

Equestrian sportsmanship



Dr Amity Chauhan
Chairperson

India has produced some of history's most legendary warriors whose courage and heroism will be remembered for eternity, whether it is Maharana Pratap, Rani Laxmi Bai, Maharaja Ranjit Singh or Chatrapati Shivaji. And, sharing a pride of place in this glorious legacy are their loyal horses - Chetak, Badal, Pawan, Leili and Krishna - who have themselves been immortalised for their unwavering devotion to their masters.

To honour this precious bond between human and horses, Amity Riding Academy (ARA) was established by Founder President, Dr Ashok K. Chauhan at AIS Noida in October 2001. With one of the finest riding arenas in India and highly skilled trainers, ARA provides riding lessons to children from Nursery to Class III. Its key activities include tent pegging, show jumping, dressage, summer camps and gymkhana events. Students trained at ARA have competed in prestigious events like the Delhi Horse Show, Excellentia Horse Show and Janak Horse Show and won medals as well. Moreover, ARA's riders participate in the March Past during Sangathan celebrations and other ceremonies. The mission is to instill strength, solidarity, and compassion in young minds as they navigate life with their equestrian friends. Horse riding at ARA is not just a sporting activity, it's intrinsic to our goal of fostering holistic development by nurturing both physical and mental strength.

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

Akshat Shukla of Class VIII from AIS Vas 6 won third prize for his remarkable poem titled 'Universe in my book', at the Astro-Poetry competition organised by Space India as the part of Global Astronomy month celebrations. 🇮🇳

Blessings of love



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Recently, a close friend lost her mother-in-law, and I attended the prayer meeting. I learnt there that her children had spent much of their lives living with their grandmother and she believes that this had truly enhanced their emotional quotient. This conversation brought back memories of how my own grandparents always inspired me with stories of compassion, courage and honesty. Another day, I was attending an impromptu speech session with Class V

students where a majority spoke about their grandparents, making it evident that the elderly have a remarkable impact on the younger generation. From grandparents, children learn virtues like kindness, respect and patience and as emotionally balanced adults, they are able to give back to society what they have themselves received. However, nuclear families are now dominating the urban milieu, and the absence of grandparents has led to an 'emotional recession' - a decline in emotional stability and empathy. We are fortunate that our visionary Chairperson ma'am has always endorsed this loving relationship, with initiatives like Grandparents' Day celebrations. In fact, Amitians think of themselves as one big family, and this is evident in the way they deal with social issues. For example, the app Saarthi designed by Amitians serves as a connecting link between children in orphanages and the elderly in old-age homes. The students understand the value of the love they receive at Amity and ensure that others experience the same. Emotional intelligence, often cultivated through love and wisdom of grandparents, remains at the heart of Amity's ecosystem. 🇮🇳

Dooming diversity

A Creator's And Viewer's Perspective On Diverse Casts

Moksh Gauri, AIS PV, Alumnus

The Black Lives Matter movement of 2020 ushered in a wave of diverse representation across global TV shows and films. What began as a refreshing and genuine shift, however, quickly veered into the realm of forced diversity. Why exactly is this an issue to ponder about? Because a once authentic portrayal of different voices is now becoming reduced to superficial 'clickbait.'

Take shows like Euphoria and Bridgerton as examples. Their commercial success and critical acclaim are due in part to their unbiased casting, where diversity feels natural, rather than tokenistic. The inclusion of people of colour in such projects provides a vital platform for visibility, allowing marginalised groups to finally be seen in an industry long dominated by 'traditional' faces. Audiences, too, have grown more conscious and expect to see a variety of characters they can personally relate to. Diversity in casting is an important and progressive move, it encourages inclusivity. However, when inclusivity morphs into obligation, representation risks turning toxic.

These days, creators who don't necessarily select a diverse cast are often accused of racial intolerance, whether justified or not. When a writer or director conceptualises a story, their primary goal is to bring their imagination to life on screen.



But should they be compelled to tick boxes just to meet a diversity quota, even if it doesn't align with their vision? What if they can't find the right actor for a role? Our social media-driven society seems to demand a cast that checks off certain boxes, racial diversity being one of them, even when it might not fit the story's narrative. And if creators don't comply, their hard work risks being overshadowed by backlash, not because of the quality of their work, but because it failed to meet a pre-ordained checklist.

Art should be liberated from such constraints. True criticism should arise only when roles meant for people of colour or others who deserve them, are given to someone else. Consider the controversy when Scarlett Johansson portrayed an Asian character in 'Ghost in the Shell' (2015) or when Emma Stone was cast as a half-Asian character in 'Aloha' (2015). These are examples

of problematic casting choices where the outrage was valid.

Ultimately, the concept of racial inclusion is being misinterpreted by both creators and viewers alike. For some producers, diversity is less a matter of genuine representation and more a marketing tool to attract viewers. Many shows, though lacking in substance or critical merit, manage to thrive commercially simply because they exploit the appeal of diverse casting. But does such representation truly carry meaning? As viewers, we have also fallen into a trap. Our initial intent to support inclusivity has become muddled by the expectation that every show must feature a diverse cast or risk being dismissed at this cost. We need to recognise the delicate balance between genuine diversity and forced inclusion. It's a fine line, but one worth paying attention to. 🇮🇳

(Moksh is current pursuing BCom (Hons) from Sri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University.)

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With forests and lands in distress Habitat worsens as waste excess

Forests not only provide a stable habitat for millions of species; they simultaneously play an important role in absorbing carbon-dioxide. And yet, they are being cut down to make way for agricultural land. This acute deforestation destroys complete ecosystems, releases stored carbon into the atmosphere, and contributes further to global warming. When large quantities of food are wasted, this creates an additional demand on the agricultural sector to produce more food. And the cycle continues - to produce more food, more deforestation takes place. It's a

Edible excess

constant loop of environmental damage that's reportedly getting worse.

Mindful steps mend the break From wasteful paths, futures wake

The global problem of food waste requires intervention across all levels - from personal behaviour to government policies. On an individual level, we can reduce food waste by planning meals more carefully, composting organic waste and opting for local foods. Global initiatives, such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12.3, aim to halve food waste by 2030, and sev-

eral countries are leading by example through progressive waste-reduction policies. For example, developed countries like France and South Korea encourage supermarkets to donate unsold produce instead of discarding it.

To work on reducing food waste in itself is one of the most effective and practical ways to address hunger, mitigate climate change, and preserve the precious resources on which our existence depends. In a world where every meal, every bite, and every grain counts, waste can never be an option.