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Food for Thought

Endangered Future

Pollution, pollution everywhere
Smoke, dust, chemicals, beware!
No clean air to breathe
Its time we wake up and take care.

Pollution has become a mighty scare
Water too, it does not spare
Clean land is rare.
Piles of rubbish lie everywhere.

There has to be a solution
For this dreadful pollution
We children must eradicate this curse
Or else our future will be endangered first.

Let's wake up and fight
With all our might
And do things which are right
To make our future bright!

Oorja Yadav, V
AIS -46, Gurgaon

Helping Hands

Tanvi Sethi & Tamanna Dhawan, VIII, AIS Gur 46

Every child has a potential to learn, and the right to live with dignity, regardless of his/her intellectual or physical abilities. India has 70 million disabled citizens. While the world commits itself to lend a helping hand on December 3 by dedicating this day to the disabled, let's pay tribute to a few institutions in Gurgaon striving tirelessly, to help them realize their potential.

Deep faith

Run by the Catholic Church under the guidance of Brother Jean Marie, the residential institute Deep Ashram was inaugurated by Mother Teresa in 1994. It houses about 50 mentally and physically handicapped boys ranging from 6 to 35 years of age. They are abandoned individuals, with most of severely mentally challenged.. Each child is pro-

vided individual medical treatment and his/her needs are taken care of with sensitivity. Special educators, physiotherapists and vocational trainers are employed by the ashram to make the inmates learn basic self-help skills and provide the best health care too. "Most of my efforts to get the intelligent students admitted to good schools are in vain as people are not willing to overcome their prejudices against the physically handicapped and give them a chance to join the mainstream," laments Brother Jean Marie.

Mute vibrations

The Shravan Vaani Viklaang Vinghna Karyalay Kendra, is a school for deaf and dumb children. The Principal inspired by her son who despite being deaf and dumb overcame his disability and is today employed with one of the reputed multinational companies shares proudly, "My son drives his own car, supports his family and is a role model for many."



Interactors at Shravan Vaani Viklaang Vinghna Karyalay Kendra



Tamanna Dhawan with Blind school inmates

Speaking about her students, she pointed out that being deaf prevents children from learning how to speak. For children who are stone deaf, no hearing aid can help so they are taught decoding skin vibrations to interpret sounds. Speech is taught by lip reading, picture reading and sign language. A well equipped lan-

guage lab is available for the children with partial hearing. Most children pass class X at the age of 16 and are provided with vocational training afterwards.

Sound balls in cricket

The Chandanlal School for the Blind is home to 120 visually handicapped children from all corners of India. The loss of one sense, keenly develops other senses in the children to the extent that the students play cricket using 'sound' balls! During their long interaction with Amityans, the children expressed their ambition to become teachers and 'share the knowledge they have'. They feel happy to live in the school as they do not feel lonely, different or inferior here. The school has employed several blind teachers and provides deserving children vocational training and an opportunity to study further. A well equipped laboratory, a well stocked library and dedicated care providers, creates a wonderful environment for the children. As Kavita and Arti, say, "We have everything, but if we want anything, we just ask for it, and we get it!"

The Principal, however, expresses her dissatisfaction at the students not getting the marks they deserve in the Board exams, "During examinations my students are provided with writers who are usually one year junior. These children often do not have patience and finish the papers in a hurry and the result of our children goes down!"

Simon Katich, a professional cricketer born on August 21, 1975 in Middle Swan, Western Australia has been nicknamed 'Stiffler', 'Kat' and 'Duck Blaster' in cricketing circles. This opening left-handed batsman, is also known for his 'chinaman' bowling. Simon Katich lives with his wife, Georgie Willis, in New South Wales. Raunak Sood, (V D) AIS Gur 46, in a tête-à-tête with the cricketer...

How were you as a student?

Though I didn't enjoy studying much, I was a



Catching Katich

good student. My favourite subject was Mathematics. I loved learning about numbers and also enjoyed Biology classes.

Did you always dream to become a cricketer?

Yes, from a young age it was my dream to become a professional cricketer. I spent most of my afternoons after school, training and practicing my batting technique. I was given a cricket bat and ball as a Christmas present. I first started playing with my sister, mum and dad in our back garden.

Who is your role model?

As a kid, my role model was West Indian cricketer Sir Vivian

Richards. I loved his batting style and especially the way he attacked the bowlers and hit lots of sixes and fours!

Can you describe your emotions on the first day when you played for Australia? Which was your most memorable innings in your career?

It was a very emotional day with lots of nervous energy. I was very excited to be playing my first game for Australia as it had been my boyhood dream. My favourite innings was batting with Steve Waugh against India at the Sydney Cricket Ground in January 2004. I scored my first test century and it was also Steve Waugh's last game for Australia.

How do you feel being compared to Michael Bevan?

Michael was a very talented cricketer, so it's always nice to be compared to a great player.

What are your hobbies?

In my spare time, I like to watch Australian Rules Football, go for movies and swim at the beach. Cooking is also one of my favourite hobbies. In fact, I am one of the contestants in MasterChef Australia. You are at the pinnacle of your cricket career. But apart from cricket, do you have any other dreams to fulfill?

I haven't thought too much about what the future holds after cricket. I have a commerce degree so I might like to work in business. I just want to enjoy my cricket as of now.●

L'Extraordinaire Friendship

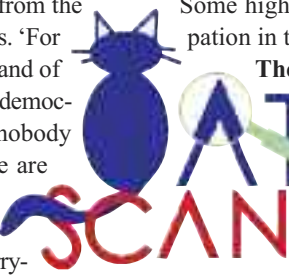
It all happened one fine day, while I was on my way to watch the India Australia test series at Firozshah Kotla grounds. The vehicle carrying the Australian team players and our car stopped side by side at a traffic signal. I peeped out of the window to have a glimpse of my favourite players. Suddenly, a kind face turned to look at me. It was none other than the great cricketer Simon Katich himself! Surprised to even bat an eyelid, I simply mouthed the words 'S-I-M-O-N K-A-T-I-C-H' —to which he smiled and waved at me. I knew it there and then, it was a very important day of my life. And sure enough -it was. That day marked the beginning of the most 'unique' friendship between a nine years old cricket crazy boy and a world renowned cricket star. I thank my lucky stars for having the opportunity to meet him after the match. Ever since then we have been in constant touch with each other; I always address him as 'Dear Katich Sir' and he always calls me, 'Ronnie, my little friend from India.' I share all my joys and sorrows with him now. Be it - 'seven days in bed due to viral fever' or getting 'A-levels in English test.' I never miss to congratulate him on an inning well played. He too, never misses to congratulate me on doing well at school. God bless our Extraordinaire Friendship!



Participate... before it's too late!

Akheel M.Firoz, Saransh Mehrotra & Aditya Rai, X, AIS Gur 46

An election is the very pillar of democracy. It is an act that separates democracy from the other types of governments. 'For the people, by the people and of the people' is the motto of democracy. In a democracy, nobody rules over us; instead, we are governed by ourselves. We are all equal and are equally responsible for carrying out our duties as citizens of India. Recently, the legislative assembly elections were held in the states of Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh and Maharashtra.



The elections in these three states served as a major victory for the Congress party. It won by a majority in Arunachal Pradesh and Maharashtra and barely retained its position in Haryana. Some highlights about people's participation in this democratic procedure.

The voter turnout was 73% in Haryana; 72% in Arunachal and 54% in Maharashtra.

What does the above data signify? Are all of us too lazy to participate wholeheartedly in the democratic process? What has not been done and what can we do about the corrupt system that does nothing to help the poor apart from mak-

ing false promises? Do the people who complain so much, take part in voting to choose leaders whom they think are honest, and can help the country?

The youth are struggling to make a difference in our governmental system. They are the people who can strive to create a future for India that we can be proud of. We may not be of voting age but those among us who are concerned about the future of our country can help by persuading elders who have not voted, to go and vote.

All these questions have answers and the suggestions are practical and easy to implement. However, for a positive outcome, we will have to strive hard and hope for the best. ●

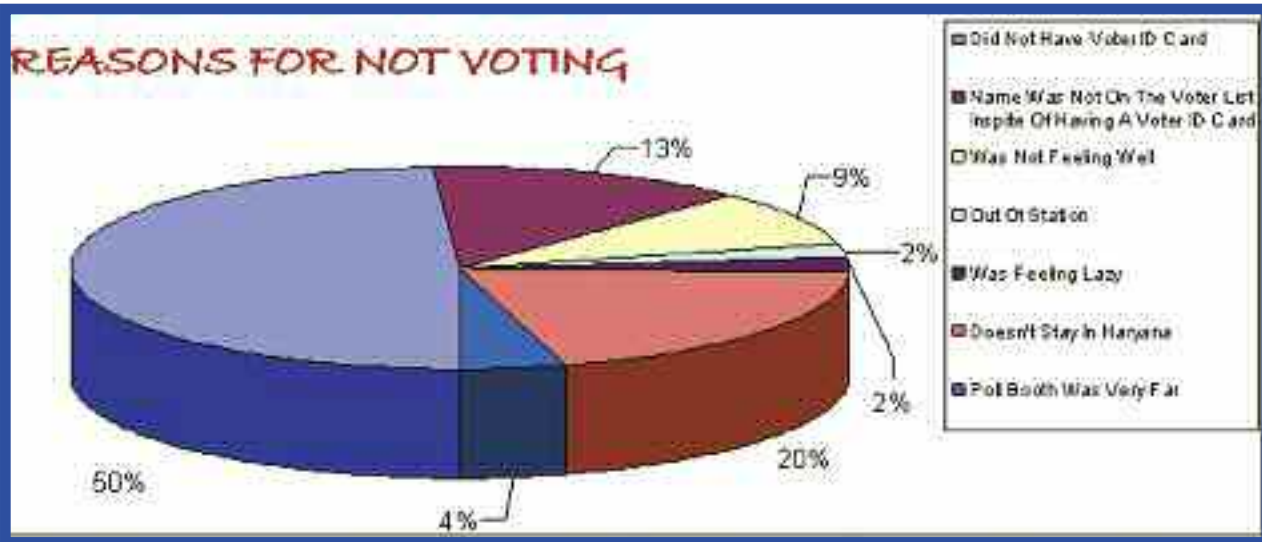


Climatic cause

Manisha Jagga, IX, AIS 46 Gur

Of all the publicity stunts being staged before the Copenhagen Conference, to be held in December on climate change, none was stranger than the cabinet meeting of the Maldives government. The venue was located twenty feet beneath the waves! On Saturday, October 17th, the Maldives' President, Mohammed Nasheed along with his ministers sat around an underwater table at the bottom of a lagoon to discuss the forthcoming submergence of their country due to global warming. The cabinet endorsed an SOS message which will be presented to world leaders at the Climate Change Summit. Earlier this year, the Maldives had

pledged to become the world's first carbon neutral nation. It has even begun construction of a wind farm to fulfill nearly half its need for electricity. Seeing the response, the Nepal cabinet is considering a similar meeting on Mt. Everest. The move, it hopes, will attract attention of the public and world leaders alike. **Arunima, AIS 46** lauds the effort, "Though a publicity stunt, this meeting has attracted attention for the right reasons. It has created quite a stir and triggered off discussions on the issue of global warming that deserving immediate action- global warming." Adds **Sri-raj of Ryan International School**, "If such bizarre ventures increase public awareness and prod them to act, then they're worth it and I'm all for them!" ●



News Digest

His day that never came



Atreyo Mitra
AIS Gur 46

Dalai Lama recently entered Arunachal Pradesh, despite Chinese warnings. Being on the Indian side of the McMahon Line he had nothing to fear. The religious leader was greeted by thousands of eager supporters including Arunachal Pradesh's CM, Dorjee Khandu making it obvious that China had no control over Arunachal Pradesh.

