

## Travelling on borrowed time

### The Race Is On To See A World That's Slipping Away... But At What Cost?

**Arpita Chakraborty**  
GT Network

Ticking off melting glaciers and sinking cities off the list, a lot of travellers are now choosing destinations that scientists warn may soon be lost. As the ever-lasting climate change is reshaping the planet at an alarming rate, a new trend for travel has emerged: visit it before it's gone. This trend, aka last-chance tourism, embodies both wonder and grief, yet it highlights a troubling paradox: by rushing to see these places, we may be speeding up their demise.

#### The urgency to witness

Increasingly, travellers are drawn not by luxury or leisure, but by fragility. The concept began gain-

ing attention in the late 2000s, fuelled by expanded climate reporting and striking visual evidence of environmental decline. The social media amplified the rush, with posts like 'hike the Mer de Glace before it melts away' and #LastChanceToSee. Even travel websites use them to draw people's attention, promoting these places as 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience while fuelling the 'bucket-list' culture.

#### The vulnerable spots

Today, places such as the Great Barrier Reef, where mass coral bleaching has affected more than half of shallow-water corals since 2016; Glacier National Park, which has lost over 85% of its glaciers since 1850; and the Maldives, where nearly 80% of land

lies less than a metre above sea level, have become emblematic of this trend. Other destinations include flood-prone Venice, the rapidly warming polar regions, the shrinking Dead Sea, and the deforested edges of the Amazon. India is not immune to this trend either. Assam's Majuli Island and Sundarbans mangroves in the Ganges delta have drawn Indian holidayers like a magnet amid the threat of rising tides gulping them to disappearance. Visitors engage in cycling, boat rides, and stays in bamboo stilt houses, soaking in the beauty that is likely turn into an illusion in the future.

#### The good side...

On the surface, last-chance tourism can seem beneficial. Tourism supports hundreds of millions of

jobs worldwide and forms a cornerstone of many national economies. In Iceland, tourism accounts for nearly 8% of GDP, much of it driven by visitors hoping to see retreating glaciers and dramatic volcanic landscapes. There is also evidence that these experiences can raise environmental awareness. A 2020 survey of visitors to France's Mer de Glace glacier found that 80% wanted to learn more about environmental conservation, and 77% intended to reduce their energy and water use after their visit. Advocates argue that tourism revenue support conservation efforts.

#### ...but the irony

However, tourism-related carbon emissions, particularly from air travel and cruise ships, are a significant driver of climate change.

A global assessment published in Nature Communications found that tourism accounted for nearly 9% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. A single long-haul flight can produce tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger. Beyond emissions, large tourist numbers can damage fragile ecosystems through soil erosion, wildlife disturbance, and the introduction of invasive species.

#### The responsible way

Countries are adopting a range of measures to check this kind of habitat destruction. Venice has introduced tourist taxes, while Greece's Santorini and Croatia's Dubrovnik have put a cap on cruise ship arrivals. Barcelona and Amsterdam is seeing restrictions on new hotels. Experts argue that responsible tourism is possible with stricter regulations. In Sundarbans, locals are selected and trained by the forest department to work as tourist guides, who not only enhance the visitor experience but also ensure sightseings remain within regulated zones.

Romanticising the rush to visit endangered destinations risks turning concern into consumption. The focus must shift toward responsible travel: reducing carbon footprints, supporting community-led initiatives, and prioritising conservation over spectacle.



#### THE GT POLL

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- A) Make it more lethal
- B) Make it safer for soldiers
- C) Too early to tell

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#### What's inside



#### A literary legacy

The force behind Write India and Times Literature Festival, Vinita Dawra Nangia shares what it takes to be a writer, especially in the age of AI.

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#### A goodilicious human

A tin of empathy. A cup of being trustworthy. A pinch of ego. Here's the recipe for your rebellious self to be a good human. Ready to leave the dark side?

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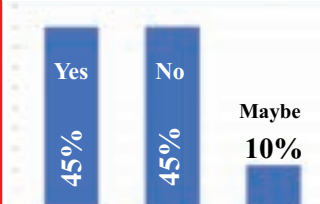
#### Nature's wild carvings

Take a journey of the Earth's most extraordinary geological marvels. From fiery craters to crystal caverns, they reveal nature's raw power and beauty.

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# A literary legacy

## Journalist With An Eye For India's Writing Talent

Disha Dhir & Ekam Sibia

AIS Gurugram 46, XII I

**V**inita Dawra Nangia is a powerhouse in Indian media and literature, with over three decades of shaping cultural narratives. Director of the Times Literature Festival, and creator of Write India and the AutHer Awards, she has championed writers and built vibrant literary communities; her voice resonates with insight, bridging contemporary dilemmas with timeless values. In an interview with GT, she discusses shaping some of India's most influential literary conversations.

### Evolving with each role

I began my journey with the news section as a sub-editor. From there, I moved to Saturday Times, a lifestyle and entertainment supplement of The Times of India. Later, I became India's first fashion writer, which eventually led to the creation of TOI's page 3. I've realised that when you develop something, after a point you tend to get bored – at least, I do. So, at every stage of my career, whatever I am doing becomes my favourite thing at that moment. Today, the role I enjoy is promoting reading and writing in India, and launching initiatives that encourage people to engage in both.

### Creating across genres

In the beginning, I was deeply attached



Vinita Dawra Nangia with GT reporters

to everything I created. Over time, I realised that it is far more interesting - and far more productive - to keep creating and then handing your work over to others so that you can grow. People who stay stuck in one place often remain stuck in life. Because I kept developing, and letting go, I moved across eras of journalism - from working in print when there were no computers or mobile phones, to moving into internet journalism and then social media. I created websites and started social media accounts. Very few journalists have worked across all these platforms. It happened only because I kept learning and moving on.

### Retaining the human touch

It's a good thing that the number of book writers have increased significantly over the years, particularly in the space of commercial writing. But there is also a widespread myth that writing will make you rich or famous – unless, of course,

you become extraordinarily popular. In fact, in recent times, AI has created a certain upheaval. It's now difficult to distinguish between an authentic writer and someone passing off AI-generated work as their own. Thankfully, there are tools that detect AI-written content. I believe the best use of AI is for research or feedback - after you've created your own plot. I tested it by asking AI to rewrite one of my short stories, and it stripped away all emotion. The human touch remains irreplaceable.

### Leading Write India

Write India is very close to my heart. It was born out of countless interactions where people from the audience would come up to me and say they wished to write. I recall Chetan Bhagat once telling me, "Vinita, mujhe angrezi nahi aati. People make fun of me, but I want the boy or girl in a slum to read my book." He writes in simple English for that reason, and it worked. I want to create a bridge between such writers, and that's how Write India was born.

### Message for Amitians

My most important advice is to read a lot... in a way that helps you truly absorb what you're reading. I always read with a pencil, using a scale as a bookmark; I underline and annotate. This helps retention and builds instinct. Often, I know the meaning of a new word simply because I've encountered it earlier. So, read widely, actively, and with intention.

## INTERVIEW



Vinita Dawra Nangia, journalist

# Book Review

## Entangled lives

**Synopsis:** A beautifully written novella, Ghachar Ghochar brings out the raw and innate nature of mankind as its characters go through a sudden transformation from absolute poverty to unexpected opulence. The unnamed narrator walks us through his invisible existence while sitting in a coffee house - the nucleus of his refuge. He reflects on the unsettling changes that wealth brings in the members of his once close-knit family - struggles of mundane are taken over by the urge to dominate, allegiances realign and conflicts crack the household's foundation. Negative thoughts and traits that one would normally suppress come to the fore in this realistic plot, as Anita, the nar-

rator's wife, confronts the repressive dynamics that are prevalent in society. Shanbhag neatly builds the prose to demonstrate how wealth can build as well as dissolve relationships, leaving them irrevocably and irreparably muddled. Originally written in Kannada, the title prophesies a hopeless entanglement that is yet to come - a knot that cannot possibly be untied, no matter what.

**Why is it worth reading?:** The precise observations, accumulation of detail, and a relatable narrative progression make the novella a carefully curated mirror of society. It is the truth we all wish to turn a blind eye to but will one day have to encounter as it is the way of life. The author has captured how relation-

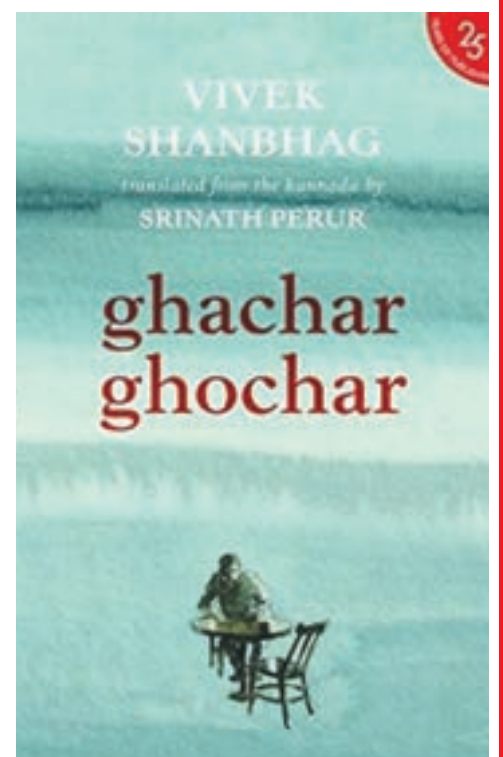
**Book:** Ghachar Ghochar  
**Author:** Vivek Shanbhag  
**Published on:** December 10, 2015  
**Genre:** Psychological fiction

ships may become painfully coiled and suffocating due to unexpected circumstances of life. The complex, yet simple psychological richness of the narrative lingers long after the last page. The human intellect in this work is bound to leave you speechless, but with traces of undisputed introspection that gets under your skin like a whisper and stays.

**Iconic quote:** "And who's to say the gods cannot take form of a restaurant waiter when they choose to visit us?"

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Yoshita Chug  
AIS Vasundhara 1, XII C





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# A goodilicious human

## A Beginners Guide To Punk Rock

Harshull Grover, AIS Gurugram 43, IX E

Thanks to James Gunn and Clark Kent, kindness, we all finally know, is the real punk rock. So, it's time for us all to pull an Anakin Skywalker and leave the Dark Side. Use this specially curated recipe for your courageous rebellion towards becoming a good human, because the loudest defiance isn't destruction, it's compassion dressed in a smile.

### Main ingredient

500g honesty (the pure, no-additives kind)

### Other essential ingredients

- A tin-full of empathy
- Another tin of ambition guided by hard work
- A cup of guts to trust and accept others
- A cup of being trustworthy
- Two cups dedicated to good behaviour and positive attitude
- A pinch of ego
- Butter for greasing - composed of simplicity
- Sprinkles of humble words, compassion, and love (Mind you, they are not optional.)

### Instructions

- First, take a huge bowl and add your 'honesty' to it. No misery here, it is the base for your 'perfect cake', aka 'the perfect human'.
- Add both cups of trust and trustworthiness to it. Do not hesitate to add good behaviour and a positive mindset along with those.
- Carefully add the tin of ambition, hard work, and empathy. Focus on the key details while gently folding your batter.
- Add a pinch of ego, just about enough to balance things out, and not be too gullible.
- Grease your 'heart-personified' baking tin with simplicity and bake it at your earliest convenience. But remember, it mustn't lose its warmth.
- After taking it out of the oven, sprinkle all the love and compassion you have found. Add humble words, not sugar-coated sweet nothings. Missing or skipping this step is sure to leave the dish dry and very difficult to swallow.

### Chef's tip

If you ever have plenty of any ingredient, share with others. And make note: the main ingredient - honesty - is like salt; too little and the whole recipe feels bland, too much in the wrong place can sting. But just the right amount makes everything better. Tada! Your perfect human is ready to win hearts. 🍪

## The Epic Saga Of A Sword Through Trial And Triumph

Aarna Sachdev, AIS MV, Alumna

In the primordial echoes of time, I emerged into existence amidst the thunderous beats of hammers, my destiny forged with a blazing inferno. While this may sound like a tale spun from fantasy, such has been my story, unfolding over 5000 years.

I have stood witness to various civilisations, evolving from the Stone Age to the contemporary era of warfare. Kings and warriors have clasped my hilt, wielding me as both a weapon and a shield. As a consequence, my odyssey has traversed the vast expanse of nations, marching alongside monarchs and soldiers alike.

