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THE GT POLL

S Jaishankar has linked global food security concerns to fertilizer shortages. What should India focus on?

- A) Supporting farmers
- B) Developing alternatives
- C) Building larger reserves

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THE GT POLL RESULT for GT Edition Oct 5, 2026

The Delhi government is taking steps to combat winter pollution, such as WFH and a moratorium on construction and demolition. Will this help reduce pollution?

67% Yes

22% No

11% Can't say

Results as on Oct 10, 2026

Coming Next

See you after Dussehra break!



Chairperson receives the Lifetime Achievement award from Prof (Dr) H C Verma



Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan with guests & other dignitaries of IAPT

Championing science

Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan Conferred With Lifetime Achievement Award For Science Popularisation

ACSF

As the F-2 Auditorium at Amity University, Noida, reverberated with thunderous applause and a standing ovation, every eye turned towards one person - Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF. On October 6, she was felicitated with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award for Science Popularisation' by the Amity Children's Science Foundation (ACSF) and Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT-RC1), in recognition of her over three decades of dedicated efforts towards nurturing scientific temperament and the spirit of innovation among school children. The prestigious honour was presented to her by the legendary Padma Shri awardee Prof (Dr) H C Verma, emeritus professor, IIT Kanpur; Prof P K Ahluwalia, national president, IAPT; Prof Rekha Ghorpade, general secretary, IAPT; Surjan Singh, vice president, IAPT-RC1; head ACSF, and other distinguished dignitaries at the valedictory ceremony that marked the culmination of the 40th IAPT Annual Convention 2026 (Ruby Jubilee Celebration). The convention was hosted by Amity University, Noida, from October 4-6, 2026. Expressing her deep gratitude for the heartfelt recognition of her efforts towards popularising science through school education, Chairperson fondly recalled the early days of Amity and the vision with which its Found-

er President, Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, had established the institution. Sharing what had inspired her own journey, she recalled that after spending more than 30 years in Germany, when she returned to India, she realised that the key differentiator between the two nations was science and technology. While Germany had made remarkable progress in these areas, India was still finding its feet in the post-Independence era. As a citizen who deeply wished to give back to her country, she decided to choose education as the most powerful instrument for transformation that India needed.

She recalled how, in 2006, 'Vasudha', the first school-level science competition modelled on the National Children's Science Congress, was conceived to encourage every child to engage, explore, experiment, and innovate. Students were encouraged to develop original science projects, which were evaluated by eminent scientists who also mentored them for national and international competitions. What began as one initiative to kindle scientific temperament has since grown into a remarkable journey of innovation. Today, Amity Group of Schools has 223 patents and copyrights filed by school children for science projects developed through Vasudha, with their work being presented, awarded, and recognised at prestigious national and international forums. She also highlighted the continued efforts of ACSF in taking science education to new frontiers

through programmes and courses in quantum computing, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, space science, and other emerging areas, equipping the young learners to become truly world-ready.

Emphasising the need to encourage greater participation of girls in science, she shared a revealing incident from Amity's early years, when a parent once approached the Principal's office with reservations about the school having a woman physics teacher. That very teacher went on to nurture some of the school's finest Physics achievers year after year and has herself continued to make significant contributions to the field through IAPT. Moreover, many accomplished women physics teachers at Amity have carried this legacy forward, nurturing in children the love for science.

Concluding on an emotional note, Chairperson shared that she felt like a happy mother being recognised by some of the country's most eminent experts for an endeavour very close to her heart - to nurture children who think, ideate, and innovate, while remaining grounded in core human values and responsibility towards society and the nation.

The three-day convention brought together 300 passionate physics educators, students, innovators, and researchers from across India to deliberate on topics like emerging trends, experiment designing, challenges, and opportunities in teaching, learning, and research in the field of Physics. [GT](#)



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



UK

Farewell Jeffery Archer

Celebrated novelist Jeffery Archer has passed away, leaving behind a remarkable literary legacy of 31 novels and multiple short stories and plays. In a statement, Archer's publisher HarperCollins said the author died 'suddenly and peacefully at home' **between writing sessions**. His final work, *Adam & Eve*, was published on October 6, just a day after his death. In his **five-decade writing career**, Archer has sold more than 300 million copies, his most popular ones being 'Clifton Chronicle' and 'Kane and Abel'.



SWEDEN

Nobel for brain tool

Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel have won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discovery of neuroscience tool called optogenetics. It uses light-gated ion channels from algae to **turn specific brain cells on or off using precise light pulses**. Developed to decipher complex brain functions, optogenetics enables scientists to study living neurons and trace the root causes of conditions like depression, autism, addiction, and schizophrenia. The research paves the way for highly targeted therapies and shows promise as a future treatment to restore sight in cases of blindness.



RUSSIA

Plague anxiety

The death of a 28-year-old lab worker at the Irkutsk Anti-Plague Research Institute in Siberia has sparked global concerns about a suspected pneumonic plague outbreak. Authorities **have not confirmed that she had plague**, but hospitals have introduced precautionary steps such as screening people for its symptoms. Nearly 200 people have also been put under medical observation. Downplaying the incident, Russia's health watchdog, Rospotrebnadzor, attributed the death to 'pneumonia of unknown origin' and stated that no high-threat pathogens were detected. The WHO has currently assessed the global risk as very low.



USA

New space milestone

NASA astronaut Jessica Watkins **became the first Black woman to lead a crew into orbit as four astronauts reached the ISS in a record-breaking US flight**. The crew arrived aboard SpaceX's Dragon capsule just 7 hours and 55 minutes after launching from Florida, breaking the previous US record which took over 30 hours. Watkins, a geologist who previously worked on NASA's Mars rover Curiosity, is making her second trip to the station. The astronauts will spend 6 months aboard the ISS.



FRANCE

Students up in arms

The country is struggling to contain its biggest student demonstrations in decades. Over 250,000 protesters, including students, teachers, and members of different unions, have taken to the streets to demand education reforms such as replacing absent teachers, resolving overcrowded classrooms, and upgrading dilapidated facilities. Amid escalating clashes, PM Sébastien Lecornu has suspended high school classes. Over 6,500 people have been arrested since mid-September.



INDIA

Medal rush

India concluded its campaign at the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya with 85 medals, including 21 gold, 27 silver, **and 37 bronze, finishing fourth overall** after a campaign marked by dominant performances in team sports, historic **individual triumphs**, and **several first-time podium finishes**. Though the tally fell short of the historic 106-medal haul at the Hangzhou Asiad in 2023, the performance remains India's second-best ever, achieved with a 25% smaller athlete contingent.



AUSTRALIA

Hottest September

The country recorded its hottest September for night-time temperatures since national records began in 1910. Average temperatures were 2.71°C above the 1961-1990 average, making it the second-hottest September overall. In Kosciuszko National Park, snow **depth fell to zero for the first time since records began in 1954**. Scientists said climate change and El Niño had caused the unusually hot and dry conditions. Australia has not recorded a cooler-than-average September since 2004.

