

## Giant leap for human genome

An Insight Into What The Complete Unraveling Of Human Genome Sequence Means To Mankind

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

**O**n March 31st this year, one of the biggest milestones in the field of science was achieved when scientists at Telomere to Telomere (T2T) Consortium uncovered a 100 % human genome sequence, providing the first comprehensive view of our DNA blueprint, the quest for which began some 32 years ago. According to researchers, having a complete, gap-free sequence of the roughly 3 billion bases (or 'letters') in our DNA is critical for understanding the full spectrum of human genomic variation and our genetic contributions to certain diseases. GT further explains why this breakthrough is important for mankind.

### Knowing genomes

The Human Genome Project began in 1990 as a landmark, highly collaborative scientific effort. In 2003, however, it bore its basal fruits when scientists produced the first ever sequence of the human genome that covered about 92% of our total DNA sequence. The technologies to decipher the gaps that remained didn't exist at the time, but scientists knew that the last 8% contained the information important for fundamental biological processes. This 8% unmapped DNA, also called 'junk DNA' or 'non-coding DNA', left them flummoxed, for it did not code for any protein, but was still present in a significant amount. The

recent discovery as such has acted as the final piece of the puzzle, authenticating that humans are genetically 99.9 % same and that it's only the 0.1% difference that makes us all unique. This is the same difference that gives one brown eyes instead of black, makes one run faster than their friend, or may make one more susceptible to the risk of hypertension, obesity and heart disease than others.

### Mapping gaps

Filling the gaps and unraveling the most splendid story of scientific breakthrough as such, the final complete human genome sequence was described in a set of six papers in the April 1, 2022, issue of Science, post years of painstaking research. The work, having been done by the Telomere to Telomere (T2T) Consortium, with researchers from NIH's National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), University of California, Santa Cruz, and the University of Washington, Seattle, at the helm, determined that the 'junk DNA' is where regulatory mechanisms -

most vital to life - happen, right from cancer to Alzheimer, from cognition to regulation. In fact, Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs), which create that vital 0.1% difference in human beings, are even more commonly found in 'junk DNA' or the non-coding regions of gene. T2T researchers also used the sequence as a reference to discover more than two million previously unknown sequence variants in the human genome, including variants within many medically relevant genes as well.

### What lies ahead?

This fundamental information has paved the way forward for many ongoing efforts to comprehend the functional nuances of the human genome, to sequence genomes from globally diverse people for one. It has also unraveled centromeres that play vital role in cell division, but were hitherto considered unmappable, making

*The full version of Human Genome by T2T consortium has:*

- ✓3.055 billion base pair sequence of a human genome
- ✓19,969 genes that encode proteins
- ✓About 2,000 new genes
- ✓Most of the new genes disabled
- ✓115 new genes may still be active
- ✓About 2 million additional genetic variants spotted
- ✓622 of the additional genetic variants in medically-relevant genes

100% cure for cancer, Alzheimer's, Schizophrenia, Down's syndrome, diabetes and many more diseases, an accomplishable reality. In addition to this, genome mapping would also help doctors quickly identify the variants in our DNA and use that information to guide us better in the course of our treatment for certain diseases.

In nature, there is nothing known as waste and this complete mapping of human genome has proven that. In the junk lay the answers to the intricacies of both body and mind. Now we can imagine a world free of diseases, for it's all written in the DNA.

### AMITEpoll

Will election of Rishi Sunak as the UK PM open doors for better recognition of Indian origin leaders on the global political scene?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Maybe

To vote, log on to  
www.theglobaltimes.in

### Coming Next

Contest Edition (AIS Noida)



### Fight gender inequality...

Tete-a-tete with Slovenian diplomat, Ambassador Darja Bavdaz Kuret, special advisor to the president of the 76th session of UNGA.

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### What's inside



### A world of possibilities

Unfolding the three day extravaganza of Amity International Model United Nations 2022 - Asia's largest MUN, in fine print.

...More on Page 6-7



### Youth Power 2022-23

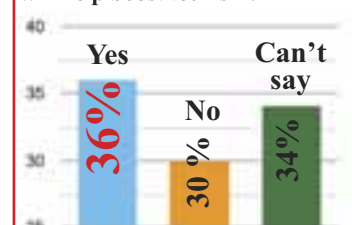
Meet the 11 final teams from Amity schools across India, handpicked after a rigorous selection process, as they kick start their crusade for change.

...More on Page 8-9

### POLL RESULT

for GT Edition October 17, 2022

Recently, Hong Kong announced to offer 500,000 free air tickets to global tourists. Do you think it will help boost tourism?



Results as on October 28, 2022



# Around The WORLD

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


**USA**

## Twitter CEO, CFO fired

According to the US media, Elon Musk, the new owner of the social networking site Twitter, has sacked its Indian-origin CEO Parag Agrawal, as he took control of the office in San Francisco. The company's chief financial officer and its head of legal policy, trust and safety, has also been fired. Agrawal apparently is now planning to take Musk to court for the fulfillment of the terms of the takeover deal.


**UK**

## Rishi Sunak named PM

Former Chancellor, Rishi Sunak became the nation's first Indian-origin and Asian-origin PM on October 25, 2022, replacing Liz Truss, who resigned after serving 45 days in office. Having amassed all the required support from his fellow MPs long before the deadline approached, post failing to do so in the first attempt a few weeks earlier, Sunak won the race to lead the Conservative Party. He has now become the nation's youngest Prime Minister in the modern times as well as the richest ever occupant of 10 Downing Street.