I am the indomitable sword. Across the sands of time, I have inscribed the annals of history with my daring exploits. In my journeys alongside valiant warriors, I encountered diverse manifestations of my kind. First, I met the Katana, the very essence of the Samurai(s), a member of the Japanese warrior caste. My overachieving cousin possessed a sharpness that could cut a sheet of paper in half. These samurai blades were forged using two types of tama-

hagane (a form of steel), dating back to the Nara Period (710-794 CE). Crafted with meticulous precision by master craftsmen, who layered carbon to ensure unparalleled strength and flexibility, Katana came to be known as 'the world's strongest cutting tool'.

Venturing into the Persian lands, I encountered the formidable Sham-



shir, the name echoing its design - 'curved like a tiger's claws'. Its cold-steel blade, deeply curved for draw cuts, wrought havoc upon adversaries. 31-35 inches in length and 1-1.2 kg in weight, the sword made its way to India with the Mughals. Carried by warriors, the Shamshir's crescent-shaped blade, with a guard styled in Indo-Persian-Mughal and Turkish fashion, left an indelible mark on history.

But when I came to the valiant lands of India, I was faced with many kinds of swords, Talwar, Urumi, Moplah, Nandaka, and many others. But the most memorable of them was the Khanda, also known as the 'Last

Stand Indian Sword'. A double-edged straight sword designed for cutting and slashing, it maintained a consistent width throughout, it originated from the Gupta period. Unique features, including a large guard, separate finger guard, and a dual-role pommel spike, showcase its prowess as both an attacking weapon and a handrest.

Voyaging into country, China, I encountered the formidable sister duo Jian and Dao - the Yin and Yang of Chinese weaponry. The Jian, known as the 'gentleman of weapons,' is a double-edged straight sword celebrated for its precision and grace over 2,500 years. In contrast, the Dao, a single-edged curved sword with origins in ancient battlefield tactics, is renowned for its raw power and versatility.

The stories of my kin are vast and rich, and each yearns to be recounted. Alas, the constraints of time and space compel me to sheathe my tales for now. Until our blades clash again someday, may our tales resonate eternally. Farewell, until the next encounter!

(Aarna is currently pursuing BDS in Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Chennai.)



# A celebration beyond self



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Birthdays are special. They are full of moments of joy, gratitude and reflection. For me, however, this day has for a long time been something much larger than a personal celebration. Every year, this day reminds me how beautifully my Amitians have imbibed the human values I have always wished them to uphold. When my birthday is observed as Prerna Diwas, and children dedicate themselves to caring for the environment through tree planting, sustainability initiatives and other acts of kindness, my heart fills with profound gratitude. There can be no greater gift than to see one's special day being celebrated in service of Mother Earth. I am equally moved when I witness the entire Amity family renewing its commitment to compassion, empathy and respect for all life during the 'Human Values Quarter'. Such moments reaffirm my belief that education must go far beyond academic excellence, it must nurture humane hearts and responsible citizens. Every act of kindness, every helping hand, every effort to protect nature takes us one step closer to a better world.

I have always believed that human life is meaningful only when it is used to spread positivity, hope and love. To observe that my dear Amitians live by these ideals on a daily basis is deeply humbling. On my special day, I urge each one of you to make every birthday a day of giving back - plant a tree, support a needy person, bring comfort to the elderly, or brighten a life through compassion. Let your celebrations carry purpose. When we inspire others through good deeds, we discover the truest meaning of life. [GT](#)

# Destination green



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

This edition's top story focuses on some breathtaking tourist destinations - many in India - that may disappear within the next two decades due to climate change and reckless human activity. It is a sad thought that despite being one of the planet's most powerful species, we have too often used our power to destroy rather than preserve nature's beautiful gifts. This crisis is not the result of a few years or decades, but the out-

come of a century defined by 'over' - overconsumption, over-tourism, and the excesses driven by social media trends. This brings to my mind a moving legend from Dronagiri village in Uttarakhand which offers a profound lesson about protecting Mother Earth. The villagers do not worship Lord Hanuman, for they believe he uprooted their sacred Dronagiri mountain while searching for the *Sanjeevani booti*. For them, it was not merely a mountain, but a protector and a provider. Their love for nature was such that they held even a God accountable for harming it. This folk wisdom carries timeless messages for all of us. First, that we must honour the natural world that sustains life. Second, safeguarding the sanctity of nature is a collective responsibility. Responsible tourism begins when travellers leave behind not waste, but respect, ensuring destinations thrive for communities, cultures, and generations. India already offers inspiring examples - from Sikkim's eco-sensitive tourism model to the mangroves of Sundarbans with their conservation-led practices. Protecting the environment should come naturally to all of us - because in preserving nature, we preserve a part of ourselves. [GT](#)

# Survival of the fittest?

## More Like Survival Of The Most Comfortable

Ekam Sibia

AIS Gur 46, XII I

Charles Darwin, bless his cravat, the man who brought us the theory of evolution, would likely be rolling in his grave if he saw the state of modern humanity. Here's the thing, Charlie (can I call you Charlie?), your whole 'survival of the fittest' business seems a tad outdated in the era of ergonomic chairs and unlimited chips.

The animal kingdom is a gladiator arena - the strongest, fastest, sneakiest creatures reign supreme, leaving the slowpokes and the fashionably challenged to become lion kibble. Makes perfect sense, right? But then you meet a millennial and you realize that they are of a different make. For them, the modern world has thrown a giant, fluffy beanbag chair at Darwinian concepts. It's a generation that thrives on takeout and avoiding anything remotely strenuous. Their motto? 'Work smarter, not harder', which translates loosely to 'delegate everything to a robot while they perfect their bed-rotting game'.

You know what, Charlie? In 2026, the 'high performers' are those who master the art of 'strategic napping' under fluorescent lights and convince their boss they were just brainstorming with their eyes closed. Not to mention, the 'fittest' human now has a perfectly curated online persona that screams success even if their bank account sings a different tune. Take, for instance, the gazelle. In Darwin's day, it was all about outrunning the cheetah. These days, the gazelle would probably just whip out its smartphone, order a ride-sharing cab with a five-star rating, and be



sipping on a grass smoothie before the cheetah even showed up.

Here's how Darwin's theory gets lost in translation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Natural selection? More like selection of the most comfortable Netflix queue. Strength? Not required, as feasts are just a tap away. Think about it. We've engineered a world where weakness is not just tolerated, it's celebrated. We have participation trophies for everyone, elevators for climbing one measly flight of stairs, and self-checkout lanes so that one can avoid socially awkward human interaction.

Darwin pictured a world where only the toughest survive, and we're all out here surviving on naps and existential memes.

But hey, maybe Darwin was onto something after all. Maybe in the modern world, the crème de la crème are those who can adapt the best. The ones who can navigate the complex social jungle of brunch reservations and dodge awkward office small talk. People who mastered the art of completing chores while simultaneously bingeing reality TV.

Maybe 'survival of the comfy' or 'survival of those who can fake it till they make it' would be more fitting for our modern, snack-binging, carpal tunnel-inducing world.

But hey, Charlie, thanks for the whole evolution thing. It's pretty cool, even if we have become sybaritic, screen-addicted, and self-entitled creatures in the process. [GT](#)

Dear Editor,

The article 'Perfect score', published on page 1 of the GT edition dated April 20, 2026, showcased the phenomenal Class X results of Amity Schools. Upon examining the score tally, I was awestruck by the academic excellence it reflected. That instantly brought to my mind Iqbal's iconic couplet, often amplified by our respected chairperson: "Khud hi ko kar buland itna ke har taqdeer se pehle Khuda bande se khud pooche, bata teri raza kya hai?"

These words inculcate a relentless



GT M@il

spirit of perseverance among learners. Amitians never fail to surprise, be it academics or extracurriculars. Two students scored a perfect 500, 1,288 achieved above 90%, and 2,067 secured distinctions, reaffirming Amity's ethos. The article beautifully acknowledges all the venerated school Principals, teachers, and parents who continuously guided the students.

Priti Khullar

PGT English, AIS Noida



Issue: Page 1, April 20, 2026

## Salar de Uyuni - Bolivia

**Why a wonder:** It's the world's largest salt flat, turning into a giant natural mirror during the rainy season.

**How nature carved it:** A prehistoric lake dried up thousands of years ago, leaving behind a thick layer of salt that cracked into perfect geometric patterns.

**Scale:** Formed 30,000-40,000 years ago, it stretches over 10,000 sq km and holds billions of tonnes of salt.

**Legendary tale:** Andean myths say that the salt flat was formed from the tears of a heartbroken mountain goddess.



## Eye of the Sahara - Mauritania

**Why a wonder:** Circular pattern in the desert that looks like a bull's - eye from the sky.

**How nature carved it:** It began as a raised geological dome that gradually eroded, exposing its layers in perfect rings.

**Scale:** About 40 km wide and millions of years old.

**Legendary tale:** Its said to be the location of the lost city of Atlantis - a mystery that still sparks debate.



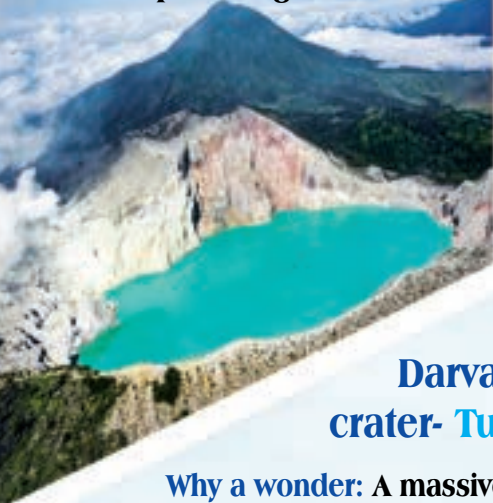
## Kawah Ijen (Blue Volcano) - Indonesia

**Why a wonder:** It glows with bright blue flames at night, just like the Tri-wizard Cup from Harry Potter.

**How nature carved it:** The "blue fire" comes from sulphuric gases catching fire as they escape through cracks around the crater.

**Scale:** Part of a large volcanic complex, it also holds the biggest acidic crater lake.

**Legendary tale:** As per the folklore, the blue flames are the spirits of the mountains protecting the land.



## Cueva de los Cristales - Mexico

**Why a wonder:** The 'Crystal cathedral' contains some of the largest crystals ever found with translucent beams.

**How nature carved it:** Hot mineral water gradually fills the cave, growing selenite crystals.

**Scale:** Crystals reach 12 metres long in a chamber at 45-50°C with utmost humidity.

**Legendary tale:** Locals view its crystals as ancient guardians.



# Nature's wild CARVINGS

The Earth hosts some of the most extraordinary geological marvels, shaped by elemental forces over eons. From fiery craters to crystal caverns, they reveal nature's raw power and hidden beauty. Join **Aditya Gururaj & Aditi Gururaj, AGS Noida, A2** on this global journey to six awe-inspiring wonders.

## Darvaza gas crater- Turkmenistan

**Why a wonder:** A massive fiery crater that's been burning nonstop for more than 50 years - it looks like the earth opened up and set itself alight.

**How nature carved it:** A natural gas field collapsed, creating a huge pit. Scientists set it on fire to stop methane from leaking, expecting it to burn out... but it never did.

**Scale:** The crater, formed in 1971, is about 70 metres wide and 20 metres deep, glowing day and night in the Karakum desert.

**Legendary tale:** Locals call it the 'Shining of Karakum' & say spirits keep the flames alive.



## Shilin Stone Forest - China

**Why a wonder:** Limestone pillars, some 20-50 metres high, rise like a forest turned to stone.

**How nature carved it:** Millions of years of slightly acidic rain slowly shaped the limestone over time into tall 'stone trees' and narrow pathways.

**Scale:** Stretches across nearly 500 sq km and started forming around 270 million years ago.

**Legendary tale:** Locals say each pillar has a story. The best-known is Ashima, a young woman who turned to stone after being denied her true love.





Storywala

Devansh Mishra

AIS VYC Lucknow, XII A

Guilt, shame, pain - physical and emotional - possessed the German soldier as the war ended and he began his long walk back home. Memories of destruction and bloodshed shadowed behind his eyes that were staring at the lifeless ground. Tears welled up and his vision blurred. He kneeled, weeping on the ground. It felt like the most appropriate response to his desperate situation. He held his head, suddenly the world around him started spinning, becoming even darker.

