

Reel-o-rappa

Reeling The Real Ruination

Anwita Agarwal & Yashika Das, XI C
Adhya Arora, XI F, AIS Saket

When was the last time you picked up your smartphone and scrolled across an Instagram feed watching reel after reel? Possibly right before reading this piece. And why not? In the age of information overload and dwindling attention spans, these bite-sized clips, colloquially called snackable content, have not only emerged as a dominant force in the digital landscape but also flipped the tables in how individuals engage with information. This surge is driven by consumer demand and is met by content creators whose popularity is not just economic but a response to our fast-paced lives and desire for quick content. Is it plausible though? Let's deduce!

The reel life

It is remarkable to have the world's attention in less than a minute and reels happen to achieve just that. Stats suggest that over 2.35 billion people interact with reels every month. "What is so great about them?" one might ask. The short answer is in their ability to not just seize attention but also hold it by getting right to the point. The algorithm further tailors the content as per our liking, making it unviable to stop scrolling. This gets bolstered by the vertical view format that aligns seamlessly with our smartphones. From the creators' POV, au contraire, their easy-to-make and easy-to-trend constitution does the job in part (ads on reels have the ability to reach up to 675.3 million people). Couple it with their ability to market stuff, to help one gain fame, to connect with people (anywhere, anytime) et al., and your "so beautiful, so elegant, just looking like a wow"

reel is ready to rule the techspace. Congratulations! You might get featured in Deepika Padukone's story tomorrow.

Illustration: Adhya Arora, AIS Saket, XI F



The flip side

If you ever thought waking up thirsty in the middle of the night was bad, imagine being pulled awake by Instagram likes. As per a study by the British Youth, this is the drowsy reality of a fifth of teens across the globe who all wake up at night to check their social media. So, yes, when it comes to having damaging effects, reels do eat and leave no crumbs. Statistics from Microsoft go as far as to reveal that short form content has led to a startling decrease in human attention spans, plummeting it to eight seconds. Not to mention the half-information/fabrication epidemic it has unleashed! The reeling rumour mill might have made you believe that pimples can be cured with a simple application of toothpaste, haven't they? The sidelining of originality in the name of trends is yet another annihilating impact. The millions of dancing videos and dance challenges are proof that we would go as far as to replicate the same thing over and over again to be on-brand. Alexa, play Say So by Doja Cat and watch us go! Even more concerning is the unnecessary footage we give to nonsensical content – be it the Bald Witch horror series or the sundry Styling VS Wearing videos that want us to see the way we have been wearing our clothes and accessories since forever as erroneous, reels have all the intentions to dominate our reality, whatever the cost. And it doesn't just stop here. This constant exposure to other people's towering viewpoints on anything and everything is what leads to detrimental social comparisons, leaving feelings of inadequacy and low self-esteem. The irony is that sometimes it is all just Photoshop or sponsored. So, whenever you feel good about spending your time on Instagram reels, think again and then again.

The tug of war

All of this boils down to a simple question – who should we blame? Well, the problem lies both in our inability to control our time as consumers and the unrealistic portrayals of lives by sundry creators. Since social media would continue to be a giant that grips us into its world of short stories, the onus to differentiate the fake from real and to draw a line somewhere in our consumption of it lies on us completely. Limiting your screen time can be a good place to start, if you really want to stop your life from becoming *moye moye*, that is.

Page editor: Anupriya Nayak, AIS Saket, XII E

THE GT POLL

To what extent will Mahindra & Mahindra partnering with Adani Gas to establish EV charging infrastructure across the nation boost its sector?

- a) A little b) Very much
c) Not at all

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

AIS VKC Lko contest edition



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Saket, as a part of the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the **tenth edition** of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2023-24'.

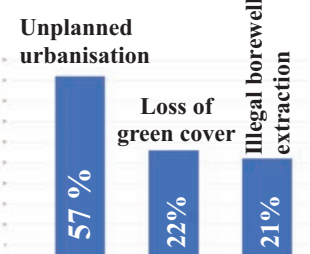
What's inside

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POLL RESULT

for GT Edition March 18, 2024

What do you think is the major cause of Bengaluru water crisis?



Results as on March 23, 2024

Around The WORLD

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

FINLAND

World Happiness Report

According to the UN World Happiness Report 2024, Finland has retained its position as the world's happiest country for the seventh consecutive year. Other Nordic countries like Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden followed closely behind, ranking high on the happiness index. On the contrary, Afghanistan ranked last due to the ongoing crisis since Taliban regained power. After more than a decade, USA and Germany dropped out of the top 20. India ranked 126th in the happiness index, the same as last year.



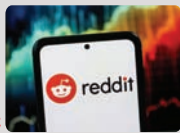
RUSSIA

Putin's historic win

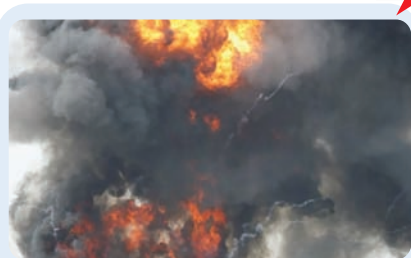
President Vladimir Putin has cemented his tenure for the next six years with a historic 87% sweep during the recent presidential election. As per election officials, the nationwide turnout was at 74.22%, exceeding the 67.5% turnout of 2018 elections. Contender Nikolai Kharitonov is said to have come in second with under 4% votes, Vladislav Davankov third, and Leonid Slutsky fourth. With such a result, Putin is set to surpass Stalin to become Russia's longest-serving leader in more than 200 years, granted he completes the term.

USA

Reddit goes public



The social media networking company Reddit, known for housing web forums on various topics, has gone public as one of the most highly anticipated IPOs of the year. According to a corporate filing, the company aimed to raise around 750 million USD where around 22 million shares were set to be sold in the range of 31-34 USD per share. Reddit also set aside around 1.76 million shares just for Redditors, the platform's users who created their accounts before Jan 1. Reddit's IPO is the first social media IPO debut since Pinterest went public in 2019.



PAKISTAN

Explosion in coal mine

At least twelve miners have died in a methane gas explosion in a coal mine in Harnai. The workers were trapped about 240 metres underground in the cave-in. Rescue operations worked overnight to save about eight workers as well as the bodies of the deceased. The unions of miners have blamed the hazardous working conditions and lack of safety implementations as the major cause of the accident.



INDIA

Startup Mahakumbh 2024

The Startup Mahakumbh, a three-day event supported by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade to boost the startup ecosystem, was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Organised by Bootstrap Incubation & Advisory Foundation and Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association, the event witnessed PM Narendra Modi addressing entrepreneurs, investors, and innovators.



INDONESIA

Subianto as new president

Prabowo Subianto, Indonesia's defence minister, has finally been declared as the winner of the presidential election after rivals alleged fraud in the results. He was declared winner against the two former governors who vowed to contest the results in court over alleged irregularities. Despite this, he won the seat with 58.6% votes. Around 300 demonstrators with banners and signs protested against the outcome.



SOUTH KOREA

Green financing

The government has assured to allocate 420 trillion KRW towards green financing to fund projects to help reduce greenhouse gases and carbon emissions, aiming to drop the level by 40% by 2030. State-run financial organisations comprising Korea Development Bank, Industrial Bank of Korea, and Export-Import Bank of Korea will provide aid for construction of low-carbon facilities and production of eco-friendly goods.