**CHINA**

## Third term for President

President Jinping, on October 23, 2022, has secured a record third term as the nation's leader, ending the three-decades old rule that allowed the president to run only for two consecutive five-year terms. The decision came in when all the prominent members of the Central Communist Party voted in his favour, keeping in mind all the progress that has been made during his tenure. He is expected to take office at the yearly meeting of China's National People's Congress in March 2023.


**INDIA**

## Pay equity in cricket

In a bid to tackle gender discrimination in cricket, BCCI, on October 27, 2022, implemented a pay equity policy for Indian women cricketers which will ensure that they get paid the same match fee as their male counterparts. As a consequence, Indian women cricketers will now be paid 15 lakh INR for Tests, 6 lakh INR for ODIs, and 3 lakh INR for T20s, similar to what the male cricketers have been earning thus far in the country.


**BANGLADESH**

## Tropical storm kills many

A tropical storm dubbed Sitrang rocked the nation on October 24, 2022, leaving 24 dead and around 20,000 stranded, owing to flooding triggered by the tidal surges. Having originated in the Bay of Bengal, the storm reportedly weakened on Oct 25, having already damaged around 10,000 homes and over 6,000 hectares of crops the day before.


**SINGAPORE**

## Bike permit becomes costlier

As per a report released by the Land Transport Authority, the cost of getting a permit for the nation's cheapest mode of transportation – motorcycles, has hit a record 8984 USD this month, surpassing the cost of getting a brand new, entry-level bike. Up by over 200% in the last four years, the soaring permit price has been devised as a way for the government to regulate the number of permits, and by virtue of that, limit the number of bikes and cars on its roads.


**PHILIPPINES**

## Hit by an earthquake

A magnitude 6.4 earthquake hit the northern part of the nation on October 25, 2022. The tremors of the natural disaster were felt as far as the capital city Manila, about 330 km to the south. As per the casualty report released by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, around 36 people have been reportedly injured due to the earthquake that was centered nine kms in Abra province at a depth of about 11 kms.

# Fight gender inequality...

...says keynote speaker at AIMUN 2022, Ambassador **Darja Bavdaz Kuret**. Currently serving as a special advisor to the President of 76th session of the UN General Assembly, Ambassador Darja has vivid experience in the field of diplomacy and has held various positions as Ambassador to Israel, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Bulgaria and several others such as Sec Gen of the Bled Strategic Forum, Chair of the EU Capital. At the special interactive session organised by AERC, she left Amitians with food for thought, as she spoke about diplomacy, human values, gender equality and more.

*You have been the ambassador to countries like Israel, India and Hungary. What is your takeaway about the culture of those countries and the way of governance?*

It's not the size of a country which is important for me, but its commitment to uphold human values, as they are very important for building a better world. For example, when I was working in Bhutan, they had a forest conservation and management policy which was very similar to the one we have in Slovenia. So, this formed a common connection between us, and we were able to share more knowledge and cooper-

ation on the matter.

**Kainaat Arif**  
AIS VYC Lucknow

*Do you think gender identity is only for girls?*

Not really. As per WHO, gender identity refers to a person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond to the person's designated sex at birth. This has been defined keeping in mind the fundamental human rights which enunciate that we must respect people regardless of their religion and sex.

**Miss Vedra, High School Ozanam, France**



Darja's words of wisdom



A glimpse from the enlightening conversation

*Have you ever faced any issues domestically or internationally while trying to push for gender equality?*

Sometimes, because gender equality is still not accepted in many places. I would say that the world can learn this from the USA which has successfully implemented zero tolerance policy for gender bias.

**Samriddhi Toki, AGS Noida**

*What collaborations are you making with India to empower women?*

India, I believe is quite gender empowered. There are women in various prominent political positions. And yet, India still has a huge potential in about its 300 million women who are unpaid homemakers. We need to make this workforce a part of national growth and for that education is an important tool to ensure that all these women are socially recognised and respected.

**Lakshay Devgan**  
AIS Mayur Vihar

*What should be done to rectify the cultural and educational situation in Afghanistan?*

This is a delicate question and all the countries who respect human rights and women's rights need to handle this together. There are many UN resolutions that can be implemented but

the question is how and who will implement them?

**Shireen, AIS Gur 46, XI**

*What advice would you give to girls all over the world so that they can feel more confident?*

Every child has some fundamental rights and the most important one is the right to equality. As a female, you must stand up for your rights and learn to speak up when they are impinged. It is also necessary that you ask your family, teachers and peer group to stand by you and give you the confidence that they, too, will not tolerate any gender inequality. The United Nations has passed several resolutions to help promote gender equality, but these can only be fully implemented when every member of society plays an active role in understanding and propagating this cause.

**Shradha Pandey**  
Amitasha, Noida

*You have served in many countries. Is there any specific memory you would like to share?*

I have friends all over the world and they have all had a very positive impact on me. In fact, they have helped me throughout to build my nation, the world, and my memories.

**Ojas Pathak**  
AIS Raipur, VIII

*Can you please share with us your everyday schedule as an ambassador?*

Well, my schedule is packed with diplomatic meetings. I meet

people from all walks of life and get to know about various countries and cultures. I interact with writers, leaders, scientists, businessmen and politicians. To be honest it's a demanding profession, so the support of one's family is imperative to deliver even more efficiently.

