

A second chance

From Genome To Ground: Ethics Of De-extinction

Paras Salgotra, XI S &
Ragini Singhal, XII S, AIS Gur 43

Dear Humans,

I once shared this planet with mammoths that pressed snow into the tundra and birds that darkened North American skies. I was the Tasmanian tiger, *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, a marsupial predator. For millennia, species like mine shaped Earth's ecosystems. Then, humans arrived. Roughly 12,000 years ago, hunting pressure, habitat loss, and environmental change began a cascade of extinctions. I vanished in 1936, the last of my kind dying in captivity. You believed extinction was final.

Now, biotechnology says it may not be...

'De-extinction', is an attempt to recreate extinct species using modern science. There are tools to achieve it: cloning, selective

breeding, and genome editing using CRISPR-Cas9. It does not bring us back as we were. Instead, it creates 'proxy organisms', living beings engineered to express key traits of extinct species by modifying the DNA of their closest living relatives. The Passenger Pigeon, once numbering in the billions across North America, was hunted into extinction by early 20th century. Today, researchers at the US nonprofit Revive & Restore are editing the genome of the band-tailed pigeon to mimic passenger-pigeon traits. If successful, it would be the first time an organism closely analogous to an extinct avian species will be produced.

With mammals, the challenge grows heavier...

The Woolly Mammoth, my distant contemporary, has not returned but its genes have begun to speak again. Scientists have used CRISPR to insert cold-adapted mammoth DNA sequences into mice, altering traits such as hair growth and fat metabolism. These 'woolly mice' prove that multi-gene traits from extinct animals can function in living bodies. Yet creating a mammoth-like elephant remains unresolved, not only technically but ethically, especially when it comes to gestation and long-term welfare. And no one yet knows whether engineered organisms can remain viable across multiple generations.

Still, humans ask why...

Studies suggest extinct megafauna once

shaped landscapes and carbon cycles. Large herbivores, through grazing and trampling, promoted grasslands that absorbed carbon efficiently and reflected sunlight, buffering climate fluctuations. Harvard geneticist George Church has argued that mammoth-like proxies roaming Arctic tundra could slow permafrost thaw by converting snowy forests into grasslands. In this vision, de-extinction becomes a climate tool as much as a conservation one. However, the science does not stop there. Technologies developed for de-extinction such as genome sequencing, precision editing, reproductive innovation have already helped endangered species by increasing genetic diversity and improving breeding success. And public fascination with bringing back lost species has drawn unprecedented attention and funding toward conservation science.

But fascination has innumerable consequences...

Modern ecosystems have evolved without us. Critics warn that introducing proxy species could disrupt food webs, compete with native wildlife, or introduce pathogens - risks no different from invasive species introductions. A 2025 review in *Biological Conservation* emphasised that de-extinction often creates organisms that are biologically and ecologically distinct from the species they resemble, cautioning against exaggerated claims of restoration.

Continued on page 4...

Illustration: Akshra Rana
AIS Gurugram 43, XI A

Page editor: Ragini Singhal, AIS Gurugram 43, XII S

THE GT POLL

How will Arijit Singh's retirement from playback singing impact India's music industry?

- A) An opening for new talent
- B) Loss of a popular voice
- C) Industry adapts

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

AIS VKC Lko Contest Edition



This special edition has been brought to you by **Amity International School, Gurugram 43**, as a part of the 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest'. Each page of this unique edition carries a special story handcrafted by the school's editorial team as a part of the competition. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses different branches of Amity schools across India churn out their own 'Contest Edition' which are pitted against one another at the end of the year, culminating with GT Awards. So, here's presenting the **eighth edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2025-26'**.

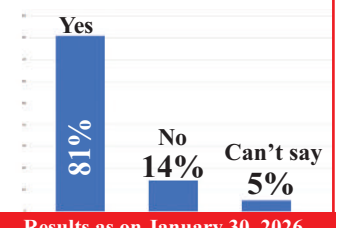
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Celebrating success

INTERVIEW

Neha Bhasin On Her Language Of Music

Sai Anwita Tippireddy, XI C &
Anaya Dogra, XI S, AIS Gur 43



Neha Bhasin, singer

Meet Neha Bhasin, one of India's most sought-after playback singers. What began as a college audition for a band, has today evolved into a remarkable career spanning over 70 musical credits across four languages, six prestigious awards, and numerous nominations. A formidable presence in both Bollywood and Punjabi folk music, Bhasin has delivered chart-topping hits like *Jutti Meri* and *Swag se Swagat*.

A fascinating debut

Growing up, I listened to my mother sing, music was always around me. I've been singing since I was nine, and during school, my teacher, Mr Dias, played a huge role with his constant support and motivation. My band, Viva!, was formed through India's first reality television music show, Popstars. The band went on to become the country's first all-girls music group. The 1990s marked a major cultural shift, with artists like Britney Spears entering the global pop scene, and in India, singers such

as Alisha Chinai, Baba Sehgal, and Shraddha Sethi creating a new wave of pop music. Viva! soon joined that movement. Our debut concert sold over 50,000 tickets, and even today, the band enjoys a strong and loyal fan following.

A free spirit

Having worked both in Bollywood and as an independent artist, I can say that latter is far more challenging. On your own, you have complete creative freedom, but funding and marketing becomes a major responsibility. Despite these obstacles, I genuinely love working in the independent music space. To protect my peace in such a fast-paced industry, I consciously limit interactions and try to distance myself from the internet as much as possible. I believe it is important to remain humble and not celebrate every success excessively, because fame and achievement are never permanent.

The fire within

When it comes to music talent shows, I feel it's important to understand how slim the chances of long-term success are. But I do think everyone needs some form of experience as a starting point. This industry demands nerves of steel - it often becomes a test of survival rather than just talent. I have experienced both sides, as a contestant and as a judge, and there is a stark difference between the two roles. As a contestant, you

need intense fire within you. At eighteen, I carried a strong 'do or die' attitude that pushed me forward. As a judge, I realised I was in a position of responsibility, where my guidance could influence someone's entire career. A role like that must always be handled with seriousness, empathy, and compassion.

Language of music

For me, language is simply a medium of communication. Having performed in Punjabi, Tamil, Assamese, and various other languages, I believe that music speaks a language of its own. When you understand the emotion behind a song, you can feel it deeply even without fully knowing the words. One such song for me is *Jutti Meri*. When it became viral five years after its release, it reinforced my belief that good music always finds its place, no matter how long it takes. I feel incredibly proud that the song has been embraced by audiences across the world.