News Flash

► **Britain:** Steam train seen in Harry Potter movies suspended over safety issues ► **Vietnam:** President Thuong resigns just after a year ► **Poland:** Tree nicknamed 'Heart of the Garden' won 2024 European Tree of the Year

Passion and precision

The Artistic Alchemy Of Renowned And Adept Actor Adil Hussain

Saamya Arora, XII F &
Ruhani Chawla, XI E, AIS Saket

Remember Sridevi's callous husband in the movie English Vinglish? That's celebrated Indian actor Adil Hussain and the movie is perhaps the last in his long list of glowing achievements, including global acclaim for nuanced portrayals in 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist' and 'Life of Pi'. His talent earned him prestigious National Film Awards, including Special Jury honours for 'Hotel Salvation' and 'Maj Rati Keteki'. Hussain's success extends globally, with accolades such as Best Actor at the New Jersey Independent South Asian CineFest and Prag Cine Awards. Read on as he tells us all about his cinematic journey.

Of stages and screens

Assam is a culturally vibrant place. Every neighbourhood has a theatre, music, or dance group, doling out a variety of cultural shows. Growing up in Assam's vast cultural ambience, my fascination with performing arts was ignited by two stand-up performers who would visit the neighbourhood. They would imitate Bollywood stars, followed by a stand-up act. Inspired, I started out with playful imitations of Bollywood megastars and participation in casual neighbourhood plays, which paved way for my theatrical debut at the age of 8 in the play 'Cap-maker and the Sailor'. This pivotal moment fuelled my passion to land in National School of Drama (NSD). While

meeting stalwarts like Barry John and Naseeruddin Shah left me in complete awe, it also stirred the feelings of lack of self-confidence that stemmed from my social background. However, looking back on NSD, I feel my love for people and my extroverted nature eased the transition and eventually became an asset even as I tried my hand in film industry.

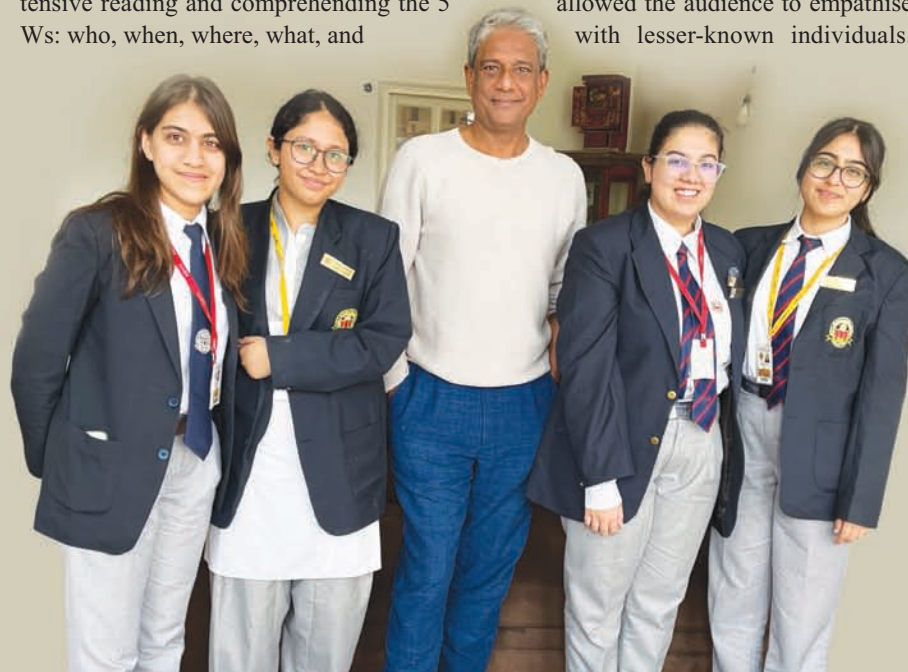
Navigating artistic vision

As an actor deeply entrenched in cinema and theatre, I follow a fundamentally similar approach in both theatre and films, gravitating more towards scripts that depict human intricacies. My method involves extensive reading and comprehending the 5 Ws: who, when, where, what, and

why. The characters need to serve the story, possessing three dimensionality for nuanced and organic storytelling. While I completely sublimate myself to the director's vision, I infuse it with authenticity by thinking to myself, "how I wouldn't behave in this situation." My overarching goal is of a world where commerce and art share a pedestal, if not, art elevated even higher.

Authenticity of OTT

OTT productions unfold stories with ample time for character development. For instance, my participation in 'Delhi Crime' as a police commissioner required me to explore home of one of the havildars which allowed the audience to empathise with lesser-known individuals.



Celebrated actor Adil Hussain with GT reporters

INTERVIEW

Moreover, OTT engages entire ensemble and brings out talent which serves the story. The realism in OTT series stands out, distinct from the overshadowing in mainstream cinema. To nurture such authentic productions, governments should allocate budgets for development of theatre artists, as this platform is often viewed as a stepping stone to fame, when it has potential to be fulfilling its own right.

Guiding budding talent

The essence of happiness, progress, and success lies in one's passion. For me, acting is a self-indulgent pursuit driven by genuine love for the craft, irrespective of external validation. I don't consider myself as an expert, and I am not being modest about it, as I am just a facilitator, sharing from my experiences and fundamental laws. The prospective actors who want to get into NSD should know that they value a person's passion for art, originality, and openness to new ideas. NSD focuses on nurturing individual talent rather than homogenising everyone. The eligibility, however, is a graduation degree, 6-10 play experiences, and 3 teacher recommendations. While networking secures opportunities, true artistic hunger comes from delving deeply into the craft, seeking to understand every facet and continuously reinventing. This insatiable curiosity is the driving force expected from emerging artists.

Pic: Samaira Sachdeva, AIS Saket, XII G

Building future

A Successful Japanese Job Fair Hosted

ATPC | AUUP

On February 2 and 3, 2024, a two-day job fair was hosted by AUUP in collaboration with a senior delegation from Sekisho Corporation and Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan. The delegation was led by Masaki Seki, president, Sekisho Corporation, and the event was organised by Amity Technical Placement Centre. Four companies including Sekisho Corporation,

Sekisho Engineering, Kurakawa Co. Ltd., and Nitto Electric Co. Ltd., participated in the event. More than 200 students took part in the drive and were interviewed in areas of management, data science, artificial intelligence, design construction management, and engineering etc.

Speaking at the event, Masaki Seki averred, "We are extremely delighted about this mutually beneficial partnership. Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, is keen on having more



Japanese delegation with Dr Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, AUUP at the job fair

Indians as part of its workforce as they possess immense potential, exceptional qualities, and treat customers as God." Dr Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, AUUP, also expressed his delight at the partnership. More than 10 students received job offers

across engineering domains with salaries ranging between 16 to 21 LPA. Anupam Singh, AGM, ATPC, played a crucial role in ensuring the event's success and strengthening the association between Sekisho Corporation, Japan, and AUUP.

The planetary personalities

How To Be A Planet In The Solar System 101

Diya Arora, XII E & Ekansh Sonar, IX C, AIS Saket

In the magical land of cosmos, there was a magnificent Milky Way galaxy filled with breathtaking views and celestial bodies. In a small corner of this galaxy, a convocation of the planets of the solar system was planned. Ev-

eryone was invited to listen to the planets, who qualified the 2006 Planet Test, speak at the convocation. Well, all except Pluto. Why? Simply put: to not rub salt on his wounds. You see, the Planet Test was a grand trial that assessed the planets like never before. Nervous but composed, nine planets appeared for the test.

