

Food for thought

“An invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come.”
Victor Hugo

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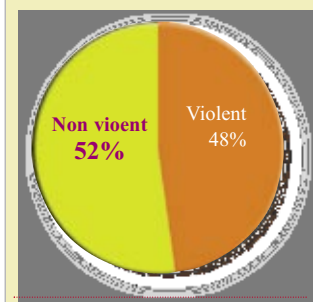
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POLL

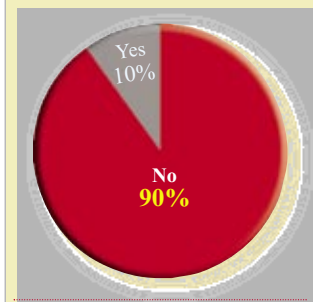
60 years of
Independence:
Students' perspective

A poll conducted in the seven Amity schools yielded some interesting results.

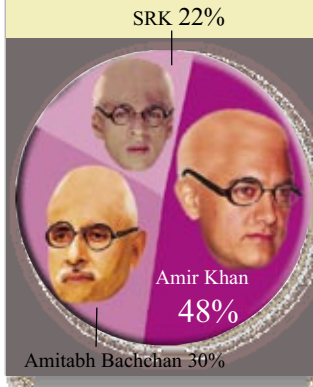
In case of a foreign invasion, what will be your mode of protest?



Are you in favour of reservation?



Which Bollywood actor can aptly portray Gandhi?



THE GLOBAL TIMES

Issue 1, November 2007

AN AMITY INITIATIVE

“One tree is worth 280 Crores”

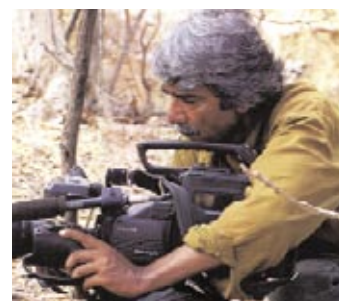
Say Award-winning Wildlife Filmmakers Mike, Arjun and Gautam Pandey in conversation with Nishtha Bhatnagar

When was the last time that the saddened and helpless eyes of an animal or bird in distress, struck a chord of empathy and compassion in you? When was the last time, you took an oath to protect this planet as your own abode? When was the last time, you felt that extinct animals could have been saved and the ones threatened, protected?

For most of us, the answers would be, ‘I don't recall’ or ‘Never’. But for Mike Pandey, it was the sight of life fading away, in the eyes of a dying whale shark on the coast of Mumbai, that turned the course of his life forever. This legend, like all others was not born overnight. It has taken years of sensitivity, struggle and even potential threats to life that have made him a paragon of environment and animal conservation. And following closely in his footsteps are Arjun Pandey, his nephew and Gautam Pandey, his son.



ALL SMILES: Gautam Pandey(l) and Arjun Pandey(r)
THROUGH THE WINNING LENS: (top right) Mike Pandey



THE BEGINNING

Mike Pandey: I always had a great affinity to nature. I was doing a course in film-making, when I saw this whale shark being butchered on the shores of Mumbai. Somehow, my eyes got glued to the eyes of the dying creature and I felt as if it was talking to me, and calling for help. I was helpless then, but in my helplessness, I, made a promise to it. The promise was - to not let that happen to the other whale sharks in the world.

Arjun Pandey: For us, all family holidays were an extension of shoots and vice versa. We used to spend hours at a stretch waiting in national reserves or sanctuaries for sightings. Nature and wildlife were a part of our lives from our early years.

Gautam Pandey: However, we did not follow in our father's footsteps blindly. We dabbled with other things like music and

completed formal education, before we realized that our mission was calling us.

INDIA AND INDIANS

Mike Pandey: We comprise 23% of the total world population. Indians have the ability to **TIP THE BALANCE**. If every Indian, plants a tree each on the World Environment Day, we will have half a million new trees.

Alas! Indians need to re-learn.

It was only when education was taken away from us because of foreign invasion that we became de-sensitized to our environment. It is no co-incidence that Gods and Goddesses in Indian mythology have an animal as their carrier or trees surrounding them. It is again no co-incidence that we worship the Tulsi plant. Our ancestors knew that the plant had over 4000 medicinal values.

SMALL BUT SIGNIFICANT THINGS

Arjun Pandey: It's a question of the desire to make a difference. One person sensitized, can have a rippling effect on society. Small things can make a difference- like fitting a bottle in your flush tank, helps save 1 litre of water every time we flush. If you use the flush 10 times a day, you save 10 litres of water in a day and 70 litres of water in a week.

●Contd. on page 11

Born free

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action-
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.*

-Rabindranath Tagore

ANN Correspondent

For those who fought the battle for freedom, lost sons and daughters to the soil, for the soil, Tagore's poem would evoke emotions and glory,

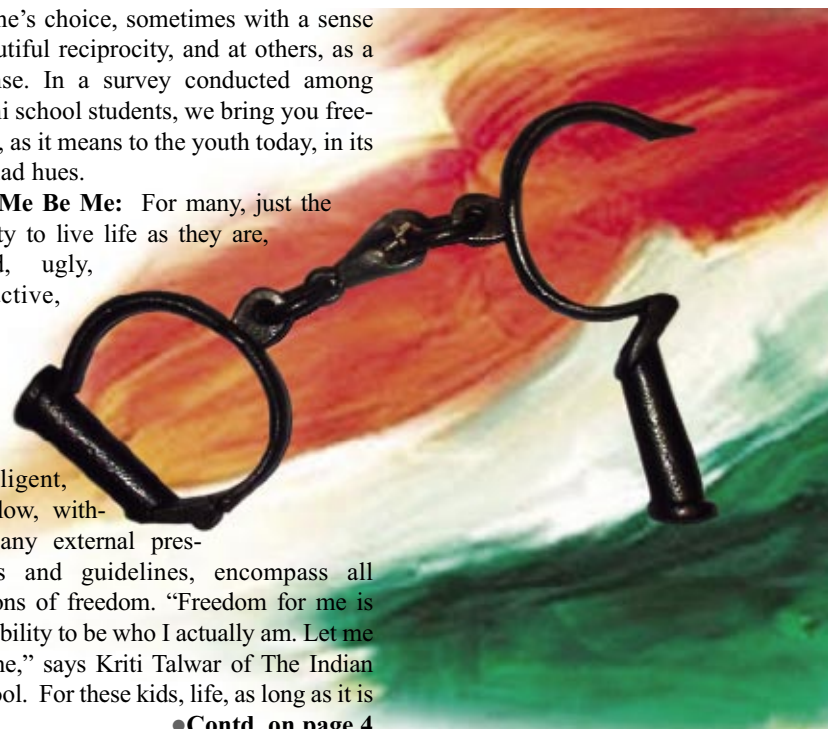
even today. The desperation of a mission that seemed insurmountable then, has found a comfortable replacement in the form of complacency and comfort amongst Gen X. The term freedom, today harbours in the ability to do things

of one's choice, sometimes with a sense of dutiful reciprocity, and at others, as a license. In a survey conducted among Delhi school students, we bring you freedom, as it means to the youth today, in its myriad hues.

Let Me Be Me: For many, just the ability to live life as they are, good, ugly, attractive,

intelligent, or slow, without any external pressures and guidelines, encompass all notions of freedom. “Freedom for me is the ability to be who I actually am. Let me be me,” says Kriti Talwar of The Indian School. For these kids, life, as long as it is

●Contd. on page 4



Subra Suresh : From IIT to MIT

Deepti Batra, ANN

From a student at IIT Madras, to becoming the dean at MIT, Subra Suresh is another NRI story that does India proud. Excerpts from an interview:

Please tell us something about your days at IIT Madras.

It was a very exciting time both socially and from an education point of view. I have maintained my friendship with many of my classmates although it has been 30 years since my graduation from IIT.

How much do you agree with the whole concept of brain drain from India? In case you don't, how would you want to contribute to your country?

One can contribute to one's country enormously, both from

within and outside. Ultimately, professional satisfaction and opportunities to reach the pinnacle of one's field provide a driving force. I have had considerable interactions with Indian students, faculty, administrators and government officials over the past decade, and I visit India several times a year. As India develops rapidly and challenging opportunities arise for many engineers and scientists, I would think that brain drain will progressively become less of an issue.

Who all are there in your family?

My wife and two daughters are in the US. I have many relatives in India, with whom I keep in touch.

What is your take on the plight of education and research in

India?

As India undergoes technological and social transformation, education and research will also see enormous changes. I am hopeful that the tradition of scholarship and scientific excellence in India will lay the foundation for many Indian institutions to becoming world leaders



not only in education, but also in research.

Elucidate your struggles and endeavours in the process to reach this esteemed position, from childhood to now.

I have always enjoyed my work and tried to immerse myself in my activities with passion. IIT and MIT are institutions where your fellow students and colleagues challenge you to your limit, and this helps in bringing out the best in every one.

Your strategy to crack IIT entrance.

It is probably much more competitive now than when I took the exam in the early 1970s. I remember primarily starting to study for it a few weeks before the exam. A couple of guides for the entrance exams were the main instructional material.

What were your struggles to establish yourself at MIT, despite being a non-native there.

MIT is a meritocracy, and there are people of all nationalities and backgrounds among students and faculty. It is a very rich environment that provides a great intellectual challenge. There are many distinguished Indian born faculty members at MIT.

Incidents of your life that you think can be a source of inspiration for our students.

Getting an opportunity to do my pre-university course at Vivekananda College (in Maths, Physics and Chemistry) was a good preparation for IIT. IIT was an excellent place to get an engineering education and provided me the motivation to pursue education in the US. Moral support from my mother was a strong motivation during my student days.●

Probing the MIND'SAT

SAT comprises a general test that assesses reading, quantitative reasoning and writing skills

Nishtha Bhatnagar, ANN

While education abroad has always caught the fancy of Indian school going students, the overbearing pressure that the imminent quota enforcement has brought into being, has made it a more appealing avenue. Even though UK and Australia are important destinations, the US remains a hot favourite. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is thus, a frequently taken exam by students aspiring to seek under graduate education in the United States.

What is SAT?

The Scholastic Aptitude Test, technically called the SAT-I, comprises a general test assess-

ing critical reading, quantitative reasoning and writing skills. It is accepted for U.S. college admissions. Most U.S. Universities ask for the SAT scores for admissions to their undergraduate programs. Many universities also require students to take SAT-II Tests. The SAT I is valid for five years. The cost of taking the test is approximately \$ 85.

SAT-I: Reasoning Test

This is a three-hour, forty-five minute, primarily multiple-choice test, measuring critical reading, writing and mathematical reasoning abilities that develop over time. Most Colleges require SAT-I scores for admission. The SAT-I is scored out of 2400 - a separate score of 800 each for



Dates

SAT- I: Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Mar

SAT- II: Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, May, June

Quantitative Reasoning, Critical Reading and Writing. The cumulative scores of the three sections provide the final score. Each major section is divided into three parts. There are 10 sub-sections, including an experimental section that may be in any of the three major sections. The critical reading section, includes different sections, such as sentence completion, analogies and reading comprehension. The section on mathematics too comprises three to four sub-sections with multiple choice questions. The writing section, includes sentence and paragraph correction, where the main aim is, to test students' deftness at grammar and sentence construction. The writing section also includes essay writing on a topical issue. The essay is evaluated on a scale of 1-6 by two trained readers. Although, the score is a pivotal part of the whole admission procedure, a large weightage is attributed to specific university essays, statements of purpose and recommendation letters.

SAT-II: Subject Tests

Subject Tests (formerly SAT-II: Subject Tests) are designed to

measure a student's knowledge and skill in particular subject areas, as well as his/her ability to apply that knowledge. Students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges, their mastery of specific subjects like English, History, Mathematics, Science, and Language. The tests are independent of any particular textbook or method of instruction. The tests' content evolves to reflect current trends in high school curricula, but the types of questions change slightly from year to year.

Many colleges use Subject Tests for admission, for course placement, and to advise students about course selection. Used in combination with other background information (high school record, scores from other tests like the SAT Reasoning Test, teacher recommendations, etc.), they provide a dependable measure of academic achievement and are a good predictor of future performance.●

Dates:

In India, the exam can be taken 7 times in a year. The test is typically offered on the first Saturday of the month.

The power of the written word

Praveen Ravindran, AIS Noida & Sanjeev K. Ojha, AIS Gurgaon (Sec-46)

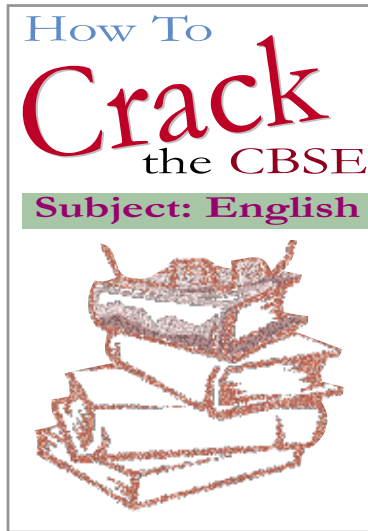
1. Plan out your study schedule, well in advance.
2. Local details of the chapter, i.e., each and every incident therein, should be thoroughly worked upon. Just preparing any chapter in abstraction is not sufficient and will not yield wonderful results.
3. Answers should always be relevant to the questions asked. Avoid beating about the bush.
4. One should take care to write in the specific style required. A

newspaper report is different from a magazine report.

