

Designer babies

It's All About The Next Generation Beta

Akshita Shrote, AIS Vas 1, XII B

Seated in a fertility clinic with soft instrumental music playing in the background, an eager eyed couple is brought coffee and a folder. Beaming with anticipation, they open the folder that reads 'Embryo menu'. Carrying a detailed description of each embryo, it goes something like this: embryo 55 – male; no serious early onset of diseases, lower risk of type 2 diabetes, gray eyes, light brown hair et al. There are over 100 such embryos to choose from? So which one will the couple choose, in this era of 'Designer babies'.

So, what are designer babies?

It is believed that nearly anything that can be measured for humans, can be done through genetics. The differences in people's genes are responsible for differences in their traits such as height, eye colour, and intelligence. By extension, if a gene can be measured, it can be added, removed or modified. And thus, came designer babies. Welcome to the game of life. The Oxford Dictionary defines "designer baby" as "a baby whose genetic makeup has been selected in order to eradicate a particular defect, or to ensure that a particular gene is present." The original aim of this technology- germline editing, was to prevent occurrence of congenital diseases in children. Scientists use techniques like Pre-implantation Genetic Testing (PGT), in which genetic defects are identified and embryos devoid of these genetic disorders are implanted during IVF; or Transcription

Activator-Like Effector Nucleases (TALENs), in which enzymes designed to remove specific parts of the DNA are injected into the embryo. Then there is CRISPR, which stands for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats. It is basically a pair of molecular scissors that can cut a DNA sequence. While this technology has been known to scientists for a long time, recent medical advancements, particularly CRISPR-Cas9 technique, has taken over the world by storm. With the superpower of editing the embryo down to its genes, potentially removing all the genetic defects and introducing new characteristics, germ line gene editing is ushering in a new world.

And that is a good thing...

In 2018, a Chinese scientist He Jiankui presented to the world two 'edited' babies. These two children were made resistant to HIV. Five years later, they are both living healthy and normal lives. So far so good. A designer baby could, in theory, be free from several genetic diseases such as haemophilia, cystic fibrosis or muscular dystrophy and many such diseases. The designer baby could also have preferred traits as height, eye colour, musicality, intelligence etc. Parents with an average IQ need not worry as their children would be born smarter than them.

Too good to be true?

Even though germ line editing initially fo-

cus on improving health, scientists warn that it "could start us a path towards non-therapeutic genetic enhancement". What if people started to design their baby for aesthetic appeal: eye colour, hair, height, facial features? What if people started to look for special talents: musical maestro, math genius? Parents, kids and siblings would bear no resemblance to each other. Worse, imagine how many lookalikes of Kartik Aryan and Alia Bhatt there would be. Besides, the safety of the gene editing procedure is yet to be fully proved. No one knows what genetic side-effects such procedures would have and if they do, they would be permanent and passed down to the next generation. Another concern is that gene editing technology would be available to the rich, which would widen the rich-poor divide in society.

Privilege and prejudice would have a new meaning altogether, based on superior or regular genetic makeup. On the ethical front, there are concerns of gender bias, which would be disastrous to universal efforts towards diversity and inclusion. Go deeper and designer babies could mark the end of natural selection. Humans are born heterogeneous with countless variations. These variations are a result of years of natural evolution which has helped them in adapting and accepting the environment that is changing every day. Creating genetically similar babies might be a disastrous full stop to this evolutionary baby. Keeping all of this in mind, it barely comes as a surprise that most countries have not yet legislated on genetic modification in human reproduction, but of those that have, all have banned it.

Continued on page 4...



Imaging: Ravinder Gussain, GT Network

THE GT POLL

As Donald Trump's new crypto business, 'World Liberty Financial' is ready to hit the market, do you think crypto currency can become a mainstream form of payment?

a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

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Coming next

Whiffs of wonder

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Revolutionising digital storage

Flip through the pages as GT pays homage to the technology, a silent saviour, that changed the human life as we know and live it.

...more on page 4



Multi-faceted meditator

Learn a goal oriented approach to life, as published author and life coach, Anupama Pandey imparts her wisdom on the art of living.

...more on page 5



Prompt box

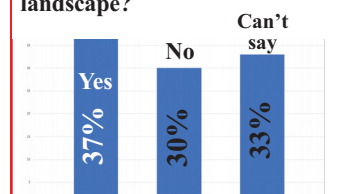
Catch up on some intriguing views on how nostalgia-driven marketing is reshaping our self identity and our connection to contemporary culture.

...more on page 10

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition September 16, 2024

Will the Centre's decision to provide five lakh INR free health cover for citizens aged over 70 under Ayushman Bharat PM Jan Arogya Yojna strengthen India's healthcare landscape?



Results as on September 21, 2024

Around The WORLD

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



USA



Beyond bitcoin

Donald Trump, the former US president, accompanied by his two eldest sons, business partner Chase Herro, and many cryptocurrency entrepreneurs, announced a new digital currency business, World Liberty Financial, during a livestream event on Sep 16, 2024. Primarily focused on its own crypto token, their business is all set to operate as a cryptocurrency platform. Borrowing and lending services will be provided with a new cryptocurrency named WLFI, providing holders a chance to make decisions on the platform but will not be freely traded.



RUSSIA



Digital divide

Meta has banned Russian state media RT, Rossiya Segodnya, and other state media networks from its platforms for foreign interference. The state media have been accused of using misleading methods to execute undercover manipulative operations online. The ban, which has been strongly condemned by the Kremlin, follows years of restraining measures such as blocking of ads and reducing the reach of the posts made by the outlets. This has complicated the normalisation of relations with Meta, according to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.



JAPAN

TV triumph

The historical epic 'Shogun', based on the 1975 novel by James Clavell, set in Imperial Japan, won 18 awards, the most ever wins for a single drama season, including best drama and acting category for leads Hiroyuki Sanada and Anna Sawai at the 76th Emmy Awards. The government, proud of the achievement, highlighted that 70% dialogue in 'Shogun' was in Japanese. Jdrama's rising popularity with international audiences made the government encourage their creators to take overseas production challenges.



SUDAN

Oil flow resumes

Sudan and South Sudan have agreed on a joint security plan to resume oil flow to international markets. In a recent meeting, South Sudan's president Salva Kiir and Sudan's leader Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan discussed restarting oil exports. The pipeline, a crucial source of revenue for South Sudan, was damaged in February '24, due to conflict between Sudan's army and the Rapid Support Forces.



