly magical day for all. •



Dec 23, 2008

# Children Presentation

Presentations are part of Amiown's Preschool-Parent-Partnership Programme. Parents are frequently invited to Amiown classrooms where they can see in a structured way what their children are learning in school. Children do not rehearse what is to be presented, but showcase what they have al-

ready learnt. Children Presentations were held in all centers of Amiown in the month of December. Parents enjoyed seeing the children present with confidence and motivated the little ones with their applause. All parents appreciate these presentations as they are better able to under-



Dec. 19, 2008

stand Amiown's teaching practices and are then able to reinforce the same at home. •



# Delegation visit



Dr. Nitesh Bansal Briefing about Amity to the member of the African delegation

**F**rom Universities of Eritrea, Africa: Delegation from Universities of Eritrea, Africa visited Amity University on December 12, 2008. The delegation comprising Zakeria Abdulkarim (PHD) Dean, College of Marine Science & Technology; Azieb Ogbaghebiel, (PHD), Dean, College of Health Sciences, Asmara, Eritrea; Semere Amlesom, Dean, Hamelmalo Agricultural College and Gaurav Minda, Local Representative, Matrix Global Pvt. Ltd. was welcomed by Dr. Sunil Saran, Prof. S K Roy, Dr. V P Sandlas, Dr. Nitesh Bansal, Dr. Deepshikha Pande Katare, Prof. A K Srivastava and Wg. Cdr. S K Goel. The delegations went around the campus and were briefed about the infrastructure of Amity University. They also sought advice from Amity Scientists and faculties in developing their course programs and research centers.

**F**rom Budapest, Hungary: A delegation from Budapest Business School (BBS), Hungary comprising Dr. Éva Sándorné Kriszt, Rector; Dr. Judit Hidas, Dean (BBS); Dr. Imre Lázár, Director (Hungarian Information & Cultural Center) visited Amity University on December 15. The delegation was welcomed by Dr. Balvinder Shukla, Pro Vice Chancellor(A); Dr. Guinder Singh, Pro Vice Chancellor (I); Maj. Gen. R K Dhawan, Senior Vice President; Dr. Sanjay Srivastava, Additional Director General, Amity Business School; Prof. Alka Munjal, Director, Amity School of Business and Dr. M Sajjani, Director, Amity Institute of Travel & Tourism.



Maj Gen KJ Singh giving mementoes to the members of delegation

# Attacking Terrorism



Dr Ashok K Chauhan presenting memento to Lt Gen SK Sinha

**Lt.** Gen. S K Sinha PVSM (Retd.), former Governor of Assam and former Governor of Jammu & Kashmir delivered lecture on the topic "Menace of Terrorism" at Amity University Campus Sector-125 Noida. The lecture marked the 107th lecture under the Amity International Centre (AIC) Lecture Series. Gen. S K Sinha touched upon the real threat to the emerging India i.e terrorism. He said that this men-

ace had to be ended either through political approach or international pressure. He emphasised that war with neighbouring country was not a solution. While thanking the guest speakers for the invigorating lecture, Founder President Dr. Ashok K Chauhan said, "Terrorism has indeed affected the image of our peaceful country. This menace has to be ended and for this co-operation of every individual is needed."●

# APC wins laurels at national seminar

**A**my Physiotherapy College (APC) participated in the one day National Seminar organised by Institute of Applied Medicine & Research to review the recent trends in Wellbeing & Fitness on Nov 13 and won laurels. More than 250 delegates presented the recent happenings & trends in Fitness by means of Poster. APC bagged the second & third prize for the best poster presentation. The award was presented by the former Physiotherapists of Indian Cricket Team & President of Indian Association of Physiotherapists (IAP) Dr. Ali Irani.

## Awards

- II Prize: Fitness in Cerebral Palsy Patients: A Recent Concern** By Roohi Kapoor, Sonali Bhardwaj, Hemlata Gupta; Guide: Dr. Shaily Razdan
- III Prize: Effect of Sports Shoes on Heart Rate of CABG Patient – A case Study** By Seema Kapoor, Megha Arora, Mansi Taneja; Guide: Dr. Shaily Razdan (PT)

# Farmers in school

ACES educates farmers on Production and Protection Technologies of Rabi Crops



**A**my Centre for Extension Service (ACES) organized one day awareness-cum-training programme on "Production and Protection Technologies- Rabi Crop" for the farmers at Amity University, Sector-125, Noida inaugurated by Dhurender Kumar, Deputy Director (Agriculture Ext.), Gautam Budh Nagar.

