

Paying to be owned

An Engineered Convenience Or A Draining Burden?

Shambhavi Sharma, AIS PV, XII F

In today's digital economy, even the simplest elements of daily life arrive wrapped in monthly fees. Music libraries, films, workouts, recipes, shopping benefits, educational tools, and even car features that once came as standard now sit behind paywalls. What began as seamless access has quietly transformed into a landscape of perpetual micro-debits that seem small and trivial in isolation, but heavy in accumulation.

The subscription explosion

The shift from ownership to access has become the core structure of today's marketplace. Future Market Insights estimates the subscription economy will reach 557.8 billion USD by 2025 and soar to 1.9 trillion USD by 2035, demonstrating the power of recurring revenue. Paid digital subscriptions alone reached 923 million in Q1 2025, as per SQ Magazine, embedding streaming, cloud services, design tools, and fitness apps into daily life. This

model now extends to appliances, food deliveries, car software, and household essentials, normalising consumers paying endlessly for access rather than ownership.

From the seller's POV

For companies, subscriptions are a strategic goldmine, delivering predictable revenue and deeper customer dependence. Studies show subscription-based SMBs face 46% less revenue volatility. McKinsey estimates customer lifetime value to be five to eight times higher than transactional models. Retention becomes the priority, driving investment in upgrades and personalised experiences that keep users paying. Subscriptions also generate constant behavioural data - what consumers stream, skip, save, or repeat - helping companies to refine products, pre-empt cancellations, and push targeted upsells.

From the consumer's POV

For consumers, subscriptions bring convenience alongside quiet discomfort. Lower upfront costs make premium services accessible, and constant updates prevent products from becoming obsolete. Yet this ease masks growing concerns: a CNBC report shows people underestimate their monthly subscription spending by over 100 USD, revealing how invisible charges become. Users may pay for years without owning anything, leaving them exposed

to revoked access or removed features. When usage drops, subscriptions become costly dead weight.

The broader implications

Beneath the surface, subscriptions rely on design choices that subtly shape behaviour. Researchers highlight 'roach motel' patterns - easy to join, difficult to leave, fueling rising 'subscription fatigue'. As charges multiply across music, meditation, food, and daily essentials, consumers face financial saturation. Industry trackers like Capterra warn that growth may slow unless companies offer clearer value, flexible plans, and transparent pricing.

Subscribe with caution

The challenge lies in determining the real value of subscriptions. For heavy users, they remain cost-effective, but problems emerge when usage drops, prices rise unnoticed, or features shift into pricier tiers. A US survey reflects this divide: while financial perks attracted new users, 44% cancelled a subscription in the past 90 days because it no longer felt worthwhile. Without active monitoring, subscriptions can slip from a convenience to a financial drain. Hence, consumers must practice regular audit and vigilance, while companies owe them full transparency.

Our subscriptions must serve us, rather than quietly gaining control over how we spend, consume, and live.

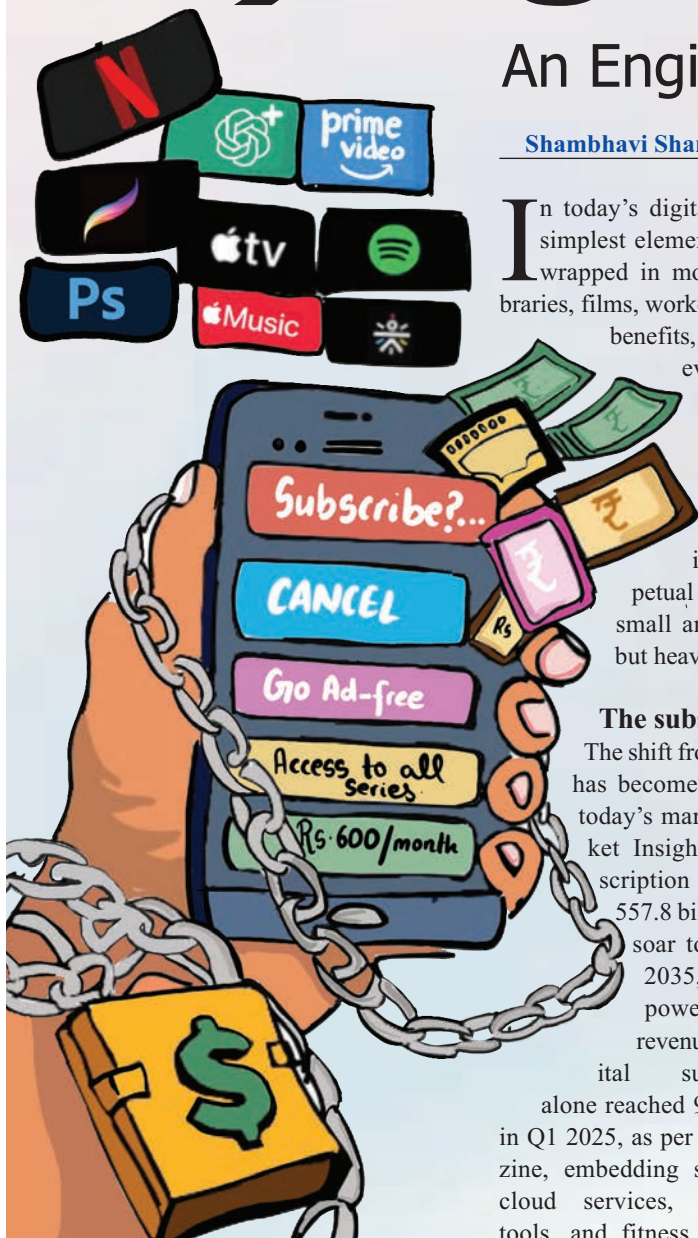


Illustration: Saisha Ahuja, IX A & Aditi Poddar, XI B, AIS PV

Page editor: Shambhavi Sharma, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII F

THE GT POLL

Has Artemis II shown we can land on the Moon again?

A) Yes
B) No
C) Maybe

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

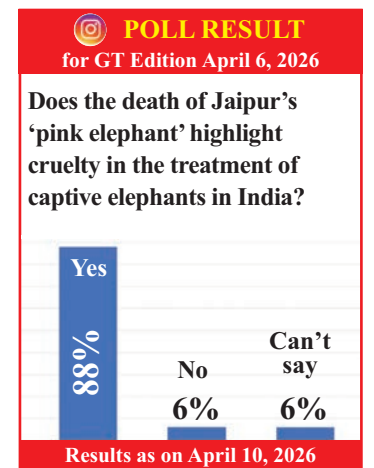
Coming next
Career Conclave 2025



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Pushp Vihar, as a part of the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper-making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition', which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the twelfth and the last edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2025-26'.