The selection criteria was simple but stringent. Firstly, the planet must orbit around Sun, the principal. Secondly, it must have a nearly spherical shape. Finally, it should be dominant enough to keep the mischievous asteroids roaming around in check. The participants were judged on their performance based on these three factors. Once the results were announced, all the participants passed with flying colours, except poor Pluto, who was left heartbroken.

The ceremony commenced with the congratulatory opening remarks by Sun. As he appreciated the glorious planets for their splendid performance, he invited them on stage to address the audience.

Mercury, with his fiery and adventurous spirit, initiated, "I am the ground breaker, closest to Sun and orbit with dedication. Though the smallest in the solar system, I managed to keep the migrant bodies around my area as my moons with my quick wit and strong core." Everyone applauded his little but firm

de-meanour. Next was Venus, the epitome of beauty and elegance. She had a gentle and nurturing nature. "Behold! I'm Venus, the second planet from Sun, orbiting it with grace. The vagrant bodies in my region have become my followers due to my radiance and compassion." Venus was celebrated by the celestial crowd.

Suddenly, just as the fearless warrior Mars was stepping into the spotlight, there was a commotion. There were hushed whispers that someone gate-crashed the convocation ceremony! Amidst the esteemed heavenly bodies, a small, lopsided face peeked out. He made his way onto the stage, grabbed the mic, and spoke, "For those who don't know, I am Pluto. Until last week, I was one of the revered planets who are being felicitated in this ceremony. But through no fault of my own, I was kicked out of this clique. Why, you ask? Apparently, I do not meet the planetary conditions anymore."

Sniffing between sobs, he continued, "No matter how much I tried to convince the mischievous asteroids to stay put, they never listened and bullied me.

The science of it

According to new rules by International Astronomical Union, a celestial body must have the following to be called a planet:

- Must be round
- Must orbit the sun
- Its gravitational force must clear the space around it of other objects. Some of these objects crash into planets while others become moons.

How is it my fault? All of us 'dwarf planets' orbit the Sun. We are nearly round. Some of us even have moons. I have 5 moons! But just because we don't have gravitational dominance in our orbit, we are not called planets. For 76 years, I was a planet. Yet, I was casted away. These fickle humans, I tell you all!"

The planets sighed in agreement as they were equally displeased about this turn of events. Standing up in solidarity, they gathered to give their little brother Pluto a big hug. From that day forward, the planets did their best to include Pluto and other dwarf planets in all their activities and helped them in every way they could.



Illustration: Aditri Bhatnagar, IX A & Ekansh Sonar, IX C, AIS Saket

The power of laughter

A Universal Language Of Connection & Joy

Ajitesh Kumar, AIS Gur 43, X A

Laughter bridges cultural divides and fosters unity. A cornerstone of mental health, particularly beneficial for students and the elderly, it also promotes a positive bodily sensation. So, let's delve into its myriad benefits.

The medicine within

World-class doctors have hailed laughter as the best medicine as it triggers the release of hormones like endorphins and serotonin,

hormones that combat stress, anxiety, depression etc. Studies have shown how laughter helps as an agent of recovery from various illnesses by improving blood flow and oxygen circulation throughout the body.

The impact on the mind

Laughter has both positive and negative psychological effects as it acts as a powerful bonding agent. It bridges the gap between individuals of different backgrounds, religions, ages, and cultures, creating a sense of unity. However, it has negative effects as ex-

cessive laughter can serve as a defence mechanism and be a relationship breaker.

Unlocking educational potential

Laughter can enhance memory, stimulate creativity, and serve as a valuable coping mechanism for students. It fosters a positive learning environment, encouraging students to approach problem-solving with an open mind. By fostering a positive attitude, laughter lays the foundation for success.

Laughter is the best medicine for everyone. It is not just a fleeting pleasure but a fundamental aspect of being human. By incorporating humour into our lives, we can unlock its full potential, fostering deeper connections, boosting our well-being, and enriching our journeys. So, go ahead, laugh freely – it's the best medicine we all possess. [G I](#)



An epistolary havoc



Autobiography

A Letter That Has Changed The Course Of History

Kaavya Verma, XI E & Shivanjali Sapra, IX A, AIS Saket

Setting: Auction house

Passerby (looking at a framed letter):

A dusty old manuscript; nothing else!

“A dusty old manuscript. Me? The whisperer of knowledge and the harbinger of change? Young man, you might not believe it, but I am the parchment upon which ink rolled to alter the course of history; the missive that launched the infamous arms race. I am none other than the Einstein-Szilard letter! Oh, how I wish the likes of you knew more of my origins and worth.

Actually, it was 1939. I remember whispers concerning a storm approaching spread like wildfire. Though I tried deciphering the sudden chatter, all I, nothing but a piece of paper, could capture was that some German scientists, Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann, had discovered fission. Why did this alarm all? I had no clue, until the famous trio of Hungarian physicists Leo Szilard, Edward Teller, and Eugene Wigner, all fearful that Germany might develop an atomic bomb before US, approached me to settle everything.

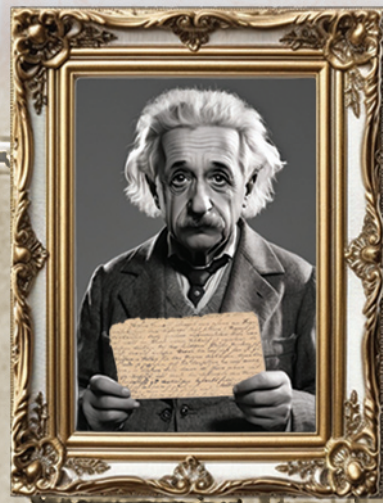
Szilard, in particular, chose me to be the lens, looking through which the US

would get a chance to choose the right card to play in the international arms race. Since those impactful get heard more, he approached Einstein to inform President Roosevelt about the findings and potential results.

August 2, 1939 – that’s exactly when they drafted me in reference to the missive (my predecessor in short) they sent out to the Belgian Ambassador to the US against selling any uranium to Germany. I still remember how Einstein carved “A single bomb of this type...exploded in a port might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory” onto me. I prompted the government to act quickly to beat the German minds. Secret nuclear knowledge, consequently, became as American as apple pie. Courtesy – Yours Truly. Howbeit, I pondered over this for long, fighting my thoughts on whether this was for the good of my nation or not. For President Roosevelt relied on my words to such an extent that he instantly established an advisory Uranium Committee. The S-1 Committee, established in 1941, marked the beginning of the Manhattan Project. Led by

J Robert Oppenheimer, the troop of scientists started working on the first atomic bomb in 1942, giving birth to Little Man and Fat Boy, the two most hazardous inventions in history. As these were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the results were catastrophic – nearly 200,000 were killed and hundreds of thousands more got wounded. And I bled with them; my ink turned red that day and it still does not fail to give me chills.

Subsequently, Einstein regretted giving birth to me. “Had I known that the Germans would not succeed in producing an atomic bomb, I would have never lifted a finger,” for the Nazi nuclear programme was far behind what US physicists imagined. Perhaps if I never existed, the realms of science and international relations would have been varied from where they stand today, perhaps for the better, but then who would have taught the world the lesson it needed to learn? That words must never be underestimated and that a small stroke of ink is as mighty as a nuclear bomb. The only difference is that one holds the potential to obliterate human bodies, and the other can destroy human minds or both.