"It's usual for China to oppose my visit. It's baseless to say that my trip is Anti-China. My visit is not political at all," said Dalai Lama after the prayers at the Tawang Monastery. Disappointed that China is on a hard line on not letting him enter Tibet, Indian PM Manmohan Singh said that Arunachal Pradesh, well under Indian boundaries was blessed to have the Nobel Laureate.

The Race for the Cheapest Car

Chirag Agarwal
AIS Gur 46

Tata Nano created such a big hype in the world of cars that the newspapers had the headlines, "Common man can also afford a car. Tata's magic spreading all over India."

But the race for the cheapest car is on. Bajaj, Renault and Nissan are planning to make the cheapest car that would have better mileage than 20 km per litre and will cost less than 1 lakh. India would be the primary market for the car. Volkswagen has also introduced its cheapest car ever—UP! This would be tagged at 3 lakhs. However these cars are threat for the motor bike industry.

3, 2, 1... BLAST OFF Atlantis!!!!

Charvi Aggarwal
AIS Gur 46

STS-129 (ISS assembly flight SULF3) is the current Space Shuttle mission to the International Space Station (ISS), being flown by Space Shuttle Atlantis. It was a proud moment for NASA when the Atlantis STS-129 was launched into space on 16 November 2009 at 2:28 pm. It is an 11 day flight and will include minimum three space walks. The space craft was launched from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. The space shuttle has seven members on board which include a pilot (Barry E. Wilmore), a commander (Charles O. Hobaugh) and 5 mission specialists (Leland D. Melvin, Randolph Bresnik, Michael Foreman, Robert Satcher, Nicole Stott).

No piece of cake!

Before we made this issue, we had thought that making a newspaper would be a piece of cake! Once we started making the paper, we were like-"Oh My God!" "How are we ever gonna finish it off?" "How does the GT team ever make it in a fortnight?!"... These were some of the lines which were commonly repeated by us... We started working our heads off for the completion of the issue on time. There were many ups and downs in this jour-

ney of the making of The Global Times. When we came up to interview the 'stars' of our school, they started showing off their attitude and haughtiness, and didn't give us enough time to interview them. The toughest part of the job came when we received Vira maam's orders that we could not use the internet much! All of us were in a troubled situation then... because we found it almost impossible to write articles without a little help from the net! Thankfully, we

were finally allowed to use the internet, but only a little. As for the teacher's say, Mrs Anila Kaul, GT teacher coordinator, AIS-46, remarks, "The toughest part of the job for me was to reject articles, in which children had put in so much effort. It was heartbreaking for me. Rejecting their articles was like crushing their hopes." We finally managed to finish off the newspaper in the nick of time. Well, all's well that ends well! ●





Making a newspaper looks easy to readers but we realised how difficult a task it is when we actually sat down to make one. Hats off to the GT team for making a student-based newspaper and thank them for giving us the opportunity to explore the world of newspapers. Dhruv Agarwal, VIII-C

The Global Times, December 1-15, 2009

Know Your Food-GM Crops

“Genetically modified crops -a Boon or a Curse”- an everlasting debate. Know more about Genetically Modified Crops

GT Classroom



Umaserma Bharati, class XI,
AIS-46, Gurgaon

What are GM Crops?

GM crops are genetically modified crops. These new varieties have many desired characters in them, like resistance to diseases or pests. GM varieties of corn, cotton, tomato and rice have been developed.

What is the governing committee for GM products?

GEAC is Genetic Engineering Approval Committee. It is the committee which decides whether a particular GM crop is safe enough to be out in the markets. It conducts various tests before the approval of the crop. Recently, it has suggested Indian farmers to grow Bt brinjal and has certified that it would not be either detrimental to environment or human health.

What is Bt brinjal?

It is a new brinjal variety which is to be in the Indian markets soon. It is created by injecting a gene called cryIAC from a soil bacterium, Bacillus thuringiensis. It appears to have 15% less calories and dif-

ferent alkaloid content compared to non-GM brinjal. It contains 16-17 mg/kg Bt insecticide toxin. It is expected to enhance production without much use of insecticides.

How is Bt useful to us?

Bt crops have insecticidal properties in them. When an insect attacks the crop, the insecticide toxins interfere with the normal functioning of the insect, thereby killing it. So, the use of insecticides can be reduced. This will enhance large scale production. The use of genetically modified crops in India opens the door to other GM crops including rice, wheat, soybean and sorghum. Theoretically, Bt brinjal cultivation should lead to a reduced use of pesticides and vegetable wastage.

Does Bt have any ill effects?

Test results show that the blood clotting time for goats fed on Bt crops increased, their liver cells got damaged. GM fed rats had diarrhea. This shows it is probably not good for human consumption. No long term tests for tumors or cancers have been conducted so far.

What is its impact on the environment?

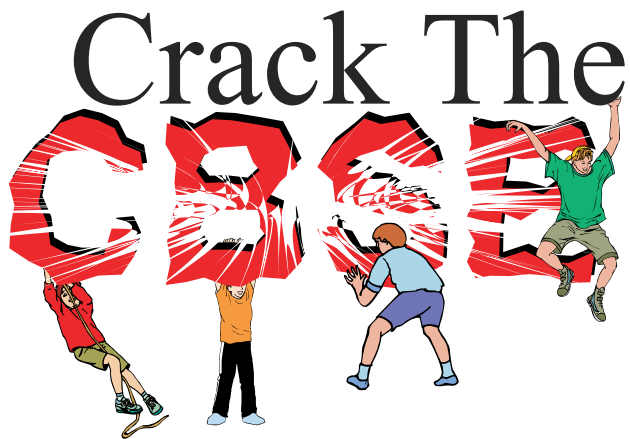
There are no assurances that growing Bt brinjal will be safe for the environment. The tests conducted lack information on the indirect effect it can have on the food chain as a whole particularly with regard to gene flow (i.e. transfer of genes to wild type crop) and the possibility of GM contamination of neighbouring brinjal crops.

Is it acceptable to all?

The dispute is most intense in Europe, where public concern about GM food is higher than in other parts of the world. There are many anti-GM groups who would savor a GM free India. Over 70,000 Indians have signed the “I am No Lab Rat” anti GM protest. They feel agriculture should receive holistic treatment and not the piecemeal introduction of highly toxic inputs. It gives the example of Bt cotton farmers who are dealing with newer pests and diseases.

How would you know whether a food item is genetically modified or not?

In most countries where these are commercially available, it is mandatory to mention it on the packaging. ●



Crack The Code

Manisha Khanna, PGT
Mathematics, AIS -46

In Mathematics, the more you practice, the more proficient you become. For scoring good marks in Mathematics, you need to follow a few simple rules.

Preparation for CBSE Exams

■ The best way to learn Mathematics is by ‘Reading and Writing’ and not by reading alone. Students are strongly advised to develop the habit of writing solutions. This practice will help them in reproducing the material in their Mathematics examinations, confidently and fast.

■ Students should focus on first understanding the fundamentals of the topic. If basics are clear, 50% of the work is done. Revise the NCERT Mathematics book thoroughly.

■ Make a handy notebook for the formulae, especially for Inverse Trigonometry, Differentiation & Integration. These formulae should always be on your fingertips.

■ Some students find the ‘Applications of the Integrals’ chapter difficult and they avoid working upon it till the end. This might prove too late - you need to work on this chapter at least 3 times.

■ From the ‘Differential Equations’ topic, focus on formation and the solution of differential equations only. Give less importance to problems based on Applications of the solution of differentiation.

■ From ‘Matrices and Determinants’, whenever the problem mentions ‘find and hence’ or ‘find and deduce’, make sure that you proceed with whatever result is achieved via part I of the prob-

lem, to deduce part II.

Presentation of the answer-script

■ Utilize the first 15 minutes for reading the question paper slowly and thoroughly. Plan your strategy then and there and if you find any question on which you are not clear, mark it.

■ While writing, start from section C, followed by section B and Section A.

■ It’s not just the answer that counts in Mathematics. Much of the marks are based on the intermediate steps in getting to the answer. So, show all your working.

■ Always write the formula in use for answer. Also, write the reason wherever required.

■ For the problems where some results are asked to be proved, it is mandatory to write ‘Hence Proved’ e.g. in Rolle’s Theorem or LMV Theorem.

■ Write units wherever applicable.

■ As per CBSE guidelines, there is no step marking for 1 mark questions. A small mistake in the answer will lead to a zero – so be cautious and avoid silly mistakes.

■ For question like finding Inverse of Matrix, if you feel that some calculations are becoming too lengthy, recheck your answer regarding whether you have committed any mistake. Check the question again to verify that you have noted down the data correctly.

■ A mistake which occurs frequently is in noting down the value from the previous steps. Avoid being careless.

■ If you are re-attempting any answer, cancel the previous one. Otherwise, as per CBSE guidelines, the latter will not be awarded any marks.

Good luck!

How to be a MUNer

Model United Nations is- ‘A Simulation of the United Nations’ which is becoming increasingly popular in the present education system.

The mock session provides students with an opportunity to act as diplomats involved in decision-making and conflict resolution of the United Nations. The students are assigned countries and they embrace the foreign policy of the nation that they have been assigned to. It provides a wonderful platform to the participants for interacting on various global issues. They share their exciting experiences of lobbying, forging alliances, diplomacy apart from honing their skills of public speaking, conflict resolution and much more, all with a common cause of making the world a better place.

Ten tips to be a good MUNer:

① You need to have thorough knowledge of UN and its working.

② You should be well informed not only of political but also economic, social and environmental issues pertinent in today’s world.

③ Develop a broader view of international relations.

④ Develop skills of independent research, communication, resolution-writ-



Ojasvi Khare, AIS 46, presenting the opening address at MUN in Oct. '09

ing and collaboration.

⑤ Accept the point of views of others patiently.

⑥ Learn about the conduct of formal meetings and the use of parliamentary procedures.

⑦ Learn to resolve problems through negotiation and diplomacy.

⑧ Focus on the pressing international issues and how UN has contributed to the cause

⑨ Try to gather support in your com-

mittee.