5. There should be clarity of marks distribution, as marks are awarded separately for format, content, expression and grammatical accuracy.
6. Creative writing carries 30 marks; therefore intense practice is needed in this area.

■ Plan the content before putting it on paper.

■ The opening of the write-up should have a present context, which shows the students are



abreast of the latest.

- The body of the write-up should have a flow and should connect the opening paragraph with the conclusion.
- The conclusion should be precise and in context with the opening.
- The word limit should not exceed 15 words from the set limit.
- 7. To enhance vocabulary, the students should:
 - Read extensively
 - Watch news and healthy talk shows and observe their expressions
 - Think in English as it eases articulation.
- 8. Presentation is of utmost importance in English:
 - Underline important points.
 - Give a title wherever required.●

Are you a high flyer?

Today, Indian pilots are drawing the highest salaries in the world

ANN Correspondent

With as many as 10 major airlines (both frill and non-frill) operating in India, the aviation industry is at its zenith at the moment. And cashing on the boom, are aspiring pilots. While commercial flying is a popular profession abroad, it is a coveted one in India, with Indian pilots drawing higher salaries as compared to their western counterparts. "The start off salaries range between 1.3 and 1.7 lacs. This is at a time when a pilot works in the capacity of a first officer. Once you are promoted to the position of a captain, your salary increases 4 times. This is the major reason why a lot of pilots from abroad are seeking employment in India," says Sumit Duggal, of Citrus Aviation, an Institute for ground and flying training. Even though, money and glamour are the guiding force for many, a passion for flying remains a pre-requisite. "The money is surely a driving force, but if you are not passionate about your profession, then you

are vulnerable to ennui sooner than you can imagine. The monotony of flying the same routes over and over again, can burn you out. It is thus, pivotal that you continue to update your knowledge and your skills, and remain as passionate as you can, about your job," adds Duggal. What appears to be a comfortable and glamorous profession, exacts a lot, out of its aspirants, both in terms of hard work and initial investment. "Clearing the DGCA exams in order to get your commercial pilots license is

a real challenge. The exam tests your adeptness in areas like navigation, technical information, aircraft rules and regulations etc. Not only this, a full fledged medical is conducted at two levels. If they find even a minor discrepancy in anything, even weight, you are doomed. Besides, the cost of completing the stipulated 200 flying hours before you apply for your license is also mammoth. I spent almost 20 lacs in my flying training alone," says Amit Kumar, a pilot with Jet Airways.



SALARIES P/M:

Check Pilot: 5 Lacs +
Senior Commander: 3.5-5 Lacs
Commander: 2.5-3.5 Lacs
Senior First officer: 1.75-2.5 Lacs
First Officer: 1.25-1.75 Lacs
Trainee Pilot: 15,000- 30,000

The number of DGCA approved flying institutes in India is limited and it takes rather long in the completion of the flying hours. Also, the number of simulators available is limited. It is the lack of infrastructure and tedious time-consuming formalities that explain the increase in the outflow of students to aviation academies abroad. "It is quicker to do your flying from an institution abroad. You can then come back to India and take your exams. If this procedure is followed well, you should be in the process of finding yourself a plush job within a year or little more," adds Kumar.

Another important aspect in the industry is the problem of attrition. The airlines have introduced certain safeguards for themselves. All airlines either make you sign a bond or a contract of employment, failing which, the bond amount is forfeited or you are expected to pay a huge amount as specified in your contract. "Jet Airways takes a bond of 7 lacs from every pilot even before he/she can start their training," informs Kumar. Despite growing fears, analysts believe that the industry is only going to grow in the next five years. Although, the training costs are high, the heavy pay packages and glamour quotient of the job, surely make flying, an exciting career.●

For more info, log onto: www.citrus-aviation.com

Career

How do I pursue a career in architecture?

Charu Manocha

You need to clear the NATA exam conducted by the Council of Architecture. The scores obtained are used by admission authorities of different government -aided as well as pri-

vate schools/colleges of Architecture, to provide a common measure for comparing applicants.

Can one do B tech (Biotech) with the subjects physics, chemistry and math?

Ankita Verma
Yes, you can do B.tech (Bioinformatics) and

Integrated M.Tech (Biotech) with PCM or PCB (min 60%).

I've 90.5% marks in +2 with science subjects. Am I eligible for scholarship in mechanical engineering in Amity or do I have to take the AMCAT?

Amartesh Sehgal

Yes, you are eligible for Amity Scholarship. 50% Scholarship is available to students with 88% and above, excluding Physical education and Fine Arts. Since you come under the scholarship scheme, you will get direct admission and need't take AMCAT.

For queries, email to: careerguidance@amity.edu

AIDS on the prowl

In focus : Africa

ANN Correspondent

The AIDS fiend is on the prowl. And suffering the most in its tentacles is the Sub-Saharan Africa region, the region of the world worst hit by it. The epidemic of AIDS is adversely affecting, not only the physical existence of the people, but also their economy, health and social condition. Sub-Saharan Africa is currently facing the three pronged attack of the existing HIV infected, the newly infected population and the increasing number of AIDS deaths. Approximately, 25 million people are affected by HIV in Africa and about 2-2.5 million people lose their lives every year due to AIDS. It is expected that the numbers will be on the upswing in the coming years. With a rise in HIV patients, more and more AIDS victims are being identified. South Africa, Zambia, Swaziland, Senegal, Zimbabwe and almost all other countries of the African continent, have seen an alarming rise in AIDS and HIV cases.

The AIDS effect:

- Life expectancy has come down from 62 to 47 years.
- Families are losing earning members, leaving behind orphans.
- Employability of the workforce is posing major problems as the age group from 20 to 50 is the most severely affected, thus reducing their capacity to work and earn.
- The health sector is under tremendous pressure with the medical department's fast depleting resources.
- AIDS has made the continent regress.
- Schools are under stress, with a lot of children afflicted by the HIV virus.

Africa is an under developed country. Illiteracy is rampant, and the level of education is low. Add to this, the lack of medical breakthroughs and the picture becomes even more dismal. Unless, the developed world comes forward with a helping hand, there seems to be no end to the African woes.●

Suvarna Upasani & Tulika Banerji, ANN

As India takes giant strides to carve a niche for itself on the global map; let us take stock of whether our country is on the brink of a boom. What is it that has worked or not worked for us in the past and what is it that is working or is not working for us in the present? Here, we bring 30 elements that showcase India to the world.

India poised!

1. Taj Mahal: The Indian symbol of eternal love and devotion, the TAJ MAHAL



has retained its position in the 'seven wonders' of the world.

2. Woman Power: India has the world's largest number of professionally qualified women and the largest number of working women.

3. Movie mania: India is the largest producer of movies in the world (inclusive of Bollywood and regional films).

4. Mathe-magic: The value of 'pi' was calculated for the



first time in India, by Aryabhata.

5. Zero No. 1: The discovery of the numeral '0' also hap-

pened here, by a man named Buddhaya.

6. Back to the roots: The ancient 'Ayurveda' is the oldest



school of medicine known to mankind.

7. Mother tongue: Sanskrit is considered to be the mother of all languages in the world.

8. Chip in: The Pentium chip was invented by an Indian, Vinod Dahm.

9. Richie Rich: Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries has become the richest man in the world.

10. Cover story: Tennis sensation, Sania Mirza, is the first Indian to feature on the cover of Time magazine.

11. Launch pad: India launched its first indigenous satellite, SLV -3 in 1980, thus entering the exclusive club of nations that can launch satellites.

12. Star wars: Indian born, Sunita Williams, re-wrote history, when she landed successfully on the terra firma, after her stint in space. Suddenly the world is agog with Indian achievers and India making its mark on the global map.

13. Master of the game: Sachin Tendulkar added another feather in the country's cap, by becoming the highest run grosser, in the country. He amassed a score of 11032 runs in test cricket, and has become the third cricketer in the world

to cross the 11000 mark.

14. Salaam Namaste: India is on its way to becoming a hot tourist destination with nearly 2.38 million foreign tourist arrivals in the first six months of the year, adding about \$3,589.83 million in the country's foreign exchange kitty.

15. Sticky wax: After Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan and Aishwarya Rai, it's Salman Khan's turn to be immortalized in London's Madam Tussaud Wax Museum. His wax statue will soon get the coveted place, though in which avtaar, is yet to be seen.

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made."
Albert Einstein

Not so Poised!

1. Population explosion: India is now forecast to surpass China in total population by 2030, five years earlier



than previously thought. India's population is slated to rise by almost 350 million over the next quarter century, twice as fast as the United States, Western Europe and China combined.

2. Jobless: By 2020, India may have 211 million unemployed people. That figure will make India, a country with the largest number of unemployed people in 2020.

3. Skewed Male Female Ratio: India has reported a child sex ratio of 927 girls to 1000 boys in the 2001 census, against a world average of 1045 women to 1000 men. The male female sex ratio is at an all time high since independence.

4. Urbanization: With growing urbanization, there is an increased pressure on land. We are trying to draw more from the natural resources than they can provide us.

5. Deforestation: More and



more forests are being cleared to make land habitable.

6. Corruption: India is among the top 30 most corrupt countries in the world.

7. Brain Drain: Due of lack of adequate seats in the Indian universities, more and more young brains are going abroad for higher education, as even a 90% holder cannot make it to a course and college of his choice.

8. Haves and Have nots: 17.59% population lives below poverty line which is about 230 million. While, 10% of the people living in India earn about 33% of the total income.

9. Potable Water: It is ironical that even after 60 years of independence the government is not able to provide potable water to its citizens.



10. Illiteracy: India is one of the countries (along with the Arab states and sub-Saharan Africa) where the literacy levels are still below the threshold level of 75%.

11. Decline of the Hindi Language: With English becoming the global language and the status symbol, Hindi has taken a back seat.

12. Reservation: Boon or Bane? This social phenomenon is actually depriving deserving candidates of seats, rightfully theirs.

13. Plunging darkness: Some 580 million people live without electricity in India

14. Warped priorities: A mammoth sum is spent on defense issues while a large part of population reels in bad living conditions.

15. Civic Sense: Civic sense of people is on the decline. Being courteous to elders, vacating seats for women or senior



citizens in buses and littering roads, do not by any chance manifest an educated, aware and sensitized populace.●

Howzatti!?

Sports

Tulika Banerji, ANN

In the Bollywood flick 'Guru', Abhishek Bachchan (playing Gurukant Desai) bets on a golf ball, to get a certificate which would give him, the right to trade in the cotton market. In all his innocence, and much to the astonishment of the officer, Abhishek picks up the ball in his hand and puts it into the hole, effortlessly! True enough; that's all that is there in the game of golf, i.e. putting the ball in the hole, albeit with a difference. One doesn't use one's hands; instead, there is a golf club for the purpose! Golf is a game of the elite, the rich and the powerful. From being a much banned sport in Scotland, as it conflicted with the royal practice of archery; golf, has come a long way. It has become a style statement and an issue of status symbol to be the member of the best golf clubs in the country. Today, the golf course is not only a verdant unwinding space, but a social networking hub where business decisions are solemnized and crucial contracts sealed. **The Basics:** Golf is played in an open area called the golf course. A golf



Teeing Off!

The golf course is not only a verdant unwinding space, but a social networking hub

course has a number of holes (varying from nine to eighteen), a teeing area, some hazards and the greens. A golfer has to hit the ball with a club to a series of holes depending on the number of holes that are there. If the ball comes to a halt before the hole, it has to be struck again. The aim is, to put the ball in the hole, with as fewer strokes, as possible.