N P Singh, Director, Amity Centre for Extension Service presented a brief overview of the training programme. Mr Singh urged the farmers to use new seeds every season to increase the yield and opined that quantity as well as quality of the yield has also to be upgraded. He also advised the farmers to substitute harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides with organic manure

## Topic Discussed

- Agriculture scenario of Gautam Budh Nagar
- Production technology of wheat
- Plant protection measure for wheat
- Maximising pulse production
- Role of potash in wheat
- Importance of organic farming
- Role of Bio- pesticide to control pest and disease
- Live Stock Management
- Tips for vegetable production

Manjeet Singh Chauhan, Member, Advisory Committee sensitized the farmers about the technologies which can be used to enhance the productivity of the fields. Over 70 farmers from nearby areas participated in the workshop.●



# Plea to stop environment abuse

Students of Amitasha participated in the annual festival of street theatre on social issues at Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti on December 5. The occasion that marked the celebration of the International Volunteers day. The street play on 'environment abuse' presented was highly appreciated. The team was awarded with a trophy and participation certificate.

# Brand 'Amity' showcased



Lt Gen PD Bhargava, DG AITTM with the IIC Team

**A**my Institute of Telecom Technology & Management participated in International Conference & Exhibition 'India Telecom 2008-Connecting Rural India' from December 11-13, 2008 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The event organized by FICCI in association with Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and IT, Government of India was inaugurated by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. AITTM put up a stall, for Brand 'Amity' and 'AITTM' in particular and network with the Telecom Industry to generate placement opportunities as well as boost Industry-Academia interface for IIC activities. Students got a chance to interact with Telecom Industry professionals and learn about the new products being showcased and developments in the Industry.●

# Annual day celebration



**A**mity International School, Noida held its senior wing (VI-XI) annual day on December 6. The cultural extravaganza titled 'Amity Umang' was a unique blend of song, dazzling dance, orchestra and a dance drama (ballet) that had over 1600 students participating in it. The Chief Guest for the occasion was H.E. Mookhesswar Choonee, High Commissioner, Mauritius, while the Guests of Honour were S K Roongta, chairman, Steel Authority of India Ltd. and Lalit Bhasin, advocate, Supreme Court. Dr. Ashok K Chauhan, Founder President, RBEF, and Dr. (Mrs.) Amita

Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Schools, members of the Chauhan family, heads of Amity Institutions and other distinguished guests graced the occasion with their presence. In her welcome address, principal Mohina Dar referred to the 'collective consciousness' of individuals which leads them to make a positive contribution to society. The Prefectorial Council presented the Annual Report. The highlight of the evening was the spectacular dance drama entitled, 'Those Who Dare,' directed by eminent theatre personality, Faisal Alkazi, assisted by Mona Chawla. The dances were choreographed by Vishwakant and Namita

## Eight special awards for the year 2008 were also announced

- The Chairperson's Appreciation Award: Ashima Khanna.
- The Betty Malkani Award (XII) Topper: Swetha Balachandran.
- The Vedavati Vidyalkar Award for Indian Heritage and Values: Ina Singh.
- The Late Baljeet Shastri Award for Best All Rounder: Aishwarya Singhal.
- The Dhananjay Mohan Cup for Innovation in Science and Creativity: Aditya Singha.
- The Europa India Foundation Cup for Distinction in Sports: Tushnik Thakur.
- The Supriya Sabharwal Award for excellence in Creative Art: Devyani

Khanna. The dance drama focused on visionaries like Spartacus, Swami Dayanand, Marie Curie, Panna Dai, patriots of 1857 who dared to be different, the men and women of firm conviction and indomitable courage who inspired a large following. The Grand Finale that depicted India's unity in diversity, also included a magnificent display of showmanship by the gymnasts, skaters and karate children. The narrators also paid a glowing tribute to the brave commandos of the NSG, the armed forces and the police force. Aseem Chauhan, Vice Chancellor, Amity University, Rajasthan, delivered the vote of Thanks. ●