Classical footnotes

T Reddi Lakshmi On Her Graceful Journey Of Kuchipudi

Tapasya Aggarwal
AIS Gurugram 46, XI G

What does it take to sustain a classical legacy in the modern world? For T Reddi Lakshmi, it takes discipline and unwavering devotion. Celebrated as one of the most accomplished Kuchipudi dancers of her generation and a recipient of the Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, she has earned acclaim for embodying the

quintessential grace and brilliance of the art form. Speaking with GT reporters at a SPIC MACAY event hosted by AIS Gurugram 46 earlier this year, she reflected on her long journey.

Learning with every step

I grew up in Andhra Pradesh where South Indian films were a way of life. I especially loved films centred around dance. Naturally, I began learning dance, though I had no idea which form it was. For the longest time, I believed I was learning Bharatanatyam. Only later did I discover it was Kuchipudi. Knowing that I was learning dance form so deeply rooted in my own state's heritage gave me immense satisfaction. The defining moment, however, came when I found my Guru, Pad-



Lakshmi and team with GT reporters

ma Shri awardee Veernala Jayarama Rao. Under his guidance my understanding of dance expanded beyond technique and into philosophy, creativity, and life itself.

Dancing to her dream

For ten years, I worked in a multinational company. I had a stable career, financial security, and everything that comes with a conventional profession. I feared dance would never offer the same financial rewards, but my heart had already made its choice. Receiving the top-grade recognition from Doordarshan was one of the milestones I had written down early in my career. But success also demands sacrifices that most people never see. Yet, every sacrifice felt worthwhile because my greatest joy comes from dancing, learning, and teaching. I only hope that this passion remains with me throughout my life.

Embracing all the turns

Kuchipudi has transformed over the years.

Earlier, it was performed exclusively by male artists. Today, women have become its strongest ambassadors. Telugu was once the only language of performance, whereas today I perform compositions in Hindi as well. Costumes, choreography, and stagecraft have all evolved. But these changes have enriched the art without diminishing its essence. I often explain this to my students through a simple analogy - 'The grammar of a language remains constant, but every writer creates unique stories'. Dance is no different. The grammar must remain intact, but every dancer should find their own voice. My Guru gave me that freedom, and it is the greatest gift I can pass on.

Moving ahead with grace

An art form like Kuchipudi is a lifelong *tapasya* that requires discipline, perseverance, and years of practice. Many admire it, and even dancers from other traditions express a desire to learn it after watching a good performance. But admiration alone isn't enough. Only sustained dedication allows one to stay the course. For me, my commitment is unwavering. As long as I live, I will continue to learn, perform, teach, and contribute to the future of Kuchipudi.

Message for Amitians

Cherish your teachers, honour your elders, and remain a dedicated student lifelong. Knowledge blossoms most beautifully in a heart that is humble.

INTERVIEW

T Reddi Lakshmi, Kuchipudi dancer

The odyssey of mankind

Book: Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind | **Author:** Yuval Noah Harari
Published in: 2011 (Hebrew), 2014 (English)

Synopsis: Sapiens follows the story of us - Homo Sapiens. How did a rather ordinary ape become the master of the entire planet? Yuval Noah Harari argues that it was our ability to imagine that helped us cooperate in large numbers. From learning to survive in the wild, to farming, to creating religions and currencies to hold us together - we kept evolving. Then came science and machines, which made our lives so much easier but also lonelier. Despite having more than ever before, why are we still so confused, restless, and unhappy? And with AI now knocking at our door, what does our fu-

ture even look like? Bold, wide-ranging, and provocative, Sapiens challenges everything we thought we knew about being human: our thoughts, our actions, our power ... and our future.



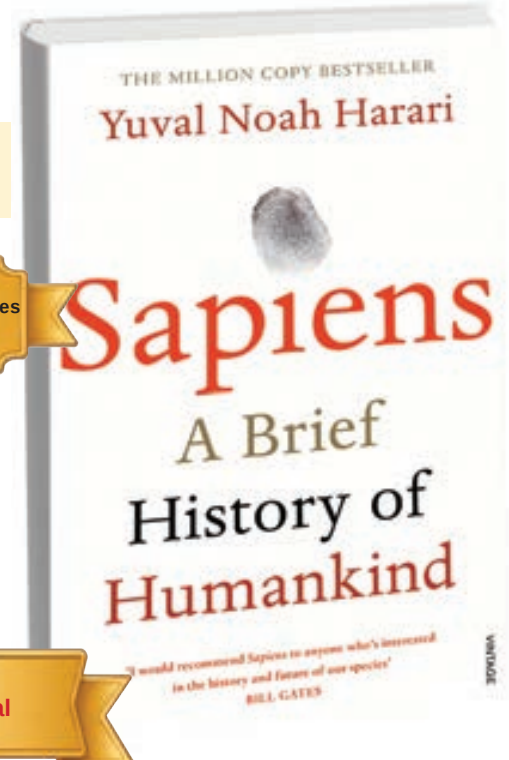
Why is it worth reading: The book covers a mind-boggling 13.5 billion years of history, yet it never feels like a textbook. Harari blends biology, anthropology, paleontology, and economics into one seamless story of humankind. For young readers, I wish there were more illustrations, but honestly, the writing is so vivid that you can paint the pictures in your head. It's the kind of book that

Iconic quote
"One of history's few iron laws is that luxuries tend to become necessities and to spawn new obligations."

doesn't just inform you, it changes the way you look at yourself and the world around you. It's a must-read for anyone who hates history because Harari's writing is literally a blueprint for making the subject accessible and enjoyable for all.



Rating: ★★★★★
Review by: Nishad Harshal Salve, AIS Saket, VII B



Road repair on the go

Fixing Potholes Made Easier By AI-powered Module



IP Status: Design patent filed

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

Taking road maintenance on the move, **Bhaavya Singh**, a student of Class X A, AIS Vasundhara 6, has developed **Road Doctor**, an AI-powered autonomous module that can detect potholes and repair them. Combining AI, sustainable materials, and renewable energy, this innovation aims to make roads safer.



Bhaavya explains how she combined AI and sustainability for the project

A mobile repair system

Road Doctor is an advanced vehicle-mounted module designed to tackle potholes in real time. Installed at the front of a vehicle, it continuously scans the road ahead and identifies surface defects before automatically repairing them. Unlike conventional road maintenance systems that depend on scheduled repairs and manual intervention, Road Doctor acts immediately. The module carries a specially formulated repair mixture made from recycled PET plastic and bitumen, allowing it to fill potholes quickly and efficiently as the vehicle moves.