AFGHANISTAN

Fight against polio

According to the UN, Taliban has suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan. With the virus being the world's most infectious, this has been a major setback in the eradication of polio and could lead to unravelling of years of progress made to eliminate the disease. Afghanistan is one of the two countries that continues to have cases of polio, with 18 cases registered this year itself as compared to six cases in 2023.



INDIA

Political handoff

On Sep 17, 2024, former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal stepped down, passing the baton over to AAP's Atishi Marlena, to be the third woman CM of Delhi. The letter of support was delivered to LG VK Saxena by CM designate. Additionally, Atishi holds key portfolios in the Delhi government such as Revenue, Education, and Public Works Department. The current term of the Delhi Assembly expires on February 11, 2025.



NEW ZEALAND

Rarest penguin species wins

The endangered, yellow-eyed penguin - hoiho, was crowned New Zealand's bird of the year for 2024, securing 6328 votes for its win in the popular annual competition. According to Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, hoiho has seen a decline of 78% in the last 15 years, and only 4000-5000 hoihos are left. The competition, which began in 2005, reflects New Zealanders' deep connection with their native birds.

News Flash

- ▶ **Ukraine:** Undisputed boxing champion, Oleksandr Usyk released post detention by Poland Krakow airport officers
- ▶ **Myanmar:** Floods and landslides triggered by Typhoon Yagi and monsoon rains, claiming 226 lives



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Revolutionising digital storage

From the crack of dawn, technology stirs us with its reliable alarms, and caresses us with the cooling breeze of our ACs as we drift off to sleep, weaving its wonders into our everyday lives. GT pays homage to this silent saviour that simplifies and enhances our existence with a brand new series, unwrapping A to Z of iconic tech pieces, one letter at a time. Here's presenting **Z** the last in this series that changed human life as we know and live it.

Shaurya Upadhyaya
AIS Gwalior, VIII A

The tech: ZIP (File Format)

The inventor: Phillip Walter Katz

How was it invented?

The 1980s witnessed a boom in the sale and usage of personal computers and this created the need to store and share increasingly large volumes of data. Inventors began to look for ways to cut down file sizes to reduce the number of floppy disks that needed to be

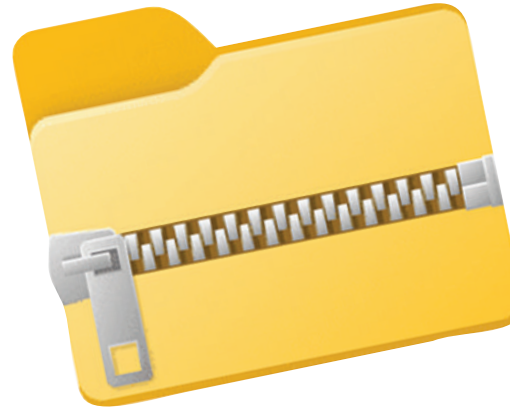
used. One such inventor and software engineer, Phil Katz, wrote a programme called ZIP in 1989 that revolutionised how digital files were compressed and stored. Initially known as PKARC, Katz's programme was rebranded as PKZIP post a copyright infringement lawsuit with SEA's ARC systems. ZIP rapidly became a groundbreaking solution, enabling users to compress and archive files into smaller, and more manageable packages.

When did we get to know it first?

The preliminary version of the zip file format was initially launched as the PKZIP 0.9 package under the file APPNOTE. This version of zip file format soon became the de facto standard for file compression and archiving. It was initially distributed as shareware, which meant that users could download and use it for free, but were encouraged to donate to the author if they found it useful. This contributed to its rapid popularity across the globe, as users could try it without any financial commitment.

Why do we use it?

The primary advantage of ZIP lies in its ability to reduce the file sizes so that they can be more easily stored, shared, and transmitted over the internet. The format uses



lossless compression algorithms to compress the files, which means that no data is lost during the compression process. Zipped files take less storage space and can be transferred to another device more quickly than any other filing format. As the most popular archive file format, ZIP is not only built into most operating systems but also recognised or improved upon by many other programmes.

How has it helped our lives?

ZIP files have surely made our lives easier. They can contain a wide range of file types, including documents, images, videos, audio files, and software applications. ZIP files can be opened and extracted using a variety of



Fun fact: The name 'ZIP' was selected to convey the speed and efficiency of the format, implying the speed of files 'zipping' along. Today, the ZIP file format remains one of the most popular and widely used compression formats across the world.

software programmes, including popular archive utilities like WinZip, 7-Zip, and WinRAR. It is most imperative for entities like cloud storage solutions, data backup and software distribution companies. It is very useful to individuals and organisations that need to keep copies of their files for disaster recovery purposes.

Designer babies

...continued from page 1

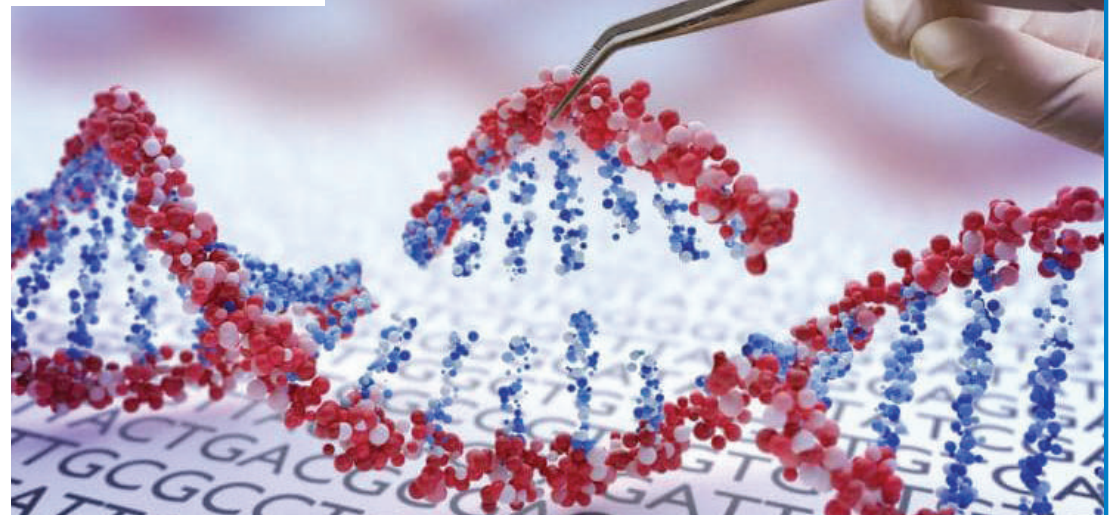
The alternatives...

