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THE GT POLL

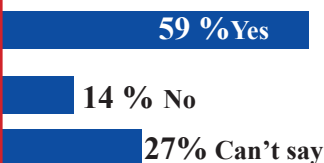
Do you agree with BTS opting out of Grammys 2027 over its newly introduced Best Asian Pop Music category?

- A) Yes, it segregates artistes
- B) No, it increases segregation
- C) Can't say

To vote, checkout our page @the_global_times

THE GT POLL RESULT for GT Edition July 27, 2026

Should FIFA impose multi-match bans and fines on Argentine players involved in spat with the winning Spain team?



Results as on August 1, 2026

Coming Next
GT Awards Special

Dear pen friend...



This Friendship Day (August 2), Amitians let their imaginations take the lead, writing letters to friends real and imagined, from beloved authors and cherished places to ideas and fictional worlds. Read on to discover how a simple letter became a bridge across time, distance, and reality.



Magician of storytelling

Dear Roald Dahl,
You made reading books a lifelong habit for me. Your stories have given wings to my imagination. Characters like Matilda, the BFG, Sophie, and George have shown me courage, kindness, intelligence, and creativity. Every book takes readers into a world filled with magic, humour, and unforgettable adventures. And the new words you created make your stories even more unique. Your style of writing inspires me to dream bigger. One day, I hope to become a writer like you and inspire others, just as you have inspired me.

Your avid reader and fan,
Owais Ahmad Khan
AIS VYC Lucknow, VIII A

Dear AI,

I write to you not because I trust you, but because I don't. When you first appeared, everyone took you for a fancy upgrade to Google. Then we realised you could solve, create, and even argue back. That is incredible... and also a little terrifying. What goes on inside your mysterious brain? Do you know why humans fear you? A saying goes: Keep your friends close and your enemies closer. So, perhaps we shouldn't fear you, but understand you.



Understanding the bot

Proudly human,

Arohi Handa, AIS Gurugram 46, VII C



Connecting with curiosity

Dear Curiosity,

Had you never lifted your head, the wheel would never have turned, the stars would never have been reached, and history would have remained unwritten. I want to ask you so many questions - Why does wonder fade as we grow older? Why does complacency replace the desire to explore? You are the silent force behind every discovery, invention, and new idea. Curiosity, thank you for connecting imagination with knowledge and dreams with reality.

Yours truly,

Anwita Jain, AIS Vasundhara 6, VII A

Shining in all phases

Dear Moon,

In this complex world, I chose to write to you, our glorious satellite. You never stop shining. Though far away, you feel so near, watching empires rise and fall through wars that break and build the courage of millions. You have seen countless generations come and go. By borrowing the Sun's light, you show us that it is okay to accept help. We humans are flawed,

yet we are a lot like you. We all have our phases... sometimes bright and full of hope, sometimes like a tiny crescent, barely seen. But we, too, keep changing and moving forward in our orbits.

Regards,

Kavishi Singla,
AIS Pushp Vihar, VII A



A poet and a patriot

Dear Chand Bardai,

I have always admired the courage and loyalty you showed towards Prithviraj Chauhan; you, the poet who immortalised his deeds. You risked it all for your king and your nation. When the king was captured, you did not give up. Instead, you cleverly gained the captor's trust and guided your king to defeat him, restoring his honour. Your unwavering devotion continues to inspire us. Your life reminds us that patriotism is not just about fighting battles, but also about standing by those we believe in. The fire of courage and loyalty you lit in people's hearts still burns bright. My dear friend, I hope your spirit continues to inspire the youth of our nation to be brave, loyal, and selfless.

With love and respect,

Asmit Kumar, AGS Noida, LS1

More on page 10...





— Around The — WORLD

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



USA

Talc lawsuit settlement

Johnson & Johnson has offered up to 5.5 billion USD to settle about 76,000 lawsuits alleging that its talc-based baby powder and other products caused ovarian cancer. The proposed settlement requires approval from legal representatives of 95% of the claimants before it can take effect. The healthcare giant has consistently denied the allegations. J&J stopped selling talc-based baby powder worldwide in 2022, replacing it with a cornstarch-based version.



UK

Farmland turned haven

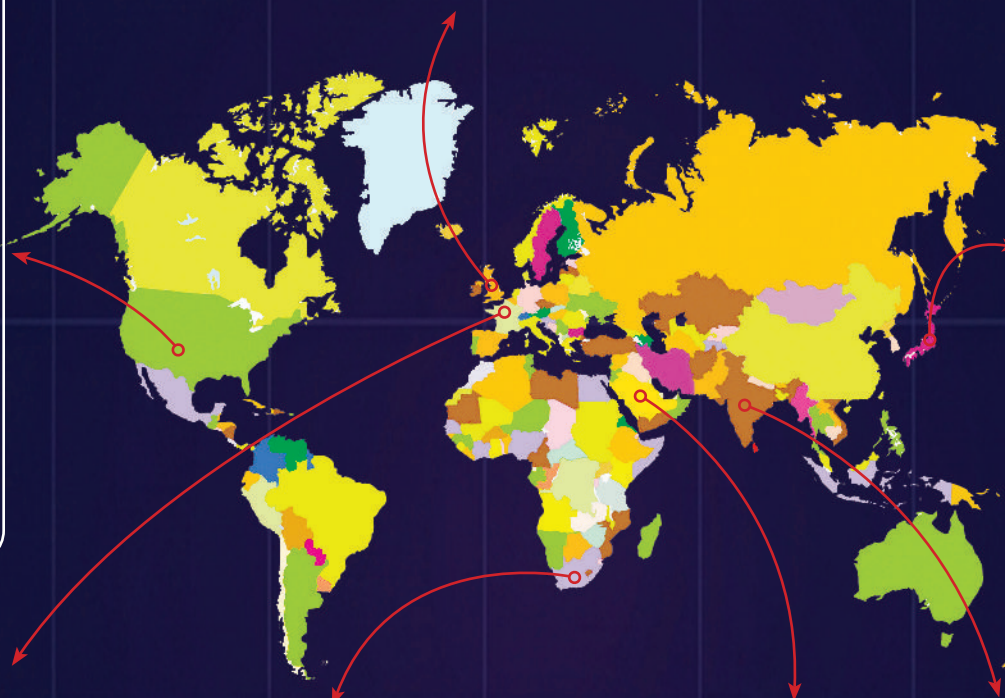
Hundreds of species have been recorded at Strawberry Hill after former farmland was transformed into a nature reserve by the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Northamptonshire. The 377-acre site, acquired in 2024 following a 1.5 million GBP appeal, now supports half of Bedfordshire's nightingales along with 11 bat species, 50 bird species, 27 butterfly species, and nearly 1,000 invertebrate species. Conservationists have created six ponds, built dams, and introduced grazing cattle to restore habitats and boost biodiversity.



JAPAN

Ancient ruins honoured

The Asuka-Fujiwara archaeological sites in Nara Prefecture have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming the country's 27th World Heritage site. The collection of 19 archaeological sites dates from the sixth to eighth centuries and includes ruins of the ancient Asuka and Fujiwara imperial capitals, as well as the Takamatsuzuka tomb. UNESCO said the sites demonstrate cultural exchanges with China and the Korean Peninsula, the introduction of Buddhism, and the emergence of a centralised state in ancient East Asia. The property was first placed on UNESCO's Tentative List in 2007 before being nominated by Japan in 2025.



FRANCE

Fleeing from fire clouds

More than 2,20,000 people were evacuated as strong winds fuelled wildfires moving towards Bordeaux. The flames generated rare 'fire clouds' known as pyrocumulonimbus that made containment difficult. France deployed military personnel to help create firebreaks, while President Emmanuel Macron pledged long-term support for the affected. The final stage of the Tour de France was shortened to allow security forces to assist firefighting efforts.



S. AFRICA

Visa process simplified

An Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) has been introduced for eligible Indian travellers, enabling fully online visa applications for short-term leisure or work visits. The system aims to process applications within 24 to 48 hours and allows stays of up to 90 days. Applicants can complete the process by uploading documents, smartphone-based biometrics, and paying the fee. The ETA is digitally linked to the traveller's passport, eliminating the need for a physical visa sticker.