⑩ And last, take it as a fun-learning experience and enjoy

Eligibility: Students of class IX to XII are eligible to participate in the conference. Participation fee: Varies from school to school. Generally, it is between Rs. 1000 to 1200 per head if the event is held in India. Referencewebsites: ers.combbc.co.ukun.org/en/docuents

Compiled by Ojasvi Khare (With inputs of Ms. K Kapoor), AIS Gur-46 ●

Moulding into a new way of education



Ms Nirmala Sharma,
Co-ordinator, AIS 46, Gurgaon

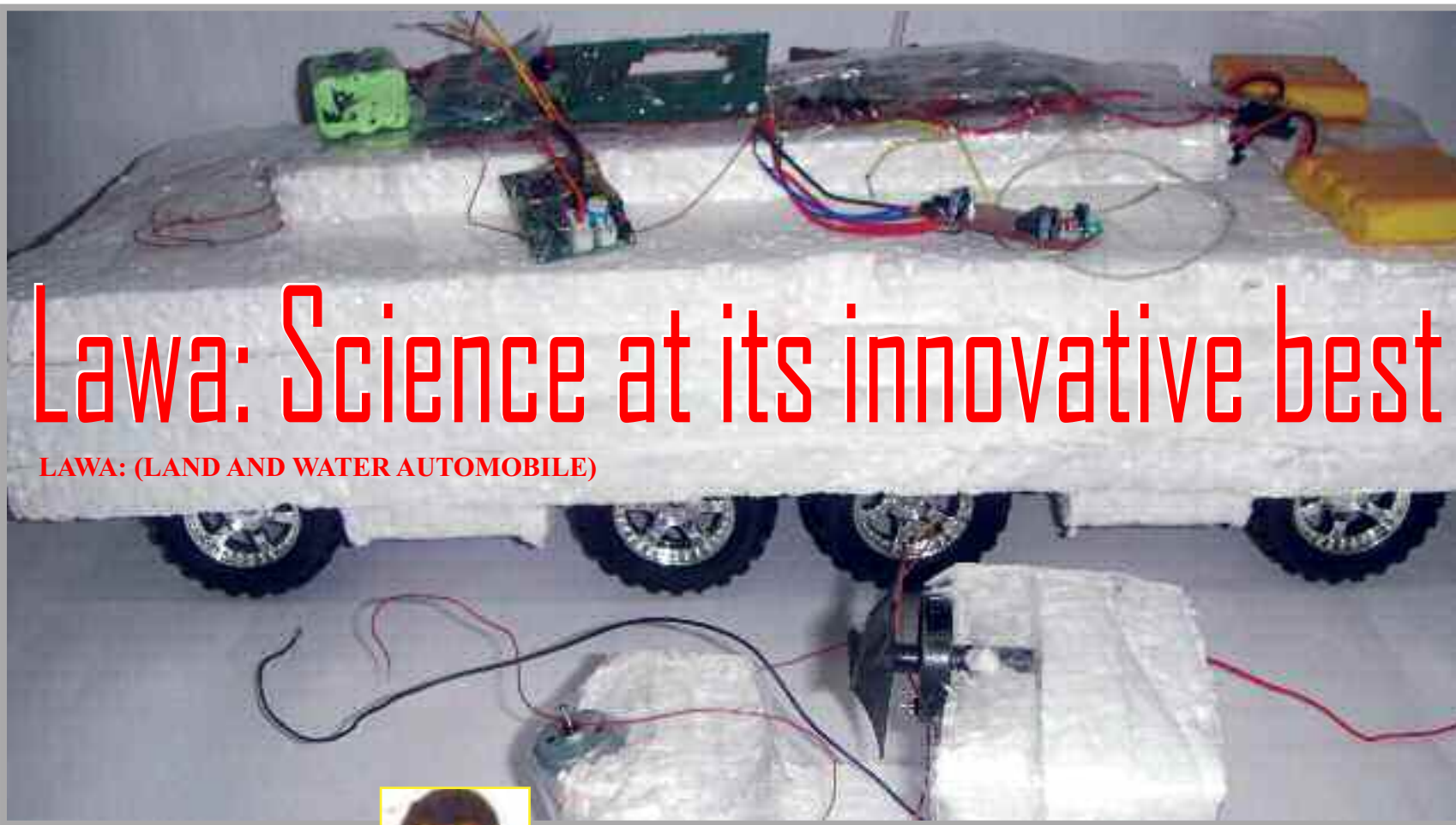
The reforms made by the CBSE in the examination system have whipped up excitement and curiosity among students and the teaching community alike.

Aptly named and handsomely packaged, the CCE stands for a system of evaluation that does not depend on merely a one-shot, three hour external examination but evaluates every learner over the entire period of learning schedule. Continuous internal assessment becomes an important component of the evaluation system giving teachers the tools, techniques and the freedom to innovate and mould children into more responsible,

productive and useful individuals.

It is comprehensive as it seeks to assess, improve and shape not only the academic achievements of a child but also other facets of his/her personality. The abilities of a child will now be under close observation so that a holistic assessment of the learner can be made with particular reference to attributes such as life skills, attitudes and values, sports and games as well as co-curricular activities.

The system, therefore aims at assessing and formally reporting the progress and growth of the individual’s school life thereby building on identified strengths and doctoring weaknesses so that every child grows without the hampering fear of examinations and learns in a free and comfortable school environment.



Lawa: Science at its innovative best

LAWA: (LAND AND WATER AUTOMOBILE)

Rachna Pachori
AIS-46, Gurgaon

Science at Amity, is a way of life. Students put their best foot forward to design unusual and innovative models. One such model is LAWA. LAWA, a Land and Water Automobile, has been specially designed for rough terrain and the impenetrable jungles of battlefields. This automobile is capable of crossing water bodies of any depth. Inspired by the American AAVs (Amphibious Assault Vehicles), **Manan Parashar** of class X-A, AIS Gurgaon-46, has formulated a new design which



Manan Parashar is a brilliant young scientist of AIS-46 Gurgaon. He is whole-heartedly dedicated to the field of technology, and is very innovative in the application of his creative ideas. Manan wants to go into weapon designing and hopes to contribute to India's security, one day.

can be put to many uses. He has made a **Pro@Project** proper transportation. The LAWA may be used to transport soldiers, goods, ammunition, medical supplies anywhere, as this technological marvel moves unhampered on both land and water. The LAWA also has the potential of becoming a deadly weapon. If properly decked with missiles, or assault weapons, this automobile could easily

become a feared weapon of the military force. Manan has made a part manually-controlled and part remote-operated prototype of the LAWA using common toys and electronic circuits. Manan believes that the LAWA is an automobile for the future and suggests its use for the military. But, with proper modifications, it could easily become an exploration pod, or an amphibious car. ●

Biodiversity and its conservation

Angad Singh, VIII, AIS Gur 46

Biodiversity is the variation of life forms within an ecosystem. The biodiversity found on earth consists of many distinct biological species. Biologists most often define biological diversity or biodiversity as the total number of genes, species and ecosystems of a region.

Human benefits: Biodiversity supports a number of natural ecosystems. Some ecosystem services that benefit our society are air quality, water purification, pollination, prevention of erosion, regulating the chemistry of our atmosphere, water supply, recycling of nutrients and providing fertile soil.

Rate of loss of species: The rate of species extinction is difficult to estimate, but it has been estimated that species are now being lost at a rate approximately 100 times as fast as is typical in the geological record, or perhaps as high as 10 000 times as fast. To feed such a large population, more land is being transformed from wilderness with wildlife into agricultural, mining, lumbering, and urban areas for humans.



bering, and urban areas for humans.

Threats to biodiversity

Destruction of habitat: Most of the species extinction is due to human activities in particular destruction of plants and animal habitats. Humans cut away forests for pasture, cropland and for building purposes. Animals get killed because a small pasture of land cannot support all animal species.

Exotic species: The rich diversity of unique species

across many parts of the world exists only because they are separated by barriers. These are barriers that couldn't have been easily crossed by natural processes. However, humans have invented transportation with the ability to bring into contact species that they've never met in their evolutionary history. As these species have never come in contact with each other, the rate at which they are nearing extinction is increasing. When exotic species are introduced to ecosystems and establish self-sustaining populations, the endemic species in that ecosystem that have not evolved to cope with the exotic species may not survive. The exotic organisms may be predators, parasites, or simply aggressive species that deprive indigenous species of nutrients, water and light.

Conserving biodiversity.

Some steps to conserve biodiversity are listed below:
 ■ Use both sides of a paper ■ Stop killing even the smallest of all animals ■ Use a cycle or walk for short distances ■ Instead of plastic bags use cloth bags ■ Plant a tree on your birthday ■ Use recycled objects for school projects ■ Stop poaching or hunting animals ●

DNA Puzzle Cracked

Akheel M Firoz, X-A,
AIS Gur-46

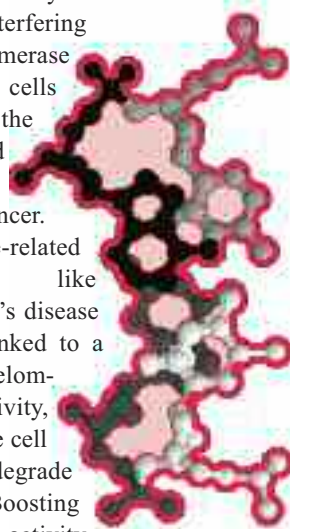
The Nobel Prize in Medicine was awarded to Elizabeth Blackburn, Carol W. Greider and Jack W. Szostak for their research in cracking a DNA puzzle. Their work has revealed how the ends of chromosomes can be copied, which has implications for understanding human ageing, cancer and several inherited diseases.

Telomeres are the caps on the end of chromosomes, which carry the genetic code that's written in our DNA. In theory, telomeres and the chromosome as a whole should become shorter every time a cell divides, but in some cases they don't, this has perplexed scientists for decades.

In 1984, Greider, Szostak and Blackburn identified telomerase, the enzyme that makes telomere DNA and prevents chromosomes from shortening and becoming unstable. As telomeres shorten each time a cell divides, the process contributes to cell ageing. When the telomerase enzyme is very active, the telomere length is maintained, giving the cell eternal youth. Inhibiting or interfering with telomerase

in cancer cells may kill the cell and someday cure cancer. Some age-related illnesses like Alzheimer's disease may be linked to a lack of telomerase activity, causing the cell to degrade quicker. Boosting telomerase activity could help to slow down aging and stabilize some of these illnesses.

The work towards this has just begun and there are miles upon miles to be covered before this is made possible. Perhaps we humans have found the fabled fountain of youth within ourselves and have started an attempt to use it with the help of science and technology. Will there be a time when one can live to see the fourth generation of himself? And will the resources be sufficient to support the future immortal human beings whose population will only increase? And as with any other technology, will it be used to create more harm than use? Deciding whether one will live or when one will die is a huge decision. Are we humans ready to play God? Only time will tell. ●



Aditya Rai & Ahan Kak, X, AIS 46

Mobile company: The best thing is that there is something for everyone, whatever may be the budget. In mobiles for example, there is a phone such as

Nokia N 900: This is the most talked about phone in recent times.
 Pros: 32 GB mass memory, 256 MB RAM, and if this is less, one can expand its RAM further to 16 GB. A 5 MP camera with Carl Zeiss Optics, Dual LED flash etc. It also has an inbuilt GPS receiver.

Cons: Bulky as compared to the other phones in this range.
 Price: Rs 40,000/- approx.
 Average Ratings****

HTC HERO: The latest one from HTC is the Hero, which is an android based phone with easy access to the web while on the move. To help develop Android, Google also unveiled the Open Handset Alliance - a partnership of more than 30 firms that would work to make



phone software easier to work with.
 Pros: 5MP camera, Digital compass, Dedicated search key, scenes quick profile switcher, etc
 Cons: No flash, despite having a 5 MP camera.
 Price: Rs 31,000/-
 Average Ratings:***

Game on! For one's free time, gaming consoles like Nintendo Wii, X Boxes, Sony Playstations are available at a reasonable price. The latest console is the Playstation 3 Slim priced

at Rs 25,000 approx, having features like Dolby 5.1ch, unique sounds, 256 MB RAM and a 20-60 GB hard disk.
 Average Ratings:
 Framed: Digital photo albums. Now we can watch all the pictures on a small frame with the pictures stored in a very small memory card. Digital frames are available for prices starting Rs. 5000/-, and they come in all sizes.
 Average Ratings:****

Video goggles: These days, video goggles are also available eliminating dependency on televisions to watch favourite TV shows and movies. Just put on these goggles and enjoy them!
 Average Ratings: ****



iPod nano (5th Generation): Pros: Video camera, FM radio, voice recording, a built-in speaker, and a larger 2.2-inch screen.