So what, if not gene editing. The aim of gene editing can be most likely achieved through embryo selection. "Almost everything you can accomplish by gene editing, you can also accomplish the same by embryo selection," says bioethicist Henry Greely of Stanford University in California. All you need to do is to select an embryo that is devoid of the undesired trait or has the desired trait. The process of embryo selection entails screening of the DNA of embryos created through IVF, to deduce the gene variants they carry, thus enabling the parents to choose the desired embryo and implant the same. This testing is already being carried on 3 to 5 day old embryos in the US. In UK, embryos are currently being

screened for 250 diseases. New methods of harvesting human eggs coupled with advances in IVF, will make selection much more viable and appealing, and thus more common, in 20 years' time. In fact, PGD is already used by couples who know that they carry genes for specific inherited diseases so that they can identify embryos that do not have those genes. Having said that, egg harvesting as of now, is unpleasant, risky (doesn't give you many eggs) and has a limited success rate (successful implantation is only one in three). But things might change sooner than one can think given the medical advancements that make human eggs more abundant coupled with easy genome screening.

Where are we headed?

The jury is still out on to find an



answer to this. Right now, there is no country that legally permits human genome editing. There are 11 countries including China and the United Kingdom that allow lab level research. Expert bodies such as the International Commission on the Clinical Use of Human Germline Genome Edit-

ing and World Health Organisation are still trying to figure out a workable solution. Meanwhile, He Jiankui was given a prison term of three years as punishment for his illegal act. All the raging talks, opinions, debates lead us to one final question: Is the process of improving

human beings through genetics more important than their natural ability to love and accept each other with all their imperfections? Until we find a satisfactory answer to this question, it is better to have babies wrapped warmly inside a basket brought to your doorstep by the stork.

Valuable assemblies



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Assemblies are one of the most cherished moments of school life, whether they are regular morning assemblies or based on specially curated themes. At Amity, these assemblies personify the philosophy and spirit of the Amity universe, for they are not just routine gatherings, they are opportunities to nurture students' communication, presentation and collaboration skills. Amityans have, in fact, used this platform in innumerable valuable ways - raising

awareness about the environment, honouring our national heroes, celebrating national festivals, and launching various social initiatives. These assemblies provide students a powerful stage to share their views and concerns with their peers.

Also, credit must go to our talented teachers who have transformed these assemblies into effective pedagogical tools. Every assembly is designed to align with the school curriculum, and this encourages students to explore and research textbook topics in great depth. Thereafter, they present their learning in the form of skits, dances, speeches and group discussions. This interactive approach has helped children to think critically and creatively rather than just passively absorbing information. I have always found children fully refreshed post these assemblies, ready to take on the rest of the day with great enthusiasm. By giving them a chance to express emotions, our assemblies have become a meeting place for undisputed all-rounders.

It's time to say Hip, Hip, Hurray!

Ishaan Garg, AIS Vas 1, Class X, secured third position in Sanskrit Pratibha Khoj: Sanskrit Samanya Gyan Pratiyogita, 2024 organised by Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Sanstha. [GT](#)

Digital revolution



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

So, we come to the Zenith or Z of the 'A to Z of tech' series (read page 4) we started last year. As someone born in late 20th century and having seen all from typewriters to QWERTY keypads, this is nothing short of recording my own journey of tech evolution over the period. From A for airpods to Z for zip file, the journey of small inventions that changed human life in big ways, I can only imagine what Charles Babbage would be thinking of Bill Gates, Sabeer

Bhatia, Sergei and Larry and Elon Musk. From computers the size of rooms to mobile phones, from TV to live streaming, from radio to spotify, from encyclopaedias to Google, from train travel to space travel, these guys have revolutionised the way human civilisation will evolve. Yes, technology has really impacted the way humans are and will evolve, not just physically but emotionally and mentally.

Back in the day, when I would write postcards to my parents to the day when I talk to them over video call, I cannot stop wondering at how tech has made lives easy and comfortable. I recall the days when withdrawing cash would mean long queues at banks or ATMs to UPI, the Indian payment revolution which the world is gaping at. Deluge of information has created more awareness about respect for self, mental health and value of serving society. While it has its own flip side, the matter of fact is that humans have evolved on the back of technology. From recent Bionic eye by Elon Musk which promises to restore vision for blind to closer home smart stick by Amityans to assist visually impaired, technology has become a tool for many positive and creative solutions to mankind. [GT](#)

Multi-faceted meditator

Follow A Goal-Oriented Path, Says Anupama Pandey

Devyanshi Goswami, XII E & Mansimar Kaur, Alumna
AIS Gurugram 46

Anupama Pandey is not only a published author and life coach, but also an inspirational speaker and a teacher-practitioner of Art of Living. She worked as state nodal officer at Mission Swaraj, Government of NCT of Delhi before stepping down to pursue her passion. Having experienced a variety of roles in the governmental sector, the corporate world, and the developmental sphere, her life epitomises a pursuit of diverse passions and personal growth. She shared her pearls of wisdom with Amityans at TEDx hosted by AIS Gurugram 46 and talked about the various transitions in her life's journey.

Guiding light

In life, everyone faces challenges while growing up. There still isn't much openness about seeking professional help to ensure one's emotional well-being. Since going to a professional counsellor can be intimidating, I realised that it would be beneficial if people could reach out and talk to a friendly person. This is what prompted me to become a life coach. But before you can help someone, you must be at peace yourself. I started meditating because I wanted



Anupama Pandey shares her words of wisdom at TEDx

to be calm. So, when I tell people that it is not as difficult as it seems to navigate through life, it is not just theory but practical advice because it is based on my personal experiences.

Art of listening

Communication is key to everything

we do in life. As a life coach, everything begins with listening to the other person with sincerity. I listen wholeheartedly and attentively. I don't challenge, I don't judge, and I give them my full attention. What most people need in life is an outlet for their thoughts and emotions.

Chasing goals

I have a bucket list and writing a book was always part of it. My co-author and I met for the first time after fifteen years and while sharing our journeys with each other, I became extremely curious about his career. Being in the police force, he had an insight into the issue of terrorism. I was interested in finding out what really pushes a person into becoming a terrorist. Somehow, I felt it was in tune with my experience as a life coach. Together, we wrote a fictional story for the book 'Curse of the Pir', and a sequel is now in order. So, never shy away from working hard to achieve your goals.

Message for Amityans

My advice is quite simple - never fear the future. Choose your path and dedicate yourself to your goal completely. Most importantly, you must stay true to yourself. [GT](#)

(Mansimar is currently pursuing B.Tech in Computer Science from TIET, Punjab.)