Message for Amitians

To make music, you cannot be driven by numbers alone. There is no guaranteed way to predict how people will connect with your art. Over my 23 years in the industry, I have learned the importance of staying grounded in reality. The only way forward is to remember who you are, where you come from, and to carry that humility with you at every stage of the journey.

Memories, milestones, and connections

Alumni Reunion 2025: A Celebration Of Alumni Pride, Purpose, And Partnership

AUUP | Greater Noida

Promoting alumni engagement, Amity University, Greater Noida, successfully organised its Alumni Reunion 2025 on December 9, 2025, bringing together graduates from various batches and academic disciplines. The event provided a vibrant platform for former students to reconnect with their alma mater and fortify their bond with the institution that shaped their futures. The reunion was graced by university leadership, faculty members, and distinguished alumni achievers. A memorable highlight featured an interaction with (Dr) Ajay Rana, director general professor, Amity University,



Director General, Prof (Dr) Ajay Rana, and faculty members felicitate alumni with badges

Greater Noida, who personally presented Amity Alumni Association badges to all attendees. The campus pulsed with nostalgia as alumni immersed themselves in interactive networking sessions, sharing tidbits from their profes-

sional journeys, notable accomplishments, and entrepreneurial experiences across sectors like technology, business, and public service. They expressed their sincere gratitude for Amity's commitment to academic rigour,

innovative teaching, holistic development, and unwavering career guidance that propelled their wonderful success. The programme doubled as a collaborative think tank, where the alumni contributed insightful sug-

gestions on curriculum modernisation, research partnerships, industry internships, and campus sustainability initiatives. These exchanges underscored the alumni's role as vital stakeholders in driving the university's growth and relevance in a rapidly evolving educational landscape. The Alumni Reunion 2025 concluded on an uplifting note of camaraderie and inspiration, leaving all those present with treasured moments and revitalised networks. The occasion highlighted Amity University, Greater Noida's steadfast focus on nurturing enduring alumni relationships, positioning them as mentors, collaborators, ambassadors for institutional excellence.

Text: Jiya Arora, XII C | Graphic: Ayesha Khan, XI A; AIS Gurugram 43

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

...continued from page 1

I know what failure looks like...

In 2003, the Pyrenean Ibex became the first extinct animal cloned back to life. It lived for ten minutes before dying from lung defects. That brief life exposed the technical fragility and ethical cost of reviving the extinct. There is also the matter of choice. Funding de-extinction may divert resources from species still alive but critically endangered. If extinction begins to feel reversible, urgency may fade and prevention may suffer.

Looking ahead, the future remains unsettled...

There is no comprehensive global framework governing the release of proxy species or the genetic modification of wild populations. Questions of classification, responsibility, ecological risk, and animal welfare remain unanswered. De-extinction is real science, not fantasy, but it is not a solution that absolves the past. If my kind walks this Earth again, it will not be because extinction was undone. It will be because humans chose to wield power with restraint. De-extinction can become a tool for repair, or a mirror reflecting how easily loss is justified.

I am the Tasmanian tiger. I disappeared once when certainty outpaced wisdom.

What returns next will reveal whether wisdom has finally caught up.

Turning problem into solution

Power-Hungry Data Centres Warm Homes In Finland

Naisha Choudhry, AIS PV, XI F

Finland's winters are no joke. Temperatures routinely plunge below minus 20°C, earning descriptions that range from 'bracing' to apocalyptic. Instead of fighting the cold with more fuel and fire, the Nordic nation has chosen a smarter route: heating areas using waste heat from underground data centres, some housed in former bomb shelters and mines.

The idea

Data centres run round the clock, powering everything from cloud storage to streaming services. In the process, they generate enormous amounts of heat, most of which wasted and cooled using costly systems. At the same time, Nordic countries spend heavily on fuel to keep homes warm. Finnish engineers spotted the overlap. By linking data centres to district heating networks,



they turned excess heat into a reliable, low-carbon source of warmth.

The process

Roughly 97% of the electricity used by servers is converted into low-grade heat, typically between 30-40°C. This heat is captured using water-based cooling loops and channelled through underground pipes to nearby homes,

schools, and offices. Finland's climate adds a bonus: for about 95% of the year, the cold air enables 'free cooling'. Many of the data centres are built deep underground, where stable temperatures due to granite bedrock further cut need for artificial cooling.

The works

The Telia Helsinki Data Centre already heats around 28,000 homes and is expanding towards 90% heat recovery. Microsoft-Fortum and Google's Hamina facility contribute significantly to city heating, cutting hundreds of thousands of tonnes of CO₂ annually.

The hits and lows

High upfront costs, reliability demands, and careful planning remain hurdles. Still, the model lowers bills, reduces emissions, and offers a scalable blueprint for other cold cities with district heating systems. 🇫🇮

TRRRRIINNGG!!!

The School's Loudest Authority

Devyanshi Goswami

AIS Gurugram 46, Alumna

Five minutes to go. Then four. The countdown begins... three, two, and one. Students stop pretending to listen and start staring at the clock. Then it rings... TRRRRIINNGGG! Across classrooms, students suddenly gain the energy of Olympic-level athletes as they rush towards the exit. Guiding students and teachers alike, the school bell is an authority in itself - the loudest and clearest one.

What's your jam?

Everybody reacts to the school bell differently, and timing plays a crucial role. For a latecomer sprinting down the corridor, it's the soundtrack to the walk of shame. For a student yet to finish an exam, it's nothing short of a death sentence (yes, exams really do make you that dramatic). The invigilator, on the other hand, treats the bell like a final verdict. Pens down. No arguments. No emotional appeals. But for most students, at the end of the school day, it's liberation in audio form.

A mythical being

You're mistaken if you think the school bell exists only to bring routine into students' lives. Laced with superstition, it's almost a mythical being. In

many cultures, bells are believed to ward off evil, summon knowledge, and bring good luck. In schools, it does all that, and then some. It calls us to assembly, announces exams, and provides the dramatic background score to every academic achievement. It's not just a sound; it's a moment you feel in your chest.

Simply irreplaceable

Schools have changed since our parents' time. Smart boards have replaced blackboards, and biometric attendance has ensured there are no more roll calls. But the bell? Still in charge. It may sound smoother now - less metallic - but its authority hasn't softened. The bell has survived every upgrade, ringing through generations after generations.

