

From Classrooms To Boardrooms: The Teenpreneur Era Is Here

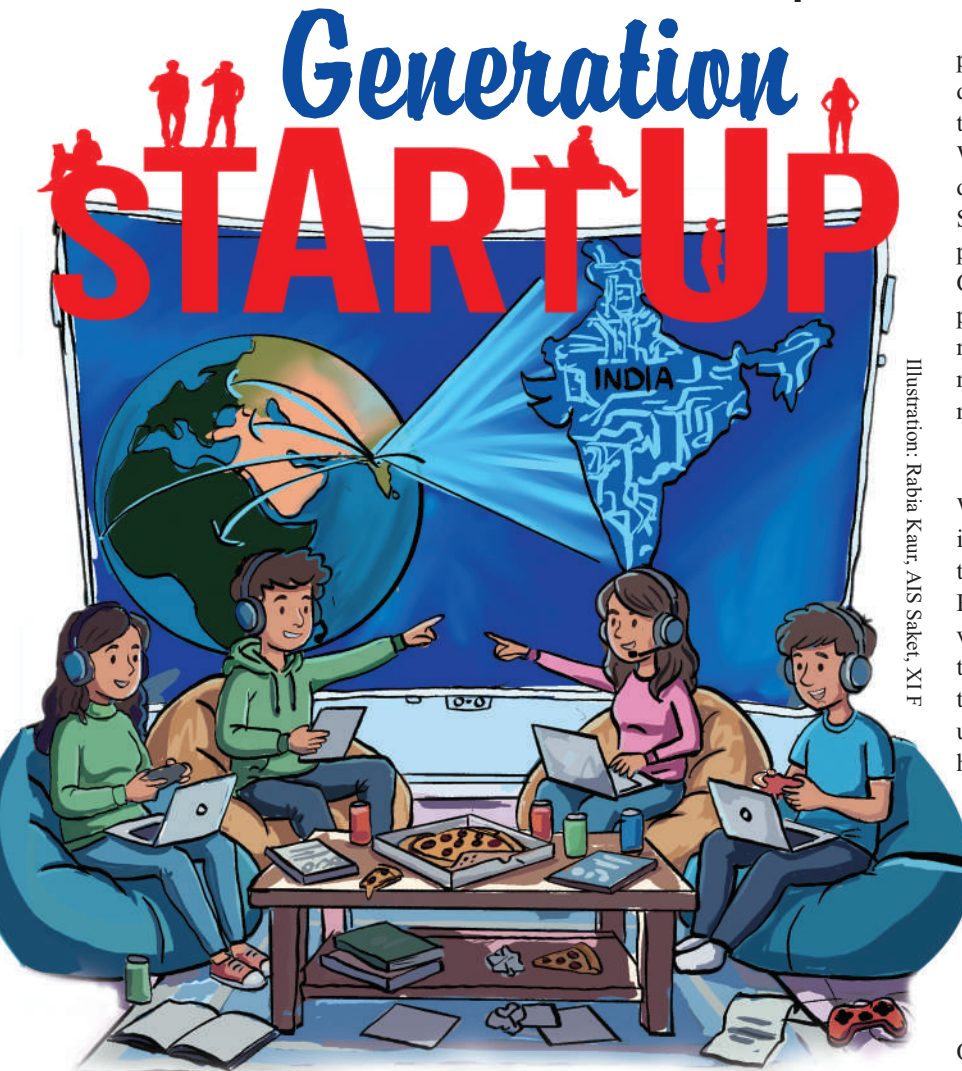
Rumela Bhowmik, AIS Saket, XI F

Review balance sheet. Check! Schedule calls with investors. Check! Homework. Check! This is no ordinary check-list; it's a morning business prep of a 15-year-old girl boss who has to meticulously plan her day. She's not an exception. In today's hustle culture, she's the norm. Bill Gates was 20 when he co-founded Microsoft, Mark Zuckerberg was 19 when Facebook took off, and even that feels late now. Once upon a time, entrepreneurship was a post-grad dream. Today, all it takes to start up is determination and a Wi-Fi connection.

India's young guns

India's new wave of entrepreneurs isn't letting age get in the way of ambition. In 2020, Kaivalya Vohra and Aadit Palicha dropped out of Stanford at 18 and 19 to build Zepto. By 2022, the quick-commerce startup was valued at over one billion USD, making them among the youngest start-up founders. Ritesh Agarwal founded Oravel Stays at age 17, which he later transformed into his very profitable venture OYO Rooms in 2013 at age 19.

Tilak Mehta was even younger. At the mere age of 13, he started Paper N Parcels, a Mumbai-based courier system which provides same-day affordable delivery using the legendary dabbawallas. His company is now valued in crores. There are several young entrepreneurs like him, including some who launched firms before they hit adolescence. To name a few: Sreelakshmi Suresh started designing websites at six and launched eDesign Technologies at age eight; and brothers Shravan and Sanjay Kumaran founded app developing firm GoDimensions when they were 12 and 10, respectively. According to Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, one in



four young people in the world are entrepreneurs or self-employed. So, what's driving this revolution - ambition, opportunity, or simply the internet's magic?

Teenpreneurship fuel

Well, the internet has been a great equaliser. Today, more than 65% of the world's population is on the internet, making it possible to connect with mentors, customers, and

communities across the globe, with just a few clicks. With platforms like Canva, Shopify, and Instagram, teens are being able to turn ideas into brands. Their playfield is the social media, which 83% of marketers report is the key base for customers.

Also, Shark Tank India, which started airing in 2021, has made entrepreneurship a dinner-table conversation. The show even has a Campus Special segment, featuring

pitches from 13 and 14-year-olds. The pandemic sparked this shift. Lockdowns gave teens time and technology to experiment. What started out as hobbies during lockdown turned into full-fledged ventures!

Supporting this wave are government-aided programmes, like Atal Tinkering Labs, CBSE's Entrepreneurship Labs, and non-profit initiatives like TiE Young Entrepreneurs and Udhyam Learning Foundation, nurturing talent from an early age and connecting them to investors.

Purpose over profit

What sets young entrepreneurs apart? Their ideas are fresh and rebellious, and they intend to make a change. The very idea of Project Jeans sparked in 17-year-old Nirvaan Somany's mind when he read a report that nearly 10,000 litres of water is required to make a single pair of jeans. So he started upcycling jeans into sleeping bags for the homeless. Likewise, Papers N Parcels was born when young Tilak Mehta needed a book from across the city and couldn't get it at an affordable price right on. And Shashvat Nakrani, who co-founded BharatPe at 19, revolutionised how small merchants accept digital payments.

Balancing books & businesses

Of course, running a business at 15 isn't all glamour. Even if the start-up isn't losing cash, being a teenpreneur makes one dreadfully aware of money. Unintentionally, It also teaches how expensive time can be. Juggling between tuition and client meetings, assignments and consignments can be daunting. To add to the challenge minors can also not legally register companies under their name in India and often have to work in partnerships or under guardian's name.

Continued on page 4...

Page editors: Varnika Pradhan, XII D & Arika Vaid, X B, AIS Saket

THE GT @ POLL

A recent Financial Times survey reports a 10% drop in social media use. Are we approaching 'Posting Zero', where most users stop sharing actively?