GT M@il

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Weight of superiority' published on page 4 of the GT edition dated September 16, 2024. The article urges us to confront the arrogance we've carried throughout history, pushing us to question not just our actions but our very existence. It highlights how this sense of supremacy has allowed us to transcend natural boundaries, often leading us to assert control over domains that are not ours to claim. It shows how we've come to abuse this freedom, while neglecting the fundamental duties we owe to each other, and to the planet. More than just a critique, this article holds up a mirror to our own blind spots, making us question how much of this freedom is truly earned, and

how much is a result of arrogance masquerading as progress. It serves as a cautionary tale, warning us that if we continue to let our moral compass erode, we will definitely lose touch with our ethical foundations.

Shambhavi Sharma

AIS Pushp Vihar, XI F



POEM

Child labour

Shobhit Sinha

AIS Vas 1, Alumna

Some worked in factories
Others carried heavy bricks
A nation held in suffering
While hunger's grip afflicts

Instead of learning at school
They labour day and night
This injustice must end now
We all must rise and fight

They should read and write
Free from any exploitation
And those behind their pain
Deserve intense investigation

Acts of child labour are illegal
It steals their joy and dreams
Let's unite and raise our voice
And end this harmful scheme.

Transforming dreamers into achievers

Under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the Amity Career Counselling & Guidance Cell (ACCGC) hosted the Amity Career Conclave, at AIS Pushp Vihar. The objective of this event was to expose students to a diverse range of career opportunities and provide invaluable insights through discussions with renowned and distinguished panellists. With over 250 students and their parents attending the event, the conclave was a tremendous success.

Doctor first, AI second

Panellist: Dr Ashoo Wadehra, associate director, Department of Neuro-anaesthesia and Neuro-intensive care, Max Super Specialty Hospital, Saket



"My three-decade long professional journey has been a lengthy and challenging one, but what keeps me motivated are the rewarding moments of this profession. I believe that machines might be able to administer anaesthesia, but it is essential to have someone monitoring the patient while the surgeon operates. It is the anaesthetist who makes sure that the patient stays alive and comes out of the surgery safely. Every patient has a different physiology and AI will not be able to understand that. So, AI won't replace doctors, but a doctor who does not understand how AI works might risk losing their jobs."



Amity Career Conclave : Delhi Chapter



Soldiers of the economy

Panellist: Navya Malhotra, secretary NIRC, chartered accountant, ICAI



"I have been practising for eight years and it has been a glorious journey. Earlier, everyone thought that studying commerce meant becoming a CA, but today, the opportunities have expanded. We are a band of soldiers for the financial economy. I would encourage every student who wishes to become a CA to follow this rewarding path. Having parental support is crucial when overcoming challenges, and I am fortunate that mine stood by me throughout my journey."

It's all about loving what you do

Panellist: RJ Lucky, India Today 104.8 FM



"I am an engineer by education but a radio jockey by profession. My parents were not supportive of my profession initially, and sometimes, they still question me about where I am headed. After completing engineering, I worked in the BPO industry. I assured my parents that I would eventually shift to a technical field, but that's not where my interests lied. I asked them for two months and did an internship at a radio station. Luckily, during my internship in Jalandhar, someone heard my voice and offered me a radio job in Delhi. My parents are still not convinced, but at the end of the day, you should be able to have fun, and I am having fun."

Creating an inclusive university



Keynote speaker: Prof Haneet Gandhi, dean of admissions, University of Delhi

"In Delhi University, one has multiple entry and exit options. You get a certificate after one year, a diploma after two years, or a degree after three years. With 68 colleges that present thousands of choices, Delhi University is the place to study and grow. There are myriad of courses offered by the university as per students' interest. The experience of studying at DU is unparalleled, as you get to meet diverse people from different backgrounds. More than seven lakh students are currently enrolled in the Delhi University. And I can assure you that every student is proud to be a part of this esteemed university."

With position comes responsibility



Chief guest: Rai Mahimapat Ray, IAS

"Most people like to join the Indian Administrative Service for its perks or social acceptability, but these aspects are shallow and disappear the moment you retire. The best example of this is that a constable will salute a DM's car even if the officer isn't inside the vehicle, as he identifies the vehicle rather than the individual. So, the question is, what is it that you seek? If your aim is to help people, then the IAS offers an excellent opportunity. That being said, it is a very difficult exam which requires an equal amount of mental, physical, and emotional strength, which can only be derived if you know exactly why you want to become a civil servant."

Achieving the higher edge



Keynote speaker: Meenakshi Kachroo Chatta, senior director, South and Central Asia, The College Board

"SAT and AP exams help students pursue higher education overseas. SAT falls under the 'Holistic Admissions Framework', which enables an admissions officer to understand your environmental context and curriculum while also providing a distinguishing element to students with equal scores. AP courses, on the other hand, facilitate advance placements. These are rigorous university level courses, which are almost similar to the CBSE curriculum. Ivy League schools favour these courses when considering a student for admission. They provide you a much-needed edge over your contemporaries."

Blueprint for decision making

Panellist: Major V Lashito, Indian Army



"Indian Army offers a career where you get to lead, command, and guide troops into battle. To achieve that, you must possess courage, perseverance, and the ability to take quick decisions. Your one decision can cost or save lives. Training academies shape cadets into morally upright, mentally robust, physically fit, and professionally skilled individuals who can lead this generation. It is for those who wish to serve their nation with integrity and honour."

Real research needs passion

Panellist: Prof Nidhi Jain, Department of Chemistry, IIT Delhi



"A good researcher focuses on exploring the subject rather than worrying about the results. Traditional research methods continue to hold significance alongside AI advancements. While AI can improve the language of a paper, it cannot replace the real-time statistical data in research. Students can learn to integrate AI effectively while recognising the enduring significance of traditional research methodologies in generating credible research outcomes. A research paper gains its unique essence from the passion and dedication a person invests in it, something that AI cannot replicate."

Be the change you want to see

Panellist: Sameep Shastri, vice chairman and politician BRICS, Chamber of Commerce and Industry



"In my opinion, having a second career option is crucial because of the uncertainties in life. Political success does not ensure financial stability. So, it is essential to achieve financial stability first. However, one must always contribute to the well-being of society in any way possible. As youngsters, it is your responsibility to go out and make the change that you want to see in the world."

Recipe of the ultimate culinary charm

Panellist: Varun Raj Kullar, culinary artist, hotelier



"My father used to tell me that the culinary industry is one where the world comes to you on its own. In the hospitality industry, from hotels to restaurants, everybody is keen to meet the person behind the scenes. Meeting new people, interacting with them, and learning about unique cuisines and cultures has always intrigued me. So, this was something that was relevant to me when I got into the industry."