He did not know when he had lost consciousness, but the loud ringing noise only made his heart thud. He was taken aback, opening his eyes to an unfamiliar city a bustling metropolis of metal and glass skyscrapers, with electric powered trains moving silently along elevated tracks. The streets were occupied by people dressed in loose-fitted denim and brightly patterned jackets. What confused him the most were the animated figures around. Why

the huge eyes and pink hair? He stood still as a rock as he observed the city.

Yet, amidst all of this, what befuddled him the most were Japanese characters on billboards, cars, even the bright oddballs. "Excuse me, sir," the soldier asked carefully to a man exiting what appeared like a coffee house with a cup containing a strangely grassy liquid. "Where am I?" The man looked very confused. "Uh, the United States of America?" he replied before walking away, talking into a small transmission device. The soldier's heart raced. American voices. Japanese writing. He could not grasp how the cultures of such bitter enemies coexisted in one space.

Before he could even begin to wonder how he ended up in a city that apparently belonged to no single nation, he was thrown off by the encounter with a familiar but unexpected subject. This time, it was the vehicle by the roadside. The man recognised that car's logo, it was a Volkswagen, 'people's car'. The mere sight of the German machinery made him wonder why and how

American voices. Japanese writing. He could not grasp how the cultures of such bitter enemies coexist in one space.

a vehicle built in and by his native land was allowed to travel freely and safely in a region with whom they share a turbulent history. Suddenly, the soldier was hit by a screechingly loud frequency that felt like it'd shatter him. And before he even realised he fainted by the disturbing sound of it. But when he woke up, he was surrounded by the familiar damp air of the cement bunkhouse. It took him a minute to figure out which of the two states were a dream. Outside, a newspaper's first page flashed with not just American victory, but its power to govern others. Visions of the city from his dream came back to his mind. He felt what could only be described as absurd - what he saw was not chaos or a loss of uniformity, but rather a future moulded by the march of time, where lines between nations blurred to birth a multicultural generation.

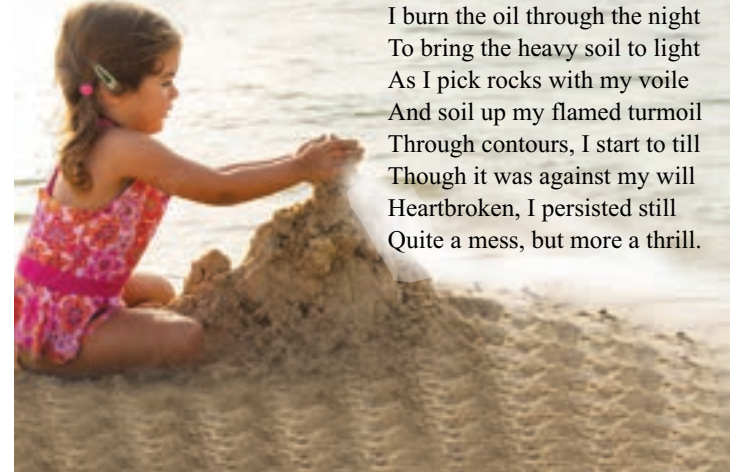
WORDS VERSE

Sculpting

Aadya Behl, AIS MV, X A

"Selfish much?" Maybe it's true I mould sand under sky so blue As the waves crash on the land The fast water sweeps the sand

All my sculptures wash to sea But giving up is no part of me Wet or dry, I must commence Time won't stop, so I advance Alas, in sand no shape is firm And soon, issues begin to burn Beside the silt, I saw some fern And found a lesson I must learn Not the soft sand, but firm soil I burn the oil through the night To bring the heavy soil to light As I pick rocks with my voile And soil up my flamed turmoil Through contours, I start to till Though it was against my will Heartbroken, I persisted still Quite a mess, but more a thrill.



Read Play and Win 106

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 automobile brand is talked about in the short story on p8?	Q.2 Who is the founder of theory of evolution as mentioned on p6?	Q.3 When was the album 'The Queen Is Dead' released ?
Q.4 What does the word 'mesmerised' mean in the short story on p9?	Q.5 The interview of Vinita Dawra Nangia is on page _____.	Q.6 How many panellists are featured on page 10?
Q.7 In the comic on p4, who decides that the race winner would be called "Captain Cosmos"?	Q.8 Name any two geological monuments mentioned on p7.	Q.9 What is the headline of the autobiography on p5?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-105: Aviraaj Singh Bajaj, AIS MV, IV A; Aaradhya Pant, AIS Gur 46, VIII D; Nayra Narang, AIS Vas 1, IV C

CAMERA CAPERS

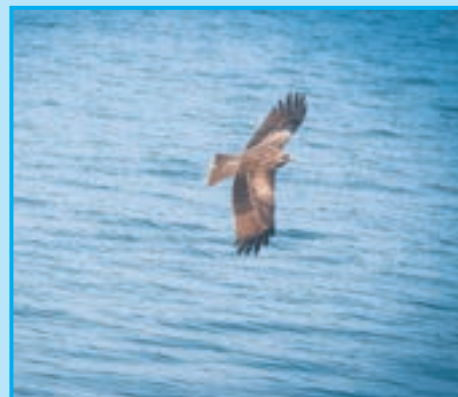
Mahijit Singh Panchal

AIS Navi Mumbai, X C

Send in your entries to cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



A mid-air melody



Wings trace over the blue



A quiet gaze in the wild

# The lonely window

## Short story



Sanvi Bhatia, AIS Gur 46, XI E

Once upon a time there stood a lonely window in the attic of a marvellous house. The window overlooked other gardens full of happy kids and families. It felt jealous over its condition. The floors below were always lively and bustling but no one ever seemed to visit the attic. The window felt invisible. It had no one to be **mesmerised** by its grand view, except for maybe a couple of spiders and the occasional mouse. One afternoon, a boy stumbled into the attic. His name was Leo. Over the next few days, the window learnt that Leo was curious and liked to be alone. He needed a place to read, write, and work on his school projects. And the attic suited him perfectly. Soon, the boy noticed the window. Every

evening, he sat by it, sketching or simply watching the garden. He spoke out loud sometimes - about school, the future he hoped for, and more. And though the window could not answer, it felt heard for the very first time. The atmosphere of the attic changed from gloom to bloom, and the window finally felt happy. Books started to pile up around the floors, and sunlight poured in through the windowpanes that Leo regularly cleaned. As weeks passed, Leo grew attached to the place. He would invite his friend and they would play there together. "You can see the whole town from here!" his friend exclaimed. The window felt immense pride at that statement. But one day, Leo got a surprise, the house owner stormed into the attic; the house wasn't abandoned as they had assumed.

He spoke out loud sometimes - about school, the future he hoped for, and more. And though the window could not answer, it felt heard for the very first time.

"What are you doing here?" asked the owner furiously. Leo, nervous but steady, replied, "I was told nobody lived in this house anymore. I really meant no trouble." The man frowned. "This is my house. You can't just take over it without asking." Before Leo could answer, his friend spoke up, "Sir, he hasn't done any harm. He just uses this window to read and think. It's beautiful up here." The owner looked towards the window. He noticed fresh succulent plants decorating the gleaming window, the huge piles of books, and the fluffy cushions placed before the windowsill. His anger softened. "Hmph," he muttered. "If you want to sit here, then do it responsibly. No nonsense. And never go into strange buildings again, abandoned or otherwise. It's unsafe." From then on, Leo was allowed to return. Students sometimes climbed up to share the view, and even the owner visited every now and then to gaze outside. The window remained the same; it was still the same wood and glass. However, the window no longer felt invisible. **GT**

**So, what did you learn today?**  
**A new word: Mesmerised**  
**Meaning: To be fascinated**

## POEM

### In harmony's tune



Devansh Yashvardhan, AIS MV, IX D

Under the rising sun's one embrace  
 Where cultures and dreams enlance  
 The world unfolds a vibrant scene  
 A symphony of fields lush in green

From bustling street to quiet shore  
 People connect, and emotions soar  
 Because a hope turns futures bright  
 A canvas painted in the sky's light

When serene tides begin to bloom  
 Hearts rise in harmony's soft tune  
 A story is spread from east to west  
 In unity, our world is truly blessed.

## It's Me

### KNOW ME

**My name:** Aadya Mani Tripathi  
**My Class:** II B  
**My school:** AIS VKC Lucknow  
**My birthday:** October 17

### MY FAVOURITES

**Teachers:** Esha ma'am & Shivangi ma'am  
**Subject:** English  
**Friends:** Advika and Mahika  
**Games:** Badminton and musical chairs  
**Cartoons:** Hey Duggee's Squirrel Club, Bluey  
**Food:** Chole bhature  
**Mall:** Phoenix Palassio  
**Books:** Sleeping Beauty, Panchatantra stories

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

**Hobby:** Colouring and dancing  
**I like:** Watching my favourite cartoons and reading stories  
**I dislike:** When mumma scolds me  
**My role model:** My mumma  
**I want to become:** A scientist  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I want to see my name and photo in the newspaper and make my parents proud.



## Riddle Fiddle

Yashav Bhatia  
 AIS Noida, V B

- I'm a big ball of fire in the sky  
 I shine so bright and give light  
 I rise in the morning, set at night  
 What am I that makes the day bright?
- I'm the biggest planet in the sky  
 With a red spot like a giant eye  
 I'm made of gas, I don't have a ground  
 Which planet am I that can be found?

**Answers:** 1. Sun  
 2. Jupiter

## COLOURING FUN

Sketch by: Aruvi Maheshwari, AIS Gur 46, V H



Click a high resolution picture (1 MB or more) of the entry and mail the same to: [editor@theglobaltimes.in](mailto:editor@theglobaltimes.in). The best entries will be published in GT.

# Understanding autism together

## Where Growth Is Powered By Awareness, Compassion, And Acceptability

**Y**outh Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion' where experts from different walks of life discuss several aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part I** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams for the year 2025-26, and a host of opinions as experts share their insights on '**Autism**', the cause chosen by YP team of AIS Noida.



The panellists share their views on autism awareness and inclusion

### Autism is not a disability, it is a difference

**Panellist: Dr Amit Batra**  
Consultant neurologist, expert in neurodevelopmental and behavioural neurology

"Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition that is influenced by both, genetics and environmental factors. It can be detected as young as three months, or much later, up to 15 years of age. Families often notice these behaviours but mask them due to societal pressures. Common signs include difficulties in social communication, speech delay, or limited vocabulary. Sensory issues may appear too – avoiding physical touch or feeling overwhelmed by certain sounds or textures. Many such children engage in repetitive



behaviours or activities which are the coping mechanisms that help regulate their environment. As they grow older, some symptoms may change or become less obvious, which is why age can sometimes mask autism. Autistic individuals are neurodivergent - they think and function differently; many develop exceptional abilities over time. It is important that autism is diagnosed clinically by a specialist using DSM-5 criteria. Early intervention is crucial for that is when the brain is most adaptable. Autism is not a disability; it is a difference, and with the right guidance, abilities can truly flourish."

### Support can transform challenges into strengths

**Panellist: Naman Misra**  
Developer associate, SAP Labs India, actor and model

"The people around me - especially my peers and my family - have made me the person I am today. My journey as a student had its ups and downs, but it also gave me an abundance of happy memories. My parents encouraged me to observe people carefully, and that simple habit helped me understand the world a lot better. My sister played an incredibly important role in my life. She was a chatterbox, full of energy, and during a difficult phase of my life, when I had lost my speech, her support



helped me find my way again. Acting became another medium for me to be able to express myself. While working on Sitaare Zameen Par, the director and their team told us to just be ourselves. That helped a great deal. I could resonate with my character, Hargobind - who was sometimes grouchy or blunt - so able to play that character felt quite natural. Still, the environment on set required certain preparation. Bright lights, loud sounds, and heat were challenging, and some scenes took up almost 150 takes. Through all of this, I have learned that embracing who you are, with the support of others, can transform challenges into strengths."