A) Yes B) No C) Can't say

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

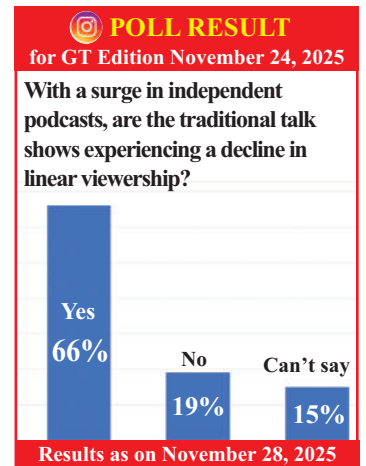
Coming next
AIS Noida Contest Edition



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

What's inside

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Around The WORLD

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

FRANCE

PIO resistance hero honoured

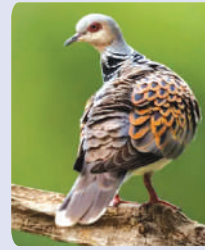


A new postage stamp has been issued to honour Noor Inayat Khan, an undercover agent whose wartime bravery made her a key figure in the Resistance. Featured among a dozen heroes 80 years after World War II, she becomes the only Indian-origin woman to receive this recognition. The stamp depicts her in her WAAF uniform, reflecting her role as the first female radio operator sent into occupied territory, where she was later captured and executed.



Species facing peril

A report has identified thousands of species at risk of extinction in Wales, with more than 3,000 now surviving in five locations or fewer. The study, described as the first of its kind, highlights extreme vulnerability to habitat loss, climate pressures, and sudden extreme weather. Species in danger include the high brown fritillary butterfly, the Snowdon leaf beetle, the Arctic-Alpine pea mussel, and several rare mosses and lichens. Conservation officials say many solutions are low-cost, involving changes to grazing, cutting, and land-management practices.



INDIA

Dharmendra passes away

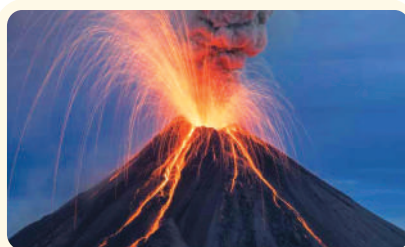
Legendary Hindi film actor Dharmendra died at the age of 89 on November 24, prompting widespread tributes, including one from PM Narendra Modi, who called his passing "the end of an era in Indian cinema." He rose to fame in the 1960s and became known for his versatility, starring in more than 300 films across various genres. His beloved role in 'Sholay' cemented his status as a cultural giant. Born in rural Punjab, he entered films after winning a talent contest and later became part of a major film dynasty, becoming known as Bollywood's 'He-Man'. His final feature, 'Ikkis', is set for release next month.



USA

AI platform for science

Trump launched the 'Genesis Mission', a national initiative to mobilise AI for science. It will integrate 17 labs, data sources, and supercomputers into a unified 'closed-loop AI experimentation platform'. Michael Kratsios said the platform will use AI to automate experiments, design simulations, and make predictive models. It will target breakthroughs in nuclear fusion, space exploration, and more.



ETHIOPIA

Volcano's long slumber ends

Hayli Gubbi erupted after nearly 12,000 years, producing an ash plume rising to approx 45,000 feet. Winds moving at 100-120 kmph carried the ash clouds to many countries, including India where Air India and other private airlines cancelled some flights. The eruption lasted several hours, threatening the livelihoods of local herding communities as grazing land has been disrupted. No casualties were reported.



CHINA

Uncrewed capsule launched

An uncrewed spacecraft, Shenzhou 22, was launched to provide a safe return vehicle for three astronauts aboard the Tiangong space station. The crew had no escape craft since their original vehicle got damaged from space debris. Shenzhou-22 departed with medical supplies, spare parts, and equipment to repair Shenzhou-20's cracked window. This is the first emergency launch mission in the country's manned space programme.



JAPAN

Refugee champion rises

A 21-year-old Ukrainian refugee made history by winning an elite sumo-wrestling tournament, becoming the first to do so from his country. Danylo Yavhusishyn addressed fans in Japanese after a tie-breaker victory over the reigning grand champion. Having fled the Russo-Ukrainian conflict three years ago, he reached the sport's upper divisions at record speed and is now set for possible promotion to the 2nd highest rank.

Mastering the unseen

On Leading The Diagnostics Battle During The COVID Era



**Aditri Bhatnagar &
Krisha Rastogi, AIS Saket, XI C**

Dr Navin Dang, one of India's most respected microbiologists and Founder-Director of Dr Dang's Lab, has spent his career transforming the invisible into the understandable. He has shaped public health policy, pioneered patient-centric diagnostics, and emerged as a mentor for generations of doctors. Renowned for his expertise in diagnostics, he is also an active member of the Expert Group on Tuberculosis Prevention and Control. Read on to gain the valuable insights he shared with GT.

Embracing invisibility

I was never interested in microbiology. Initially, I joined PGIMER Chandigarh to specialise in orthopaedics, but got microbiology as a subject. I was very disappointed; when a patient said: "Either you do what you like, or you start liking what you do." So, I worked hard, finished my MD as topper, and got a job at AIIMS Delhi. But after a few years, I decided to venture on my own. But, with lacking quality diagnostics, we faced issues like delayed reports and unlabelled samples. With a desire for something patient-centric, my journey began with an oath to be known as a father figure of diagnostic medicine in India.

Battle unlike any other

When invited by ICMR to start testing for COVID, my first thought was, "What is hap-

Pic: Tavishi Khatri, AIS Saket, XI E



Dr Navin Dang with GT reporters

pening? I don't even know what COVID is." I personally collected samples each day, motivating my team, "If I can do it, you can too," "This is a war. But unlike wars with countries, here the enemy is unseen." Clueless at first, we learned step by step - reading, consulting experts, and figuring out procedures from scratch. Testing kits were built, machines ran non-stop, and training went on day and night. Gradually, the system fell into place, but the uncertainty, misinformation, and toll on lives made it a battle unlike any other. I still regret not being able to serve more people.

Innovations and emerging threat

A major shift in diagnostics has been the focus on diseases like tuberculosis, now given due importance by the government. Automation has revolutionised microbiology - from sample collection to barcoding, the process is fully streamlined, delivering results at the earliest that enable informed decisions. Looking ahead, the next pandemic threat is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). If use of antibiotics

is overlooked, we may reach a stage where none of the organisms respond to treatment.

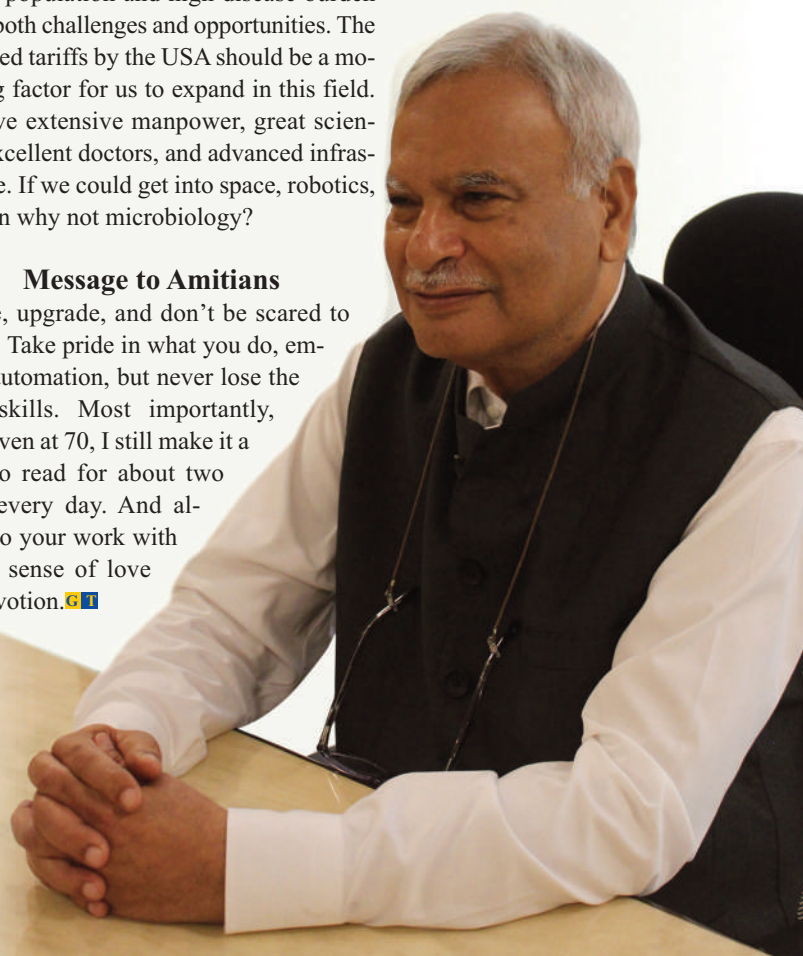
India's diagnostic edge

India's population and high disease burden create both challenges and opportunities. The increased tariffs by the USA should be a motivating factor for us to expand in this field. We have extensive manpower, great scientists, excellent doctors, and advanced infrastructure. If we could get into space, robotics, AI, then why not microbiology?