A versatile and vibrant profession

Panellist: Shiv Kumar, advocate, Dharma Prabhas Law Associates



"Law makes you understand society better. Of course, like any other field, law as a profession has also evolved over time. Law has two branches - civil law and criminal law. Since we now have a flourishing corporate sector, legal help is required to understand national and international laws related to business as well. All these jobs are well-paid and lucrative. There is no monotony in this profession."

Understanding your goals

Panellist: Sachin Narani, IT professional, Fidelity International



"Throughout my 15 years of career in the IT field, I have learnt that an MBA is not crucial for advancing your career in engineering. While it might be beneficial to those who are aiming for leadership roles, it isn't a requirement for everyone. Students must learn that each career path is unique and there are multiple ways to achieve success in IT."

Towards a brighter future

Panellist: Rajiv Bajaj, former chairman NIRC, company secretary, ICSI



"Although exams such as CA and CS are quite challenging, they offer a lot of perks. Since India has many international companies that would like to establish their presence here, they will require professionals, so a spectrum of opportunities await you in the future."

Tempest in a teapot

WORDS VERSE



Like a friend

Eeshani Singh, AIS MV, Alumna

Like a small beam of light
Peeping inside the dark room
You were standing in sight
Outside my dull four walls

Like the water with purpose
To smooth the edges of rocks
You eroded my sharpness
And gave me the calmness

Like a gentle summer breeze
Swaying on its own tunes
You taught me to be in present
Letting go of my dark hues

And enjoy myself because this
Moment will be over soon
But like a forever friend, I know
That you will always be here.

Season of delight

Shambhavi Mishra

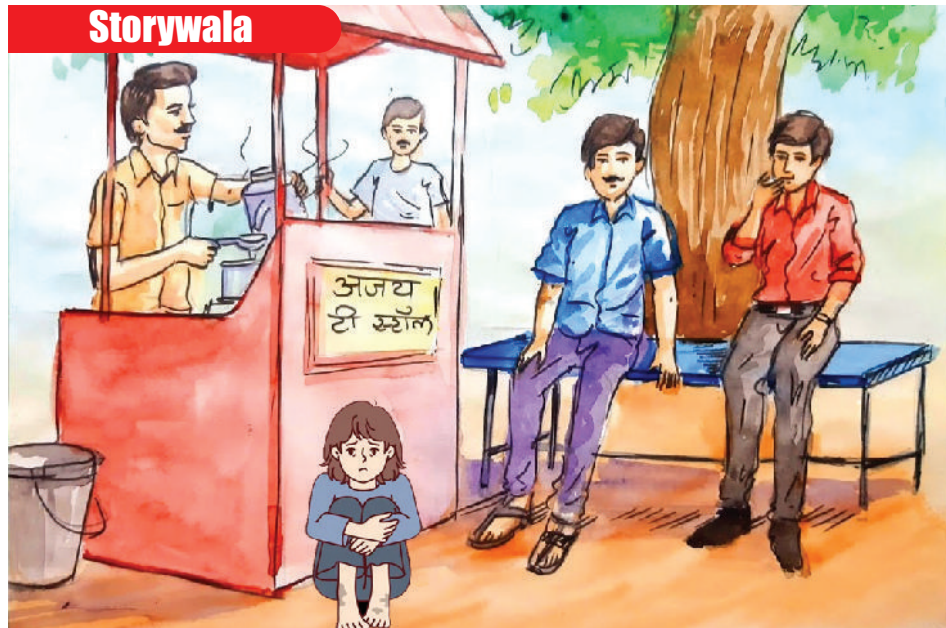
AIS Vas 1, X A

On one pleasantly cloudy day
It's the season of delight again
The trees sway with the wind
And clouds have news to tell

With arms spread out all wide
Hearts full of tranquility inside
The harbinger of blissful smiles
We greet this season of pride

Look! How beautiful is the rain
With all the patterns it contains
How it just flows and flatters out
From the lap of overflowing spout

Thunderous clouds cry in dismay
Giving us memories of a rainy day
Keep the gloom and worries at bay
It's the season of delight again!



Storywala

Riya Jain, AIS Noida, Alumna

“I said take care of it! I will return in an hour,” he ranted. Sahil Bryant was the big cheese of his company. Recently, he was feeling overworked. His workaholic lifestyle had imprisoned his leisure time, but today, he was determined to take a pause, even if it was just for an hour. He walked on the footpath as the chilly breeze skimmed his face. Suddenly, he halted as the aroma of Indian spices wrapped him. In front of him stood a tea vendor he used to visit in his childhood. “Chai, sahib?” he offered. Bryant nodded with a beaming smile. He kept receiving endless calls from work, but he de-

cidated to put his phone on silent. He checked his watch to see that only thirty peaceful minutes remained, so he hurriedly scanned the area around the tea stall, looking for a tranquil space to enjoy his tea. He found a park bench and quickly grabbed the spot. He reached for his cup of joy but was left in utmost shock. A young girl in rags was sitting beside him holding the teacup. He snatched it out of her hand in rage and attempted to shoo away the poor girl. Bryant took a sip and noticed from the corner of his eye that she didn't leave. His mobile buzzed again. He shoved it in his pocket and held his hand out for the cup, which had miraculously vanished again. The girl was enjoying the beverage, which

He checked his watch to see that only thirty peaceful minutes remained, so he hurriedly scanned the area around the tea stall, looking for a tranquil space to enjoy his tea.

seemed to have almost finished. This action drove Bryant's patience up the wall. He gave her an earful for having the audacity to take his tea. He demanded the girl to return the drink. His eyes rose as the unbothered girl took yet another gulp before giving the cup back with just the last sip left. “Unbelievable! Do have no etiquettes?” he yelled with utter annoyance as he crumpled the paper cup. *Beep*. His recess had come to an end.

He threw away the crimped vessel in the bin beside the tea stall. “Ah, sahib, you're here. The chai-” The vendor was interrupted. “The chai was perfect Ajay ji, if only I could have relished it before that brat took it.” Bryant irked as he pointed to the girl. Ajay ji exclaimed, “That *pyaari bachhi* is deaf but still tries to earn a few pennies every day to buy my chai. Reminds me of the days when you visited me often decades ago. Anyway, sahib, you had forgotten your *chai* at the stall. No worries, I will warm it up!”

Bryant, who was in shock, immediately regretted what he had done. He turned around to offer the girl another cup of tea, which she had graciously shared with him from her cup earlier, but she had already left.