There are obstacles in the form of water hazards (small water bodies like streams or ponds) and bunkers which have to be overcome by the golfer. Players carry their equipment in carts or alternately, there are caddies for the job. Each hole is categorized by its par, i.e. the number of times the player should hit the ball to drive it to the

GOLF LINGO: Just as one thought that ace is a card and address is where one lives, here's the surprise

- **Ace:** refers to a hole in the golf course.
- **Action:** to spin the ball.
- **Address:** to place the club-head behind the ball.
- **Aim:** it is the direction in which the target (usually the hole) lies.
- **Bite:** to spin the ball in such way that it stops instead of rolling over.
- **Block:** a shot that is played the right.
- **Chip:** a shot that is short
- **Dance Floor:** another term for the green.
- **Dead:** a shot in which there is no favorable outcome.
- **Drive:** a considerably long shot.
- **Fore:** a warning when the ball may hit the players or spectators.
- **Handicap:** a calculation that equals the score of all golfers who are playing.

hole. The player who manages to drive the ball into the hole, with fewest strokes, is generally the winner. In team events, the team that reaches the holes in fewer strokes wins. If the score is even, then the number of holes covered by the teams are counted. **Birds of a feather:** Whoever started golf surely had a fondness for birds, for most of the terms used in the game are names of our feathered friends. Vulture, albatross, eagle and birdie refer to scores below par. Whereas, bogey, double and triple bogey refer to scores above par. **Dear game:** Golf is an expensive game. Some believe that it is as costly as one wants to make it. India has top class greens for avid golfers that offer services even to non-members. The Delhi Golf Club located at Dr. Zakir Hussain Marg is a fine stretch, comprising a dining hall, a party hall and a card room along with the greens. It also organizes professional tournaments, such as the Indian Open, part of the Asian PGA circuit. The fee, usually ranges between Rs. 675 - Rs. 700 for Indian members while it is Rs. 1300 - Rs. 1600 for foreigners, on weekdays. The weekend fee is slightly higher. At the Noida Golf Club situated in Sector 38, Noida, the fee structure is more or less similar. One has to shell out a good amount of moolah to be able to play golf. No wonder, it is the elitist game. ●

Rags To Riches

From a decrepit house in Rajasthan to Kensington Palace Gardens: Laxmi Nivas Mittal's journey

Nishtha Bhatnagar, ANN

He is better known as the Steel Baron of the world. His recent acquisition of Arcelor Steel, has helped him grow three times in size and stature. But not many will be able to relish the sweet taste of success as L.N. Mittal, for in his golden story of success, lie years of toil and hard work. A story on the lines of rags to riches, L.N. Mittal was born on 15th June 1950 in a Rajasthan based

partner in a steel company. Immediately after his graduation, Lakshmi Mittal joined his father's company, Ispat Indo, in 1976. 18 years hence, he started his own venture, with business interests concentrated in international markets like Indonesia, Trinidad and Tobago. It was here that he bought dilapidated steel plants at throwaway prices and converted them into profit centres. It has by far been, this uncanny knack for acquisition, that has held LN Mittal

making a number of acquisitions even in communist countries, like Kazakhstan, Romania and Ukraine. In 1996, New Steel honoured him as the 'Steel Maker' of the year. A couple of years later, in 1998, he received the prestigious 'Willy Korf Steel Vision Award', for outstanding vision, entrepreneurship, leadership and success in global steel development. In 2004, Mittal, acquired a major share in the United States steel market, with the purchase of The International Steel Group.

The Fortune magazine celebrated this achievement by awarding him the title, 'European Businessman of the Year 2004'.

Mittal is known not just for his business acumen, but for his benevolence as well. He is a philanthropist, involved with various charitable trusts.

Also, Mittal is a member of the Foreign Investment Council in Kazakhstan, the International Investment Council in South Africa, the World Economic Forum's International Business Council and the International Iron and Steel

Institute's Executive Committee. He is a Director of ICICI Bank Limited and is on the Advisory Board of the Kellogg School of Management in the United States of America.

Lakshmi N. Mittal, along with the unrelenting support of his wife, Usha, who runs the Indonesian business and his son Aditya and daughter Vanisha, members of the Board of Directors of Mittal Steel, now own, the largest and the most geographically diverse steel company in the world.●

Mittal Mantras

Always think outside the box and embrace opportunities that appear, wherever they might be.

When people can see which direction the leaders are going, it becomes easier to motivate them.

Every one experiences tough times, it is a measure of your determination and dedication and how you deal with them.



Marwari family. The extended family of 20 people, lived in a house built by his grand father. From a house that had bare concrete floors and rope beds to sleep on, to buying out the Kensington Palace Gardens, the world's most plush residence with 12 bedrooms, for \$ 128 million, LN Mittal has come a long way. Mittal completed his graduation from St. Xaviers College, Kolkata, a few years after his father, Mohan Lal Mittal, moved from Rajasthan to Kolkatta as a

in good stead.

Acquisition, has been the tycoon's mantra, because he believes that it takes a long time to set up a capital-intensive steel plant and make its product output, rise high.

Last year, Lakshmi Narayan Mittal aka Lakshmi Niwas Mittal created news, when the Forbes Magazine, listed him as the third wealthiest person in the world, after Bill Gates and Warren Buffet. The last decade has witnessed Mittal steel, (formerly LNM group)

The Incredibles

Tulika Banerji, ANN

A class without furniture, a playground without walls- doesn't quite fit in the image of a regular school, does it? But a school it is, and one which caters to all the children in the area.

Government Lower Primary School in Vaddarahatti, a remote hamlet in East Karnataka, is all that, and more. Run by two passionate teachers, 33 year old Lingappa and his companion Hanumantha Reddy, the school is a joint effort of Karnataka government and Azim Premji Foundation.

Government Lower Primary School has qualified for the A category for village schools. The criterion for this category is that all the children in the area, in the age group of 6 to 11 years are enrolled, 90% attend school regularly, and more than 80%, are able to accomplish learning, expected at this age.

Lingappa and Reddy take obvious pride in the school that they have set up from scratch. The enterprising duo has put its heart and soul in the project and is adored by all the kids. The result is, a warm environment, replete with unconditional love and affection that serves as a catalyst for innocent minds to learn new things.

The two zealous teachers-cum-managers of the school, devote all their time and energy for the upliftment of the community. Till recently, a single



The school in Vaddarahatti, is the labour of love of two heroes who have nurtured it, with complete devotion.

room, was all that the school had in the name of infrastructure. There were no toilets and boundary wall. The lower two feet of the walls in the room, which housed five classes, were used as blackboards to learn and practice. All this did not deter the children though, who belong to the lower strata of income and attended classes without fail. It's almost incredulous that most of the children have parents, who are illiterate.

All lesson plans are formulated by

Reddy and Lingappa, according to the prescribed prospectus, which lays emphasis on both, reading and writing skills. Special classes are arranged after school hours, for slow learners. From mathematical skills to grammar, all subjects are being taught here with finesse and would put any well equipped institution, to shame. Lingappa and Hanumantha, undertake painstaking efforts to train the children for admission to the neighbouring Alluru Middle School, where most of the children go after class 5.

Funded by the Learning Guarantee Programme Award money, and evidently after much goading by Lingappa, a two room building with toilets and a verandah, has been set up. An ambitious Lingappa dreams of eventually establishing a library in the premises. The school in Vaddarahatti, is a true labour of love of the two heroes who have nurtured it with complete devotion and selflessness. Their eyes gleam with delight, when the children accomplish the smallest of feats. Although surrounded by dire conditions, their persistent effort with single minded dedication is laudable. It is both inspiring and thought provoking. If two people alone can bring about so much development, the whole nation put together, could surely do wonders. We only need to look within ourselves, stretch our horizons and rekindle the fire in us.●

Destiny's child

Danseuse/ Actor Sudha Chandran

ANN Correspondent

This is not about a television star. Nor is this about showbiz. It is the saga extraordinaire of a simple girl who braved the odds against her, with grit so fiery, that her life story has made her a living legend.

Born to middle class parents, Sudha began training in Bharatnatyam at an early age. A promising dancer even as a child, she intended to take Bharatnatyam to heights unattained before. But destiny had other plans. Barely 16, just after passing high school, Sudha set out on an annual vacation with her family, to the South, when tragedy struck en route. The bus, in which she was traveling, was hit by a truck; she regained consciousness in a government hospital. Thus began the ordeal - a journey of despair, dejection, anguish and tribulation. The negligent doctors, at the hospital, plastered Sudha's leg, as it had a fractured femur, without tending to an injury in the ankle. In a matter of a week, the condition of her foot worsened. There was only one way her life could be saved- by amputating her limb.

Devastated and forlorn, the castle of her dreams came crashing down. Life changed overnight. The same people who adored her were now eyeing her with sympathy and she came to hate it. The excruciating pain notwithstanding, she fought back her tears.

Not one to give up easily, Sudha chose to fight. Chandran contacted Magsaysay awardee, Dr. Sethi, who had invented the Jaipur foot- a prosthetic limb for the disabled. Getting the foot, was like a new lease of life. Determined to come back on stage, Sudha toiled hard for two long years. Her efforts, paid off eventually - she delivered her

comeback performance to an awestruck audience and received standing ovation. There has been no looking back for this feisty woman ever since.

Sudha's life, has been captured on camera, in the movie- 'Naache Mayuri', where she played herself. She is a known face in the television circuit, doing villainy (a la Ramola Sikand) and comedy with equal ease. She was recently seen in



A woman with insurmountable spunk, Sudha Chandran is the epitome of courage and tenacity.

'Jhalak Dikhla Ja' doing salsa and rumba with unmatched grace.

Sudha Chandran's life, is the stuff, inspiring books are made of. Married to producer Ravi Dang, she is producing a TV serial with him, called 'Waqt ka Dariya'. She is also starring in a play written by Imtiaz Ali, 'Kamaal Karte Ho Aap Bhi'. A woman with insurmountable spunk, Sudha Chandran is the ultimate epitome of courage and tenacity. Someone rightly said, "I was crying because I had no shoes till I saw a boy who had no feet."●

Born free

contd. from page 1

lived without hesitation, it is free. Also, self-reliance without dependence on another for anything means freedom in all its glory.

No Discrimination: Non allegiance to any notion of gender or sexual bias- makes freedom come alive for many youngsters.

The Bird Metaphor: For many, a bird flying high in the sky is emblematic of an omnipresent, all-encompassing sense of freedom.

The Maverick Approach: While there are those who like to use the term freedom, and freedom itself, rather discretely; to many, just the autonomy to do what is forbidden or not allowed, sums up freedom.

For them, freedom is like a license that makes them unstoppable in every sphere of life. "Freedom to me, is the anxiety to perform everything that is not allowed," believes Bhanu Ahuja of Cambridge School, Noida.

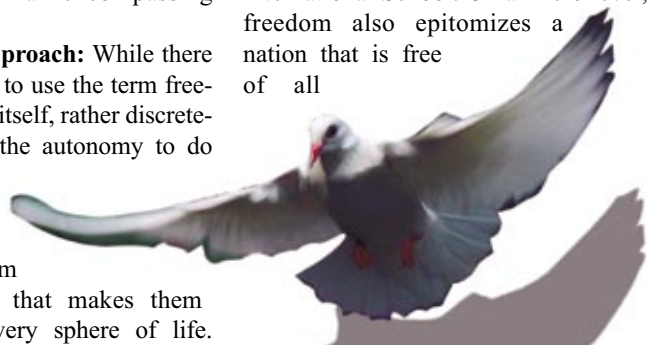
The Judicious Application: The mavericks would have it all their way, had they been given all the freedom in the world they desired; the sagacious ones, however, humbly barter freedom and liberty with an unconditional fulfillment of responsibilities and duties, sometimes without even being told to do so. "Freedom is being responsible without being told to be so. For me, my right to freedom is earned by fulfilling my duties," informs Savyasaachi Jha, Amity International School, Saket.

The Big Picture: Though, for many, freedom is more of a self-expression, there are others who rejoice in the freedom of the country as their own. This

section of youth, visualizes freedom in a macro-cosmic light as a sense of being for India, where it takes its own decisions without any force or pressure from outside its geographical boundaries. "Freedom to me, is a situation where India is absolutely free and can take its own decisions instead of following any other nation of the world," asserts Hansika Chopra, Amity International School. On a micro level, freedom also epitomizes a nation that is free of all

divisions on the basis of religion, caste, sect and gender.

I Know Not What Freedom Means: Even though, most respondents expressed their own individualistic notions of freedom, there were a handful who re-iterated the fact that freedom had no special meaning as it was a phenomenon taken for granted, a general sense of being. To them, freedom would mean something, anything or everything, only when they would get to experience life on the other side; shackled, constrained, contained. "The term freedom is taken for granted everywhere. No one now, except our grandparents and parents understand freedom because they have seen what it is like to be dominated," concludes Ritik Chaturvedi, Amity International School, East Delhi.●



SAVE YOUR SOULS!

“Heal the world; make it a better place, for you and for me and the entire human race....”

Nishtha Bhatnagar & Tulika Banerji,
ANN

Sidney Sheldon in his fictional masterpiece, “Are You Afraid of the Dark”, may have dispelled your global warming fears by blaming it all on a machine called Prima. But the floods, rising mercury and fluctuating weather conditions, he so vividly described in his book, are coming true in our atmosphere today, much to the discomfort and anxiety of scientists and meteorologists across the length and breadth of the globe. While some countries witness excruciatingly warm and long summers, the others get more than their share of rainfall.

Although, the recent Tsunami that claimed thousands of lives in at least ten countries that surround the Indian Ocean, may not be a legitimate or direct offspring of global warming, it does establish lineage in the phenomenon. Depletion and destruction of coral reefs has been cited as a major cause for the Tsunami and scientists say, a build-up of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, from human burning of fossil fuels, threatens to trigger more powerful storms and raise sea levels, exposing coasts to more erosion.

The emission of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases from smokestacks, burning forests and fossil fuels has led to an increase in the average surface temperature of the earth by more than 1 degree Fahrenheit since 1900. Global warming has mainly been



attributed to one phenomenon - the Green House effect. In microcosmic terms, the green house effect, refers to a small glass covered area on your terraces that you build in order to provide the pre-requisite heat to plants. Glass, absorbs heat, but once absorbed, the heat is prevented from escaping the glass structure. Similarly, at the Cosmos level, the greenhouse effect has been a part of the earth's doing, since its earliest days. Gases like carbon dioxide and methane, allow sun-

light to reach the earth, but prevent some of the resulting heat from radiating back into space. Without the greenhouse effect, the planet would never have warmed enough to allow life to form.