**Louise Willd, Institutre d'Genech, Lille, France**

*What is your favourite food and destination in India?*

I love palak paneer and dal. However, I don't know how to prepare these two dishes even though I love cooking. In India, there are some extremely beautiful and diverse places, and it is the kindness of the people which makes it even more attractive.

**Adhiraj Chauhan**  
AIS Pushp Vihar

*What tips would you like to share with the youngsters who are willing to make a career in international relations?*

One thing I would like them to stick to is - follow your dream from an early age. Keep yourself well informed about world issues. When I was 12, there was no MUN, but I remember joining United Clubs. That gave me the required exposure to learn about the functioning of the UN. When you learn about your own country along with others, and appreciate the challenges they face, you can plan how to make a difference by making solutions for the good.

**Suhani Chauhan**  
AIS Pushp Vihar



Ambassador Darja Bavdaz Kuret



# Of land, life and love

A Tale Of Standing Up Against The Injustice Present In The Society

Part II

## The story so far...

"Alright," said Raman, "Tomorrow we will attack. We will divide ourselves into two groups, one that will be responsible for holding everyone hostage and the other will be on the lookout for any impending danger." Everyone agreed with the plan. At last, there was a ray of hope! Maybe things would change. For better or worse? We could never be too sure. But right now, we knew one thing. War was inevitable. And it was coming...

*(Recap of part I printed in Oct 17 edition. Read on to see how the story unfolds thereafter.)*

Rida Praveen, AIS Noida, X I

The next morning went by in a blur, and midday arrived. My head was filled with thoughts of the mission. We had perfected the plan last night in the presence of the village leader and the chosen rebels. Heliox was the first to appear from the bushes followed by Roan and the others. Alloie and Vera carried two large bundles of weapons wrapped in cloth. They approached me with grim faces and lips set in a straight line. Raman, who seemed to be in deep

thought, spoke softly. "This is it. This is what we have been preparing for," he said. "This is our chance to redeem our land. We need to free our land. And we will succeed because we don't have another choice. For Silchanpeta!" We were supposed to enter from the backdoor of a kitchen. "Take this!" Raman whispered and handed a bundle of clothes to me. We were to disguise ourselves as servants in order to get close to the collector and then attack. All of us got dressed quickly and braced ourselves. As I entered the corridor, I noticed extravagant paintings, lush carpets, and gleaming silverware. This shameless man had taken away so much from us to live so lavishly.

Just then, Nashisa knocked on the door, waiting, anticipating whatever menace lay behind it. And a man of average height opened the door, his grey eyes crinkled up in confusion. "Good afternoon, sir, we are here to clean the room," Nashisa said innocently, and who could doubt a young girl with such a sweet face and large brown eyes! The man sighed and opened the door wider for us to enter. The room screamed wealth, power, and arrogance. The fireplace was lit up and several crystal chandeliers

hung from the ceiling. I noticed that the room was twice the size of my house.

In the middle of the room, behind an oakwood desk, sat Bradford Smith. He wore a dark coloured suit, held a glass filled with liquor, and was staring at a sharp rock, a large diamond.

He looked up, his roving eyes immediately moving towards Nashisa. "What is going on?" he asked to no one in particular. "We are here to clean the room, sir," Nashisa said in an overly sweet voice. He nodded his head for us to go ahead. Just when Nashisa neared the desk, she took out her knife laced with poison and stabbed him. The collector let out a high-pitched scream before Heliox gagged him with a cloth. The man who had allowed us in was secured in a headlock by Raman. Roan walked towards the collector and grabbed him by the collar as I growled at the collector. "Here's what's going to happen. You are going to call your governor, or we will kill you and that friend of yours." Like a coward, he trembled. He didn't fight us, which was odd. He followed everything we said without a question. As he made the call, the atmosphere in the room tensed

up. After a few rings, someone picked up. A gruff voice answered the phone, "Governor Laisen speaking."

Raman took in a sharp breath before speaking, "Good afternoon, governor. I'm speaking from Bradford Smith's office. I have held him and another person hostage in this building and will not release them until you fulfill our demands." The person on the other side stayed silent for a while and then spoke, "I need proof." Raman nodded towards Nashisa who removed the gag and punched and slapped the collector. Smith let out loud grunts and groans which turned out to be enough evidence for the governor. "Alright. I will hear your demands only if you don't harm him," he stated. Raman clenched his jaw wanting to refuse but he knew that people like the governor had very little time and even lesser patience for the likes of us. Raman started listing all the demands one by one. Most of them didn't matter to me as much as the one that required Smith to be fired from his role. We also demanded that Smith should withdraw all his guards and that a new person, who was from amongst us, should be appointed as the

new collector.

Even though the governor refused some of our demands, he agreed to many, including Smith's removal. Our plan had worked. I had never felt happier. This was a big moment. From now on, we only had to look forward in our lives. A few weeks later, the reasons behind the collector's wealth and power were exposed to the governor, who then tried Smith for treason against the state. The governor also agreed to appoint Euan Drakois, one of the most educated people in our little village, as the new collector.

It was a daring adventure for all of us and we were all in a dark place, but we got through it. Since the dark time passed, my family has been doing much better than I ever expected. The fear, the anger, and the desperation with which all of us were leading our lives was gone forever. I will still not say that the struggle is fully over as there are many places in this country which are suffering. But I am sure of one thing - with courage we can stand against people like Bradford. So, until the next revolution beckons me, I will enjoy the sun on my face, the wind in my hair, and a peaceful life with my wife and children!