Love it or hate it, we obey

The school bell doesn't need to prove itself. It simply rings, and we follow. It decides when learning begins, when hunger strikes, and when relief floods the corridors. You'd think all that power would go to its head, but it keeps doing its job until it rusts and falls silent. Until then, we'll react as if our lives depend on it. In school, honestly, they kind of do.

(Devyanshi Goswami is pursuing B.Sc. (Biochemistry) from Sharda University.)

Illustration: Anvesha Dixit, AIS Gur 46, IX H

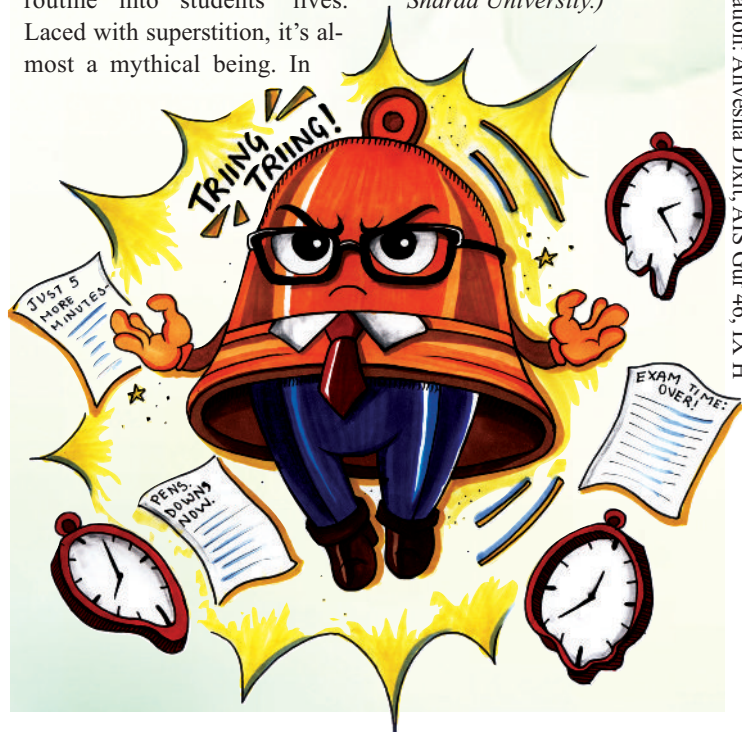


Illustration: Ayesha Khan, AIS Gur 43, XI A



Red, Yellow, Green

Diary Of The Silent Influencer Running Your City

Siddhi Gupta

AIS Gurugram 43, IX C

“Ek second aur green hone wali hai.” “Sir, line cross ho gayi.”

Spotlight on me every day, every hour. Oh hi, I'm Tria, the traffic light, the one you blame, shout at, and ignore. Born in December 1868 outside the British Parliament, I was inspired by railway signals thanks to JP Knight. Before, police stood in towers pulling levers. I started as gas lamps, exploded dramatically, disappeared and returned as electric lights, courtesy Detroit officers Lester Wire and William Potts. Also, fun detail: I wasn't always vertical. Welcome to my diary, where I turn from red to read.

Monday, 7:30 am: The great school rush. Red is the angry physics teacher. Yellow is the hesitant 'break?' Green is pure joy. Shortest syllabus, hardest to remember. Truly said: I blink, therefore I am. Children know me by age three, long before alphabets because symbols speak before language. I first blinked in Kolkata in 1928 and have been babysitting ever.

Tuesday, 7:30 pm: People pray for green like I'm Alexa. Honking doesn't help. I follow timed cycles or listen to sensors. West Milford's signal stays red for five minutes so stop crying at ten seconds. Also, Red stays on top because it has the longest wavelength as it cuts through fog, rain, and smog. Yellow was added later to save your time. Before, drivers went straight from green to red.

Wednesday, 2 pm: Green arrives and his majesty the Cow strolls in. Red triggers urgency, green lowers stress, and yellow is the cliffhanger of every commute. Japan uses blue because language evolved slower than infrastructure. In Germany, pedestrians follow a tiny green man 'Ampelmännchen', now a cultural icon with merch. My Singapore cousin uses AI. I rely on whistle-bhaiya. My extended family - speed breakers, roundabouts, traffic cones help me out.

Thursday, 4 pm: Scooter guy jumps a red. Meets me again at the next corner. Scooter guy: 0.

Universe: 1. Red-light cameras reduce fatal crashes by up to 30%, which is why people hate them, for the consequences are louder than logic. I've been painted with pride colours in Madrid and Vienna, turned into cartoons in Utrecht, sports icons in Ulaanbaatar. Prague even has the world's tiniest traffic light just two bulbs squeezed into a medieval lane. Adaptation is my trait.

Friday, 8 pm: Worst nightmare? A power cut. Rules evaporate instantly. Accident rates spike the moment I stop. That's why we use solar power with battery backups. Ten seconds or twenty, you'll still doomscroll, convinced time bends for you.

Saturday, 5:15 pm: I've been hacked, studied, worshipped and ignored. I've stopped presidents and let ambulances fly. I work because millions agree to obey the same fiction that three colours can hold a city together. Philosophers call it voluntary compliance. I call it urban magic. So next time, smile or wave. Keep calm... or I'll release recorded aunty voices to silence the honks.

Education in expression



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

As we draw the curtains on the current academic year, I would like to turn the spotlight on one of the most cherished milestones of school life, i.e., the Annual Day, which is not merely an event. It is a reflection of emotions, parental faith, the nurturing guidance of teachers, and the joy of learning. This is why, at Amity, we have always been thoughtful about how Annual Days are conceptualised and conducted.

When children step into the roles of great personalities or recreate stories from history, they imbibe values, understand heritage, and internalise life lessons. The preparation journey itself becomes transformative, where some children emerge as leaders, others as gifted performers or confident communicators, with all discovering the power of teamwork and self-expression. At Amity, every Annual Day is designed with inclusive participation at its core, ensuring no child is left behind. The year 2025 witnessed inspiring presentations such as 'Chintan se Chetna, Chetna se Vikas, Amity ka Prayas' (inspiring lives of Chanakya and Swami Dayanand Saraswati); Shivraya, the warrior king (based on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji); 'Mulyadhara' (based on Gandhian values); 'Nirantarta' (continuity of values), 'Shanti Sampann Bharat...a mission towards peace' and 'Swarn Kal se Swarn Kal tak (tracing India's journey from a golden past to a promising future). These themes went beyond spectacle, celebrating India's legacy, inspiring patriotism, and reviving timeless values rooted in our civilisational ethos. At Amity, Annual Days are the culmination of learning and serve as blueprints for lifelong growth. 🇮🇳

The inner spark



Dr Anshu Arora
Principal, AIS Gur 43

As Principal of this distinguished institution, I reflect on the challenges that our students face today - academic rigour, digital influences, and global uncertainties. Amidst all these pressures, safeguarding one's mental well-being becomes essential. Each child carries within themselves an inner spark of innocence, creativity, and resilience. When nurtured through play, reflection, and af-

firmation, this spark grows into emotional strength, enabling them to face life's trials with confidence.