The present brouhaha and panic attacks are well justified keeping the above stated scenario in mind. According to experts, the hurricanes that lashed Florida and the Caribbean within a five-week period during summer, intense storms over the western Pacific, heat

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Turn off the PC/ TV when not in use.
- Pile up clothes before washing in the machine. It saves both time and energy.
- Turn off electrical appliances before leaving a room.
- Pool cars while going to the same place.
- Walk when you can.
- Wear warm clothes on a chilly day instead of switching on the heater.
- Keep the filters of your AC clean.
- Drive smart –service your cars at regular intervals.
- Plant a tree.

waves that killed thousands of Europeans last year and a continued drought across the southwestern part of U.S., are only the beginning. Ice is melting faster than anyone predicted in the Antarctic and Greenland, ocean currents are changing and seas are warming. In India alone, the summer months have seen soaring temperatures during extended summer months and shorter winters. Thus, it is our duty as the denizens of this planet to combat global warming not as a charitable gesture, but as a mark of our battle against inexorable forces endangering our very existence.●

Fossil ‘Fool’- Aren’t Ya ?

Taniya Tandon, AIS, Noida

“The world cannot remain a 'fossil fool' anymore, oblivious of the environmental destruction, as it guzzles fuels like coal and oil. The count down has begun, we have only eight years to bring down the global temperature and contain it between 2 - 2.4 degrees Celsius, above the pre - industrial era. This has been endorsed by over 105 countries including US and China”, report on climate by UN apex body.

The entire world, including India, is expected to take drastic steps on a war footing to shift from fossil fuels like coal and oil, which emit global warming gases on burning. Any delay in such steps, would lead to a global warming crisis, thereby making temperatures rise alarmingly. In the period 1970 - 2004, the emissions of heat trapping gases had increased at 70% with corresponding levels of Carbon Dioxide increasing by 80%. It has been cited in the UN report that if the current trend continues, then the dangerous emissions would rise by 90% by 2030.

The recommendations of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) mark repudiation of arguments of both the developing and the developed countries. Countries which are developing like India and China, have put forth their reasoning that reducing emissions would hit their economies, and as per the report too, the global GDP will be blunted by about 3%, if these emission cuts are followed. Developing countries like India, still

much lower on per capita emissions of the global warming gases, will have to make substantial changes in its transport sector, energy supply systems, construction business and agriculture, besides undertaking afforestation like never before. In December 2007, all member nations of the Kyoto Protocol will have a heated debate on the hard targets set for developing countries. However, it is admitted that some countries will bear the brunt more than the others. On the



The count down has begun. We have only eight years to bring down the global temperature.

other hand, the developed countries with a mere 20 % of world's population have been bluntly told that they have to change the lifestyle and consumption patterns of their people. The message for them is that mere adoption of technologies won't do.

If global warming is not arrested immediately, rivers will first flood and then dry up; seas will rise and fertile land will become barren. This will be the result of melting glaciers, indicated by the study initiated by the environmentalists. It's not that just the Gangotri Glacier is receding; actually thousands of Himalyan Glaciers are shrinking in

varying degrees.

Unless we act right now, most Himalayan glaciers will melt by 2030. This will lead to a sharp rise in water levels of rivers, fed by glaciers, which in turn, may cause major floods. After that, there could be a 50% reduction in the volume of water in these rivers, affecting farming in the fertile Indo - Gangetic plain. Apart from water, the soil quality will also worsen, as the amount of silt being brought by rivers will be severely hit. Hydroelectric projects in the Himalayan Rivers will be badly hit. Over 200 projects have been planned. In the absence of these projects, the economy will suffer badly. The impact of this on agriculture is apparent - lack of water will reduce the arable land and that in turn, will have an adverse affect on our food security.

The Report suggests that countries switch from coal to gas for fuel requirements (as it spews lesser emission on burning). We also need to explore other sources of energy like - nuclear energy, as well as renewable sources like hydropower, solar and wind energy. In the Transport sector, the IPCC has firmly endorsed the use of public transport and taxation, to reduce the total number of private vehicles on the road. It also suggested that countries need to plan their cities in a better way so as to reduce the commuting needs and look at use of bio fuels, besides fixing standards for carbon dioxide emissions. Strong standards for use of energy appliances in buildings and strict building codes along with certification of efficiency of the buildings have been recommended by the IPCC as they are not difficult to enforce.

To sum up, Global warming needs urgent global action.●

Ozone & black hole - what's the big deal?

The ozone layer is made up of ozone gas and it protects the earth from excessive harmful rays (like ultra violet). The Ozone layer acts as a lifeguard for the biodiversity on earth. With the ongoing depletion of the ozone layer, a hole (known as black hole) has been formed in the layer. The diminishing populace of planktons, skin cancers, etc., are consequences of the thinning of the ozone layer. Global warming is likely to induce the weakening of the Ozone layer further, making the natural repair procedure even slower.●

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT AND GLOBAL WARMING

If you have ever been to a greenhouse, you must have observed how the glass walls let the light in, but prevent the heat, from escaping. The encapsulated heat, enables the plants to survive in the chilly winter months. Greenhouse gases in



the atmosphere, behave much like the glass panes in a greenhouse. These gases make a blanket around the earth. When the sun's rays, enter the atmosphere, the heat energy is absorbed by the surface of the earth and is reflected back. Some of it returns to space but majority, is trapped by the gaseous blanket around, consequently warming up our world. This phenomenon is called green house effect.

Were it not for the greenhouse effect, our earth would be unimaginably cold and uninhabitable. However, excessive heating is undesirable, but sadly a reality today. This is the root cause of global warming.●

The DEVIL'S ADVOCATE:
Is global warming really that dangerous?
Find out more on page 6.

Heated waters

Why are coral reefs important to humans?

Apart from helping to sustain a crucial ecosystem within the ocean, and acting as an important source of biodiversity, coral reefs are useful in a variety of other ways. Corals remove and recycle carbon dioxide from the air. The reefs themselves also shelter land from harsh ocean storms and floods, and provide resources for fisheries-supplying fishes, crustaceans, and mollusks. Plus, they attract millions of tourists every year.

Beyond that, there's evidence that organisms, within the coral reefs, could potentially be used to create medicine, including anti-cancer drugs and a compound that blocks ultraviolet rays. Currently, coral skeletons are often used as bone substitutes, in reconstructive bone surgery.

What is coral bleaching, and how is it related to global warming?

Bleaching occurs when coral polyps, stressed by heat or radiation, expel the symbiotic algae-the zooxanthellae-that live in the reefs and provide the coral most of their food and oxygen. The reefs turn a whitish color, and the corals have little energy to grow or reproduce. Usually the coral can recover unless the bleaching is severe enough, in which case, whole reefs can be destroyed.

Bleaching can be caused by a variety of factors, including diseases and ultraviolet radiation, but scientists are increasingly noting that sudden rises in water temperature are playing a major role. Between 1980 and the present time there have been over 60 cases of coral bleaching around the world, and they are becoming increasingly common, especially during El Nino events, which increased sea temperatures in the eastern Pacific by several degrees and caused major bleaching events. Bleaching may become even more widespread if global warming continues to increase the sea temperature.

If coral reefs are damaged, then the world's vulnerability to Tsunamis and other floods goes up multifold.●

My Dream, My Freedom



"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

Cesar Chavez

I have been living a dream for the last five years. A dream that sets me free. A dream that gives me the power to be what I want to be. A dream that I can share with one and all and let everyone become a part of. A dream that empowers on two levels. In the first, I see it exuding a spirit found nowhere else in the world. The spirit and strength of free speech and expression that this nation bestows on all of us. At the first level, Amity's Students' newspaper will express, inform, educate, humor and entertain. But the one thing that it will stand for is an unending questioning spirit. And while it questions, it will also provide solutions and open up avenues for progress. It will stand for a seeking spirit and embody a responsible stand and view. At the second level, it will create individuals with an expression so articulate, and a mind so opinionated that the world will be their stage, and a captive audience a part of their constant existence. This newspaper is another attempt by us, at Amity, to provide our students, with an environment so conducive, that they become responsible, confident individuals and worthy citizens of this country. As for me, the seeds have been sown and though
*The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep. •*

In the Doc'k'

One year stint in the backward villages of India- compulsory for budding doctors?

Ashima Khanna, AIS, NOIDA

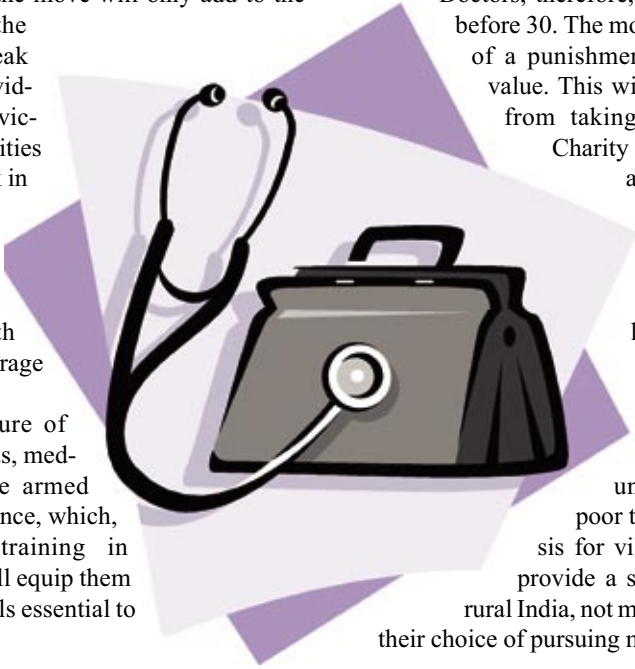
The recent proposal of the Union Health Ministry to make a year's stint in the country's backward villages compulsory for MBBS students, thereby adding another year to the course, has started yet another nationwide debate with contradictory views coming from different quarters on the subject.

VIEW

This move will improve the health conditions of villagers. As India takes pride in its super specialty health care system, which is making it a favourite medical destination, the move will only add to the image. However, the picture is very bleak when it comes to providing primary health services. The medical facilities are not up to the mark in backward villages. This step will definitely improve the health scenario, thereby raising health standards and the average longevity. With the varied nature of exposure in rural areas, medical students will be armed with valuable experience, which, along with their training in Medical Colleges, will equip them with professional skills essential to serve the society.

COUNTER-VIEW

Adding one year to the course will make it too long, as graduation itself will be five & a half years with three more years of post graduation. Doctors, therefore, cannot start their life before 30. The move appears to be more of a punishment than one of moral value. This will discourage students from taking the MBBS course. Charity comes from the heart and cannot be forced upon. The sombre infrastructural facilities available to the doctors in villages will be highly demoralising to their city breeding and the discontent and unhappiness may unleash in the form of poor treatments and diagnosis for villagers. The aim is to provide a sound medical base to rural India, not make the young re-think their choice of pursuing medicine.



Upon balancing the two diverse aspects of the proposal, it is felt that interests of the medical students are also equally important and per force, if a disgruntled lot is sent to the backward/rural areas, it will do more harm than good. Hence, in the interests of the rural population in particular and the society at large, it would be necessary to strike the right balance by adjusting the extra year within the present curriculum. At the same time, if the students are eligible for attractive remuneration with proper stay arrangements while they serve in backward areas, it would surely encourage them to devote their time for the cause, quite willingly. When most of the doctors are more than willing to take up jobs abroad, they can also serve their own country with enthusiasm and zeal, provided their interests are adequately taken care of. •

Lonely Planets

Poonam Singh Jamwal, ANN

This story is about a fifteen year old bright, young person living in the pulsating heart of the city. He has a great personality, lives in a plush apartment, has adoring teachers, a designer family and an active social life. Amidst the comfort of his swank life, he is overcome by loneliness. He seeks to fill it through movies, gadgets, parties and internet friends. His relationships are superficial. I, me, myself are all that matter to him. He is unaware that connecting with people and reciprocating, is an essential life skill. He cruises on alone in narcissist zeal. An increasing number of young people in the city, are leading lonely lives. The loneliness, is not due to lack of playmates, but due to absence of connection. "Maintaining a balance between self and relations is now a forgotten art. In the drive to gain more, emotional ties take a back

(In)SIGHTINGS

seat," says Shalini Katoch, Channel Head, Indiatimes Dating. The true essence of life lies in the recognition that we are special in this world, not because of ourselves but because of the people who think that we are special. "Lonely planets revolving in a space called earth...a global phenomenon that goes along with the current mind set of people. It's out there like plague." says Mona Shipley, Manager Scholarships, Training & Exchanges, The British Council. Our accomplishments and joys are joyful only if we have people in our lives who feel proud of our achievements. That is why during every award function, the awardee, looks for his loved ones, to share the glory with and acknowledge their role in his ascent. The accolades, awards, lovely cars and houses are just objects that become special, when shared with dear ones. Step out of your private worlds and connect with life. Catch up with your aunt, get an update on your grandma's soap heroine or offer to take your mom shopping. Your loved ones will like it and so will you. Live to love. •

Bon Voyage!