Message to Amitians

Update, upgrade, and don't be scared to evolve. Take pride in what you do, embrace automation, but never lose the basic skills. Most importantly, read. Even at 70, I still make it a point to read for about two hours every day. And always do your work with a deep sense of love and devotion. 🇮🇳

INTERVIEW



Dr Navin Dang, Founder-Director of Dr Dang's Lab

Book Review

A magical masterpiece

Synopsis: Siblings Sadie and Carter Kane, who spent over half of their lives in two completely different situations, reunite. But this union is not without the 'Rick-twists,' as their father suddenly disappears on a trip to the museum, and they soon discover that not only do they carry the blood of Pharaohs, but that they're also Egyptian magicians. They learn the path of the gods, which had been lost for centuries. They set out to channel their magic when two gods decide to select them as their hosts. Thus begins the dangerous journey of the pair who must use their knowledge and power of Egyptian magic to prevent the end of the world, every couple of months. And

Book: The Kane Chronicles (Trilogy)

Author: Rick Riordan

Published on: 2010-2012

Genre: Mythology, Fantasy, Children's fiction

despite their daily banter, Sadie and Carter's alliance strengthens – and what begins as a mere acquaintance ends up becoming a bond too strong for even magic to break.

Why is it worth reading: It features the kind of books that you never want to put down, providing comic relief in times of tension, making it a thrilling escape from reality. Written in first person with two

points of view, one for Sadie and one for Carter, the readers are presented with both the sassy, sarcastic, and fun-loving side of Sadie with the slightly more serious, clumsy, and logical side of Carter. But the youthful perspectives of the siblings and the inability to stay composed in a serious situation make the trilogy truly Riordan. So, the next time you have a splitting headache, try using a can opener, for you may have a god stuck in your head (so says the book).

Iconic quotes: "Sadie! Do not refer to the Devourer of Souls as Poochiekins."

Rating: 5/5

Review by: Gatha Thakur, AIS Noida, X K



Text: Varnika Pradhan, XII D | Graphic: Kashni Mahajan, XI D; AIS Saket



CLOUD9

Pillow

Dream Beyond Sleep



WHY CLOUD9?

Melatonin diffusion - Fall asleep in 2 minutes. Yes, really! 

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HOW DOES CLOUD9 TAKE YOU THERE?

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 Instant EEG + AI predicts and builds your personalised escape.

 Temperature therapy with smart PCM keeps your pillow cool all night.

 3D VR projection transforms memories into immersive dream worlds.



Every nap is a new destination. Lay your head down and feel the day dissolve. With the Cloud9 Pillow, you're not just resting but also travelling. Sunflower fields. Misty waterfalls. Anywhere your mind dares to wander.

Ready to drift?

Cloud9 Pillow because sleep should feel like an adventure. 

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

Sun brought down to Earth

A Journey Through Time To Witness A Clean Future

Siyona Gupta, AIS Gurugram 43, IX C

For centuries, humanity has gazed in wonder at the sun – our blazing engine of life. While Icarus dreamt to fly to the sun, humans aspired to recreate it on Earth. The idea took shape at the 1985 Geneva Summit. Today, that dream has almost turned real. So hop in, because our time traveller is taking you on a journey to share the tale of ITER.

2025: The dream comes true

The time traveller arrives in Cadarache, Southern France, to the sound of machinery. The site, a construction zone encircled by international flags, is filled with engineers working on the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, i.e., ITER – Latin for ‘the way’. The world is still using fossil fuels. Together, 35 nations, including India, China, the EU, Russia, and the US, intend to create the most extravagant fusion reactor, designed to produce 500 MW of fusion power from 50 MW of input.



2035: The machine comes alive

When the traveller returns, the valley feels transformed. A gleaming tokamak - shaped like a giant metal doughnut - dominates the landscape. Inside, engineers are preparing a magnetic ‘cage’ strong enough to confine plasma hotter than the sun’s core. The traveller learns that fusion happens when light atoms - deuterium and tritium - combine to form helium, releasing enormous energy. Unlike fission, which splits heavy atoms and produces long-lived ra-

dioactive waste, fusion generates no carbon emissions and leaves behind minimal waste.

2045: The first light

The countdown pulls the traveller into the control room. Three, two, one... ITER ignites with a brilliant pulse as the first plasma bursts into being. For the first time, humanity sees a star burning inside a metal chamber. The experiment achieves net energy gain, sustained plasma confinement, and even tests tritium-breeding systems to generate its own fuel.

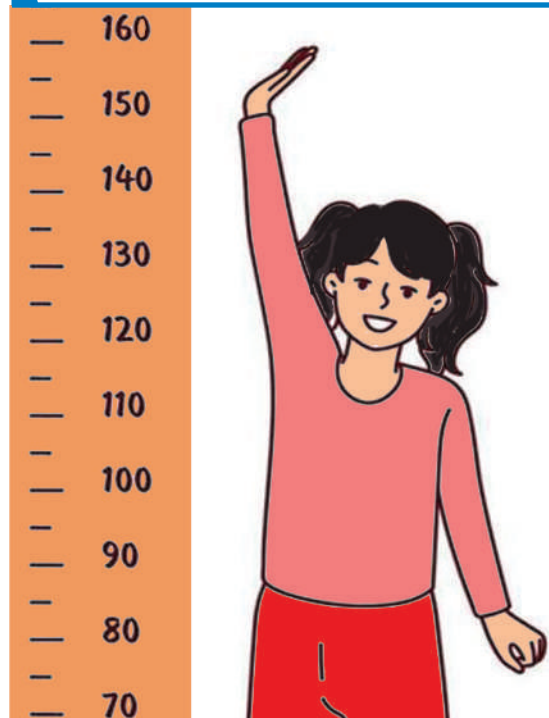
2055: Energy without end

The world the traveller enters now feels cleaner and quieter. Cities run on fusion power instead of coal or oil. Blue skies show reduced carbon emissions. ITER - uniting Europe, Asia, and America under one scientific vision - stands as a monument to global cooperation. The artificial sun keeps burning, its energy sustaining a planet full of hope. Watching this future unfold, the time traveller finally ends its journey. 🇮🇳

...continued from page 1

On top of it all, pitching adults almost twice their age can easily make them feel like they don’t belong, at times leading to the feeling of imposter syndrome and affecting their mental health as well.

Despite the hurdles, 32.5% of Indian students desire to become entrepreneurs, as per GUESS India 2023 report. Their motto, ‘onwards and upwards’. Hence, the teenpreneur era isn’t just a trend, it’s a movement. India is the world’s third largest startup ecosystem with over 1.59 lakh registered startups as of January 2025. It also has the highest youth population in the world. These two factors together make India the ideal petri dish for fearless, innovative enterprises. That’s why these innovators aren’t asking, “Can I?” They’re saying, “Watch me.”