Part I



Expert Speak

### Understanding autism begins with acceptance

**Panellist: Shweta Muneshwar**  
Founder and CEO of Speaking Mindz, special educator, author parent counsellor

"The biggest myths around autism are - it is a mental illness, autistic children won't learn, or lack emotions. But these damaging beliefs can change once we understand how an autistic mind works. When my child struggled in public spaces - lying on the ground or feeling overwhelmed - people judged him. Stigma often begins at home. Hence, acceptance too must begin within the family before society can follow. I had never even



heard of the word 'autism' before my child's diagnosis. Occupational therapy helped with sensory overload and other troubles, which many can misunderstand. A fractured leg is treated with physiotherapy - and therapy for autism is no different. Autistic children think in patterns. My son excels at maths, coding, and memory, and he has won multiple Olympiad medals. With the right professional guidance, parents can become their child's strongest therapists. Through Speaking Mindz, my goal is simple: every mind that thinks differently deserves to be understood, accepted, and heard."

### Self-care is essential, not just an option

**Panellist: Geetika Singh**  
Counselling psychologist, parenting & mindfulness coach, founder of Samatva Wellbeing

"Autism is not a mental illness, and children should be accepted exactly as they are. Early support matters, but so does emotional safety. Parents must communicate and stay connected with their child, even when progress feels slow. Many autistic individuals have heightened sensory sensitivity. It's important to understand what triggers them. I work with restorative and trauma-informed yoga, which helps calm the nervous system



without forcing change. Restorative yoga uses cushions and quiet spaces to promote relaxation, while trauma-informed yoga focuses on autonomy and safety. Simple grounding activities - feeling the feet on the ground, focusing on breath, sensing posture - can help children regulate stress. These practices also support parents. Overwhelmed parents cannot fully support their child. Self-care then, is not optional; it is essential. Don't panic when you hear the word neurodivergent. Be supportive, loving, and open to learning. Work as a team and consult professionals when needed."

# Ramanujan 2026

## A 25-Year Legacy of Mathematical Excellence

**AIS Noida**

The school organised 25th Ramanujan inter-school Mathematics competition on January 27, 2026, marking a milestone in its endeavour for promoting mathematical excellence and analytical thinking. The competition - envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, as a tribute to the legendary mathematician S Ramanujan and to carry forward his legacy - witnessed participation by 24 schools with 175 students from Class IV to XII.

The event commenced with a written preliminary round, Numerical Odyssey, which prepared students for the category-wise final rounds. Class IV and V took part in Math Venture, a fun-based round centered on real-life applications of mathematics. Class VI to VIII competed in Digits and Discoveries, an engaging quiz that tested logic, speed, and teamwork. Class IX and X showcased



Young maths wizards test their wits at Ramanujan

creativity and reasoning skills in Logic League, where students designed innovative games based on mathematical concepts. Class XI and XII demonstrated advanced analytical abilities in the quiz Wisdom Wars.

The winners were felicitated at a glittering valedictory ceremony acknowledging their excellence in mathematics. In Math Ninjas (Class IV-V), AIS Gurugram 43, AIS Noida and AIS Vas 1 secured first, second and third position

respectively. For Math Pioneers (Class VI-VIII), the winners were AIS Noida at first position, AIS Gurugram 46 at second position and AIS Mayur Vihar at the third position. In Math Mavericks (Class IX-X), the first position went to AIS Noida and the third position was bagged by AIS Gurugram 46. Math Brainiacs (Class XI-XII) witnessed AIS Mayur Vihar, AIS Noida and AIS Gurugram 46 win first, second and third place respectively. **GT**



Garvita Chug at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan

## Budget talk

**AIS Mayur Vihar**

Garvita Chug of Class XII earned the prestigious opportunity to interact with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union minister Dr Mansukh Mandviya by participating in 'My Bharat Budget Quiz', organised online by the Directorate of Education (North-East District) from February 3-22, 2026. The interaction happened during her visit to Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow, from April

12-13, 2026 for which she was selected in February 2026, through the online quiz which tested the participants' basic awareness and understanding of budget provisions followed by a competitive essay-writing round.

'My Bharat Budget Quiz' is a national-level online quiz based on the Union Budget 2026 under 'My Bharat Budget Quest 2026' initiative, a flagship programme of the Department of Youth Affairs, aimed at fostering youth engagement in public policy. **GT**



Trishar Das

Aditya Chauhan

Arnav Jain

Namish Durgapal

## Titans of Olympiads

**AICE**

Four Amitians have achieved a remarkable milestone of clearing the Indian National Olympiads, securing their place at the prestigious Orientation-cum-Selection Camps (OCSC). The camps will be conducted at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, from April to May 2026. These intensive camps bring together country's brightest young minds for advanced training and the final selection process for the International Olympiad teams.

The feat, achieved under the leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group

of Schools and RBEF and mentorship of director and faculty of AICE, reaffirms Amity's commitment towards providing global opportunities and quality holistic education to its students.

The young geniuses selected for various camps are: Arnav Jain (XII Synchro, AIS Gur 46) for Indian National Chemistry Olympiad (INChO); Aditya Chauhan (XII Synchro, AIS Saket) for Indian National Astronomy Olympiad (INAO); Namish Durgapal (XI Synchro, AIS Gur 46) for Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMO) & International Mathematical Olympiad Training Camp (IMOTC); Trishar Das (XI, Synchro, AIS Noida), for Standard Examination in High School Science SEHSS. **GT**

## Nurturing new leaders

**AERC**

Amity students brought home laurels at the BRICS International School Junior Track India Summit, held under the aegis of the Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) on March 5, 2026, at the Russian House, New Delhi. Aimed at cultivating global awareness, leadership, and intercultural dialogue among students, while encouraging them to explore opportunities in international education and diplomacy, the summit was intellectually stimulating and designed to introduce young learners to the vision, history, and collaborative spirit of the BRICS nations.

Amongst the winners were Sidhant Raj (Class XI, AIS Saket), who secured first position in BRICS Extempore and Group Discussion; and the team of Devanshi Vyas, Nashra Hussain, Katyaini Kesari (Class XII, AIS Noida) who won the first position in BRICS Quiz and One-Min-



Amitians smile as they pose for the cameras at the BRICS Summit

ute Speech. Ananya Sharma and Kushagra Chakraborty (Class XI, AIS Gurugram 46) secured second position in BRICS Collaborative Activities.

The event commenced with an introduction to the summit, highlighting the importance of the BRICS platform in fostering youth leadership, international dialogue, and educational collaboration among emerging global communities. This was followed by a series of activities, including a lecture session titled "Dive into

BRICS: History and Future", the BRICS Quiz competition, a session on exploring education in BRICS committees, BRICS Education in Action by HSE University, a TED Talk on global citizenship and youth engagement, and the BRICS Explorer Challenge.

Each of these sessions incorporated team-building exercises, live extempore presentations, collaborative challenges, and creative activities - ensuring students worked collectively and strengthened collaborative bonds. **GT**

# WAR AND WEEP

When The Greek Gods Find Refuge From The Approaching Apocalypse

Manya Aggarwal, XI A &  
Sharanya Dobhal, XI E  
AIS Vasundhara 6

The screeches of the Nine Muses echo over the peaks of Mt Olympus, shattering the serenity with the incoming chaos of the Titans. The Olympians find refuge on Poseidon's island villa, the perfect place for an impending apocalypse. But the estranged siblings under one roof is worse than the Titans.

## ACT 1 | SCENE 1

**Hades:** I feel like I am eroding with every ray of sunlight. I refuse to be treated as such.

**Persephone:** It's okay. A bit of vitamin D won't kill you.

**Poseidon:** Ever heard of sunscreen? Just slap some and stop ridiculing my beautiful villa.

**Zeus:** We should have had this conference literally anywhere.

**Hades:** Yes, I demand to return to the underworld.

**Athena:** Agreed. Po, do you even clean this place? I've seen sandstorms with better organisation.

**Ares:** The air here is so empowering that I feel like duking it out with any of you.

**Poseidon:** Calm down, Mr Testosterone. Let's not forget whose villa this is.

(The Gods exit)

## ACT 2 | SCENE 1

Next morning, the villa, already teetering with Olympian drama, now hums with a tension.

**Poseidon:** That voltage-carrying little piece of fried brain. He may have the thunderbolt, but the mortgage is mine. Time for a little payback (*waves his hand and blasts Zeus toilet*).

**Zeus:** (*sitting and reading the newspaper on the toilet*) What is that rumb- (*Water blasts Zeus out of his seat and thunder crackles in the sky*) Who in the fish-blasted world did this?

**Aphrodite:** Poseidon

**Athena:** Definitely, Poseidon.

**Zeus:** Poseidon!

**Hades:** Stop yelling! You sound like the souls of the damned.

**Zeus:** Stay out of this, anaemic.

**Hades:** Mind you, I take supple-

ments. I am not anaemic. At least, I have better hygiene than you.

**Zeus:** How dare you!

**Aphrodite:** (*recording this whole time*) Ooh! Drama. I am so posting this on Godstagram.

**Hermes:** Guys, this is cool and all, but we've got a situation at hand.

**Zeus and Hades:** What is it?

**Hermes:** The Titans have reached the mortal realm. They are preparing for attack.

**Athena:** Where are our weapons?

**Ares:** Where are my sword and spear? I took two hours to polish those babies of mine.

**Zeus:** Who dare take my thunderbolt? Poseidon, did you?

**Poseidon:** No, I did not.

They hear loud snoring. Zz..... zzzzz... (*Gods find Cerberus cuddling the weapons*)

**Zeus:** Hades, wake up your flesh-eating dog.

**Hermes:** Guys quickly! The Titans are attacking.

(*Sea begins to rise and chaos arises as the Titans crash on the island.*)

**Everyone:** (*Shouting at the top of their voices*) Hades! Cerberus!

(The end)



JUST FOR  
LAUGHS

## Album Review

# The crown of thorns

**Album:** The Queen Is Dead

**Artist:** The Smiths

**Released on:** June 16, 1986

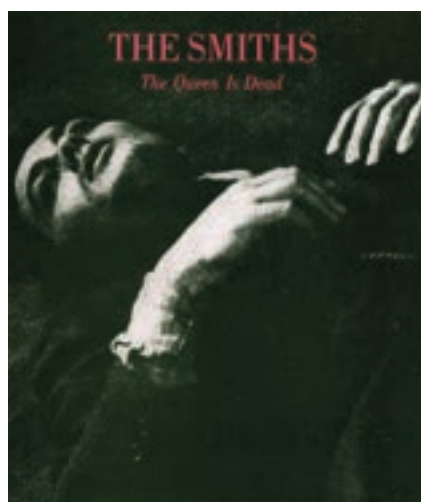
**Genre:** Indie rock and alternative rock

**Synopsis:** 'The Queen Is Dead' is a masterpiece album of the 1980s, widely acclaimed for its witty lyrics, jangly guitars, and emotional depth. Ranked amongst the greatest albums ever, its primary concept revolves around real-life emotions such as sadness, love, friendship, and loneliness. It also touches upon critical issues as to how society sometimes makes people feel like outsiders and misunderstands them. The songs beautifully blend tones of hope and hopelessness, portraying the fight encountered by young people over

identity and relationships. The theme and sound of the album are still relevant and resonate with the new listeners even today, creating timeless indie rock anthems.

**Why is it worth listening:** It is ranked as the greatest album ever by NME for its influence on Britpop and beyond.

The songs are passionate and meaningful. It's praised for its lyrical genius by Morrissey as well as for instrumental flair from Johnny Marr, capturing the angst, boredom, and joy of the 80's teens. The album's smart and funny take on angst and emptiness resonates across generations, stunning listeners with its



detail and prompting reflection on life and society.

**My favourite song:** 'There is a light that never goes out'

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Vidushi Raj Srivastava, AIS VKC Lko, XI A

## GT Travels to Gujrat



Adwita Verma, VIA, and Mihika Verma, LKG E, AIS Noida poses with their copy of The Global Times at Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. Popularly known as the 'White Rann', it is the largest salt marsh in India, stretching over an area of approximately 26,000 to 27,454 sq km.

Got some clicks with GT while on the go? Get them featured! Send them to us at [gtravels@theglobaltimes.in](mailto:gtravels@theglobaltimes.in)

## Travelling on borrowed time

### The Race Is On To See A World That's Slipping Away... But At What Cost?

**Arpita Chakraborty**  
GT Network

Ticking off melting glaciers and sinking cities off the list, a lot of travellers are now choosing destinations that scientists warn may soon be lost. As the ever-lasting climate change is reshaping the planet at an alarming rate, a new trend for travel has emerged: visit it before it's gone. This trend, aka last-chance tourism, embodies both wonder and grief, yet it highlights a troubling paradox: by rushing to see these places, we may be speeding up their demise.