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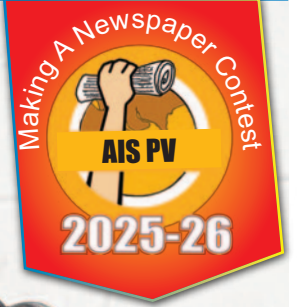
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Mind over magic INTERVIEW

Meet Suhani Shah, The Woman Who Made Magic Think



Avika Gupta, XI B &
Saideep Kukreja, IX D
AIS Pushp Vihar

With over 5,000 performances worldwide, Suhani Shah has spent two decades redefining magic in India. Blending mind reading, psychology, and storytelling, she creates experiences beyond traditional illusions. A trained hypnotherapist and author of 'Unleash Your Inner Power', she has explored the human mind both on and off stage. Her win at the FISM World Championship of Magic 2025 in Torino, Italy, as 'Best Magic Creator' highlights her role as a modern mentalist. In an exclusive interaction, GT reporters step inside the mind of a mentalist.

Cultivating passion

My parents have always been visionaries. Even as a child, my opinions mattered, and they were taken seriously. When I told them I wanted to pursue magic, they encouraged it wholeheartedly. I remember my father encouraging me to perform on large stages. That support shaped who I am today. When I started magic, it was never meant to be a career. At seven, it was simply a passion and, over time, that passion naturally evolved into a profession.

The magician's path

Unlike many art forms, magic has no for-



Suhani Shah with GT reporter

mal degree, school, or curriculum. The art thrives on mystery, making it difficult to learn - especially two or three decades ago, when resources were scarce. Today, the internet has made it accessible. But mastering magic goes beyond learning tricks; it involves finding an audience, earning stage time, and making a livelihood. Like all unconventional arts, it demands deep passion. If you're honest with your craft, your efforts are sure to be rewarded.

Uncertainty meets grace

Magic is a live performing art, and like any live performance, things can go wrong. A good artist, however, ensures the audience never notices those mishaps. In the early years, mistakes were more frequent. With experience, they reduced - but never completely disappeared. Saying nothing ever goes wrong would be dishonest. Preparation, backup plans, and the ability to recover seamlessly keeps the illusion intact.

Decoding mentalism

Think of dance as a parent category, with forms like salsa, Bharatanatyam, hip-hop, or jazz as subgenres. Magic works the same way. Mentalism, illusions, escapology, close-up magic - all fall under magic. Every mentalist is a magician, but not every magician is a mentalist.

Penning thoughts

I wrote 'Unleash Your Hidden Power' when my father encouraged me to put my thoughts into a book. My travelling experiences gave me insights into human behaviour. By the time I was fifteen, the book was ready - not as a literary ambition, but to share observations with the world. Through my experience of interacting with different people, I have learnt that people all over the world are similar. They seek validation, share curiosity and wish to understand themselves. These shared traits are what make mentalism so fascinating.

Message for Amitians

Today, knowledge is available instantly but people lack sincerity. Commitment and being human matters. Once you choose kindness, the world begins to look different - for the better.



Suhani Shah, mentalist

Book Review

Unravelling the enigma

Synopsis: Cassie (Cassandra) Hobbes is a 17-year-old teenager with an extraordinary gift of reading people; she is recruited by the FBI's elite profile programme: 'The Naturals'; a group of teenagers with remarkable gifts just like hers. They work together to crack infamous cold cases and unsolved mysteries. Each of them has an exceptional and unique skill - Sloane excels at statistics and numbers; Michael is an expert at reading emotions; Lia is a master human lie detector; Dean, like Cassie, is a profiler who can read behaviour by the tiniest actions and details. As they dive into a new investigation, they are faced with a

Book: The Naturals
Author: Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Published on: November 5, 2013
Genre: Mystery, Fiction, Thriller

chilling killer who is one step ahead of them. With each twist and turn, the stakes rise, and the Naturals must confront their own demons to catch the culprit. Can they solve the case before it's too late, or will they become the killer's next victims? Read on to find out...

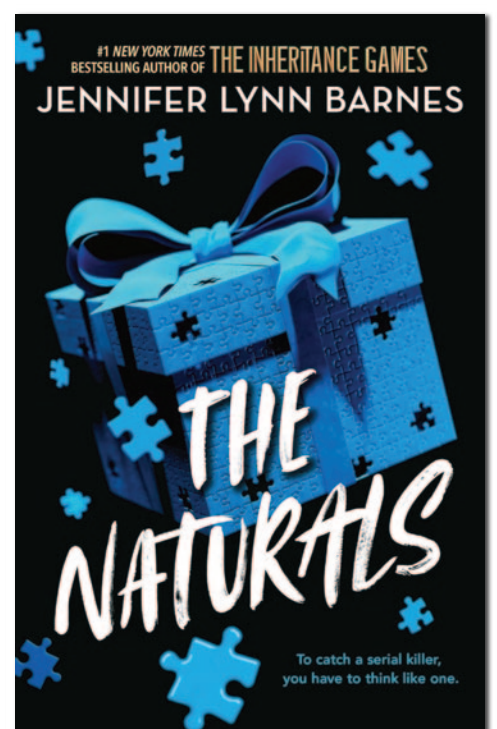
Why is it worth reading: This book masterfully combines FBI procedu-

ral, suspense, and mysteries, creating a story that's both captivating and unsettling. With complex characters, unexpected plot twists, and a dash of psychological insight, this book will keep you on the edge of your seat. Perfect for fans of thrillers and mysterious books. "The Naturals" is a gripping read that will leave you eager for more, making this book an ideal start of a praised series.

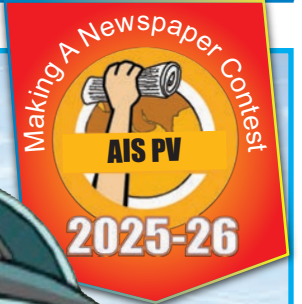
Iconic quote: "I'm just saying that statistically, a psychopath is more likely to end up as a CEO than a serial killer."

Rating: 4/5

Review by: Agrata Dhiman
AIS Gurugram 46, X H



Text: Avika Gupta, XI B | Graphic: Kyna Agarwal, XI F; AIS Pushp Vihar



Weather Bubble Backpack



Meet Weather Bubble Backpack, a breathable smart pack that builds a personalised microclimate bubble around you. Basically, the weather listens to you for a change.

Choose your vibe



Hot girl summer
Warm sunshine, zero sweating. We fixed it.



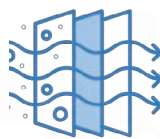
Soft monsoon aesthetic
Light drizzle, perfect for overthinking and playlists.