Wait, I'm grown up?

A Transition To Tweenhood

Amaira Shrivastava, AIS Noida, IX Q

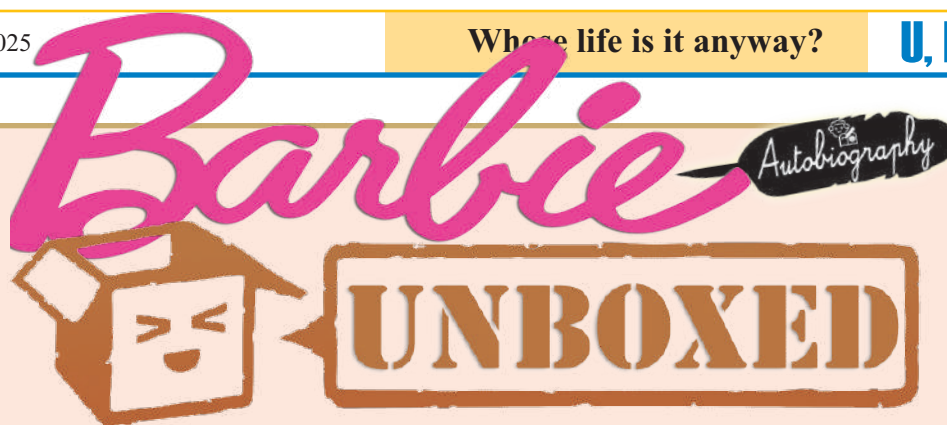
You're singing Britney Spears song, when someone drops the classic line: "Oh, you've grown up!" Cue the confused scrunch. One moment, we were chasing ice cream trucks in the summer sun, and the next, we're expected to act like mini all-functioning adults. But to be honest, we're just doing our best to pretend. Because if there is a manual on how to be a grown-up, we missed the download button.

The great pretend: Let's be real, most of us are winging it. Sure, we've outgrown our training wheels, but some of us still don't meet the height requirement for roller coasters. So when the 'grown-up' label gets slapped on, it feels like a comedy sketch gone wrong. Did we miss a secret tween initiation ceremony? Was there a memo?

Expectations vs reality: Here's the kicker: being 'grown up' comes with a checklist of expectations. Time management, decision-making - big words for people who still struggle with shoelaces. No one's asking us to file taxes (yet), but even the small stuff feels like a surprise party we didn't RSVP to. But it's not all bad. Growing up means exploring new hobbies, and occasionally being taken seriously, especially when negotiating for that sleepover invite.

Acting grown up: And here's where it gets deep (just a little). Maybe growing up isn't about knowing everything - it's about learning, adapting, and finding your rhythm. That sounded suspiciously mature, didn't it? We might be getting the hang of it, after all.

Still silly, still us: So, to all the adults who keep reminding us we've 'grown up' - thanks for the reality check. Just don't be shocked if we still ask for a bedtime story. Because being a tween is a mix of awkward and confusing moments, and we're embracing every single one. 🧒👧



From Doll To Icon: Tale Of Barbie's Reawakening

Raabia Ali Abidi, XII C & Latika Dhoundiyal, XI C, AIS Saket

I never thought I'd end up in a lehenga, but there I was wrapped in a pink embroidered piece. When my friend Anita, the Indian Barbie, throws a Diwali party, it's no less than a couture. I was still trying to figure out how to sit without dislocating any of my plastic body parts when someone said, "Come on, Barbie, let's go party." And suddenly I was on a card table surrounded by over a hundred Barbies - astronauts, pilots, doctors - all with perfectly winged eyeliner, naturally. As we sorted the cards, Christie, one of the first Black Barbies, asked, "Barbara, how does it feel to be the first?" "Well, let me tell you our story," I began. Born to Ruth Handler, I debuted - on March 9, 1959, at the New York Toy Fair - in striped swimsuit, with a side-eye attitude. Ruth knew girls wanted futures, not just motherhood. So vinyl was poured, painted, and Barbara Millicent Roberts manufactured magic. The 1960s were loud: civil rights marches, women seeking equality, space-race fever. I joined the cultural conversation. My first dream-house appeared in 1962, a pastel cardboard flat when women couldn't own credit cards. In 1965, I be-

came an astronaut - four years before man landed on the Moon. My résumé expanded faster than the toy market.

But I wasn't without controversy. My proportions made headlines. My 1992 catchphrase "Math class is tough" sparked debate. Change came gradually, then suddenly. In 1980 arrived the first Black and Latina Barbies truly named 'Barbie'. In 1997, the first Barbie with a hearing impairment. In 2016, being curvy, petite, tall, etc. were embraced. Dolls with vitiligo, alopecia, prosthetics, wheelchairs, and scoliosis braces followed. Diversity stopped being a decoration; it became a design. And India shaped me more than I admit. I've worn more lehengas there than anywhere else. The early 2000s brought Diwali Barbie in teal silk, bangles, and a bindi. Saree Barbie followed, draped in Kanjivaram. In 2011 came 'Miss India Barbie'. India was one of my fastest-growing markets of the decade. I became a birthday staple and even walked the ramp at India Fashion Week in Manish Arora couture. My global journey mirrored the toy market's ups and downs. I sold

3,00,000 units in my first year and became a billion-dollar franchise by the late '80s. Then came the slump: between 2010 and 2014, sales dipped nearly 20%. But nostalgia and reinvention surged. Instagram surged higher. I rode the wave.

Then 2023 hit, a movie in unapologetic pink. Overnight, I became a think-piece, a feminist argument, and a billion-dollar box office phenomenon. Searches hit record highs; collectors resurfaced. In India alone, Barbie-related searches jumped nearly 40%. "I began in a box built to be perfect," I tell Christie. "But perfection is just another kind of cage. I may be made of plastic, but I've got layers of dreams and a little bit of sass."

As diyas glow and laughter rises, I lift my mango lassi. "I don't want to be perfect anymore. I want to be open to change, to criticism, so that the next child in Mumbai, Manila, Milan, or Manhattan can imagine a life bigger than mine." As the night deepens, I realise maybe I was just a doll once. But now, I am the shelf itself, not holding dreams but helping build them.



Pic: Eesh Saini, AIS Saket, XI E

Amitians get sport-ready



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

As a pioneer of holistic education, Amity has always believed in nurturing the academic, mental, emotional, social, and physical development of every child from the moment they join the Amity family. But with the world changing rapidly, rising pollution levels, increased screen exposure, reduced physical activity, and a fast-food driven lifestyle; children today face challenges that didn't exist a decade ago. Recognising this shift, the Amity

Sports Department decided to make fitness not just a routine, but a way of life for every Amitian.

Beginning academic year 2025–26, Amity is introducing the Students' Wellness Report Card. The primary wing report cards will now feature a dedicated School Health Record section, offering parents a clear, detailed picture of their child's physical fitness, monitored and updated regularly. Students will be assessed on a five-level scale i.e. from Sport Fit to Need to Work Harder with scores ranging from 10 to 1. This initiative is supported by a professionally-designed battery of fitness tests, developed after evaluating fitness norms of over 8,000 children across Classes I–VI. These norms have been carefully standardised according to age and gender after extensive research. The tests measure essential motor skills such as agility, balance, strength, stamina, running efficiency, and coordination. With systematically maintained records, teachers can track each child's progress easily, while parents gain meaningful insights into their child's fitness journey.