Illustration: Anju Rawat, GT Network

# Infinite possibilities



Dr Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Nothing is impossible, and impossible is nothing. This has been my long-standing mantra and also the vision behind all the efforts and activities that we host at Amity. In fact, this was the motto of this year's AIMUN as well – 'Sarvam Sambhavyate Tvayi'. As quoted in the ancient texts of the Adi Parva Mahabharata, this means that 'you can do anything'. True to this thought, AIMUN 2022, brought together more than 200 young diplomats-in-the-making, from

22 schools across 10 nations. We saw participants from countries such as the UK, Russia, France, Belgium, UAE, Cambodia, etc. The conference was a transformative experience for both students and world leaders. The delegates not only put their minds together to discuss and analyse major global issues, but they also bring their hearts together to forge everlasting bonds of friendship and co-operation. It gives me so much joy that with each AIMUN, we firmly reiterate Amity's core philosophy of encouraging students to become global leaders who are well-prepared to tackle various challenges life throws at them.

Each AIMUN teaches us valuable lessons in diplomacy, humanity and camaraderie. And this year's AIMUN was no different. The students discussed pressing global issues not only with each other but also with experienced diplomats, politicians and soldiers. I was impressed to see the level of maturity in the questions that participating students asked the diplomats, and the solutions they proposed. I am certain, having had such an invigorating experience at AIMUN, my young delegates will carry within themselves the infinite possibilities of bringing happiness and harmony to the entire world. 🇮🇳

## Print is back!



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

Finally, after a hiatus of more than two years, your favourite GT is back in its physical avatar. You can now feel and absorb the vibrant pages which resonate with your exemplary efforts, whether it is through writing, editing, or taking photographs. One must give a lot of credit for GT's return in the print version to the flood of requests we had received from all our Amitians once the schools reopened. While technology had ensured that GT's digital version reached you

regularly, I can vouch that nothing can beat that first, fresh smell of the newsprint. There are two things, in fact, that have always defined my mornings – a cup of tea and the morning paper. No reader has ever been able to exactly define this unique feeling, and I am sure I am not the only one to feel this way.

So, when we were preparing to go back to the print edition, the joy of the entire GT team knew no bounds. For us, GT's print edition has always been more than just a paper, it's a bond of love and learning that we share with every Amitian. Intense discussions and interactions over every piece and page have been a part and parcel of bringing out every edition. I vividly remember the joyful faces of our young students whenever they used to see their articles, photographs or illustrations published in the pages of GT. Besides, who can forget the zest to be the best in the contest editions? I am delighted to finally bring that cheer back in your lives.

Happy reading! Keep shining! 🇮🇳

# Is honesty the best policy?

A Re-Evaluation Of The Age Old Saying About Honesty



Ananya Sharma

AIS Vasundhara 6, Alumna

Ofentimes, we are inveigled by the sweet temptation of lying our way out of trouble or, bending the truth enough to avoid hurting someone. More times than not, lying has helped us get out of sticky situations. So, is honesty really the best policy, or are there reasons to question this well-acquainted phrase?

### The white lie

When talking about deception, it is important that we acknowledge that not all lies are the same. We all have, at some point, told a small lie to avoid hurting a person's feelings—fake compliments, to say the least. Not everyone is prepared to hear the truth and that is why honesty can at times wound the people closest to us. Confirming this statement, a 2014 study on the impact of lies on social

networks showed that white lies tightened social bonds instead of straining them. Many other studies have also shown that individuals are quick to forgive white lies and may even appreciate them.

### Good deception

"He is my favourite artist because he is a natural actor!" It is a fact that we enjoy movies the most when the acting is believable. Children adore hearing stories about Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. Furthermore, research on dishonesty in the workplace substantiates the important and calming effects of lying; it found that duplicity can both help bring out trust during difficult times and boost morale. Face it, there is no taking away the rosiness of a make-believe world, and lies perhaps are our ticket to this cushioned bubble.

### Prosocial lying

According to a study, an average

adult lies in roughly 20 percent of his interactions and most of the lies are prosocial lies. Prosocial lies are fibs that we tell to benefit others; to help and not to harm. A study by DePaulo and Kashy (1998) shows that prosocial lies are motivated by an altruistic desire to protect people and have little to no selfish motives. Another study published in the Journal of Experimental Child Psychology showed that children who told prosocial lies, such as lying about liking a present, are found to have higher performance on measures of working memory as well as inhibitory control.

Lying is something we all indulge in, intentionally or unintentionally, whether to help someone or ourselves. Despite offering an easy hand in certain situations, lying cannot and should not be condoned, for deception is a slippery slope and must be undertaken with utmost caution. 🇮🇳



GT M@il

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'The race to ace it all' published on page six of the October 17, 2022, GT edition. The article perfectly brings up the emotions of many students around the world who tend to appreciate the 'competitive spirit' in the race to success and find themselves to be a part of the race to the finish. However, most of the students somewhere down

the line find themselves to be completely clueless on how to handle the challenges or the pressure that comes along.

In fact, every student loves the idea of success but fears about the hard work required to accomplish the goal as well as the failure associated with it. What one needs to understand is that success is not black and white. One must learn to overcome the fear of failure and rather consider it as an experience to build a better future.