From its inception to release, The Global Times has taken me through a series of emotions and made me swap motley of roles. At times, I have felt like a mother waiting to see what her new born will look like. At others, I have left like a first officer who, strapped in his cockpit, is desperately waiting to take his maiden flight. In both my roles, I've felt a certain fear, a certain trepidation; the fear of acceptance bordering on the fear of survival. But as soon as this fear creeps in, it metamorphoses itself into an undwindling excitement and happiness. Through my six year stint with journalism, I have worked with numerous organisations and myriad talent. A students' newspaper posed its own variegated challenges but the plunge has surely been worth it. From an extremely enthusiastic Student Edit Body to an equally co-operative team, I have only known one kind of movement in the past three months, **ASCENT**. Editing has always been challenging and writing, both challenging and exciting. But the past three months have trickled in yet another kind of delightful and awe inspiring activity-edit meetings with ideation as their pith. The edit teams from all schools have left me pleasantly surprised. The unrelenting spirit of the students, their ability to think out of the box and a flair for writing so delectable, that it would leave the maestros of the world of journalism, astonished, have made the past few months, absolutely delightful. Now that my fledgling gears up for its nouvelle flight, with its new found wings, I hope and pray, it soars and rises to skies high and unknown. •

The Devil's Advocate or The Realist?

**Swetha Balachandran
AIS, NOIDA**

Few ideas have been more deeply entrenched in our way of life than that of the impending ecological doom. There is nothing wrong with attempting to make the often difficult and complex findings of science available to a wider audience, but environmentalists often present only a one-sided picture and hide important disagreements on the issue. People have been warned numerous times that pollution is a threat to all life on the planet. Pessimistic appraisals of the health of the environment, have been issued with increasing urgency. Ironically though, all over the world, environmental trends have largely been positive; environmental regulations have proved to be strikingly effective and have made economies all over the world stronger, not weaker. Nevertheless, the vocabulary of environmentalism, has continued to be dominated by images of futility, crisis, and decline. We often hear cries of how the

planet can no longer endure the present modes of human exploitation and that the environmental problems are a greater threat to Earth's life-sustaining systems than a nuclear war. However, this line of thought is an anachronism, rendered obsolete by its own success. It seems as if environmentalists are the only ones reluctant to acknowledge the good news and are purposely underplaying the benefits of the

One-sided warnings have led people to believe predictions that have been falsified by events.

Green Movement. They are afraid to admit the news, because it undercuts the stylish pessimism that they have resorted to for a long time. But one-sided warnings and incomplete accounts have led people to believe projections and warnings that have, not surprisingly, been falsified by

events. No one knows what the future holds. However, reports that oceans would be dead by now were surely greatly exaggerated. Birds continue to sing in the morning, and they certainly do not have to face the rigors of an ice age caused by humans or global warming caused by the heat of increased generation of energy. With what confidence, should we then, look upon the projected horrors of global warming, rain forest destruction, or toxic waste, given the record of the past? This failure of prophecy may be an intellectual weakness, yet it continues, because it provides the popularizers with profound rhetoric strength. It releases the power of fear. It has been observed that we fear things less the more distant they are. So, to arouse fear, the environmentalists have to present pictures of imminent calamities that could befall their relatively comfortable and well-off readers. However, the prospect of my getting skin cancer due to ozone depletion does cause havoc. Without such immediacy, one could only arouse a sentiment like compassion, not fear. •

In Pursuit of creativity

**Soha Chhaya
AIS, Sec. 46, Gurgaon**

As a student of class X, I was first very reluctant to take the onus of a privilege of such magnitude, fearing that its importance would be lost, what with school life and pressures of education. How very wrong was I. I know now, this new phase has awakened the hunger for creativity, stimulating my mind, rejuvenating my thought; in fact, far from being an added weight, to be a part of this team has become an outlet for all emotions, a tangy twist to an otherwise monotonous life and has recreated positivism in my soul, refreshing the thirst to strive for the best. When I was first told that I was a part of the prestigious edit team, all I could think about was playing my part, proving my mettle, emphasizing my point of view. But the very first meeting proved to me, that we are a team, and we work as one. Ideas are not enforced, they are shared. Viewpoints are not debated upon, they are enhanced. Getting together with the top professionals, most experienced and knowledgeable teachers, and students, as enthusiastic and eager to learn, as me, has been enriching. I had a whale of a time brainstorming with my peers, discussing with the teach-

ers present, sharing my point of view, having it analyzed, torn to shreds and ultimately refined to the hilt. Just one meeting made me realize, though perspectives are many, the world is but one. How you see it, makes all the difference. The edit team, with 30-odd perspectives, all different, each unique, led to the creation of a world beyond all cynicism, as every negative was rubbed down. Yet our world is not idealistic, it is as real as it can get, for it is the world seen through umpteen pairs of eyes, magnified twofold, as we strive to show you wonders beyond those you see. With this aim, I cheer on all forthcoming meetings and discussions, and promise to keep our creativity flowing. Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality, overcomes everything. •

Thin ain't in

Today, there is growing awareness among designers that a bag of bones does not carry a worthwhile image on the ramp.

Deepti Batra, ANN

The world of fashion and cat-walk has been as much about slim, well-toned models as garments and creativity. Soon however, the concept of well toned has changed to thin, bone revealing, anorexic bodies. While India continued to give the world lush, curvaceous bodies in the form of Aishwarya Rai, Sushmita Sen and Lara Dutta, the standards set by Naomi Campbell and Monica Bellucci were soon replaced by thin skeletal frames walking the ramp in most fashion shows abroad.

The trend continued for a while, till the results of anorexic lifestyles started surfacing with rampant health disorders, among models and young teenagers aping them. Thus, the fashion fraternity woke up to the insensitive consequences of the wrong health images, created by the severely emaciated models, cat walking across the glittery ramps of the world. Today, there is growing awareness among the designers that a bag of bones does not carry a worthwhile image for their products on the ramp. While Indian teenagers and youngsters have shown great magnetism for all that is western,



Ana Carolina Reston, 21 who worked for some of New York's top agencies, starved herself to death. At the time of her death, the dark-haired, 5-foot-7 stunner - a client of renowned agencies including Ford, Elite and L'Equipe - weighed only 88 pounds.



it's time they stopped imitating models abroad. In fact, they should look at Indian models to get inspired, who, in sharp contrast to their western counterparts, have well-endowed and fuller bodies. As a matter of fact, the Indian form has created waves in the international scene earlier and still continues to do so. Shilpa Shetty, who has typical Indian curves, went on to become quite a hit, after her victory in the British

In contrast to their western counterparts, Indian models have lush and filled up bodies

reality show, Big Brother. Marks and Spencer, the largest clothing retailer in the U.K. has roped her in, as the next face of the company, owing to her potential as a style icon, primarily due to her superbly toned body. India has also stood witness to a time when for consecutive years, Indian women bagged the coveted crowns - Miss Universe or Miss World.

Thus, next time you feel those love handles protruding out when you look at yourself in the mirror, make sure you consider one of our Indian beauties for your potion of inspiration. ●

Dateline

■ On 9th September 2006 at Madrid fashion show, Spain, **Leonor Perez Pita**, director of Madrid's show, also known as the Pasarela Cibeles announced that models with Body Mass Indexes (BMI) under 18 will not be allowed to

participate in the fashion week. She said, "The restrictions, could be quite a shock to the fashion world, at the beginning, but I'm sure it's important as far as health is concerned."

Following this, a number of models were turned down.

■ On 21st September 2006 **Giorgio Armani** shared his views on the models he prefers to employ: "I have never wanted to use girls that are too skinny. I prefer girls that show off my clothes

in the best way."

■ On 1st December 2006 Brazilian modelling agencies were asked to necessitate prospective models to have medical certificates saying, they are healthy. Those who wished to be models, would have to take blood tests to get their certificates. This was a critical trigger on the evidence of the death of two Brazilian models, **Luisel Ramos**, age 22 (on 2nd August 2006) and **Ana Carolina Reston**, age 21 (on 17th November

2006) due to anorexia nervosa and related causes.

■ On 18th December 2006 Milan fashion show banned models with BMI under 18.5 and models under age 16.

■ On 25th January 2007 Spain's government, reached an agreement with major fashion designers to create standards for women's clothing sizes.

■ On 13th February 2007, another Brazilian model **Eliana Ramos**, age 18, younger sister of Luisel Ramos died of heart failure due to anorexia.

Two Is Company

Anamika Khanna and Manish Arora are the first Indian designers to have spots on the next Paris fashion week

Nishtha Bhatnagar, ANN

Paris Fashion Week, Fall 2007, might have seen Jodhpuri pants and Ikat prints thrown into Balenciaga's somewhat multicultural collection. But this time round Paris got to see some real Indian action, as designers Anamika Khanna and Manish Arora, became the first Indians from the fashion frontier, to showcase their work, at the globally renowned fashion extravaganza.

The city of fashion had, thus far, only witnessed the craft of ace designer Ritu Beri, who has been displaying her work in Paris consistently for the past nine years now. Khanna and Arora's entry, is a new feather in the Indian fashion beret, and the designers have been euphoric about the exposure and platform. "The initial reaction was one of intense exhilaration, but soon the pressure and sense of responsibility, had begun to take over," says Khanna, who has been retailing in many stores abroad. Considering that the list of participants included stalwarts like YSL, Givenchy, Balenciaga and LV, the Indian mascots surely had stiff competition to face. However, as Indian

fashion industry insiders believed, it was individuality blended with ethnicity, that turned out to be their charm at the fashion week.

"The most important points to keep in mind while showing your designs abroad are, to retain your own identity and individuality," says Ritu Beri. "Do what you believe in."



and continuity," adds Beri. "It's essential that the designers continue to participate in the same fashion week over a span of time. It is only then, that people start to recognise your creations and start looking out for you. Business can only develop through consistent participation."

As far as the designs were concerned, Arora's Red Carpet Style gown, that had 1500 multi-coloured butterflies that glowed in the dark, stole the show. Another jacket that had the game of snakes and ladders in applique also turned out to be a show stopper. Khanna on the other hand, carried a light collection the the fashion week. "From the beginning my endeavour was to stop myself from going overboard," she said. "My forte has always been fabrics and that's what I used, as my strength in Paris." Khanna and Arora may surely have been the first Indians on scheduled slots participating in Paris, but other designers, who have made a mark on the international fashion

scene, cannot surely be ignored. "Participating in international fashion weeks is a great learning curve," says designer Ashish Soni, who has participated in the New York fashion week. "Of course, the more, the merrier; Khanna and Arora's participation has only made the Indian flag fly higher."

"International fashion weeks surely teach you how to meet deadlines and what true fashion is all about," concludes Beri. ●



The L to E of Lifestyle

A country of farmers has metamorphosed into a fix-it nation, a consumer goldmine

Shivika Naveen
AIS Saket

L-I-F-E-S-T-Y-L-E is the nine letter word that dominates society today. What is lifestyle? Is it the clothes one wears? Is it the food one consumes? Is it the movies one watches? Is it the social circle one moves in? The word 'lifestyle' encompasses all these and more. Lifestyle is no longer 'page 26' of the weekly Ladies' Home Journal! It's a thriving multi-million dollar industry. The concept of lifestyle has acquired paramount significance lately, thanks to the glamorous world of show-biz. However, today, the definition of lifestyle and its appeal have crossed all confines. People either have a custom made lifestyle to suit their pay cheques or are slogging very hard to achieve a desirable and socially acceptable lifestyle. It

is remarkable how a country of farmers and clerks has metamorphosed into a fix-it nation, a consumer goldmine and manufacturing giant.

Top of the line cellphones are the choice of the lifestyle brigade. Utility is immaterial; fashion is now a medium of iconography. A lifestyle comes with its own appendages and mostly, they are 'money' and 'time'.

For a teenager, lifestyle entails clothes, movies, ipods and holiday destinations. Quite often, lifestyle becomes the defining factor for cliques in the social hierarchy. But

lifestyle is not necessarily shallow and fake; it can be a determining aspect of one's life. It all depends on how one perceives it.

Due to recent overexposure to the west, the youth today, can be easily segmented on the basis of the lifestyle they pursue. There's the typical college lifestyle - partying, shopping and club-hopping. Then there is the call centre lifestyle which kicks off after the graveyard shift and then, of course, the school lifestyle wherein there are books, exams, classes and tuitions. Not to forget boyfriends, girlfriends, bunking and the SMSes. By this definition, it is fairly easy to identify lifestyle if one knows which category one belongs to. It's just a matter of being oneself and defining one's pattern of life with the help of certain socially relevant standards. So, what's your lifestyle quotient? ●



"The crucial aspects here are consistency and continuity."
Ritu Beri



Mere Humdum Mere Dost!

Swarn Pannu, AIS Sector-46, Gurgaon

"To love without condition, to talk without intention, to give without reason and to care without expectation, is the heart of true friendship."