Educators, therefore, are more than transmitters of knowledge; they are custodians of holistic growth. By weaving compassion into pedagogy through empathetic dialogue, personalised support, and a curriculum that honours individuality, teachers create safe spaces where character flourishes.

A powerful avenue for such empowerment is The Global Times, a platform gifted to Amitians by our Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan. This platform liberates the inner child, transforming introspection into expression. Students gain the ability to sharpen their analytical skills, articulate emotions, and embrace constructive critique. In doing so, not only do they heal themselves, but they also inspire peers - cultivating resilience and unity. This Contest Edition, curated by the efforts of our talented editorial board, stands as a testimony to values, hard work, and high spirit. It reflects the vision of our Chairperson and the collective strength of every Amitian, thoroughly preparing them to thrive in a complex world. 🇮🇳



Graphic: Priyanshi Bajpai, AIS Gur 43, XI A

Ragini Singhal, AIS Gur 43, XII S

Score thumbs and pristine white screens glow softly under the sliver of moonlight. Faces lit up, as yet another influencer echoes the words, "I quit my job for the plot." Perchance, you too have encountered this phrase in the wild and stopped to wonder - what is living for the plot? The term 'for the plot' began gaining virality in 2021, often with videos of impulsive acts that lodged themselves firmly into public imagination. As explained in the Urban Dictionary, it is the conscious decision to see yourself as the main character, where you are both director and star of your story, and your life is to be lived unapologetically.

The allure of the narrative

"Do it for the plot," whispers a voice in your head as you find yourself moving towards your teacher to ask for the lead role in the play. The Indiana Jones instinct - to leap into chaos for adventure - remains alive. Psychologists call this narrative identity: how we make sense of our lives

Page, stage, life

To Do It For The Plot Or Not?

by seeing them as stories. Research by Dan McAdams, a leading psychologist, shows that framing experiences as stories gives people a sense of purpose and control. Social media has only amplified this tendency. The plot-driven lifestyle normalises reinvention, be it travelling solo or trying new hobbies. According to a 2023 Deloitte survey, 61 percent of Gen Zs prefer experiences over material possessions. Doing plot-worthy things offers precisely that.

Plot pressure

But all that glitters is not gold. While spontaneous choices are thrilling, the pressure to stay interesting 24/7 soon follows. We can't all be Luke Skywalker, fighting intergalactic wars just to move the story forward. Social media rewards drama with likes and sponsorships, but it also fuels anxiety

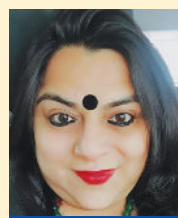
and comparison. The American Psychological Association reported in 2022 that social-media-driven impulsivity is linked to higher stress. Suddenly, nothing you do feels enough. Your cereal is too boring, your trips too repetitive, and your steady job too dull. Psychologist Dr Mark Dixon cautions that constantly viewing life as fiction can blur the line between authenticity and performance.

Balancing the book

McAdams' theory of narrative identity suggests that an integrated life story provides meaning, but unlike Shakespeare's famous line, life is not a stage. So, the need to perform constantly may become an unnecessary burden. Meaning can be found quietly, in the ordinary moments between plotlines. So, go forth, dear readers, take life as it comes. 🇮🇳

Preserving creativity in era of AI

In today's landscape, students interact daily with artificial intelligence, which permeates learning and creativity. What if AI eclipses the human capacity for original thought? Dangers lurk, but as vanguards, we must infuse our children with enthusiasm to emerge victorious in this



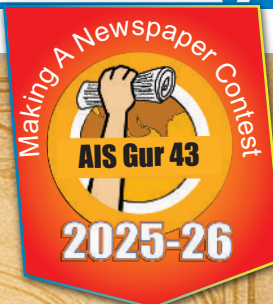
Shalini Ramaul
GT Coordinator

test. Creativity remains an indelible human trait, fuelling meaningful expressions. To preserve its value has become a challenge for us educators. We must constantly remember that AI functions as an aid: effective only through the directive of a human mind.

AIS Gur 43, inspired by

the vision of revered Chairperson ma'am, and mentored by Team GT, has plunged into a journey of self-discovery, moulding a creation true to itself. This edition unleashes the echoes of the soul, reflecting on the concerns of human existence, offering readers unique perspectives. So, heed this summon. Society depends on your unparalleled visions. Pursue inquiry. Embrace originality.

Illustration: Akshra Rana, XI A and Nandini Bora, IX A, AIS Gurugram 43



Perfume is more than a scent - it's chemistry, artistry, and centuries of tradition captured in a bottle. Each spritz blends natural oils, carefully crafted molecules, and layered notes to evoke memories, moods, and identities. Join **Parmeshi Juneja, AIS Gurugram 43, XI B**, on an enchanting journey through fragrance.

What makes a perfume?

Perfume is a precise blend of natural extracts, synthetic notes, alcohol or oils, and fixatives, each adding structure, depth, fragrance, and longevity.



The soul of scent

What they are: Oils from plants, woods, fruits, resins, and historically, even animals.

Purpose: Add richness and authenticity.

Examples: Vanilla, cinnamon, cedar, agarwood, myrrh, rose, chamomile, lemon, and orange.

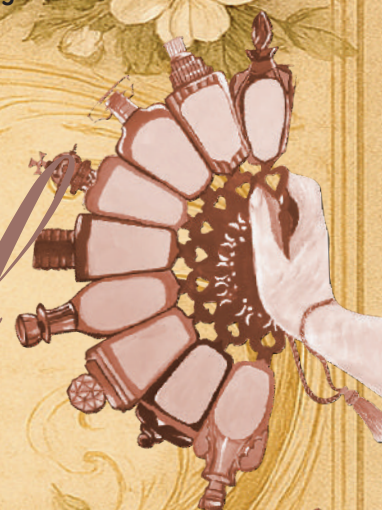
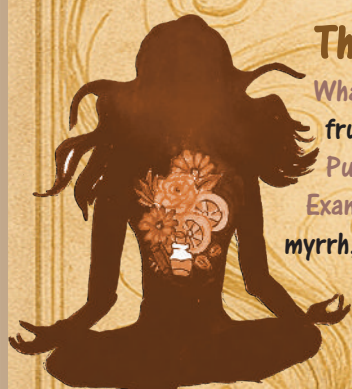
How perfume comes to life?