# World disability day

Amity International School Sector 46, Gurgaon held a special assembly on December 3 to commemorate 'World Disability Day'. The assembly, conducted by the students of Class VII D, under the guidance of their class teacher, Anjali Narang was highly appreciated. The highlight of this assembly was the skit presented with the objective of spreading awareness amongst Amitians and sensitising people to the special needs of a disabled child. It depicted the hardships faced by a disabled child and his parents, and the lack of knowledge about disabilities in the common man. It concluded with a hopeful note on sensitising the able towards the disabled and accepting them irrespective of their disability. ●



# A date with books

tion etc. The interaction with popular children author, Devika Rangachari during the "Meet The Author" programme enlightened them with exciting world of books and its various aspects. The week concluded with a career planning talk by school counsellor and senior teachers. School principal, Shashi Ranjan, highlighted the need to develop good reading habit and co-related the same with other popular media such as film etc. The programme organised by librarian Shashi Bhushan Prasad under the gracious guidance of chairperson Dr. (Mrs.) Amita Chauhan was a grand success. ●



**A**mity International School, Vasundhara organized Library Week from December 10 to 16, 2008 with a focus on inculcating and promoting reading habit among children. A number of scintillating events organised during the week including story telling session, poetry writing competition, story writing competition, quiz on books & authors, book-review compe-

# Practical science

**A**IS Pushp Vihar hosted a workshop on Practical Skills in Science organized by Amity Educational Resource Centre on December 10, 2008. Resource person Dr. Anil Vashisht, Dr. Aruna Mohan and Dr. V K Sodhi addressed class IX & X Science teachers. Important information received included MCQs in science and technology for 2009 based on 30 experiments done in PCB. They also learnt that the weightage for class IX and X syllabus will be 50% each (approximately). The teachers were advised to discuss new experiments included in class IX (2008 - 09) with the students appearing for the boards. The workshop concluded with an open house discussion. ●



The Core Committee members of the Educator's Conference Organized by TERI during a special meet with Dr Pachauri.

# Bal Mela

**E**agerly awaited with bated breath and animated faces is the 'Bal Mela' organised every year on 14th November for 'Children's Day' by AIS, Mayur Vihar. This year too, the Mela offered a plethora of exciting activities ranging from the Giant Wheel to the Bouncy and from Knocking Down the Cans to Tailing the Donkey blindfolded! There was food for all palettes- 'chatpata' bhelपुरi and aloo tikki, mouth watering chole bhature, the delicious dahi vadas and pav bhaji. The Request Stall added all the music and zing to this much awaited fun filled celebration of childhood! ●

# Amity at Aqua congress

**D**hruv Aggarwal (VIII, AIS sect 46), Sanya Taneja (VII, AIS MV), Parul Aggarwal (IX, AIS P.V) and Medhavi Arora (IX, AIS Noida) participated in the 2nd World Aqua Congress held on November 26, 2008. The young Amitians addressed various environment concerns as Ground Water Depletion in



Gurgaon, The Blue Alert, Streams of blood or stream of peace and Save the National Bird—Peacock respectively on the occasion. The deliberations were highly appreciated by eminent educationists, scientists and senior UNICEF dignitaries. The participants received a certificate and a token of appreciation. ●

# Geomaty 2008



**A** total of 275 students from 23 schools participated GEO-MATY 2008 held at Amity Noida on November 15 for classes IV to X. This innovative contest was aimed at generating interest in Geography and the skills of map reading and interpretation. This year, the GEO-MATY challenge consisted of an oral presentation of Indian Tribes and scintillating questions from Astronomy, Geomorphology, Climatology and Hydrology. Two 15 mts movie presen-

## Results

**Tribal Presentation (IV & V)**  
AIS Noida bags first and second prize  
**Written Quiz & Map Presentation (VI VII)**  
AIS, Saket bags first prize followed by AIS Vasundhara and AIS, Sec 43, Gurgaon at second and third position respectively.

**Poster Making (VI-VII)**  
AIS, Noida stood first. DPS, RK Puram stood second followed by AIS, Sec 43 Gurgaon

**Oral Quiz (VIII & IX)**  
AIS, Noida, DPS, RK Puram and AIS, Pushp Vihar secure first, second and third position respectively.