Harshita Pareek, AIS Vas 6, XII



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- Tagline winners-Dev Garg (AIS Saket), Mohammad Mubeen Khan (AIS Gwalior), Shreya Chakrabarty and Rishima Saxena (AIS MV)
- Special orientation and training session for-AIS Abu Dhabi, Amitasha, Finland, Russia and Belgium
- 3 awards bagged by the students of Amitasha

# A world of possibilities

224	Delegates
10	Countries
7	Committees
Virtual Platform	Zoom

With Promises Of Changing The World And Actions To Support It, Here's Bidding Adieu To The 15th Chapter Of AIMUN

Arpita Chakraborty, GT Network

“You can make everything possible,” echoed across the virtual screens as delegates, esteemed guests, and members of Amity universe logged in from different corners of the world to become part of the much-awaited episode of the year-Amity Model United Nations 2022. The international colloquium held from October 12-14, 2022, saw the remarkable presence of 224 young delegates from 10 countries, including France, Belgium, Germany, Finland, UAE, Russia, etc., all in a bid to come up with solutions for problems faced by humankind at large. The global platform is an initiative of Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC), held under the leadership and guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF. Beginning on an auspicious note, amidst the chanting of *gayatri mantra*, the opening ceremony of the 15th edition of AIMUN, organised by AIS Gurugram 46, was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF; chief guest, HE Mateja Vodeb Ghosh, Ambassador of Slovenia; keynote speaker, Ambassador Darja Bavdaz Kuret; Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar; Radhika Suri, direc-



tor, WWF; Devesh Kumar, MLC, Bihar; Major General Nalin Bhatia and various other esteemed guests and dignitaries. Addressing the audience on the occasion, HE Mateja Vodeb Ghosh, enlightened the participants on the profession of a diplomat and the role of diplomacy in achieving peace. Following which, a heart-warming singing performance by students of Amitasha, an initiative of Amity for the less privileged girl child, and a captivating dance performance by the students of AIS Gurugram 46 mesmerised the audience. The motivational words of the Chairperson further ignited the spark in young participants to believe in the power of human will and become leaders who make the world a better place to live in. Furthermore, Charge d' affairs, Jyoti Arora, addressed the august gathering and

shared how AIMUN is a flagship program that has been nurturing the youth over the years to not only deliberate on the issues plaguing the society at large but also work towards developing solutions for the same. The highlight of the ceremony was an exclusive interactive session with keynote speaker, HE Ambassador Darja Bavdaz Kuret. Under the mentoring of the Secretariat members, namely Hridyanshu (Sec Gen), Gatik Yadav (Dep Sec Gen) and Pranav Aggarwal (Director General), the second day saw delegates work passionately for their respective committees' agendas, taking on various contemporary issues such as Chinese invasion of Taiwan and its conflict with QUAD members (FUNSC), Resolution 181 (HGA), Impact of Covid-19 on gender equality (UN Women), Moving towards global sustainable agriculture (UNEP), Supply chain risk mitigation or revitalising international trade recovery in a post Covid-19 world (WTO), 2016 Uri attack and India's response on it (NSC), and Electoral reforms in India (AIPPM). The day also witnessed International Cultural Festival, organised by AIS Mayur Vihar, which had students present music and dance performances; brief address by guest of honour, Dr Sonu Trivedi, director, Swami Vivekananda Cultural

Centre, Seoul; and a message by chief guest, Dr Mariann Erdo, director, Liszt Institute, Hungarian Cultural Centre, New Delhi. The third day of the conference saw the culmination of the programme. Organised by AIS Pushp Vihar, the closing ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the lamp and saw the presence of chief guest, Marc Cerdan, secretaire general, Foundation, des Alliances Francaise and guest of honour, Stephane Amalir, director, Alliance Francaise De. The words of wisdom by the esteemed guests enlightened the young minds to become future leaders and build a world that radiates happiness. This was followed by the valedictory ceremony, where Chef d' Cabinet, Kusum Kapoor announced the much awaited results of AIMUN'22, with the most coveted award for the Best Delegation being won by the Delegation of Russia and the Delegation of United Kingdoms, represented by AIS Gurugram 46 and AIS Noida, respectively. Also, all the tagline winners of AIMUN were awarded a cash prize of 5000 INR each. The global conference finally came to an end with a nostalgic video showcasing the three days of AIMUN and the bang of gavel by Secretary General Hridyanshu, declaring the splendid AIMUN'22 close.



Chairperson and special guests at AIMUN 2022



HE Mateja Vodeb Ghosh

Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar



Committee in action



A singing performance by Amitasha students at the opening ceremony



Kathak dance performance by AIS Vas 1



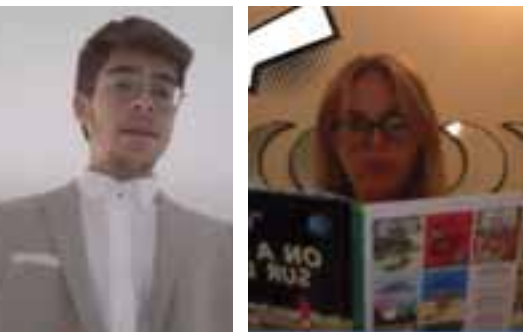
Sec Gen declares AIMUN open



Eminent dignitaries at the ceremony (L-R): Stephane Amalir, Aerok Hwang, Dr Sonu Trivedi, Devesh Kumar, Maj Gen Nalin Bhatia, Radhika Suri