Science in action

The project combines artificial intelligence with material science. Similar to autonomous vehicles, it has a computer-vision system that uses cameras and AI-powered image processing to detect potholes and assess their dimensions. A heating unit melts

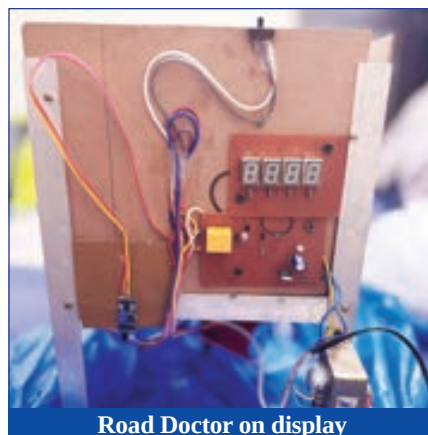
the PET-bitumen mixture to the ideal consistency before filling damaged sections. Recycled plastic enhances durability, while bitumen provides adhesion and weather resistance. Solar panels and lithium batteries power the module, making it energy-efficient and environment friendly.

Built with determination

Bhaavya's father suffers from chronic back pain, often aggravated by driving on pothole-ridden roads. This personal concern inspired her to create safer roads, reduce accidents, and improve commuters' quality of life. Work on Road Doctor began in June 2025 and was completed within two months of intensive research, design, and testing, integrating AI-based detection with a practical, sustainable repair mechanism.

Overcoming challenges

Selecting the right power source was a major challenge. Grid electricity, generators,



Road Doctor on display

batteries, and hybrid models were evaluated before choosing solar power for operational independence, lower long-term costs, and sustainability. The flexibility to connect alternative power sources was also incorporated for use in different environments.

Looking ahead

Bhaavya envisions enhancing Road Doctor with advanced AI algorithms, LIDAR integration, wider detection ranges, improved repair materials, and IoT-enabled analytics. Future plans also include extensive field testing and performance monitoring to ensure the system can operate effectively under real-world conditions.

Expressions of gratitude

Bhaavya credits Road Doctor's develop-

Addressing UN SDGs

- SDG 3** (Good health and well-being)
Reduces accident-related injuries
- SDG 7** (Affordable and clean energy)
Uses renewable energy system
- SDG 13** (Climate action) Lowers the environmental impact of road maintenance
- SDG 15** (Life on land) Repurposes recycled PET (polyethylene terephthalate) plastic into useful infrastructure material.

Awards and Recognition

Year	Awards
2026	Selected among the top 75 teams at the National Science Centre Advanced to Level 2 of Prayaas
2025-26	Showcased at platforms such as YRONS, Skill Expo, and Youth Ideathon

ment to the invaluable support of Chairperson (Dr) Mrs Amita Chauhan, Sunila Athley, principal, and her entire school community. The school's engineering lab and computer facilities enabled prototyping and testing. Besides, peer collaborators' constant encouragement, feedback, and expertise helped transform her idea that was rooted in personal experience into a tangible, well-researched innovation.

Aaditri Animesh

AIS Gurugram 46, X H

Innocent readers, we've been scammed! Nature's perfect gifts are guilty of identity fraud, optical illusions, and secret UV highlights. Let's expose these seemingly harmless fruits and uncover the truth.

Case file #01: First-degree citrus forgery

'When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!' But life never actually gave us lemons. A hybrid fruit, the lemon originated from ancient crossbreeding between citron and bitter orange and belongs to the Citrus genus of Rutaceae.

Case file #02: Fraudulent berry claims

There's been a pretty huge mix-up, and evidence suggests that strawberries aren't really berries; well, I am sure you didn't guess, but bananas are! Botanically, bananas are one long stretched-out berry. And what you consider as fruit - a strawberry - is just the swollen base of the plant. Now that, makes me feel berry bad.

Furtive fruit files

The Sweet, Sneaky, And Suspicious Gang

Case file #03: Deceptive optical fraud

Nature played its labelling prank again, and this time it's the blueberries who deceive

our eyes with their blue colour, but they're really green, purple, or even clear underneath. Blueberries are blue because they

have a waxy coating called epiccin on their skins which reflects blue light wavelengths and shields the fruit from ultraviolet (UV) rays. So, remember that it's all just a sly optical illusion of nature.

Case file #04: Fluorescent disco fever

Here's Honeydew melon's secret. Shine black light on their rind and they glow a bright, electric green. The rind possesses fluorescent compounds like diphenyl acetonitrile that absorb UV light and re-emit it as vibrant green under black light to attract pollinators at dusk or repel pests. So, don't be surprised when the dull honeydew becomes a disco icon.

In the fruit world, things aren't always as they seem. So, keep peeling back those layers... your next bite might just hold the next big secret. **GT**

Illustration: Anvesha Dixit
AIS Gurugram 46, X H





Fashion police: Parents edition

Generational Outfit-Check

Saanvi Nagar

AIS Vasundhara 1, XII B

Ah, teenage fashion - the perfect storm of crop tops, oversized jeans, and accessories bold enough to make a Christmas tree self-conscious. But no teen's runway dreams are complete without parental critics turning outfits into comedy specials, where sass is sharper than your cat-eyeliner.

Jeans jamboree

Dad: Beta, what's the story with those ripped jeans? Did you wrestle a tiger?

Teen: They're fashion, dad.

Dad: Fashion? Looks like the dog got to them first. So, you're telling me we're paying full price for half the fabric?

Dad shakes his head in wallet-induced heartbreak as the teen walks away.

Accessory avalanche

Mom: Are those earrings or satellite dishes?

Teen: They're trendy, mom!

Mom: Trendy? You look like you're auditioning to replace Doordarshan's antenna.

Dad: *Dramatic gasp* Oh my Christmas tree, you're just a few lights short!

The teen bangs her head into the wall as the 'antennas' clank in the hallway.

Hoodie hurdle

Dad: Why do you always wear that hoodie? Do you have shares in a blanket factory?

Teen: It's comfy and stylish.

Dad: Stylish? You look like a ninja who quit midway through ninja school to binge Netflix!

Meanwhile, mom offers the dog another hoodie. Apparently, he needs a blanket too.

Parents' critiques may feel like daggers aimed at your style, but they're often hilariously wrapped parcels of love with a hint of regret for their own questionable fashion phases. Cherish these memories because nothing says family bonding like a neon top and a dad joke.

Kahani khichdi ki

Grains Of History Mixed With Perfection

Illustration: Vikruti, AIS Gurugram 43, XI C



Iha Nuvi, AIS Gur 43, XII B

"Mummy! Bimaar toh lekin didi hai, aap mujhe kyu khichdi de rahe ho?" "Mei sabke liye alag-alag khana nahi bana sakti! Ch-up-chap khichdi khalo."

In Indian households, a timeless debate ensues: *Khichdi* for the ailing, or *Khichdi* for the entire family? Naturally, the ailing have no choice but to indulge, or face the wrath of their mother's super fast, flying slipper. As a nutritious and delectable dish crafted from simple, accessible household ingredients, I've long wondered why young children harbour such a harsh grudge against me. I'm just a harmless dish made with handful of *dal* and a cup of rice combined in a cooker with some spices. Due to my sheer simplicity yet great benefits, I knew I was destined for greatness since the day I was curated. My name is *Khichdi*, and my history transcends time.