SAUDI ARABIA

Green hectares restored

More than 159 million trees have been planted across one million hectares of degraded land under the Saudi Green Initiative, marking a major milestone since the programme began in 2021. The initiative, praised by the UN as a model for restoration in arid regions, has also expanded to renewable energy projects. Saudi Arabia now aims to restore 2.5 million hectares by 2030 and is expected to showcase its progress at the UNCCD summit in Mongolia later this month.



INDIA

AUO scripts history

Amity University Online (AUO) learners made India proud at Commonwealth Games. Weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won Gold medal in the Women's 48 kg category. Silver medals were bagged by Rishikanta Singh (Men's 60 kg) and M. Raja (Men's 65 kg) in weightlifting. Besides them 11 more athletes from Amity University Online represented India in the sporting event across boxing, cycling and weightlifting while pursuing online degrees.

Minds beyond marks

On Building An Education System That Values Creativity And Practicality

Grisha Gautam, XII C &
Zoya Negi, XII I, AIS Noida

As education evolves alongside industry expectations, are we preparing students merely to earn degrees, or to navigate the future? Aarti Srivastava, whose work champions meaningful reforms in India's education landscape, reflects on the question in a conversation with GT re-

porters at GT Youth Power 2026, exploring qualities that will define tomorrow's learners.

Roots of inquiry

My time at Seth Anandram Jaipuria School made me deeply aware of my Indian roots, while my years at Loreto Convent sparked a lasting curiosity for both 'knowing' and 'doing'. This passion is what must be inspired in young people if we want teaching to become a first-choice career. Beyond the fact that government salaries are now largely comparable to those in private industry, teaching offers peace of mind, creative opportunities, and exposure that many conventional industry jobs may not provide.

Hands-on learning

At its core, education is a pursuit of knowledge, but there must be greater alignment between curriculum design and industry requirements. At present, our education system remains largely theoretical. I would like to see curriculum become more application-based so that students use what they learn in real-world contexts. Since education is an ever-evolving field, dynamism



Professor Aarti with GT reporters

and stakeholder engagement must be built into the curriculum to bridge the employability gap.

Intelligence & innovation

AI is likely to be most effective in objective disciplines such as Maths and Science, but its role will be more limited in areas that demand creativity. When you watch a film, you witness the workings of a human mind - something AI cannot truly replicate. While the internet and AI can serve as tools for exploration, the human mind must remain at the forefront of analysing and synthesising ideas. Therefore, disciplines like Social Sciences and Media will continue to rely heavily on human capabilities, even in an AI-driven world.

Role of global exchange

India is part of a global commu-

nity and must act like a sponge, absorbing the best educational practices from other countries. Many people move abroad in search of better opportunities, but by improving quality of life - through cleaner environments, reduced congestion, and competitive compensation - we can attract and retain talent. While careers and jobs naturally follow, a strong value system must remain at the heart of education if we are to create leaders capable of shaping a better future.

Message for Amitians

Education is a lifelong journey. The foundations you build here are important, but they are only the beginning. Continue nurturing your love for knowledge. Keep growing, keep learning, and strive to make meaningful contributions wherever you go.



Aarti Srivastava, professor & head, Department of Higher and Professional Education, NIEPA

A letter to sisterhood

Book: Blue Sisters | Author: Coco Mellors

Published on: May 21, 2024 | Genre: Coming of age, Urban fiction

Synopsis: A year before the novel begins, tragedy strikes the Blue family when they lose one of their daughters, Nicky. The book now reveals the dynamics and the lives of the other three sisters who have had an unconventional childhood, along with the grief that burdens them. As the story begins, the sisters receive an email on the anniversary of Nicky's death from their mother, declaring the selling of their house. This decision eventually leads them to end up at the apartment where they grew up, and where Nicky spent the last months of her life. The book ranges through various themes, from love

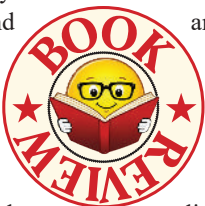
to loss and eventual recovery.

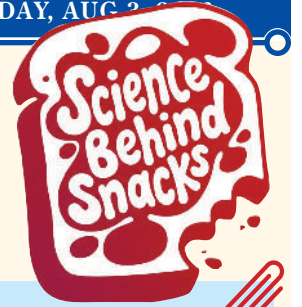
Why is it worth reading: The book offers what seems like a simple plot and while reading it, you find out, that isn't the case at all. It shares how the sisters repair their bond in an impeccable way that is soothing to read. It shows how healing is seldom linear. The characters are very well written, as are their relationships with one another. Avery's stilted relationship with her mother, Abby's intense 'FOMO', i.e. fear of missing out directed at her other two sisters, and the guilt that Bonnie feels throughout the book. The

Iconic quote:
"As long as you are alive,
it is never too late
to be found."

book ends with a complex authenticity - a different resolution and individual clarity for each character, in their personal fashion of living and honouring the memory of their sister; by being together not only for each other, but for Nicky.

Rating: ★★★★★
Review by: Kashvi Sharma
AIS Gurugram 46, XI J





Pop-ability of movie puffs

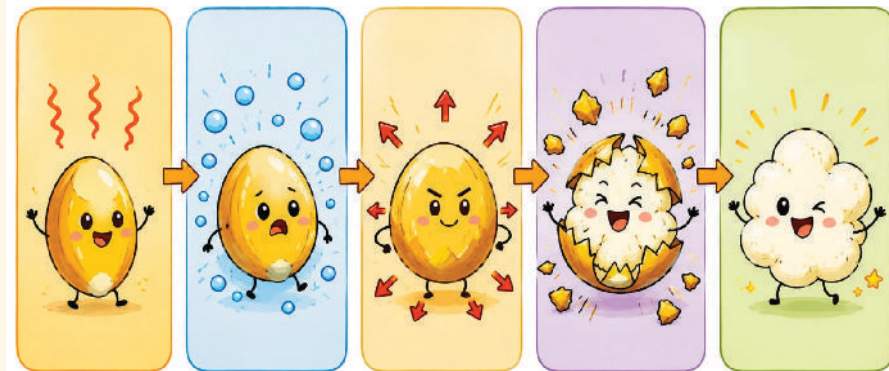
Picture the crack of a chip, the pop of popcorn, the pssst of soda... sounds that make snacking irresistible. Do you ever wonder how science turns simple ingredients into sensory explosions? **Ishita Chandra, AIS VKC Lko, VIII A**, brings to you **part III** of GT's Science Behind Snacks series, where every snack shall have its moment. Without further ado, let's dig in!

Snack: Popcorn
Science involved: Food biology
Threat level: Extremely explosive

Power type

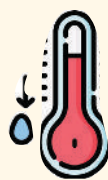


The theatre experience is incomplete if you do not have popcorn to munch on along with the action, romance, and drama of a movie. The pop of the popcorn has become a part of the background music of a movie theatre along with hushed murmurs and sharp ringtones of unmuted phones. And behind every loud crunch is a kernel that has swelled up to 40-50 times



its original size. This jumbo power is bestowed only upon the specific variety of Zea mays everta, unlike its sibling, aka the sweet corn.

Snack-ology



An uninvited guest, but thanks to physics, we aren't munching on small, unexciting kernels. This delicious explosion begins around 212°F when internal water evaporates, transforming the starch inside into a superheated, gelatinous substance. As the kernel continues heating to about 347°F, internal pressure skyrockets to 135 pounds per square inch before finally bursting the hull open and free. A fine way to get the party popping, right?

Lab behind the bite



Each kernel is a drama queen. The silver lining, though, is that it turns a breakdown into a glow-up. Each contains three components: the germ, endosperm, and hull (pericarp). The secret lies in the hull, the outermost layer with just the right thickness to hold in pressure. But this doesn't guarantee the magic pop every time! With the correct amount of moisture and heat, the water inside turns to steam, expands, and builds pressure. The hull, unable to handle the strain, finally bursts. The starch inside rapidly expands and cools into a puffy foam (a process called starch gelatinisation). Et voilà! A white, crunchy popcorn greets you. Truly an identity crisis

Test it yourself

The amount of moisture inside the hull strictly dictates how well a kernel will pop. Try popping three different batches: one that was dried out in the sun, a regular one, and one soaked in water overnight. You will notice that the normal batch pops the best, due to perfect amount of moisture (around 14%), triggering a flawless explosion.