(Riya is currently pursuing BTech in Computer Science & Design from IIT, Delhi.)

Read Play and Win 64

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 Who was the inventor of ZIP?

Q.4 In which competition did Ishaan Garg from AIS Vas 1 secured third position?

Q.7 What is the new word in the short story of page 9?

Q.2 What is the tagline of the page 1 top story?

Q.5 Anupama Pandey has served as _____ at Mission Swaraj.

Q.8 Who has reviewed the album, 'Sour' on page 12?

Q.3 Who is the main character in the story "Tempest in a teapot"?

Q.6 Which school hosted the Amity Career Conclave 2024?

Q.9 How many awards did Shogun win at the Emmys?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-63: Swastik Sachan, AIS Noida, IV H; Siddharth Debnath, AIS Saket, V B; Reyansh Singh, AIS Pushp Vihar, I C

BRUSH 'n' EASEL

Sahitya Garg
AIS Vas 6, X D

The healing witch



Short story

Ragini Singhal

AIS Gurugram 43, XI S

In a magical forest filled with talking animals and fairies, there once lived a witch named Luna. She had a small cottage deep in the woods and was known for her love of nature. Luna spent most of her days tending to her garden, collecting herbs and flowers to create powerful potions and cast spells.

Despite living alone in the forest, Luna was never lonely. Surrounded by the beauty and wonder of nature, she felt a deep connection with all the creatures. She often spent her afternoons wandering through the woods, talking to the animals and fairies that she often encountered along the way.

One day, Luna was taking a walk in the

forest when she encountered a large, wilted tree drooping with brown leaves. As she approached it, Luna sensed despair emanating from it. She could tell that the tree was distressed. Without a moment's hesitation, Luna set to work. Using her knowledge of herbs and magic, she brewed a potion that would revive the tree. Luna visited the tree every day to check on its growth. Slowly but surely, she noticed signs of improvement as its leaves started to turn green again.

One afternoon, Luna was sitting under the shade of the tree, enjoying musical chirping of birds and the gentle breeze blowing through her hair when she heard a voice. "Thank you Luna for your healing potion. I shall be grateful forever!" Luna was surprised and delighted to hear the tree speak. She smiled and replied, "You're

Without a moment's hesitation, Luna set to work. Using her knowledge of herbs and magic, she brewed a potion that would revive the tree.

welcome, dear tree. It was my pleasure to help you." From that day onwards, Luna and the tree became best friends. Luna's reputation as a kind and skilled witch spread throughout the forest. Animals and fairies would come seeking her assistance at dire times. The tree became a popular meeting spot for all the animals and fairies, where Luna would often brew potions to help all the living beings with their ailments.

One day, a group of fairies approached Luna to help them find a new home, since their old one was destroyed by a fierce storm, forcing them to flee out of the forest. Luna knew exactly what to do. She guided them to an elevated green clearing near human habitat and casted a spell to create a beautiful new tree like home for the fairies.

The fairies were so overjoyed that they thanked Luna for her kindness again and again. Luna was happy to have been able to help them and was glad to have made some forever friends in the process of her sojourn in the forest. Luna's presence reassured every creature in the forest that humans can be benevolent. **GT**

So, what did you learn today?

A new word: **Emanating**

Meaning: To be giving out or express a feeling, quality, or sensation.

POEM



A new morning

Jayas Kumar, AGS Noida, LS3

A new morning is a new day
Here to take my worries away
Rising of the sun is like a road
There are belongings to load

The night's a glittering moon
The sun rays replace it soon
There is only one quote to say
A new morning is a new day

Darkness orbits us all around
Scaring you round and round
Zeal comes with a shining ray
A new morning is a new day

The mistakes of previous time
Don't repeat them, it's a crime
Every day, with a smile, let's say
A new morning is a new day.

It's Me



KNOW ME BETTER

My name: Avyukta Thakur
My Class: LKG
My school: AIS VKC Lucknow
My birthday: April 12

MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Pratibha John ma'am
Subject: Mathematics
Friend: Avi
Game: Basketball
Cartoon: Peppa Pig
Food: Chhole Bhature
Mall: Lulu Mall
Book: Rapunzel



MY DREAMS AND GOALS

My hobbies: Dancing and singing songs
I like: Reading books
I dislike: Sleeping

My role model: My mother
I want to become: An actor
I want to feature in GT because: I want to show my talent to all my friends.

COLOURING FUN



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

Best entries for colouring fun

Dated: September 16, 2024



Anaysha Tyagi

AIS Vasundhara 1, II B



Ruhi Sharma

AIS Pushp Vihar, IV A

Writing is an art and there's no better platform to exercise it than your own beloved GT! To unleash the writer in you, GT brings you a new topic every time and asks for your views on the same. Here are some intriguing responses from the young writers at Amity for the prompt...

*With the success of shows like Stranger Things, re-release of movies like Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein, and resurfacing of old songs like Bye Bye Bye by *NSYNC on reels, how do you think nostalgia-driven marketing is reshaping our self-identity and our connection to contemporary culture?*

The prompt

BOX

"Memories are more rose-tinted in retrospect because we often associate memories with joy. It may be the filters that replicate the haze of the 90s, while our phones, brimming with the novelty of crisp cameras, lie unattended. Perhaps it is simply psychology, or the everlasting cycle of consumerism that motivated such marketing. Shapeshifting trends shape lives and, if profit reigns overall, we don't have much agency left over our own nostalgia."

Shambhavi Sharma, AIS PV, XI F

"It is no strange thing that Stranger Things is a blockbuster and we are not ready to say bye-bye to *NSYNC's Bye Bye yet! Nostalgic references create a fluid sense of self-identity. Driven by FOMO in this ever-evolving age of AI, we strive hard to stay informed, connected, and relevant. Effective nostalgia-driven marketing can really uplift a person's self-image. It helps us revive our forgotten cultural practices and redefine our connection to our heritage."

Aarika Ahuja, AIS Saket, VIII B

"For the consumers, re-release of such iconic movies and songs acts as an escape from the monotony. Brands capitalise on this, giving us the illusion of revisiting older times as nostalgia blurs the gap between the past and present. However, this marketing strategy also paves the way for the new audience to experience these movies in theatres."

Aditi Gupta, AIS Vas 1, XII B

"Nostalgia bridges generational gaps, blending the past with contemporary culture, allowing older generations to relive formative experiences while introducing younger ones to past trends. By merging retro aesthetics and values with modern trends, nostalgia-driven marketing creates a cultural feedback loop, shaping collective cultural consciousness."

