



# OPEN MINDS

March & April 2024

# THE CHRONICLE



CIE & IB Edition



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#### IGNITING THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

The new academic year 2024 - 25 kicked off with a high-energy assembly led by the CIE and IB teachers.

The focus? Building strong teams and fostering those essential learner attributes! Laughter echoed through the assembly hall as the students' faces beamed with excitement for the year ahead.

These dauntless learners showcased their courage by diving headfirst into team-building activities.

Working together, collaborating effectively, and celebrating successful completion – they mastered it all!

Ms. Syamili Chowdury, our everinspiring Principal, addressed the assembly, motivating the students to excel academically while prioritizing well-rounded development throughout the year.

On a high note, the assembly concluded with a vibrant and electrifying dance performance by the students themselves. Let's hear it for an amazing start to a successful year!







Birla Open Minds International School Welcomes Ms. Gisela for Engaging Spanish Classes!

Spanish, a global language with countless opportunities for communication, travel, and career advancement, takes centre stage at Birla Open Minds International School. To make learning even more exciting, Ms. Gisela, an external faculty member from Peru, recently visited our school.

Ms. Gisela's engaging teaching methods captivated





### CELEBRATING WORLD FRENCH DAY

#### BIRLA OPEN MINDS CELEBRATES WORLD FRENCH DAY

The morning's assembly buzzed with excitement as we celebrated World French Day, also known as "La Journée Internationale de la Francophonie." The focus? Highlighting the beauty of the French language and the rich tapestry of Francophone culture.

French, the world's sixth most spoken language, unites an impressive 29 countries. The assembly wasn't just about language; it was a celebration of the vibrant cultures that share French as their official language. Imagine indulging in renowned French cuisine, experiencing the iconic fashion of Vogue, or getting lost in the beauty of French art, architecture, and literature!

This celebration wasn't just about appreciating French culture, it was about encouraging a sense of solidarity and connection between these French-speaking nations. After all, language is a powerful bridge that connects people and cultures across borders.



#### LIGHTS, CAMERA, APPLAUSE

## LET'S CELEBRATE THEATRE DAY



"Theatre is the art of looking at ourselves" - Augusto Boal

One of the most stimulating manner to engage students together to explore the world of drama and performance is by introducing them to theatre.

The vigorous batch of the new grade six students of CIE mustered their confidence to showcase what theatre is all about in the morning assembly.

They portrayed myriad aspects of theatre, including acting, directing, and stage presence.

Collaboration and teamwork was evident as they worked together to create and perform their own theatrical mime. This enabled them to not only thrive their artistic skills but also boost important social and emotional proficiency that will benefit them in all areas of their lives.



### KHUSH RAMADAN







**Anshika 8A** 

The Muslims holy month is here,
A time for joy and not to fear
To pray to Allah with all their might,
And hope for everyone to be alright.

One learns patience and self control,
To reflect and purify the soul,
Breaking long hour fasts in unity
A way to get though impurity.

Ramadan is a time to spread light, Guiding us to a path that's right, Faithfully striving everyone to be, Better humans and souls so free.

The ninth month of the Islamic Calendar is observed as Ramadan. Muslims all across the world observe a month of fasting, prayer, and reflect on their lives. They begin their (sawm) or fast at dawn and end it with iftar at sunset.



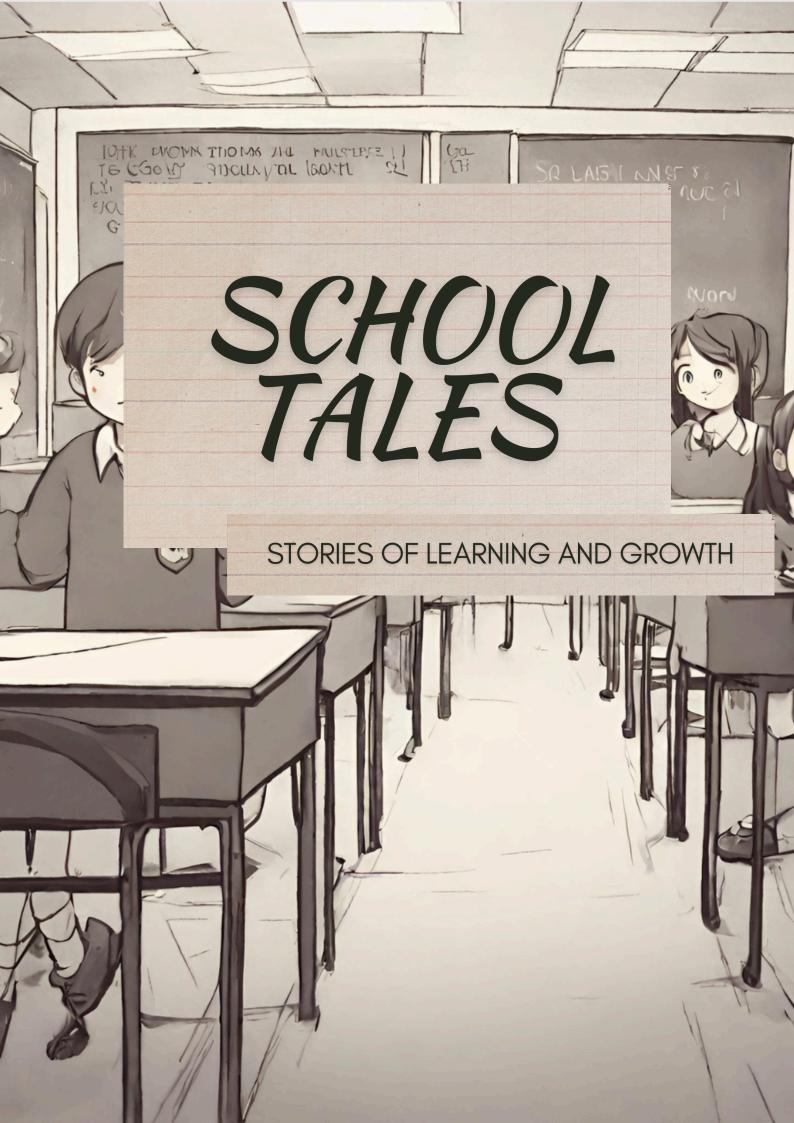


#### Birla Open Minds Rings in the New Year with Ugadi!

Vigorous celebration filled the air as Birla Open Minds School commemorated Ugadi, the traditional New Year of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka! Students and teachers came together for a dazzling jamboree, steeped in rich cultural traditions.