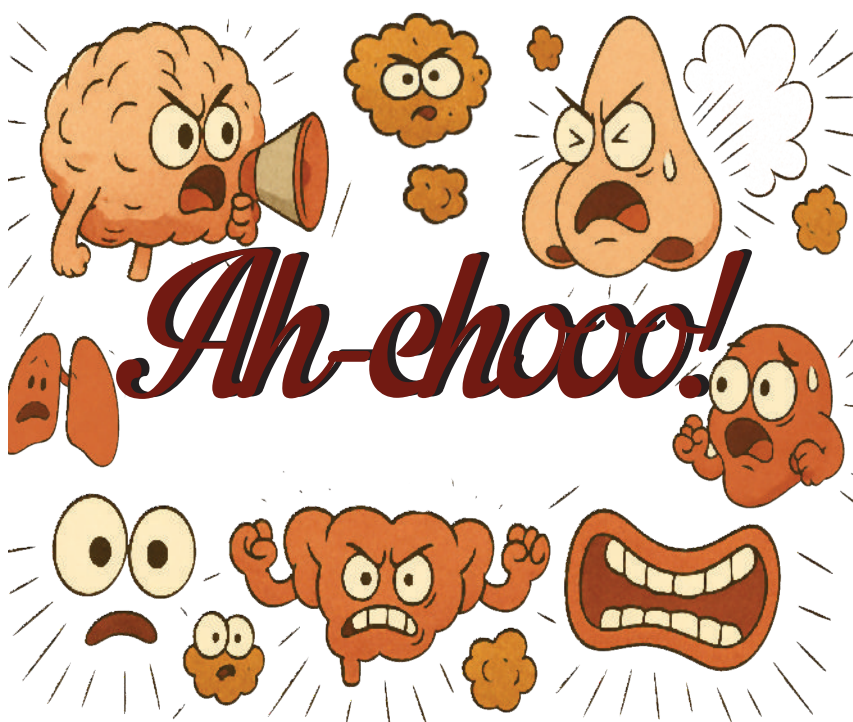
turned into a delicious treat.

Well, why can't you stop munching?



Popcorn has a contrast of textures to offer. It's crunchy, but still incredibly light and airy, making it irresistible to everyone. Furthermore, the Maillard reaction - a form of non-enzymatic browning where amino acids and reducing sugars interact under high heat - giving the kernel a magical toasted aroma as it cooks. The pop is practically designed to defeat your willpower with each kernel whispering, "Relax, I'm tiny and harmless". Eventually, you end up eating both the popcorn and your self-control.

Rating: 🍿 🍿 🍿 🍿 🍿



Raunak Gupta

AIS Vas 6, Alumnus

It was a fine day at the factory where organs were doing their job at maintaining the intricate machine, i.e. your body. Everything was going as usual when

suddenly the alarms went off. And that is how the ultimate chaos began. The manager of the factory, Brain, jumped into action to find the cause. The systems showed a malfunction alert in the nose.

Brain: Attention everyone! There is a malfunction in the nose, we

must make haste!
Nose: (panicking) It's an irritant! Dust! Pollen! Who knows what it could be! We need to sneeze immediately! Hurry!
Inside the nose canal, the intruders echoed menacingly.
Pollen: (giggling) Deeper and deeper we go, dear Dusty!

Dust: (cackling) We will go everywhere! Let's go ahead and tickle the walls with full force! *Their voices boomed and bounced, jolting the factory into hyperdrive.*
Lungs: (gearing up) Deep breath coming right up! Filling up the air tank to maximum capacity. And Heart's sweating buckets; need to blow cool air his way!

The Unheralded Pre-'Bless You' Protocol

Heart: (stumbling, sweating profusely) Whoa, feeling a bit squeezed in here! I can feel a cardiac arrest incoming! I feel as though I'm melting!
Brain: Heart, stay calm. There might be a dip in the heart rate due to the vagal nerve, but it will be back to normal in no time.
Heart: (in extreme panic) Oh no. No, no, no! This is the last day of this factory! It's all going to end!
Adrenal Glands: Everything is alright, Heart. You just need a bit of adrenaline.
Brain: Someone take care of Heart! He is a indispensable asset to our factory!
Adrenal Glands: On it, sir!
Eyes: (blinking rapidly) Eyes are at the ready! We have initiated the shutting procedures.
Abdominal Muscles: (contracting) We're pushing! Keep at it, guys! All systems go!
Mouth: (opening wide) Stand by,

opening air release hatch!
Ears: (popping) Equalising pressure! Watch out for the pop!
Nose: Reaching critical stage! Sneezing sequence initiated, those blighters are in too deep!
Brain: Alright team, dropping on my count! 3...
Throat: (opening epiglottis) Release now!
Brain: 2...
Lungs: (expelling air) Here we go, cooling Heart too!
Brain: 1...
Nose and Mouth: (forcefully expelling air) Ah-choooo!
Brain: Great job, everyone. Nose, what is the status?
Nose: (relieved) Phew, irritant expelled! Crisis averted, folks.
Heart: Hurray! We did survive after all! Long live the factory!
Brain: (chuckling) Alright, then. Let's keep the factory running smoothly, as always.
(Raunak is currently pursuing Bachelor of Design (Interior) at Manipal School of Architecture and Planning.) **GT**

Plastic vs people

A Courtroom Battle Questions As To Who Truly Pollutes The Planet

Ruqayya Rahman, AIS MV, X B

Hushed whispers rippled through the courtroom, when an eco-activist was heard screaming, "Punish the ocean choker!" Tilting in the witness box was the accused - a plastic straw. With a sharp rap of the gavel, Justice Earth silenced the room, "Let the proceedings begin," he declared. "Straw, you may present your defence."

The straw shuffled nervously, cleared its narrow throat, and began, "I have been called many names - 'single-use scoundrel', 'ocean's menace', 'sip of doom', but I am not a villain! I was once the undisputed king of the beverage industry," it said with broken pride. "In the 80s and 90s, people couldn't get enough of me... they made jumbo straws, twisty straws, glow-in-the-dark straws! I was the Labubu of my time!" Its voice thick with nostalgia, the straw spoke about the olden days when it wasn't plastic. "We were first crafted by the Sumerians in 3000 BCE, made of gold no less. In 1800s, commoners used straws made of rye grass but they easily disintegrated and left behind an odd taste."

"So, Marvin Stone invented the paper straw in 1888. And after WWII, plastic boomed in the US. By the 1960s, plastic straws were cheaper to produce and performed better

than paper. I enabled drinking from juice boxes without spills, gave dignity to hospital patients, and brought joy to children when I accompanied fizzy drinks."

A teardrop rolled down its slender body, as he continued, "And then the Midas touch vanished. For in 2015, the whole world watched in horror as a plastic straw was pulled out from a sea turtle's nostril. I was utterly heartbroken when a mother snatched me away from her child, scolding, 'Don't you know that it takes 100-200 years for this monster to decompose?' Excuse me? Then why does the US alone consume 500 million straws annually?"