For Auction >

Graphic: Diya Arora, AIS Saket, XI D



Karam presents an AeroInk artwork to CP

Carbon on the canvas

From Soot To Colours

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

Not everyone can become a great artist but a great artist can come from anywhere. So was taught to us by the movie *Ratatouille* and is exemplified by **Karam Sapra, a Class XII student at AIS Saket**. From being featured in *The Times Of India* to being an admirer of all things innovative, this artist and scientist has quite the tale to tell.

The spark: Sapra was very young when he noticed that kahal could be made from soot. This observation ignited the fire of innovation in him, and he started mixing vehicular soot with oil to make painting material which could be used by artists, giving birth to his project AeroInk.

The process: And so Karam designed an attachable prototype, made of mixed alloys, that captures soot from vehicles. The soot is heated and filtered to remove impurities. Specific oils and chemicals are then added to make different inks like marker ink, printer ink, paint etc. Sapra has already filed three patents for this project.

The accolades: Karam’s AeroInk has already had research papers published on it, including in international journals like the *Research Archive of Rising Scholars* and the *Questioz International Journal*. Being the top finalist for the *KVRSS Spark Innovation Awards*, AeroInk has been endorsed by eminent personalities like Amitabh Kant, India’s G20 Sherpa and Clay Stranger, MD, Rocky Mountain Institute. Sapra has collaborated with artists from Shantiniketan and Narrative Movements to create art pieces using this paint. One such artwork was the portrait of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF.

The compassion: Epitomising the virtues of compassion Sapra has learnt from the Amity family, he has donated the entire proceedings from another project to Amitasha, an initiative of Chairperson for less privileged girl-child.

Nurturing artistic skills



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Learning various art forms enriches not only the experience of studying, it also prepares students for a fulfilling life after school. Moreover, pursuing an art form encourages self-expression and creativity, and at the same time builds confidence and develops a sense of individual identity. In alignment with CBSE's recent move of introducing art integration in school curriculum, Amity's Art Department has always been a dynamic space wherein creativity and tradition merge seamlessly. The art curriculum encompasses painting, sculpture, and craft, and each year, students delve into the art forms and traditions of three different states. The department fosters a vibrant artistic environment through annual exhibitions which showcase students' creativity with activities such as lantern and festoon making, applique work, tie and dye etc. The art curriculum ensures students develop a deep connection to their roots and understand the richness of our cultural tapestry. And, like in any other field, Amitians have proven their excellence in art as well. They were among the top eight finalists at the Art Prototype Design Competition in Dubai and many have achieved perfect scores in CBSE exams. With this sound backing in art and culture, Amitians will always paint the canvas of their life with remarkable colours.

It's Time for Hip, Hip, Hurray!

Agnij Moitra of Class XI, AIS Saket, won the Grand Award at the IRIS National Fair in 'Robotics and Machine Learning' category for his project 'GraphChem' and will represent India at ISEF 24 in California, USA. Another budding scientist Archit Roy of Class V, AIS Noida, received a certificate of recognition in junior category for his innovative project 'P S MAT (Power saving mat)'. [G T](#)

Due diligence



Divya Bhatia
Principal, AIS Saket

"Yoga-yukto viśuddhātma vijitātmā jīvendriyaḥ | Sarva-bhūtātma-bhūtātma kurvann api na lipyate||"

Embracing profound wisdom, this quote from the Bhagavad Gita exemplifies the essence of devotion, a pure mind, and a self-controlled soul for continuous growth. The core lies in the realisation that the fruit resides in performing one's duties diligently rather than awaiting outcomes. The Global Times, driven by this

philosophy, stands as a testament to the rich tapestry of diverse talents, passions, and perseverance demonstrated by Amityans. The cornerstone of these inspirational creative works is laid by our respected Chairperson ma'am, (Dr) Mrs Amita Chauhan. Under her guidance, the school community is nurtured with compassion and resilience. This edition, in particular, is a culmination of the collective efforts of our editorial board and the unceasing mentorship of our GT Team. I am immensely proud of the dedication and creativity demonstrated by our students, whose contributions imbue each page with ingenuity and depth. As we embark on another year filled with promise and opportunity, I encourage each one of you to embrace the spirit of devotion and growth that permeates these pages. Let us approach our duties with diligence and determination, knowing that true fulfilment lies not in the outcome, but in the journey itself. [G T](#)

Paisha vasool

The Life Of The ~~Miser~~ Middle Class

Anwita Agarwal, XI C &
Samaira Sachdeva, XII G, AIS Saket

White uniforms with a touch of ultramarine, Godrej almirahs, stainless steel *danis*, and innumerable Chupke Chupke screenings...all of this screams middle class like nobody's business. But what truly makes the middle class 'the middle class'? Perhaps nothing more so than their tendency to indulge in *paisha vasooli*. A survey from BankBazaar states that the average saving rate of Indians is 32% and common sense tells you that a considerable portion of it gets contributed by *paisha vasooli*.

In fact, every action of the proletariat forms a sequence in this montage. Exempli gratia – the passing down of a father's clothes to the son, then the younger brother, and then finally to the house help, becoming a part of a new legacy. There, the *sahabji ki* branded shirt is treated like a crown to properly *vasool* its monetary value. In this regard, the middle class is wary of regular health examinations, too. For visiting the doctor's without a purpose, only for him to reveal that everything is fine, gives 'paisha has not been vasooled' vibes, making one wish there was something wrong. Having thusly become an acceptable norm, *paisha vasooli* is today ingrained in all the sections of the society. Be it an ordinary worker or a GK aunty, everyone wants their *dhaniya, mirchi* free. The eternal dance of the bargainer is almost always farcical. "Chalo, na tumhara, na mera," are the golden words uttered right before closing a trade deal. It sure is a sight to see people haggling on the streets, where every rupee saved is a victory for the narrative of frugality, and buying at MRP is criminal. An Indian can never just pay the amount asked and why should they? We have all seen the Indian economy getting dramatically altered by colonisation, corruption, and demonetisation over the years. This deprivation of resources in Indian history has made it all the more about how much we get out of something instead of how much we pay for it. It's indoctrinated in a way that before

buying a product, much is thought about what the product would mean after its utility is exhausted. Besides, today, where 60% of the population survives on less than 3.10 USD a day, the *paisha vasooli* culture is to navigate financial uncertainty with finesse. Sure, it might lead to some eyebrow raising moments when you are boosting the life of your shampoo bottle by adding water to it, but hey, it's not about the judgement, but the mastery of the "paisha vasooli 101" guidebook. Where the world has only now woken up to sustainable living, the fact that the middle-class existence has been about it from the get-go is surely one that needs to be lionised.