The festivities sparkled with mango leaves and colorful flowers adorning the entrances, symbolizing fresh beginnings. The air buzzed with the chanting of Panchanga Sravanam, the reading of the new year's predictions. The delicious aroma of Ugadi Pachadi, a special dish symbolizing life's diverse flavors, filled the school. But the true highlight was the captivating display of cultural performances—mesmerizing dances, soulful songs, and engaging skits brought the stories and traditions of Ugadi to life.

This celebration wasn't just about fun and festivities; it was a journey of cultural exploration. Students gained a deeper understanding of Ugadi's significance and immersed themselves in the vibrant tapestry of Indian traditions.



# NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY



Grade 12: A Glimpse into Their Computing Future

The Students of IB Grade 12 received a head start on their future careers hosted by Nebraska University, Lincoln, wherein Dr. Byrav Ramamurthy, a renowned professor from the School of Computing, enlightened the IB Students to an exciting and diverse world of computer science. He shared invaluable insights and guidance, highlighting the many interdisciplinary career paths the field offered.

However it wasn't just about computer science - Mr. Blayne Sharpe, Director of International Recruitment, was also there to showcase the vast academic landscape at Nebraska University. Students learned about the wide range of major courses available across different colleges. Mr. Sharpe even introduced them to the Optional Practical Training (OPT) opportunities offered by the university, providing valuable information for their future academic and professional journey.



### THE GREAT INNOVATION CHALLENGE

#### THE GREAT INNOVATION CHALLENGE: IGNITING YOUNG OPEN MINDS

The Great Innovation Challenge wasn't just about problem-solving – it was a launchpad for our students' future! Fueled by imagination and fascination, students tackled complex issues, learning from triumphs and setbacks alike.

This exciting challenge not only laid the groundwork for their academic and professional paths, but also instilled a lifelong love of learning and a passion for innovation.

Let's celebrate the inventiveness and ingenuity of our students as they embark on this invigorating journey of discovery and transformation!



### **ACID BASED TITRATIONS**



Titrations are crucial for students as they provide hands-on experience in quantitative analysis, honing essential skills like precision, accuracy, and observation. They teach students to understand the concept of stoichiometry, equilibrium, and pH, which are fundamental in chemistry.

Additionally, titrations enhance critical thinking by requiring students to interpret data and make informed conclusions, preparing them for future scientific research and applications in various fields.

-Anand Kumar K CIE & IB Chemistry Facilitator

# GRADE 9 GEOGRAPHY



The students of Grade 9 IGCSE embarked on a journey of research as they worked on the topics covered in the geography session. Engaging presentations using PowerPoint were designed to educate the learners about the various features and types of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Geography aids the learners to understand current events such as climate changes, natural disasters, topography etc.

It was an engaging session which contributed to the subject enrichment activity.

This exploration strengthened a sense of environmental awareness and human actions that lead to volcanic eruptions and our role as a global citizen.

- Sushixth Kumar Saggurthi
CIE Geography & IB Global politics Facilitator



# Birla Open Minds Heated Up with the Inter-House Competition

The energy sparkled as Birla Open Minds hosted its Inter-House Competition on April 12th, 2024, with the theme "Brand Fusion." More than a competition - it was a platform for students (Grades 6-12, CIE & IB) to unleash their hidden talents.

"Brand Fusion" challenged students to creatively merge a foreign brand with an Indian brand, vibrant discussions about the influence of global brands on local markets. However it wasn't all business! The competition also incorporated an eco-friendly twist, encouraging students to brainstorm solutions for the planet's pressing climate issues.

The competition witnessed fierce yet friendly rivalry as students across houses showcased their creativity, public speaking skills, and environmental awareness. It was a day filled with innovative ideas, passionate presentations, and a strong sense of community spirit. Stay tuned for updates on the next exciting Inter-House event.



# PUNCTUATIONS MADE EASY

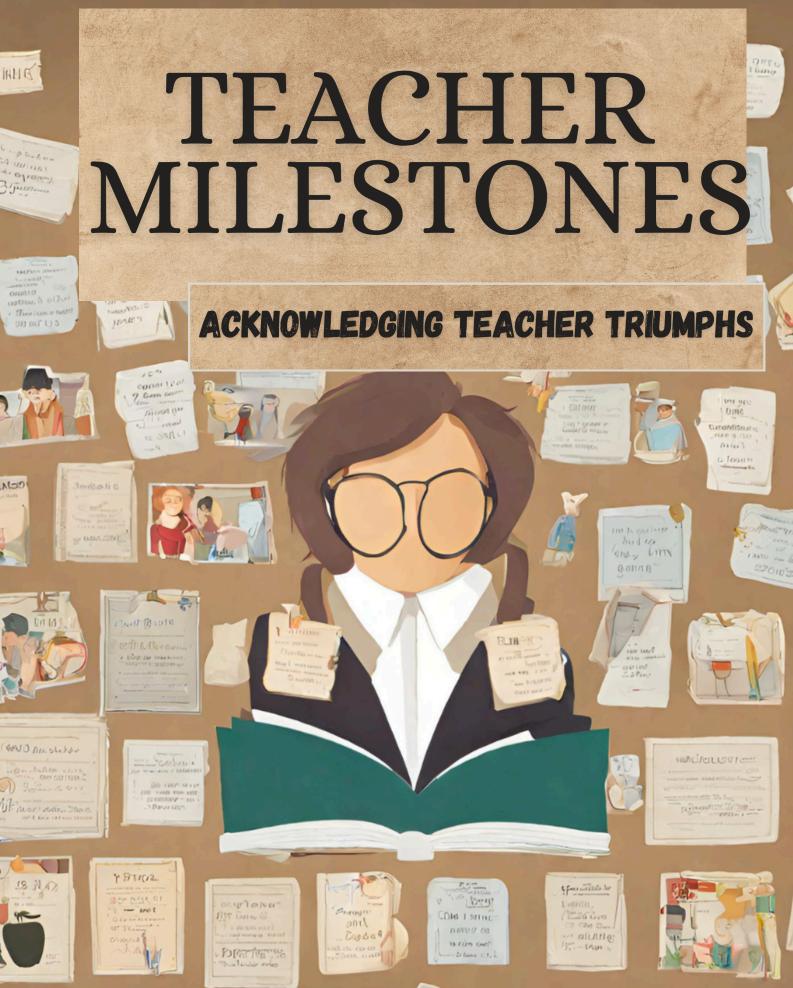
"Lets eat grandma." If not punctuated has a different connotation.