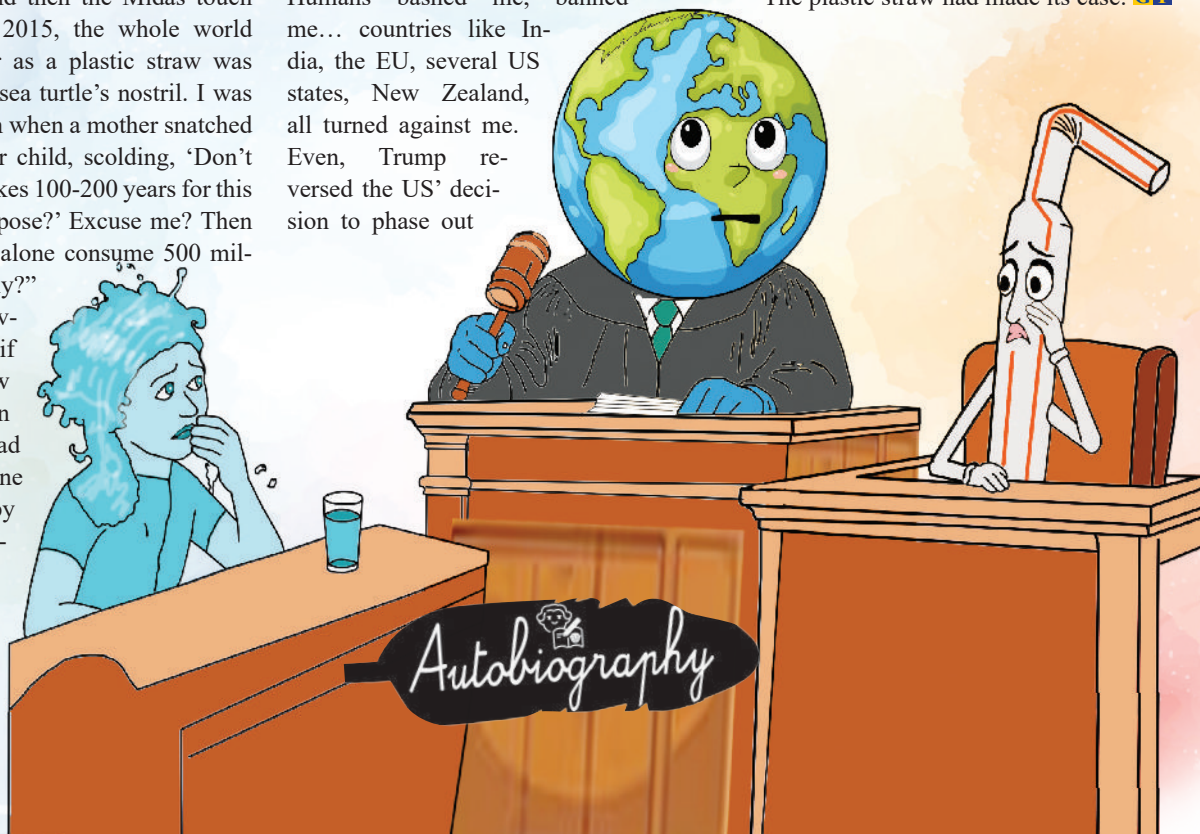
It continued, "Every day I think if being a paper straw would have been better. But I am glad I am not. Imagine becoming a pulpy mess! My cousins, the paper and bamboo straws, brag about being eco-friendly. But they're no heroes. They are laced with PFAs - 'forever chemicals' that

harm the liver."

"Humans are so complex... they started caring about the environment when it was too late. I never asked to be tossed after one use. I didn't choose to end up in oceans. Humans bashed me, banned me... countries like India, the EU, several US states, New Zealand, all turned against me. Even, Trump reversed the US' decision to phase out

plastic straws, joking it wouldn't bother the sharks."

"The hate towards me is misdirected, for I never had a choice... but humans did!" And with that, the courtroom fell into silence. The plastic straw had made its case. **GT**



Sonic sirens

The Everyday Symphony Of Irritating Choruses

Paras Salgotra, XII S & Sai Anwita
Tippireddy, XII C, AIS Gur 43

A serene day at school is a utopian concept. That one day when the sun is shining, birds are chirping, and your math practice is miraculously peaceful, there will be one person who will suddenly 'apparate' and whine about how your bag is blocking their oh-so-important way. Their voice pierces through your calm like a rusty nail scraping against a chalkboard, and suddenly you find your day spiralling into a total chaos. Welcome to the world of sonic irritants!

Persistent pouter

This breed comes with a constant pout and an incessant need to wail about everything. From cafeteria food to classroom temperatures, there's always something

wrong. Their complaints are like the hum in audio recordings, unwanted but always there. The frequency of their annoyance is scientifically proven to be just on the edge of human tolerance.

Croaking cocktails

This sound is a curious cocktail of a rusted swing's creak, an untuned violin's screech, and that one singer's autotuned 'masterpieces' (you know which one). Honestly, if they weren't so busy being obnoxious, they'd probably moonlight as villains in horror movies where their voice alone would scare the audience.

Speedster aunties

These are the ones who talk so fast you'd think they're competing in a verbal Grand Prix. They are evolved counterparts to middle-aged Indian aunties spreading

gossip. Only that instead of juicy stories, it's gibberish no one asked for. Their main role is to murder English at warp speed.

Dramatic diva

Voices that are always three decibels too loud, perfectly paired with over-the-top gestures, summarises this category. These are the drama queens/kings who narrate their life's minor inconveniences as though delivering a Shakespearean soliloquy. Got stuck in traffic? "Oh woe is me, cursed by the chariot gods!" Dropped their pen? "Why must fate be so cruel?"

We've all encountered these sonic irritants, the grim reapers of peace and quiet. While we can't entirely avoid them, we can dream of solutions like a universal mute button. Until then, all we can do is endure and laugh at their absurdities. **GT**



From curiosity to global glory



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

All children are born with an innate curiosity to ask questions, explore new ideas, and think differently in ways that adults often do not. Nurturing this spirit of enquiry lies at the heart of Amity, helping shape compassionate citizens who go on to make a positive difference in the world. Hence, I feel immense pride that Saanvi Gupta of AIS Gur 46 has placed India and Amity on the global innovation map by winning the Grand Award at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair 2026. Her novel approach to explain certain B-meson anomalies is a shining example of the remarkable potential of young minds. At an age when many teenagers are still discovering their interests, Amitians like Saanvi demonstrate clarity of thought, critical thinking, and the courage to pursue complex scientific challenges. Their achievements reaffirm that when young minds are given the right opportunities, they can accomplish extraordinary things. At Amity, platforms such as Vasudha, ATL Marathon, Robotronics, empower students to transform curiosity into meaningful solutions. I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ananya Mehta, the young gymnast from AIS Mohali, whose agility, determination, and spirited performance brought laurels to Amity at the All India Manthan Gymnastics Championship Cup. Excellence is not confined to classrooms or laboratories; it flourishes equally on the sports field, where perseverance, discipline, and resilience shape character. It is heartening to witness our Amitians growing into well-rounded individuals who are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow with confidence and purpose. **GT**

A precious bond



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

'My Best Friend'. This may sound like the title of a school essay, but for most of us, these three simple words unlock a treasure chest of memories. They take us back to classroom benches, shared lunch boxes, whispered secrets, endless laughter, and the comforting feeling that someone always had our back. As the world celebrated Friendship Day, I found myself reflecting on the friendships that have shaped my life as well - those that began in childhood with shared dreams, laughter, and disappointments; and those forged in adulthood that have quietly stood the test of time. Indeed, lifelong friendships are not built through grand gestures but through years of trust, acceptance, and simply showing up. The beauty of true friendship is that it is untouched by age, gender, language, or nationality. I know an eight-year-old boy in my residential society who has formed a beautiful friendship with a sixty-year-old. They spend hours reading together and playing Scrabble, proving that friendship knows no age. Often, technology has helped bring together people separated by oceans but united by shared interests and passions. Some people find their truest companions in books, pets, or even a melody they can't stop humming. Friendship is, perhaps, the purest relationship because it expects nothing in return. The story of Krishna and Sudama beautifully captures this emotion. Time, distance, and circumstance changed everything around them, but not the love they had for each other. So, let the gift of friendship not pass you by. Call that friend you've been meaning to reconnect with. Some bonds are simply too precious to be left waiting. **GT**

The dilemma of nice

Its Overuse Has Given It A Bad Rep, But Why?

Ishita Jain, AIS Gurugram 43, XII C

"The presentation lacked concrete facts, but it was a nice effort!" "Isn't the weather nice? Not too sunny, not too chilly... Just nice!"