Even though *paisha vasooli* might not be in our history books, it is a value that we are all proud of. Perhaps only when a parent sees their grown child bargain with the vegetable seller does the parent feel a sense of pride and satisfaction that all the *paisha* spent on their child has been *vasooled* too, but that's just what it means to be an Indian, a proud one at that. [G T](#)

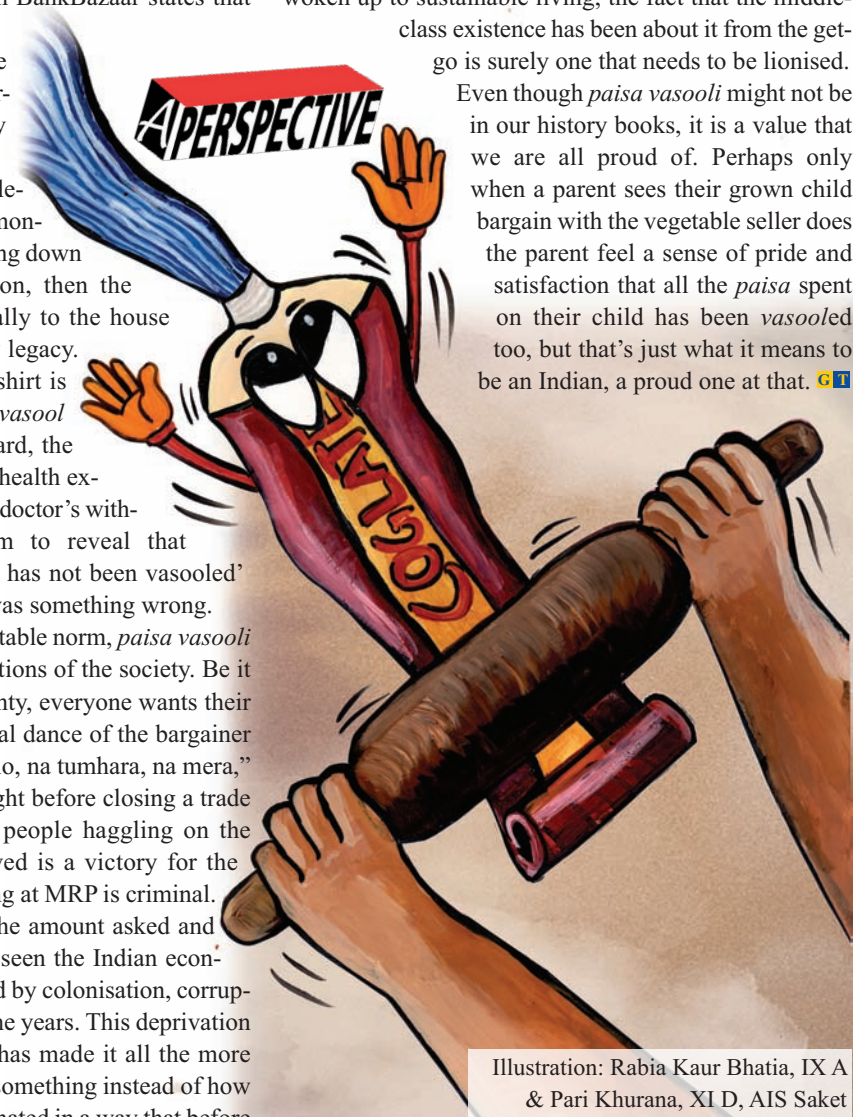
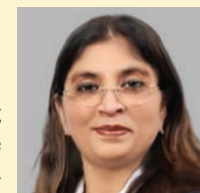


Illustration: Rabia Kaur Bhatia, IX A & Pari Khurana, XI D, AIS Saket

A group effort

Within the kaleidoscope of knowledge, AIS Saket's contest edition presents a group adventure towards enlightenment. With an unshakable zeal, our children have contributed to this edition, making it a glowing symbol of dedication. As we delve into the intricacies of topics, we witness the young minds embracing the opportunity of intellect, creativity, and camaraderie that propels us

forward. Enthraling artwork and stories are created with enthusiasm adorning this compendium of passion. These stories are more than just stories; they are windows into the lives of those who crafted them, with nuanced flavours that speak to all kinds of different readers. Also, be-



Debjani Das
GT Coordinator

hind the success of contest editions lies the guiding hands of our inspiring GT team. Like the wind beneath our wings, each member of this team orchestrates a harmonious blend whilst guiding the student's ideas in variegated realms from conceptualisation and designing to the final draft. Their dedication transforms the challenging into the achievable, making this odyssey of the contest edition, a true labour of love.





That's hot

Adding the much-required taste to our dishes, chilli peppers are devoured by spice connoisseurs around the world. So much so that these peppers challenge the taste buds of spice enthusiasts by giving them a punch of burning sensation. Tapping on such peppers, **Aruneema Jha, XII F & Ishiekaa Kapoor, IX C, AIS Saket**, bring to you an assortment of world's hottest chilli peppers as measured on the Scoville Scale. *Caution: try at your own risk*

Pepper X

Developer: Ed Currie | **Origin:** Fort Mill, South Carolina, USA
Initial flavour: Sweet and fruity | **Spiciness level:** 3,180,000 SHU
Fiery trivia: On August 23, 2023, Guinness World Record recognised it as the world's hottest chilli pepper, beating the previous world record held by Carolina Reaper. In fact, the seeds of this pepper are not sold commercially because of the unpleasant experience one can face after consuming it raw.



Carolina Reaper

Developer: Ed Currie | **Origin:** Fort Mill, South Carolina, USA
Initial flavour: Sweet | **Spiciness level:** 1,641,183 SHU
Fiery trivia: Being super-hot in nature, it is mandatory to wear gloves while handling this pepper. If not, it can cause severe chilli burn. Not to miss, the infamous Jolo Chip aka the death chip has Carolina Reaper as one of its main ingredients.



Ghost Pepper

Developer: Landrace | **Origin:** Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland
Initial flavour: Sweet and earthy | **Spiciness level:** 1,001,304 SHU
Fiery trivia: The Indian army uses ghost pepper chilli grenades to immobilise terrorists and other criminal suspects safely. The bomb's smoke creates a near-automatic chilli-burning experience which forces people out of buildings and other hide-outs.



Komodo Dragon

Developer: Salvatore Genovese | **Origin:** United Kingdom
Initial flavour: Sweet fruitiness | **Spiciness level:** 1,500,000 SHU
Fiery trivia: The pepper is known for its 'sneaky heat', as the spiciness builds up slowly and stays for long on the taste buds.



Trinidad Moruga Scorpion

Developer: Wahid Ogeer | **Origin:** Moruga, Trinidad, and Tobago
Initial flavour: Fruit-like flavour | **Spiciness level:** 1,200,000-2,000,000 SHU
Fiery trivia: The pointed end of the pepper is said to resemble a scorpion's stinger.



Bell Pepper

Developer: Gregor Carillon | **Origin:** Central and South America
Initial flavour: Slightly bitter, grassy flavour | **Spiciness level:** 0 SHU
Fiery trivia: One bell pepper has twice the amount of vitamin C as an orange. They are known as sweet peppers and contain vitamin A, beta-carotene, etc.



The spice level is measured through the Scoville Scale, a measurement of spicy heat in peppers, with Scoville Heat Units indicating capsaicin level.