Winter-core fantasy
Instant chilly air? Ice cream in a hoodie? Yes.



Spring picnic energy
Gentle breeze, no bugs, no chaos.



Air that passes the vibe check
Mini HEPA filter keeping things fresher than your group chat discussions.

The main character bubble

- Projects cinematic scenic backgrounds
- Self-cleaning, since maintenance isn't your thing
- Durable enough to survive your clumsiest moments
- Battery that simply doesn't quit
- Solar panels for eco-friendly flex
- Smart sensors adjusting everything, so you don't have to



Science, but make it fun
Peltier modules = temperature God mode.
You decide the weather now. Nature can take notes.

DISCLAIMER: Real scientific principles. Fictional ideas with a potential future.

Say hello to the halo

The Ring That Inspired The Myth Of Ixion

Vaanya Jain, AIS Saket, X C

In art, angels are depicted with halos to symbolise holiness and divine light. The sun and moon are two such symbols, often-times accompanied by a halo-like glowing ring. This halo, however, is not always associated with angels. In Greek mythology, Ixion, a mythical king, was punished by Zeus. His fate was to be tied to a burning wheel that rolls forever. Some ancient folklore link the 22-degree halo to Ixion spinning eternally. Let's unveil the true story behind this golden ring.

The glowing circle

The halo appears as a bright circle with a 22-degree radius around the sun or moon as the ice particles

suspended in the upper troposphere act like 60-degree prism faces, refracting sunlight or moonlight at the minimum deviation angle of light which forms a precise 22-degree angle. So, light enters one face, refracts, reflects off another, then exits: concentrating rays at this angle and darkening the inner sky. Although a global phenomenon, it shines more prominently in colder regions, like Russia, Antarctica, and northern Scandinavia, as they have a higher prevalence of cirrus clouds with ice crystals.

Cloud magic

But this awe-inspiring sight requires a very particular environment in order to appear. It can be seen whenever thin cirrus clouds

populate the sky. These clouds, composed of hexagonal ice crystals, are thin and wispy, often resembling delicate strands of hair spread all across the sky. While perfectly shaped crystals produce the sharpest halos, even slightly distorted ones can create the effect.

Rainbow circle

Like yin and yang, solar halos glow brighter and more colourful as the intense sunlight reveals the full spectrum due to dispersion, while lunar halos typically remain faint as moonlight is dimmer, making it hard for the human eye to discern colours. It is also known as a rainbow circle with red colour inside as red light deviates less, and blue violet outside as it deviates more.



Natural weather report

Aside from their visual beauty, 22-degree halos can signal upcoming weather changes. Since cirrus clouds often precede storm systems, a halo's appearance may hint that rain or snow is just round the

corner. For centuries, both humans and animals have used such atmospheric cues to anticipate the weather. Thus, this halo is not just a phenomenon; it holds mythological allure and broader relevance for humanity.

Mind the gap and the talk

A Metro's Track Of Chaos Aboard

Pramith Singh Gupta
AIS Saket, XII A

My coaches turn into packed sardine-tins during rush hours, and rampages are a frequent feature at every interchange. But nobody ever asks me: how is life as a metro? If walls could talk, mine would file a police complaint.

First day trauma

On my first day, I was optimistic. Fresh paint, big dreams. That lasted seven minutes. A passenger blasted Badshah's *Jugnu* on full volume and I transformed into a moving disco. Another made an attempt at moonwalking and nearly moon-landed on another passenger. Overstimulated, I screeched to a halt. A lip-stick went rolling. A kid went flying from one coach to another. Too much flavour for my palate!

Reel it in, please

Another day involved a group of five filming a reel. I respect creativity, but there should be a strict legal limit on selfie-stick length. They went full *Gasolina* - Daddy Yankee-style - spinning so wildly that they yanked someone's phone clean out of their hands. I'm pretty sure that the bystander fractured his fingers, but that's a story for the station's first-aid

room to tell. The other passengers just stared, pretending not to judge while absolutely judging. The reel received ten likes. But the trauma went viral.

Circus without tickets

I was unaware of my reputation as a clown car, until a man boarded dressed like one. He started doing backflips all the way to Rajiv Chowk. I was impressed, concerned, and confused - simultaneously. Some clapped politely, a few Googled 'nearest therapist'. After paying off all the fines he procured that day, I'm sure he auditioned for India's Got Talent by the end of the week.

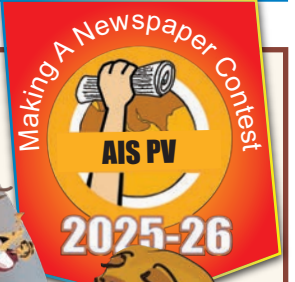
The seat wars

But the finest fiasco involved Anil and Neil, work-buddies, sprinting for the empty seat. Anil grabbed it. But the winner was an elderly strutter. What followed was a spat intense enough to power the metro line. Disgusted, the old woman walked away. The two men, busy exchanging knuckle sandwiches, did not notice as a kid took the spot.

Much like Achilles, I'm both fast and furious, but also the fastest way to learn human unpredictability. So, hold the pole, mind the gap, and for the love of metros, stand clear of the doors.



Illustration: Trisha Biswas, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII B



Take a bow, Broadway!

A Bittersweet Symphony Of Lights And Lives

Devanshi Sharma, AIS Pushp Vihar, X E

*Who lives, who dies, who tells your story -
And when you're gone, who remembers your name? - Hamilton*

They say that the world is a stage, but the only one that truly matters is me - Broadway. In our lives, we laugh some, and we cry some. But it's me who ensures giggles for the limericks, sighs after a sad monologue, and a shiver of anticipation when the lights dim. Without me, no tale ever truly comes to see life. The bright lights, velvet curtains, thunderous applause have become my identity, but I am so much more.

'Long live the King' - The Lion King

I was born in the heart of New York City in 1735 when the first theatre opened on the length of Manhattan. Today, there are 41 Broadway theatres across New York, though only few directly sit on the street called Broadway Street. In the early 1900s, my electric marquees blazed so brightly, they called the street 'The Great White Way'. Over time, I evolved from a theatre district into a genre - one defined by live dialogue, singing, and dancing. I've heard and seen it all - sweet nothings, comedies, and fights so intense that they made wars of the world look timid.

'All that jazz' - Chicago

My golden age was the 1920s and 30s, marked by glitter, jazz, wigs, and sold-out shows. The year 1927 saw the premiere of 'Show Boat', blending story and music so seamlessly that it became a trendsetter for generations of productions. And in

1930, 'Roar, China!' brought my first Asian cast to the forefront. 'Rent' stood on my stage and screamed about HIV/AIDS, addiction, love, and loss when others stayed silent. My impact didn't stop there. I spilled into film and TV. Chicago won big at Oscars; Sweeney Todd made Johnny Depp iconic; and TV phenomenon Glee turned every teen into a shower-singing Broadway hopeful.