Step 1: Extracting essential oils- Methods include steam distillation, boiling, solvent extraction, enfleurage, maceration, and expression (pressing citrus peels).

Step 2: Blending- Master perfumers, known as 'noses,' combine natural and synthetic components using formulae perfected over years.

Step 3: Ageing- Blends rest for months to years, allowing notes to mature and harmonise.

Step 4: Finishing- Filtering → bottling → ingredient checks → safety testing.



The art of perfumery



Educational Poster

The medium matters

Alcohol-based fragrances
Evaporate quickly
Project strongly

Oil-based fragrances
Diffuse slowly
Sit closer to the skin
Linger longer, deeper

Common carriers include:
ethanol, benzyl alcohol,
eugenol, and botanical oils



The dreamers

What they are: Lab-created scent molecules used when nature is limited or unavailable.

Purpose: Provide consistency, creativity, and new fragrances never found in nature.

Examples: Ethyl maltol, coumarin, ambroxan, calone, and aldehydes.



The three acts

Perfume notes are categorised into top, heart, and base notes, which unfold over time, enriching the fragrance experience.

Top notes | 0-15 minutes | Light, bright, and attention-grabbing

Heart notes | 15 minutes - 4 hours | Define personality; it forms the core of the fragrance.

Base notes | 4 - 8+ hours | Deep, long-lasting foundation; emerges in the dry-down.

The invisible anchors

Fixatives slow time inside a perfume, allowing it to stay.

Natural fixatives: Patchouli, oakmoss, beeswax, myrrh.

Exalting fixatives: Vanilla, Peru balsam.

Process fixatives: Support extraction, blending, and stability.

They do not announce themselves but without them, a fragrance would disappear too soon.



Illustration: Karunika Chandrasekar, AIS Gurugram 43, X B

The wish well of Wirla



Kamakshi Khandelwal
AIS Gurugram 43, XII B

In the quaint town of Wirla, an altruistic well stands in the middle of the town square. The Dreamcatcher, as she was fondly called by the locals, had a soft spot for the youth. It is said, that no wish asked with a pure heart and earnest need ever goes unfulfilled by dear old Dreamcatcher. So, all loved their charitable well, all except one. Mira, exhausted from a day of dreaming, collapsed on a bean bag next to her best friend, Sara. "Can you believe the amount of money it takes to study a semester at Crowley University? It's extortion! I could build a spaceship, go to the moon, and start a university there for that much amount," she cried. "Slightly exaggerating, don't you think? Though your idea with the moon isn't bad, considering that's what you'll do after graduating," replied Sara. "Providing education to underprivileged extraterrestrials?" Mira joked, earning only a groan from Sara. Mira Raphael, nearing the end of her schooling, had been brilliant all her life. Her achievements ranged from academics to athletics, earning

her the pride of her town. Yet her true love always lay in the stars above. Inheriting her grandmother's telescope, Mira spent nights studying the sky, landing her straight to the Crowley University of Technology. Alas, her obstacle came in the form of money.

"You know," Sara suggested, "you could give old Dreamcatcher a visit." Mira protested, but Sara persisted. "It always worked when we were kids! Remember when I wished for a dollhouse, and a month later my mother won one in a lucky draw? There's no harm in trying." She grabbed her reluctant friend, and they walked towards the quiet town square.

They reached the well and Mira wrote her wish on a piece of paper, placed it in the metal tray on the well's sill, then closed her eyes and made a wish. All she could do now was wait for a miracle.

The children of Wirla never wondered how their wishes came to life. Their dreams of toys, dresses, or playgrounds were granted, and that was always enough for them. They never noticed the knowing glances among elders or the letters tucked in their grandparents' jackets. Every gift was met with gasps of surprise

Mira spent nights studying the sky, landing her straight to the Crowley University of Technology. Alas, her obstacle came in the form of money.

and neighbours' silent giggles as the post 'accidentally' arrived on the wrong porch.

Mira's letter of admission, accompanied by a complete scholarship from anonymous donors, arrived soon, greeted by the overjoyed screams of two teenage girls. That evening, Mira rushed to the town square and stood before the Dreamcatcher. She didn't ask for anything this time. She simply rested her hand on the cool stone rim and whispered her thanks.

Around her, the adults paused in their conversations. Some smiled softly, others exchanged glances heavy with affection and unspoken understanding. The well remained still, offering no sign of magic yet it needed none. For in Wirla, miracles rarely announced themselves. They arrived quietly, wrapped in kindness, carried by those who believed that dreams, when shared, had a way of finding their way home.



The man with the cart

Shaurya Saxena, AIS Gurugram 43, XII S

I look down on him, the man with the cart
From my pedestal, thoughts stir with a start
How very different my life may have been
Had I not been born to this house I am in

If he were born to the silk and not the sand
Would he then, too, scorn workers' hands?
I look down on him, the man with the cart
How am I the richer, as only he does his part

I look at his hands; tired, calloused, and cut
The pain of his life, though he shows it not
I feel it strike, like raging storms on a hut
While my hands are soft; no dirt, no spot

The wheels turn slow, his back bends sore
And inside my chest beats a hollow core
I want to speak but there's nothing I can say
Perhaps hoping I could wash his pain away

I look down on him, the man with the cart
And I feel his soul, rising within my heart
And the gulf before us, though vast before
Now fills with gentle seas, empathy galore.



Illustration: Ritisha Bansal, AIS Gurugram 43, IX A

Read Play and Win

100

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 What is the name of the well in the town Wirla as mentioned on page 8?

Q.2 Mention any two features of oil based fragrances as mentioned on page 7.

Q.3 The autobiography with the headline 'Red, Yellow, Green' is on page ____.

Q.4 Who is the author of the perspective article on page 6?

Q.5 What is the scientific name of Tasmanian tiger?

Q.6 What is the tagline for the article on page 12?

Q.7 Which famous singer has been interviewed on page 3?

Q.8 What is the name of the futuristic product advertised on page 4?

Q.9 Who is the EIC of Amity International School Gurugram 43?