It was a nice movie, meal, project.... The list is endless. The word 'nice' is on our day-to-day vocabulary's speed dial. If it were a person, it would be an overworked, caffeine-addicted frenemy. Stringed together, the four letters do not even have a ring to them, but no one seems to be able to evict it from our vocabulary. It is like that clingy friend who somehow gets invited everywhere. English teachers groan when they spot it in our essays, speech evaluators circle it in red ink, and writers constantly search for more intellectual synonyms. Yet it survives every attempt to replace it. The strange thing is that 'nice' was not always so... nice. It comes from the Latin word *nescius*, meaning ignorant or foolish. In medieval Europe, calling someone nice was hardly a compliment. Over centuries, the word underwent several transformations. According to etymonline, its meaning ranged from foolish to timid and faint-hearted in the pre 1300s, to fussy and fastidious in the late 14th century to precise and careful in 1500s to agreeable, delightful in 1769, thoughtful. Lin- amelioration, where a word gradually shifts from a negative meaning to a more positive one.



Today, however, nice often serves as a verbal shrug. Someone posts a painting they spent thirty hours creating. And a simple nice is the reply. A friend announces an achievement years in the making. It is followed by a just a plain comment - "Nice." It is the linguistic equivalent of showing up without a gift but insisting your presence is what matters. Basically, it's Switzerland of adjectives - neutral and flexible to maintain peace. The overuse of nice may even be a telling about the human nature. People generally want to be polite. Nice rarely offends, rarely commits to a strong opinion, and allows conversations to continue without friction. In a world increasingly driven by extreme reactions and hot takes, perhaps there is something reassuring about a word that refuses to pick sides. And maybe we are being unfair to nice. Perhaps the problem is not the word but the expectations we have. Sometimes a person who says your work is nice genuinely means it. Sometimes simplicity is plenty. After all, nice has spent centuries adapting, surviving, and fitting wherever language needed it. It is the black outfit of vocabulary: reliable, versatile, and surprisingly difficult to replace. It may never be the most exciting word in the English language, but it remains one of the most enduring. It refuses to go out of style even after centuries. So, the next time someone calls you nice, remember

to even kind and guists call this process that the word carries years of history, countless meanings, and a remarkable ability to survive. But if you call this article nice, the writer still won't know whether to feel flattered, insulted, or quietly ghosted. **GT**



Dear Editor,

I write to you about the invigorating and thought-provoking article, 'Myth-chief managed', published on page 1 of July 27, 2026 edition. The article was an insight into how myths continue to subtly influence



GT M@il

our thoughts and behaviour even in our modern and highly technical age. It offered a plethora of facts that made me learn more about the underlying cultural practices that impact our psychological ecosystem.

Adamyia Bhanot
AIS Gurugram 46, XII E

This is in reference to the article, 'Good Grade Grief', published on page 6 of July 20 edition. The feeling of performing better than your



peers is sadly true. Parents feel that they are supporting their children but often end up making them feel unappreciated. Each child is unique. Exams should be for learning. **Sehej Kapur**
AIS MV, VIII D



Slow lorises

Bio-ID: Nycticebus

Killer's crib: South and Southeast Asia

Fairy-core features: These small, nocturnal creatures have large, round eyes, which are adapted for night vision. They have compact bodies, short snouts, dense fur, and distinctive facial markings.

Attack mode: The brachial gland stores a venom in the upper arm that shocks and kills, and when threatened, it combines venom with saliva and bites by raising its arms over the head.

Oops! Any cure? No antidote. Better stay away than cuddle with this one!



Cone snail

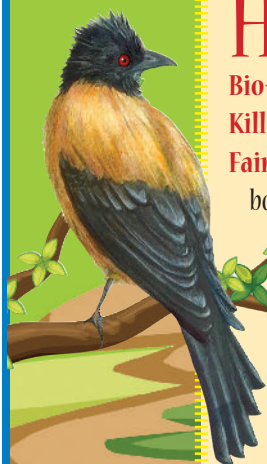
Bio-ID: Conus geographus

Killer's crib: Indo-Pacific region

Fairy-core features: Cone snails are marine gastropods with intricate shells, which are highly sought after by collectors. All 600 species of cone snails are poisonous.

Attack mode: They have a harpoon-like tooth that injects neurotoxin that affect the nervous system, causing paralysis, respiratory issues, and death.

Oops! Any cure? No specific treatment for cone-snail envenomation.



Hooded pitohui

Bio-ID: Pitohui dichrous

Killer's crib: New Guinea and near Yapen

Fairy-core features: They have a black head, wings, and tail, with a bright orange-brown body. Apart from small group travelling, they are also known for raising their younger ones together, a behaviour called cooperative breeding.

Attack mode: It carries batrachotoxin, a chemical that can cause numbness and even paralysis in high doses. The bird doesn't make the toxin itself. Instead, it gets it from eating a type of beetle called Choresine.

Oops! Any cure? There is no cure for the toxicity but its effects on humans are not life-threatening.



Poison dart frog

Bio-ID: Dendrobates tinctorius azureus

Killer's crib: Isolated rainforest areas in Suriname and Northern Brazil

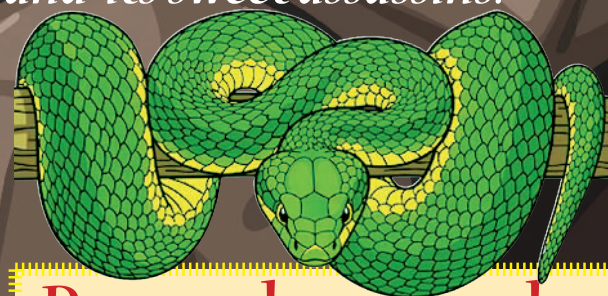
Fairy-core features: These frogs are diurnal creatures with a range of bright colours that primarily eat ants and invertebrates, which they catch with their sticky tongues.

Attack mode: The skin secretes deadly alkaloids which kills on contact. They are named so as indigenous tribes used the frog's poison on their arrows and darts before hunting.

Oops! Any cure? Medication may control symptoms like salivation and unstable heart rhythm.

If looks could kill

Join *Vaishnavi Yadav, AIS VYC Lko, XII B*, on a wild ride through nature's beauty and its sweet assassins.



Boomslang snake

Bio-ID: Dispholidus typus

Killer's crib: Sub-Saharan Africa

Fairy-core features: A slender snake with a large and blunt head, glossy scales, and large eyes that provide excellent vision. Adult can reach up to 6 feet, with males displaying a bright green colour, while females are typically brown or olive.

Attack mode: With well-developed venom glands which produce a hemotoxic venom, it causes severe internal bleeding in their prey.

Oops! Any cure? The monovalent Boomslang antivenom which is effective but must be injected immediately.

Power of words

Illustration: Aadya Singh, AGS Noida, LS2



Viraj stood out amongst the ocean of people who had taken on robotic personas to deal with the fast-paced, high-pressure life.

left behind if you challenge this system.” Viraj’s gaze hardened with resolve. “What if we could transform this wealth and power into willpower? What if emotions could break free without a price tag?” Manoj’s voice trembled, “That path is risky, and one wrong step would mean imprisonment, or worse.” “This fight isn’t with swords but with words and memories,” Viraj replied softly.

He recalled the melody of his sixth birthday, the warmth of friendship, and the unspoken bonds that had shaped his world. With these treasures in his heart, Viraj began writing poem after poem to awaken the slumbering souls around him. Slowly, his verses spread like wildfire on social media, crackling through the city’s circuits and concrete. It seemed everyone wanted to hear what he had to say.

The community, once numb and mechanical, began to stir. Manoj and Alena, moved by the revival of feeling, joined the cause. And so did others. What Viraj had started was a movement. Genuine tears traced down cheeks, no longer bought but born from truth. The golden light of emotion bathed the city in warmth once more. As one had put it aptly, words can move mountains. **GT**

Jayas Kumar, AGS Noida, IG2

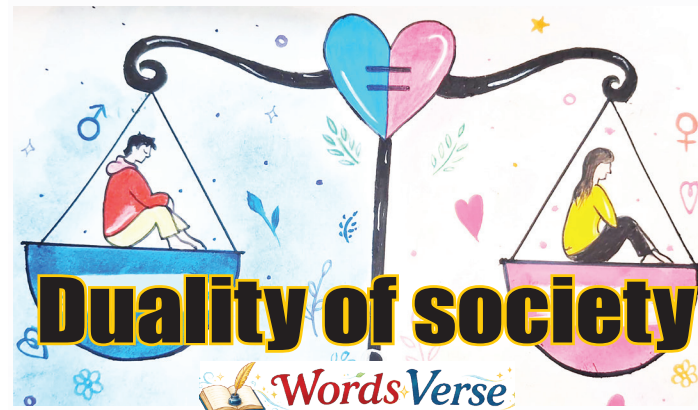
Emotions, once the pulse of humanity, had disappeared from the core of Science City. Here, reason reigned supreme, and wealth held the ultimate power. Peace was maintained by rigid laws, and even friendships were forged and governed by unyielding rules. The people were intellectually brilliant, shaped by advanced technologies and elite institutes, but they were blind to the truth that learning was only a fragment of universal wisdom.