'Don't rain on my parade!' - Funny Girl

I wish I could say that all good things last forever, but I faced some really tough times. The Great Economic Depression, World War II. But COVID-19 was the worst. On March 12, 2020, my doors closed. What was supposed to be a short precautionary pause turned into 18 long months of darkness. Nearly 97,000 people lost jobs. My value crashed by more than half. Dust, cobwebs, and silence nearly choked me. But theatre people are stubborn. Rain has never stopped their parade; a pandemic certainly wasn't going to be the final curtain.

'Another day, another destiny' - Les Miserables

After the Depression, I rose with 'Oklahoma!' in 1943 with over 2,000 performances and chart-topping songs. And after COVID? 'Springsteen' kicked off my revival in 2021, with an audience that was fully vaccinated and fully emotional. And, my cast members now sparkle with names like George Clooney, Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, and Sabrina Carpenter. In the 2024-2025 season, I reached my highest earnings ever: \$1.89 billion, surpassing my own records. You ask the secret of my survival. It's easy: live theatre is a feeling. A shared heartbeat. A kind of magic no screen can copy.

AI powered by values



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

The young innovators of Amity recently showcased their ideas at the AI Impact Summit (India) 2026 held at Bharat Mandapam, where policymakers, global technology leaders, and emerging innovators came together to explore the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for inclusive growth. It was truly heartening to see my Amityans present solutions rooted not only in technological excellence but also in empathy, responsibility, and societal well-being. Their innovations aligned meaningfully with the M.A.N.A.V. framework shared by PM Narendra Modi, emphasising ethical systems, accountable governance, inclusivity, and human-centred technological progress.

At Amity, our endeavour has always been to nurture young minds who do not merely use technology, but understand its impact and responsibility. AI may have been created by machines, but the values guiding it must remain human. Character building, therefore, lies at the heart of Amity education. From the moment students enter our classrooms, learning goes far beyond academics to developing ethical awareness and informed decision-making. Through activities such as analysing AI-generated responses and evaluating multiple perspectives, students learn to question, verify, and use technology responsibly. The true success of AI cannot be measured solely by computational power, but by its ability to strengthen humanity. The future must belong to individuals who are not controlled by technology but empowered to guide it with wisdom, empathy, and integrity - shaping AI as a force for peace, progress, and collective good. [GT](#)

Human touch



Ameeta Mohan
Principal, AIS PV

In a world rapidly advancing with Artificial Intelligence, where classrooms are becoming smarter and learning more digitised, the essence of education at Amity remains deeply human and holistic.

We are moving forward with innovation but together, hand in hand with emotional connection and care.

Each morning begins with the sacred *hawan*, creating a spiritual atmosphere of

peace, positivity, and reflection. These moments ground our students, instilling calmness and purpose something no technology can replicate.

Equally powerful, yet beautifully distinct, are the inspiring stories shared by our respected Chairperson ma'am. Her words, drawn from real experiences, ignite courage, values, and vision in young minds lessons that no AI can ever truly replace. It is her mission and vision that has brought AIS Pushp Vihar's contest edition to life. Our dedicated editorial board has unleashed their creativity to the utmost level.

The showers of blessings during citations, the pride in every applause, and the joy of recognition create memories that stay forever. And in the simplest gestures lies the greatest impact a reassuring smile, a kind word, and warm hugs by teachers that comfort, uplift, and make every child feel seen and valued.

While algorithms can only process information, only the human spirit can cultivate wisdom and empathy. At Amity, we embrace the future, but we lead with heart. Because here, we don't just teach—we love, we care, and we nurture lives. [GT](#)

Guidance or gimmick?

The Price Tag On Imposed Self-Care

Harshil Bedi, AIS PV, XII B

Human lives endlessly seek structure, and though in the past unable to find it in the gaudy fashions, recently the frenzy of self-care is attempting to discover order in the rituals of consumerism. Media and marketing together have proliferated the minds of masses assigning specific ways to lifestyle, transitioning this personal practice of self-care to an industry of 13.2 billion USD in 2023, with 'be your best self' plastered on the faces. Be it nutrition, beauty, or exercise, there now exist enough forums which also sell products towards achieving self-actualisation, which even Maslow's hierarchy of needs couldn't elaborate. Whether this industry promises the care it works for or employs insecurities to simply gain profit, remains a twisted tale.

For the stressed, programmes like Headspace and Calm assure mindfulness through their guided wellness programmes and meditation exercises with its content, however stuck behind a paywall. Regardless, it has helped many with anxiety. In the fitness and nutrition sphere, accredited trainers and advisors dot the market to help achieve body goals, while luxury products of the likes of skin-



Illustration: Rudrakshi Joshi
AIS Pushp Vihar, X B

care tools, yoga mats, and fitness equipment only add to the experience. Celebrity marketing campaigns often create a benchmark for our daily tasks, hence governing our lives. This results in well marketed commodities and actions, which do bring pleasure after all.

However, it's 'code red', when popularised self-care becomes a necessity instead of a choice. The abject materialistic tendencies of the industry force payment to meet unrealistic standards of ownership and lifestyle, leading to only transient joy, instead

of true self-care. A 2022 survey claimed that 40% of adults find self-care products very expensive, underlining the fact that in spite of awareness of being fleeced, one becomes addicted to achieve social media standards. And what about those who can't afford it? Should the basis of an industry ostracise those who can't afford it? Moreover, social media's strength in the dissemination of ideas has fallen prey to the illicit. With social media platforms, one will find advisors without any legitimate qualification.

This spread of misinformation can cause complete realignment of lifestyles in perilous ways, with fact remaining that everything isn't for everyone.

As discord obscure our worlds, self-care appears as a respite. This calm may not be brought with money but through moments of peace that only introspection can decide. Time to understand ourselves first might just be what self-care is, unlike what the media shows. What is in a high-end product if it does not fulfil? Does it not become just another tchotchke? Products can only find worth if their beholder finds reflections of their own actions in them. It's wise to revel in your own happiness and invest in what you can make yours. [GT](#)

Celebrating togetherness

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean."

— Ryunosuke Satoro

This year's The Global Times journey felt exactly like that—many ideas coming together to create something much bigger.

This platform itself reflects the vision of our respected Chairperson ma'am, who



Pooja Setia
GT Coordinator

has given students a creative space where their voices grow through collaboration.

Students didn't just stick to their own work they stepped into each other's ideas. Together, a simple conversation would completely change the direction of a piece. It wasn't always smooth there were

differences, edits, and last-minute changes but that's what made the final outcome stronger.