Adolescence is the age when friends matter the most. Good friends act as guides, mentors and philosophers. They help you wade through the joys and sorrows of your life. They support you in your ups and downs. The best friends that we make in life, are the one's we make in school or college. These are the relationships that we carefully nurture and cultivate over a long period of time. The best way to shut out the world and be you, is to be with friends; such is the power of friendship. Not a care in the world, not a thought for tomorrow, we just glide from one happy moment to another, when we spend time with our cool buddies. Friendship truly fills our world with the colorful blossoms of love and care. We cherish each and every



lovely moment that we spend with our peer group, as we unfold unlimited joys and happiness. Good friends give us a comfort zone, where we can discuss everything under the sun, even topics, which are otherwise taboo. Friends act as confidantes and counselors.

Friends are not just for good times. Friendship does not just mean gossiping, hanging around or laughing together. Its true meaning lies in the tears we share, the support we provide, when our friends are in need and when we even understand what their silence has to say. As they say, a friend in need is a friend indeed.

It is not always necessary, that friends remain together for ever. They may be busy in their own worlds, but the bond they have, always keeps them close, because of the love they share. Friends are those who think and care about you, even when you are far away from them. Friends fight with each other and for each other. When friends are together even tough things become easier.

Although friendship seems to be such a simple and beautiful relationship, sometimes it can prove to be misleading. The

kind of friends we choose, plays a very crucial role in guiding our lives. It has been truly said, "Show me your friends and I will tell you who you are". Children often indulge in smoking and drinking alcohol so as to exhibit an attitude. They go astray even before they can realize;

Good friends act as guides, mentors, confidantes and counsellors.

such is the impact of 'peer pressure'. They run after the 'cool quotient', trying to ape the west, lest they are mocked and jeered at. To maintain their reputation amongst their pals, they sometimes cross all boundaries and

do not hesitate to lie to their parents. They disobey them and pay no attention to their duties and responsibilities. They waste their money and precious time that should be devoted to studies. Exposure to indecent television and movie content can often end up making youngsters go awry.

We must remember that true friends are those, who help us understand the difference between the good and bad, and always guide us on the right path. Friendship is one of the most beautiful gifts, God has given us. Good friends should be cherished and cultivated for a life time. ●

Sibling or Rivals

From love and dependability to anger and hatred. Siblings are increasingly becoming envious of each other

Nishtha Bhatnagar, ANN

Sibling Rivalry, a phenomenon that is frequently witnessed between siblings, sometimes over trivial, and sometimes over complicated, irreversible issues, can pose major problems for parents. Much to their grief and disbelief, children, end up swinging between feelings of jealousy and animosity, towards each other. Surprisingly, according to many psychologists, sibling rivalry begins, even before the second child is born and only increases, with time. "My parents had my sister, almost 8 years after I was born. I had become so used to being treated like a princess that the whole idea of sharing my things and most importantly my parents, my omnipresence in their life, with anyone else, ignited feelings of anger and jealousy," says Sneha Chauhan, a college student. Often, the rivalry begins when the stage to share things, example toys or belongings, arises. It becomes increasingly difficult for children to give up their possessions, even for a short while. And what may worsen the situation and end up making the elder child more stubborn, is the support that the parents show for the younger sibling. "Every time I have a fight with

my younger brother over something, my parents hop in to tell me, how, it's my responsibility to take care of my younger brother and give him whatever he wants. I fail to understand this bias and have started hating my younger brother for this reason," says Arpita Chopra. Looks, can also play an important role in adding fuel to the sibling rivalry fire. Often height, complexion, body structure and over all looks can create major complexes. "My elder sister is a lot fairer and prettier than me. Although, I am taller and thinner, I constantly feel inferior to her. She always encourages me by saying that I am much better looking than her and even criticizes her self by calling her self a midget, but that doesn't leave me at peace. I fight with her for various things and end up saying some really horrible things to her. I know my dusky complexion and small eyes are not her fault, but somehow I can't help my feelings," says Pratishtha, a class XI student of Laxman Public School.

Sometimes, a child's special needs due to physical or mental issues, may require more parental time and attention. Other kids may pick on this disparity and act out to get attention, or out of fear of what's happening to the other child. "My younger brother was born spastic. My parents thus, are always on their toes when it comes to his needs. As a child I used to intentionally do nasty

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

Even before the second child is born, parents should begin to talk, prepare and convince their older children, as to how important their help is going to be, in the rearing of their new baby brother or sister. There should be sufficient age gap between the birth of the children. This



“I fight with her for various things and end up saying some really horrible things to her. I know my dusky complexion and small eyes are not her fault but somehow I can't help my feelings.”

things in order to seek my parents' attention. It's only now that I realize their pain and trauma and have become a support system. As a child, even my brother's disability couldn't steer me clear of hostile feelings", says Vikram Singh, an MBA aspirant.

will help to avoid looking after similar needs of two siblings, at the same time. Parents' love for both the children, should be unconditional and non partisan. The psychological damage occurs, when siblings become aware of any preferences. ●

Can't live without

Nikita Bakhshi AIS, Pushp Vihar

“Oh my God, why do you fight with your Didi, so much?” When mom says this to my brother I'm happy, but only for a second. Then I think, why is mom scolding my cute little brother? Yes, we siblings fight, we argue, we



want the same things, want to watch different channels on TV and want different menus for meals. There is a competition going on for everything & we always fear that our parents are partial and take sides.

Well, this is what growing up is all about! Behind all the fights & spats, there is deep love & affection. The bottom line is - we can-not live without each other.

Parents can also ensure that sibling relationships remain strong by being fair & impartial while solving their differences.

Friends, believe me, nothing can compare to growing up with siblings, our best friends for now & for life! ●

COUNSEL'S KORNER

IN FOCUS: SIBLING RIVALRY

My elder sister is a bully. She always has her way and my parents always support her. Consequently, I end up feeling depressed and lonely. What should I do?

Kirti, Age 13

Kirti, the most important thing for you at this point, is to communicate your feelings and emotions to your parents. Tell them how you feel. Sit with them and thrash out all your concerns. Don't feel lonely; it might just be your perception.

My younger brother, two years my junior, is keen on becoming an IAS officer. My father insists that I take up the civil services as well. However, I wish to pursue fine arts. I am unable to handle the pressure.

Anurag, Age 19

Anurag the best thing for you would be to take a career aptitude test which will help you know your interest, your aptitude and your skills better. I am sure once you have the results in hand, you will be able to convince your father better.

I am the middle one. I've grown up hearing, how smart my elder sister is and how responsible my younger brother is. Though I've had my share of achievements and I know my parents love me, I find myself fighting with my siblings on petty issues. How can I help it?

Ishita, Age 16

Ishita I am sure you are a mature girl now and you do understand that every body in this world is different and have their own individualistic personality traits. You should first know the situations that make you angry and the reasons that make you lose your temper. You definitely need to work on your temper. Need be, then see a psychologist.

This is about my younger sister who happens to think that she is inferior to me. She constantly compares our appearances (I am the fairer one). She keeps trying out various skin lightening products. I've tried explaining to her that complexion does not matter; but, to no avail. How can I help her?

Gargi, Age 18

Gargi let me first congratulate you for being so supportive of your sister. Sit with her and work on her strengths and weaknesses. Try shifting her focus from complexion to her strengths. Boost her morale and self confidence. ●

Log on to: www.amitycare.net

Reaching for the STARS

Tulika Banerji, ANN

Nothing succeeds like success. On top of the Amity world, CBSE toppers Monika and Amol reveal their success mantras.

MONIKA CHATURVEDI of Amity International School, Noida secured a whopping 96.6% in CBSE class XII exams, the highest in the Amity fraternity. Originally from U.P., Monika resides in Sarita Vihar with her parents and brother. A diligent young lady, she believes, hard work is the only key to success. Excerpts from the interview.



What / whom do you attribute your success to? Hard work, self-confidence, my teachers and most importantly, my parents who encouraged me whenever I felt low.
How many hours did you study each day? I did not have any fixed hours as such. I studied regularly, especially during exams.
What kind of recreation did you indulge in? None whatsoever. I just concentrated on my studies.
Which career path do you wish to follow? MBA
Your motto in life? Never lose hope. Always be positive.

Meet CBSE class X topper, AMOL CHAUHAN of Amity International School, Saket.

Amol is the youngest son of the chairperson, Dr. Amita Chauhan. He has made his school proud by scoring a perfect 100 in Science and 99 each in IT and Social Sciences, aggregating a total of 96.4%. A bright boy, Amol loves to play basket ball and cricket, watches television to recharge his grey cells, and has keen interest in video games. Here, he shares his success story.



How does it feel to be on the top?

Very nice. I really wanted to make it because whoever is the topper gets his/ her name displayed on the board. It's like a dream come true.
How did you prepare for the exams- any special timetable? I studied normally, just increased the tempo during pre-boards. I avoided studying late in the night and tried to wake up early.
What did you do in your leisure hours? I watched television and also played basket ball at times.
Whom do you attribute your achievement to? One-My teachers, who really helped me by giving extra classes and special worksheets when I was away for competitions. Two-My family, especially my mother, who gave me lots of juices!
Your mantra of success? Work hard and concentrate on what you are doing at that moment. While studying, don't think of games and when playing, don't worry about studies!
What is your ambition in life? I want to study engineering from US and eventually become an entrepreneur.
Any advice for upcoming CBSE aspirants? Don't be scared. It's not a big thing. Just Work hard.●

Amity International School, Sec 46, Gurgaon

The Other Side

Over the years, Amitians have known their beloved Chairperson as an iron-willed lady who has been the driving force to the the institution and its students. Through this interview, Dhruv Sethi, Soha Chhaya and Prakriti Sethi of AIS, Sector-46, Gurgaon, in a candid tête-à-tête with her, bring forth the other side of her personality. Here's the revelation!

Soha: We have come to know that you like literature. Which is your favorite book?
Chairperson: Books are so powerful that they govern the whole world. Though I have read many masterpieces, I would say that I have a special interest in spiritual and inspirational books. I also love autobiographies, especially of women.
Prakriti: We often hear you humming tunes of Amity songs. Apart from those, which is your favorite song?
Chairperson: Aldous Huxley once said, 'After silence that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible, is music.' Yes, music does soothe me, especially if it is soulful. I also get a boost listening to peppy songs, especially the song 'chali chali' from the movie 'Baghban'. It sets my feet tapping.
Dhruv: It is said that colors reflect one's personality? Which is your favourite colour?
Chairperson: I like invigorating colors and vivid hues. I like colors of serenity too, like white and

beige, but the color red holds a special place in my heart and of course, my wardrobe.
Prakriti: Let us talk about movies now, Ma'am. Which is your favorite movie?
Chairperson: Oh! I liked the movie 'Guru'. It was wonderful. I liked Roman Holiday too, a lot. In fact, all movies of Audrey Hepburn are evergreen and my favorites.



Dhruv: You've been all around the world and tasted exotic cuisines. Which is your favourite food?
Chairperson: I love Indian food the most; Italian food, is also a favourite of mine.
Prakriti: What was that one quality in Mr. Chauhan that impressed you so much that you took a decision to marry him?
Chairperson: It was my parents who decided my marriage and I am

thankful to them, for taking such a good decision. Mr. Chauhan is very caring and chivalrous. He is a caring son, husband and father. He is so optimistic that he actually charges the atmosphere around him with positive energy. He has an undying faith in God. I remember, once his mother was very ill. He flew down from Germany to celebrate her birthday (tears well up in her eyes) and spend time with her. She left for her heavenly abode a few days later.
Soha: So much has been said about success. What is your definition of success?
Chairperson: I like a state of continued becoming. He, who learns the essence of time management and works hard, not only for himself, but also for society is truly successful. A successful person is one, who is happy and keeps others happy.
Dhruv: What are you passionate about?
Chairperson: I am passionate about my children, and my children at Amity. I wish to devote my life and soul to mould them into good citizens. I want to see them achieve their dreams and be happy.
Prakriti:Which is the one unforgettable moment of your life?
Chairperson: On one of my birthdays, my children and all my relatives, got me a big heart shaped cake and a 'Best Mom in the World' certificate at 12 o'clock in the night. It was so touching. It is one moment that is etched with great love in my memory.●

Been There, Done That

Akhilesh Bakshi, the pride of our school, brought us laurels not only by scoring 93.6% in class XII (science stream) board exams, but also by making it to the prestigious IIT Powai for BE in Mechanical Engineering. Akhilesh has amazed everyone on earlier occasions as well, by proving his mettle in extra-curricular activities such as sports and debate competitions. His crowning glory according to his teachers, however, is his humility. "I owe a lot to my parents' consistent support and the perennial guidance and motivation of my teachers," said Akhilesh after his success in the examinations.



At the class X level, it was **Chinmay Sahoo** who did the school proud by scoring a lofty 95.6%. Another feather in his cap is his 14th rank in NTSE at the state level. "The blessings of my parents and teachers' faith in my abilities, gave me the confidence to aim for the sky and strive for it, and here I am," said a thrilled Chinmay after his triumph.