Mansee Singh, AIS VKC Lko, VIII A

"Nostalgia driven shows usually only display the best parts of the past; imagine if Stranger Things addressed the civil rights struggles and global economic recession, it would paint a much more complicated picture of that era. It makes the past feel more perfect than it actually was. This creates a false sense of identity among viewers as they view the past as an almost magical time."

Kevin Peer, AGS Noida, IB2

"While nostalgia gives us that warm, fuzzy feeling, it also influences how we relate to modern culture. It makes us feel like we're part of something bigger, blending our old memories with newest of the experiences. To some it may just seem like a form of diversion from the hush of life, but unconsciously it's making us understand through the lens of who we once were, who we are today, and how long of a journey we have taken to come this far."

Mudra Parasher, AIS Gur 43, XI D

"It is the nostalgia-driven marketing, full of old-world charm, that is currently building up its place within our minds and emotions, deeply influencing how we perceive ourselves and connect to today's culture. Brands capitalise on this opportunity to build a relationship with us by siphoning from the treasure box of our memories. For marketers, embracing the new while respecting the old is key in actually resonating with today's youth, where nostalgia becomes not some sort of gimmick in marketing but a thoughtful conversation with the past."

Shreshtha Karan, AIS Gur 46, VIII G

"Nostalgia marketing understands the sentiments associated with past experiences. In fact, the resurgence of such sentimental components in media often blends the past and the present, which allows the reinvention of old ideas in new contexts, contributing to a zestful cultural aspect that keeps the past in mind while innovating for the future."

Yana Suresh, AIS Noida, X A

"The re-releases of classic films such as Rehna Hai Tere Dil Mein evoke a deep sense of nostalgia, taking us back to cherished eras. Those who were present during the release can connect the present through the lens of past experiences, and in turn blend the past with their present. It gives them a cherished recollection while staying engaged with current trends."

Ansh Burma, AGS Gur, VIII

"The re-release of films often brings a sense of familiarity. Old movie clips are the source of reels that now flood social media platforms, with people monetising on the past. In fact, vintage aesthetics incorporated in media, enhances our connection with contemporary culture."

Adrika Singh, AIS Vas 6, XI B

"As nostalgia blends with the products offered in the frontiers of advertising, it transforms the present by re-contextualising yesteryears' designs, patterns, and ideas in the modern day. Such emotive aspects affect the consumer's behaviour and establish a strong brand loyalty. Retro-marketing shapes peoples' perceptions not only of themselves with regards to their own history but also with regards to how the norms of cultural evolution are changing."

Pearl Sharma, AIS MV, IX A

"While looking at your old photos or videos, a sense of nostalgia washes over you. This nostalgia is used by brands like Nickelodeon, Coca-Cola etc. to rake in the dough. It seamlessly intertwines with our modern lives through the lens of social media as seen through the throwback Thursday (#TBT) and flashback Friday (#FBF) trends. By embracing these memories, we relive our moments."

Khyatisree Pulivarthi, AIS Raipur, VIII A

"Nostalgia driven marketing has made a major impact on us. Brands focus on nostalgia for their capitalist overview, but they also help the older generation get a sense of familiarity. Individuals reconnect with these moments and reaffirm their identity by evoking the past. This allows people to reclaim a part of themselves that feels stable and anchored in their memories."

Aarnavi Singh, AIS VYC Lko, XI B

Time for Ecomite

Nurturing Economically Aware Young Minds



Winners of Ecomite with school principal Divya Bhatia and their mentors

AIS Saket

Rebus - The Economics and Finance Society and commerce department of the school conducted the 8th Ecomite, an intra school economics and commerce competition on August 13, 2024. Envisioned by visionary Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the competition helps students to fortify their understanding of economic concepts. The event witnessed participation of 162 students from Class IX and XI in three competitions namely Economics Symposium in which

they spoke about the current economic issues. This competition was held in two categories - junior (IX) and senior (XI). The other two competitions were: game plan, a start-up competition with a social cause; and poster making, based on the topic Vikasit Bharat: Envisioning India @ 2047. All the competitions were judged by school alumni Reedhav Gulati, Sparsh Bansal, Anupriya Nayak, Vanalika Konwar, Abhilasha Kuba and Aishanya Mathur. In Economics Symposium (Jr) Avika Pandey, Garvit Arora and Safia Ali bagged first, second, and third place respectively, while in

senior category, Parth Chaudhary, Agastya Bahl & Aavya Jalan clinched first, second, and third spots respectively. The game plan had Class XI students prove their entrepreneurial mettle. Team Eco-folate (Harsh Yadav & Sarah Mehta) won first place, Team Alogene (Parth, Aananya Thareja, Agastya Bahl & Saisha Vashist) got second place and Team Book Holistics (Rehaan Kapoor & Mohak Malhotra) bagged third place. In poster making, Milli Thapliyal (XI) and Oparna Mehta (XI) got first place with Sunaina Beniwal (XI) in second & Sabhyata Gupta (XI) in third spot. [G.T](#)



Ishaan with his school principal Raina Krishnatray and mentors

Sanskrit stalwart

AIS Vasundhara 1

Ishaan Garg, from Class X secured third position in Sanskrit Pratibha Khoj: Sanskrit Samanya Gyan Pratiyogita, 2024 held on August 23, 2024. More than 100 students from Class VI - XII, participated in this district-level competition, organised by Uttar Pradesh Sanskrit Sanstha.

Ishaan was graciously felicitated with a certificate, a medal, and a cash prize of INR 700. The competition comprising four hours long oral quiz, evaluated the participants on topics ranging from Sanskrit grammar to the knowledge of epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, renowned Sanskrit laureates, bards, and the rich history of the language. [G.T](#)

In the light of reading

AIS Vasundhara 6

The school has been recognised as the Reading Torch Award winner for the year 2024 by the Primary Plus Foundation for being proactively engaged in multifarious reading activities for Class Nursery to XII, making it a good reading school. The award was received by school principal Sunila Athley from Dr Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE and Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust at a glittering award ceremony organised on September 4, 2024 at India Habitat Centre. [G.T](#)



School principal receives The Reading Torch award



AIS Mayur Vihar resonates with euphony

Crescendo 2024

AIS Mayur Vihar

The school resonated with the sound of music at the 18th Crescendo, the inter school western music competition, organised by the western music society of the school on July 26, 2024. The musical extravaganza saw 25 schools across Delhi/NCR including other branches of Amity Group of Schools participate enthusiastically in the competition. The mellifluous event comprised four competition categories namely band, duet, solo, and group. Western music experts Jacinta, Ashton Vaz, and alumni Sa-

marth Iyer and Debaditya Halder were the judges of competitions. Students of Amity bagged several prizes in all the four categories, proving their musical excellence. In the band category, AIS Vasundhara 1 won the first prize and AIS Saket fetched the third prize. Duet had AIS Gurugram 43 clinch the second prize while group category saw AIS Gurugram 43 win the first prize and AIS Saket secure second position. In the solo category, the award for Best Keyboard artist was won by AIS Vas 1 while the award for Best Drummer was bagged by AIS Gurugram 46 and AIS Noida collectively.