Punctuation, though seemingly small, is an eloquent tool that shapes the way our words are expressed, making it a requisite for effective communication.

The pivotal role of punctuation was accentuated to the learners as they worked on a hands-on activity to arrange the appropriate punctuation mark with its function on the white board using magnets.

From exclamation marks to commas, semicolons to colons, each punctuation serves as a distinct purpose in clarifying and structuring our writing.

-Elizabeth K Francis CIE English Faculty





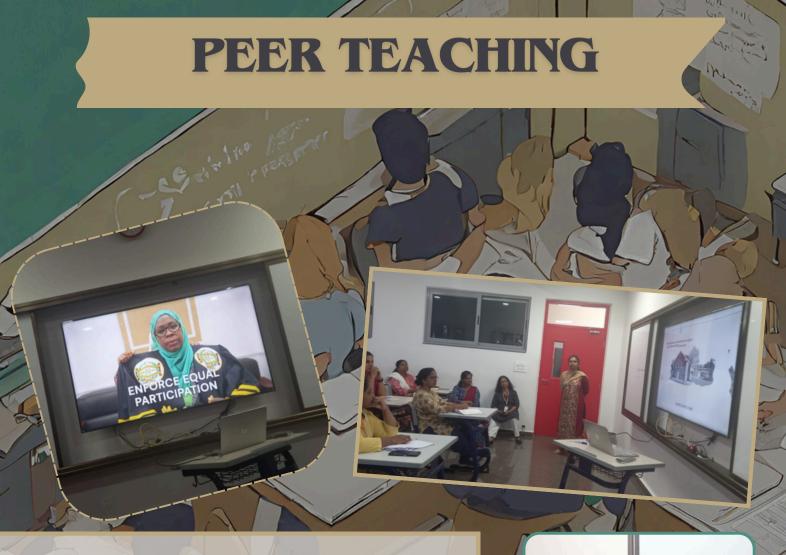


ACMING ALLOWERS





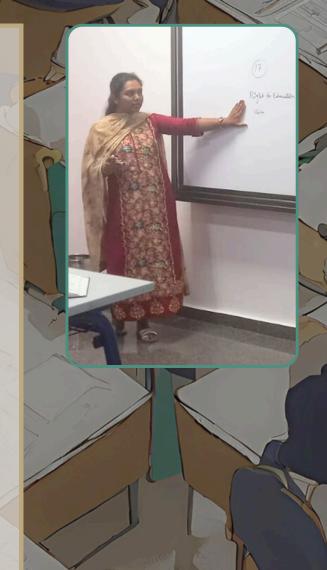




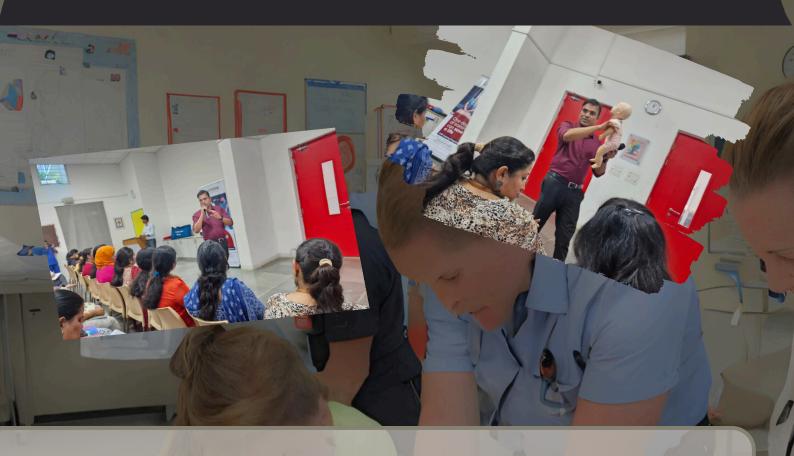
#### The Power of Peer Teaching

Peer teaching isn't just about sharing knowledge it's professional a development powerhouse. **Educators** work together, facilitating learning exchanging best practices, reflecting on refining methods, and instructional strategies.

The benefits? Deeper understanding, fresh insights, stronger collaboration, and a boost in job satisfaction. Peer teaching is a win-win for educators, fostering growth and a more fulfilling teaching experience.