The rescue mission

Ananya Vashishtha
AIS Saket, IX B

In the unbearable cold of the Arctic region, an elderly member of the tern bird community, Tern Sandy, was providing guidelines to young terns who were about to take the first flight of their life. "It's not for nothing that we're considered the best flight birds who don't tire easily. We must live up to our reputation!" said Sandy. "I hope all of you will report to your wing commanders on time and stay on track," he said pointing to a map with flight routes. The young terns were waved off for their first flight and Sandy stayed behind to check on their progress. He was communicating with other flight captains when he spotted the rumblings of an incoming storm. Immediate warning signals were sent out, but soon a few days had passed and it was noticed that the regiment of

"It's the motto of the Arctic regiment – one regiment, one family! I promise I will get them back by the end of the week."

flyers had not yet returned. Rescue troops were immediately dispatched but to no avail. Everyone had given up hope, but not Sandy. "None of my troops have ever gone missing. It's the motto of the Arctic regiment – one regiment, one family! I promise I will get them back by the end of the week." Luckily, the missing group of terns was spotted by search parties some hundred miles away. Old Sandy took off, his wings fortified with best wishes from everyone. For several days, he hovered over the ocean. He perched atop the masthead of a navy ship, observing the sky when he saw a group of dolphins. "Friends, have you seen a flock of

lost terns?" "Sandy? So nice to see you. How many times you have brought us food when all the planktons perished due to heat! Of course, we'll help. We saw a group of birds flying around in circles for days on end," one of the dolphins said. Sandy was relieved. Being an experienced soldier, he knew his training would have made the youngsters smart enough to find a resting place which could not be spotted by enemies. He checked over dozens of such places when finally, he came upon a lighthouse. The young flock was resting there, and to Sandy's surprise, a group of seagulls was looking after them. "Sandy, you have rescued many of us in times of need, so of

course, we'd look after your pals," said Father Seagull. When Sandy arrived home with the young terns, he was presented with the Bravest Tern Medal for his courage. However, only the young terns knew that it was not just his bravery, but his compassion and benevolence for others that had saved their lives. Indeed, goodwill comes back to you in several ways.

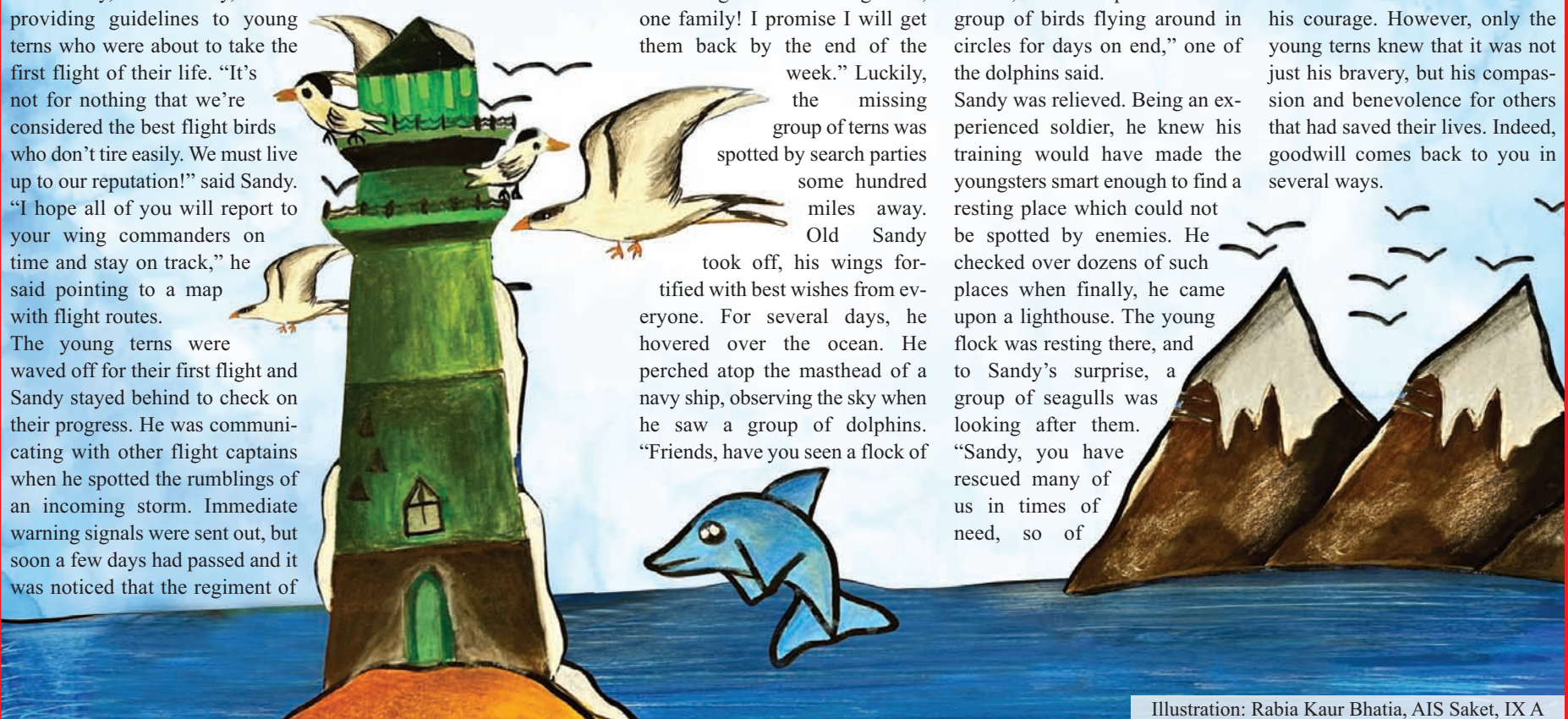


Illustration: Rabia Kaur Bhatia, AIS Saket, IX A

A delicate dance

Varnika Pradhan, AIS Saket, X E

But on its feet of silk, away it goes

Light and shadow, eternally cursed
Together they waltz, fully immersed
Forevermore, each other they yearn
Inside the city, as they twist and turn

Shadow, a hushed child full of grace
Drawn to corners, an enigma to brace
Nestled in the crevices of city peaks
Light and shadow play hide and seek.

Light, a heavenly blaze in a blue sky
Chasing away the night's gusty sigh
With a hum of dawn, it softly glows



Illustration: Pramith Singh Gupta, AIS Saket, X E

Read Play and Win 47

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



Q.1 "Shadow, a hushed child _____ an enigma to brace."	Q.2 Which school has prepared this contest edition?	Q.3 What is the tagline of the article 'Paisa vasool' on page 6?
Q.4 Name the famous personality interviewed on page 3.	Q.5 Who has clicked the picture for the article 'Kiscrazy, a revolution'?	Q.6 The ABC of News segment for this edition is on _____ (name the topic).
Q.7 Mention the names of all the chili peppers listed on page 7.	Q.8 Who is the author of the article 'The planetary personalities' on p4?	Q.9 Which letter is reciting its own tale on page 5?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-46: Avika Nayar, AIS Noida, IX F; Janhavi Gupta, AIS Gur 46, IX H; Samaira Gulati, AIS Gur 43, III A

India's hidden gems

From the delicate Silver Filigree called Chandi Tarakasi to food products like Similipal Kai Chutney and Gucci Mushroom, India has registered more than 500 Geographical Indications as of March 2024. But what is all this fuss about these GI tags? **Aisha Bhargavi, X C & Pramith Singh Gupta, X E, AIS Saket**, present the answers.

Understanding GIs

Geographical Indication Tags are tags given to any naturally occurring or man-made product, marking their specific geographical location and possessing qualities or a reputation that are due to its place of origin.

When the French Wine trade faced a crisis in the early 20th century, the need for GI systems arose. In 1919, the concept of GI tagging was introduced in the Treaty of Versailles and is now internationally recognised under the Paris Convention, as part of Intellectual Property Rights (now covered by the WTO's TRIPS Agreement, 1994). Further, the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of the Appellations of Origin and their International Registration, 1958, was adopted to introduce the concept of GI as we know today. In the realm of Intellectual Property Rights, GI tags ensure that unique regional products get the recognition and legal safeguard they deserve. They act as a shield against counterfeiters and unfair competition, ensuring that consumers receive authentic, high-quality goods and empowering

the local producers and communities.