Cons: The nano's camera can't shoot photos of HD-quality. Storage capacities remain stuck at 8GB and 16GB.
 Average Ratings:***



The Green Fashionista

Eco-fashion trends are fast catching-up with the fashion enthusiasts everywhere, be it in accessories, cosmetics or dress

Swati Kamra, XII
AIS Gur-46

The best way to condemn hazardous fashion wear is not to arrange a rally which will shout allegorical anti-inorganic and pro-organic slogans and carrying out placards while marching. Simply condemning such products is too simplistic. Going green is not just about awareness; it's about waking up from inaction and apathy. One has to simply stop buying all those products which are made using synthetic and unhealthy materials. **Green fashion:** To find out about green fashion wear, one doesn't have to explore alien planets. Almost all designers, have dedicated at least one corner of their fashion house to organic clothing. So one can go to fashion apparel store of companies like *Lavara, Saffron Rouge and Vegan* that specially display green fashion wear. It is being promoted by a number of famous designs such as *Oscar de la Renta and Proenza Schouler*.

Levis' Strauss too has slipped into this arena. The basic material used for eco-friendly clothing is organic cotton, bamboo, corn, hemp, vegetable dyes and recycled fibres.

IN: *Jute Bag/Slippers/dresses*

Accessorize well: It's not simply clothes. Going green has extended to fashion accessories as well. Designers are all geared up to provide you with stuff which will help you go all green. Zen boutique—a designer label from Japan specializes in eco-friendly jewellery. A designer belt, scarf made of eco-friendly materials, a pair of eco-friendly shoes covering your feet along with eco-friendly clothes can make any person a brand ambassador of green fashion apparel!

IN: *Kitten lab earrings, Terracota and Jute earrings*

Skin friendly: Eco-friendly fashion is gentle on the skin, too. That's not all. All those fashion conscious people who feel that eco-friendly clothing may not be stylish, think again. In this age, eco-friendly labels have taken over the world of renewable, energy conscious fashionistas allowing them to look good and feel good, too.

So go out there all you chic fashionistas. Walk out with élan, ooze oomph and take environmental consciousness to the world with aplomb and panache!

IN: *Green tea* •

“Rhythm divine”

Lakshya & Anubhuti, VII, AIS Gur-46

Music has been with mankind since very early days. The ancient Indian scriptures state that when Lord Brahma created the universe, he also created music to enrich and embellish the lives of beings on this earth.

Nature has created mankind and also many other creatures on this earth. The seven musical notes have their origin from the cry of animals. Among the seven notes the note 'Sa' is from the cry of a peacock, 'Re' is from the bird chatak, 'Ga' from a goat, 'Ma' from a crow, 'Pa' from a cuckoo, 'Dha' from a frog and 'Ne' from that of an elephant. In this manner, nature has a strong impact on music.

Every aspect of music is related to the lives of human beings. A housewife sings a particular type of songs while doing household chores. Similarly songs of festivals like Holi, Teej, songs of birth of a child, marriages, songs of seed-sowing and harvest sung by field-laborers give rise to the Indian Folk Music.

Music has an effect on the human mind and body. It is known to have cured ailments and diseases. Noted musician, Pandit Omkar Nath Thakur, used the power of



music to cure infamous dictator Benito Mussolini of insomnia (a sleep disorder). The healing powers of music are now being widely recognized and practiced by medical practitioners to treat many disabilities in hospitals. •

Inputs from Ms. Mrugyani A. Pavgi

Authentic Trends

Pooja Sauhta, XI, AIS Gur - 46

Within the past few years, art in jewellery has become an established fact. The fashion trends today seem to be a redefining all parameters, experimenting with the old and new, setting new trends for all.



Lets take stalk of the new fashion trends that are here to stay..

Ageless Fashion: What was worn in the days of the Pharaoh is made to seem modern. It is acknowledged that it is this facile dexterity in combining past and present, the ability to cull suggestions from other eras, and endow them with the personal touch of today—and tomorrow—that has given designers their supremacy in dictating modern fashions. The best example of the ageless fashion is a six yard piece of single cloth called saree. While saree remains the same, the style may vary, keeping the fashion alive. The

Nehru coat and Khadi kurtas continue to remain a fashion statement at all elite gatherings.

Fashion Fusion: Fashion repeats itself, that's for sure, and fashion industry has embraced decade dressing as the trend.



Ancient Greece was the birthplace of several types of fashion jewellery which are worn today such as cameos fashioned by greek jewellery-makers.

Jewel mine: There has been a special craze for jewellery in every age irrespective of gender, religion, age, culture and fashion. No matter how traditional or modern a person is, the choice of jewellery makes him create his own fashion statement. Body jewellery in particular is drawing significant attention of youngster and exotic jewellery has the ability to make heads turn around.

Stylo-meter: Fashion trends and fashion sense are two different types of style,

the fashion gurus live and breathe to distinguish the difference and judge lifestyles by this. That is why fashion is one of the billion industries of the world that is doing phenomenally well.





Special ability day



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

December 3 is celebrated as the World Disability day. I prefer to celebrate it as the World Special Ability Day. Who is an able or disabled person depends on the individual. Ability for me, is a state of mind. Stories and real life examples of people

across the world have proven each time that disability is no hindrance to any success.

Take a closer look at the word 'disabled'. Is it just confined to a physical abnormality? Would you not call a man who engages in anti-national act, a disabled patriot? Someone who employs in child labour - a disabled master? A corrupt officer - a disabled bureaucrat? It may sound strange, but disability is there everywhere in the society. As long as we allow this disability to flourish, we let ourselves be labelled as socially 'disabled' citizens.

On this day, pause and ask yourself: Have you ever seen a blind man making an effort to cross the road and not helped him do so? Have you ever befriended a student with learning disability? Have you ever invited a spastic child to your birthday party? What is that enables or disables you from doing so. Analyse it.

A special school with customized teaching methodologies works wonders for many physically impaired students, who are able to relocate themselves within the society. What the school fails to do is to sensitize the so called 'able' towards their needs and requirements. Social sensitivity, an integral part of any educational curriculum, cannot be learnt through books. An inclusive education as practiced in Amity where slow learners and visually challenged co-exist in class, sharing the burden, provides for the answer. And we celebrate it everyday. ●

Holistic Education

"It is no longer the aptitude but the attitude that will determine the altitude attained in life under continuous comprehensive evaluation"



Dr. R. Ranade
Principal
AIS Gur 46

Education is a continuous process and thus development and evaluation go hand in hand. Hence, we at Amity welcome continuous comprehensive evaluation (CCE) with open arms. CCE is accompanied with lots of excitement and anxiety amongst the teachers and students both. It aims to cover all the learning experience of the learner in both scholastic and co-scholastic areas. The individual perceptions of CCE are different but the motto is one, holistic development of the scholar. Under the dynamic leadership of our Chairperson Amity was already following the CCE guidelines over the last decade. We always believed in maintaining a fine balance of academics and activities for the wholesome development of a child's personality.

As members of various prestigious clubs, we are instrumental in providing due exposure to our budding entrepreneurs. We are proud of all the champions, academic, sports and co-curricular winners. The children remind us that it is perspective and attention to little things that makes a true champion. We are proud of the success of Amity delegation to MUNOG also represented by Ojasvi Khare and Bhavya Garg of AIS- 46. Coming up with the Global Times issue has been an exciting journey for the students. Global Times has given our children a chance to experience the joys of writing and expressing. ●

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"Stem cell; an ethical practice"

For

Ratul Roshan, X, AIS Gur 46

"Over 4,00,000 embryos being stored in over 400 facilities throughout the United States, many of which will go unused, destined the freezer or waste disposal can be used for Stem Cell Research..."

-Barack Obama (2006)

Stem cells technology promises cures and treatments to a plethora of diseases such as Parkinson's disease, Schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, Cancer etc.

However, it is faced with certain objections:

It is unethical to destroy a blastocyst, which has been formed from laboratory-fertilized human eggs. Even though the human embryo deserves "profound respect", it does not have the status of a human person.

You must kill the embryo to harvest its stem cells. This creation of 'human' subjects solely for the purpose of destructive research was unethical.

Scientists reply that only embryos leftover from IVF and those slated for elective abortions would be used & with parental consent. Even the National Bioethics Advisory Commission accepted that the government can fund 'Fetal Tissue Research', as long as the choice of abortion was independent and not for the sole purpose of research.

Imagine an Autistic person, who is unable to express himself and unable to grasp any external stimulus ef-

fectively, even though he has an excellent IQ. How long can such an exceptional mind survive in a vegetable-like body? Does an embryo, bereft of all feelings and identity, scheduled for disposal deserve more respect than a conscious and feeling man? I leave you to ponder.

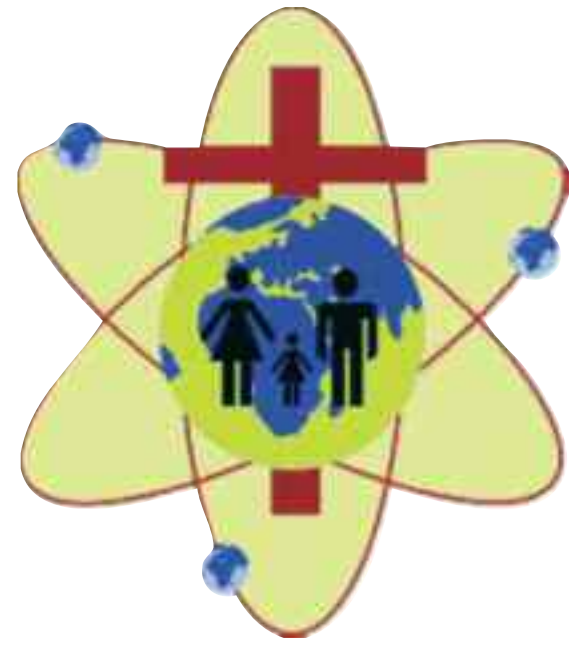
Against

Prabhav Vashisht, X, AIS Gur 46

One of the most controversial debates raging at the moment is about the ethics of embryonic stem cell research as the extraction of stem cells involves killing the embryo. "Is a human embryo, human?" Yes! It has the same DNA as you and me. In fact, any pregnant woman hoping to break the news of her pregnancy to her hubby says, "Hey honey, I'm pregnant with your baby" and not, "Hey honey, I'm pregnant with your zygote!"

Among scientists, there is the desire to relieve the suffering of those who can't become parents and this reinforces the incredible and immeasurable value of a human life. This makes the use of human embryos ironic. Just because embryos can die naturally does not imply that scientists can destroy them with impunity.

At the moment, embryonic stem cell research is only a scientific exploration into the potential benefits of killing human beings. Stem cells have sometimes mutated, been rejected by the recipient's body or



GT Debate

produced tumours.