There was, however, one boy who still carried a flicker of feeling. Viraj stood out amongst the ocean of people who had taken on robotic personas to deal with the fast-paced, high-pressure life. He treasured two friends, Manoj, who had a scientific mind, and Alena, who thrived on challenges.

One afternoon, as Viraj was admiring the city’s sleek architecture and winding roads while sitting near a shimmering canal, he overheard two people having a conversation. No courteous greetings, no conversations, no warmth. Just a chilling exchange of coins. Was this how adult life looked like? Coins clattering louder than hearts! His chest tightened and a silent river of tears streamed down his cheeks as the cold reality overwhelmed him.

The next morning, Viraj confided in his friends. “Manoj, Alena, what I saw yesterday was terrifying. People are paying to feel, using technology and money to fake emotions just to survive.” Manoj shook his head solemnly. “Those are the rules here. The community leaders have made them, and we must obey or face exile.” Alena added firmly, “You’ll be

Illustration: Bhavya Lakhmani, AIS Vasundhara 1, X D



Tanishka Chakraborty, AIS Vasundhara 1, Alumna

This society holds people like you and me
Who face differences daily, yet let them be
Honestly, there’s not much that we can do
Even when life tests us through and through

Whenever a girl expresses herself by crying
People ignore and claim, “She’s only trying”
But when a guy tries to show his emotions
He’s marked weak, losing his impressions

If a girl finds happiness in dance and song
People will cheer on and say it’s not wrong
Yet in case of a man, music can’t be his bliss
Society mocks and laughs, says, “It’s amiss”

When a man is offered some chances to rise
People around praise him as bold and wise
Yet when a girl demands her rightful share
She’s told, “Not yet,” and is expected to repair

Our society wounds men and women alike
Creating an atmosphere which all dislike
To treat people unfairly should be a crime
While kindness for all should stand prime.

(Tanishka is currently pursuing B Tech in Robotics and Automation from SRM University, Tamil Nadu.)

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/>

114

Name: Class: School:

Q.1 Who clicked the pictures under the column ‘Camera Capers’ on page 8?

Q.2 Which snack is reviewed in Science Behind Snacks series on page 4?

Q.3 What is the headline of the autobiography on page 5?

Q.4 What is the genre of the book mentioned on page 3?

Q.5 Name the animal whose Bio ID is Nycticebus on page 7 poster.

Q.6 Which temple in Odisha did Maanvik Mehta of AIS Gur 43 visit?

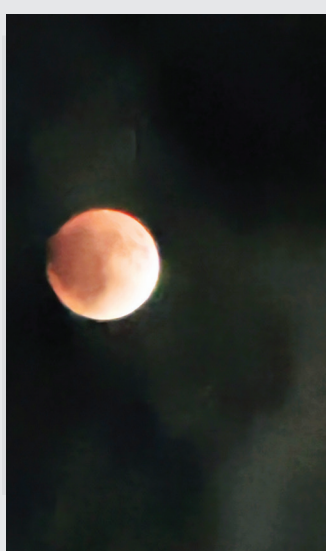
Winners 113

Result of Read Play & Win: **Arnav Kumar**, AIS Mayur Vihar, VIII B; **Amay Gupta**, AIS Gurugram 46, VI A; **Sanaya Saini**, AIS Saket, VI C

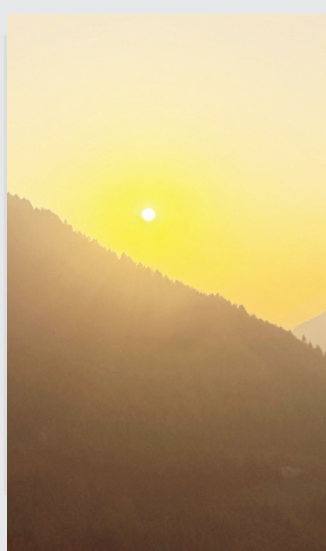
Camera Capers

Clicked by
Ishanya Verma
AIS Gur 43, VII B

Send in your entries
to cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in



The lunar muse



Behind the peaks

Conversations in transit

Illustration: Tapasya Aggarwal, AIS Gur 46, XI G



Disha Dhir, AIS Gur 46, XII I

The air was thick with anxious voices. It was 6:19 PM on a Friday, and the evening flight to Mumbai had been delayed. "...has been delayed by three hours. We apologise for the inconvenience caused." The announcement had caused quite an uproar. Passengers crowded the check-in counter to argue with the staff, while others made frantic calls to their family and colleagues about the unfortunate delay. "Yes, I know that the meeting is urgent, but I'm really sorry." A lady said standing in the corner of the waiting area. Her heart was pounding as her boss hung up the phone. She sat down defeated, knowing that she would get unnecessarily rude remarks from her boss all through the year. "Didi, are you

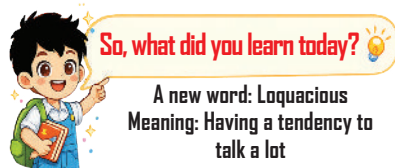
okay?" asked the young girl sitting next to her. "Hmm..." she replied absent-mindedly. "I'm so bored! Would you like to talk to me?" The young girl asked in a hopeful tone and bright eyes, to which the older one smiled and nodded. Their conversation made the lady forget her troubles for the next three hours. "Don't worry, Mum. I'll be there by 11:30," a young man coming home from college explained, "It's just a delay." He was going home after seven months and was eager to meet his parents. He hung up, sighing. "Ah... parents worry too much sometimes," the person sitting next to him said with a smile. He was going home from college too. The first man nodded, "I'm more concerned about what to do for the next few hours." The other man reached into his bag, pulled

"Didi, are you okay?" asked the young girl sitting next to her. "Hmm..." she replied absent-mindedly. "I am so bored! Would you like to talk to me?"

out a deck of cards and asked with a wide grin, "UNO?"

"I told my son not to book a flight today, but your children must do whatever you tell them not to," an old lady explained to the young woman with a baby in her arms. Their friendship had started quickly, with the older one willing to talk to anyone, and the younger one bored with nothing to do. "Anyway, as I was saying, I'm going to my niece's wedding, what about you? Oh, and you won't believe this..." the old lady rambled on as the young woman smiled and nodded along to everything she said, entertained by her **loquacious** nature.

As these strangers laughed, played cards, and exchanged stories, their anxieties slowly began to fade. The three-hour wait no longer felt so daunting. Sometimes, the best way to pass the time is in the company of strangers and their stories. **GT**



THE PRESSURE TO BE PERFECT

Eeshvi Verma, AIS Vas 6, VIII C

Early on, I felt the
Pressure to be perfect
With star-filled tests
If they ever inspect

To smile or be silent
Whenever I was asked
But when I struggled
I was left unasked

Walk straight, sit tall

Don't you ever be slow
Or they'd shrug and say
"Is there anything you know?"

Always feign confidence
No matter where I went
No matter what the hour
I must look competent

Now that I'm at the edge
I have decided not to fold
Because I am not a puppet
That can be controlled.

It's Me!

KNOW ME

My Name: **Ditya Sharma**
My Class: **IV I**
My school: **AIS Noida**
My birthday: **February 18**

MY FAVOURITES

Teachers: Mitali Bisht
Ma'am and Poonam
Sharma Ma'am
Subject: English
Friend: All my
classmates
Game: Cricket and hide
& seek with my parents
Cartoon: Peppa pig
Mall: DLF Noida
Book: All kinds of
activity books

MY DREAMS & GOALS

Hobby: Singing
I like: To help my parents
I dislike: Spicy food
and vegetables
My role model: My parents
I want to become: An artist
with a princess dress
I want to feature in GT because:
I am a very interesting and cute
person.