### BASIC LIFE SUPPORT

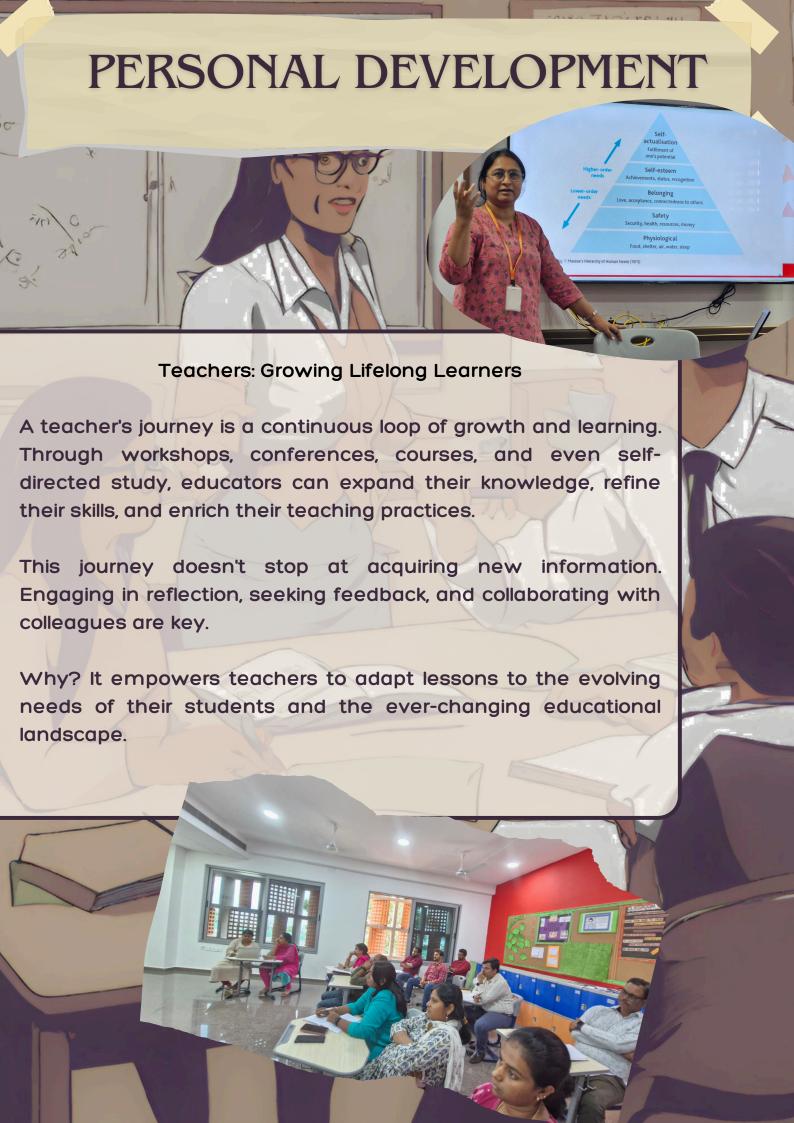


#### Birla Open Minds Empowers Staff with Life-Saving Skills!

Our dedicated faculty and support staff recently took a big step towards ensuring student safety. They participated in an extensive Basic Life Support (BLS) training session, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to act decisively in emergencies.

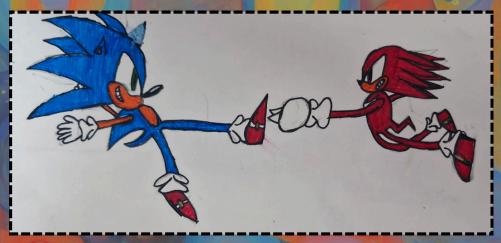
The training covered vital techniques like CPR, choking relief procedures, and emergency response protocols. But it wasn't just about knowledge - it was about building confidence and teamwork

The staff is efficient and equipped to handle medical discrepancies within the school, nurturing a culture of proactiveness and swift response when required.



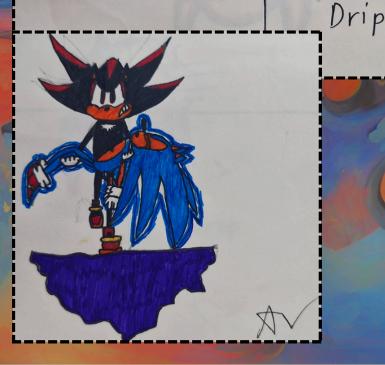
# CELEBRATING THE ART OF OUR 6TH GRADERS

Blue Blur Buddy...









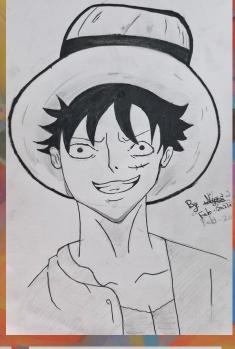


Anish Vihaan Pinninti 6B CIE



# Nysha's Art Gallery





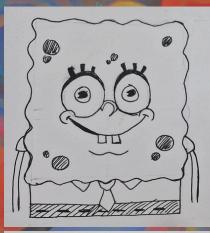












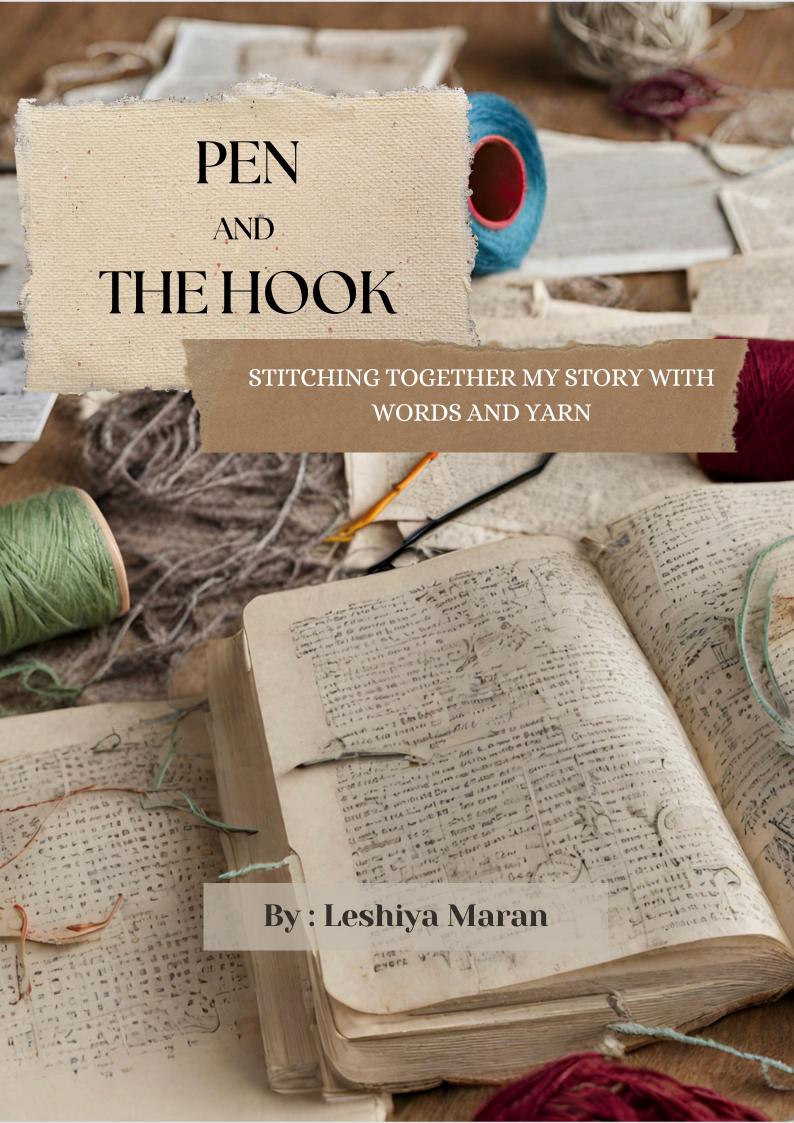








Tanvi Nysha Kilari 6A CIE



#### A THREAD OF A JOURNEY

Life's a journey, a tapestry woven from the threads of experience. Every skill we learn, every person we meet, adds a unique colour to the fabric of who we are.