What stood out was how no one was working alone, even when writing individually. Every piece carried a bit of everyone's effort. The constant support of The Global Times team also played a huge role, guiding us throughout without taking away the ownership of our work. This edition isn't just about what was written, but how it was created together.

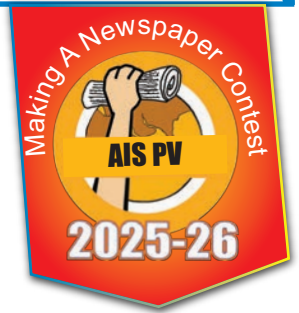
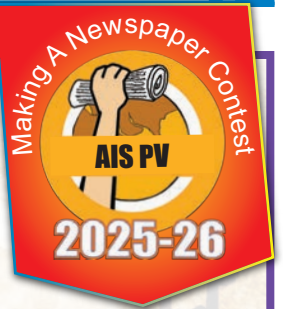
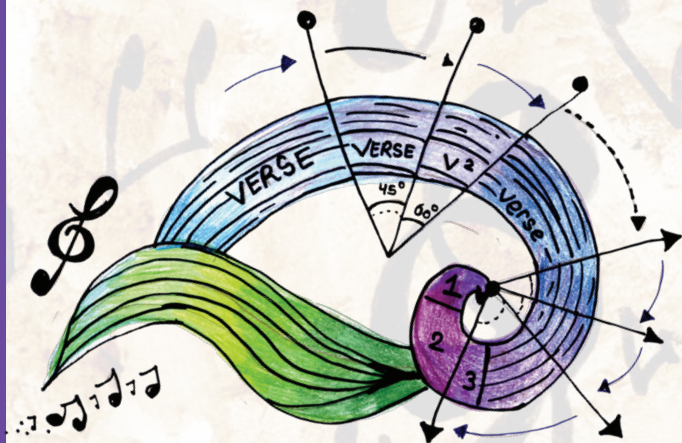


Illustration: Devyan Batra, VIII A and Paarkhi Arora, XI C, AIS PV



Beats, bytes & beyond

What if the reason your foot taps, spine tingles, and mind wistfully reminisces isn't just emotion, but a quiet symphony of numbers? Beneath every lingering note lies Mathematics, composing the music we feel and listen in the shadows. Join **Anya Vyas, X B** & **Advik Dudani, X A**, AIS Pushp Vihar in unravelling how patterns, ratios, and rhythms transform sound into something magical.

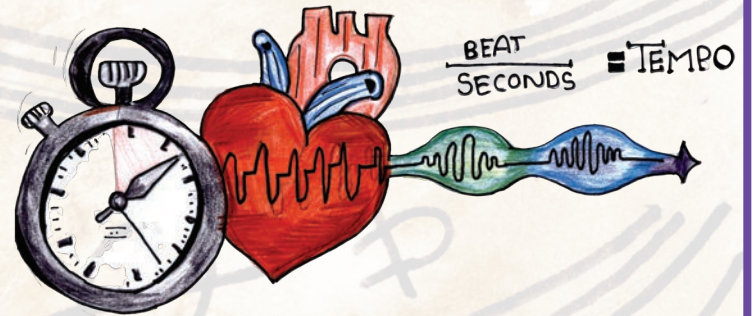


Melody

A sequence of notes

Math behind melody: Different frequencies bounce together in specific ratios.

Music of reason: Sound waves interact with each other in a fixed manner to create tunes that sound pleasing to us.



BEAT / SECONDS = TEMPO

Harmony

A layer of notes

Math behind harmonies: Integer multiples blanket together to create rich and vibrant harmonics.

Music of reason: A number of varying notes co-exist in the form of layers to generate a tune.

Tempo

The speed of notes

Math behind tempo: Number of beats are simply divided by number of seconds – translating into grooves and giving each song an emotion.

Music of reason: These numbers form the 'heartbeat' of a song – guiding its mood and energy.



Rhythm

The dance of sounds

Math behind rhythm: Fractions, ratios, and modular arithmetic dance together to form rhythms.

Music of reason: These fractions set the foundation for rhythms by organising sound and time in simple, yet beautiful patterns.



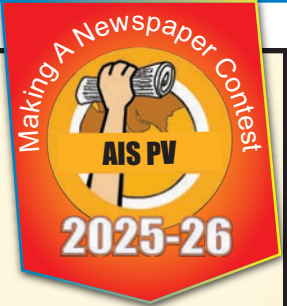
Timbre

The waves of music

Math behind timbre: Sine waves with different frequencies, amplitudes, and phases that ultimately combine to formulate complex waveforms.

Music of reason: Interlinking of these waveforms is what causes one instrument or voice to sound different, even when played in the same note.





The soulless art

Esha Singh

AIS Pushp Vihar, X A

Italy, 1914

My eyes narrowed as I stepped into the dim attic. How could anyone paint here? If a room reflects its owner's mind, then Amedeo Modigliani's mind must've been a bleak one. I had been a muse for many artists. Yet none truly painted me, only a figure that looked like me. Over time, I developed a strange sensitivity: I could almost hear the voices hidden inside paintings. Isn't that why people create art? To express what the world often forgets. But as I sat before Modigliani, I heard nothing. His brush moved quickly, and his eyes were lost in a trance, but they were too empty for someone who painted emotion. Even his name felt unsettling, Modigliani, so close to maudit, the French word for 'cursed'. A feeling of unease grew inside me.

In the corner lay an incomplete painting, covered in dust. It showed a pale, blonde woman with a sad expression. The uncoloured irises made the eyes appear hollow, yet they seemed to hold meaning.

Hours passed before he finished my portrait. Light fell on it, but something still felt incomplete. "It's an impressive piece," I said, forcing a smile. "But... where are my eyes?" He looked at me, tired and distant. "When I understand your soul," he said, "I will paint your eyes."

July 24, 1918

Nervously, I walked through the exhibition, searching for my portrait. And there it was 'Beatrice Hastings, 191'. People paused, but none truly connected with it. Even I felt no story, no emotion... just silence.

A crowd had gathered around another painting beside mine. My heart skipped.

But as I sat before Modigliani, I heard nothing. His brush moved quickly, and his eyes were lost in a trance, but they were too empty for someone who painted emotion.

The woman's once-empty almond-shaped eyes were now painted. They seemed alive and glowing, as if they were speaking. I recalled a line by Leonardo da Vinci: "Art is never finished, only abandoned." Her portrait proved this. "Who is the muse?" The crowd, curious just as I was, asked. Amidst the murmur, the artist revealed that it was his wife, the woman who grounded him, who gave his life meaning. For years, he had left the painting incomplete because he wanted to know every bit of her, in the minutest of detail. Finally, he felt he had come to know her and understand her. "With true feeling, even distorted art becomes beautiful. Without it, everything falls apart," Modigliani said.