With this forward-thinking initiative, Amity once again reaffirms its commitment to nurturing strong, confident, and resilient future citizens, who are not only academically capable, but physically empowered to thrive in a changing world. 🇮🇳

A holistic view



Divya Bhatia
Principal, AIS Saket

In a world that is evolving faster than ever before, our children do not need only knowledge, but also resilience, compassion, and a strong sense of purpose. At Amity, we strive each day to nurture these qualities - helping every learner discover their unique strengths and step forward with confidence. As the ancient wisdom reminds us: "उद्यमेन हि सिद्ध्यन्ति कार्याणि न मनोरथैः" Goals are always achieved

through effort, not wishful thinking. This timeless message guides our philosophy. We are deeply inspired by the visionary guidance of our revered Chairperson ma'am, whose leadership continues to steer us towards excellence, innovation, and holistic development. Her belief in empowering both learners and educators enriches every initiative we undertake. I also take this opportunity to congratulate our editorial board and their mentor teachers for their creativity, commitment, and hard work. My gratitude to The Global Times team for their guidance.

Let's enjoy this captivating GT contest issue brought to us by AIS Saket and allow it to bring in the much-needed warmth during these chilly winter days. Together - teachers, parents, and students - we will continue to build a community where curiosity is celebrated, values are strengthened, and each child feels seen, supported, and inspired. 🇮🇳

Scroll, research, believe

Aarrna Maheshwari
AIS Saket, XI C

In the age of hyperconnectivity, a 30-second reel can shape public sentiment faster than a thousand-word editorial crafted by a seasoned journalist. But this isn't just a change in how we package information; it's a change in who we believe has the right to deliver it. What we consume, how we consume it, and most importantly, who we trust to tell us what's true; these are being rewritten in real time, by people who didn't need a press pass to get there.

The convenience trade-off

Between skipped meals and never-ending to-do lists, nobody has the time to read long articles. That's where reels and shorts come into play, sharing worldwide news within minutes. They create an illusion of spreading information, but no credibility hovers over these sources. Still the real danger isn't the misinformation, it's the comfort we find in it. These reels fit in our busy schedules, becoming the deciding factor for what information we consume. But

in exchange for this accessibility, what facts are we missing out on?

Influence sans accountability

Scroll long enough, and you'll meet your new healers and philosophers. Their voices fill the void once reserved for experts. Influencer marketing has exploded into a multi-billion-dollar industry. While disclosure rules exist, transparency is often blurry when the same post that recommends a product also claims to believe in it. When reels start offering medical advice, mental health diagnoses, or financial 'hacks,' the stakes change dramatically. So, as consumers, we must ask: Who is funding this information and why? Behind many of these seemingly personal insights are sponsorship deals and marketing strategies designed not to inform, but to influence. The platforms have a role to play, yes, but so do we. Recognising when engagement becomes manipulation is a form of digital self-defence.

The global trust shift

Once, journalism operated on a slow but steady rhythm: verify, cite, cross-

check, and publish. It was built on transparency and accountability. But that model now struggles against the dopamine economy of social media. Research shows that social media has become the primary news source for millions worldwide, not because it's more reliable, but because it's more available. And that's exactly where misinformation finds its foothold, in the cracks of convenience. So how do we navigate this age of instant influence? Yes, some creators verify, research, and reject the easy lure of paid promotion. But finding them takes effort. And that effort is the new literacy. The responsibility doesn't rest solely on platforms; it rests on us. On our willingness to ask: 'Who is this person?'; 'Where is their information coming from?'; 'What are they trying to sell me?' The solution isn't to abandon short-form content altogether. It's to pair speed with scepticism. To let curiosity interrupt convenience. Because in a world where everyone has a mic, the most radical act might be to listen more carefully, to question, to verify, and to keep searching for the full story beneath the soundbite. 🇮🇳

The power of collaboration

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

I couldn't agree more with this iconic quote by Henry Ford. Any endeavour, no matter its significance, is strengthened when its fulfilment is the culmination of the collective effort of zealous minds, driven by a desire to prove their worth. The



Debjani Das
GT Coordinator

Global Times is an initiative for which we are eternally grateful to our honourable Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan. Through GT, she has helped students to have a perspective on matters beyond their textbooks and expand their creative horizons. As the editorial board worked to make this year's Contest Edition a success, one

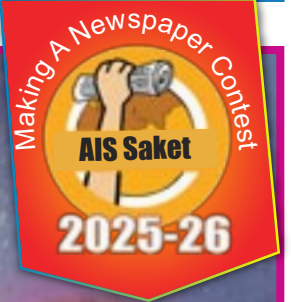
thing was made clear: it was this unity of purpose that transformed challenges into opportunities. From lively discussions to the vigorous clashing of ideas, I can confidently say that none of us could have imagined the outcome alone. This edition, brought to life under the guidance of the GT team, reminds us that achievements arise when determination, imagination, and teamwork intersect, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved.



Graphic: Sera Mendiratta, AIS Saket, XII D

An Unwavering War Between Viral And Verified

Illustration: Sabhyata Gupta, AIS Saket, XII D



GLOBAL BEATS, ONE HEART

From electrifying line-ups at Sunburn to Coachella's legendary sets, music festivals are more than just concerts. They're temporary universes where sound, culture, and human energy collide in a vibrant rush. **Kashni Mahajan, AIS Saket, XI D**, brings you a tour of the most iconic music festivals across the globe; each with unforgettable moments that echo long after the final beat drops.

GLASTONBURY | UK

Category: Britain's most historic & greenfield contemporary music festival.
Where: A five-day celebration in Somerset, blending music & activism.
Highlights: Witnessed performances from David Bowie to Beyoncé; features Pyramid Stage design and cosy tents.
Legacy: Rooted in the 1960s counter-culture and free-festival movements, it's a cultural pilgrimage that celebrates all kinds of acts from rock and pop to folk and experimental.

SUNBURN FESTIVAL | INDIA

Category: Asia's largest EDM festival.
Where: Born on Goa beaches, it's now hosted in Pune every December. Sunburn ignited India's EDM revolution.
Highlights: Multi-day lineups featuring DJs like Martin Garrix, Tiësto, David Guetta, and Swedish House Mafia.
Legacy: A trailblazer for India's dance music scene, merging music, travel, and spectacle. Sunburn's spin-offs - Sunburn Arena and Sunburn Campus - carry its beats worldwide. It brought global EDM culture into India.

TOMORROWLAND | BELGIUM

Category: Top electronic fest.
Where: Held annually since 2005 at the De Schorre park, Belgium.
Highlights: DJ line-ups like Armin van Buuren, David Guetta, Hardwell, Martin Garrix, and Avicii.
Legacy: Its unique stages & storytelling create a fantasy world. Repeatedly voted 'Best Music Event of the Year', Tomorrowland inspired spin-offs like Tomorrow World, USA, Tomorrowland, Brazil & Tomorrowland Winter, France.

DONAUISELFEST | VIENNA

Category: World's most attended music festival.
Where: Hosted annually for three days on the Donauinsel (Danube Island), Vienna.
Highlights: Falco's electrifying 1993 performance and the Backstreet Boys' show in 1999.
Legacy: It's free; drawing crowd in millions. Began in 1983 by politician Harry Kopietz as a one-day party for 15,000 people; 160,000 came instead.

COACHELLA | USA

Category: Most expensive globally.
Where: Held every April at Empire Polo Club in Indio, California.
Highlights: Headlining acts redefine pop culture, from Beyoncé's history-making performance to Blackpink's K-pop breakthrough show.
Legacy: Besides its star power, it's also known for an experience of fusing music, large-scale art installations, and cuisine. A symbol of modern festival culture; it blends music, fashion, art & social media aesthetics.