Presentations by France & Belgium at the cultural festival



Russian delegates perform live



Alliance Francaise on the instruments



A video presentation by Elite Global School



French delegates with their mentors



A musical treat by AIS MV



Dance performance by AIS Gur 46





# Youth Power 2022-23

Meet Our YP Teams As They Come Together To Make The World A Better Place



**AIS**  
Noida

**Dehsaakaar: Body positivity**

Praneel Dev (team leader), Harsimran Kaur, XI; Ishaani Chaudhary, Manya Gupta, IX with mentor teacher, Smita Bhardwaj



**AIS**  
PV

**Ant-a-bullying: Anti bullying**

Samaya Chauhan (team leader), IX; Moksh Gauri, XI; Namya Jain and Pranavi Mendiratta, X with mentor teacher, Sonali Batra



**AIS**  
Vas 6

**Honeyfi: Importance of bees**

Kyara Chawla (team leader), Shorya Harit, Arya Singh, Mannsha Mishra; XI with mentor teacher, Paridhi Aggarwal



**AIS**  
VKC

**Divyamansa: Sensitivity for specially abled**

Varada Kachroo (team leader), Gouri Srivastava, Vaishnavi Singh and Saransh Baghel; XI with mentor teacher, Rashi Keserwani



**AIS**  
Jagdishpur

**Shakti: Energy conservation**

Yashi Tiwari (team leader), Shruti Tiwari, Adima Agarwal, Anugrah Agarwal; X with mentor teacher, Amarnath Sharma



**AIS**  
VYC

**Gyanuday: Promoting reading habits**

Kainaaf Arif (team leader), Pragati Singh, Gursimran Kaur, XI Ashwin Rajvanshi, XII with mentor teacher, Sunita Singh





# Youth Power 2022-23



**AIS MV** Akshya Daan: Organ donation

Shivanshi Sharma (team leader), Manveen Kaur, Raima Roy Burman; XI  
Yeshaswi Verma, VIII with mentor teacher, Parul Premi



**AIS Saket** Bezubaan: Animal cruelty

Varnika Pradhan (team leader), Aananya Thareja, Aisha Bhargavi and  
Raabia Ali Abidi; IX with mentor teacher, Garima Pandey



**AIS Gur 46** Samanvay: Carbon reduce and reuse

Parisha Saxena (team leader), Gauri Mishra, XI; Saniya Nagpal, IX  
Bhavik Jain, VIII with mentor teacher, Deepika Bailey



**AIS Vas 1** Helpatitis: Creating awareness on Hepatitis

Vibhuti Kundra (team leader), IX; Sejal Suri, Arisha Agarwal  
Avishi Tyagi, VIII with mentor teacher, Sonia Rao



**AIS Gur 43** Saarthi: Helping senior citizens

Avni Munjal (team leader), Mansha Rapria, Priyanshi Maheshwari and  
Madhvendra Singh Chouhan; XI with mentor teacher, Jyoti Mutreja



*Writing is an art and there's no better platform to exercise it than your own beloved GT! To unleash the writer in you, GT brings you a new topic every time and asks for your views on the same. Here are some intriguing responses from young writers at Amity for the prompt...*

### What are some fond memories you have of Diwali?

## The prompt BOX

"There's a photograph of mine as a two-and-a-half-year-old, dressed in traditional finery and shutting my ears with my hands, while sitting on my grandpa's lap. Apparently, I was scared by the sound of crackers so I preferred staying indoors when my family was engaged in bursting crackers. So, my grandfather volunteered to stay with me. That's one memory I'll always hold close to my heart."

**Kashish**, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII E

"On the eve of Diwali in 2006, I found out that my parents had opted for a 'Green Diwali' which meant no firecrackers. Despite me throwing a tantrum, they refused to budge. Off I went to sulk when a cousin, with whom I had no close interactions in the past, came to me and shared funny stories that made me laugh a lot. I had made a new friend! We played together all evening long, and it turned out to be a better Diwali than I could have imagined."

**Teesta Chakraborty**, AIS PV, XI F

"It was Diwali break during my second grade. I, along with my cousins, had decorated the entire verandah floor with rangoli and there was not an inch of space left to walk on. I remember the hem of my lehenga was coloured red, pink, purple, and blue the next day and my mother exclaiming, '*Iss se achcha toh holi hi manaa lete rangoli ke rango se*'."

**Yashi Sharma**, AIS Noida, XI I

"My fondest memory is from the Diwali celebrated in 2018. All my relatives and cousins had come to visit us, and we all got together for a family photoshoot in traditional attire. It was a very wholesome moment because I had never experienced anything like it. After stuffing ourselves with all the delicious food, we all played blackjack together. I realised what a natural I was at this game!"

**Kush Gupta**, AGS Gur, XI

"One of my fondest memories is of the Diwali that I spent at my grandparents' house. I spent the entire day with my cousins bursting crackers and eating special dishes prepared especially for me by my *maamu*. It was one of those rare days when I felt I was truly on a holiday."

**Rajbir Singh**, AIS Gurugram 43, X

"Cleaning our home is one of the memories I will never forget. The task is tedious, but also a delight. Another fond memory is gorging on innumerable delicacies like *kaju katli*, *gulab jamun*, *rasgulla* etc. It is probably that one day of the year when we do not count calories!"