India's GI take off

As part of the World Trade Organisation agreement, GI tags were implemented in India on September 15, 2003 by the Geographical Indication Registry in accordance with the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. The act's guidelines imply that the product must conform to the established standards for credibility and reliability. This legislation safeguarded the user's entitlement to use the product and prevented substandard counterfeit goods from entering the market. India's first-ever GI-tagged product was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.

More than a label

GI tags offer multiple benefits of a product to both producers and consumers. For producers, GI tags are an important tool for promoting traditional skills of a region and act as a valuable marketing service, allowing producers to charge premium prices for authentic products and reach a wider audience. It also prevents unauthorised use of a product's name and directly influences the preservation of cultural heritage of the product and its region. The GI tagging of the Darjeeling tea is an excellent example of producers benefitting plentifully as only the farmers were able to sell the Darjeeling tea leaves. For the consumer, GI tags assure that they're purchasing an authentic product.

Treasures of the land

India is home to many GI tagged items, and some of the latest additions are:

Gucci Mushroom | Jammu & Kashmir

This rare morel mushroom costs around 20,000 INR a KG for its unique flavour and aroma. It grows wild in the specific high-altitude forests of Kashmir.

Similipal Kai Chutney | Odisha

A chutney made from red weaver ants has been given the GI tag for the traditional knowledge and skills involved in creating this chutney while promoting tribal food.

Chandi Tarakasi | Cuttak, Odisha

A combination of two words, where Tara means wire and Kasi is design, Tarakasi is a centuries-old craft of fine silver filigree, known for its intricate workmanship.

Tweed Fabric | Arunachal Pradesh

This distinctive woollen fabric woven by the indigenous communities of Arunachal Pradesh, is known for its warmth, durability, and beautiful patterns.

Loi Blankets | Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir

Made from the fine wool of sheep reared in the Himalayas, these hand-woven blankets are rightfully famous for their warmth, intricate designs, and long lifespan.

Chikri Craft | Maharashtra

The unique lacquered woodwork craft of Maharashtra uses natural materials and traditional techniques create beautiful decorative items.

Manipuri Black Rice | Manipur

This black rice variety is known for its high nutritional value and nutty flavour.



Securing a GI tag

The process of acquiring a GI tag involves several steps:

Step 1: Application

Any group, organisation, or authority associated with the product can file an application with the Geographical Indications Registry of India.

Step 2 & 3: Scrutiny & examination

The application is examined to ensure the distinctive link to its geographical origin and ascertain the particulars furnished.

Step 4: Show cause notice

In case of objections, registrar communicates the discrepancy and the applicant is given the opportunity of being heard.

Step 5: Publication

Once an application is approved, it is published in the Geographical Indications Journal for public opposition, allowing time for anyone to challenge the claim.

Step 6: Registration

After all process of addressing any objections, the product is registered as GI.

The paw-sitive asana

A Look Inside Puppiezo's Puppy Yoga Session



Ruhani Chawla, XI E & Raabia Ali Abidi, X A, AIS Saket

Pic: Anwita Agarwal, AIS Saket, XI C

Move over water yoga, aerial yoga and more, for puppy yoga's here. Combining the benefits of yoga with cuddles of puppies, this new form is brought to you by Puppiezo Pvt Ltd, a Delhi-based pet-centric e-commerce hub. Read on as Aditty Dhingra, founder, Puppiezo takes you through the ride.

The beginning tail

"The inception of Puppiezo stems from an introspective passion towards animals. I have a huge affinity for pets, especially dogs," says Aditty. Puppy yoga, thus, "has just been a natural expression of love in trying to ensure that pets get the best. Puppy yoga has been a popular concept in the West since 2002 when Suzi Teitelman discovered it. At Puppiezo, we're on a mission to bring its benefits to the masses here in India as well. It is our unique way of fusing traditional yoga and adorable puppy interaction into one activity. It combines the physical and mental benefits of yoga with the joy and therapeutic effects of spending time with playful puppies," he says.

A furry experience

When asked about what a typical session looks like, Aditty shares, "Participants immerse themselves in a unique experience of various asanas including bhujangasana, balasana, tadasana, dandasana, adho mukha svasana, surya namaskar etc., along with cuddle sessions with puppies. To keep the sessions accessible, we try to conduct it at multiple locations as well." Several measures are taken to ensure a safe and wholesome session for both the dogs and humans. "All of our sessions are conducted by experienced trainers who ensure a safe environment. These trainers monitor the puppies' behaviour. We also curate yoga poses to accommodate both puppies' and participants'

comfort. Additionally, we cover the vaccinations of the puppies and ensure that the yoga studio is sanitised and cleaned."

The paw-sitive impact

A great fitness practice is one that benefits all the participants; emphasis on 'all'. Puppy yoga fetches full marks in this regard. Aditty elucidates, "Puppies love the cuddles and the participants feel light after interacting with them. It is a fun activity that helps improve both physical and mental health. Cuddling these puppies isn't just fun for you, but also important for the puppies' socialisation. This helps the puppies in becoming more comfortable, friendly, and confident around people later in life."

Join the puppy trail

Attending a puppy yoga session with Puppiezo is as easy as saying bow-wow. "If you want to give puppy yoga a try, you may follow our Instagram page @puppiezo_official. We regularly post there about our upcoming classes, but you must stay updated because tickets sell fast. Depending on the instructor and location, each session costs different. But on average, each session can cost somewhere between 1249 to 1599 INR. Once you book your seat, you can enjoy a cuddle session with these pups. You simply have to wear yoga-friendly, comfy clothing, and come with an open heart eager to interact with people and furry friends."

The final wag

Happiness is, as they say, "only a four-legged friend away." This stands true for Puppiezo, where puppy yoga is more than a fitness fad, "our main goal is to establish a peaceful environment for both pups and their hoomans. We also have a strong commitment to giving back; for every ticket we sell, a particular sum is donated to NGOs that help street dogs. We invite you all to experience this love first-hand," says Aditty, signing off. 🐾

Pics: Tavishi Khatri, AIS Saket, IX D



Adding colors to the world, the illustrator



The editorial board of AIS Saket, celebrating their hardwork



Working diligently, the editors



Exploring magic behind the lens, the photographer



Giving shape to ideas, the writers

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

A grand win



Agnij Moitra with his Grand Award at IRIS



Youngest innovator Archit Roy

Young Scientists @ IRIS Fair

ACSF

acing the field of scientific research, two students from Amity Group of Schools grabbed top spots at the IRIS National Fair, held from January 29-30, 2024, at Dr Ambedkar National Center, New Delhi. **Agnij Moitra (XI)** from **AIS Saket** won the Grand Award under 'Robotics and Machine Learning' category for his project 'GraphChem: an adversarial variational graph based deep learning

framework for drug discovery and pharmacological machine learning objectives'. He will also represent India at ISEF'24 in California, USA. On the other hand, another budding scientist **Archit Roy (V)** from **AIS Noida** received a certificate of recognition for his project 'PS MAT (power saving mat)'. Being the youngest participant, his project idea was highly appreciated by chief guest, Dr Abhay Karandikar, secretary, DST.

