

When the devil wore Kolhapuri

From Forgotten Villages To Global Runways- An Untold Journey

Manya Gupta, XII C & Ishaani Chaudhary, XII B, AIS Noida

It wasn't the sunny streets of Maharashtra or the humid roads of Karnataka, but the glistening runway in Milan for Prada's Spring/Summer 2026 men's collection. Tanned, hammered, stitched, with its signature T-strap intact, the footwear looked familiar. The difference? These Kolhapuri chappal-inspired 'luxé novelties' came with a price tag exceeding 1.25 lakh INR. Headlines called it 'Prada's Kolhapuri moment'. But was it? The skilled artisans weren't mentioned, credited, or compensated. For this is not fashion's first offence; cultural appropriation has been the industry's worst-kept secret for decades.

The global chor bazaar

What makes this particular sting sharper is the Kolhapuri chappal's rich history, stretching back to the 12th century across the Deccan plateau, with the item securing a GI tag in 2018, recognising eight districts across Maharashtra and Karnataka as its rightful home. Hence, Prada's open stealing of the quintessential Kolhapuris was met with outrage. Amid accusations of cultural erasure, Prada acknowledged its Indian roots and the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce said it will explore patenting Kolhapuri chappals. This, however, was not a singular instance. Louis Vuitton and Zara sold kurtas as 'chic tunics'. In 2018,

Gucci dressed Caucasian models in 790 USD turbans, stripped of Sikh connotations. Jean Paul Gaultier designed 'sari gowns', famously worn by Kim Kardashian and Naomi Campbell. India isn't the lone victim: Karlie Kloss was styled as a geisha for Vogue in 2017 and Gigi Hadid in dreadlocks for Marc Jacobs. All glaring examples of cultural appropriation - when members of a majority group adopt cultural elements of a minority group in an exploitative, disrespectful, or stereotypical way.

A for appropriation

What exactly is the problem here, one may ask, for art often draws 'inspiration'. The core issue is that luxury brands use the line between 'inspiration' and 'appropriation' as a skipping rope. Cultural appropriation leaves marginalised people feeling like out-

siders in their own culture, stripped of control over their narrative and pushed further to the margins. For communities with histories of colonisation or displacement, the impact is heavier. Consider the Maasai tribe of southern Kenya and northern Tanzania whose distinctive red and blue beadwork appeared in Louis Vuitton's 2012 collection. While LV profited millions, the Maasai artisans remained below poverty line. India has its own mirror to look into. Walk into a mall and you will find 'ikat-inspired'

polyester dresses and machine-printed 'kalamkari' kurtas. Several domestic brands have been criticised for mass-producing artisans' copies without acknowledgment. Appropriation isn't always a foreign import. In 2021, the textile industry was worth 223 billion USD. But the 4.5 crore workers, including 35.2 lakh handloom workers, had no share in the profits.

The pursuit of fairness

For decades, these incidents were brushed off as 'inspiration' or 'appreciation'. But social media has given people a voice. Celebrities like Zendaya too have spoken out. Things are improving: Dior's Fall 2023 show in Mumbai paid genuine tribute, crediting artisans for their chikankari, bandhani, and mirror work; Sabhyasachi's H&M collaboration honoured traditional silhouettes and kept craftsmen at the forefront; Selena Gomez wore Rahul Mishra's Couture Fall dress that featured a motif of a tailor named Munir Ahmed. The shift from appropriation to appreciation requires these key things: pay artisans fairly, give credit to the communities, collaborate with profit-share, and preserve cultural context.

Appropriation isn't something the industry can brush aside anymore. The world is watching, questioning, calling out. Fashion will always seek inspiration, but taking it without acknowledgment is plagiarism. Credit isn't a courtesy. It's a responsibility.



Page editors: Ishaani Chaudhary, XII B & Manya Gupta, XII C, AIS Noida

THE GT POLL

From December 10, under-16s in Australia will be banned from using social media apps like X, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube. If India proposed a similar rule to protect teens, would you support it?

A) Yes B) No C) Maybe

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

AGS Gurugram Contest Edition



This special edition has been brought to you by Amity International School, Noida, 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 fifth edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2025-26'.

What's inside

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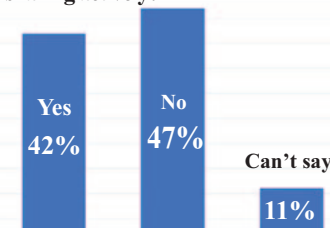
The final thought, P8

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POLL RESULT

for GT Edition December 1, 2025

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



Results as on December 6, 2025

Around The WORLD

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

FRANCE

Louvre ticket hike



The Louvre Museum in Paris will raise ticket prices by 45% for non-EU visitors

starting Jan'26. Approved by the museum's board, the hike targets tourists from countries including the US, the UK, and China. It aims to generate revenue for modernisation projects and address the long-standing challenge of managing overwhelming crowds. The decision underscores the museum's effort to balance accessibility with sustainability as it adapts to growing global demand.