Momentous Memories

Capsuled: Amity SpaceSet Team's visit to NASA's Johnson Space Centre

Mayank Gureja
AIS, Saket

There are many people in the world who carry in their hearts a dream to visit NASA, the epitome of science and technology, the frontier of human imagination. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has awed youngsters since years, and many hope that one day, they would be on the NASA podium, discussing their latest groundbreaking discovery. Ten students of AIS, Saket were among those youngsters who changed their long cherished dream to reality. Under the guidance of the Chairperson Dr. Amita Chauhan,

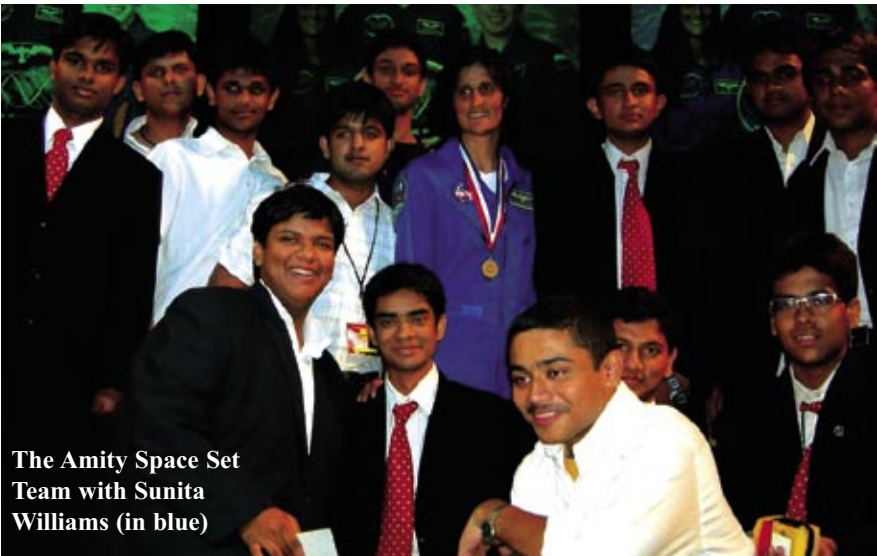
the Amity team was the first ever from Delhi, to be selected for the International Space Settlement Design Competition (ISSDC), which is held at the Gilruth Center of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas (USA). The competition scenario is set a few decades in the future, and involves the creation of business proposals with respect to construction of human settlements in planetary orbits or planetary surfaces. The proposal is a highly technical document which includes detailed engineering plans of the settlement. It requires students to sketch every micro and macro detail of the functioning of the settlement, right down to the colour of the

roofs to the fuels and materials utilized. The competition requires a thorough analysis of the settlement and its technological snags, in order to come up with the most efficient solution. In the ISSDC 2007, a total of 4 companies comprising 3

NASA DIARY

teams each, competed for the winning proposal. Teams from Romania, Australia, Uruguay, India and USA participated in the competition. We were designated the 'Doulgedyne Astro Systems and Flechtel Constructors' company, which consisted of AIS- Saket (New Delhi, India), Cerritos

High School (California, USA) and St. Laurence's College (Brisbane, Australia). Our forte was technical accuracy and thorough knowledge of available technology. Department-wise training sessions were held to assist the participants in the technical details of the project. The Australians brought with them management skills which greatly helped in organizing and assembling the work. When the order of presentation was decided via lucky-draw, we found ourselves at number 4, the last ones to present. Our presentation met with applause, as the audience lauded our skills in time management. Johnson Space Centre had organised an official tour of the facility, which we enjoyed immensely. Though the competition went in favour of Grumbo Airspace, a collaboration of two American teams and a Romanian team, our disappointment soon changed into exhilaration with the surprise visit of Sunita Williams. Sunita shared with us, her experiences in space, and the medical traumas the body has to cope with in micro-gravity conditions. She clicked photographs with us, and encouraged us to keep forging ahead towards our cosmic dreams and aspirations.●



The Amity Space Set Team with Sunita Williams (in blue)

The Amity SpaceSet Team members:

Amol Chauhan
Mayank Gureja
Ankur Bakshi
Ketan Sharma
Arani Chaudhuri
Riju Singh
Gaurav Misra
Vatsal Jain
Kaustubh Banerjee
Akshay Goel
Prithish Kumar Singh (Advisor)



Driving Away the Woes

High on innovation and low on budget: Amity's Hybrid Car

Nishtha Bhatnagar, ANN

While most of their peers were busy in their carefree and footloose lives, ten students from Amity were putting together India's First Tri-Fuel Hybrid Concept Car - Amity Hybrid Car, a project under the aegis of Amity Science, Technology and Innovation Foundation (ASTIF).

The car was launched amidst great fanfare by Atul Chauhan - Chancellor, Amity University. The occasion was graced by experts like I. V Rao - Executive Director, Maruti Udyog Limited and Tutu Dhawan - a veteran and expert of automobiles.

"Commuting by personal transport can burn holes in your pocket. We used to feel the pinch too, every time, we used to come to our college. It was at this point that we decided to put this hybrid car together," said Nakul Gupta, one of the students in the team. "At a time when cost of transport is skyrocketing, the Amity Hybrid Car can bring a sigh of relief to many people, because of its low price and multiple fuel options. It will reduce the travelling cost and of course pollution, which is strangling human beings," said Atul Chauhan. "Though the car is presently in an elementary stage of its functioning, it can be produced commercially with new enhancements and improvements", added Atul Chauhan.

While the car may be touted for its underlying intention and utility, the design and looks cannot be ignored. "The car is a two-seater. It has a sports car look and the green colour of the car is emblematic of its eco-friendly character", said Chandrakant Suman.

The Amity Hybrid Car is designed with multiple fuel options - batteries, auto LPG and petrol, and switching from one mode to the other is very simple. "It can run 80-90 kms on batteries on a single charge. Maximum speed limit is 50 km/hr on batteries and 45 km/hr on engine. It has been tested successfully for more than 400 kms on Delhi roads, to encounter the city conditions. The mileage of the Amity Hybrid car is 35-40 km per litre and efficiency is 30.4 km per hour," explained Paras Khanna. Environment friendly, with zero emissions in urban driving conditions



and low maintenance cost, the Amity Hybrid car, is just what the Indian urban driver needs. The group comprises ten students namely M. Pavan, Abhay Goyal, Himanshu Gupta, Abhishek Kashyap, Kamal Shamnani, Nakul Gupta, Chandrakant Suman, Varun Chawla, Paras Khanna, Udit Dhinra; supported by Keshvendra Choudhary; Prof. S B L Garg- HOD, Mechanics and Automation Department, ASET as mentor and Arun Jindal as the Project Guide.●



Atul Chauhan, Chancellor, Amity University, addressing a press conference at the launch of the Amity Hybrid Car. The students attributed their success to the constant support of Atul Chauhan.

'Media'ting Mediums

DISHA- Leadership Series on mass media & journalism

ANN Correspondent

A jam packed auditorium with students seated even on the aisles was significant of the success and overwhelming response to the seminar on 'Mass Communication-Journalism (Print, Television and Radio)', held at PHD House. It was the second seminar in the DISHA-Leadership series initiated by AmityCARE.

The speakers on the panel included stalwarts from print, radio and television media- Mr. Ranjan Roy-Senior Editor, The Times of India; Ms. Richa Anirudh- News Anchor, IBN 7; Ms. Mandeep Verma- TV and Radio Anchor; Ms. Sudha Sadanand- Programming Head, Big 92.7 FM, Ms. Usha Albuquerque- Career Counsellor and Col. Dargan, Director- ASCO.

Over 350 students from 80 schools of Delhi and NCR participated in the seminar. These included Tagore International, Ramjas, Bal Bharti, Cambridge, Mt. Carmel and Amity International Schools. Ranjan Roy shared his views on how print journalism made for a very satisfying career, besides being a medium to highlight injustice as in the Jessica Lal case. He elucidated, "The printed word has immense weightage. That is why the newspaper is the first thing that people reach out to, each morning." He also highlighted the fact that the ability to write well is most

crucial to print journalism.

The atmosphere was charged with palpable excitement as Sudha Sadanand, found an instant connect with the children. Dispelling the myth that a career in media is all about glamour, she said, "Being a journalist entails being powerful enough to be able to touch people's lives. But, one has to realize that a lot of hard work is required to be successful in this field."

The value of patience and passion was emphasized by Mandeep Verma. "The challenge of being on radio is greater than that of television. One has to be in a good mental state to be able to speak impromptu, as your voice can betray you in a big way!" said she. Mandeep stressed on how 'passion' should guide one's career choice and not pressure of any kind.

Children were guided on diverse



Richa Anirudh narrated an interesting anecdote from her life that inspired her to pursue journalism. She said, "Once, way back in 1996, I saw a huge crowd gathered around a building. I came to know that Mr. Amitabh Bachchan was about to visit, so they had gathered to catch a glimpse of him. Somehow, I did not stay back, instead, decided then and there, that if I was to meet Mr. Bachchan, it will be on a one-to-one basis. Sure enough, in 2004, I got the opportunity to interview him in person."

careers by Usha Albuquerque. She highlighted that curiosity and a questioning mind, are two factors imperative to journalism. "A journalist's greatest ability is to listen. One should be able to draw people out of their shells and make them speak up", said Albuquerque. Col. Dargan enlightened students on the prospects of travel journalism. He said, "There is a lot of money in this profession, provided one is prepared to slog hard."

Overall, the session was an enlightening one for all.●

Eating Retreat

Tulika Banerji, ANN

Located in the heart of Amity University campus, the Cafeteria is in D Block. Though two more smaller versions have opened lately, this is the biggest one. Spacious, centrally air-conditioned and a menu to appease taste buds and pockets alike, the campus cafeteria is a perfect hang out.

As you walk in, the cool ambience provides instant respite from the blistering sun outside. The lime green tables bordered with orange sober your senses. The simple, yet uncluttered furniture refreshes the soul. There are tables in the centre where you can sit with your entire gang and there are side tables for groups of four.

The cafeteria boasts of an expansive menu - a healthy mix of north and south Indian fare, with a touch up of Chinese. One can snack on vegetable sandwiches, egg rolls, *sambhar-vadas*, or even *idlis*, and all these unbelievably priced between Rs 7 - Rs 12, per plate. If hunger hits you at two in the afternoon, you can choose from the mini meals- *chole bhature*, *chole - rice*, *rajma - rice*, *veg biryani*, *dosa*, etc. Those who need a more wholesome meal can go for the *thali*, which usually comprises two veggies, dal, two chapattis, rice and salad with a sweet dish

or curd to follow. For those who are high on Chinese cuisine, there is Manchurian coupled with fried rice and chowmein. Come evening, and it's tea time. What good is evening tea, without the Indian triangular delicacies, *samosas*. Double decker bread *pakodas*, patties and *kathi* rolls also vie for your attention. What is an eatery without wafers and beverages - soft drinks, sweet lime soda, mango shake, *lassi* - you name it and

it's there. Scrumptious and hygienic, the food is quite palatable, if not delectable always. Most importantly, it is light on pockets. Satisfying meals within Rs. 20, there is something for everyone. The campus cafeteria is a retreat for tired souls, a cool place to connect with your friends or make new acquaintances, recharge yourself for the day, share gossip and also catch up on missed lectures. The cafeteria rocks!●

Tete-A-Tete With The Head Cook

How many of you know the person, who is churning out your favourite fare at the cafeteria, day after day? Meet Dharam Pal Sharma, head cook of the university cafeteria. A humble soul, honest and hardworking, he has the entire university eating out of his hands, literally. Sharma has been heading the cafeteria's kitchen for the past four years. Initially it was located in the girls' hostel. From there, it shifted to A Block before nesting at D Block, where it stands today. What began as a hostel mess now satiates the

hunger pangs of one and all present in the campus. Dharam Pal has approximately 60 staff members working with him. With about 25 boys in the kitchen itself, 15 at the counters and about 16-18 cleaning staff, his is a mammoth task. According to him, the mini meals and biryani are a hit with canteen goers. He is flexible enough, albeit sometimes, to

alter the menu if the students demand so. Quite content with the way things have been turning out, Sharma only wishes for more counters at the mini meal section.



Lovin 'n' Livin

Nikita Ojha,
AIS-43, Gurgaon

Freda Bright says, "Only in opera do people die of love." It's true. You really can't love somebody to death. I've known people to die from no love, but I've never known anyone to be loved to death. We just can't love one another enough. This is a heart-warming story about a woman who finally decided to ask her boss for a raise in salary. All day she felt apprehensive. Late in the afternoon, she summoned the courage to approach her employer. To her delight, the boss agreed to the raise. That evening, the woman arrived home, to a beautiful table laid with her favourite dishes. Candles were softly glowing. Her husband had come home early and prepared a festive meal. She

wondered if someone from the office had tipped him off. Or, did he just somehow know that she would not get turned down? She found him in the kitchen and told him the good news. They embraced and kissed, then sat down for the wonderful meal. Next to her plate the woman found a beautifully lettered note. It read: "Congratulations, dar-

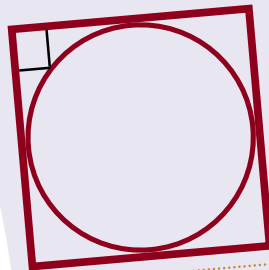
I've known people to die from no love, but I've never known anyone to be loved to death.

ling! I knew you'd get the raise! These things will tell you how much I love you."