The researchers are nowhere near a definite solution to all the diseases this research promises to cure. The fact is that the only guarantee they can offer is the death of embryos. Stem cell research so far has been a failure, especially in patients of Parkinson's and there is no sign of discovery on the horizon.

Therefore, how can we allow the killing of human cells, when nothing will be obtained from it? ●

Discipline A key to success

Srishti Kacker, VIII, AIS- Gur 46

Discipline is the ability to force yourself to do something you know you should do, whether you like it or not. Discipline must be developed in order to succeed. The following quote describes the term 'discipline' more efficiently. "Discipline

is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable, procures success to the weak, and esteem to all." The above quote by George Washington demonstrates the importance of discipline in our lives.

Habits contracted at a young age are generally permanent, and influence conduct throughout the life. Discipline should be inculcated in life at the earliest stage. The youth of country or society are the leaders of tomorrow. It is imperative that the youth be taught discipline because an honorable nation can emerge when each citizen builds their character. We cannot prepare the future for our youth but we can certainly prepare him/her for the future. This is where caring parents, teachers and custodians of society need to get involved. It is without doubt important for children to get good academic training but the values parents teach their children are more important for real success.

Discipline has never gone unnoticed. It is a visible and very apparent trait in any person. Discipline doesn't break a child's spirit but lack of discipline breaks a parent's heart. Therefore, it is each parent's duty towards society to make his/her child a valuable member of society by imparting discipline. ●



Practise What You Preach

Pearls of wisdom

Ramakrishna was one of the greatest religious leaders ever born in India.

One day, an old lady came to Ramakrishna Paramhansa with her ten year old grandson.

Lady: Master! I have come to seek your advice. This boy is my grandson. He is very fond of sweets. He eats so much that his health is deteriorating day by day. The doctors have advised him not to eat sweets but this fellow does not pay any heed to their advice. However, he has great respect and admiration for you. So, he will listen to you.

Ramakrishna Paramhansa: Mother, don't worry; come with your grandson after a month. The woman thanked him and took leave of him

After a month the lady returned with her grandson. Both of them paid salutations to the master. Ramakrishna Paramhansa made the boy sit beside him.

Ramakrishna Paramhansa: My dear boy! Remember

one's real wealth is health. You'll only succeed in life if you are healthy and strong. You are a nice boy and will listen to me, will you not?

Boy: Yes guruji, I promise. The old woman sent the boy on some errand just to have a confidential talk with the master.

Lady: Master, can I ask a question? Ramakrishna Paramhansa: Certainly, mother.

Lady: Master, you could have given the advice which you have given today to my grandson, last month.

Ramakrishna Paramhansa (smiled): Mother, I myself eat lots of sweets. How can I advise the boy to do something that I am not doing myself? One has no right to preach to others without practicing it himself. This one month I did not eat sweets. So I have earned the right to preach your grandson.

Moral- We should never advise anyone about anything which we ourselves don't put in practice.

(Source: Chinna Katha II)

Contributed by:
Chirag Agarwal,
VIII, AIS
Gur 46



Being a student, I know reading newspapers can be boring at times but this is not the case with The Global Times. I feel connected to my generation as I read articles written by my peers in the newspaper and I can actually relate to them. Every column of The Global Times has a different article expressing their point of view and the best part about this school newspaper is that the children whose article appear in the columns of this esteemed newspaper actually feel more confident and realize their strength and talent. It covers al-

most all the horizons of teenage life- from inspiration and motivation to poetry to music to movies and to everybody's thoughts about a current topic.

Nilofer Rao, XI-B,
AIS Gur 46

'Green Revolution to Evergreen Revolution'

I feel a great personal need to congratulate Dr. M.S. Swaminathan (The Global Times, October 16-31, 2009), eminent agricultural scientist, for his

GT M@il



progressive views on agriculture. I'm in synergy with his opinions on urgent need to take a paradigm shift from Green Revolution to Evergreen Revolution. Agriculture has been commercialized too much and to get high yield from crops we use too much of pesticides and this is contaminating underground water. Ground water is not only getting contaminated, it is

also depleting at a fast rate of 3 to 4 feet annually, especially in Haryana and Punjab. With this pace, the day is not far when these two states will be devoid of any ground water and landscape will turn arid and dry creating desert type conditions. Heavy dependence on groundwater is evident in that groundwater is used for irrigation in 95% of the total irrigated area. We should cultivate crops that need less water. We should use bio fertilizers and should find alternatives to pesticides. ●

Parul Chauhan, Teacher



Making a newspaper appears easy but it's not! From the experience of making GT, I learnt how important hard-work is to achieve something. Working with GT was a fabulous experience! Prashant Rao, VIII-A, AIS Gurgaon-46

The Global Times, December 1-15, 2009

Common Disabilities

"If I regarded my life from the point of view of the pessimist, I should be undone. I should seek in vain for the light that does not visit my eyes and the music that does not ring in my ears. I should beg night and day and never be satisfied. I should sit apart in awful solitude, a prey to fear and despair. But since I consider it a duty to myself and to others to be happy, I escape a misery worse than any physical deprivation." - Helen Keller

Janhavi P. Rajan & Uma Serma
Bharthi, XI, AIS Gur 46

Disability is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. Such impairments may include physical, sensory, and cognitive or intellectual impairments. Mental disorders (also known as psychiatric or psychosocial disability) and various types of chronic disease may also qualify as disabilities.

The hardest thing to overcome is not a physical disability but the mental condition which it induces. Imagine having to lead a life where doing simple tasks such as climbing stairs or looking at the colors of a rainbow or copying from the class blackboard become intricate chores. But as Stephen Hawking says - "It is a waste of time to be angry about one's disability. One has to get on with life and people won't have time for you if you are always angry or complaining."

World Disability Day which is organized every year on 3rd December holds immense significance for the disability sector. It is a day to take stock of the achievements of disabled people. It is also a good chance to bring the needs, concerns and rights of persons with disability into the national limelight.

There are a wide variety of disabilities—developmental, physical, mental, and acquired. Let us become more familiar with some of the most commonly encountered disabilities -

Physical Disabilities

Visual Impairment: Visual impair-

ment is vision loss of a person to such a degree as to qualify as a handicap through a significant limitation of visual capability. This type of disability includes Blindness, Blurred Vision, Cataract and Color Blindness.

Hearing Impairment Deafness: is a full or partial decrease in the ability to detect or understand sounds. It can take the form of hearing loss, Meniere's Disease (disorder of the inner ear that can affect hearing and balance) or Tinnitus (Ringing In the Ears).

Mobility Impairment: Cerebral Palsy - Cerebral palsy describes a group of permanent disorders of the development of movement and posture, causing activity limitation.

Multiple Sclerosis: A chronic disease of the brain and spinal cord characterized by weakness, numbness, a loss of muscle coordination, and problems with vision, speech and bladder control.

Muscular Dystrophy: Muscular dystrophy refers to a group of genetic, hereditary muscle diseases that weaken the muscles that move the human body. There are a few more disabilities listed in this category ranging from Arthritis, Paralysis and Stroke to Parkinson's Disease.

Mental Disabilities

Alzheimer's Disease: Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia. In the early

stages, the most commonly recognized symptom is memory loss, such as difficulty in remembering recently learned facts.

Bipolar Disorder: is a condition in which people experience abnormally elevated and abnormally depressed states for a period of time in a way that interferes with functioning.

Depression: It is a mental state characterized by a pessimistic sense and sad feelings of gloom and inadequacy. Depression is a term that can refer to a wide variety of abnormal variations in

an individual's mood

OCD: (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) An anxiety disorder marked by the presence of obsessions and compulsions severe enough to interfere with the activities of daily life.

Schizophrenia: A group of mental disorders characterized by abnormal thoughts, moods and actions; sufferers have a distorted sense of reality and a split personality.

Developmental Disabilities

Autism is a disorder of neural development that is characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior.

Asperger syndrome: People with asperger syndrome show significant difficulties in social interaction, along with restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior and interests.

Dyslexia is a learning disorder that manifests itself primarily as a difficulty with reading and spelling.

ADHD is primarily characterized by the co-existence of attention problems and hyperactivity. The child may also demonstrate disruptive or aggressive behavior and has difficulty in concentrating.

Down Syndrome: An inherited birth defect that results in mental handicap. Down syndrome is associated with some impairment of mental ability and physical growth as well as facial appearance.

How can you help?

Creating impact and nurturing compassion is not an easy task but like they say, one man is an army in himself. So, if this article has touched you in any way and you want to help the lesser fortunate in our society- do not hesitate. Student groups can be formed in each school and those who wish to volunteer can start community service programmes. Motivate others around you to be a part of this group and organize field trips and community visits to organizations working for the disabled. Sensitizing as many people as possible is a must. Let us come together and contribute for a noble cause.

The need for a special educator

Malvika Bhardwaj and Iliana Luthra, students of class VII, AIS 46- Gurgaon, interviewed Mrs. Anuradha who works with children with disabilities. On being asked about her views on the problems faced by disabled children, Mrs. Anuradha said, "The biggest hurdle is that most people in our country consider a disabled child mad or 'pagal'. They do not understand that they are just like other children! This prejudiced mindset needs to be altered if we want disabled people to join the mainstream." According to her, teaching them is very rewarding as they are very obedient, affectionate and eager to learn. All they need is love, understanding and patience. She wished that other children wouldn't tease or taunt the mentally challenged and develop sensitivity towards the physically handicapped. She was full of praise for schools that have opened their doors for the handicapped and hopes that other schools too would do so. ●



Oishee bonding with visually handicapped girls



Observing the disabled gain motor control



Stevie Wonder - is an American singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and record producer. Blind from infancy, Wonder signed with Motown Records as a pre-adolescent at age twelve, and continues to perform and record for the label to this day.



Thomas Edison - was an American inventor who was deaf but has developed many devices including the phonograph and a long lasting light bulb.

Stephen Hawking - Professor Stephen Hawking is a well-known example of a person and has lived for more than 40



years with cerebral palsy. The internationally renowned Physicist, has defied time and doctor's pronouncements that he would not live 2-years beyond his 21 years of age.



John Nash - A Hollywood movie has been made representing Nash, "A beautiful Mind" which was later nominated for 8 Oscars. The movie was based on his mathematical genius and



his struggle with Schizophrenia. **Agatha Christie** - was the world's best selling book writer of all times only truly surpassed by the Bible and equaled by Shakespeare, her books sold approximately 4 billion copies worldwide. Agatha suffered from dyslexia.



Michael Jackson- He has had over 30 cosmetic surgery operations. Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) is a negative preoccupation with physical appearance. Individuals with BDD display symptoms similar to those who are diagnosed with OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder).

Famous people with disabilities



Budding Tiger Woods

“Just focus on whatever you are doing... be it studies, sports, anything! If you concentrate on what you do, success is bound to follow you.” Kushal, AIS Gur 46

Prashant Rao, VIII A, AIS 46

Kushal Singh, a student of AIS-46, has won many laurels in his life's passion- golf. He has taken part in many other sports, and has even made to the Under 12 national team in cricket, but none gives him as much satisfaction as golf.

Spotting The Talent: Kushal's father, Dr Jai Singh recalls the day when his Japanese friend took them to a golf course where he took notice of Kushal's curiosity and the immediate penchant for the game.

