

The saga of a nation



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

At Amity schools, the Annual Day is much more than felicitation of individual or group achievements; it is a pivotal event meticulously designed to celebrate India's rich and diverse cultural heritage. Every year, each school takes up a theme from Indian history, art and culture, and weaves its presentations and performances around it. These themes ranging from festivals and traditions of India to stories of great historical rulers like King Ashoka, forgotten heroes of freedom struggle to our rich vedic culture, encapsulate the glory and grandeur of our great nation beautifully.

Students have also used this opportunity to creatively present the importance of values like gratitude, compassion, empathy etc. which have always been an intrinsic part of education at Amity. Through 100% participation, this event fosters a sense of community, builds confidence and social skills while promoting knowledge about our country's illustrious legacy. What makes the event even more memorable is that its Chief Guests are top achievers from the world of sports, art, culture, etc. In fact, I can proudly share that this year, the Ramayana Ballet titled Anugoonj presented at the Annual Day of AIS Vas 6, was chosen to be part of the Bharat Parv 2024 where it received appreciation from an international audience. Our Annual Days are, indeed, a saga of inspirational moments across our nation's history.

It's Time to Say, Hip! Hip! Hurray!

Shresth Shrivastava of Class X bagged a gold in team kata and a bronze in individual kata at the 15th NSKA International Karate Championship held in Nepal. More than 1500 players from five countries had participated in the event. 🇮🇳

Nature's fury



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

When Delhi/NCR was sweltering at 45 degrees plus, I was fortunate to be on a holiday in pristine Arunachal Pradesh. Enjoying the cool, crisp mountain air, I was oblivious to the world until the news of a cloudburst in Itanagar broke and I was inundated with calls from anxious well-wishers. Luckily, I was not in Itanagar and was spared the ordeal, but the ensuing landslides and flooding caused severe damage to natives and tourists in the city. Similar

flash floods were also reported in Delhi, Bihar, and UP post some relentless monsoon showers. Speaking of destruction, I still can't get the disturbing image of the Delhi Airport terminal collapse out of my mind. Is it not ironic that just a few weeks ago, the intense heat and scarcity of water in Delhi was making headlines and now it's the abundance of water we are worried about? And rightly so, as flash foods can tear out trees, destroy infrastructure, disrupt power and telephone lines, and produce catastrophic mud-slides. Monsoon, once a muse for poets like Kalidasa and Amir Khusrau, is now something to be feared. As we witness extreme weather, there can be little doubt that climate change is a reality. According to the environmental NGO Climate Central, more than 60% of the world population is facing extreme heat caused mainly by climate change. Nature is giving us back what we truly deserve. For every drop of water wasted, for every plastic bag we use, for every tree that is being cut down, nature is paying us back with full interest. The only question remains - do our future generations deserve this as well? 🇮🇳

Yours critically

Judgement - A Voracious Vice Or A Virtuous Virtue?

Ishanya Sharma

AIS Gur 43, Alumna

Judgmental - the word alone is enough to let out audible gasps. Yes, we shouldn't judge others...yada...yada...yada. But this is not what this article is about. So, what is it about?

Judgmental, you?

Judgmental, me? Both.

I am judgmental. And so are you. As much as you'd hate to admit it, that's the truth. What else do you call making that long face at the sight of leafy greens or running to your room at the sight of the aunt you didn't particularly like? You judged the vegetable for its lack of taste, and your aunt (for maybe the same reasons). As grown-ups you were weighing the nuances - is he too diplomatic? Was she rude? And the likes. So, you see, you evolve, and so does your art of judgement. And then, there's self judgement, too.

Judgmental much?

Can't help.

The art of judgement is intrinsic, and mostly stems from our instinct to protect ourselves, points a Harvard psychologist. She says that our split second judgement of someone is often our attempt to interpret whether or not that person can be trusted. Humans, born with an inherent survival spirit, need to know if they can trust a person and are safe around them. This is where your judgement steps in at the get-go. And then there are stereotypes washed down by media over the years, forming our belief system. For instance, people who spend too much time on their appearance are painted as naïve, the beautiful ones as the warm and nice ones, and so on.



Judgements about judging?

Too many.

If judgement was a person, he'd have all my sympathies, for the poor thing is always being judged. I mean, there are so many ideas about the act of judgement itself. 'Don't judge a book by its cover.' 'The first impression is the last impression.' And these are just some ideas that the wise men have left us with. So what do we do? Decode someone on the basis of their appearance? That's for you to judge.

Judgement - good or bad?

Yes? No? Can't say.

If you are confused, and feel like you might just encounter a mental hemorrhage after reading the word 'judgement' so many times, then trust me, you are not alone. So, let's put things in perspective (and along with it, this story to bed). Judgement is all pervasive, and somewhat fun-

damental to human existence. It is our judgement of others and its subsequent communication that lies at the core of human society. Yuval Noah Harari, in his best selling book Sapiens, points out that gossip based on judgements began our rule on the planet. Before judgement, and the gossiping that followed in the aftermath, we were nothing but just another mammal in the food chain. It is this gossiping that allowed us to foster a thought process, forge bonds by communicating the said thoughts, eventually forming hierarchies, and all of it gave us an edge over animal kingdom. Sure, it is the same judgement that led to miscommunication, disagreements, and even our downfall. But even then, it is hard to deny that it is our sense of judgement that has enabled the human race to survive thus far, helping us steer clear of what we perceive as potential dangers. So, the next time, someone asks you to not judge, you can simply roll your eyes. 🇮🇳

(Ishanya is currently pursuing BA (Hons) Business Economics from Gargi College, DU.)

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the poem 'What If?' published on page 6 of the GT edition dated July 1, 2024. The poem serves as an eloquent reminder of the innate human instinct to wonder about the universe and life's possibilities. It seamlessly intertwines the boundless dreams of humanity with the infinite marvels of the universe, creating a robust tapestry of curiosity. The vivid imagery and uplifting



GT M@il

tone made me ponder about the prodigious possibilities of the world beyond my knowledge. It is remarkable how just a few lines have made me realise how each decision traces the paths of one's existence; I am now inspired to explore beyond my own limited realities.

Namya Jain, AIS PV, XII F



Issue: July 1, 2024; Page 6