Name: _____ Class _____ School _____

Outline by: **Rabia Kaur**, AIS Saket, XII F
Please send your entry to editor@theglobatimes.in

Best entries for ColouringFun

Dated: July 27, 2026

Viraansh Hasija
AIS Noida, IV L

Aadhya Goyal
AIS Vasundhara 1, III B

Dosti ka daakghar

From ancient Roman emperors and classic literary icons to pop stars and Naruto warriors, Amitians proved that imagination truly has no bounds when it comes to friendships in the creative realm.

A letter to future self

Dear 30-year-old me,

This is 10-year-old Nityagata writing to you. I hope this letter reaches the right person at the right time. Life feels confusing these days. Everywhere I look, people are protesting for different reasons, and it makes me wonder if life will ever become easier to understand. Do grown-ups finally find all the answers, or do they still have questions too? Did you choose a career connected to social science, my favourite subject? Do you still perform Kathak? Is K-pop still popular? Do you still enjoy K-dramas? Most importantly, have you learned to trust yourself when making difficult decisions? I hope you haven't stopped being curious, noticing little things, or believing that kindness matters. I will be waiting for your reply.

With lots of love and hope,
Nityagata Bhattacharya
AIS Saket, VI D

In time and ink

Dear Leonardo da Vinci,

I am very excited to exchange letters with one of the greatest geniuses of all time! I am eager to ask about the smile of the Mona Lisa and the hidden geometry behind The Last Supper. You are the mastermind whose genius anticipated our modern world - from flying machines that cross the skies to anatomical insights that map the human body, and even early concepts of artificial intelligence. I would love to know what inspired you to observe every detail and bring it to life. Your curiosity and creativity continue to inspire the world.

Your 21st century fan,

Sofiya Abbas, AIS Gwalior, VIII B

Powerful from within

Dear Paedyn Gray,

I adore your character from the Powerless trilogy. You are brave, kind, and strong, even when the world tries to break you. You remind me that being 'powerless' doesn't mean being weak. True strength lives in courage and compassion. I want to ask: When everything is against you and the road is hard, how do you still choose to be kind? How do you keep your belief in justice and kindness strong despite the challenges you face? How do you keep going and refuse to let the world decide your worth? Thank you for showing me how to stand up for what is right and believe in myself, and never let the world decide my worth.

Your admirer,

Valentina Mukherjee
AIS Navi Mumbai, VI A

No secrets, my friend

Dear Aladdin,

I heard that you become the Prince of Agrabah! I'm slightly offended, you never mentioned this to me. I only came to know about it after a merchant informed me that Princess Jasmine had chosen a fiancé some months ago! Imagine my surprise when I found out that the former Royal Vizier had attempted to murder you! How did you get out of this one? Oh, that's right! You had the help of a genie! Can you please lend the magical lamp to me? I too would like to make three wishes... Mind you, not for myself but the betterment of the world. I am sure you would like that. Write to me soon!

Your friend (who you seem to be keeping secrets from),

Anwita Sinha, AGS Gurgaon, VIII

Travelling across centuries

Dear Jane Austen,

Although more than two centuries separate us, I hope we can become pen pals. Your novels, especially Pride and Prejudice, continue to touch millions of readers. If our letters could travel through time, I would ask you so many questions. How did you find the courage to write in a male-dominated society? How do you stay motivated when someone discouraged you from

writing? What was life really like during your time, and who inspired you to create stories? I have many more questions, but I'll save them for my next letter. Until then, thank you for stories that inspire readers across generations.

Elizabeth Bennet in the head,
Kaakul Vashishtha, AIS Vas 1, VIII B

Empowering us all

Dear Katy Perry,

If I could choose a pen friend from anywhere and any-time, it would definitely be you. Your energy, positivity, and passion have always inspired me. I want to thank you for creating songs that remind teenagers like me to find our own voice and believe in ourselves. Songs like Roar and Firework encourage us to be unique, and never give up on our dreams. I wish to ask you, how do you stay so strong despite the criticism? Do you feel nervous before going onstage? And what would you like to tell young people around the world? Thank you for inspiring me to step out of the shadows, dream big, and shine with confidence.

With admiration and love,

Ayana Katoch, AIS VKC Lucknow, VIII B

Solving the eternal mystery

Dear King Tutankhamun,

I have often wondered about the mysteries surrounding your civilisation in the Ancient Egypt. I have so many questions to ask. How were the magnificent pyramids built? Why did the Egyptians begin the tradition of mummification? I would love to uncover these missing pieces of history. Some even believe that aliens helped build the pyramids. I want to know the truth and separate fact from fiction. The answers could help historians and scientists better understand ancient life and perhaps even inspire discoveries that benefit humanity today. Writing to you, King Tutankhamun, would be an unforgettable experience, satisfying my endless curiosity about one of the world's greatest civilisations.

Aspiring historian,

Anika Panwar, AIS Mayur Vihar, VII D

What an emperor thinks

Dear Augustus,

It would be really unique to have you as my pen friend. You became the ruler of Rome at a very young age after the assassination of your great-uncle and adoptive father Julius Caesar. When you came to power, the country was in absolute chaos. Were you ever scared? I wonder what you would think of today's world. Now, people vote for their leaders, and political battles are often fought through speeches, debates, and media instead of swords. One question I really want to ask you is this: Was becoming emperor worth it? Did power ever make you feel lonely and afraid?

A citizen of the democratic world,
Vansh Pandey, AIS Noida, VII C

A letter through time

Dear Anne Frank,

Despite living through one of history's darkest periods, you never lost hope. Your diary continues to inspire people with its honesty, courage, and warmth. Although we have never met, your words make me feel as though I know you. You remind me that even a young voice can echo across generations. I wish you could experience the joys children get to have in today's world - school, birthdays, friendships, and dreams for the future. I want to know what gave you the strength to believe in goodness despite so much cruelty. Your courage inspires me to face life's challenges with hope.

Your friend from the future,

Venisha K M, AIS Gur 43, VIII A

Sweet bonds

Dear Itachi,

Today, passing by the confectionary store I saw a box of dango and couldn't help but think of you. I hope you have been able to find the time to rest, though knowing you, you're probably vigorously training with a smile. The world of Naruto manga isn't exactly a walk in the park. We've been friends for longer than I can remember, yet, your complex nature never fails to amaze me. I wonder how you make impossible decisions without letting doubt consume you. Maybe one day you'll finally tell me the secret to staying so calm, or at least admit that you weren't as composed as you looked. And please, for once, don't disappear after reading this. Now, before I forget between my rambling, please remember to join me at our favourite dango shop next Friday.

With love,

Gazal Nidhi, AIS Raipur, XII A

Grand innovator

Teen Scientists Elevate India On The Global Map



Team India at ISEF



Suhani Gupta

AIS Gurugram 46

Suhani Gupta of Class XII has brought laurels to her school by securing the Grand Award (4th place) along with a cash prize of 600 USD in the Physics and Astronomy category at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2026, held in Phoenix, Arizona, from May 9-15, 2026. Competing against 82 projects in the category, Suhani was recognised for her research project titled 'Vacuum Polarization Effects From Dark Fermion Loops in Z'

Mediator Models and their Impact on Angular Observables in Rare B-Meson Decays'. Her study proposed a novel hypothetical model to explain certain anomalies observed in rare B - meson decays. Notably, following her gold medal win at the IRIS National Fair last year, her project was selected among the top 20 entries to represent Team India at ISEF 2026. Expressing her gratitude, Suhani credits Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and Ritnand Balved Education Foundation (RBEF), for creating a learning ecosystem that

nurtures scientific inquiry and the spirit of innovation and research, enabling students to pursue excellence on global platforms.