The Grooming: Dr. Singh decided to nurture his talent under the watchful eye of Mr Anitya Chand who is currently the number 1 coach in India. Vital traits that Kushal learnt from his father were patience, integrity and emotion control. It took Kushal a great amount of time, pa-

tience and dedication to get the hang of this less known and complicated sport.

Golf As A Game: Golf, a gentleman's game which is mentally very challenging and sophisticated, is very similar to life and includes obstacles and ups and downs. A golfer needs to stay very focused, calm and honest while playing.

On Winning His First Tournament: It

Highlights

Name of Tournament	Rank
Albatross Junior Golf Tournament	2nd
All India Junior Golf Tournament	8th
US- Kid Golf Tournament	1st Gold
DLF Golf Academy- Junior Gold	1st Gold
Division Medal Rounds	
Asia Pacific Seed Association Golf Tournament	1st Crystal Trophy

took Kushal almost a year to get himself properly acquainted with the game and prepare himself for the national level tournaments.

His regular practice, dedication and hard work resulted in his first tournament win in 2007. This boosted his confidence and morale - 'Nothing succeeds like success', according to Kushal. There has been no looking back after this and he has been winning more tournaments and improving his game with every tournament. His prime break came in 2009 when he was selected for the US KIDS TOURNAMENT where children from 48 different countries had participated. This proved to be a golden opportunity for him to learn a lot about golf by observing his fellow competitors. Do you know what his favourite part of the game is? The opportunity to play... he loves that. ●

The Blade Runner: Oscar Pistorius

Chirag Agarwal, VIII C,
AIS Gur 46

“Yesterday those who dared to struggle, today they dare to win.”

Oscar Pistorius, a man of guts and courage popularly known as “fastest thing on no legs” is a double amputee from South Africa who won the Paralympics gold in Beijing over 100m, 200m and 400m category setting a world record. He was only 11 months old when his parents took the heart-wrenching decision of cutting down his limbs as he did not have fibula in both his legs. Pistorius, the brave runner, never hesitated in competing with able-bodied people and took the silver medal over 400 meters in the 2007 South African National Championships. In that race there was only one amputee who dared to compete against people with no handicaps and challenge them and that was Oscar Pistorius. Oscar not only won gold in Beijing Paralympics but also won gold in 100m, 200m and 400m categories in IPC World Championships Assen. At the South African Championships in March 2005, Pistorius ran the 400m in the Open/Able-Bodied category and achieved 6th place in the final competition. That same year, he also won the gold in both the 100m and 200m while representing South Africa in the Paralympic World Cup in Manchester, England. Subsequently, the IAAF invited him to run in a Grand Prix meeting in Helsinki and at the World Championship in Manchester, making him the



first disabled athlete ever invited to such an event and he was also honored by Nelson Mandela. Many of us would not even have heard about him but Oscar Pistorius still remains to be a big source of inspiration for all physically handicapped people.

“Those who will to do something and have the determination, let the whole world be against them but they will still turn out to be victorious.”●



Top 5 largest Stadiums in The World

Dhruv Agarwal VIII-A, AIS Gur 46

The top 5 sports stadiums of the world by their seating capacity are:

Rungrado May Day Stadium: The largest stadium in the world was built in 1989 with a capacity of 150,000 seats. It is situated on Rungra Island in the Taedong River, at Pyongyang, North Korea. It derives its name from the island and May Day, the international Labour Day. It looks like a parachute and is used for hosting football matches, athletics events and Arirang performances.

Youva Bharati Krirangan Stadium: (120,000 capacity). This stadium is situated in Bidhannagar, Kolkata, India and was built in 1984. It is popularly known as “Salt Lake Stadium”. It is the largest stadium in India and hosts football matches and athletics events.

Beaver Stadium: (107,282 capacity) Beaver stadium is located on the campus of The Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania. It was built in 1960 and named after Penn-

sylvania's former governor Mr. James A. Beaver. It is the largest stadium in North America and used for American football matches.

Michigan Stadium: (106,201 capacity) This stadium was built in 1927 and has a capacity of 106,201 spectators. It is located at the University of Michigan, USA. It is also called “The Carnegie Hall of all Sports” and “the House that Yost built” and is again used for hosting American football matches.

Estadio Azteca: (105,000 capacity) This stadium located in Mexico City, Mexico was built in 1966 with a capacity of 105,000. It usually hosts football matches. It has the distinction of being the only stadium in the world to host 2 FIFA World Cup final matches in 1970 and 1986. It is here that Diego Maradona, Argentinean captain, scored both the “Hand of God goal” and the “Goal of the Century” during Argentina's world cup triumph..●

Compiled by: Dhruv Agarwal VIII-A
Source: Wikipedia

Indigenous sports

Sports Spotted

Man has always liked challenges. Sports have a fascination that is hard to resist. They challenge our intelligence and physical fitness and act as a tonic to our ego.

Asit More of IX A, AIS Gur 46 digs out some unusual sports, “River bugging in New Zealand, Elephant Polo, which is played in Nepal and Sri Lanka, and Desert Racing in Rajasthan are some examples of unusual sports. It is believed, “Any game which involves speed and skilled maneuvering is always interesting.”

Sepak Takraw is a sport native to South

East Asia played over badminton net. It is a cross between soccer and volleyball and is also called foot volleyball. A player can play the game using any part of his body except his hands. **Prashant Rao of VIII A** updates, “The game requires terrific reflexes, and the name itself is very interesting!” “Bete is a popular sport in Brazil. It is much like cricket,” informs **Marcos Lopes of VIII D**.

Disc Golf is a game in which individual players throw a flying disc into a basket or at a target. **Sushant Raghav of IX C** quips, “Disc golf

is inexpensive and is physically possible for all ages and athletic ranges and therefore, I really like the game.”

Underwater Hockey is a non-contact sport in which two teams compete to maneuver a puck across the bottom of a swimming pool into goals. “As I like water and do not appreciate rough games, I would definitely like to play this game,”

says an excited **Siddhant Chandel, IX C**.

There are many more games/sports that can be added to this list. Since they are played locally, they are not popular worldwide. The interest in these low profile sports fades away with the present popularity of sports like football or cricket which can be easily watched on television. However the need of a new and unusual sport will always remain.

Local Indian Games

Gatka, Kushti (Punjab), Pajathkya (Gujrat), Bilangor (A.P.), Pulanguli (Tamil Nadu), Gilli Danda (U.P.), Kho-Kho (U.P.), Baghbandi Khela (West Bengal), Chamma chakka (Karnataka), Pithoo (Haryana)●

(compiled with inputs from boys of classes VIII & IX by **Ms. Padmini Das**)



Junior taekwondo Master-blaster!



Sheffi Tiwari, VII AIS 46,
Gur

Mayank Yadav, a student of class VI F of AIS-46 and a red belt in the sport, has won the gold medal in the under 14, CBSE National Taekwondo Championship held at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. “My parents, principal and coach – Raju Yadav sir were so proud of me. I am also very happy of such an achievement.” quips Mayank. Mayank was just 8, when he joined taekwondo classes and discovered that he had this talent. He won his first gold medal at the district level in class 3rd. He has also won gold medal at the CBSE state level championships and since then, there has been no holding him back! He gives the credit of his success to his coach and the support and blessings of his parents.

To keep himself fit, Mayank drinks three glasses of milk daily and exercises regularly. His ambition is to represent India in international events and become an engineer. He is aware that he needs to give a lot of importance to studies and has managed to devote enough time to pursue both his dreams. He scores above 85% and makes it a point to cover the syllabus he misses when he's participating in competitions. He is an avid reader of Global Times. “I feel its an excellent way to present your ability to write and creativity. I hope our school wins the con-



Making a newspaper is a remarkable and a unique experience of expressing new ideas and feelings. It was just like joining the building blocks! Kopal Chandra, VIII-B, AIS-46

The Global Times, December 1-15, 2009

Illustration by Nitya Chopra 5-B



Short story

The Story of Gods

Kritika Singhal, V, AIS Gur 46

After creating man, Gods were worried about the safety of the principle of power. They were worried that if man got hold of it, things could become very difficult for them. The Gods could never afford to let this happen. So, they decided to call an urgent meeting. The question was where to keep the principle of power in a place that would be safe and hidden from man. One God suggested, "The best place to hide our principle of power is on the top of the highest mountain." Another God disagreed. He said, "Sooner or later man will get there. In that event, we will be ruined. So, I suggest the safest place to hide the principle of power will be the bottom of the deepest sea." A third God intervened by saying, "We should bury it deep in the earth." One wise old God was listening silently while sitting at the back. He stood up and said, "If hiding the principle of power from man is your serious interest, why not put it inside man himself. Man would never think of looking there." Upon hearing this, every God instinctively knew that this was the real solution and the motion was carried.

The moral that can be drawn from this imaginary story is that you have everything you need to be successful within you. The fact is that we are the primary architects of our future. We will become what we want to be because of our own effort. ●

Our Country

Vibhu Verma, I F, AIS Gur 46

There are many things
Which are good and pretty
A place where you can find
It's my own country
There are many people
Of different states
There are many festivals
Of all seasons, celebrated
due to various reasons.
But we love our togetherness
A feeling of brotherhood
And oneness.
There is one thought and idea
Which we can find in our
Country India.

Parents

Deepanjali Yadav, V A, AIS Gur 46

Parents are our guide
They are always by our side
They teach what is right
And make our future bright
Parents teach us moral values
They deserve our love and salutes.
Parents protect us from pain
Respecting them should be our aim.

Sachin Tendulkar

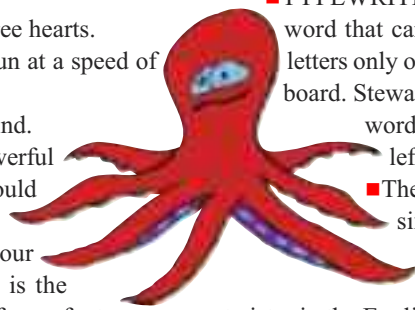
An acrostic poem by
Vathul Subramanian
VIII, AIS Gur 46

Sachin is the greatest
A classy player, indeed!
Can mesmerize us with his strokes
Holds the greatest number of records
In the modern era
Never can he be replaced!
Tantalises us with his batting
Enrages the bowlers with his hits
Nearly God or Superman for Indians
Dons the No. 10 shirt and Indian colours with pride
Uses an MRF bat
Loves the game of cricket
Kirsten is his coach
A player since 1989
Racing ahead on the path of glory and success!