And in that moment, I understood why my eyes were left unpainted. To him, my soul had not yet spoken. But it also meant that our journey together - as muse and artist - had just begun.



Illustration: Aditi Poddar, AIS Pushp Vihar, XI B

After the



Poem

Shambhavi Sharma, AIS PV, XII F

Looking for meaning; there is none
Blithely, expectantly, and deliriously
In swirls of frocks, in shrouded nights
Hiding and laughing in veils I can't see
Behind words I do not seem to conquer
There's one painting which isn't a blur

Prying and prodding till it falls apart
I attempt to inject thoughts into words
Perhaps it'll show pity, maybe mercy
And surround me like a flock of birds
But hope taunts me, healing undone
As I remain plagued with starvation

The painting was in my hospital room
Strokes of my youth, devoid of pain
I did not comprehend its value then
How strength drenched me like rain
Careless strokes rough at the edges
Now on my horizon unease stretches

For I fell victim to the sands of time
My health drained, suffering reigned
I imagine it jeer at my naivety today
Laughing at how I cornered it once
Until I saw it whole, its true form
And now I must brave the storm.



Illustration: Trisha Biswas, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII B

Read Play and Win

104

Reading your favourite GT can fetch you a prize too. Complete all the boxes below. Click a picture and send it to editor@theglobaltimes.in or submit your responses by visiting The Global Times website (<http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week!



Q.1 Which book is reviewed on page 3?

Q.2 Who is the illustrator for the article 'Guidance or gimmick?' on page 6?

Q.3 Which strait has been covered in the ABC of News on page 9?

Q.4 What is the name of the establishment reported on page 10?

Q.5 What is the headline of the autobiography on page 5?

Q.6 What is the name of the artist in the short story on page 8?

Q.7 How many steps are there to tackle minimalism?

Q.8 On which page can you find the article 'Paying to be owned'?

Q.9 Who is the EIC of Amity International School, Pushp Vihar?

Name:.....Class:.....School:.....

Results of Read Play & Win-103: **Prakriti Das**, AIS Gur 43, V A; **Shubhi Kaushik**, AIS MV, VIII D; **Ritvik Gupta**, AIS Gur 46, V I

Get your facts Strait

Strait Of Hormuz Under Siege, Threatening Global Energy Security

Harshil Bedi, XII B & Shambhavi Sharma, XII F, AIS Pushp Vihar

Long simmering tensions between Iran, the United States, and Israel has pushed one of the world's most critical maritime passages - the Strait of Hormuz - into the global spotlight. A series of coordinated US-Israel airstrikes were carried out on Iranian military and nuclear targets between February 14-18, 2026, with the confrontation reaching a breaking point on February 21, when Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was assassinated in a targeted strike. In retaliation, Iranian authorities announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz to 'enemy vessels' on March 2, severely disrupting global shipping. US President Donald Trump demanded the reopening of the strait, warning of consequences. Despite this, closure continued - tankers got stalled, insurance costs surged, and oil markets reacted sharply.

The importance of geography

The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran to the north and Oman's Musandam Peninsula to the south, stretching roughly 167 km in length and varying between 35 and 97 km in width. Despite appearing broad on maps, safe navigation occurs through narrow shipping lanes only a few km wide. The region experiences an intensely hot and dry climate, accompanied by haze,

dusty winds, and frequent morning fog that reduces visibility for vessels. These weather conditions further complicate navigation and heighten risks during periods of military tension. The close proximity of the Iranian and Omani coasts to the shipping lanes gives the two nations a strategic edge in monitoring passing vessels and potentially controlling the strait.

The economics of oil

Approximately 20 million barrels of oil pass through the strait each day, accounting for nearly one-fifth of global petroleum consumption and a major share of seaborne energy trade. Under normal circumstances, more than 100 ships transit the strait daily, transporting oil and LPG that power economies from India to Japan and beyond. Asia depends heavily on this route: Japan sources over 90% of its crude oil imports from the Gulf region, while India relies on the strait for nearly half of its oil imports. Europe and other global markets also remain indirectly tied to its stability through energy pricing.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE operate pipelines

that bypass the strait, but their combined capacity handles only a fraction of daily exports and cannot transport large volumes of natural gas. Alternative routes are longer, costlier, and vulnerable to security risks, making full avoidance virtually impossible for most energy traders.

The picture from ground zero

Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the waterway guarantees transit passage for all nations. Nevertheless, Iran exerts substantial influence through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy and military installations on nearby islands. The United States has countered Iranian dominance through its Fifth Fleet, headquartered in Bahrain, alongside missile interceptions and coordinated operations from regional bases in Qatar and the UAE. Recent military exchanges intensified naval patrols across the Gulf. To facilitate its closure of the strait, Iran adopted the tactics of sea mines, ship seizures, and radio warnings, which discouraged commercial traffic, reportedly reducing vessel movement through the strait by 70 percent.

The current state of Strait

Nearly 88% of India's crude oil is imported, with about half transiting through the Strait of Hormuz. Supply disruptions triggered an acute LPG shortage, raising commercial gas prices to 195.50 INR for a 19-kg cylinder, while domestic rates remained unchanged. But India was able to breathe a sigh of relief when Iran on March 24 announced that it will allow 'non-hostile' ships to pass safely through the strait. As of March 31, Indian authorities reported that 18 Indian-flagged vessels remained stranded, while eight had safely crossed. But the biggest relief for all has come in the form of the announcement of a two-week ceasefire agreed between Iran and the US. The US' demand is that shipping traffic be allowed to move through the strait. Iran, on the other hand, has called for a halt to all attacks against it. The ceasefire, however, is not without conditions, and its stability will depend on negotiations over a 10-point proposal put forward by Iran, which includes the removal of sanctions against it and the withdrawal of US military from the region. Israel, meanwhile, has said it supports Trump's move to suspend strikes on Iran but insists that the ceasefire does not include Lebanon. Whether this interlude is a turning point towards normalised shipping lanes or merely a prelude to renewed hostilities remains to be seen, as the world monitors with bated breath.





Meeples and matches

Got Board: Where Conversations, Not Notifications, Drive Evenings



Meemansa Munjal, AIS PV, XI C

Tucked into the quiet lanes of Paschim Vihar sits a rooftop that reveals little from the outside. But climb a flight of stairs and a different board unfolds - where strangers roll dice under open skies, and conversations replace screens. This is Got Board, a board-game club by Ankit Pal.