Around 100 science projects from all over India were displayed at

IRIS National Fair this year. The commendable stride of Amitians at this prestigious fair has been achieved under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, and under the aegis of Amity Children's Science Foundation.

IRIS (Initiative for Research and Innovation in STEM) national fair is a programme supported by Department of Science and Technology (DST). It rewards outstanding projects and the winners represent India at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering (ISEF) held in the USA. [G.T](#)

A new era of innovation

AIS VYC Lko | ACSF

In a bid to develop scientific temper in young minds, the school hosted its maiden edition of 'Vasudha, Inter-school Science Fair' on December 7, 2023. The fair, organised by Amity Children's Science Foundation under the leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan,

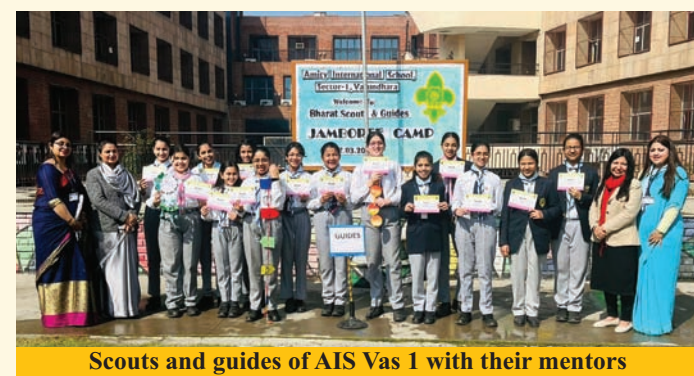
Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, witnessed over 90 innovative exhibits from 20 schools of Lucknow.

The event was graced by professor Ashok Sahni, professor emeritus, Punjab University, Chandigarh as chief guest and Siddharth Chopra, principal scientist, CSIR-CDRI, as guest of honour. Held in two categories namely junior (VI-VIII) and

senior (IX-XII), the event showcased projects from a broad spectrum of themes like smart tech village, smart bridge, smart drip irrigation, security alarm, metal detector etc. Further, these were evaluated by a distinguished panel of professors and scientists. The top five innovative projects in both the categories were awarded medals and certificates. [G.T](#)



Awardees of inter school science fair with eminent dignitaries



Scouts and guides of AIS Vas 1 with their mentors

Jamboree camp

AIS Vasundhara 1

On March 2, 2024, the school hosted an internal jamboree camp for the Bharat Scouts and Guides, in the presence of chief guest, Rinku Tomar, district organisation commissioner guide.

During the camp, young scouts and guides participated in a wide range of activities namely march past, oath and pledge

ceremony, tent pitching, tent decoration, tug-of-war, races etc. All the activities helped the participants to hone their mental, physical and social skills, and encouraged them to embrace core values such as service and leadership in their life.

The event concluded with a glittering prize distribution ceremony, words of appreciation and good wishes by school principal Raina Krishnatray.



Proud winners with guests and dignitaries

Sports junction

AGS Noida

With the theme 'Dhridha - Raising our game', the school organised its annual sports meet on March 5, 2024. The grand occasion was graced by chief guest, Raspreet Sidhu, former captain, India women's basketball team; guest of honour, Kunwar Brahmadya Singh Panwar, FIBA basketball certified coach; Pooja Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity School of Film and Drama & Amity Humanity Foundation, and other distinguished members of Amity Education Group.

The sports meet kickstarted with the release of white doves, symbolising ambition and hope for Amitians followed by a cultural

segment. It featured Rang Utsav, Dridha, and a soul-stirring stuti by Amitasha girls. Post this, Amitasha students along with the students of AGS Noida participated in race challenges such as 50m and 100m obstacle race, tele matches, lemon pick, dash, hoopy run, 50m x 4m relay race, and showcased fabulous athleticism. Apart from this, the day also included yoga, aerobics, and karate demonstrations that witnessed rhythmic, fluid movements and dynamic spiritedness. The highlight of the event was a unique parent race (the jalebi race) and a tug of war.

The annual sports meet came to an end with valedictory ceremony where the winners were felicitated with medals. [G.T](#)

The Bright Boss Babies Are Here To Take Over The Political World



Pic: Tavishi Khatri, IX D | Model: Abir Johr, II D; AIS Saket

Diya Arora, XI D & Saamya Arora, XII F, AIS Saket

Kidscracy a revolution

“This just in! After the two-decade rule of the infamous Silver Hair Party, the oldest party of old people, the Tiny Tot Party has achieved the unthinkable. With a win by a margin of 56% under their diapers, they are to form the new govt in Kidzania. This indeed is a historic moment for—” Mr Hazel Nutt turned off the TV. “That was inevitable. Finally, we take charge! It’s been years that the Silver Hair Party have occupied the seats at the centre, only to grow fatter by the minute as they gobble up all our candy tax. But we are here to bring reform. Everyone, suit up!” With his bib on point, Mr Hazel Nutt set out to address a crowd of about 10,000 lively toddlers and some 5000

snoring oldies. “Babies and Oldies, I’d like to begin by thanking you for voting for the Tiny Tot Party and believing in me to be the PM. Of course, raspberries to the Silver Hair Party and their so-called ever-green policies and wisdom. But they are a thing of the past now, quite literally. So, crawling back to our Babyfesto, we wish to declare that there would now be unlimited production of toys. The Ministry of Children Supplies and

their minister Arti Choke have approved 50% of toy tax money to be waived off. We also promise to bring unlimited candy for every baby who has clocked in a nap time of four hours a day. Before we take your leave for our much-needed play date, we must make it clear that we are no longer just toddlers. Refer to us as Ace, for we are aching this job!” At such disrespect, the Silver Hair Party grew grumpy and planned their revenge. Not only did they

stop milk supply for the week but they also had all markets be sold out of baby toys. On top of that, they ignited an internal crisis. The defence minister, Ruby Stone, was brainwashed to borrow Artie’s crayons, who disliked sharing his things. In response, he marched into Ruby’s treehouse and yanked her ponytail. She screamed and cried, and the entire scene was taped by a notorious double agent ace, who then posted it on Babystagram. Campaigns were launched to replace Artie and #JusticeForRuby trended on

Toddwitter, resulting in Artie to quit baby politics forever. To divert the attention away from the fiasco, the chancellor of Babytopia, Knail Rusty, was invited to visit his chuddy-buddy, PM Nutt. Extravagant preparations were underway with a specialised programme televised as Hail Knail. From speeches about baby food surplus to more baby parks, Mr Rusty was all praises about the reforms done by Ace ministers around the states. They even signed a Treaty Of Alliance with purple and green crayons, agreeing to have perennial trade of new state-of-the-art toy weapons and increase the value of the official baby currency, Infansi.

As a result, the happy coos and giggles were louder than ever. Mr Hazel Nutt and his party worked countless days and nights, even when their parents gave them curfew times. From parliament buildings replacing the old ministers’ monochromatic photographs to the colourful drawings of the toddlers and adding scribbles to the boring white walls, even running out of ice cream was made illegal. There were cartoons for news and Wheels On The Bus became the official anthem. And indisputably, Batman, Superman, and Ironman were assigned as the new police. The new campaign, however, ended abruptly because, oh! it’s nap time again!

Pics:Vandita Sharma, AIS Saket, IX B

In Spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Samaira Sachdeva



The bright-as-ever team of AIS Saket



Editor-in-chief: Saamya Arora