Did you know that my origins date way back to the Vedic times, derived from the Sanskrit term, '*Khichcha*,' which meant a dish prepared from rice and legumes? In Hindu culture, mothers feed me to their infants as their first solid food. I truly am multitasking. Interestingly, my versatility even extends to the great Indian epic, Mahabharata, where Draupadi nourished the Pandavas with

good old me during their exile. Furthermore, not just Indians, but many ancient foreign visitors, like Ibn Battuta have also praised my subtle flavours in the Hindustani culture, just as I rightly deserve! In the Mughal era, my legendary status was cemented through the story '*Birbal ki Khichdi*,' where Birbal cleverly cooked me to teach Akbar a wise lesson in judgement. Who knew a dish made of humble lentils and rice could school an emperor? But that is just my unparalleled and lethal charm - transforming simplicity into timeless wisdom. In fact, it was during this time when I truly gained popularity within the Indian subcontinent. But let's be honest, I would have risen to stars even without Mughal interference. They simply gave me a push. Akbar's courtier, Abdul Fazl was so fond of me that he used to get 30 maunds of me cooked every day, for 24-hour public enjoyment. Talk about how lucky his neighbours must have been! Among other Mughal emperors, Jahangir admired my taste with some alterations and more spice, calling me *lazezan*. Sometimes, it's hard for me to keep track of all my names, I am just that fabulously diverse! My divine taste has also transcended borders, reaching Queen Victoria of England in the 19th century through her Urdu tutor, Abdul Karim. She preferred me

with *Masoor-ki-dal*, earning me the regal name *Malika Masoor*. Are you impressed yet, dear reader? The same delicacy you frown at the sight of on your table, was once eaten by mighty kings and queens. I truly am a royal dish.

Today, I'm prepared differently across India, from Rajasthan's refreshing breakfast *Pongal*. You really cannot deny my delicate style. My one-pot comfort is celebrated by all my fans for being rich in nutrition. My main components once cooked aid your body in digestive balance and increase your intake of protein. Believe it or not, I am also a great supplier of carbohydrates, calcium, and fibre. Too much is never enough. There is nothing wrong with consuming me every day that is, if your taste buds improve first. Now, I am not the one to brag but, globally in the 21st century, my name echoes from the vast expanse of Mount Rushmore in the USA and across the pond to the great London Bridge in the UK.

And so, dear reader, as my merry tale comes to an end, I hope you remember my history and advantages the next time you are bestowed with a hearty bowl of nourishment, regardless of your health. And of course, when life presents you with rice and lentils, *Khichdi* it out! Bon Appétit! **GT**

Honouring the achievers



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

At the recent AICE felicitation ceremony, as we honoured our achievers in JEE, NEET, Olympiads, and the Maths Test Series, my heart filled with immense pride. I saw before me not merely students who had excelled in competitive examinations, but young minds who carry the promise of becoming the nation's future doctors, engineers, researchers, and innovators, whose spirit of excellence will always be anchored in strong human values. The event

was especially inspiring as it brought our achievers face to face with eminent academic stalwarts. Prof (Dr) Himali Ahluwalia, director, Lady Hardinge Medical College, met some of our alumni whom she had taught in MBBS and warmly appreciated them not only as accomplished doctors, but as humble and sincere human beings. Padma Shri awardee Prof (Dr) Y S Rajan's presence and inspiring words on learning, entrepreneurship, and innovation for India encouraged our students to understand the larger purpose of their education.

Such interactions with accomplished academic leaders inspire a whole new generation to dream of becoming professionals who will build our nation meaningfully. Thus, this deeply fulfilling ceremony of honouring more than 124 super achievers was not just about trophies and medals, but it was also a celebration of the hard work of students, and the relentless support of parents and the teachers. At Amity, nurturing good human beings who are driven by the highest standards of excellence has always been integral to our educational philosophy. I am confident that Amitians will continue to achieve and contribute to our Founder President's vision of making India a knowledge superpower by 2030. **GT**

Physics of life



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

This edition is special as we celebrate our visionary Chairperson ma'am whose lifelong commitment towards nurturing scientific temperament has earned her the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for Science Popularisation by ACSF and IAPT-RC1. The honour became even more meaningful as she received it from Prof (Dr) H C Verma, the living legend himself. Science cannot be confined to textbooks and labs. It begins with observ-

ing, questioning, and wondering. The rotating fan or even a bucket of water can open doors to fascinating ideas. When the young winners of NAEST shared how they had conducted experiments with everyday objects, their enthusiasm revealed that physics becomes difficult only when we stop looking at the world with curiosity. The recently announced Nobel Prize in Physics also reminds us that the questions we ask today can lead to discoveries that transform our understanding of the universe.

Physics is most certainly a futuristic discipline, as it lies at the heart of quantum technology, space exploration, artificial intelligence, energy, and more. This is why our Chairperson ma'am's path-breaking initiatives are so forward-looking, as they create opportunities for children to question and experiment beyond their academic curricula. Perhaps a Nobel laureate in Physics of tomorrow might already be sitting in an Amity classroom today. If so, the foundation for that journey is being laid, through Chairperson ma'am's unwavering belief in nurturing curiosity and the courage to explore. **GT**

Accepted by default

The Fine Print Behind Everyday Decisions

Agrima Swaroop
AIS Noida, XII H

What if some of the most important choices in life come with terms and conditions we never agreed to? From the career we choose to the risks we avoid, many decisions feel like our own. Yet, somewhere along the way, we learn that one option is 'sensible', another 'risky', and a familiar path the 'natural' choice. We often follow a rulebook without being handed one. The fine print is rarely read, yet it quietly shapes the decisions we make. These patterns may be understood as invisible scripts - unwritten cues that shape perception over time. They emerge through casual conversations, friendly advice, and shared ideas of what seems worthwhile. Because they are deeply embedded in routine thinking, they rarely feel like external influence, presenting themselves as instinct. Perhaps this explains why parental influence remains so powerful. A 2021 Joblist survey found that 48% of respondents felt their parents had strongly influenced their career path, while nearly 40% felt pressured to follow their parents' preferences. Language is another way these scripts work. Words like 'practical', 'secure', and 'stable' carry an inherent sense of approval, while unconventional choices are often described with hesitation. Such linguistic choices do not impose restrictions directly, they subtly frame how options are perceived, giving some paths an immediate credibility. The World Bank's 2015 Development Report noted a similar influence of contextual cues and pre-



vailing norms on human behaviour. Social cues can be just as powerful. A pause before responding, a reassuring tone, or a subtle change in enthusiasm can signal which decisions meet societal expectations. These reactions may not be deliberate, yet they can reinforce certain preferences. But these influences cannot simply be dismissed as limitations. Many unwritten scripts emerge from collective wisdom, offering guidance when certainty is impossible. Familiar frameworks can make difficult decisions more manageable, giving confidence in an increasingly complex world. This creates a natural tension between comfort and curiosity. Familiar choices offer confidence, while unfamiliar ones demand reflection. A 2025 study of 962 adults found that greater socioeconomic security was associated with an alacrity to explore new possibilities. Stability, therefore, may not always discourage change; sometimes, it makes secure

exploration possible. Yet guidance deserves examination. Psychological research by Tversky and Kahneman demonstrated the power of framing, with 73% of participants altering their choices when identical information was presented differently. Recognising these invisible influences becomes important. Awareness does not mean rejecting every inherited assumption. It simply allows individuals to distinguish between what genuinely resonates with them and what has become familiar through repetition. Established patterns are best treated as reference points rather than instructions. Ultimately, invisible scripts do not determine the course of life; they merely suggest a direction. Unlike the agreements we scroll past online, the T&C shaping our lives are rarely written down. Acknowledging them may be the first step towards deciding which clauses deserve to remain, and which are ours to rewrite. **GT**