**Mariam Fatma**, AIS VKC Lucknow, XI A

"Visiting *bua's* and *nani's* place is a regime on Diwali. They stuff my mouth with sweets, give me pocket money, and all of us make rangoli. Spending hours in the market for Diwali shopping, getting dressed with the best attire for the family fashion show, and the aroma of marigold flowers are some of my fond memories of Diwali."

**Diya Mishra**, AIS Vas 6, X D

"I fondly remember the time, when as a six-year-old, I would sneak into the place where the sweets were kept, hidden if I may say. During the evenings, I would march around the house with a mission to light all the *diyas*. The laughter, the joy, and the togetherness are the fondest memories that I have of the festival of lights."

**Sara Khosla**, AIS Gurugram 46, XII G

"When I was younger, Diwali shopping was a high point for me. I would see my mom bargaining like a pro while purchasing sweets. I remember waiting anxiously for the pooja to get over so that I could burst crackers with friends. Jumping on lit *chakris*, shooting rockets at random places, and lighting the *sutli* bomb in my hand and throwing it before it exploded, all these gave me an adrenaline rush."

**Arpita Kaushal**, AIS Jagdishpur, XII C

"For me, Diwali 2021 is special as we were having a normal Diwali after a long time due to COVID-19. We had decided to distribute clothes and food to needy people and children. I remember how my father bought burgers and ice cream for some poor kids sitting in front of a McDonald's! That made the festival really meaningful for me."

**Raj Chandra**,  
AIS Vasundhara 1, VII B

"As kids, we were always excited about helping our parents with cleaning the house and shopping for Diwali. Shopping for new clothes and toys was the highlight of the festival. Bingeing on home-made sweets is definitely a happy memory too."

**Mandavi Sharma**, AIS VYC Lucknow, XI

"A very fond memory I have of the festive season is that of Dhanteras. My family would go to Dariba, a silver market in Old Delhi. We would buy silver coins for the pooja, and I would also enjoy the delicious *badaam* milk and street food. Even now, every Diwali, I light all the *diyas* and candles, decorate the doors with *torans*, and make *rangoli*."

**Shivanjali Sapra**, AIS Saket, VIII B

*With Diwali 2023 being declared as a public school holiday in New York City, do you think Indian culture is finally being accepted on a global scale?*



# Learning anew

A Seminar For Faculties To Adopt New Teaching Methods



The session in progress with academic experts in attendance

## AICE & ACSF

A series of workshops for high school faculties (PGTs of all subjects and streams), principals, academic in-charges, vice principals and other stakeholders of Amity Group of Schools was conducted to address CUET examinations and evolving UG admission scenario in India from September 16-21, 2022. Conducted by AICE (Amity Institute of Competitive Examination) and ACSF (Amity Children Science Foundation), under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs)

Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the seminar aimed to address the urgent need of making a shift in the teaching methodologies in higher education, focussing more towards competitive exams like CUET.

During the sessions, the participants deliberated upon information related to the CUET exam - exam pattern, syllabus, difficulty level, available subjects, criterion of various courses of participating universities, career choices for students through CUET, differences between CBSE and CUET pattern

and syllabus, faculty perspective towards the exam, coaching institutes offering training of the exam, role of AICE in supporting schools to prepare for the CUET exam, etc. In fact, various steps to bridge the gap between CUET and CBSE preparation for the students were also planned.

Besides, strategies to introduce subjects through crash courses, the need for mock test series, was also discussed. Also, an interaction with parents was organised and they were apprised on the strategies to be followed for CUET and CBSE board exams. [G I](#)

# Grandparents Day

## AIS Mayur Vihar

To celebrate and acknowledge the role of grandparents in the life of children, the young Amitians of Class I-III celebrated Grandparents Day on September 9, 2022. The programme commenced with the auspicious lamp lighting ceremony amidst the chanting of shlokas. School principal Meenu Kanwar, welcomed the grandparents and addressed the august gathering by touching upon the presence of elders in every home. She also emphasised how the young ones should have values like respect, love, and care for the elderly. To strengthen the bond between



Young students present a dance performance

grandparents and children, many engaging activities like fashion show, talent show, poetry recitation as well as games such as flip the glass, lemon race, etc, were orga-

nised. The programme concluded on an emotional note where the grandparents shared stories about their lifetime experiences and also sang with their grandchildren. [G I](#)



A prototype of the 'Next-Gen City' designed by Adite

## A sustainable win

### AIS Vasundhara 6

Adite Sharma, a student of Class XII secured second position at the state level science seminar on the theme 'Basic Science for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Prospects'. She presented a prototype of her project, 'Next-Gen City', which incorporates eco-friendly practices and green spaces as well as the supporting technology to reduce air pollution

and carbon dioxide emissions in urban spaces. If implemented, these practices can lead to a healthier environment for the city residents and ensure a lower carbon footprint for the city.

The seminar was organised by Ministry of Culture and was held on October 1, 2022, at the State Institute of Science Education, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. A total of 36 finalists presented their innovative ideas on sustainable development at the event. [G I](#)

## Of art and culture



Students perform dance at the cultural fest

### AIS Vasundhara 1

The fourth edition of the annual inter-school fest of art, culture and literature, 'Amity Utsav', was organised from August 8-9, 2022. The fest saw participation from over 750 students from 50 schools of Delhi/NCR. The cultural event was conducted in 11 different categories namely Indradhanush (art); Shlokavali (sanskrit shloka recitation); Quiz-topher (quiz); Nimble Feet (dance); Lights Camera Action (movie making); Poster Mania (poster designing); Talking Titans (speech); Story Weaver (storytelling); Mathsmith (mental math); Young Innovators (science inno-

ventions); and Bout To Knock (debate competition).