Over the years, I've encountered fascinating people and honed valuable skills, each one leaving an indelible mark on my path.

This is my story, a piece I offer in the hopes it resonates with someone on their own life's journey. Perhaps within these words, you'll find a connection, a shared experience that adds a vibrant hue to your own unique tapestry.

Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Leshiya Maran, a 15-year-old brimming with the curiosity and constant change that defines adolescence. I embrace new experiences, seeking fresh colors to paint the canvas of my life. Life, as I see it, is a book filled with chapters – some joyous, some confusing, some tinged with sadness. Yet, in its imperfections lies a perfect beauty.

These are the hobbies that are intricately woven into the narrative of my life, threads I hope to carry with me throughout my journey.

#### TO MY LOVE OF WRITING

My love affair with stories began in childhood. Curled up with a book, I wasn't just reading words on a page; I was transported to new worlds, feeling a kaleidoscope of emotions along the way. These captivating journeys ignited a spark within me: could I create such worlds myself?

Thus began my writing odyssey. Starting with short stories, I delved into crafting plots and characters. Before I knew it, worlds bloomed under my fingertips, each with its own inhabitants and unique emotional tapestry.

Writing evolved beyond a hobby; it became my voice. It granted me a comfortable space to express my feelings, weaving snippets of my soul, emotions, and even love into the narratives I crafted. Every word on the page was a tiny piece of me.

Even today, the thrill of inspiration propelling me towards a new story remains unparalleled. The written word isn't just my passion; it's a portal to endless creativity and self-discovery.

#### A TIMELESS CRAFT

The thrill of discovery fuels my life. When my fashion-forward sister suggested embroidery, I dove in, mastering basic stitches and tackling project after project. The rhythmic dance of needle and thread became a cherished hobby, but my ever-curious mind craved fresh inspiration.

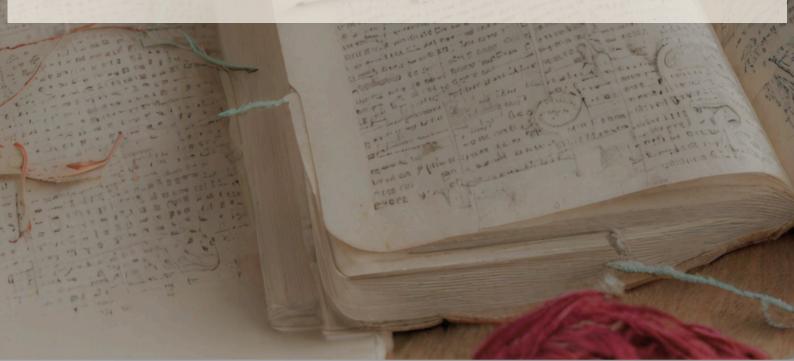
Enter crochet, another suggestion from my ever-helpful sister. Armed with her old materials and YouTube tutorials, I was hooked! My first creation, a light sky-blue scarf, was a humble beginning. I even attempted a cardigan, though it remains a wearable testament to my ambitious (and unfinished) crochet journey.

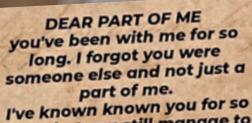
But amigurumi, the art of crocheting adorable stuffed toys, truly stole my heart. Creating something personal and delightful for friends and family brought immense satisfaction. The quiet pride of crafting something with my own two hands, something that sparks joy and comfort, fuels my passion.

My hobbies are like vibrant threads weaving a rich tapestry of my life. They add depth, texture, and color to my experiences. I dream of rocking gently in a chair someday, surrounded by yarn and stories, my golden years filled with the comfort and creativity of crocheting.

This is my journey, a continuous exploration of new skills and the joy of creation.

I hope perhaps a thread of my experience resonates with you, inspiring you to discover your own vibrant hobbies.





I've known known you for so long, but you still manage to grab my attention every time you walk into a room or every time you smile.

Dear part of me I miss the way I used to smile when I was with you, I miss the happiness I felt with you, I miss the love I felt with you, I miss missing you.

Dear part of me

Even if I was given the chance to go back in time to you, I won't take it, cause' I'm not the me I used to be when I was with you

But you will always and forever be a dear part of me.

- Leshiya.

# MY TYPE OF BLUE

Before I met you
my world was BLUE
BLUE like the night sky
BLUE like the ocean
Or the BLUE you see when
you light a flame

After I met you
My world turned BLUE
BLUE like the flowers
BLUE like the day sky
BLUE like your eyes
You are my favorite type
of blue.

- Leshiya





Anime is a form of visual entertainment originating from Japan that has attracted viewers from all across the world due to its unique art style, compelling storytelling, and plot twists. Anime consists of several different themes and genres, hence having lots of flexibility for all age groups and areas of interest. If you're interested in starting your journey in anime or have already been watching anime and looking for more, here are some recommendations!

#### For those looking to start an anime:

- **Death Note**: This anime is a start for a large number of anime watchers. Death Note lies in the genres of mystery, thriller, and psychological thriller. This anime is about a high school student named Light Yagami who achieves a supernatural power that allows him to kill anybody by writing their name, and he tries to stop genius detectives.
- **Demon Slayer**: Kimetsu No Yaiba: Demon Slayer is an anime about a teenager, namely Tanjiro, trying to save his sister Nezuko, who got turned into a demon by the major antagonist of the entire anime, Muzan Kibutsuji. It is a great mix of action, fantasy, and comedy. It is definitely a great anime to watch.
- One Punch Man: This anime is about a regular person named Saitama, who has superhuman strength and can eliminate his enemies with just one single punch. The genres for this anime consist primarily of comedy and action, so be prepared for a lot of laughs while watching this anime.