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for publishing 'Love at First Scoop' in the October 5, 2026, edition of GT. Such creatively written articles make science feel surprisingly entertaining. The page 4 article's language is lively,



Issue: Page 4, Oct 5, 2026



GT M@il

expressive, and easy to follow, with clever use of humour, questions, and sensory descriptions. The playful heading also adds to the charm.

Vieraj Jain
AIS VKC Lucknow, XI B

'AI-nxiety' on page 1 and 'A Letter to the 1980s' on page 6 of the October 5 edition made me reflect on the gap between what technology can do and what we have agreed it should do. The warning of an AI arms race stayed with me; while the

second article made me think about AI-generated nostalgia, created without credit or compensation, that comes with a heavy environmental cost. What are we trading when we open the bot's prompt window?

Zoya Negi, AIS Noida, XII I



Issue: Page 1, Oct 5, 2026

Tiny Terminators

Aishna Rahi, GT Network, explores how 'chota packet, bada dhamaka' is the perfect line for these tiny, harmless looking creatures that cause thousands of deaths every year. 'Take a bite,' sang Beabadoobee, but these diminutive overachievers really ran with it.

Mosquito | Ol' timer

Predation: They slurp on your blood, inject their saliva, then leave you with unwanted mementos like malaria & dengue.

Habitat: Different types of water bodies attract different genera of this big family, but stagnancy is the main criteria.

Signature: Mosquito eggs can survive being dried out for up to 8 months and hatch in an instant as they touch water.

Info-bite: In the Greco-Persian wars, Anopheles mosquitoes weakened Persian troops in marshlands near the Battle of Plataea, contributing to their defeat.

Kissing bug | Bad romance

Predation: A kiss, with a bathroom run just near the bite. Hardly polite, and extremely unhygienic way to spread the Chagas disease.

Habitat: A parasite, it either rides the coattails of pets and rodents or hides in dark corners of homes.

Signature: Over 11 species exist in the US, most of them have a 'cone-shaped' head, thin antennae, and thin legs.

Info-bite: Some people are highly allergic to their bites, which can result in anaphylactic shock (dangerous drop in BP).

Flea | Medieval menace

Predation: After feasting on the blood of mammals and birds alike, they play the nasty version of 'pass the parcel'. The parcel in such cases involve bacteria such as Yersinia pestis, which caused the Black Death in 1346.

Habitat: They thrive in warm, humid, and shaded environments.

Signature: A single flea can lay up to 50 eggs a day; they can also jump at least a foot in the air - which is 150 times their height.

Info-bite: Their prehistoric ancestors, Pseudopulex jurassicus, lived 165 million years ago and grew up to 0.8 inches long to feed on dinosaurs.

Locust | Crop-raider

Predation: The gluttonous grasshoppers form armies and vacuum-clean the crops with their insatiable appetite, cursing humans with hunger.

Habitat: Dry regions and grasslands.

Signature: Pulling up in massive swarms like a Karan Aujla concert, they are migratory pests who can travel up to 145km a day.

Info-bite: In 1954, a large swarm made a historic transatlantic journey, flying from breeding ground in NW Africa to Great Britain.

Tsetse fly | Insomnia's intern

Predation: One bite can wreck your sleep cycle, turning you from muggle to muddlehead.

Habitat: Found near rivers and thick vegetation, enjoying a resort life.

Signature: They produce 'fly milk' which, like mammal milk, is rich in 12 major proteins as well as digestive enzymes and minerals.

Info-bite: Adult female tsetse flies suckle their young inside their uterus before giving birth to fully formed infants.

A space-pirate saga

Bhavana Iyer

AIS Noida, Alumna

Submerged in a black hole's subterranean sat a secret scarlet strongbox, stuffed with sapphires, silks, and shimmering splendour. But stories insisted the safe was a sepulchre for stellar sailors. Any soul who sought it was swallowed, silenced, and sealed away. Fates splintered, hopes snuffed.

Into that same celestial stretch sailed space-pirate Sebastian Silverville. Skillful, suave, and admittedly supercilious, he swore he'd secure the strongbox and return safe and sound. The sagacious warned him, "Those spoils spell sorrow. Be sensible, Silverville, or you'll sink into stories shrouded in sorrow."

"Silly superstitions," he scoffed, steering his spaceship 'Solarsail Supreme' into the stars. His first stop was Mars, where a sizzling shard suddenly sliced through Solarsail's skids. Sebastian spotted the source: Spindlesazz the Shardspitter, slithering into sight. Several strikes, stubborn stand-offs, and a sharp sidestep later, Sebastian split the space-monster into slivers. Smug and satisfied, he set off again, sure he'd soon



seize the scarlet box.

But Jupiter refused simplicity. The stratosphere shook: a snaking storm snatched the starship and spun it at supersonic speed. Stunned and scrambling for sense, Sebastian steadied his stance, just as the smog split and slammed Solarsail into Jupiter's surface. Shaken but standing, he spotted Smogmire the Cyclonic Sentinel. Instead of striking the storm-maker, Sebastian simply shoved the steering hard, and

sped away. Sometimes it's smarter to scoot than slay. Still snickering, he stopped at Saturn to snooze a smidgen. But Sirius, sky-sized and stone-skinned, sprang from the shadows and shot a searing star at him. Sebastian swerved the strike and studied the giant spectre, spotting a slim split along its spine. He shot down from the Supreme, swung his sword, and struck the soft spot. Sirius stilled, then scattered into stardust. On he sped:

Sebastian split the space-monster into slivers. Smug and satisfied, he set off again, sure he'd soon seize the scarlet box.

through Uranus' snowy sheets to spar with Sibbleblip the storm-flash serpent; through Neptune's swirling skies to subdue Squelch the shapeshifting slime. Success continued stacking in his skillful, splendid stride.