UK

A rage-baited 2025

Oxford University Press has chosen 'rage bait' as its 2025 Word of the Year, highlighting the growing influence of online content designed to provoke anger and rage. Defined as deliberately frustrating someone or uploading offensive posts, the term reflects concerns about digital manipulation and the emotional tone of social media discourse. Based on Oxford's 30-billion-word corpus, usage of 'rage bait', first coined in 2002, has tripled, underscoring rising outrage with platforms and the manipulation shaping online conversations.



INDIA

Mandate withdrawn

The government has withdrawn its mandate requiring all new devices sold from March 2026 to pre-install the state-owned cybersecurity app, Sanchar Saathi. Issued earlier by the Department of Telecommunications, the order faced strong criticism from opposition parties and digital rights groups over privacy and surveillance concerns, as companies were to ensure the app's features could not be disabled. Sanchar Saathi, designed to combat online scams, identity theft, and digital fraud, will remain voluntary for users.



USA

Trump-Costco legal clash

Costco has filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration in Washington, seeking refunds on tariffs imposed under Trump-era trade policies. It argues the duties unlawfully inflate consumer prices nationwide, joining other corporations challenging their trade actions. The case hinges on whether the administration misused the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to justify the tariffs.



ITALY

Luxe takeover

Prada has officially acquired Versace in a 1.3 billion EUR deal announced this week in Milan. The move unites Prada's minimalist heritage and Versace's bold glamour under one umbrella while preserving their distinct identities. The acquisition strengthens Prada's global portfolio and positions it more competitively against luxury giant LVMH, marking a significant shift in the high-fashion landscape.



NEW ZEALAND

Hard egg to swallow

A 32-year-old man has been charged after allegedly stealing and swallowing a Fabergé James Bond Octopussy 18-karat yellow gold egg locket. The theft occurred at Partridge Jewellers in central Auckland, with police confirming the pendant, valued at more than 33,500 USD, has not yet been recovered. Authorities say they cannot provide images of the rare piece until it is retrieved, highlighting the unusual circumstances surrounding the case.



SOUTH KOREA

First multi-fold phone

Samsung Electronics has launched its 'Galaxy Z TriFold,' the first multi-folding smartphone, marking a new beginning in premium foldable technology. Launched in Dec'25, the device features three-fold panels that expand into a 10-inch display, enabling users to run three apps side by side in a desktop-like mode. Analysts view this as a strategic pilot to reinforce Samsung's technology leadership against rising competition.

Ideology in motion

Vivek Agnihotri On Storytelling, Freedom And Film **INTERVIEW**

Zoya Negi & Yana Suresh, XI I
Uvika Banerji, X L
AIS Noida

Meet Vivek Agnihotri — two-time national-award winning director, screenwriter, and producer. He's best known for hard-hitting and awakening films, such as 'The Kashmir Files' and 'The Tashkent Files'. His refusals to shy away from difficult themes and daring responsibilities makes him one of the most talked-about filmmakers in modern Bollywood. Here's an exclusive interview...

The heart of stories

I refuse to be confined by the word filmmaker. Every breath of my life is storytelling. Gravity existed long before Newton, the apple simply gave it a story. That's how I see my journey — not as a career in cinema, but as a lifelong conversation with meaning. I call myself a storyteller because even when my medium changes, my intent does not. Leaving the comfort of commercial success wasn't a rebellion but a moment of clarity. Why tell predictable stories? I wanted to tell stories with my own signature, in my own voice.

Soul that seeks freedom

Creative freedom is never about permission. It is about conviction. Either you feel free or you don't. Society imposes many

restrictions, yet as storytellers, we must find a way to express our truth within those boundaries. I see cinema as a dialogue, not a lecture. If you are not convinced of your story, how can you convince others? The criticism I receive allows me to reflect on how I can make a bigger impact on society. Sometimes audiences are not ready for a film that is ahead of its time, but even that resistance adds value. Every story worth telling disturbs before it heals. I have fought for this creative freedom by refusing to follow conventional norms of filmmaking.

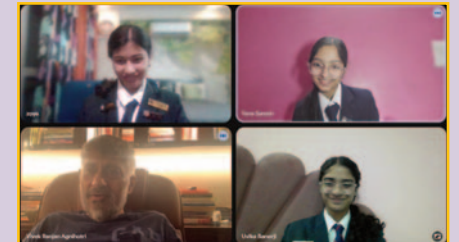
'Mind'ful of truth

All art is political. It is an ideology, a moral lens through which society is shaped. With 'The Kashmir Files' and 'The Bengal Files', I did not seek controversy, but closure. People say

my films provoke. But I think provocation can lead to healing. The real failure of cinema lies in its fear of discomfort. If art cannot make people question, think, or reflect, then what purpose does it serve? I raise questions through cinema, but the answers lie with society. Awareness is the most powerful form of change.