#### The urgency to witness

Increasingly, travellers are drawn not by luxury or leisure, but by fragility. The concept began gain-

ing attention in the late 2000s, fuelled by expanded climate reporting and striking visual evidence of environmental decline. The social media amplified the rush, with posts like 'hike the Mer de Glace before it melts away' and #LastChanceToSee. Even travel websites use them to draw people's attention, promoting these places as 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience while fuelling the 'bucket-list' culture.

#### The vulnerable spots

Today, places such as the Great Barrier Reef, where mass coral bleaching has affected more than half of shallow-water corals since 2016; Glacier National Park, which has lost over 85% of its glaciers since 1850; and the Maldives, where nearly 80% of land

lies less than a metre above sea level, have become emblematic of this trend. Other destinations include flood-prone Venice, the rapidly warming polar regions, the shrinking Dead Sea, and the deforested edges of the Amazon. India is not immune to this trend either. Assam's Majuli Island and Sundarbans mangroves in the Ganges delta have drawn Indian holidayers like a magnet amid the threat of rising tides gulping them to disappearance. Visitors engage in cycling, boat rides, and stays in bamboo stilt houses, soaking in the beauty that is likely turn into an illusion in the future.

#### The good side...

On the surface, last-chance tourism can seem beneficial. Tourism supports hundreds of millions of

jobs worldwide and forms a cornerstone of many national economies. In Iceland, tourism accounts for nearly 8% of GDP, much of it driven by visitors hoping to see retreating glaciers and dramatic volcanic landscapes. There is also evidence that these experiences can raise environmental awareness. A 2020 survey of visitors to France's Mer de Glace glacier found that 80% wanted to learn more about environmental conservation, and 77% intended to reduce their energy and water use after their visit. Advocates argue that tourism revenue support conservation efforts.

#### ...but the irony

However, tourism-related carbon emissions, particularly from air travel and cruise ships, are a significant driver of climate change.

A global assessment published in Nature Communications found that tourism accounted for nearly 9% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. A single long-haul flight can produce tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger. Beyond emissions, large tourist numbers can damage fragile ecosystems through soil erosion, wildlife disturbance, and the introduction of invasive species.

#### The responsible way

Countries are adopting a range of measures to check this kind of habitat destruction. Venice has introduced tourist taxes, while Greece's Santorini and Croatia's Dubrovnik have put a cap on cruise ship arrivals. Barcelona and Amsterdam is seeing restrictions on new hotels. Experts argue that responsible tourism is possible with stricter regulations. In Sundarbans, locals are selected and trained by the forest department to work as tourist guides, who not only enhance the visitor experience but also ensure sightseings remain within regulated zones.

Romanticising the rush to visit endangered destinations risks turning concern into consumption. The focus must shift toward responsible travel: reducing carbon footprints, supporting community-led initiatives, and prioritising conservation over spectacle.



**THE GT POLL**

**China is using robot dogs and attack drones in military training to cut human combatant loss. How will this change urban warfare?**

A) Make it more lethal  
B) Make it safer for soldiers  
C) Too early to tell

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the\_global\_times

**Coming next**  
Youth Power 2025-26

**What's inside**

**A literary legacy**  
The force behind Write India and Times Literature Festival, Vinita Dawra Nangia shares what it takes to be a writer, especially in the age of AI.  
...more on page 3

**A goodilicious human**  
A tin of empathy. A cup of being trustworthy. A pinch of ego. Here's the recipe for your rebellious self to be a good human. Ready to leave the dark side?  
...more on page 5

**Nature's wild carvings**  
Take a journey of the Earth's most extraordinary geological marvels. From fiery craters to crystal caverns, they reveal nature's raw power and beauty.  
...more on page 7

**POLL RESULT**  
for GT Edition April 20, 2026

Do you support increasing the total number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to about 850 seats to facilitate the 33% women's quota?

Yes 45%  
No 45%  
Maybe 10%

Results as on April 24, 2026

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# A literary legacy

## Journalist With An Eye For India's Writing Talent

Disha Dhir & Ekam Sibia

AIS Gurugram 46, XII I

Vinita Dawra Nangia is a powerhouse in Indian media and literature, with over three decades of shaping cultural narratives. Director of the Times Literature Festival, and creator of Write India and the AutHer Awards, she has championed writers and built vibrant literary communities; her voice resonates with insight, bridging contemporary dilemmas with timeless values. In an interview with GT, she discusses shaping some of India's most influential literary conversations.

### Evolving with each role

I began my journey with the news section as a sub-editor. From there, I moved to Saturday Times, a lifestyle and entertainment supplement of The Times of India. Later, I became India's first fashion writer, which eventually led to the creation of TOI's page 3. I've realised that when you develop something, after a point you tend to get bored – at least, I do. So, at every stage of my career, whatever I am doing becomes my favourite thing at that moment. Today, the role I enjoy is promoting reading and writing in India, and launching initiatives that encourage people to engage in both.

### Creating across genres

In the beginning, I was deeply attached



Vinita Dawra Nangia with GT reporters

to everything I created. Over time, I realised that it is far more interesting - and far more productive - to keep creating and then handing your work over to others so that you can grow. People who stay stuck in one place often remain stuck in life. Because I kept developing, and letting go, I moved across eras of journalism - from working in print when there were no computers or mobile phones, to moving into internet journalism and then social media. I created websites and started social media accounts. Very few journalists have worked across all these platforms. It happened only because I kept learning and moving on.

### Retaining the human touch

It's a good thing that the number of book writers have increased significantly over the years, particularly in the space of commercial writing. But there is also a widespread myth that writing will make you rich or famous – unless, of course,

you become extraordinarily popular. In fact, in recent times, AI has created a certain upheaval. It's now difficult to distinguish between an authentic writer and someone passing off AI-generated work as their own. Thankfully, there are tools that detect AI-written content. I believe the best use of AI is for research or feedback - after you've created your own plot. I tested it by asking AI to rewrite one of my short stories, and it stripped away all emotion. The human touch remains irreplaceable.

### Leading Write India

Write India is very close to my heart. It was born out of countless interactions where people from the audience would come up to me and say they wished to write. I recall Chetan Bhagat once telling me, "Vinita, mujhe angrezi nahi aati. People make fun of me, but I want the boy or girl in a slum to read my book." He writes in simple English for that reason, and it worked. I want to create a bridge between such writers, and that's how Write India was born.

### Message for Amitians

My most important advice is to read a lot... in a way that helps you truly absorb what you're reading. I always read with a pencil, using a scale as a bookmark; I underline and annotate. This helps retention and builds instinct. Often, I know the meaning of a new word simply because I've encountered it earlier. So, read widely, actively, and with intention.

INTERVIEW



Vinita Dawra Nangia, journalist

Book Review

## Entangled lives

**Synopsis:** A beautifully written novella, Ghachar Ghochar brings out the raw and innate nature of mankind as its characters go through a sudden transformation from absolute poverty to unexpected opulence. The unnamed narrator walks us through his invisible existence while sitting in a coffee house - the nucleus of his refuge. He reflects on the unsettling changes that wealth brings in the members of his once close-knit family - struggles of mundane are taken over by the urge to dominate, allegiances realign and conflicts crack the household's foundation. Negative thoughts and traits that one would normally suppress come to the fore in this realistic plot, as Anita, the nar-

rator's wife, confronts the repressive dynamics that are prevalent in society. Shanbhag neatly builds the prose to demonstrate how wealth can build as well as dissolve relationships, leaving them irrevocably and irreparably muddled. Originally written in Kannada, the title prophesies a hopeless entanglement that is yet to come - a knot that cannot possibly be untied, no matter what.

**Why is it worth reading?:** The precise observations, accumulation of detail, and a relatable narrative progression make the novella a carefully curated mirror of society. It is the truth we all wish to turn a blind eye to but will one day have to encounter as it is the way of life. The author has captured how relation-

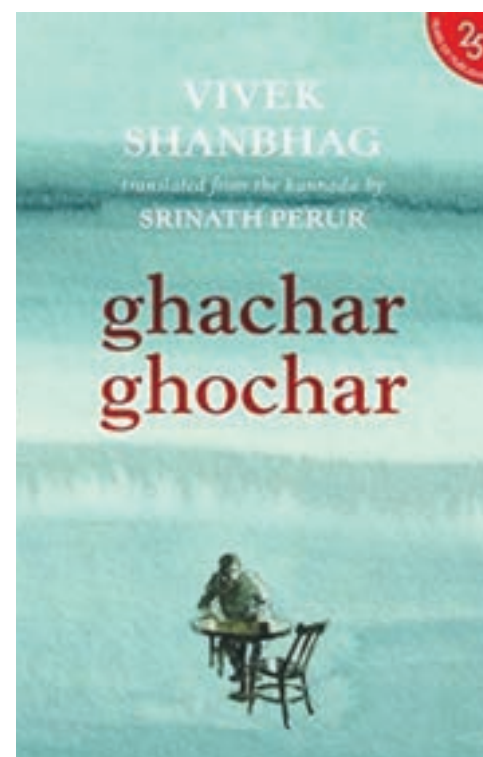
**Book:** Ghachar Ghochar  
**Author:** Vivek Shanbhag  
**Published on:** December 10, 2015  
**Genre:** Psychological fiction

ships may become painfully coiled and suffocating due to unexpected circumstances of life. The complex, yet simple psychological richness of the narrative lingers long after the last page. The human intellect in this work is bound to leave you speechless, but with traces of undisputed introspection that gets under your skin like a whisper and stays.

**Iconic quote:** "And who's to say the gods cannot take form of a restaurant waiter when they choose to visit us?"

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Yoshita Chug  
AIS Vasundhara 1, XII C





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# A goodilicious human

## A Beginners Guide To Punk Rock

Harshull Grover, AIS Gurugram 43, IX E

Thanks to James Gunn and Clark Kent, kindness, we all finally know, is the real punk rock. So, it's time for us all to pull an Anakin Skywalker and leave the Dark Side. Use this specially curated recipe for your courageous rebellion towards becoming a good human, because the loudest defiance isn't destruction, it's compassion dressed in a smile.

### Main ingredient

500g honesty (the pure, no-additives kind)

### Other essential ingredients

- A tin-full of empathy
- Another tin of ambition guided by hard work
- A cup of guts to trust and accept others
- A cup of being trustworthy
- Two cups dedicated to good behaviour and positive attitude
- A pinch of ego
- Butter for greasing - composed of simplicity
- Sprinkles of humble words, compassion, and love (Mind you, they are not optional.)

### Instructions

- First, take a huge bowl and add your 'honesty' to it. No misery here, it is the base for your 'perfect cake', aka 'the perfect human'.
- Add both cups of trust and trustworthiness to it. Do not hesitate to add good behaviour and a positive mindset along with those.
- Carefully add the tin of ambition, hard work, and empathy. Focus on the key details while gently folding your batter.
- Add a pinch of ego, just about enough to balance things out, and not be too gullible.
- Grease your 'heart-personified' baking tin with simplicity and bake it at your earliest convenience. But remember, it mustn't lose its warmth.
- After taking it out of the oven, sprinkle all the love and compassion you have found. Add humble words, not sugar-coated sweet nothings. Missing or skipping this step is sure to leave the dish dry and very difficult to swallow.

### Chef's tip

If you ever have plenty of any ingredient, share with others. And make note: the main ingredient - honesty - is like salt; too little and the whole recipe feels bland, too much in the wrong place can sting. But just the right amount makes everything better. Tada! Your perfect human is ready to win hearts. 🍪

## The Epic Saga Of A Sword Through Trial And Triumph

Aarna Sachdev, AIS MV, Alumna

In the primordial echoes of time, I emerged into existence amidst the thunderous beats of hammers, my destiny forged with a blazing inferno. While this may sound like a tale spun from fantasy, such has been my story, unfolding over 5000 years.

I have stood witness to various civilisations, evolving from the Stone Age to the contemporary era of warfare. Kings and warriors have clasped my hilt, wielding me as both a weapon and a shield. As a consequence, my odyssey has traversed the vast expanse of nations, marching alongside monarchs and soldiers alike.