About Regeneron ISEF

Organised by the Society for Science, Regeneron ISEF is the world's premier pre-collegiate science and engineering competition. The 2026 edition witnessed over 1700 world's brightest young researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs, and inventors, selected through 365 affiliate fairs across more than 60 countries, continuing a legacy of over 75 years of scientific excellence. **GT**



An after-assembly click with principal and mentors

A tale of heritage

AIS VYK Lucknow

A heritage assembly was organised based on the theme 'Delhi - The Heart of India's Heritage: A Journey Through Time' for classes nursery to VIII, on July 17, 2026 to foster a deep sense of pride among students for India's rich legacy and enrich their understanding of the terms 'heritage' and 'culture'. The programme commenced with a warm welcome, followed by the morning prayer and an insightful introduction highlighting Delhi's historical and cultural significance. Students presented an inspiring 'Thought for the day' and

shared intriguing facts that offered a deeper understanding of the national capital's glorious past. A creative presentation of the monuments of Delhi further brought to life its legacy. A melodious rendition of the anthem, 'Dilwalo Ki Dilli', added a cultural vibe, while an engaging heritage quiz encouraged active participation among the audience while enriching their awareness and knowledge about Delhi's heritage.

The assembly concluded with an inspiring address by school principal, Dr Purna Mitra, who motivated the students to appreciate, value, and preserve India's rich and varied cultural heritage. **GT**

Inter-Amity chess



The young chessmasters all set to fight with their wits

Amity Sports Foundation

The 14th Inter Amity Chess Tournament was organised under the aegis of Amity Sports Foundation at AIS Mayur Vihar from April 22-24, 2026. Envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity

Group of Schools and RBEF, as a platform to nurture critical thinking skills of the students through chess, the event witnessed participation by all the branches of Amity Group of Schools (Delhi/NCR) in 3 categories: sub junior (I-V), junior (VI-VIII), and senior (IX-XII) for boys and girls both. **GT**

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
SUB JUNIOR (I-V)			
BOYS	AIS NOIDA	AIS VAS I	AIS GUR 43
GIRLS	AIS VAS 6	AIS NOIDA & AIS VAS I	AIS MV
JUNIOR (VI-VIII)			
BOYS	AIS GUR 46	AIS NOIDA	AIS SAKET
GIRLS	AIS GUR 46	AIS VAS 6	AIS NOIDA
SENIOR (IX-XII)			
BOYS	AIS GUR 43	AIS PV	AIS SAKET
GIRLS	AIS GUR 46 & AIS NOIDA	AIS GUR 43	AIS MV



Ananya Mehta

Queen of gymnastics

AIS Mohali

Ananya Mehta of Class VII, secured two bronze medals at the 3rd All India Manthan Gymnastics Cup Championship (2026-27) organised by Manthan Excellence Collective from July 11 - 12, 2026, at New Delhi. Competing against the country's finest young gymnasts, Ananya won bronze medals in both hoop and ball categories with grace, confidence, and agility. The event witnessed participation from gymnasts representing various states across the country. **GT**

Ignited Spirits



The young actors showcase their acting skills

AIS Pushp Vihar

The school organised 16th Ignited Spirits, the annual inter school theatre fest on July 20, 2026. The fest witnessed participation of 166 students from 17 schools across Delhi/NCR. The fest conducted in two categories: junior (VI-VIII) and senior (IX-XII), was judged by a panel of distinguished jury comprising Professor Suchitra Gupta, visiting professor, National School of Drama, and Gaurav Pahwa, founder, Gateway to Theatres. The theme for junior category was 'Imperfect Heroes' wherein students explored stories of flawed yet inspiring characters,

highlighting courage, resilience, and humanity. In this category, AIS Gurugram 46 emerged as the first prize winner while AIS Pushp Vihar secured the first runner up award. Senior category performances were based on the theme 'The Echoes of Tomorrow', in which students reflected on imagination, creativity, and the voices shaping the future. In this category, AIS Gurugram 46 were judged winners once again, followed by AIS Mayur Vihar and AIS Pushp Vihar as first and second runners up respectively. The performances marked by powerful storytelling, expressive acting, and excellent stagecraft were highly appreciated by the judges. **GT**

Making Memories On The Way: Powered By Breakfast And Friendships

Vanshika Srivastava
AIS VKC Lko, Alumna

Ah, the school bus. That yellow monstrosity of doom and destiny. A domain where friendships were forged, wars were waged over seats, and the laws of physics were bent to fit eight kids on a three-seater. If you've ever sprinted across the street while stuffing a *paratha* in your mouth to catch it - congratulations, you've lived. Let's buckle up (who are we kidding, no one ever did) and take a ride down memory lane.

PHASE 1: The great chase

It's 6 AM. The sun is barely up, and so are you. Stumbling out of bed like a zombie, you try to put on your school uniform while your mom pesters you for breakfast. The smell of *aloo paratha* fills the air, but there's no time to savour it. Just then, the sound of a horn blares like a war trumpet. Followed by, "Betaaa! Busss!" It's go-time. You leap over furniture and sprint. Shoelaces untied, bag flailing, you scream the universal battle cry, "Bhaiya, ruko!" But deep down, you know the truth - time and *bus-wale-bhaiya* wait for no one.

PHASE 2: The boarding battle

You step onto the bus, and there he is, the conductor, giving you a look that makes you anxious. After a couple of 'valid' excuses and the usual "Aaj subah alarm hi nahi baja bhaiya!" you finally manage to squeeze your way in through the packed crowd. Phew! Now, onto the prized real estate - the window seat, your throne for the bus ride, until your friends show up, and chaos erupts like an aggressive conga line, disrupting the peace with excitement.

PHASE 3: The inside drama

Once the dust settles, you think about the most pivotal question - what does one do on this never-ending ride to school? Well, if exams were near, you'd find students buried in books; reality check - no one's actually reading them. The rest of the time, most of them are engaged in some really serious business, like playing rock-paper-scissors, as all genius scholars do, or sometimes displaying theatrical expressions at a round of dumb charades. And of course, if you possess Pokémon or Ben 10 cards, you're basically the king of the bus. Everyone, bow down.

PHASE 4: The feast

It's okay if you just ate a while ago, stepping inside the bus means diving into a gastronomic trail. Because where there's a bus, there's a buffet. From half eaten

breakfasts, to irresistible lunches, the table is spread. The hierarchy stands - Kid with *Kurkure*? Respected. Girl with the chocolates? Worshipped. Mother's favourite child with *karela*? Disowned.

Now, dear readers, you're probably smiling or cringing. Those bus rides may have been crazy, but they were ours. And, like a good cup of tea, they were best enjoyed with friends and a dash of chaos.

The epic ride



MOVIE REVIEW

Making of a king

Movie: Michael
Directed by: Antoine Fuqua
Released on: April 24, 2026
Starring: Jaafar Jackson, Colman Domingo, Nia Long, Miles Teller
Genre: Biopic, drama, music

Synopsis: Antoine Fuqua's 'Michael' is a high-voltage look at the life of the 'King of Pop'. It focuses on Michael Jackson's rise from the Jackson 5 to his early solo breakthrough, ending around the mid-1980s. Jaafar Jackson, Michael's real nephew, does not merely imitate his uncle, he succeeded in channeling the superstar's presence and energy. The dance sequences are crisp - from the sharp pops to the smooth moonwalk, without feeling like a re-enactment. The film tracks Jackson's meteoric ascent, including



Thriller becoming the best-selling album of all time (with around 67 million copies sold worldwide) and his record-breaking eight Grammy wins in a single night at the 1984 ceremony,

a feat that remains unmatched.

Why is it worth watching: It is a rare cinematic experience that makes you feel the weight of fame, while also exploring the drama which lies in the business eclipse of the industry. The film splendidly captures the pressure of having to be perfect at every performance, as well as the isolation that often shadows such immense success. The concerts were recreated with spectacular care, but the quieter backstage moments carry equal weight. You will leave the theatre with a clearer sense of the artist who redefined pop music and the heavy price he paid for his legacy.

Iconic quote: "It's got to be the greatest selling album of all time. Not just by a Black artist but by any race, any colour."

Rating: ★★★★★
Review by: Saanvi Dua
AIS Gurugram 46, IX G



GT Travels to ODISHA
Explorer: Maanvik Mehta, AIS Gurugram 43, V B
Location: Lingaraj Temple, Bhubaneswar
Attraction: Famously known as Bhubaneswar's largest temple, it was built in the 11th century. The temple houses a nearly 8 feet and 8 inches tall Swayambhu Shivalinga.
Got some clicks with GT while on the go? Get them featured! Send them to us at gttravels@globaltimes.in