The first turn

For Pal, the idea emerged from nostalgia, not business. "My college friends and I used to play every weekend," he recalls. "Then life happened." Left with a growing collection and no players, he explored existing gaming communities but found the focus drifting toward socialising rather than gaming itself. "I wanted board gaming to be the star," he says. Hosting at home solved everything - space, logistics, and freedom. "People can come and play from a huge catalogue instead of the same old party games.

Board gamers unite

Pal never tried convincing people. "It was organic," he explains. "People get tired of

Pics: Amaira Malhotra, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII D



GT reporter with Ankit Pal



Pal poses with his board game collection



Players enraptured by thematic games

quick entertainment and start looking for something more meaningful." The terrace hosts up to thirteen players per session, typically aged between 18 and 40. Curious guests arrive, drawn by an atmosphere that feels informal and pressure-free. "Here you don't have to pretend to be anyone," he says. "Come in slippers or boots - it doesn't matter, board-games forge bonds fast."

Into cardboard worlds

With nearly 600 games collected - many acquired during COVID - Pal curates carefully. Heavy, rule-intensive games take a backseat to interactive, thematic experiences that encourage laughs and talks. His collection has it all: beginner titles like 'Azul' and 'Splendor', party games like 'Where's my hat' and 'Flip 7', mechanised Euro-games like 'CATAN' or 'Clans of Caledonia', and

games by Indian designers such as Tess. One favourite is Magical Athlete, which he describes as 'glorified Ludo' with simple mechanics and unpredictable character. Many games remain unexplored due to complex rules. "Either I teach the rules, or people come prepared to teach me," says Pal.

Growing via goodwill

The club's promotion has mostly been through word of mouth. Of course, announcements in online communities and a Google location pin were needed to attract visitors. Initially, people were hesitant about entering a stranger's house, but trust grew quickly. "I'm just doing my thing, and people keep finding it," he says. Every weekend, strangers become teammates, rivals, and eventually friends. Parth, now a weekend regular, comments how connec-

tions extend beyond gameplay - travel recommendations, shared meals, and camaraderie come naturally over time.

No stopping soon

Board-gaming in Delhi, Pal believes, is quietly expanding. This niche interest now attracts people seeking 'real' social experiences. The open-air setting reflects Pal's own personality - an outdoor enthusiast and gardener. Five years from now, he hopes Got Board grows into a larger community hub - perhaps even a café - but without losing its philosophy. "It's not about profit," he says. "I want more people to come, enjoy, and feel welcome, that's the goal."

Around each table, players discover something increasingly rare: shared time and a community built one game at a time. [G.I](#)

Pics: Kairav Popli, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII E



Writers, wizards of words



Editorial Board of AIS Pushp Vihar, weavers of thoughts and enchanters of ink



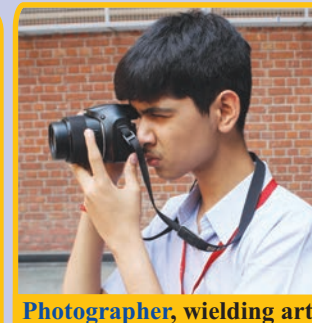
Designers, crafting aesthetics



Illustrators, conjuring creativity



Editors, guardians of grammar



Photographer, wielding art

For more pictures, log on to www.facebook.com/theglobaltimesnewspaper or www.instagram.com/the_global_times

Amity @ AI summit

Blending Responsibility & Care With Innovation



Chairperson and Mr Amol Chauhan at the summit



Chancellor, AU Manesar with Amitians

Amity Group of Schools

The recently concluded AI Impact Summit (India) 2026, held at Bharat Mandapam from February 16 - 20, 2026, witnessed an impactful presence of Amity's young innovators from AIS Noida, AIS Gur 46, AIS MV, AIS Saket, AIS Vas 6, AIS PV, and AGS Noida.

Inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the prestigious summit brought together leading policymakers, global technology experts, and emerging innovators to deliberate on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for an inclusive, responsible and sustainable growth.

The Prime Minister also shared the M.A.N.A.V. (Moral and Ethical Systems, Accountable Governance, National Sovereignty, Accessible and Inclusive AI, Valid and Legitimate Systems) framework, urging the youth to harmonise development with humanity. Under the visionary leadership of

Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the participating innovators of Amity stood out for their high impact, solution oriented innovations - spanning connectivity, healthcare, cybersecurity, communication skills, animal well being, diagnostics, and energy security demonstrating technical excellence and social relevance. Deepak Bagla, director, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), interacted with Adhiraj Chauhan, XI, AIS PV and deeply appreciated the Amitians' vision for nation-building through AI innovation. Further, Sara Kemp, vice president, Intel, also commended the young innovators for their global perspective and responsible approach towards artificial intelligence.

Innovations on display were:

Signal Surge - A sustainable Wi-Fi booster, amplifying reception without external power, (Chinmay Karwa, AIS Gur 46, XI).

SpeakBuddy.net - An AI-pow-

ered public speaking enhancement platform (Aryaveer Chauhan, AGS Noida, LS 2 Cambridge).

Path-O-Medics and Power Guard - AI innovations focused on affordable medical diagnostics and smart electricity theft detection (Kritin Raina, Asmi Rawat, and Hridank Arora of Class VIII and Aadit Arora, Aryavardhan Kumar Chauhan and Saisha Ahuja of Class IX, AIS PV).

Shwaas - An AI-enabled, wearable device for real-time respiratory monitoring (Kairavi Budhiraja, AIS MV, VIII).

NEMO AI - A smartphone-based early cardiac risk screening tool (Abhigyan Nayak, AIS Saket, IX).

QN-ASTRA - A quantum-inspired AI cybersecurity framework, (Anant Jain, Akshaj Rastogi, and Advik Sharma, IX synconnect AIS Noida).

Mood Minder for Pets - An AI smart collar, monitoring pets' health and emotional wellbeing, (Tannishtha Gupta and Shashwat Jain, VIII, AIS Vas 6). 🇮🇳



Bright minds of Amity in action

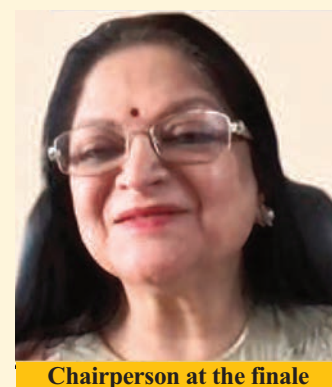
Inter Amity mental math quiz

R & D Department

The 16th edition of Inter Amity Mental Math Quiz culminated with an online finale organised by AIS Vas 6 from January 19 - 21, 2026. The quiz, envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, is designed to cultivate love for mathematics, enhance mental agility, sharpen computational power, build confidence and enthusiasm among students in tackling numerical challenges.