Educational
Poster

Illustration: Ishiekaa Kapoor, XI F & Eesh Saini, XI E, AIS Saket

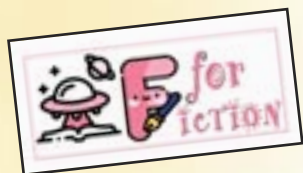
Naima Oberoi, AIS Saket, XI F

After failing and rebranding every possible scheme, the government finally snapped and declared shopping a national sport. "Patriotic consumption," the president announced, standing below the giant credit card hologram.

At the centre of this glitter-soaked madness was Anita Patel - forty-five, mother of two, champion of coupons and of end-of-season sales. She joined the National Shopping Marathon only for the pleasure of bargain hunting.

Anita tucked her chin, elbows out. This was a familiar territory. She grabbed socks with sniper-like precision, and stationery her children would lose in a week. At the end of an aisle glowing with terrible decisions, she spotted the reclining massage chair. A staff member shouted, "Ma'am, that's extremely heavy!" "So is adulthood," she grunted, deadlifting it. Level two locked the contestants inside glowing glass pods where discount equations swirled like ancient runes. One contestant screamed, "Why 37%? Why not a normal number?" Anita calmly pulled out her battered calculator. A judge tapped on the glass. "You seem disturbingly calm." "I've waited my whole life for this," she said pressing "%=". Rumours

Shopocalypse



spread that she might secretly be a descendant of mathematicians. Level three required contestants to style a mannequin. Chaos erupted. Sequins flew. Someone tried to glue feathers to a corset. Another said they were creating "post-apocalyptic maximalist couture." Meanwhile, Anita dressed her mannequin in sweatpants, apron, and rubber gloves. A judge frowned. "What is this?" "The Apocalyptic Housewife," Anita answered. Another judge dabbed a tear. "It's raw. Powerful. An indictment of society." "It's laundry day," she clarified.

Level four was 'Black-Market Maze', dim and filled with vendors whispering promises. A man

waved a knockoff hover-toaster. "This will revolutionise your mornings!" "I've raised teen-

agers," she replied. "My mornings are already a battleground."

Level five - the VR Mall, glitches swarmed and pop-up ads shouted unsolicited life advice. A hologram salesman floated over, pitching a new cryptocurrency called 'SockCoin', the future of digital finance! "Please," Anita said, removing the headset. "I'm too old for imaginary shopping." The judges gasped as if she'd spoken a forbidden truth.

Contestants rolled out with gold-plated appliances, even a robot butler that insulted you politely. Anita, however, simply walked onstage carrying a foldable chair borrowed from backstage. She unfolded it, sat, and sighed. "This is all I needed today. Everything else was merely

At the centre of this glitter-soaked madness was Anita Patel - forty-five, mother of two, champion of coupons and end-of-season sales.

passing curiosity."

An economist stood, visibly shaken. "Ms Patel, your restraint is revolutionary. You win." Confetti exploded. Cameras flashed. Anita was accepting the golden shopping trolley trophy when an intern sprinted in. "Ma'am! You forgot your lifetime supply of SockCoin!" Anita froze. "I said I don't want it." "Yes, but it auto-installs!" Her phone vibrated violently. Congratulations! You've earned 12,000 SockCoins! Warning: Phone overheating due to excessive joy! The screen glitched. Then burst into flames. Anita calmly dropped it into a nearby bucket labelled 'Burnt Hopes / Faulty Tech'. "Honestly," she sighed, walking away with her socks and her trophy, "this is exactly why I trust only real, physical things." Anita didn't look back. She had socks to take home.



Ethereal elysium

Krishna Rastogi
AIS Saket, XI C

Graphic: Aarna Bhasin, AIS Saket, XI F

At the last twinkle of dawn everyday
Silver bloom weaves a mystic array
A sanctum of calm, ataraxia unfolds
A garden of awe where magic moulds

Petals in rows, so colourful and bright
Swing gently beneath soft moonlight
In mellifluous breeze they faintly sway
A dream painted in a tranquil display

A golden glimmer flutters near by
Gleaming like flame as they pass by
Their tender wings craft rhythmic beat
To dance on blooms with nimble feet

As time flows, the sun starts to show
Dawn spills softly on the night's glow
The silver fades, the peace is no more
As magic dissolves, so ends the lore.



Read Play and Win 97

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 Name the marathon mentioned in the story on page 8.	Q.2 Name the author of the book reviewed for this edition.	Q.3 Which character's autobiography has been featured on page 5?
Q.4 The guide to avoid which question has been shared on page 12?	Q.5 What is the headline of the article on page 6?	Q.6 What fictional product has page 4 advertised this time?
Q.7 Who are the two entrepreneurs who built Zepto, as mentioned on page 1?	Q.8 Whose letter are we reading on page 9?	Q.9 Name the volcano that recently erupted in Ethiopia.

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

Results of Read Play & Win-96: **Aviraaj Singh Bajaj**, AIS MV, III A; **Shivam Garg**, AIS Gur 46, VIII I; **Inaya Kamal**, AIS Gur 43, IV D

Celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram



Varnika Pradhan, AIS Saket, XII D

*"Mother, your voice flows steady and clear,
A call that India will forever hold dear.
Its echo grew from verse to vow,
Vande Mataram lives in every heartbeat now."*

My dear children of the future, across the stretch of time, I write to you from a quieter century – an age when India longed to awaken. I never imagined that a hymn born in the pages of my notebook would endure revolutions, traverse borders, outlive languages, and survive generations. Yet here you stand, in a world beyond my imagination, still repeating the same salutation 150 years later. *Vande Mataram*. A simple bow to the motherland that blossomed into a collective heartbeat.

Birth that touched a million lives

When I first wrote these words, I instinctively reached for Sanskrit, a language carrying the weight of our civilisation. *Vande* means 'I bow' or 'I salute'. *Mataram* invokes the mother in all her forms. The phrase was never meant to command patriotism. It sought to awaken tenderness. I wanted India's children to remember that their first duty was to the land that sustained them. This greeting quietly began touching lives. Students whispered it in colleges in Bengal. Thinkers and reformers of the time interpreted it as an affirmation of collective strength. It travelled across presidencies and regions, and found meaning in different tongues. Many wrote to me saying that the song felt like a lamp lit in the dark years of colonial uncertainty.

Early footsteps that stirred a nation

Vande Mataram was first written as an independent poem before finding its permanent home in my novel *Anandamath* in 1882. The story imagined a band of ascetics fighting for a motherland battered by foreign rule. Their inner fire represented the spirit that lived within the people long before political resistance took organised shape. The song's influence soon grew beyond literature. Colonial authorities often banned its public chanting. Yet, crowds in Bengal, Maharashtra, and Punjab sang it during processions despite warnings. As per accounts noted by later historians, many freedom fighters carried the words on slips of folded paper inside their clothes. They said it gave them strength. During this period, I often reminded my readers in my writings: *The Motherland is our only mother. Our motherland is higher than heaven...All we have is the Mother.*

Youth that found its identity

Years later, Rabindranath Tagore carried the song into a different realm. At the 1896 session of the Indian National Congress, he gave it a musical form that allowed the words to travel farther. Around the same time, he would later compose *Jana Gana Mana*, which eventually became the National Anthem. Together these two works shaped the soundscape of India's awakening. *Vande Mataram* grew into a cultural symbol. In 1907, Madam Bhikaji Cama unfurled the first tricolour flag on foreign soil in Stuttgart, the words *Vande Mataram* emblazoned across it like a promise. Two years later, Madan Lal Dhingra uttered the same salutation before his execution in 1909, making it immortal. The song became a part of everyday life as well. School assemblies adopted its opening lines. Public readings, theatre performances, folk recitations, and political marches echoed it. It had become India's unofficial chorus.