Name: Class: School:

Results of Read Play & Win-99: **Umamah Rahman**, AIS MV, VIII D; **Vibhav Goyal**, AIS Gur 46, IV H; **Parth Lohia**, AIS PV, IV B



When history set sail again

INSV Kaundinya Revives India's Ancient Naval Prowess, Anchoring Self-Reliance

Parmeshi Juneja & Iha Nuvi
AIS Gurugram 43, XI B

Once upon a time, magnificent ships ruled the rumbling oceans, charting routes never travelled before. These Indian maritime marvels were steered by fearless sailors who were multifaceted pioneers of the seas. They were merchants who reshaped global trade, warriors who overcame formidable foes, and, above all, carriers of knowledge and wisdom. As an ode to the story of one such individual, Project Kaundinya was launched to reconnect the timeless ocean with the waves of India's maritime history.

Revival of the legend

The legend of Kaundinya spread far and wide along the routes he sailed and the lands he transformed. Departing the Indian subcontinent, the first-century mariner reached Southeast Asia long before colonial ships even considered venturing into those waters. Upon arriving in the fertile deltaic lands inhabited by the local Naga clan, his journey took an unexpected turn. His ship was ambushed by a naval fleet led by Soma, daughter of the powerful Naga chieftain. Though his crew repelled the assault with remarkable courage, the ship was left beyond repair. However, instead of a prolonged conflict, what followed was completely unexpected. Kaundinya's valour and wisdom captured the warrior princess's attention. A royal proposal followed, and their union led to the founding of Funan - the earliest known Cambodian kingdom. This partnership laid the foundation for a dynasty deeply influenced by Indian traditions, beliefs, and systems of governance.

Heritage brought alive

Naming INSV (Indian Naval Sailing Vessel) Kaundinya after the fearless mariner made perfect sense since the project re-

vives India's indigenous wisdom in seafaring and shipbuilding. Retracing a route sailed many moons ago, INSV Kaundinya embarked on its symbolic voyage from Porbandar, Gujarat, on December 29, 2025, for Muscat, Oman. Drawing from fifth century CE ship depictions found in the Ajanta Cave murals, INSV Kaundinya appears as though it has sailed into the 21st century from the first century CE. The uniqueness of this project lies not only in the vessel's ancient blueprints, but also in the philosophy that inspired it.



Remembering the seas

Proposed by Sanjeev Sanyal, a member of the PM's economic advisory council, Project Kaundinya was conceived to remind India of its once-commanding maritime presence. Ages ago, Indian sailors braved the perilous Indian Ocean, trading goods

while exchanging ideas, cultures, and philosophies. This project turns memory into motion. In July 2023, a tripartite MoU was signed between the Ministry of Culture, the Indian Navy, and Hodi Innovations, Goa. While the ministry ensured historical authenticity, Hodi Innovations translated ancient designs into a functional vessel, incorporating modern safety features such as satellite navigation. The navy provided operational supervision, and technical guidance. The ship's keel was laid in September 2023, launched in February 2025, and inducted into the Indian Navy on May 21, 2025.

Hands of history

True to its ethos, the ship was crafted by hands that honour sustainability. Under Master Shipwright Babu Sankaran, skilled Keralite craftsmen built INSV Kaundinya using the ancient *Tankai* method of boat-

making. Constructed entirely from natural, sustainable materials, the design received approval from both the Indian Navy and IIT Madras. Over months, the vessel was painstakingly stitched together with coconut coir ropes and natural resin. Its stitched - rather than nailed - wooden hull earned it the title 'The Stitched Ship'. Coconut coir rope replaced metal fastenings; natural resins and fibres bound the planks; trailing oars substituted rudders; and square sails bore culturally significant motifs. Entirely engineless, it relies solely on square sails and wind power, preserving the technological integrity of ancient Indian maritime practice. Inspired by Ajanta murals, the ship features the *Gandabherunda* and Sun emblems, a *Simha Yali* motif etched on the bow, and a Harappan-style stone anchor - each symbol reinforcing strength, protection, and continuity.

A journey reimagined

INSV Kaundinya's voyage from Porbandar to Muscat followed ancient trade routes once navigated by Indian sailors. While rooted in antiquity, the ship carried a modern edge, using Eutelsat's OneWeb low Earth orbit satellite network for onboard connectivity. Over 17-18 days, it sailed entirely under wind power. Commanded by officer-in-charge Commander Y Hemant Kumar and ship's skipper Commander Vikas Sheoran, the crew comprised 13 sailors and four officers of the Indian Navy. Their mission was both simple and profound: to prove the seaworthiness of ancient maritime architecture in modern conditions. On January 14, 2026, INSV Kaundinya arrived in Muscat to a ceremonial water salute. Omani authorities and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal welcomed the ship, marking a significant diplomatic and cultural moment. The voyage commemorated 70 years of India-Oman friendship and stood as a symbol of *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* and Indian ingenuity.

The success of Project Kaundinya serves as a living testament to India's naval brilliance, proving that our history didn't just walk forward - it sailed.



History, reimagined

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya: A Walk Through India's Leadership Legacy



Rajit Ranjan Pandey

AIS Gurugram 43, XII B

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya - a unique biographical museum, located in the heart of New Delhi, brings alive history in every corridor. Established in 2022 and inaugurated as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations, the museum attracts nearly 2,000 visitors each day. Walk through its two buildings, to discover the story of India's growth over 75 years through the lens of its leaders.

A nation finds its voice

The Teen Murti Estate, home to India's first PM Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, was the natural environment for Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, because this is a story of continuity. The first floor takes us into Nehru's world - his library with his collection of books, his



Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

personal spaces, and the quiet room where he breathed his last. The first building also houses the 'Toshakhana', where gifts from across the world - Bhutanese vases, Russian dolls, and more - reflect India's diplomatic journey. "Each gift represents a moment in international friendship," says Chandan Pugalia, CEO of the Sangrahalaya. The Sangrahalaya also has multiple sections dedicated to the members of the Constituent Assembly, starting with a life-size statue of Rajendra Prasad.

Reliving the past

What sets this museum apart from

others is that it not only preserves the past, but brings it to life as well. "Its two buildings - one reflecting our heritage and the other nuances of contemporary India - beautifully synergize the past and present," shares Pugalia.

Holograms, virtual reality, multi-touch, kinetic sculptures, experiential installations etc. enable the exhibition content to become highly interactive. "The main challenge during the design phase was how to properly preserve and present the artefacts using technology in a balanced way. But thanks to the expertise of all involved, we ensured that the museum is cul-



PM Nehru's testimonial



GT reporter with Pugalia

Pics: Hridika, AIS Gur 43, X B

turally significant and environmentally friendly," he shares. Key highlights include an AI Hologram that allows you to engage in AI powered conversations with a 3D avatar of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, taking a selfie with your favourite prime minister using augmented reality, and creating your own memorabilia with the help of robots featuring signed copies by your favourite prime minister.