Following supper, her husband went into the kitchen to clean up. She noticed that a second note had fallen from his pocket. Picking it off the floor, she read: "Don't worry about not getting the raise! You deserve it anyway! These things will tell you how much I love you." Someone has said that the measure of love is when you love without measure. What this man feels for his spouse is total acceptance and love, whether she succeeds or fails. He stands with her, no matter what. He may say that he loves her to death. But he doesn't. He loves her to LIFE. For his love nourishes her life like nothing else can. Upon receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Mother Teresa said: "What can you do to promote world peace? Go home and love your family." And love your friends. Love them without measure. Love them to LIFE.●

Strain your brain

Mathematics Puzzles



In the figure alongside, the rectangle at the corner measures 1cm x 2cm. What is the area of the circle?

Find the value of the given expression.

$$\sqrt{1+\sqrt{1+\sqrt{1+\sqrt{1+\dots}}}}$$



A number of children are standing in a circle. They are evenly spaced. The 5th child is directly opposite the 1st child. How Many children are there altogether?

ENGLISH JUMBLE

Unjumble each of these 4-letter words to get a new word!

- MASH
- CLAM
- TEND
- HEAT
- ICON
- SIDE
- ROVE
- ACHE
- BALE
- PORE

For answers, refer to the next edition.



CONTEST

This picture was taken by wildlife filmmaker Mike Pandey. Wear your thinking caps and send us a caption for this picture. The best caption will win a DVD of Timeless Traveller- The Horseshoe Crab, a documentary by Arjun and Gautam Pandey. Email your entries to the editor at: nbhatnagar@amity.edu

Grab a bite!

Different kinds of snacks create interest and break the monotony. Here are some zippy lunch ideas to perk up your tiffin break!

Ankita Naik
AIS, Pushp Vihar

Packing lunch for kids is a vital task as it needs to be handled thoughtfully. Variety in the lunch box can excite children and ensure that the food is eaten heartily.

■ **The lunch box style:** Give your child a lunch box



that keeps the food warm, looks attractive and is easy to handle.

■ **Variety/presentation:** Try packing different kinds of lunch everyday with a variation in presentation style to avoid boredom. For example - cut the sandwiches in different shapes to

generate interest (triangles, strips or squares).

■ **Avoid too dry food:** Avoid giving dishes that are too dry. If you must, complement them with tomato ketchup, green chutneys etc. Supplementing the lunch with fruit juice is a good idea.

■ **Avoid messy and sticky food:** Meals which are messy or sticky are a strict 'no-no'. Chutney and sandwich should not go in the same compartment of the lunch box.

■ **Maximize nutrition:** Don't worry if the child does not finish lunch in school someday. Instead, ensure that he/she has a nutritious breakfast and dinner so that the nutritional requirements are taken care of.●

"One tree is worth 280 Crores"

... contd from pg 1

EARTH MATTERS - The show

Mike Pandey: The Earth Matters series has touched many hearts. It receives almost 2000 letters a week. I believe Doordarshan is a fabulous platform. It reaches out to 300 million people in the world in 200 countries. It reaches the remotest of areas in our country. The TV series has made a difference. From small kids to hard core criminals, we've received heart rending responses from everywhere. 150 prisoners in a jail in Jagdalpur, Bastar, sit down to watch the programme every week. In fact, they feel disheartened and let down, if the show is cancelled due to a cricket match or something. Each prisoner has taken a pledge to plant 5 trees every year. In Ambikapur in Chhatisgarh, factory workers have also taken an oath to plant a tree each on May Day.

EARTH MATTERS- The Foundation

Gautam Pandey: We work with school children on different kinds of projects where we deal with small things like switching off the light when you walk out of a room to fight global warming.

THE MOST POWERFUL SPECIES -Trees

Mike Pandey: One tree is worth 280 Crores. One leaf, pumps enough oxygen for 4 days of human consumption. If you buy this much oxygen, you will spend at least Rs. 2,000. One inch of a leaf does what no factory in the world can do! It captures energy from the sun, makes its own food and gives out oxygen.

SHORES OF SILENCE- Whale Sharks in India

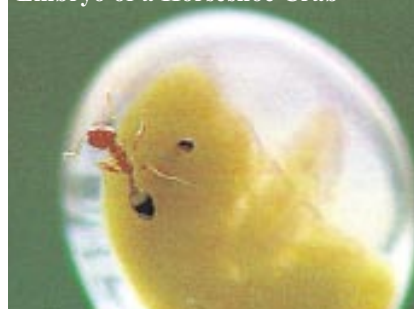
Mike Pandey: The only film in the world that has led to the protection of a species. This film moved the govern-

ment of India into bringing in a legislation and banning the killing of the Whale Sharks on Indian shores. The Whale Shark was declared protected under the Indian Wildlife Act- 1972, bringing it, at par with the tigers and the rhinos.

This was a landmark move. It was the first marine species to be protected under the Indian law.

In November 2002, at the internation-

Embryo of a Horseshoe Crab



al CITES meet in Chile, Santiago, a negation changed into an overwhelming affirmation after this film was shown to the delegates. The film was instrumental in giving the largest mammal specie in the world, a new lease of life, by protecting it globally.

TIMELESS TRAVELLER- The Horseshoe Crab

Arjun Pandey: We were shooting on the coast of Orissa, when we saw an animal lying dead by the shore. We took it to the NIO (National Institute of Oceanography) officials and got to know that it was a horseshoe crab. The

animal is not a crab but a relative of scorpions and spiders. After some research we realised, how the horse shoe crab had touched all our lives. The blood of the animal is used as a sterilisation agent in injections.

Gautam Pandey: Due to ignorance and carelessness of people, this animal was also on the brink of extinction. It is found only on the eastern coast of countries. The enigmatic part is that when we took it to the western waters for research work, the animal started swimming anti-clockwise. It is a very useful animal; its blood holds medicinal value for many diseases like Osteoporosis, Cancer, Diabetes and even AIDS.

Conservation for the Pandey's, is more like a religion they follow. The poor commercial viability of such documentaries in India has not deterred them in their mission. They strive ahead with stronger resolutions and determination to make a difference and help save their planet, our planet.●

Horseshoe Crab



Let's Dhoom!

Serials exploring and revolving around the lives of the young, find favour with viewers of the same age group.



Tulika Banerji, ANN

If you seek wholesome entertainment for teenagers on television, 'Dhoom Machao Dhoom' is a series to watch out for. It is peppy, has a lighthearted feel, and what's more, it is loaded with music. Aired on Disney channel at 7:30 pm from Monday to Thursday, 'Dhoom Machao Dhoom' is the juvenile equivalent of a daily soap. 'Dhoom Machao Dhoom' is the story of a rock band 'PINK' in the making. It weaves a gripping tale around the lives of four bubbly and effervescent girls - Priyanka, Kajal, Malini and Ambika, who struggle against all odds to realize their dreams. There are roadblocks in the shape of a rival band - FIRE N ICE, headed by queen bee Koel. Her gang plagiarizes the compositions of Pink band, implicates them with fabricated charges and practically

leaves no stone unturned to have them thrown out of school. The challenge lies in how PINK band tackles such feisty opposition and is successful in making a mark. 'Dhoom Machao Dhoom' is the perfect entertainer - its upbeat narration, refreshing characterisation and hummable music, make it a 'must watch'. There's fun and frolic, heartbreak and success, innocence and conspiracy, ingredients that youngsters can identify with. 'Dhoom Machao Dhoom' is reminiscent of 'Remix' on Star One, a show strictly for the young and the restless. The eccentricity of Anvesha, the sensuous innocence of Tia, the infectious energy of Ranveer and the attitude of Yuvi have generated frenzy among the youth. The mannerisms of the characters and their idiosyncrasies have infiltrated to the masses, with youngsters imitating their style

quotient. 'Remix', mirrors the aspirations and dilemmas of the youngsters - the prime reason for its widespread popularity. Serials targeted at the young tend to leave imprints on the viewer's mind. The Zee TV show - 'Banegi Apni Baat' was a trendsetter of sorts. It was one of its kind, scripted specially for the generation next. It showcased the real lives of the youth, who have grown beyond their years. However, 'Neev', telecast on Doordarshan way back, takes the crown for the original high school drama. Idealistic to the core, in hindsight, it seems to belong to a different genre altogether. From 'Neev' to 'Banegi Apni Baat' and now 'Remix' and 'Dhoom Machao Dhoom', these television shows say it loud and clear - the forerunners of tomorrow are the youth and with their 'never say die' attitude, they will take the world by storm.●

Most Watched TV Shows

Name of the Program	CHANNEL
1. The Great Indian Laughter Challenge	Star One
2. Indian Idol	Sony
3. Koffee With Karan	Star One/Star World
4. Friends	Star World
5. Left Right Left	Sab TV
6. WWE	Tensports/Star Sports/ESPN
7. Recess	Disney Channel
8. Takeshi's Castle	POGO
9. Tom And Jerry	Cartoon Network
10. The Oprah Winfrey Show	Star World

Most Read Books

1. The Lord of the Rings, JRR Tolkien
2. Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
3. His Dark Materials, Philip Pullman
4. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams
5. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, JK Rowling
6. To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee
7. Winnie the Pooh, AA Milne
8. Nineteen Eighty-Four, George Orwell
9. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, CS Lewis
10. Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë

Karan Wahi 'REMIXED'

ANN Correspondent

The name Karan Wahi (aka Ranveer of 'Remix') demands no introduction. A self-proclaimed brat, Karan has dabbled in cricket and modelling before entering the small screen. A multifaceted persona with varied interests, he comes across as a chirpy guy who is on the lookout for new avenues to excite him. A tête-à-tête with Karan.

Did you always want to be an actor?

Well, no. I wanted to be a cricketer and pursued active cricket till std XII. Then, I became interested in entrepreneurship. So I helped my dad in his business, doing BBA in marketing simultaneously. I soon lost interest in that too, and upon the insistence of my friends, got my portfolio done. I participated in 'Gladrags' when the 'Remix' audition happened. The date is still vividly etched in my memory- 29th

June 2004 when I got selected. I was all of 18 at that time and there has been no looking back, ever since.

What are your current/future projects?

I'm doing a film with UTV Motion Pictures; however, I can't reveal much right now. All I can tell you is that it is



based on college life. I've done a number of endorsements for Sunsilk, Pizza Corner, etc., the latest being the one for Chevrolet Spark. **What has been the happiest moment of your career?** I've had quite a few happy

and memorable moments like receiving the Best Debut Award for my serial 'Remix' and being nominated for the Best Actor along with stalwarts in the television industry. It was surely a heady feeling. Of course, the appreciation from my fans, is a constant source of joy.

What do you like to do in your leisure time?

Although I don't get much of free time, yet I like to play video games/ play stations or hang out with my group of friends.

You are quite popular, especially with girls. How does it feel?

Initially it was a bit shocking. It's a different experience altogether as I am the same guy, with the same face and suddenly girls are going gaga over me. Well, it does feel nice!

Any message for your fans?

All I have to say is that please don't forget me. Please watch my movie. I am looking for recognition and hope I am appreciated.●

Stars in school



Book-worms or trouble-makers; how were the stars as students? Find out...

Kareena Kapoor

Schooling: Attended Jamnabai Nansee School in Mumbai and then went to Welham Girl's Boarding School in Dehradun.

Número-phobic: A perfect tomboy, Kareena would steal money to buy orange candy even though she was allergic to it. An above average student, always scoring 70-75%; Kareena was good in English but shied away from math and science. Somehow, multiplying and dividing seemed such a chore!

Amrita Arora

Schooling: St Anthony's School, Chembur

Entertainment channel: Amrita cherishes the time when she was made the monitor in class VIII. In school, she enjoyed participating in school plays and would perennially enact the role of a drunkard or a maniac. As a child, she was fondly called the 'entertainment channel' of her family.



Shahrukh Khan

Schooling: St Columbia's School, New Delhi

Born actor: Always up to mischief, Shahrukh, once, used a dialogue from the film 'Kaalia', to convince a teacher that since his parents ill-treated him, he could not prepare for his tests and was thus, allowed to miss them. The school would send anyone having hair longer than the stipulated length, to a barber. Needless to say, Shahrukh made such trips often! However, he was awarded the 'Sword of Honour' for being the most outstanding student.



Priyanka Chopra

Schooling: Studied at La Martiniere Girls' College in Lucknow, as a young girl and later went to Newton North High School, in Newton, Massachusetts and North Delta Senior Secondary School in North Delta.

Nose job: She got into a catfight in class X, with a girl who made some racist comments against her. Priyanka ended up breaking the girl's nose! However, overcome by guilt hours later, she took flowers and paid her a visit in the hospital.