Adulthood that carried the legacy

Songs evolve as nations grow. After Tagore's rendition, many musicians brought their own spirit to *Vande Mataram*. The modern world encountered it again with AR Rahman's 1997 version, blending classical and contemporary expression. His interpretation reached a younger India, turning the song into something people hummed during journeys, celebrations, and national festivals. It became an emotional expression rather than only a ceremonial one. Today, *Vande Mataram* carries different meanings for different generations. It is a greeting to the land, a reminder of resilience, or simply a moment to pause and recognise identity in a fast-moving world. Its timelessness endures because every Indian can find a little bit of themselves in its words.

Grand old age of 150 years

As you celebrate 150 years of *Vande Mataram*, India opens her doors to a year of remembrance. The celebrations began in New Delhi, where the Prime Minister inaugurated the nationwide commemoration with a special coin and postage stamp, followed by a grand concert of 75 musicians. To ensure that the anniversary is remembered in many voices - not just official ones - a digital portal has also been established, inviting people to submit their own recordings to create a living archive. The theme has been adopted in various ways by educational and cultural institutions throughout India in the form of art exhibits, musical performances, and public readings. State Governments, too, held their own events. In Gangtok, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, and Chandigarh, people gathered to sing the full song together - just as earlier generations once did during protests and marches. Through these nationwide celebrations, India reminds itself that *Vande Mataram* is not merely a relic of the freedom struggle but a living inheritance.

With enduring faith in you,
Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay



Painting outside the lines

A Place Where Art Goes Way Beyond Brushes And Boundaries

Naima Oberoi & Shreem Khushu, XI F
Shivanjali Sapra, XI D
AIS Saket

Amidst the endless hum of Delhi's bustling cafés lies a lesser-known gem — Splashit. One doesn't come here merely to eat, but to play. A vibrant tapestry of artistry, this experiential café welcomes visitors with a single promise: to turn moments into lasting memories.

Brewing the twist

"We started Splashit as a joke," laughs Anuj Saxena, co-founder. A recent graduate in need of a steady income, he spent months travelling across India, observing market trends. He noticed a co-relation — disposable incomes rose, so did coffee consumption. This brewed the idea for a café with a twist. The team had seen such a concept in the US and found only two cultures embracing getting messy: Spaniards with La Tomatina, and Indians with Holi. And just like that, Splashit was born. Today, with 16 employees and two rounds of funding, Splashit adds colour and chaos to every celebration!

All you can splash

The Neon Room is Splashit's biggest attrac-



The Neon Room bursting with colour

tion — a pitch-black space where guests, from toddlers to octogenarians, don protective suits and freely splash paint across the walls, the floor and over each other too. "The experience is liberating, joyful, and entirely unique," says Saxena. Then there's acrylic pour art, where paint is poured and spread on wooden cotton canvases to create fluid patterns. Next came tufting, a custom-rug-making activity using tufting guns.

Pics: Tavishi Khatri, AIS Saket, XI E



GT reporters with Anuj Saxena

Splashit also hosts regular workshops where artists experiment, collaborate, and help shape future experiences.

Sketching unforgettable memories

Saxena fondly recalls the memory of a six year-old boy with ADHD, painting a masterpiece. "I often hear kids saying it is their favourite." The canvas now hangs in the Noida studio, mirroring the boy's uninhibited creativity. He also remembers another moment: a two year-old girl refusing protective gear. She spun on the spinning table, giggling as swirling paint covered her. He reflects, "Interacting with kids is the best part. Work doesn't even feel like work!"

Shading the world green

Fun aside, Splashit is equally committed to sustainability. During COVID, manufac-



GROUND REPORTING

turers were left with stocks of PPE kits. Splashit bought those to use as disposable coveralls, reducing waste. Used PPE is shredded and repurposed. Also, the café uses organic paints that absorb into walls, eliminating wash-off waste. Reusable materials are sanitised before recirculation. "By focusing on Grade 2 plastics, we make recycling easier," explains Saxena.

Balancing the palette

For Splashit, guest retention has been challenging. "The goal is to keep people coming back after their first visit," Saxena admits. From weekday droughts to weekend peaks, this fluctuation pushes it to maximise its charm and profits. For consistency across all branches, the founders implemented a centralised training system, with bi-monthly sessions to ensure uniform standards of hospitality. Since its launch on September 14, 2024, Splashit has expanded to three fully functional locations, with two more launching soon. Impressively, unlike machine-dependent arcades, Splashit's hands-on model requires extensive manual effort, making its rapid growth a great splash of success! **GT**

Pics: Uday Aeri, AIS Saket, XII C



Illustrators, sketching from scratch



Editorial board of AIS Saket, the crew behind this masterpiece



Graphic designers, delivering designs



Photographer, freezing frames



Editors, perfecting stories

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

An oath of excellence

Kasam Parade Marks Dedication And Commitment For The Nation



Chief guest addresses the audience



The future of India marches ahead with valour and commitment



Amity Dog Academy puts up a show

AIS Noida & AIMC

On November 21, 2025, Amity Education Valley, Manesar, resonated with the echoes of commitment towards community, stirred by 173 cadets (77 girls and 96 boys) from Class IX of AIS Noida as they presented a powerful march past *Kasam Parade* organised under the aegis ACC (Amity Cadet Corps). Parents of the cadets also witnessed the grand event which was telecast live on YouTube and social media platforms.

The annual event marked the culmination of a five day Amity Training Camp held at Amity Indian Military College (AIMC),

Manesar, from November 16-21, 2025. Envisioned by Dr Ashok K. Chauhan, Founder President, Amity Universe, and Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, Amity Cadet Corps (ACC) consistently endeavours to nurture Amitians with skills necessary to evolve them into future-oriented and brave citizens of India through various military training initiatives embedded in the curriculum.

During the camp, the cadets engaged in sessions on firefighting, tent-pitching, PT, march past rehearsals, obstacle training, parasailing, night trekking, river crossing, etc. They were also apprised on war histories, NDA, and military strategies, by the

veterans of AIMC and ACC.

Kasam Parade began with the welcome of chief guest Renu Singh, director principal, AIS Noida, and Major General Devesh Gaur, asst. director general, Amity Directorate & Military Education and Training, along with other notable dignitaries from Amity Education Group and AIMC. It was followed by the opening salute and call for the march by cadet Bhavyaa Gargava. The young cadets dressed in combat uniforms impressed the audience with their synchronised march past reflective of their youthful spirit. They were also administered an oath of integrity, honesty, and dedication by Colonel Ravinder Singh.

One of the key highlights of the event was the dog show in which the trained dogs of Amity Dog Academy enchanted the audience with their intelligence and military skills. The event also witnessed the felicitation of cadet Kohana Khanna with team prize for 'Best Marching Contingent' and cadet Bhavyaa Gargava with 'Best Cadet Under Officer'. The event culminated with the chief guest's address in which she appreciated the zealous and passionate participation of ACC cadets in the camp and their show of valour and commitment towards our nation and also urged them to adopt BHAAG, the success formula by the Founder President, as the way of life. 🇮🇳



Amity's budding scientists and scientists of India in the same frame

The champs of science

AIS VKC Lucknow

A team of Class IX and X students namely Aditi Pandey, Aradhya Agarwal, Nancy Singh, Aviral Kansal, Abhay Verma, Plaksha Singh, Ashutosh Hazela, and Eeshan Rastogi won the third position in CSIR Vigyaan Vimarsh Quiz Competition held on November 6, 2025. The unique virtual inter school quiz competition, organised

by CSIR CIMAP Jigyasa, aimed to encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and appreciation of science among school students. It witnessed participation by seven schools across Uttar Pradesh and was conducted in two rounds, intra-school level and inter-school (final) level. 250 students across the state qualified for the intra-school level out of which 43 students qualified for the second and final inter-school round.