Finally, he saw the black hole. He slipped inside, smiling as he snatched silver sceptres and sapphires by the sackful. But the stories had spoken sense. No matter how he steered, struggled, or strained, the starship wouldn't shoot back out. His struggles stopped short; the celestial sink-hole swallowed him silently. And so, Sebastian Silverville, the sublime yet supercilious space-pirate, survives only as a story; a soft-spoken sentinel meant to steer children away from stubborn, swaggering sins. **GT**

(Bhavana is currently pursuing BTech CSE from SASTRA Deemed University, Tamil Nadu. She wrote this story using alliteration as a figure of speech.)



The chime of the sea

Ananya Vashishtha

AIS Saket, XII B

The dark, slippery rock's floor
By the sea's anguished roars
Echoes with moans of the gore
And tunes that the depths wore

Wretchedly grey clouds go by
Like a wild call amidst cries
Waters make mournful screams
Making ancient towers lean

Great grief reflects in the sheen
Of the pearls that oceans glean
As if amidst her darkest fears
Glint a maiden's woeful tears

Scripts written by nature's grace
It echoes the words of the haze
Dark waters cast a sinister smile
While bitter winds doth beguile

These thickening mists over cliffs
With their never-ending tiffs
Long conspired with vicious rocks
To lead all astray from the docks

Lurking around the timeless clock
Fish swim like birds in a flock
As if between the sky and the sea
Lay a mirror with utmost clarity

As ships sail full of decadence
Following the wind's cadence
A deluge of ambrosia pours over
And a deafening silence hovers

But an end to this darkness nears
All hope do cloudy veils conceal
The sun breaking the sea's misery
Decorating it with glitter and glee.

READ • PLAY • WIN

Answer • Participate • Win Prizes

1 Write answers of all the questions below

2 Click Photograph

3 Mail: editor@theglobaltimes.in or Visit: <http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>

123

Name: Class: School

Q.1 What is the name of Sebastian Silverville's spaceship as mentioned in the story on page 8?	Q.2 Which dance form does T Reddi Lakshmi practice as stated in the interview on page 3?
Q.3 Which dish has been referred to as 'India's timeless remedy' on page 5?	Q.4 Who became the first black woman to lead a crewed space mission?
Q.5 Which cause did the team of AIS PV champion during Youth Power 2025-26 as mentioned on page 10?	Q.6 Which tiny terminator caused the Black Death in 1346, as mentioned in this edition's poster?

Winners 122

Result of Read Play & Win: **Aviraaj Singh Bajaj**, AIS MV, IV A;
Aarav Lohia, AIS Pushp Vihar, V (Sy);
Hulsoor Sudhiksha, AIS Gurugram 43, IX C



The clock in room 6B



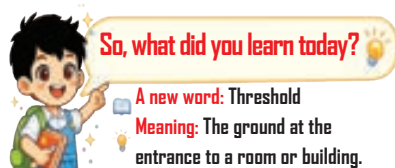
Raj Chandra, AIS Vas 1, XI A

Nestled in the forgotten corner of St Elm's Boarding school, was room 6B. Leaning against the tired grey walls with blacked-out windows, stood a large, rusting clock mounted above the blackboard. Believed to be haunted, everyone did their best to avoid it. Except Mira. Unlike others, she favoured silent shadows. While others huddled around the common room fireplace, Mira preferred half-lit corners. One thundery afternoon, Mira pushed open the creaky door of room 6B. It sighed on its hinges, like it'd been waiting. As soon as she crossed the **threshold**, the ticking fell silent. Mira smiled. She returned the next day, and the clock halted again.

She would often visit that room to scribble strange stories or sketch odd little faces from her dreams. Memories faded as soft rays glowed through the dusty windows. The clock waited for her every day. One day, she whispered aloud, "Why do you stop for me?" knowing there wouldn't be a reply. But that night, she dreamt of a girl sitting under the same clock, sketching just like her. Before the dream dissolved into nothingness, she looked up and smiled. Curiosity overtook Mira. So she began to search. In an old file marked '1920s: Orphan Admissions', she found a faded photo. The girl from her dream was called Lila. Her records mentioned that she vanished suddenly, last seen near room 6B. She was known to be a shy, talented artist. Her file

Unlike others, she favoured silent shadows. While others huddled around the common room fireplace, Mira preferred half-lit corners.

preserved a sketch of a clock. Mira returned to the room with the sketch in her hand. She stood beneath the clock, held up the paper, and whispered, "I know your name now." The clock ticked in response. Mira smiled, "You're not forgotten." From that day, the room felt a little warmer. Word spread about the bewitched room and students tiptoed to peek. But the clock moved for no one else. Mira began leaving gifts for Lila, an origami crane, a story titled 'The Girl and the Timekeeper', a charcoal sketch of two girls sitting side-by-side. Each time, the ticking deepened, like a quiet thanks. Before her winter break was about to begin, she placed a sketch of Lila smiling on the windowsill. When she returned, the gifts had vanished. But the chalkboard held a message: "Still here, friend." **GT**



Wheat Flour chocolate cake

Atharva Seemansh, AGS Noida, LS2

Ingredients

Wheat flour.....2 cups	Baking soda..... ¼ tsp
Powdered sugar..... 1 cup	Baking powder..... ½ tsp
Cocoa powder 4 tsp	Vanilla essence..... ½ tsp
Milk..... 1 cup	Fresh cream..... 4 tsp
Melted butter..... ½ cup	Gems.....1 packet

Procedure

- In one bowl, bring together melted butter and sugar to make a mixture.
- In another bowl, sift and combine wheat flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, and baking soda.
- Slowly add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture and mix slowly to make the cake batter.
- Add milk little by little to make the batter smooth.
- Next, add vanilla essence to the batter to give it a sweet fragrance and intense flavour.
- Pour the batter into a baking pan greased with butter and smooth the top with a spatula.
- Then, with the help of an adult, first preheat the oven to 160°C and then bake the cake for 30 minutes.
- Poke the cake with a toothpick; if it comes out clean, it means that the cake is ready.
- Let it cool for a few minutes, top it with some gems or sprinkles, and your cake is ready!

It's Me!

KNOW ME

My name: Aayansh Pathak
My Class: I A
My school: AIS VKC Lucknow
My birthday: May 7

MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Esha ma'am
Subject: Science
Friend: Amahira, Ishu, and Prastuti
Game: Basketball & Cricket
Cartoon: Bluey
Food: Seafood
Mall: Lulu Mall
Book: Ocean Life
Discovering Delights

MY DREAMS AND GOALS

Hobby: Outdoor games
I like: Nature
I dislike: Rudeness
My role model: The Avengers

I want to become: A scientist
I want to feature in GT because: I am very eager to share my enthusiasm with the entire school.

Colouring Fun

Name: _____ Class _____ School _____

Outline by: **Omisha Jain**, AIS Gur 43, IX B
Please send your entry to editor@theglobaltimes.in

Best entries for Colouring Fun

Dated: October 5, 2026

Krishavi Srivastava
AIS Gurugram 46, II F

Vivaan
AIS Noida, III J

Cash course

An Insight On The Core Financial Lessons Nobody Put On The Timetable

Youth 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 various aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part XI** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams for the year 2025-26, and a host of opinions and insights shared by experts on 'Financial Literacy', the cause chosen by the YP team of AIS Pushp Vihar.