**Map Interpretation (VIII -IX)**  
VBPS Noida stood first followed by AIS, Vasundhara and DPS, Ghaziabad respectively.

**PowerPoint Presentation (Class X)**  
AIS, Sec 46, Gurgaon bagged the first prize.

tations of the Andaman tribes and Indian culture were screened. Eminent judges, Dr. Sudhanshu Singha, Ipminder Bedi, Neeru Rao, Princey Kaul and Suparna Soond judged the event. AIS Saket bagged the rolling trophy. ●

# UNESCO clubs enlist

Jyoti Arora

**A**mity Educational Resource Centre formally registered the UNESCO clubs with National Commission for Cooperation with the UNESCO at Amity International Schools on December 10, 2008. The Chief Guest, Manisha Verma, Director UNESCO & ICC cell, HRD Ministry inaugurated the launch of the clubs at a special function held at AIS, Pushp Vihar. The occasion coincided with the 60th anniversary of Human Rights Day. The club aims at sensitising members on the ideals of UNESCO. The special guest of honour, Rajeev Chandran, National Information Officer for UN for India and Bhutan addressed the students on Human Rights and leadership. Divya Arora, Director AFS, for School Exchange Pro-

grammes also graced the occasion. The programme was attended by eminent personalities from varied fields, students and teacher Incharges of the UNESCO Clubs. The host school presented a motivational song and street play showcasing exploitation of human labour and enforcement of dignity and justice for all. As a part of the club activities, various competitions were organised. Isha Jain (VII, AIS Vasundhara) and Hansika Aggarwal (VI E, AIS Sec 46) bagged the first and second prize respectively in the poster making competition. Aarti Aggarwal (IX A, AIS Saket) secured first prize in Emblem Design with the Motto. Pranay Singhvi (XI-A, AIS Sec 43) was awarded the first prize in Pledge writing. Chairperson Dr. (Mrs.) Amita Chauhan motivated the students. ●



# 100 and still counting...

**G**arvit Jain of AIS East Delhi is not only the king of the skating ring having won more than 100 medals in skating, but also the recipient of 100% attendance award for the past ten years! He was honoured with the Times NIE Student of the Year Award too. Anantdeep Singh and Ina Singh of AIS Noida decode his success mantras...

**How did you develop an interest in skating?**

As a kid I was watching TV one day. While surfing through the channels I saw skating for the very first time. I was fascinated to see how a person could simply move on wheels without any motor or machine, and I instantly developed an interest in this sport.

**Which is your most treasured prize?**

For me, all competitions are equally important and similarly treasured. Even if the competition is easy i.e. competitions when I have taken a long lead, I skate as fast as possible to demonstrate my skating skills. At the same time there have even been instances when I led my opponents by a

**Medal Round up**

- 2008 - Gold, Aero speed inter-school skating championship
- 2008 - Gold, East Delhi Roller Skating Championship
- 2008 - Gold, 2nd Ryan Inter-School Roller Skating Championship
- 2007 - Gold, 1st national Skate Ball championship 2007
- 2007 - Gold, DDA, Roller Skating Championship

lap or so.

**How do you juggle your time between academics and sports, excelling in both?**

I give my 100% to whatever I do. While skating, I think of nothing else and while studying, I concentrate only on studies. Though, I do regret being unable to give time to my friends.

**Do you think that the support extended by national authorities to this sport is enough?**

They may not be as good as cricket facilities, but are not bad either, as mis-

understood by most. India organizes skating tournaments quite frequently with all kinds of provisions ranging from food to transport. Skaters are also encouraged by scholarships.

**In what way have your parents been instrumental in your success?**

My parents play a vital role in providing moral support to me. They are always with me in my competitions and were the ones who encouraged me to take up the sport.

**When you fail to win in any event, are you disheartened?**

Whatever be the result I take it positively rather than losing hope and getting disheartened. I believe failure is the stepping stone to success.