For those who have **already been watching** anime and are looking for more anime to watch:

• One Piece: Some may say that One Piece has a lot of episodes, but I must say that it really is worth it. It covers lots of journeys of the pirate Monkey D. Luffy on his goal to become the king of the pirates. This anime covers many different genres, such as comedy and action.



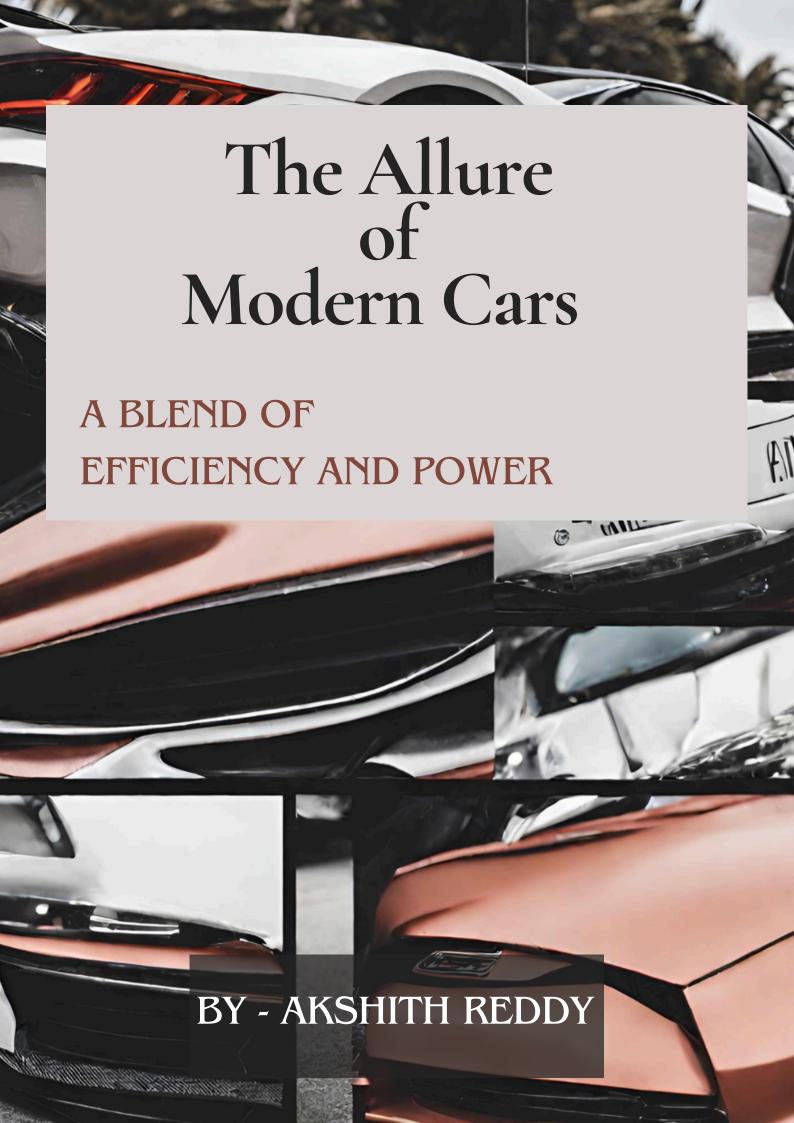
• Blue Lock: Blue Lock is a sports-based anime focusing specifically on the sport of football, mainly based on the story of the journey of Yoichi Isagi and his goal to become the world's best striker. The anime has lots of extremely thrilling matches and shows how Isagi made friends on his way to his goal.



• Jujutsu Kaisen: Jujutsu Kaisen is about a high school student named Yuji Itadori as he becomes a part of a secret organization of Jujutsu Sorcerers who are working together to exorcise an extremely powerful curse, namely Ryomen Sukuna, but it so occurs that Yuji is the host to Sukuna. This anime consists of a lot of comedy as well as action.



THE LIST OF ANIME PROVIDED HERE IS PRETTY NARROW; THERE MAY BE ANIMES YOU DON'T LIKE FROM THIS LIST, BUT THERE ARE DEFINITELY A LOT OF THEM OUT THERE THAT WILL HAVE YOU HOOKED ON THEM!



In the world of automobiles, the term "modern cars" encapsulates a wide array of vehicles that boast the latest in technology, design, and performance. The year 2024 has seen the introduction of an exciting lineup of cars that cater to various needs and preferences. From the sleek and efficient Toyota Urban Cruiser Taisor and the versatile Maruti Suzuki Front, to the robust Mahindra Bolero Neo Plus and the commanding Mahindra Scorpio N, the choices are as diverse as they are innovative 12.

Modern cars are not just about getting from point A to point B; they are about the experience, the comfort, and the statement they make about the driver. They come equipped with cutting-edge features such as autonomous driving capabilities, advanced infotainment systems, and electrification that cater to the eco-conscious consumer. The Tata Punch, for example, is a testament to the blend of affordability and modern features that appeal to a broad audience2.