The quiz encompassed a variety of topics, including India's space exploration and the use of medicinal and aromatic plants in daily life. It was an encouraging moment for the students as the renowned CSIR scientists Dr AS Negi, chief scientist; Dr Chandan Singh Chunotiya, senior principal scientist; and Dr Bhaskar Shukla, principal scientist and nodal officer, CSIR Jigyasa Programme, felicitated them for their scientific acumen. 🇮🇳

Cosmic creativity



Prize-winners with their principal

AIS Vasundhara 6

Three rising artists of the school brought laurels from World Space Week organised by SPACE India from October 4-10, 2025, based on this year's United Nations global theme, 'Living in Space'. Soumya Gupta of Class VIII and Navya Chaturvedi of Class XI both secured second prize in 'Astrotoon' competition, while Divit Dubey of Class XII received the third prize in 'stamp making' competition

held under the sub - theme 'Reflections of Earth'.

About World Space Week

World Space Week (WSW) is the world's largest annual celebration of space and science, declared by the UN General Assembly in 1999, and observed every year from October 4-10. As part of India's celebrations, SPACE India held a series of various national competitions such as Stamp Making, Astro Toons, and Astro Creator. 🇮🇳

For the couch potatoes



101 Guide On How To Avoid Answering 'What Are You Doing With Your Life?'

Rudrakshi Tanwar

AIS Saket, XI F

Every time, it starts the same way. At a family get-together, you're peacefully enjoying the spicy aroma of *chole bhature* with its flavour dancing on your tongue. You're all set to demolish the entire plate, when a distant relative, looks directly into your eyes and asks "So, beta... what are you doing with your life?". Suddenly the lights go down, the music fades, the flavour of *chole bhature* disappears, your mouth becomes dry and even the spices forget their purpose in life. If only you had found this 101 guide earlier.

Step 1: The art of composed panic

The first rule is to not to blink. Act as if this is the 300th time you've been asked this (it probably is) and you've achieved inner peace about it. Maintain serene eye contact, nod thoughtfully. Pretend to recall a major life milestone that never happened. The goal is to be so calm that they question whether you've just discovered enlightenment.

Step 2: Calculated words

Now, time for verbal gymnastics. Throw in impressive, vague phrases that sound intellectual but mean abso-

lutely nothing. "I am currently aligning my interdisciplinary pursuits with the emerging global frameworks." Translation: I have no clue, but it sounds like I do.

Step 3: Create a 'noble' hobby

It's time to humanise the lie when they lean in, intrigued but wary. "I've recently started learning Japanese. Such an expressive language!" As a matter of fact, learning Japanese is so hard, you'll feel like you are trying to solve 3D Rubik's cube with

chopsticks. If they ask you to say something, sigh deeply and whisper, "It's not about translation... it's about connection." Boom! Instant mystery. Instant respect.

Step 4: Deflect with grace

It's time to escape now that you've dazzled them enough. Return the conversation quickly by saying, "But Uncle, you've to tell me about your new business venture, I heard it's doing wonders." Well done! The focus has changed (since nothing is per-

manent except change). Now, you can let out a breath as they start telling you a twenty-minute saga about their accountant.

Step 5: Deploy the 'Uno reverse'

Persistent questioners, on the other hand, are those who view curiosity as a moral obligation. For them you've to pull the philosophical card. Lower your voice, tilt your head slightly and say, "Well, what is anyone really doing with their life?" They will freeze. They will nod slowly, pretending to understand but in reality it questions everything from their career choices to their existence.

Step 6: Execute a clean exit

Use distraction if everything else fails. Glance at your phone dramatically and say "Oh no! I've to mist my plant right away because it is on a self-care schedule." Then walk away before they process the sentence.

Epilogue: The secret nobody tells

The truth is none of us fully know what we're doing with our lives. All of us are improvising - some with caffeine and others with confidence. So the next time someone asks you that dreaded question, don't panic. Just remember this fool-proof mantra: Sounding like you have it together counts almost as much as actually having it all together.

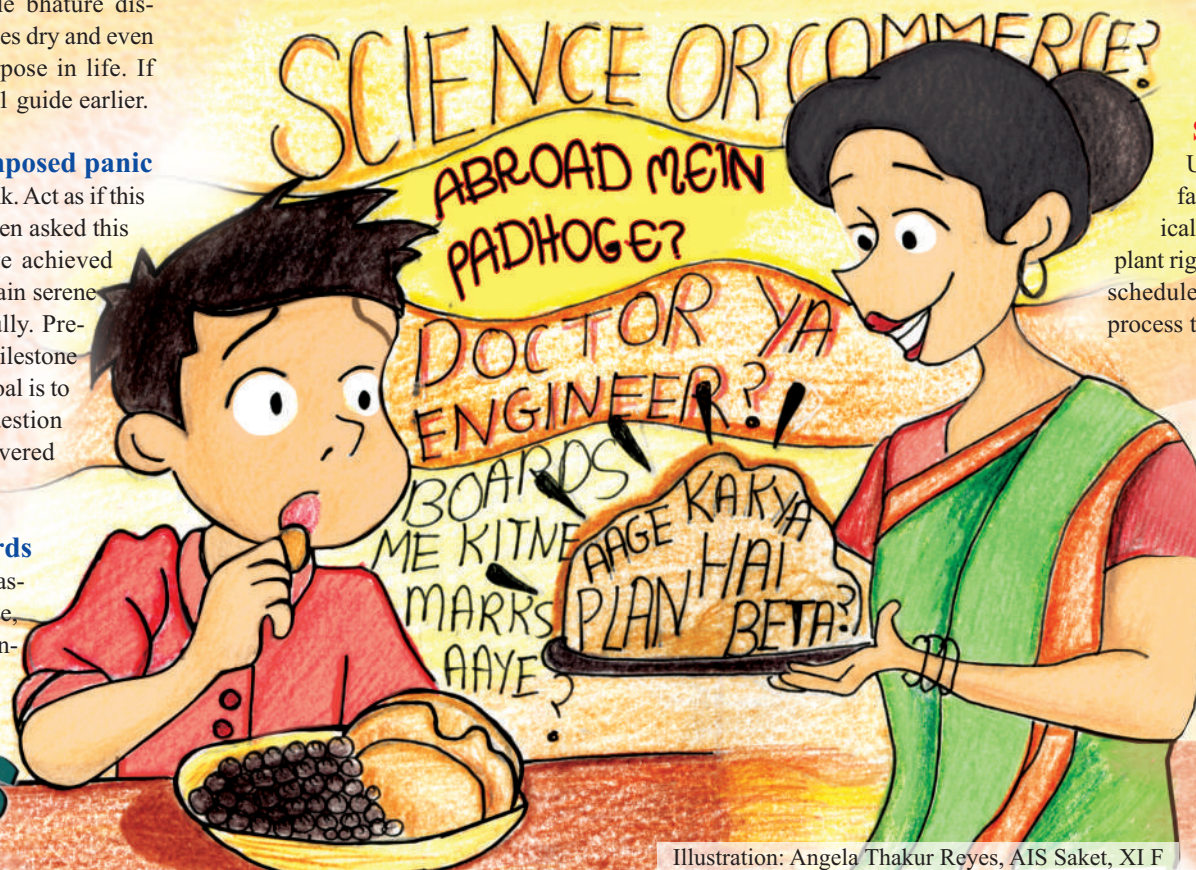


Illustration: Angela Thakur Reyes, AIS Saket, XI F

Pics: Uday Aeri, AIS Saket, XII C

In Spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Varnika Pradhan



Celebrating collective collaboration - the Editorial Board of AIS Saket