Uniqueness at its best

Another special feature of the exhibition is the several unique shows that it has to offer. Be it the 'Bhavishya ki Jhalkiya' show where you sit in a helicopter pod

What: Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya

Where: Teen Murti Marg

Days: Tuesday to Sunday

Timings: 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; last ticket issued at 5:00 PM

Show timings: Hindi - 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM | English - 7:15 PM to 7:45 PM

for a 360 degree virtual reality projection of the nation's future or 'Parichay' - an immersive room that whisks you into the world of Indian prime ministers, rendering the entire experience unforgettable. Howbeit, the light and sound show, an immersive tale of valiant women warriors, remains the highlight, with two shows in English and Hindi daily.

A legacy to remember

"Visitors can learn the importance of leadership, and vision from India's prime ministers," says Pugalia. "If the museum inspires youth of our nation, it fulfils its mission," he says, signing off. 🇮🇳

Pics: Paras Salgotra, XI S and Ashmi Srivastava, XII S, AIS Gur 43



Illustrators, the painters of thoughts



Editorial board of AIS Gurugram 43, the curators of perspectives



Designers, engineering creativity



Photographer, the visual poet



Writers, the word-slingers



Editors, sculpting sentences

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

Oxford MUN

Amitians Prove Their Diplomatic Acumen Again



Team Amity at Oxford MUN

AERC

A team of nine students from the Amity Group of Schools proved their diplomatic genius on a global platform for the fifth consecutive year at the prestigious 11th edition of Oxford MUN, organised by Oxford Global from November 28 to 30, 2025, at the legendary University of Oxford, London. **Akshaj Rastogi (IX), AIS Noida**, received the best position paper award in the UNOOSA Committee, representing Poland, while **Agrim Bansal (IX), AIS Saket**, was awarded an honourable mention in the African Union (AU) Committee, representing Mauritius. The other members of the delegation comprised: Khushi Gupta (XI), AGS Noida; Siddhant Raj (XI), AIS Saket; Trisha Jaimini (XI), AGS Noida; Saanvi Jain (XI), AIS Noida; Siddhant Hudda (X), AIS Vasundhara 6; Mir Aimal Ali (VIII), AIS Pushp Vihar;

and Ashrit Das (XI), AIS Mayur Vihar. During the three-day conference, they raised global issues through various committees like the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) Australia; the Conference of the Parties (COP30) Australia; the World Health Organisation (WHO) Ireland; and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Mali. The delegation was accompanied by Meenu Kanwar, the principal of AIS Mayur Vihar, whose guidance and leadership played a pivotal role in supporting the students throughout the conference.

The event, facilitated by Amity Educational Resource Centre (AERC) under the guidance of director, AERC, and the leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, witnessed participation of more than 1000 delegates from 30-plus countries, making it one of the most vibrant and diverse global youth conferences. Apart from enhancing their understanding of the world order, geopolitics, and importance of diplomatic skills, Amitians also enriched their cultural understanding with an insightful session with the Oxford admissions' panel and participated in a guided tour of the historic Oxford colleges. They observed the renowned libraries, serene courtyards, rich academic traditions and even locations featured in Harry Potter films. They also toured the iconic landmarks, including National Science Museum, Tower of London, Windsor Castle, Covent Garden, an Stratford-upon-Avon (Shakespeare's Village).

When books came alive...

AIS VKC Lucknow

The school celebrated the seventh edition of its annual day 'Literary landscapes: Book nook comes alive' on December 17, 2025. The event was a vibrant tribute to the timeless power of literature, bringing classic and contemporary narratives to life through a captivating blend of drama, music, and creative expressions. The programme pro vice chancellor, Amity University, Lucknow, as the special guest along with Arti Chopra, the principal of AIS Gurugram 46. The event commenced with the auspicious lamp lighting ceremony and a heartfelt welcome address by the school's principal, Rachna Mishra. Students from Class IV-XI enthralled the audience with evocative enactments inspired by literary legends like Rabindranath Tagore. A spirited adaptation of William Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' added wit and lyrical charm, while the



A mesmerising showcase of literary world

scenes inspired by the magical universe of Harry Potter delighted the audience, igniting nostalgia and wonder alike. The evening culminated with a thought-provoking and imaginative courtroom drama titled 'The Trial of Creativity - AI vs the Authors', which creatively highlighted the impact of artificial intelligence on literature and human creativity. All the performances stood as a testament to the students' creati-

ity, and collaborative spirit. Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, blessed the students virtually, appreciating their efforts and emphasising the importance of literature, creativity and values in education in her address. Her inspiring words motivated the students and encouraged them to continue exploring knowledge beyond textbooks.



Somjeet Singh, captain, Indian wheelchair cricket team, felicitates the winners

Aquila 2.0

AIS VYC Lucknow

The school organised 'Aquila 2.0 - Celebrating Youth Sportsmanship and Excellence' with great enthusiasm on December 24, 2025. The event was graced by Prof (Dr) Anil Vashisht, Pro Vice chancellor, Amity University, Lucknow, along with Yuvaan Pandey, Team Captain, U-19 Singapore national cricket team, and Somjeet Singh, captain, Indian wheelchair cricket team, as special guests.

The event commenced with lamp lighting ceremony followed by a welcome address by school principal Roli Tripathi. It was followed by a number of activities like a yoga presentation by Class I wherein students displayed calmness, control, and harmony of mind and body. Students of the same class presented 'The Roots of Love and Values'

a song dedicated to grandparents. Karate drill titled 'Fearless Frames' reflected confidence and courage of Class VI-VIII. The pre-primary wing showcased Hoopla Hustle while Class Nursery-I made the campus euphonious with 'Rhythms of Traditions' tabla percussion. Sports drill - Harmony of Heroes by Class VI-VIII - demonstrated teamwork, coordination, and discipline. The culminating cultural presentation - *Sur, Taal, Parampara aur Prem* - created a soulful atmosphere, blending music, rhythm, and tradition. The prize distribution towards the end of the event witnessed distinguished young sportsmen being honoured for their achievements. Aquila 2.0 concluded on a joyful and festive note with the surprise arrival of Santa Claus and Christmas eve celebrations followed by the national anthem.