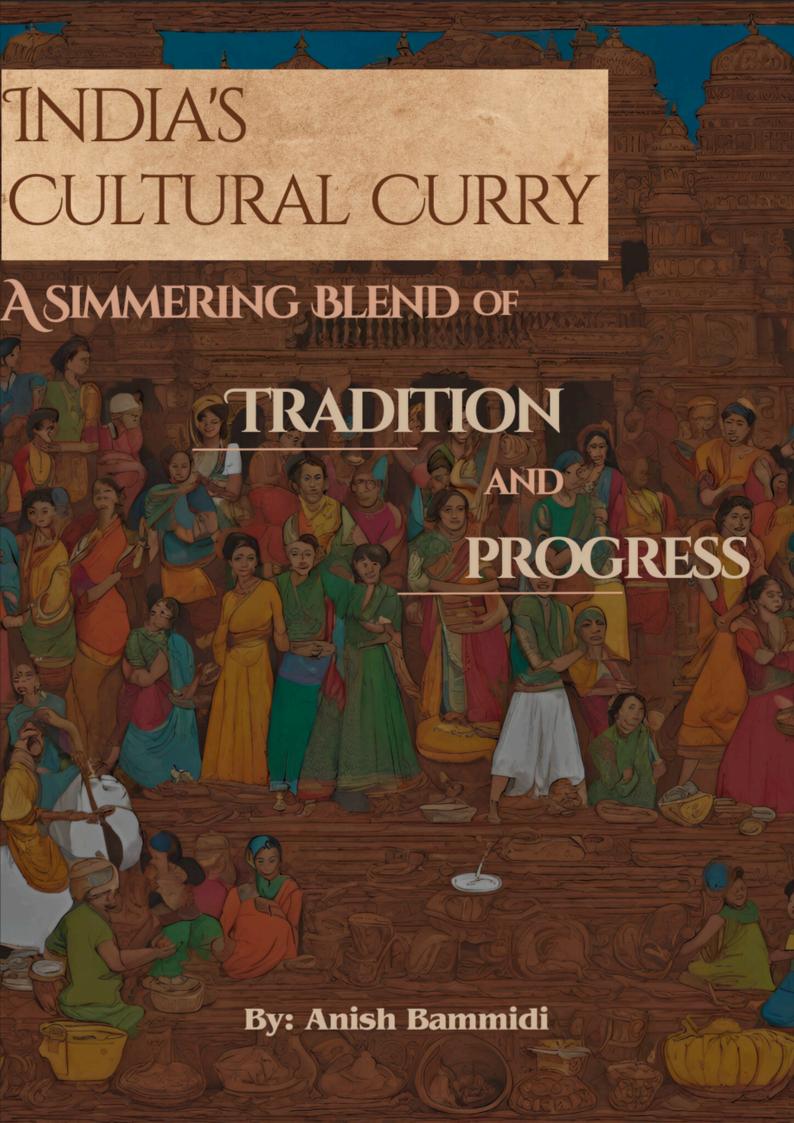
However, amidst the push for efficiency and sustainability, there remains a niche market for cars that prioritize power and performance over fuel economy—often referred to as "gas guzzlers." These vehicles, characterized by their larger engines and lower fuel efficiency, continue to captivate a segment of car enthusiasts who value the roar of a powerful engine and the thrill of high-speed driving.

The allure of gas guzzlers lies in their raw power and the sheer joy of driving. Models like the 2021 Dodge Durango SRT Hellcat and the 2022 Ram 1500 TRX are celebrated for their impressive horsepower and torque, delivering an adrenaline-pumping experience that's hard to match3. While they may not win any awards for fuel economy, with the 2021 Bugatti Chiron Pur Sport offering as little as 8 mpg in the city, they represent the pinnacle of automotive engineering and performance3. For car enthusiasts, gas guzzlers are more than just vehicles; they are symbols of freedom, power, and the human ingenuity that pushes the boundaries of what's possible on four wheels. They embody a passion for driving that goes beyond practicality, speaking to the heart of what it means to be a lover of cars.

# Hyundai Vision 74 A Glimpse into the Future of High-Performance

The Hyundai Vision 74 is a remarkable hydrogen-electric hybrid car that embodies innovation and sustainability in high-performance vehicles. With its sleek design and dynamic features, it breaks away from the stereotype that high-performance must come from internal combustion engines. The Vision 74 accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in just 4 seconds and has a top speed of over 250 km/h. Its impressive range of over 600 km on a single charge showcases the seamless integration of fuel cells and batteries. As a personal favorite, the Vision 74 resonates with car enthusiasts who appreciate eco-friendly technology without compromising on performance. It's a rolling lab that represents Hyundai's vision for the future—a future where cars like the Vision 74 lead the way in high-performance, hydrogen-fueled innovation.





Imagine a vibrant cauldron, a complex blend of spices simmering and releasing their unique aromas. This is India's cultural curry – a rich tapestry of traditions, beliefs, and customs that both favours and challenges everyday life. Its history stretches back millennia, leaving its mark on everything from bustling family life to vibrant festivals.

### THE WARMTH OF TRADITION

On the sunny side, Indian culture is like the comforting The trick, like any good cook, is finding the right balance. aroma and fragrant spices wafting from the kitchen. It's the joy of extended families under one roof, creating a strong sense of belonging. Picture energetic children weaving between elders who share stories of mischievous gods and legendary heroes.

This communal spirit explodes during festivals. Holi, a vibrant celebration, throws colour like spices into the air, washing away social barriers and fostering laughter and joy. Diwali, the "Festival of Lights," transforms homes and streets with flickering diyas and intricate rangolis. During these celebrations, families come together for shared meals, exchanging sweets and celebrating the triumph of good. Respect for elders, like the sprinkle of garam masala adding burning bright. This cultural curry, constantly evolving, depth to a dish, ensures traditions don't lose their savor. Grandparents become repositories of wisdom, their guidance sought for life's crossroads.

#### **BALANCING THE SPICE**

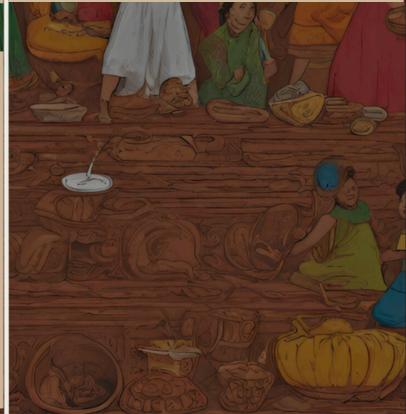
However, too much spice can overpower a curry. The emphasis on social order, sometimes rigid like an old recipe, presents challenges in the modern world. The caste system, a historical hierarchy, can still influence social interactions, despite ongoing efforts towards equality. Similarly, traditional gender roles can be restrictive, with societal pressure to conform sometimes limiting individual dreams. Traditions can impede progress.

The pressure to prioritise family obligations over personal ambitions or the expectation to conform to rigid gender roles can feel like a heavy lid on the pot, suppressing individual aspirations.