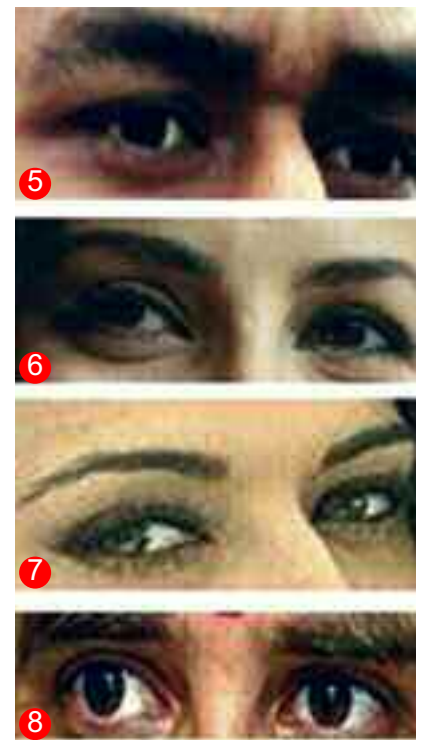
Amazing Facts

Nitya Chopra, V, Daksh Shah V & Srishti Kackker, VIII, AIS Gur 46

- The stonefish which lives off the coast of Australia is the most poisonous fish in the world.
- Octopuses have three hearts.
- Wild turkeys can run at a speed of 25 miles per hour.
- Dogs are colour blind.
- An ostrich is so powerful that a single kick would be fatal to a lion.
- The length from your wrist to your elbow is the same as the length of your foot.
- Your mouth produces 1 litre of saliva a day. Unless food is mixed with saliva you can not taste it.
- On an average, people can hold their breath for about one minute. The world record is 21 minutes 29 seconds, by David Merlino.
- On an average you speak 5000 words a day – although almost 80% of speaking is self talk.
- Einstein's brain was of average size (1375 grams).
- The liver is the largest of the body's internal organs. The skin is the body's largest organ.



- Coca-Cola was originally green.
- The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be typed using the letters only on one row of the keyboard. Stewardesses is the longest word typed with only the left-hand.
- The "sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987, 654,321$
- If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head and die.
- If a statue of a warrior on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. If the horse has a all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes. ●



Contest: Eye Recognition

Daksh Shah, Class V, AIS 46, Gur

Q-Recognize the name of the celebrity by his/her eyes.

Hint-They belong to different fields like acting, politics, sports.

Answers: 1. Hritik Roshan 2. Shahid Kapoor 3. Shah Rukh Khan 4. Aishwarya Rai 5. MS. Dhoni 6. Katrina Kaif 7. Preity Zinta 8. Rahul Gandhi

Blockbuster Movies Associated With Disability

Kopal Chandra, VIII-B, AIS Gur 46

CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD: The movie released in 1986 featured a deaf and dumb actress, Sarah Norman who won an Oscar for her commendable role in the film.

RAIN MAN: This multiple Oscar winning movie featured Dustin Hoffman, a person who is the autistic brother of Tom Cruise

TARE ZAMEEN PAR: Released in 2007 was a movie full of the sufferings and frustrations of a dyslexic child, Darsheel Safary.

PAA: The movie which we all look forward to features Abhishek Bachchan and Amitabh Bachchan. Abhishek plays the biological father of Amitabh who is suffering from Progeria due to which a



person ages faster than normal. BLACK: It is a poignant movie about the frustrations faced by a young girl with multiple disabilities who is trying to cope with the world without any audio or visual support. ●



Birds of a feather flock together!

Dhruv Aggarwal, VIII, AIS-46, Gur



Understanding intellectual property rights

Dr. Joy Goswami, Licensing Associate in the Office of Technology Transfer at the North Dakota State University, USA educated the Amity University students on "Intellectual Property Rights and its importance to Amity University." Dr. Joy's uncomplicated presentation talked of the basics of Intellectual Prop-



ABS Manesar discuss Managing Business

Amity Business School Manesar in association with Gurgaon Industrial Association (GIA), Gurgaon Management Association (GMA), Haryana State Productivity Council (HSPC), Gurgaon Chapter NCR Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI)

& IMT Industrial Association organized a National Seminar titled "Managing Business In Present Scenario: Lessons from Past, Strategies for Future". The panellist for the discussion comprised Mr. Ajay Davessar, Head- External Communication, HCL Technologies;

Mr. Vishudh Anand, Chief Telecom Officer, Huawei Technologies; Mr P.K Rustagi, Vice President J K Tyres; Mr. Vijay Agarwal, Director - Finance & Controller, Coca Cola. Mr. Anil Chopra, Managing Director, Feedback Ventures presided over the event as the chief guest.

The grand event organized at Hotel 32nd Milestone, NH-8, Gurgaon exchanged valuable views on business incidences of the past and the lessons learnt from them. Stimulating discussions on business strategies and the scope of business in the coming years were also held. ●

Be(ing) At- It!

Amity Chennai invited Dr. Praateep Philip IPS, DGP (on deputation as Chief Vigilance Officer to the Tamil Nadu Dairy Development Corporation Ltd). An IPS officer, recipient of the British Queen Award, member of the Indian Prime Minister council for social reforms and the initiator of the concept of "Friends of Police Movement" in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Philip explained an interesting concept of achieving success named SSMESS wherein S stands for self-awareness, the second S represents self-regulation, the M symbolises motivation, E indicates the empathy to understand the emotions



of others while SS marks the social skills required to achieve success.

Further, Dr. Philip introduced terms like IQ (intellectual quotient), SQ (spiritual quotient) and EQ (emotional quotient.) He established how the three concepts are an important way to achieving success. Besides, he also talked of Pre-cognition, Meta-cognition, Cognition and Recognition for the development of self-enhancement. In the extremely educative yet engrossing seminar, Dr. Philip mentioned "earn to learn", an idea which co-relates knowledge and income. The idea, he said, thrives on learning continuously in order to earn better. Dr. Philip concluded the seminar by coining the slogan of Beat it, which, if broken up can be read as Be-At-It, thereby encouraging us to focus on our goals entirely.

The talk was followed by Dr. Philip addressing the issues brought up by students as well as the faculty and research staff members. ●



Turkey alliance with Amity University

The Ambassador of Turkey, His Excellency, Levent Bilman visited Amity University on November 11, to explore the potential areas of alliance with the University. Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder Presi-

dent of Amity; Prof. Ajit Varma, Director, Amity Institute of Microbial Technology and Dr. R P Singh- Director, Amity Institute of Nanotechnology enthusiastically discussed the prospects of the success of the exchange of students,

researchers and faculty members between the two countries. Special emphasis, concerning the exchange was laid on the domains of Science and Technology namely Nanotechnology, Biotechnology and others. ●

Amity Ahmedabad celebrates Ablaze '09

The popular event Ablaze organised by Amity University, Ahmedabad witnessed a large number of participants (17 undergraduate colleges with over 68 students). Prominent among them were LD Arts College, JG College of Commerce and Xaviers College.

The event began by Dr. Prashant Gupta, Director Amity lighting the lamp and the students chanting the Saraswati Vandana.

The debate (Dwidha) and quiz competitions (Su-Che?) comprising 15 and 14 teams respectively proved to be great success. The debate participants spoke eloquently on the subject "Do women

make better leaders?" The panel of judges then went on to shortlist 9 teams out of 15 which further competed for an on-the-spot round. Similarly, the quiz questions on current affairs were answered confidently by the various teams. However, 3 teams were chosen in the final round.

The programme ended with the prize distribution ceremony. While LD Arts College won the first prize, JG College of Commerce bagged the second prize for the quiz competition. The debate competition declared Xaviers College as the winner and the home team- AGBS finished second.

The winning team LD Arts College ●



Career in marketing

Mr. Jaspal Singh Johar, Northern Head- Sales & Marketing of Cremica Group visited Amity University, Chandigarh for a discourse on "Careers in Marketing". Mr. Johar enlightened the budding managers on challenges and growth opportunities in sales and marketing. To establish marketing as a lucrative career, he shed light on the success story of the Cremica group, its expansion plans and the marketing strategies employed by it. Observing the inquisitiveness of his students, the marketing expert expressed his desire to recruit a few students from the University itself as per the expansion plans.

Founders Day Celebration



"Ashok Sir, we love you."

AIS, Pushp Vihar: Vibrancy was the key word at the Founder's Day celebrations in the school. Young ACC cadets on foot and horseback, and thousands of children with innocent anticipation on their faces, accorded a grand welcome to Founder President Dr Ashok K Chauhan as he made his way to the ornate entrance that led to the school playground. Accompanying him were Chairperson Dr Amita Chauhan, Amiown Vice Chairperson Ms Sapna Chauhan, ASFT Chairperson Ms Divya Chauhan, Ms Pooja Chauhan and other dignitaries from Amity International Schools. Brightly done up with colourful banners and streamers, the playground bore a festive look. The entourage was led through stalls depicting marine life and students reciting slogans in honour of Founder President to the top floor from where a most spectacular show awaited the audience. Students performed an extraordinarily breathtaking



Pics: Pankaj Mallik; School: AIS Pushp Vihar

drill on the playground forming the words "Ashok Sir, we love you." Then followed a kaleidoscope of performances: innocent expressions by Amiown, amazing footwork by international level football players of AIS PV, aerobics and the stage debut of Amity Global School 'Breaking News'. Both Founder President and Chairperson shared real life anecdotes and lauded the students' efforts for putting together a wonderful show.

Tulika Banerji

Taal Tarang

Amity International School, Noida: The school celebrated Founder's Day on November 5, 2009. School principal Mrs. Mohina Dar accorded a warm welcome to Dr. Ashok. K. Chauhan, Dr. Amita Chauhan, Heads of Amity institutions and members of the Chauhan family who graced the occasion. Students presented an enthralling cultural pro-

gramme that included 'Taal Tarang,' by the school orchestra, a skit titled, '101 Attributes of an Amitian' and a song by Ms Mankotia's choir, 'Aapko Janam Diwas Ho Mubarak'. The Head Girl, Kritika Dusad and Head Boy, Mohammad Qureshi expressed their respect and admiration for Dr. Chauhan who is a true role model for all Amitians and a perennial source of inspiration. In his address to the audience Dr. Chauhan advised the students to utilize knowledge and make a meaningful contribution to society and to national development. He urged them to have a dream and mission in life in order to change the world. On this occasion, over 450 prizes were given away to the meritorious students for their brilliant performance in academics and co-curricular activities for the year 2008-09. Two special trophies were awarded to Nikita Khattar and Arti Khandelwal both of class XII, for their consistent academic excellence. Vice Principal, Renu Singh proposed the Vote of thanks.

An Art Carnival



Amity International School, Vasundhara, Sector 6: The school celebrated Founders Day with an art carnival. Students displayed their creative streak on the occasion by actively participating in on-the-spot painting, posters and presenting a three dimensional scare-crows on the theme 'global warming'.

AIS Vasundhara rules Subhashika

'Subhashika', the Inter-Amity Competition in Sanskrit was hosted by Amity International School, Mayur Vihar on November 4, 2009. The schools actively participated in 'Stuti' and Dramatization of an episode of Ramayana. Amity International School, Vasundhara bagged the winning rolling trophy. Dramatization presented by classes VIII & IX fetched them the second position. The skit scripted by Mohini Kumar, directed by Nidhi Sharma and Mohini Kumar presented the dialogue at Ashok Vatika. The characters came alive with appropriate make-up by Rakesh Sai Babu. The 'stuti' on Ganges presented by classes V & VI, under the guidance of Dr. Shephali Sharma and Priyanka secured a consolation prize. Student accomplice on musical instruments trained by Ranjit Pathak and Rakesh Pathak won a huge applause. ●

AIS Noida

Leadership summit

Abhishek Adlakha, Sanjana Mathur and Prachi Pandey of AIS Noida participated in the annual Indirapuram Leadership Summit held at Indirapuram Public School, Ghaziabad on October 24, 2009. Participants presented the qualities of a good leader and took part in group discussion chaired by Arnab Mitra, Editor, Hindustan Times.

The event highlighted the qualities a leader should possess and further ignited the urge for students to become future leaders of India. During the question answer session, the audience was free to question any team on their chosen leaders or throw a general question that was permissible to be answered by the other teams.