In Story Weaver competition, AIS Noida, AIS Vasundhara 1 and AIS Gurugram 43 bagged the first, second and third prize, respectively. In Poster Mania event, AIS Mayur Vihar secured second position and AIS Saket received special mention award. Moving on, AIS Vas 6 bagged first prize in Talking Titans and third prize in Nimble Feet. In Young Innovators event, AIS MV secured third prize, with AGS Noida winning the second prize in Mathsmith.

The fest came to an end with school principal Dr Bhavana Kulshrestha congratulating and felicitating all the winners at the closing ceremony. [G I](#)



# India leads the way

*Once considered the land of snake-charmers and poverty running rampant, India has turned its image 180 degrees in the present day to emerge as the land of new world leaders. With more and more Indian-origin and NRIs dotting the foreign political landscape, **Priyanka Bhatia**, GT Network, looks at the inspiring figures bagging the crown and penning down a new tale, one discarded stereotype at a time.*

## Hero of the hour: Rishi Sunak

**Tilak to fame:** Newly elected prime minister, United Kingdom, since October 2022

**Bio:** With both grandfathers and paternal grandmother belonging to British India, Sunak was elected as a Member of UK Parliament in 2015, and re-elected in 2017 and 2019 in the constituency of Richmond (Yorks). He has also served as the chancellor of the exchequer from 2020 to 2022, and chief secretary to the Treasury from 2019 to 2020. His pledge to do "whatever it takes" to help people during the COVID-19 pandemic popularised him amongst the masses, not to mention that he is married to Akshata Murty, daughter of NR Narayana Murthy, founder, Infosys.



## Hero of the hour: António Costa

**Tilak to fame:** Prime Minister, Portugal, since November 2015

**Bio:** Before becoming the Prime Minister of Portugal, Costa held offices as the secretary of state for parliamentary affairs (1995-1997), minister of parliamentary affairs (1997-1999), minister of justice (1999-2002), minister of internal administration (2005-2007), and mayor of Lisbon (2007-2015). Costa, half-Indian and half-Portuguese, is a skillful lawyer; he is even known as the 'Gandhi of Lisbon' for his work in turning around a crime-infested neighbourhood.



## Hero of the hour: Chan Santokhi

**Tilak to fame:** President, Suriname, since July 2020

**Bio:** Chandrikapersad Santokhi aka Chan Santokhi, born into an Indo-Surinamese Hindu family, started his career at the age of 23 as a police inspector. In 1989, he became the head of the national criminal investigation department. Soon, in 1991, he was named the commissioner of police. During the 2010 general elections, he received the second-largest number of votes despite being deemed a low-ranking candidate. He also was the president of CICAD for a year. In 2011, he was elected as the chairman of the VHP party. During the 2020 elections, when no other candidates filed for nomination, he was elected as president by default.



## Hero of the hour: Prithvirajsing Roopun

**Tilak to fame:** President, Mauritius, since December 2019

**Bio:** As a practicing attorney since 1986, Roopun joined the political world in 1983, and was first elected in constituency 14 in the year 2000. Having held many offices in the Mauritian government, he has also served as the minister of social integration and economic empowerment, playing a major role in the eradication of poverty and the empowerment of the economically-backward groups. Born in an Indian Arya Samaji Hindu family, he has proposed various schemes for the betterment of the poor in his tenure.

## Hero of the hour: Dr Mohammed Irfaan Ali

**Tilak to fame:** President, Guyana, since August 2020

**Bio:** Dr Mohammed Irfaan Ali, born into an Indo-Guyanese Muslim family, was first appointed as the member of the National Assembly of Guyana in 2006. Later on, he handled the post of the minister of housing and water along with the minister of tourism industry and commerce. During his tenure as the minister, he performed the functions of president and prime minister on separate occasions. In 2015, his party went into opposition, during which time he served as chair of the public accounts committee and co-chair of the economic services committee of the parliament of Guyana.



## Hero of the hour: Kamala Harris

**Tilak to fame:** Vice President, USA, since January 2021

**Bio:** Born to an Indian-origin mother, Kamala, with a law degree from University of California, has served term as the attorney general of California from 2010 to 2017, and as a United States senator representing California from 2017 to 2021. Kamala Devi Harris is the first woman, the first African-American woman, as well as the first person of Asian-American descent to be sworn in as the Vice President of the United States of America.



## Hero of the hour: Pravind Jugnauth

**Tilak to fame:** Prime Minister, Mauritius, since January 2017

**Bio:** With a political career spanning over 30 years, Pravind Jugnauth served as the minister of agriculture from 2000 to 2003. During his tenure, he reformed the sugar sector by diversifying the production of ethanol, agricultural rum, special sugar, electricity generation from bagasse, and other high value-added products. Great-grandson of an Indian immigrant from Uttar Pradesh, Jugnauth, as the finance minister, was known to have reduced the taxes on multiple commodities, increased subsidy rates on basic commodities and products, and even offered salary compensation for two successive years.