The songs and spirit of patriotism at Dhwani 2024

Patriotic tunes

AIS Noida

The school organised the 27th chapter of Dhwani, an annual inter school patriotic song competition for Class VI - XII on August 16, 2024. The event witnessed participants from 24 schools across Delhi/NCR, including 7 branches of Amity Group of Schools. The competition was judged by renowned santoor player, Raj Kumar Majumdar and the AIR and Doordarshan artist, Madhumita Bose. The event witnessed zestful per-

formances by the students, resonating aloud the spirit of patriotism with their mellifluous and powerful voices and vibrant costumes reflecting the rich heritage of India. AIS Gurugram 43 bagged first position for their power packed singing. The programme also featured a mesmerising showcase by the students of AIS Noida, resonating the spirit of nationalism. The jury members lauded the euphonic and euphoric performances of the students, and the event concluded with the recital of national anthem.

What's in a name?

The Enigmatic Irony Surrounding Weird Monikers

Kamakshi Khandelwal
AIS Gurugram 43, XI D

Two old men, Wulfric and Egbert, met in heaven upon their arrival and formed a friendship. As beautiful as it was, heaven had barely any recreational activities for them to do. Once they were done exchanging the titbits of their life before death, they decided to watch over their families and keep up with the news.

Egbert: Wulfric! Come here and take a look at this!

Wulfric: What happened, Egbert? What makes you this frustrated?

Egbert: I was just sitting here, watching my great great great great grandchild's naming ceremony, when suddenly, they

named him Ram!

Wulfric: So? Are you not religious? It's a lovely name!

Egbert: But it's spelled Ryuaem! How weird is that?

Wulfric: Weird? I'll show you what's weird. Look at that child. That is American celebrities, Kim Kardashian and Kanye West's daughter, North West!

Egbert: North... West? That's... weird. But what about that child? She looks as sweet as pie.

Wulfric: Maybe sweet as Cyanide, since that was almost her name.

Egbert: Stop pulling my leg, Wulfric!

Wulfric: I'm serious! Thankfully, a judge in Wales ruled the name not appropriate.

Egbert: They must hate their children!

Wulfric: Do you know that actress Rebel Wilson? Her siblings are named Ryot, An-nachi, and Liberty.

Egbert: I'm not even surprised anymore.

Wulfric: Many countries have a list of banned names now. A person chose to name her child 'Hashtag' and ended up being a popular hashtag herself.

Egbert: I bet the siblings must be named 'Trending' and 'Viral'. What a social

(media) family!

Wulfric: Did such names make them trending and viral? Speaking of trending, a couple decided to name their children after popular terms. Imagine being called 'Side-eye Chloe'.

Egbert: Thank God, this isn't a trend in India. Imagine... Rizzler Rameshwar!

Wulfric: I agree. But do you know about the British parents who named their kid the Indian snack 'Pakorras'?

Egbert: But why would people name their kids these anyway?

Wulfric: That's just how this new generation works.

Egbert: At least people have limited it to the use of letters. Imagine having a name with weird symbols.

Wulfric: Oh, my dear, Egbert, you haven't seen it all. Imagine having Elon Musk's son's name.

Egbert: How bad can it be?

Wulfric: His name is spelt as XÆA-12 Musk, and his sister is named 'y'.

Egbert: Whyyyy?

Wulfric: Exactly!

Egbert: No, why would they do this? It's

hysterically absurd!

Wulfric: Are you aware of the longest name in the world?

Egbert: No, stop! That would cross the word limit! Don't you dare, writers!

The writer presses backspace for two whole minutes

Wulfric: The mother wanted to set a world record and wanted her daughter to have a unique name. The name has a total of 1,019 letters. You can literally play a game of crosswords and find common words from the name itself.

Egbert: That's a unique way of being unique. I am thankful that we are dead. Our generation had such simple names.

Wulfric: Simple for us, but weird for this generation. And that's the irony!



Imaging: Pankaj Mallik, GT Network

Album Review

Brutally good 4 you

Album: Sour
Artist: Olivia Rodrigo
Released on: May 21, 2021
Genre: Pop, pop-punk

Synopsis: Underlining the themes of adolescence and heartache, the title 'Sour' represents the emotions young people, especially women experience, but are often criticised for expressing, such as anger, jealousy, and unhappiness. Rodrigo's album is not only a tribute to the suppressed sentiments but also an attempt to show the contempt of such criticism with the desire to normalise their justified expression. 'Sour' holds the mirror to reflect the unsteady self and the way people twist themselves to fit into the mould laid out before them.

Why is it worth listening: The album boasts of a spectrum of songs that are catchy and unforgettable, like "driver's license" and "déjà vu". It tells a riveting story of honesty, persistence, and bravery through the eyes of a teenage girl who isn't afraid to open her soul to the world. Weaving sweet pop and tart punk melodies based on her own timid teenage experience, Olivia's narratives of nostalgia, honesty, and feminist influence are blended harmoniously with her experimental tunes to give them a feisty new outlook. With a track list that contains songs like not-so-eloquent "brutal", alt-rock "jealousy, jealousy", and pop-punk "good 4 u", the album has the edge it needs to reign supreme.

Favourite song: "Déjà vu" is one song that I can listen on loop.



It is a refreshing, fast-paced song which holds a scintilla of 2000s pop-rock instrumentals. The music video is scenic and aesthetically pleasing to the eyes, which provides the listeners a holistic experience of the tale concealed in the lyrics.

Rating: 4/5

Review by: Aditri Bhatnagar
AIS Saket, X A

GT Travels to Switzerland



Prashast Pareek, AGS Noida, P3, poses with his copy of The Global Times at Jungfrauoch, Switzerland. A snow saddle between the Jungfrau and Mönch mountains, it measures 3,454 meters above sea level and is the highest point accessible in Europe. It serves as a viewpoint for the Aletsch glacier.

Got some clicks with GT while on the go? Get them featured!
Send them to us at gtravels@theglobaltimes.in