I am the indomitable sword. Across the sands of time, I have inscribed the annals of history with my daring exploits. In my journeys alongside valiant warriors, I encountered diverse manifestations of my kind. First, I met the Katana, the very essence of the Samurai(s), a member of the Japanese warrior caste. My overachieving cousin possessed a sharpness that could cut a sheet of paper in half. These samurai blades were forged using two types of tama-

hagane (a form of steel), dating back to the Nara Period (710-794 CE). Crafted with meticulous precision by master craftsmen, who layered carbon to ensure unparalleled strength and flexibility, Katana came to be known as 'the world's strongest cutting tool'.

Venturing into the Persian lands, I encountered the formidable Sham-



shir, the name echoing its design - 'curved like a tiger's claws'. Its cold-steel blade, deeply curved for draw cuts, wrought havoc upon adversaries. 31-35 inches in length and 1-1.2 kg in weight, the sword made its way to India with the Mughals. Carried by warriors, the Shamshir's crescent-shaped blade, with a guard styled in Indo-Persian-Mughal and Turkish fashion, left an indelible mark on history.

But when I came to the valiant lands of India, I was faced with many kinds of swords, Talwar, Urumi, Moplah, Nandaka, and many others. But the most memorable of them was the Khanda, also known as the 'Last

Stand Indian Sword'. A double-edged straight sword designed for cutting and slashing, it maintained a consistent width throughout, it originated from the Gupta period. Unique features, including a large guard, separate finger guard, and a dual-role pommel spike, showcase its prowess as both an attacking weapon and a handrest.

Voyaging into country, China, I encountered the formidable sister duo Jian and Dao - the Yin and Yang of Chinese weaponry. The Jian, known as the 'gentleman of weapons,' is a double-edged straight sword celebrated for its precision and grace over 2,500 years. In contrast, the Dao, a single-edged curved sword with origins in ancient battlefield tactics, is renowned for its raw power and versatility.

The stories of my kin are vast and rich, and each yearns to be recounted. Alas, the constraints of time and space compel me to sheathe my tales for now. Until our blades clash again someday, may our tales resonate eternally. Farewell, until the next encounter!

(Aarna is currently pursuing BDS in Saveetha Dental College and Hospitals, Chennai.)



# A celebration beyond self



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Birthdays are special. They are full of moments of joy, gratitude and reflection. For me, however, this day has for a long time been something much larger than a personal celebration. Every year, this day reminds me how beautifully my Amitians have imbibed the human values I have always wished them to uphold. When my birthday is observed as Prerna Diwas, and children dedicate themselves to caring for the environment through tree planting, sustainability initiatives and other acts of kindness, my heart fills with profound gratitude. There can be no greater gift than to see one's special day being celebrated in service of Mother Earth. I am equally moved when I witness the entire Amity family renewing its commitment to compassion, empathy and respect for all life during the 'Human Values Quarter'. Such moments reaffirm my belief that education must go far beyond academic excellence, it must nurture humane hearts and responsible citizens. Every act of kindness, every helping hand, every effort to protect nature takes us one step closer to a better world.

I have always believed that human life is meaningful only when it is used to spread positivity, hope and love. To observe that my dear Amitians live by these ideals on a daily basis is deeply humbling. On my special day, I urge each one of you to make every birthday a day of giving back - plant a tree, support a needy person, bring comfort to the elderly, or brighten a life through compassion. Let your celebrations carry purpose. When we inspire others through good deeds, we discover the truest meaning of life. [GT](#)

# Destination green



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

This edition's top story focuses on some breathtaking tourist destinations - many in India - that may disappear within the next two decades due to climate change and reckless human activity. It is a sad thought that despite being one of the planet's most powerful species, we have too often used our power to destroy rather than preserve nature's beautiful gifts. This crisis is not the result of a few years or decades, but the out-

come of a century defined by 'over' - overconsumption, over-tourism, and the excesses driven by social media trends. This brings to my mind a moving legend from Dronagiri village in Uttarakhand which offers a profound lesson about protecting Mother Earth. The villagers do not worship Lord Hanuman, for they believe he uprooted their sacred Dronagiri mountain while searching for the *Sanjeevani booti*. For them, it was not merely a mountain, but a protector and a provider. Their love for nature was such that they held even a God accountable for harming it. This folk wisdom carries timeless messages for all of us. First, that we must honour the natural world that sustains life. Second, safeguarding the sanctity of nature is a collective responsibility. Responsible tourism begins when travellers leave behind not waste, but respect, ensuring destinations thrive for communities, cultures, and generations. India already offers inspiring examples - from Sikkim's eco-sensitive tourism model to the mangroves of Sundarbans with their conservation-led practices. Protecting the environment should come naturally to all of us - because in preserving nature, we preserve a part of ourselves. [GT](#)

# Survival of the fittest?

## More Like Survival Of The Most Comfortable

Ekam Sibia

AIS Gur 46, XII I

Charles Darwin, bless his cravat, the man who brought us the theory of evolution, would likely be rolling in his grave if he saw the state of modern humanity. Here's the thing, Charlie (can I call you Charlie?), your whole 'survival of the fittest' business seems a tad outdated in the era of ergonomic chairs and unlimited chips.

The animal kingdom is a gladiator arena - the strongest, fastest, sneakiest creatures reign supreme, leaving the slowpokes and the fashionably challenged to become lion kibble. Makes perfect sense, right? But then you meet a millennial and you realize that they are of a different make. For them, the modern world has thrown a giant, fluffy beanbag chair at Darwinian concepts. It's a generation that thrives on takeout and avoiding anything remotely strenuous. Their motto? 'Work smarter, not harder', which translates loosely to 'delegate everything to a robot while they perfect their bed-rotting game'.

You know what, Charlie? In 2026, the 'high performers' are those who master the art of 'strategic napping' under fluorescent lights and convince their boss they were just brainstorming with their eyes closed. Not to mention, the 'fittest' human now has a perfectly curated online persona that screams success even if their bank account sings a different tune. Take, for instance, the gazelle. In Darwin's day, it was all about outrunning the cheetah. These days, the gazelle would probably just whip out its smartphone, order a ride-sharing cab with a five-star rating, and be



sipping on a grass smoothie before the cheetah even showed up.

Here's how Darwin's theory gets lost in translation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Natural selection? More like selection of the most comfortable Netflix queue. Strength? Not required, as feasts are just a tap away. Think about it. We've engineered a world where weakness is not just tolerated, it's celebrated. We have participation trophies for everyone, elevators for climbing one measly flight of stairs, and self-checkout lanes so that one can avoid socially awkward human interaction.

Darwin pictured a world where only the toughest survive, and we're all out here surviving on naps and existential memes.

But hey, maybe Darwin was onto something after all. Maybe in the modern world, the crème de la crème are those who can adapt the best. The ones who can navigate the complex social jungle of brunch reservations and dodge awkward office small talk. People who mastered the art of completing chores while simultaneously bingeing reality TV.

Maybe 'survival of the comfy' or 'survival of those who can fake it till they make it' would be more fitting for our modern, snack-binging, carpal tunnel-inducing world.

But hey, Charlie, thanks for the whole evolution thing. It's pretty cool, even if we have become sybaritic, screen-addicted, and self-entitled creatures in the process. [GT](#)

Dear Editor,

The article 'Perfect score', published on page 1 of the GT edition dated April 20, 2026, showcased the phenomenal Class X results of Amity Schools. Upon examining the score tally, I was awestruck by the academic excellence it reflected. That instantly brought to my mind Iqbal's iconic couplet, often amplified by our respected chairperson: "Khud hi ko kar buland itna ke har taqdeer se pehle Khuda bande se khud pooche, bata teri raza kya hai?"

These words inculcate a relentless



GT M@il

spirit of perseverance among learners. Amitians never fail to surprise, be it academics or extracurriculars. Two students scored a perfect 500, 1,288 achieved above 90%, and 2,067 secured distinctions, reaffirming Amity's ethos. The article beautifully acknowledges all the venerated school Principals, teachers, and parents who continuously guided the students.

Priti Khullar

PGT English, AIS Noida



Issue: Page 1, April 20, 2026

## Salar de Uyuni - Bolivia

**Why a wonder:** It's the world's largest salt flat, turning into a giant natural mirror during the rainy season.

**How nature carved it:** A prehistoric lake dried up thousands of years ago, leaving behind a thick layer of salt that cracked into perfect geometric patterns.

**Scale:** Formed 30,000-40,000 years ago, it stretches over 10,000 sq km and holds billions of tonnes of salt.

**Legendary tale:** Andean myths say that the salt flat was formed from the tears of a heartbroken mountain goddess.



## Eye of the Sahara - Mauritania

**Why a wonder:** Circular pattern in the desert that looks like a bull's - eye from the sky.

**How nature carved it:** It began as a raised geological dome that gradually eroded, exposing its layers in perfect rings.

**Scale:** About 40 km wide and millions of years old.

**Legendary tale:** Its said to be the location of the lost city of Atlantis - a mystery that still sparks debate.



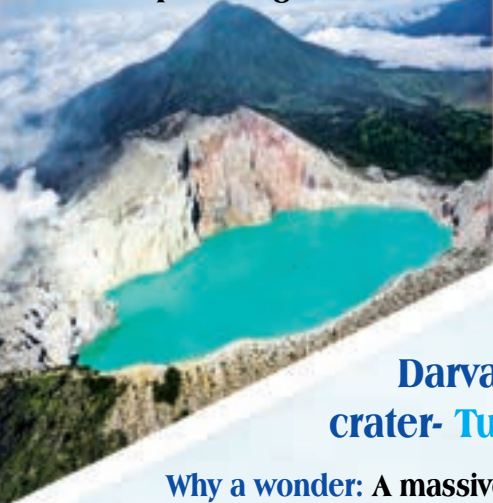
## Kawah Ijen (Blue Volcano) - Indonesia

**Why a wonder:** It glows with bright blue flames at night, just like the Tri-wizard Cup from Harry Potter.

**How nature carved it:** The "blue fire" comes from sulphuric gases catching fire as they escape through cracks around the crater.

**Scale:** Part of a large volcanic complex, it also holds the biggest acidic crater lake.

**Legendary tale:** As per the folklore, the blue flames are the spirits of the mountains protecting the land.



## Cueva de los Cristales - Mexico

**Why a wonder:** The 'Crystal cathedral' contains some of the largest crystals ever found with translucent beams.

**How nature carved it:** Hot mineral water gradually fills the cave, growing selenite crystals.

**Scale:** Crystals reach 12 metres long in a chamber at 45-50°C with utmost humidity.

**Legendary tale:** Locals view its crystals as ancient guardians.



# Nature's wild CARVINGS

The Earth hosts some of the most extraordinary geological marvels, shaped by elemental forces over eons. From fiery craters to crystal caverns, they reveal nature's raw power and hidden beauty. Join **Aditya Gururaj & Aditi Gururaj, AGS Noida, A2** on this global journey to six awe-inspiring wonders.

## Darvaza gas crater- Turkmenistan

**Why a wonder:** A massive fiery crater that's been burning nonstop for more than 50 years - it looks like the earth opened up and set itself alight.

**How nature carved it:** A natural gas field collapsed, creating a huge pit. Scientists set it on fire to stop methane from leaking, expecting it to burn out... but it never did.

**Scale:** The crater, formed in 1971, is about 70 metres wide and 20 metres deep, glowing day and night in the Karakum desert.

**Legendary tale:** Locals call it the 'Shining of Karakum' & say spirits keep the flames alive.



## Shilin Stone Forest - China

**Why a wonder:** Limestone pillars, some 20-50 metres high, rise like a forest turned to stone.

**How nature carved it:** Millions of years of slightly acidic rain slowly shaped the limestone over time into tall 'stone trees' and narrow pathways.

**Scale:** Stretches across nearly 500 sq km and started forming around 270 million years ago.

**Legendary tale:** Locals say each pillar has a story. The best-known is Ashima, a young woman who turned to stone after being denied her true love.





Storywala

American Dream

**Devansh Mishra**  
AIS VYC Lucknow, XII A

Guilt, shame, pain - physical and emotional - possessed the German soldier as the war ended and he began his long walk back home. Memories of destruction and bloodshed shadowed behind his eyes that were staring at the lifeless ground. Tears welled up and his vision blurred. He kneeled, weeping on the ground. It felt like the most appropriate response to his desperate situation. He held his head, suddenly the world around him started spinning, becoming even darker.