#### THE RECIPE FOR THE FUTURE

India cherishes its past, the stories passed down through generations, and the family recipes that connect them to their roots. It islike adding fresh ingredients, new ideas are needed to create a more equal society. India's youth, brimming with ambition and openness, are the catalysts for change. They bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, seeking to create a more inclusive future while cherishing their heritage.

India's cultural curry is a simmering pot, constantly bubbling with change. By understanding its multifaceted flavors, we can create a tastier recipe for the future – one that celebrates diversity, fosters unity, and keeps the flame of progress promises to continue captivating the world with its unique blend of tradition and contemporary spices.



A Glimpse Denied

# INDIA MISSES OUT ON THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE SPECTACLE

Sky gazers across the globe were treated to a rare spectacle on April 8th, 2024, as a total solar eclipse plunged parts of North America into darkness for several minutes. However, for observers in India, this celestial event remained out of sight.

The path of totality, the narrow band where the moon completely covers the sun, didn't traverse the Indian subcontinent. Despite the lack of direct visibility, Indian enthusiasts weren't left entirely disappointed. NASA's live stream offered a chance to witness the awe-inspiring phenomenon unfold, while some astronomy clubs had organized watch parties focusing on the science behind eclipses.

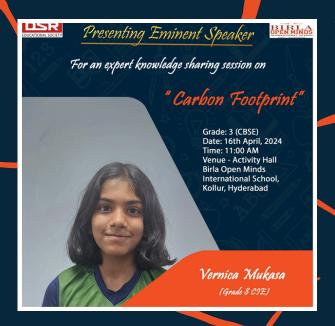
This total solar eclipse, the first in nearly 50 years to be so long-lasting, serves as a reminder of the wonders hidden within our solar system. While India may have missed this celestial show, the future holds many more opportunities to witness the captivating dance between the Sun, Moon, and Earth.

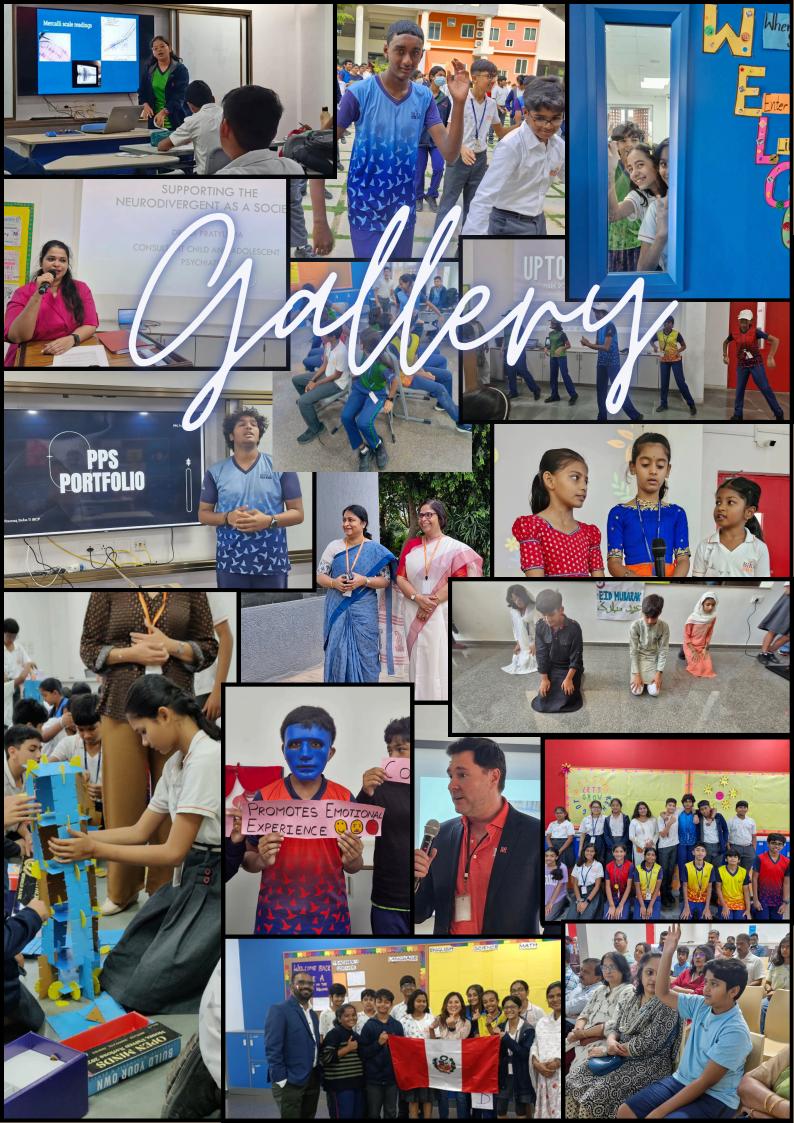
# Spark Speak











EARTH DAY The Understanding



# NOT A SINGLE CELEBRATION

Earth Day serves as a yearly reminder that environmental protection is an ongoing effort

#### Individual responsibility

We all have a role to play in protecting the planet, every day, not just on Earth Day

#### Building a sustainable future

Earth Day encourages us to make conscious choices and support initiatives that promote a healthier planet for generations to come.

#### Collective action has power

By working together, individuals, communities, and governments can make a real, difference.

# Editor's Note

#### **Turning the Page on 2024**

As we embark on a new chapter in 2024, we're thrilled to unveil the first edition of 'Open Minds - The Chronicle' for this academic year. This magazine serves as a vibrant platform, showcasing the best of Birla Open Minds CIE & IB achievements, milestones, upcoming events, and the diverse voices that shape our community.

Whether you're a student, parent, or a curious individual, we invite you to explore the stories that capture the essence of Birla Open Minds.

A huge thanks to our dedicated team of students and everyone who brought this issue to life. Their passion and talent are what make this magazine shine.

We value your feedback! Share your thoughts on this edition or submit ideas for future issues. Let's keep the conversation going. We're all ears (and eyes) for your contributions.

Here's to a year filled with learning, growth, and the power of storytelling together. May the pages of Open Minds inspire your own journeys!

Thank you readers,
We've got even more in store for the next edition.
Stay tuned !!!

**Until Next time:),** 

Anish Bammidi EDITOR - IN - CHIEF THE CHRONICLLE



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