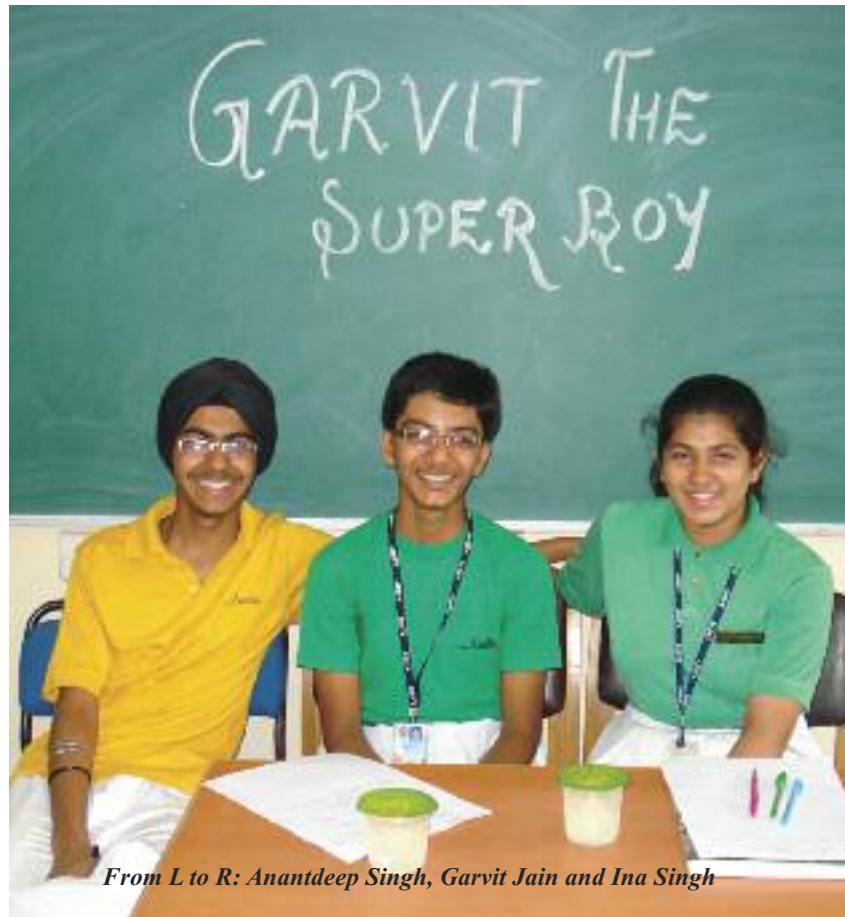
**What are your future plans?**

Though many have told me that in our nation individuals don't have much scope to perform, especially in sports like skating, I wish to pursue it as a profession since I love it very much.

**What is your success mantra?**

Never undermine anyone. Remember, the basic ingredients of achieving anything is hard work & dedication. •

**Inputs: Digant Pandey, AIS Noida**



From L to R: Anantdeep Singh, Garvit Jain and Ina Singh

## The coolest Arch(i)etype!



**Ruchismita Bhattacharjee, VIII**  
**AIS Vasundhara**

Ask any person, old or young, to recall some magazines and digests they read or used to read, this digest's name will always be taken. Yes, the Archie's digest; an American comic book, famous for its cheeky series featuring Archie Andrews, Betty Cooper, Veronica Lodge and Jughead Jones. All characters created by Bob Montana were based on people he knew in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

The tradition of reading Archie comics started in 1941 when the first comic was released. From that time till today, it enjoys staunch readership among both young and old, an unbelievable achievement attained by a teen comic.

The backdrop of school life in Riverdale, replete with an overtly strict principal, clever geeks and dimwits, woven around a cool gang of friends who hang out together, makes for interesting school goers fare.

Archie may be the central character but sometimes he acts like the biggest fool in the world. He has two girlfriends- Veronica, the rich spoilt brat and Betty, the innocent

and kind one. Veronica attracts boys with her money and artificial beauty while Betty doesn't have to do these cheap things as her natural beauty is enough. You can say that Archie is a puppet of Veronica and Betty, of Archie.

The weird thing is, though Veronica and Betty are the deadliest rivals of each other when it comes to Archie, they are best of friends when he's not there.

Jughead is crazy about food, so crazy that many a times he even dreams about food. He keeps a secret which he hides even from

his parents and his best friend Archie, that he's a time police and always shares his bizarre secret adventures with a female descendent of Archie.

Archie, a perfect example of an ordinary boy, has his different sides. Sometimes he's so irritating that one feels like boxing his ears and sometimes he's such a fool to date 'horrible' Veronica and leave Betty all by herself, upset and hurt. But in the end he turns out to be a sweet, cute boy with freckles and red hair, trying hard not to mess up his teen life.!