He did not know when he had lost consciousness, but the loud ringing noise only made his heart thud. He was taken aback, opening his eyes to an unfamiliar city a bustling metropolis of metal and glass skyscrapers, with electric powered trains moving silently along elevated tracks. The streets were occupied by people dressed in loose-fitted denim and brightly patterned jackets. What confused him the most were the animated figures around. Why

the huge eyes and pink hair? He stood still as a rock as he observed the city.

Yet, amidst all of this, what befuddled him the most were Japanese characters on billboards, cars, even the bright oddballs. "Excuse me, sir," the soldier asked carefully to a man exiting what appeared like a coffee house with a cup containing a strangely grassy liquid. "Where am I?" The man looked very confused. "Uh, the United States of America?" he replied before walking away, talking into a small transmission device. The soldier's heart raced. American voices. Japanese writing. He could not grasp how the cultures of such bitter enemies coexisted in one space.

Before he could even begin to wonder how he ended up in a city that apparently belonged to no single nation, he was thrown off by the encounter with a familiar but unexpected subject. This time, it was the vehicle by the roadside. The man recognised that car's logo, it was a Volkswagen, 'people's car'. The mere sight of the German machinery made him wonder why and how

**American voices. Japanese writing. He could not grasp how the cultures of such bitter enemies coexist in one space.**

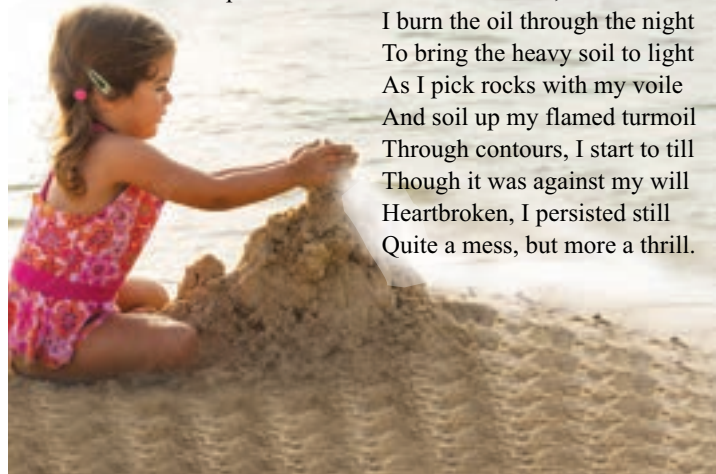
a vehicle built in and by his native land was allowed to travel freely and safely in a region with whom they share a turbulent history. Suddenly, the soldier was hit by a screechingly loud frequency that felt like it'd shatter him. And before he even realised he fainted by the disturbing sound of it. But when he woke up, he was surrounded by the familiar damp air of the cement bunkhouse. It took him a minute to figure out which of the two states were a dream. Outside, a newspaper's first page flashed with not just American victory, but its power to govern others. Visions of the city from his dream came back to his mind. He felt what could only be described as absurd - what he saw was not chaos or a loss of uniformity, but rather a future moulded by the march of time, where lines between nations blurred to birth a multicultural generation.

**WORDS VERSE**

**Sculpting**

**Aadya Behl, AIS MV, X A**

"Selfish much?" Maybe it's true  
I mould sand under sky so blue  
As the waves crash on the land  
The fast water sweeps the sand



All my sculptures wash to sea  
But giving up is no part of me  
Wet or dry, I must commence  
Time won't stop, so I advance  
Alas, in sand no shape is firm  
And soon, issues begin to burn  
Beside the silt, I saw some fern  
And found a lesson I must learn  
Not the soft sand, but firm soil  
I burn the oil through the night  
To bring the heavy soil to light  
As I pick rocks with my voile  
And soil up my flamed turmoil  
Through contours, I start to till  
Though it was against my will  
Heartbroken, I persisted still  
Quite a mess, but more a thrill.

**Read Play and Win 106**

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!



<b>Q.1</b> Which automobile brand is talked about in the short story on p8?	<b>Q.2</b> Who is the founder of theory of evolution as mentioned on p6?	<b>Q.3</b> When was the album 'The Queen Is Dead' released ?
<b>Q.4</b> What does the word 'mesmerised' mean in the short story on p9?	<b>Q.5</b> The interview of Vinita Dawra Nangia is on page _____.	<b>Q.6</b> How many panellists are featured on page 10?
<b>Q.7</b> In the comic on p4, who decides that the race winner would be called "Captain Cosmos"?	<b>Q.8</b> Name any two geological monuments mentioned on p7.	<b>Q.9</b> What is the headline of the autobiography on p5?

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

**Results of Read Play & Win-105: Aviraaj Singh Bajaj, AIS MV, IV A; Aaradhya Pant, AIS Gur 46, VIII D; Nayra Narang, AIS Vas 1, IV C**

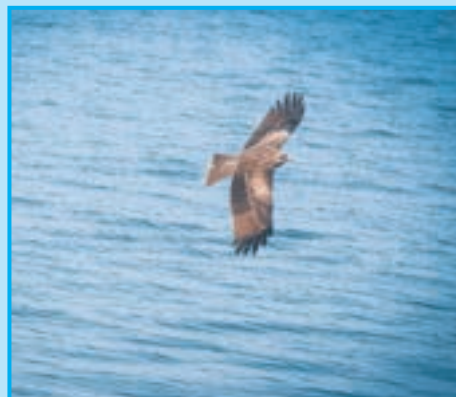
**CAMERA CAPERS**

**Mahijit Singh Panchal**  
AIS Navi Mumbai, X C

Send in your entries to [cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in](mailto:cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in)



A mid-air melody



Wings trace over the blue



A quiet gaze in the wild

# The lonely window

## Short story



Sanvi Bhatia, AIS Gur 46, XI E

Once upon a time there stood a lonely window in the attic of a marvellous house. The window overlooked other gardens full of happy kids and families. It felt jealous over its condition. The floors below were always lively and bustling but no one ever seemed to visit the attic. The window felt invisible. It had no one to be **mesmerised** by its grand view, except for maybe a couple of spiders and the occasional mouse. One afternoon, a boy stumbled into the attic. His name was Leo. Over the next few days, the window learnt that Leo was curious and liked to be alone. He needed a place to read, write, and work on his school projects. And the attic suited him perfectly. Soon, the boy noticed the window. Every

evening, he sat by it, sketching or simply watching the garden. He spoke out loud sometimes - about school, the future he hoped for, and more. And though the window could not answer, it felt heard for the very first time. The atmosphere of the attic changed from gloom to bloom, and the window finally felt happy. Books started to pile up around the floors, and sunlight poured in through the windowpanes that Leo regularly cleaned. As weeks passed, Leo grew attached to the place. He would invite his friend and they would play there together. "You can see the whole town from here!" his friend exclaimed. The window felt immense pride at that statement. But one day, Leo got a surprise, the house owner stormed into the attic; the house wasn't abandoned as they had assumed.

He spoke out loud sometimes - about school, the future he hoped for, and more. And though the window could not answer, it felt heard for the very first time.

"What are you doing here?" asked the owner furiously. Leo, nervous but steady, replied, "I was told nobody lived in this house anymore. I really meant no trouble." The man frowned. "This is my house. You can't just take over it without asking." Before Leo could answer, his friend spoke up, "Sir, he hasn't done any harm. He just uses this window to read and think. It's beautiful up here." The owner looked towards the window. He noticed fresh succulent plants decorating the gleaming window, the huge piles of books, and the fluffy cushions placed before the windowsill. His anger softened. "Hmph," he muttered. "If you want to sit here, then do it responsibly. No nonsense. And never go into strange buildings again, abandoned or otherwise. It's unsafe." From then on, Leo was allowed to return. Students sometimes climbed up to share the view, and even the owner visited every now and then to gaze outside. The window remained the same; it was still the same wood and glass. However, the window no longer felt invisible. **GT**

**So, what did you learn today?**  
**A new word: Mesmerised**  
**Meaning: To be fascinated**

## POEM

### In harmony's tune



Devansh Yashvardhan, AIS MV, IX D

Under the rising sun's one embrace  
 Where cultures and dreams enlance  
 The world unfolds a vibrant scene  
 A symphony of fields lush in green

From bustling street to quiet shore  
 People connect, and emotions soar  
 Because a hope turns futures bright  
 A canvas painted in the sky's light

When serene tides begin to bloom  
 Hearts rise in harmony's soft tune  
 A story is spread from east to west  
 In unity, our world is truly blessed.

## It's Me



### KNOW ME

**My name:** Aadya Mani Tripathi  
**My Class:** II B  
**My school:** AIS VKC Lucknow  
**My birthday:** October 17

### MY FAVOURITES

**Teachers:** Esha ma'am & Shivangi ma'am  
**Subject:** English  
**Friends:** Advika and Mahika  
**Games:** Badminton and musical chairs  
**Cartoons:** Hey Duggee's Squirrel Club, Bluey  
**Food:** Chole bhature  
**Mall:** Phoenix Palassio  
**Books:** Sleeping Beauty, Panchatantra stories

### MY DREAMS AND GOALS

**Hobby:** Colouring and dancing  
**I like:** Watching my favourite cartoons and reading stories  
**I dislike:** When mumma scolds me  
**My role model:** My mumma  
**I want to become:** A scientist  
**I want to feature in GT because:** I want to see my name and photo in the newspaper and make my parents proud.

## Riddle Fiddle

Yashav Bhatia  
 AIS Noida, V B

- I'm a big ball of fire in the sky  
 I shine so bright and give light  
 I rise in the morning, set at night  
 What am I that makes the day bright?
- I'm the biggest planet in the sky  
 With a red spot like a giant eye  
 I'm made of gas, I don't have a ground  
 Which planet am I that can be found?

**Answers:** 1. Sun  
 2. Jupiter

## COLOURING FUN

Sketch by: Aruvi Maheshwari, AIS Gur 46, V H



Click a high resolution picture (1 MB or more) of the entry and mail the same to: [editor@theglobaltimes.in](mailto:editor@theglobaltimes.in). The best entries will be published in GT.

# Understanding autism together

## Where Growth Is Powered By Awareness, Compassion, And Acceptability

**Y**outh Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion' where experts from different walks of life discuss several aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part I** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams for the year 2025-26, and a host of opinions as experts share their insights on '**Autism**', the cause chosen by YP team of AIS Noida.



The panellists share their views on autism awareness and inclusion

### Autism is not a disability, it is a difference

**Panellist: Dr Amit Batra**  
Consultant neurologist, expert in neurodevelopmental and behavioural neurology

"Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition that is influenced by both, genetics and environmental factors. It can be detected as young as three months, or much later, up to 15 years of age. Families often notice these behaviours but mask them due to societal pressures. Common signs include difficulties in social communication, speech delay, or limited vocabulary. Sensory issues may appear too – avoiding physical touch or feeling overwhelmed by certain sounds or textures. Many such children engage in repetitive



behaviours or activities which are the coping mechanisms that help regulate their environment. As they grow older, some symptoms may change or become less obvious, which is why age can sometimes mask autism. Autistic individuals are neurodivergent - they think and function differently; many develop exceptional abilities over time. It is important that autism is diagnosed clinically by a specialist using DSM-5 criteria. Early intervention is crucial for that is when the brain is most adaptable. Autism is not a disability; it is a difference, and with the right guidance, abilities can truly flourish."

### Support can transform challenges into strengths

**Panellist: Naman Misra**  
Developer associate, SAP Labs India, actor and model

"The people around me - especially my peers and my family - have made me the person I am today. My journey as a student had its ups and downs, but it also gave me an abundance of happy memories. My parents encouraged me to observe people carefully, and that simple habit helped me understand the world a lot better. My sister played an incredibly important role in my life. She was a chatterbox, full of energy, and during a difficult phase of my life, when I had lost my speech, her support



helped me find my way again. Acting became another medium for me to be able to express myself. While working on Sitaare Zameen Par, the director and their team told us to just be ourselves. That helped a great deal. I could resonate with my character, Hargobind - who was sometimes grouchy or blunt - so able to play that character felt quite natural. Still, the environment on set required certain preparation. Bright lights, loud sounds, and heat were challenging, and some scenes took up almost 150 takes. Through all of this, I have learned that embracing who you are, with the support of others, can transform challenges into strengths."