The quiz brought together teams from all 17 branches of the Amity Group of Schools. Three outstanding students from each Class (I-X) and from all branches were further selected to represent their school at the inter-Amity grand finale.

The finale comprised two stages - an elimination round, followed by the final round. Seventeen teams competed at the elimination stage, with five of them advancing to the finals. Students



Chairperson at the finale

were challenged to solve problems within strict time limits, with questions spanning across computation, patterns and shapes, audio-based problems, brain teasers, interactions with mathematicians, tables, practical applications, and rapid-fire rounds.

Host schools: Class I (AIS VKC), Class II (AIS Navi Mumbai), Class III (AIS Vas 6), Class IV (AIS Gur 43), Class V (AIS V1), Class VI (AIS MV), Class VII (AIS PV), Class VIII (AIS Saket), Class IX (AIS Noida), and Class X (AIS Gur 46).

ACCGC

Amity Career Counselling and Guidance Cell (ACCGC), in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London, organised a hands-on workshop for students of Class XI and XII of Amity Group of Schools (Delhi/NCR) on 'Kiwi CSI - 'Cracking the Code of Life' in the month of December. The workshop was conducted by Dr Anne Ropiquet, an evolutionary biologist. It aimed to give students a practical understanding of molecular biology through direct experimentation. The session began with a brief explanation of evolution and the role of DNA as the code of life, following which the students were introduced to DNA extraction protocol.

The code of life



Participants and mentors at the workshop on decoding life

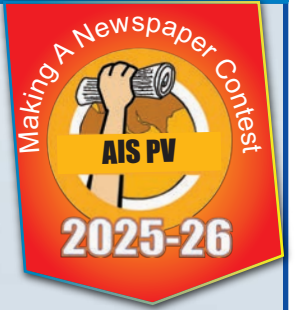
They filtered kiwi's pulp for extracting its DNA, while also understanding the scientific principles behind each step and the use of laboratory apparatus. The extracted DNA was carefully spooled and preserved in small bottles, which students were allowed to take home as a reminder of learning experience. The workshop not only enhanced students' understanding of DNA, but also encouraged curiosity, hands-on learning, and interest in future research opportunities in the field of molecular biology. 🇮🇳

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Winners Tally

Class	First	Second	Third
I	AIS Saket	AIS Noida	AIS Vas 6
II	AIS PV	AIS Noida	AIS Vas 1 & AIS Vas 6
III	AIS PV	AIS Vas 6 & AIS Navi Mumbai	AIS Gur 46
IV	AIS Gur 43 & AIS Saket	AIS Gur 46	AIS Vas 6
V	AIS Gur 46	AIS Saket & AIS Vas 1	AIS Noida
VI	AIS MV & AIS Saket	AIS Noida	AIS Gur 46
VII	AIS MV	AIS Vas 6	AIS Gur 43
VIII	AIS Saket & AIS Gur 46	AIS PV	AIS MV
IX	AIS MV	AIS Gur 46	AIS Noida & AIS Saket
X	AIS Gur 46 & AIS Noida	AIS PV	AIS MV

Minimalistic disaster



Lowkey Just Maximalism In Disguise, Wrapped Neatly In Beige

Meemansa Munjal
AIS Pushp Vihar, XI C

“Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the show! Tonight, we’re tackling minimalism, you know, that lifestyle where you’re supposed to live with less, but somehow end up crying over socks, buying beige things you don’t need, and questioning your life choices while holding a label maker at 2 am. Buckle up, for this definitive guide to failing at minimalism... with aesthetic precision.”

Step 1: Research ruckus

Start strong: watch 37 YouTube videos titled ‘Declutter Your Life in 10 Minutes’. Spoiler alert - you’ll waste five hours and learn you need ceramic mugs, bamboo hangers, and a Himalayan salt candle to own less. Your life will still be chaotic, but your Amazon cart will look enlightened.

Step 2: Buy 14 books on minimalism

Because nothing screams simplicity like a mountain of unread self-help books. “Live

Simple, Live Better” crammed between “The Joy of Less” and “Minimalism 101”. Congratulations, you have set the record for owning the most books about owning less.

Step 3: Ask which objects spark joy

Here’s where it gets emotional. You pick up a Beyblade from 2012 - sparks joy. Childhood albums - joy check. Random erasers shaped like the silhouette of Elizabeth II enjoying a cup of tea - questionable... but to each their own. The only thing that will not be sparking joy after all that? Your sanity.

Step 4: Invest in quality storage

Minimalism is not about throwing things away, it’s about hiding them in beige baskets that cost more than your rent. You just have to spend 3k to 5k to disguise clutter as ‘aesthetic organisation.’ Pinterest would be so proud.

Step 5: Buy a label maker

By now you should be unstoppable. Printing box labels such as: Miscellaneous,

Emotional Damage, Future Me’s Problems. Only to find out how everything ends up in a random cardboard box. And please, for the love of all things minimalist, do not use Comic Sans just because everyone does.

Step 6: Digitalise it all and regret it

Scan your documents, photos, doodles. Now your laptop is drowning in Screen-shot(1).png files. Congrats, you have expanded from physical clutter to cloud clutter. Minimalism, but rename it digital despair because it is 2026.

Step 7: The beige blizzard

The time has come to replace your colourful curtains, cushions, and personality with shades of beige. Your room now looks like a Pinterest board titled ‘Desert with Wi-Fi.’ Call it minimalist chic... or clinical sadness. It is more or less the same.

Step 8: Post about it

Because what’s the point of suffering in beige if you don’t

post it anywhere? Caption: ‘Less is better’. Slap three filters, five hashtags, and beauty effects from the two brand new editing apps you downloaded just for this story. Minimalism, but serving it with a hefty load of maximal effort.

Step 9: Throwing, then rebuying

Toss away your screwdriver. Who needs it? Two days later, you find yourself on Amazon buying a sleeker, prettier, and if possible - beige, screwdriver. Lesson learned: minimalism is just shopping with a good number of extra steps.

Step 10: Embracing the scam

And finally, the epiphany hits: minimalism is not about owning less. It is about buying better-looking versions of what you already own. You did not declutter your life - you just colour-coordinated your chaos. Bravo!

“So, there you have it, folks. A not so minimal journey from Pinterest to Amazon and then back again. Remember, it is not about living with less... but about living with beige boredom. Goodnight!”

JUST FOR
LAUGHS



Pic: Aadit Arora, AIS Pushp Vihar, IX A

Pic: Amaira Malhotra, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII D

In Spotlight



Editors-in-chief: Harshil Bedi & Shambhavi Sharma



Behind the brilliance - the Editorial Board of AIS Pushp Vihar