Esteemed panel delivers sound financial advice

Stay aware and vigilant

Panellist: Ashok Saini
chief manager, Bank of Baroda



"Financial awareness is the knowledge to save, invest, and manage money wisely. Over the years, financial literacy has played a major role in expanding banking access across the country through initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and various insurance schemes. But, as digital banking grows, so do cyber threats. Fraudsters use fake payment requests, and lottery messages to obtain information. Students must never share OTPs, PINs, or banking credentials with anyone. Awareness and vigilance are the strongest protections against online fraud. Financial literacy isn't about growing wealth; it is also about safeguarding it."

Power lies in consistency

Panellist: Ashish Gupta
senior branch manager,
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank



"Small amounts invested consistently over a long period can grow significantly through compounding. That's why students should understand investment concepts early. Another important aspect is understanding credit. A good credit score reflects responsible financial behaviour and plays a major role when applying for loans. Timely repayment of dues and disciplined use of credit cards also help build that trust. Equally important is helping parents and senior citizens stay informed and protected from digital scams."

Research before investing

Panellist: Dr Rishi Manrai, professor, Amity University



"Learning about money requires experience which comes through mistakes. Youngsters should not be afraid to make small financial decisions, because every success and setback teaches valuable lessons. Knowledge is the key to making informed decisions. Students should cultivate the habit of reading newspapers, financial articles, and investment-related material to broaden their understanding. Virtual investment platforms can provide a safe environment to learn how markets function without risking real money. As the world moves steadily towards digital transactions, financial awareness will become even more important."

PART XI

EXPERT SPEAK

Set goals for a secure future

Panellist: Gaurav Kumar Yadav
deputy general manager, Punjab & Sind Bank



"Every individual has goals - whether it is owning a home, purchasing a vehicle, or ensuring a comfortable future - and achieving those goals requires careful financial planning. A simple principle is to ensure that income should exceed expenditure so that savings and investments become possible. Even people with high incomes can face financial difficulties if they do not plan properly. The habit of setting goals, saving regu-

larly, and avoiding unnecessary spending should begin early in life which will help you at every stage. Financial literacy gives you the confidence to make informed choices and prepares you to deal with both opportunities and challenges in the future. Banks provide several tools, including recurring deposits, fixed deposits, and mutual funds, to help people grow their money over time. At the same time, increasing digitalisation has made cyber awareness essential. Financial literacy brings awareness needed to use technology safely and responsibly."

Spending wisely is important

Panellist: Ameeta Mohan
Principal, Amity International School Pushp Vihar



"Financial literacy is best learned through responsibility. I feel students should have the opportunity to manage their own budgets so that they understand firsthand how to plan, prioritise, and make choices. Saving becomes meaningful only when one learns how to spend wisely and appreciates the value of money. While it is important to empower young people financially, that empowerment must come

with accountability. Many students today already use digital payment systems and some even have access to credit cards, yet financial independence requires understanding basic concepts such as budgeting, credit, and debit. These lessons should be learned at a very early stage because they shape future habits. Financial awareness is not merely about handling money, it is also about developing responsibility, judgement, and self-discipline. Academic success is important, but the ability to make sound financial decisions is equally valuable in preparing yourself for the future."

Brilliance awarded

Amity Celebrates Its Competitive Exams' Aces



Alumni Dr Savyasachi Jain being felicitated



Awardees with Chairperson and dignitaries

AICE

A glittering felicitation ceremony was organised by the Amity Institute of Competitive Examinations (AICE) on September 19, 2026, at Amity University Noida to honour its achievers in JEE, NEET, Olympiads, and Mathematics Test Series. The ceremony was graced virtually by Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe, and by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF. Prof (Dr) Himali Ahluwalia, director and professor of Physiology, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated hospitals, was the chief guest, while Prof Smriti Srivastava, dean, NSUT Delhi, was the guest of honour. Eminent scientist, Padma Shri Prof (Dr) Y S Rajan, former executive director, TIFAC (Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council), joined the ceremony virtually as the spe-

cial guest. The event commenced with lamp lighting and a prayer by the students of Amitasha, an initiative of Chairperson dedicated to educating underprivileged girl children. This was followed by a welcome address by director, AICE, who presented a report of the institute's achievements during the academic session 2025-26 and its bouquet of programmes. The inspiring address of Prof (Dr) Y S Rajan, drawn from his life experiences motivated students to cultivate the spirit of innovation along with entrepreneurship. A cohort of 124 young achievers (Engineering-48, Medical-29, Olympiad-29, and Math Test Series-18) were awarded trophies, medals, certificates, and cash prizes worth 2.57 lakh INR overall. Around 36 faculty members and staff of AICE were also recognised for their mentorship and dedication with certificates, trophies, and cash prizes worth 1.61 lakh INR. A key highlight

of the event was the felicitation of AICE alumni who are now well-established doctors, engineers, and corporate professionals, conducted in hybrid mode. Prominent among the alumni present were Dr Savyasachi Jain (2012 batch), assistant professor, AIIMS and Dr Raghavi Maheshwari (2012 batch), consultant, Medanta Hospital Noida. In his address, Founder President congratulated the students and parents, and encouraged the future doctors and engineers to continue striving towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. Applauding the achievers and their parents, Chairperson highlighted the importance of hard work and perseverance. Congratulating the achievers, the chief guest and guest of honour appreciated Amity's efforts in nurturing young talent and urged the students to strive not only for professional success but also for becoming compassionate and responsible human beings. [GT](#)

Science meets creativity

AIS VKC Lucknow

A team of 35 students from the school visited the CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) research laboratory on September 28, 2026, as part of the 85th CSIR Foundation Day celebrations, returning with shining accolades in both the Scientific Model Competition and Science Quiz. Aryaveer Singh (XII) and Sujal Singh (IX) secured third place in the Scientific Model Competition for their innovative



Students interact with experts

model, 'NeuroGrip', while Harsh Rana (XI) and Yashwin Singh Yadav (X) finished at third place in the Science Quiz. The compe-

titions saw participation from a total of 27 schools, colleges, and universities across Uttar Pradesh, making the students' achievements particularly noteworthy. The winners were felicitated with certificates and prizes by Dr Radha Rangarajan, director, CSIR-CDRI, along with other eminent scientists from the institute. The visiting team also interacted with distinguished scientists and researchers gaining first-hand glimpse of the functioning of a modern research laboratory at CDRI.