Part I



Expert Speak

### Understanding autism begins with acceptance

**Panellist: Shweta Muneshwar**  
Founder and CEO of Speaking Mindz, special educator, author parent counsellor

"The biggest myths around autism are - it is a mental illness, autistic children won't learn, or lack emotions. But these damaging beliefs can change once we understand how an autistic mind works. When my child struggled in public spaces - lying on the ground or feeling overwhelmed - people judged him. Stigma often begins at home. Hence, acceptance too must begin within the family before society can follow. I had never even



heard of the word 'autism' before my child's diagnosis. Occupational therapy helped with sensory overload and other troubles, which many can misunderstand. A fractured leg is treated with physiotherapy - and therapy for autism is no different. Autistic children think in patterns. My son excels at maths, coding, and memory, and he has won multiple Olympiad medals. With the right professional guidance, parents can become their child's strongest therapists. Through Speaking Mindz, my goal is simple: every mind that thinks differently deserves to be understood, accepted, and heard."

### Self-care is essential, not just an option

**Panellist: Geetika Singh**  
Counselling psychologist, parenting & mindfulness coach, founder of Samatva Wellbeing

"Autism is not a mental illness, and children should be accepted exactly as they are. Early support matters, but so does emotional safety. Parents must communicate and stay connected with their child, even when progress feels slow. Many autistic individuals have heightened sensory sensitivity. It's important to understand what triggers them. I work with restorative and trauma-informed yoga, which helps calm the nervous system



without forcing change. Restorative yoga uses cushions and quiet spaces to promote relaxation, while trauma-informed yoga focuses on autonomy and safety. Simple grounding activities - feeling the feet on the ground, focusing on breath, sensing posture - can help children regulate stress. These practices also support parents. Overwhelmed parents cannot fully support their child. Self-care then, is not optional; it is essential. Don't panic when you hear the word neurodivergent. Be supportive, loving, and open to learning. Work as a team and consult professionals when needed."

# Ramanujan 2026

## A 25-Year Legacy of Mathematical Excellence

**AIS Noida**

The school organised 25th Ramanujan inter-school Mathematics competition on January 27, 2026, marking a milestone in its endeavour for promoting mathematical excellence and analytical thinking. The competition - envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, as a tribute to the legendary mathematician S Ramanujan and to carry forward his legacy - witnessed participation by 24 schools with 175 students from Class IV to XII.

The event commenced with a written preliminary round, Numerical Odyssey, which prepared students for the category-wise final rounds. Class IV and V took part in Math Venture, a fun-based round centered on real-life applications of mathematics. Class VI to VIII competed in Digits and Discoveries, an engaging quiz that tested logic, speed, and teamwork. Class IX and X showcased



Young maths wizards test their wits at Ramanujan

creativity and reasoning skills in Logic League, where students designed innovative games based on mathematical concepts. Class XI and XII demonstrated advanced analytical abilities in the quiz Wisdom Wars.

The winners were felicitated at a glittering valedictory ceremony acknowledging their excellence in mathematics. In Math Ninjas (Class IV-V), AIS Gurugram 43, AIS Noida and AIS Vas 1 secured first, second and third position

respectively. For Math Pioneers (Class VI-VIII), the winners were AIS Noida at first position, AIS Gurugram 46 at second position and AIS Mayur Vihar at the third position. In Math Mavericks (Class IX-X), the first position went to AIS Noida and the third position was bagged by AIS Gurugram 46. Math Brainiacs (Class XI-XII) witnessed AIS Mayur Vihar, AIS Noida and AIS Gurugram 46 win first, second and third place respectively. **GT**



Garvita Chug at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan

## Budget talk

**AIS Mayur Vihar**

Garvita Chug of Class XII earned the prestigious opportunity to interact with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union minister Dr Mansukh Mandviya by participating in 'My Bharat Budget Quiz', organised online by the Directorate of Education (North-East District) from February 3-22, 2026. The interaction happened during her visit to Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow, from April

12-13, 2026 for which she was selected in February 2026, through the online quiz which tested the participants' basic awareness and understanding of budget provisions followed by a competitive essay-writing round.

'My Bharat Budget Quiz' is a national-level online quiz based on the Union Budget 2026 under 'My Bharat Budget Quest 2026' initiative, a flagship programme of the Department of Youth Affairs, aimed at fostering youth engagement in public policy. **GT**



Trishar Das

Aditya Chauhan

Arnav Jain

Namish Durgapal

## Titans of Olympiads

**AICE**

Four Amitians have achieved a remarkable milestone of clearing the Indian National Olympiads, securing their place at the prestigious Orientation-cum-Selection Camps (OCSC). The camps will be conducted at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, from April to May 2026. These intensive camps bring together country's brightest young minds for advanced training and the final selection process for the International Olympiad teams.

The feat, achieved under the leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group

of Schools and RBEF and mentorship of director and faculty of AICE, reaffirms Amity's commitment towards providing global opportunities and quality holistic education to its students.

The young geniuses selected for various camps are: Arnav Jain (XII Synchro, AIS Gur 46) for Indian National Chemistry Olympiad (INChO); Aditya Chauhan (XII Synchro, AIS Saket) for Indian National Astronomy Olympiad (INAO); Namish Durgapal (XI Synchro, AIS Gur 46) for Indian National Mathematical Olympiad (INMO) & International Mathematical Olympiad Training Camp (IMOTC); Trishar Das (XI, Synchro, AIS Noida), for Standard Examination in High School Science SEHSS. **GT**

## Nurturing new leaders

**AERC**

Amity students brought home laurels at the BRICS International School Junior Track India Summit, held under the aegis of the Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) on March 5, 2026, at the Russian House, New Delhi. Aimed at cultivating global awareness, leadership, and intercultural dialogue among students, while encouraging them to explore opportunities in international education and diplomacy, the summit was intellectually stimulating and designed to introduce young learners to the vision, history, and collaborative spirit of the BRICS nations.

Amongst the winners were Sidhant Raj (Class XI, AIS Saket), who secured first position in BRICS Extempore and Group Discussion; and the team of Devanshi Vyas, Nashra Hussain, Katyaini Kesari (Class XII, AIS Noida) who won the first position in BRICS Quiz and One-Min-



Amity students smile as they pose for the cameras at the BRICS Summit

ute Speech. Ananya Sharma and Kushagra Chakraborty (Class XI, AIS Gurugram 46) secured second position in BRICS Collaborative Activities.

The event commenced with an introduction to the summit, highlighting the importance of the BRICS platform in fostering youth leadership, international dialogue, and educational collaboration among emerging global communities. This was followed by a series of activities, including a lecture session titled "Dive into

BRICS: History and Future", the BRICS Quiz competition, a session on exploring education in BRICS committees, BRICS Education in Action by HSE University, a TED Talk on global citizenship and youth engagement, and the BRICS Explorer Challenge.

Each of these sessions incorporated team-building exercises, live extempore presentations, collaborative challenges, and creative activities - ensuring students worked collectively and strengthened collaborative bonds. **GT**

# WAR AND WEEP

When The Greek Gods Find Refuge From The Approaching Apocalypse

Manya Aggarwal, XI A &  
Sharanya Dobhal, XI E  
AIS Vasundhara 6

The screeches of the Nine Muses echo over the peaks of Mt Olympus, shattering the serenity with the incoming chaos of the Titans. The Olympians find refuge on Poseidon's island villa, the perfect place for an impending apocalypse. But the estranged siblings under one roof is worse than the Titans.

## ACT 1 | SCENE 1

**Hades:** I feel like I am eroding with every ray of sunlight. I refuse to be treated as such.

**Persephone:** It's okay. A bit of vitamin D won't kill you.

**Poseidon:** Ever heard of sunscreen? Just slap some and stop ridiculing my beautiful villa.

**Zeus:** We should have had this conference literally anywhere.

**Hades:** Yes, I demand to return to the underworld.

**Athena:** Agreed. Po, do you even clean this place? I've seen sandstorms with better organisation.

**Ares:** The air here is so empowering that I feel like duking it out with any of you.

**Poseidon:** Calm down, Mr Testosterone. Let's not forget whose villa this is.

(The Gods exit)

## ACT 2 | SCENE 1

Next morning, the villa, already teetering with Olympian drama, now hums with a tension.

**Poseidon:** That voltage-carrying little piece of fried brain. He may have the thunderbolt, but the mortgage is mine. Time for a little payback (*waves his hand and blasts Zeus toilet*).

**Zeus:** (*sitting and reading the newspaper on the toilet*) What is that rumb- (*Water blasts Zeus out of his seat and thunder crackles in the sky*) Who in the fish-blasted world did this?

**Aphrodite:** Poseidon

**Athena:** Definitely, Poseidon.

**Zeus:** Poseidon!

**Hades:** Stop yelling! You sound like the souls of the damned.

**Zeus:** Stay out of this, anaemic.

**Hades:** Mind you, I take supple-

ments. I am not anaemic. At least, I have better hygiene than you.

**Zeus:** How dare you!

**Aphrodite:** (*recording this whole time*) Ooh! Drama. I am so posting this on Godstagram.

**Hermes:** Guys, this is cool and all, but we've got a situation at hand.

**Zeus and Hades:** What is it?

**Hermes:** The Titans have reached the mortal realm. They are preparing for attack.

**Athena:** Where are our weapons?  
**Ares:** Where are my sword and spear? I took two hours to polish those babies of mine.

**Zeus:** Who dare take my thunderbolt? Poseidon, did you?

**Poseidon:** No, I did not.

They hear loud snoring. Zz..... zzzzz... (*Gods find Cerberus cuddling the weapons*)

**Zeus:** Hades, wake up your flesh-eating dog.

**Hermes:** Guys quickly! The Titans are attacking.

(*Sea begins to rise and chaos arises as the Titans crash on the island.*)

**Everyone:** (*Shouting at the top of their voices*) Hades! Cerberus!

(The end)



JUST FOR  
LAUGHS

## Album Review

# The crown of thorns

**Album:** The Queen Is Dead

**Artist:** The Smiths

**Released on:** June 16, 1986

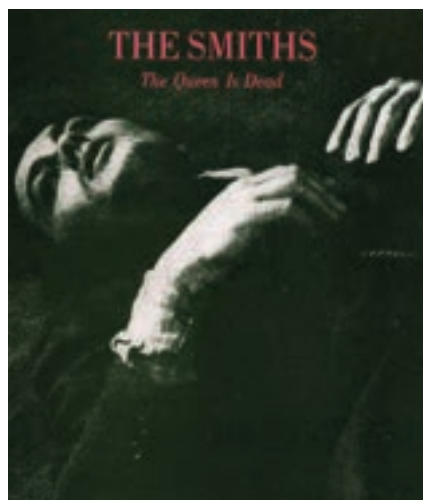
**Genre:** Indie rock and alternative rock

**Synopsis:** 'The Queen Is Dead' is a masterpiece album of the 1980s, widely acclaimed for its witty lyrics, jangly guitars, and emotional depth. Ranked amongst the greatest albums ever, its primary concept revolves around real-life emotions such as sadness, love, friendship, and loneliness. It also touches upon critical issues as to how society sometimes makes people feel like outsiders and misunderstands them. The songs beautifully blend tones of hope and hopelessness, portraying the fight encountered by young people over

identity and relationships. The theme and sound of the album are still relevant and resonate with the new listeners even today, creating timeless indie rock anthems.

**Why is it worth listening:** It is ranked as the greatest album ever by NME for its influence on Britpop and beyond.

The songs are passionate and meaningful. It's praised for its lyrical genius by Morrissey as well as for instrumental flair from Johnny Marr, capturing the angst, boredom, and joy of the 80's teens. The album's smart and funny take on angst and emptiness resonates across generations, stunning listeners with its



detail and prompting reflection on life and society.

**My favourite song:** 'There is a light that never goes out'

**Rating:** 5/5

**Review by:** Vidushi Raj Srivastava, AIS VKC Lko, XI A

## GT Travels to Gujrat



**Adwita Verma, VIA, and Mihika Verma, LKG E, AIS Noida** poses with their copy of The Global Times at Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. Popularly known as the 'White Rann', it is the largest salt marsh in India, stretching over an area of approximately 26,000 to 27,454 sq km.

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