Sharing international family values

"The Family Values in India and New Zealand," were discussed at AIS Noida on October 13, 2009. Class VII students presented India's rich value system defined ingrained in its family structure, grandparents' role in society, hospitality, spirituality and religion, non-violence, vegetarianism (Vegan), artistic expression in the fine arts, customs and traditions, etc. The Guest of Honour Mr. Geoff

Prestidge, Teacher in Charge of Social Studies and Tourism, Tauhara College, Taupo, New Zealand, presented the picture of the family life and values of the people of New Zealand. He said, "The education system in New Zealand, provide the ground work for young people to be a part of society, participating as critical, active, informed and responsible citizen."

HDFC recognizes Amity Meritus

Anshuman Bhasin, a student of Class VI-A, Amity International School Sec-43, Gurgaon, received a scholarship of Rs.25,000 from HDFC. He was one of the 3300 students across India, selected from amongst 4.2 lac applicants to be awarded the scholarship under the "HDFC Meritus Scholarship program". Anshuman successfully qualified through different levels that evaluated him on the parameters of past two years final examination score and participation in intra-school, inter-school, state level and national level competitions in sports or extra curricular activities like Dance, Music, Dramatics, Quiz, Debate, Painting, Elocution and social service etc. This was followed by the final written test. The scholarship instituted by HDFC is an initiative which intends to bring more opportunities to talented and deserving students. ●



Workshop on Green building technology

Sanjam Kohli & Utkarsh Rathi IX A
AIS, Pushp Vihar

After successfully completing the celebration of 60 years of the Friendship Treaty between India and Switzerland in 2008, the year 2009 has been marked as the year of science and education of Switzerland in India. As a part of the ongoing activity, students attended a workshop at Air Force Bal Bharti School on the Green Building

Technology.

Resource person Arthur Mattli from the Swiss Embassy, Rangana Saikia associate director of TERI and Gaurav Shorey,

AIS Pushp Vihar

architect from GRIHA enlightened the participants on this subject.

The workshop took the challenges of emissions head on, with Ranjana Saikia stating the role of buildings in carbon

emissions. She stated that electrical appliances used in building account for 21% of Carbon emissions worldwide. Contrasting this to other pollutants, it was clear that buildings contribute a significant role in emission. She also elaborated on issues as population, urbanization, transport, natural resources and ecological footprints comparing them to those of Switzerland.

Gaurav Shorey, an architect and member of GRIHA, introduced the concept of 'embodied energy'. This signifies the energy that goes into making objects or products. It left us pondering with the question, "How much energy goes into making energy saving products". This was followed by a short film and another talk on water scarcity. ●

Joy of giving

AIS Vasundhara-6

Joy of giving week is celebrated during September 26 to Oct 2. It provides a platform for people across the globe to celebrate the delight one experiences by giving. Amity International School, Vasundhara, celebrated the day by motivating the young Amitians to teach values, skills and activities that they learn at school apart from academics, to the unfortunate kids. 'Vidya

daan' is the biggest thing that students can gift others. The students enthusiastically participated in the activity and took up to lighting up the lives of the less fortunate. Under mentor teacher Sunita Shrivastava, Vagmi Sharma, Saloni Jain, Nikita Madaan, Sahej Shukla, Mahek Bajpai, Ishita Shrivastava and Aviraj Sharma took up this challenge enthusiastically. ●



A Star in the Making



Aditi's Press Conference!

Prashant Rao & Dhruv Agarwal,
class VIII A AIS 46, Gurgaon

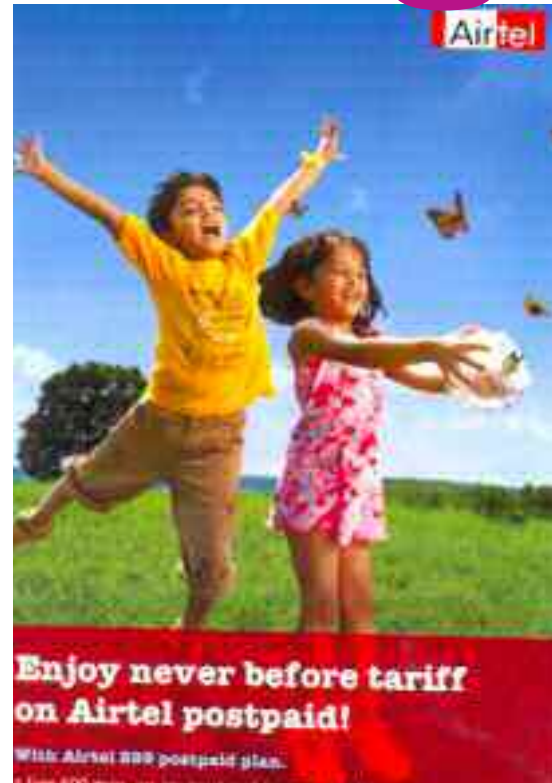
Many of Amitians have attained great heights... even when they are young. One such example is Aditi Dua, an adorable student of KG-II, AIS, Gur 46. The 'Hungry kya...?' girl is the star of a number of advertisements and has featured in the recent blockbuster, Love Aaj Kal.

Aditi, model turned actress, is just 5 years old! As one goes through the large collection of her ads, one notices that in most of them she appears to be older than she actually is. She debuted in the Domino Pizza ad at the age of

3 and has since featured in more than 100 print and media ads for companies like Airtel, Nokia, Tupperware, GMR, Fortis, Samsung, Dr. Gold, etc. She has also modelled for the renowned fashion designer Ritu Beri and shared the ramp with Darshel Safari.

To quote her mother, "As a child, Aditi would come running to me, show me the photographs of Kareena Kapoor, and say 'Look! It's me!' Her role model continues to be Kareena Kapoor." Aditi owes her success to the guidance of her mom and encouragement by her family. In fact, she claims that her mother is 'her energy booster!'

She enjoys all the things she does. She likes being pampered and loved on the sets, and is very popular and friendly with her co-stars. She loved spending time with Saif Ali Khan since he treated her with ice-cream! Her most memorable assignment is without doubt, 'Love



Aaj Kal' with Saif and Deepika Padukone. She completes her studies with the help of her teachers and is always eager to learn new things. "Aditi is charming and soft spoken. It is a treat to see her dance and enjoy with her friends," says her class teacher, Ms. Gurneet Kaur.

Aditi aspires to become 'Miss India' when she grows up and eventually, an actor. ●

Maia's Riveting Journey

Anisha Agrawal
X AIS Gur-46

Rating: **** 1/2

Journey to the River Sea, a riveting read, is about a young girl Maia, who loses her parents in a train crash and so has to go and live with some distant relatives in Brazil. She is a bit apprehensive but eager to find out what her new life has in store for her, which is plenty. On reaching there, she falls in love... with the Amazon and its throbbing life. But her relatives turn out to be spoilsports, who in spite of living in "Paradise," fail to ap-



Book Review

preciate its beauty and are interested only in Maia's money. Undaunted by this fact, Maia, makes new friends and is befriended by the native Indians, who are happy to let her in their secret, which changes her life forever.

The book is engrossing because of the beauty of the Amazon described so minutely by the author. You feel sad and angry when Maia's cousins, the Carter twins, are mean to her, rejoice with her when her plans work and feel her desperation when she wants to help her friend Clovis, but can't.

The underlying message of the story is that you can make a place paradise or hell, just by deciding what you want it to be. What for the Carter family is the sticky, humid and dangerous jungle, is for Maia a peaceful place.

The book, published in 2001, won the Nestle Smartie award and a gold medal. It was also short listed for LA Carnegie Medal 2002, nominated for Whitbread Book of the Year Award (Children's Book Category) in 2001 and Blue Peter Book Award (Book I Couldn't Put down Prize) in 2002.

This book certainly kept me engrossed. I read it two times before I could let go of it. Hope it is the same for you! ●



Jingle-Lala Hurr (ay)!

Prashant Rao, VIII A
AIS Gur 46

'Jingles nay to ad makers ka man-gal kar diya hai!' - This statement is quite applicable in today's world. Jingles in ads are emerging as a new business! Singers are making songs out of the jingles they sang. Do you remember 'Dil Titli' from Airtel Digital TV? Well, Atif Aslam, who sang it, has decided to make it a full length title song of his imminent album! Jingles need not be songs... they can be tunes too! Like Intel's 'bum- bum bum bum bum!'

The top Jingles for 2008/2009 were:-

AIRTEL : AR Rehman playing the soft notes on the piano... it has a mesmerising effect. It has been the top jingle ever since it came into existence.

VODAFONE/HUTCH : Every day I want to fly, stay by my side...

Vodafone's jingle captured the hearts of many a human. And with the cute pug, it was simply fantabulous...And before Hutch was taken over, the jingle, 'You and I, in this beautiful world' was considered to be an all time hit!

INTEL : Perhaps the most famous old jingle, this jingle even got its ad making

agency a Cannes award! Sponsors of tomorrow...

NIRMA : The Ahmedabad based detergent giant finally got a revamped jingle with the same old lyrics. Sab ki Pasand Nirma!

CLOSE UP : The song became very famous for its music mixing. Paas aao, Paas aao, Paas aao naan...wohoho oh o!
AIRTEL DIGITAL TV : Atif Aslam's song about lost love also became a favourite, starring Saif and Kareena... Dil titli!

RELIANCE-ADAG
It's the default tune of every reliance cell phone... a huge hit amongst ring tones.

CONGRESS : Remember the song from the election days? It was also very well-liked due to its wonderful chorus. Aam aadmi Ke badhte kadam... har kadam par Bharat buland!

BSNL : Deepika Padukone dancing on a boat... with the background music of Hindustan bol raha hai also became a success

HERO HONDA : This ad was made for the Olympics... featuring the Indian cricket team, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Hritik Roshan, this ad's song Dhak Dhak go became immensely popular. ●

2012 'Maha Pralay'

Is the world going to end in 2012? Or is this just one of the wild predictions of scientists?

Chirag Agarwal, VIII C,
AIS Gur 46

2012, a movie directed by Roland Emmerich, is a thriller based on science fiction disaster about the close shave of the family of Curtis (John Cusack) It has all the action, drama, comedy, emotions to attract the audience. The story begins with American scientist Adrian Hensley (Chiwetel Ejiofor) travelling to India to meet his friend Satnam (Jimi Mistry) in 2009 where he discovers that neutrinos from a massive solar flare resulting in the Earth's end in 2012. It was discussed at the G8 Summit leading to a conclusion that a series of gigantic arks should be built in China. The end was very emotional as the ticket for the ark costed one billion euros and only the rich could afford it. The gate for common people was opened after Adrian Hansley's emotional and inspiring speech but it risked everyone's life.



Movie-Review

The end made me jump out of my seat as Curtis' had to remove the wire stuck in the mechanism of the gate to save the lives of 500,000 people. After 27 days, the people who survived the disaster discovered that Africa was unaffected and had risen by several hundred meters. On the whole it is an action packed movie. The movie is a perfect entertainer and the climax is very interest-

ing. The characters have an ensemble role in the movie and it depicts the condition in various countries at the time of the disaster. It is heart breaking to see the White House and Basilica of Rome collapse. The visual effects are enthralling and the movie is at par with all time favourites like Titanic, Jaws and Terminator. So, better go and watch the movie at cinemas. ●