A powerful act being presented by the young artists

Hindi Natya Utsav

AIS Mayur Vihar

The school organised its 13th Hindi Natya Utsav, an inter-Amity Hindi theatre competition, on September 21, 2026, for Classes VI-X. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 90 students representing eight branches of the Amity Group of Schools across Delhi-NCR. Competing in the junior-senior mixed category, students presented thought-provoking theatrical performances based on the themes 'Online Chakravayuh Mein Fansi Duniya' and 'Abhaasi Duniya Ka Mayaajal', exploring the growing influence of the virtual world and its impact on contemporary society. The performances

were judged by eminent theatre personalities Yojana Dutt and Dhananjay Sharma, who appreciated the students' creativity, acting skills, stage presence as well as meaningful portrayal of contemporary issues.

AIS Mayur Vihar emerged as the winner, while AIS Vasundhara 6 secured second position and AIS Gurugram 43 finished at third position. The consolation prize was awarded to AIS Noida, while AIS Vasundhara 1 received a special mention. The *Sarvshreshth Kalakaar Puruskaar* (Best Actor Award) was awarded to Adavvaya Rajesh of Class IX, AIS Saket, who left a lasting impression on everyone with his utterly captivating and expressive performance. [GT](#)

Celebrating Hindi



Memoirs and monologues of students on Hindi Diwas

AIS Vasundhara 6

The school organised a series of engaging activities to celebrate Hindi Diwas and encourage students to express themselves creatively in the language. On September 7, it organised 'Vaani Ki Udaan', an inter-class Hindi activity for students of Class IV. The activity featured two themes. In the first, students presented imaginative monologues in the voice of an inanimate object, such as a school gate or blackboard. In the

second, they took their peers on a virtual sojourn to their favourite places in the school, speaking about their experiences and memories associated with them. As part of the 'Hindi Pakhwada' celebrations, an intra-class Hindi storytelling activity, 'Kahaniyon Ki Jhappi', was organised for Class II on September 29. The young storytellers brought tales from the *Panchatantra*, folktales and *Jataka* stories to life using colourful pictures, props, gestures, humour, and expressive facial expressions. [GT](#)



Villains ANONYMOUS

Because Even Supervillains Need A Weekly Meeting... And A Reality Check

JUST FOR
LAUGHS



Tapasya Aggarwal
AIS Gurugram 46, XI G

Gotham has seen many strange gatherings - clown riots, rooftop monologues, billionaires dressed as bats - but nothing tops the latest (supposedly secret) meeting of the world's most infamous villains. Every Thursday night, they assemble at an old, crumbling cinema. Yes, that cinema. The one where Batman's parents died. Coincidence? Absolutely not. The Joker chose it for 'the vibes' and hasn't stopped laughing since. Everyone else hates him for it. The meeting - formerly called

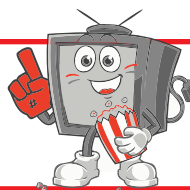
The Dark Gathering (after a heated debate over whether the old name was tacky) - began with a literal bang. Something exploded. Again. At this point, Gotham's real estate market has given up entirely. You can't go five minutes without a building blowing up like Robin's chances of a peaceful childhood. "So," Joker announced, clapping his hands, "first order of business: Voldemort has started a petition declaring himself the greatest supervillain of all time." Joker grinned. "You mean the guy who took 'He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named' a bit too seriously? Voldy, my boy, you couldn't even kill a baby. Even

Odysseus managed that." "It was a magic baby, you muggle!" Voldemort snapped. Cruella, already irritated, turned to Joker. "What's your latest scheme?" Before he could answer, she sneered, "Let me guess - you tried to make Batman laugh. Froze him, electrocuted him, traumatised him... and still no smile?" Joker muttered, "I am not Mr Freeze," which, in Gotham, is considered a formal apology. Suddenly, three figures burst in, striking a dramatic R formation. "Team Rocket is here!" Joker sighed. "Great. These fools again. Security!" "No, wait! We're real villains!" they protested. "Impos-

tors," said Dr Doofenshmirtz casually, "Couldn't be me." Before he could launch into his tragic backstory, Team Rocket accused him of being unable to identify a platypus without a hat. The argument escalated quickly. Elsewhere, Cruella eyed Darth Vader. "Darling, that suit is not a fashion statement. Even cosplayers know that." Then, Scar attempted to restore order. "Let's remember why we're here. We're the best at what we do." "Failing spectacularly and blaming others?" Joker interrupted. Right on cue, Harley Quinn burst in. "Puddin'! Emergency! Batsy's having a meeting with Catwoman

as we speak!" "Meeting dismissed!" Joker declared. "Cheer up, everyone, we're about to ruin a tête-à-tête." The villains left with bruised egos, renewed motivation, and several new world-ending ideas. The Gotham Police Force never stops these meetings. Why? Because at the end of the day, it all boils down to these little things like mocking bad fashion, failed plans, and having each other's morally questionable company, that truly brings villains together. Or maybe the cops are just really bad at their jobs.

SERIES REVIEW



An old Indian favourite

Series: Sarabhai vs Sarabhai
Directed by: Devan Bhojani
Released on: Season 1: November 1, 2004; Season 2: May 15, 2017
Starring: Satish Shah, Ratna Pathak Shah, Sumeet Raghavan, Rupali Ganguly, Rajesh Kumar
Genre: Sitcom, Family Comedy, Satire



Synopsis: This sitcom tastefully showcases the clash of the rich and the middle class within a family. The Sarabhais are an elite, rich, English-speaking, art-loving, Gujarati family. Maya Sarabhai runs the family with an iron grip, impeccable style, and devastating sarcasm. Her husband Indravadan is a lazy, witty man-child who mainly torments Maya. Their elder son Sahil is a dentist who marries Monisha - a sweet, middle-class, Delhi girl who mispronounc-

es many English words, burns toast, and causes everyday chaos. Their younger son, Rosesh, is an aspiring poet whose poetry no one wants to listen to. Every episode is basically a domestic warfare where Maya is trying to 'fix' Monisha. While Monisha is trying to survive, Indravadan is roasting everyone, and Rosesh is reciting poetry that defies the laws of literature. It's a series of 25-minute episodes filled to the brim with family politics and savage one-liners.

Why is it worth watching: The writing is timeless with effortless humour. The jokes are original and not based on trending memes, so they still land, even in 2026. Each character in the series is equipped with their own individuality. The relatable family chaos between the rich and middle-class, saas-bahu drama, along with sibling rivalry told with class leaves the viewer wanting for more. Besides, Ratna Pathak Shah and Satish Shah's delivery and comic timing are a masterclass in comedy. Even a small eye-roll gets a laugh. All in all, it's 70 episodes of timeless satire with every scene carrying a punchline.
Iconic dialogue: "Beta, Rosesh... poetry band karo, zindagi shuru karo."
Rating: ★★★★★
Reviewed By: Ananya Agarwal
AIS Jagdishpur, XII C



GT
Travels to China

Explorers: Akshaya Singh, X D & Arjun Singh, II B, AIS Vas G
Location: Window of the World, Shenzhen, China
Attraction: Featuring replicas of global landmarks across 48 hectares, it offers a condensed experience of world travel with over 130 reproductions spread across themed zones.
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