Proud winners with Dr SK Sarin, director, ILBS

Hepatitis Day

AIS Pushp Vihar

Three young minds of the school brought home laurels at the 28th Hepatitis Day event organised by the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on December 4, 2025. Aryan Khera (XI) won first prize in video making, Devyan Batra (VIII) secured first prize in Hindi

slogan writing and Alia Bhatia (VIII) earned consolation prize in English slogan writing competition. The event, themed 'Together for a hepatitis-free generation', was graced by Nikhil Kumar, secretary of health and family welfare, GNCTD, as the chief guest and aimed at raising awareness amongst the public about the viral spread of hepatitis.

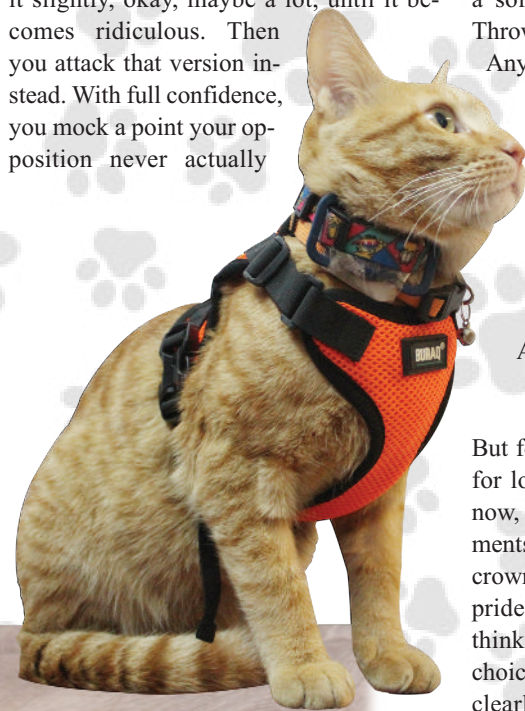
A Practical Guide On How To Win Arguments Without Being Right

Anaya Dogra, AIS Gurugram 43, XI S

Ignorance is bliss. And the most blissful people of all are those who somehow manage to never be wrong. Between their constant "I told you so" lies the gentle music of unethical arguing. So, the next time you are stuck in an argument you clearly cannot win, maybe it is time to, just for a moment, set your morals aside. Pick up your weapons. Welcome to a beginner's guide to logical fallacies.

The straw man

Every fight needs backup, someone who steps in while you are metaphorically lying on the ground, questioning your life choices. Who should it be? A brave knight? A battle-hardened warrior? No. Too capable. What you really need is the straw man. Yes, he's weak. Yes, one strong breeze could knock him over. But that's exactly the point. When your opponent makes a reasonable argument (how rude!), you twist it slightly, okay, maybe a lot, until it becomes ridiculous. Then you attack that version instead. With full confidence, you mock a point your opposition never actually



made. Well done! You have successfully defeated a pile of hay. And a win is a win.

The red herring

Disaster strikes. Ring the bells! Your opponent is about to reach the point. And if that happens, you may have to admit you're wrong; oh, the horror. Thankfully, there is a solution. Turn to smoke and mirrors. Throw in something completely unrelated. Anything will do. Change the topic. Bring up penguins. Mention your neighbour's cousin's dentist if you have to. Just make sure it is confusing enough to drag the conversation to the farthest points of uncharted territory. Because by the time your opponent finds their way back, the original point is gone. Crisis avoided. Absolutely no apology required.

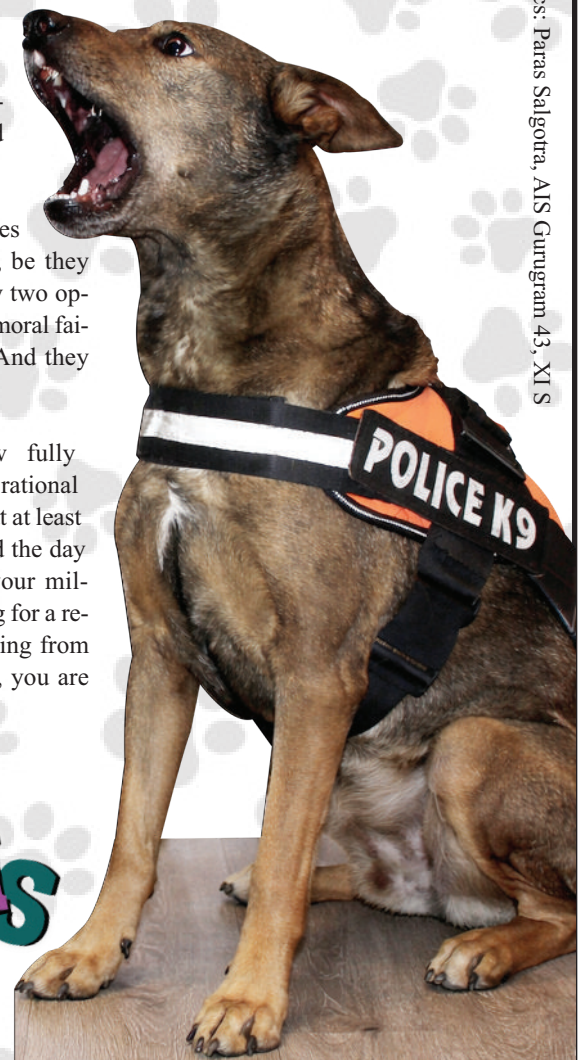
False dilemmas

But fortune does not favour even the bold for long. Your opponent is making sense now, wielding their evidence-backed statements. You can feel the cold and miserable crown of defeat inching towards you. Your pride trembles. This is when you stop thinking in shades of grey. Create a false choice. If they do not agree with you, then clearly, they must support the most ex-

Unethical Debate 101

treme, horrible option imaginable. Act shocked; scandalised beyond measure. Ask how they could possibly believe or support something so awful, so despicable. Ignore all middle ground, for nuances have no place on the battlefield, be they physical or verbal. There are only two options now: your way, or complete moral failure. Computers think like this. And they seem confident. Why not you?

Congratulations! You are now fully trained in illogical combat. Sure, rational people may fear and avoid you, but at least your ego will rest peacefully. And the day comes, perhaps after you lose your millionth argument, you come looking for a refund, I will be conveniently missing from the face of this planet. Basically, you are not getting your money back.



Pics: Paras Salgotra, AIS Gurugram 43, XI S

Pics: Paras Salgotra, XI S and Ashmi Srivastava, XII S, AIS Gurugram 43



Editors-in-chief: Ragini Singhal & Kamakshi Khandelwal



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