**Anugya Gupta**  
**AIS Pushp Vihar**

**S**ome quick and fast western dance moves, a few Indian 'latkas and jhatkas' and a good number of western and Indian dancers is all that it takes to make a song in a Bollywood flick a top chartbuster. And that is something, which the audience of any age group would love to see in a typical Bollywood 'masala' movie. While adults enjoy the music and lyrics, adolescents and teenagers try and successfully develop the dance steps in their day-to-day dances. In these days of fast globalization, our directors and producers are roping in a lot of American and Caribbean dancers from overseas. And the end result is, even if the movie is a flop at the multiplexes, the songs in that movie gets people of all kinds dancing and swaying to its beats. For instance, the much-awaited Yash Raj Film 'Tashan' was a super flop but its song 'Chhaliya' portrayed by Kareena Kapoor along with some African dancers had the audience tapping

**Dance-brew**

their feet to its beats just because it had fancy lyrics, rocking music beats and a way too 'Kool choreography' done by mixing the Indian 'thumkas' with western dancing style. The fusion of Indian dance with western moves is a very prominent way of making a song a chartbuster, if not the film a blockbuster. Take the case of 'Drona'. Though it barely made to the box-office, 'Piggy Chop's' (Priyanka Chopra's) dance moves in the

song 'Oop Cha Cha' were praised by one and all. So' it's way to go for all Indian film-makers because if they have a praise-worthy story and have included indo-western dance styles with foreign dancers, then their film would be a blockbuster with the songs topping the charts. So, watch out for more links in this new trend of B-town in some forthcoming Bollywood Flix.

It's show time!!!•

## Aaja naachle



# Techie on the loose

**Game Review**

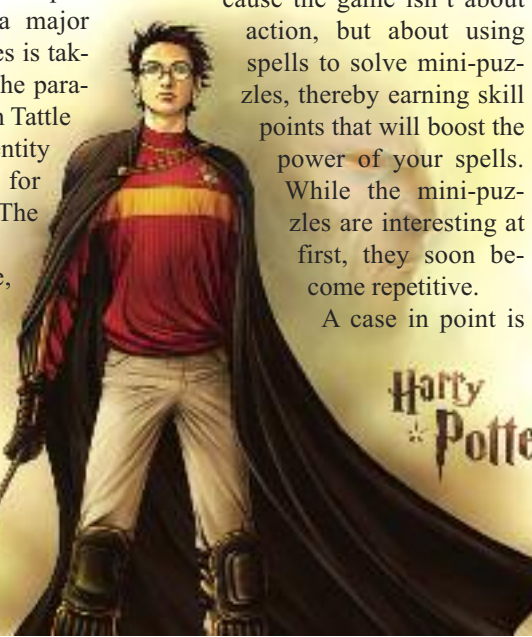
**Pranav Jain,X-F.**  
**AIS - Noida**

**H**i Guys! I have just escaped from earth, where a major slaughter of all techies is taking place and have reached the paradise of technology - The Tech Tattle Planet. I can't disclose my identity to you all guys on earth, so for you, I am just 'The Techie on The Loose!'

I recently played the game, 'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (HPOP). Being a wizard, Potter has some basic spells at his disposal. These, are for the most of the part, introduced to you over the course of the game and involve moving the mouse in certain simple patterns to cast them. The basic spells

include reparo, accio, depulso and wingardium leviosa. However, much of your time will be spent in casting basic spells rather than combat spells, so don't get your hopes up. This is because the game isn't about action, but about using spells to solve mini-puzzles, thereby earning skill points that will boost the power of your spells. While the mini-puzzles are interesting at first, they soon become repetitive.

A case in point is



the grand staircase with its moving stairs and the numerous portraits on the walls - they are beautifully done and go a great way in adding atmosphere. Some of the portraits offer hidden passages. There are hidden treasures and secrets littered around that can be unlocked using spells.

You spend much of your time repairing stuff, or levitating objects into place or other mundane tasks that slowly numb your brain with their monotonous regularity. The graphics are fairly good (when tested on Nvidia GeForce 8800 GT), but are not next generation by any earthly standards and are especially poor during the in-game cut scenes. The sound and voice are much better, thanks mostly to the fact that the original actors have lent their voices in the game.

All in all, this is a game for diehard Harry Potter fans who have read the book, seen the movie and now want to play it at home. • For complete story login [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)