Spine of the script

Every film tests my endurance, but some have tested my humanity. Buddha in a Traffic Jam explored brainwashing, 'The Tashkent Files' questioned the mysterious death of a Prime Minister, but, 'The Kashmir Files' and 'The Ben-



Vivek Agnihotri with GT reporters



Vivek Agnihotri, national award-winning filmmaker

gal Files' were the battles of my soul. My take on India's identity cuts deep. Seventy-eight years after the partition, the scars remain. Our communities, food, clothing - everything divides us. I recall a line from 'The Bengal Files': "Anyone can tell which thread belongs to a Hindu or a Muslim, but no one can tell which belongs to an Indian." That is the story I want to tell.

The wide-angle vision

When asked what I would have been if not a filmmaker, I often laugh. Honestly, I have no idea. But I do know that today, my vision is mentorship. I plan to start a 'School of Creativity' — a space where young people can be guided. My dream is for India to become the capital of ideas, a hub for imagination and innovation. Everyone is born creative. And, you must discover your creativity to see the world differently. The Buddha is inside all of us. In the end, it is all about persistence. Value the gifts life has given you. Understand that you can exist and that you can imagine.

Book Review

Ink, intrigue, and dilemma

Synopsis: 'Mightier Than The Sword' is the fifth novel in Jeffrey Archer's Clifton Chronicles - a seven-part saga spanning the 20th century that explores love, loss, betrayal and ambition through the lives of two intertwined families, the Cliftons and the Barringtons. The novel unfolds spectacularly in the 1960s when an IRA bomb explodes on the MV Buckingham's maiden voyage. Emma Clifton, the chairperson of Barrington Shipping - the owner of the attacked ship - must now manage the repercussions while simultaneously dealing with an old foe who is scheming to discredit her. In the meantime, her husband Harry Clifton, the recently elected leader of

Book: Mightier Than The Sword
Author: Jeffrey Archer
Published on: February 24, 2015
Genre: Historical fiction, Family saga, Political drama

English PEN, goes to considerable lengths to free a Russian author imprisoned for disclosing Stalin's atrocities. Other characters' plotlines, too, take dramatic turns: Giles Barrington's political career faces dangerous upheavals; Sebastian Clifton battles love and business issues. Threats and alliances shift as the families work through issues that

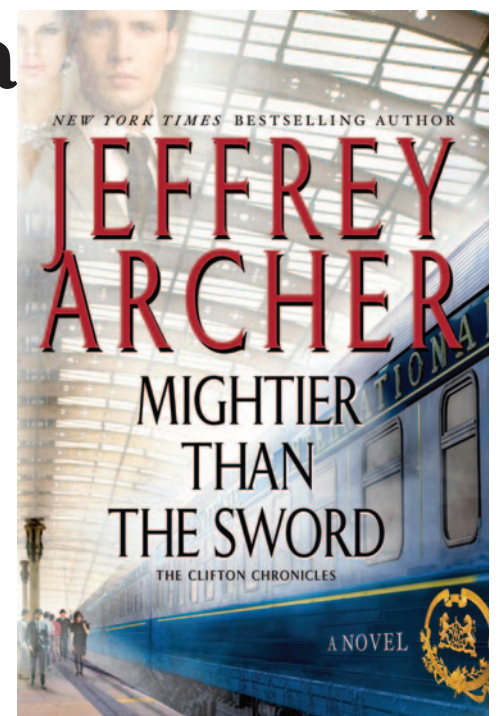
could destroy them on both private and public levels.

Why is it worth reading: Archer moves so smoothly between real-life political tension and family drama that the story feels big in scale yet very personal. It's not just the historical setting that draws you in, but the strong characters and their honest emotions. The book keeps you hooked right up to the final cliffhanger, leaving you eager to know what happens next.

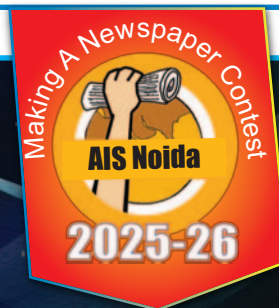
Iconic quote: "If you take care of the pennies, the pounds will take care of themselves."

Rating: 4/5

Review by: Chehak Sharma
AIS VYC Lucknow, XI C



Text: Grisha Gautam, XI C | Illustration: Anviti Alok Tiwari, XI B | Graphic: Vinayak Gupta, XII D & Raunak Chopra XII F; AIS Noida





VOXORA

REPLAYING THE PAST

- Quantum sensors and geo-temporal audio retrieval system pick up sound 'memories.'
- Vibrometers strategically read and pick up the vibrations that spaces never forget.
- If you want audio from a time when modern recorders didn't exist, AI-based neural networks craft voices and sounds from the archives.
- Uses CCTV audio stored on open clouds to pull history straight from the servers.

WHY YOU'LL WANT THEM

- Wireless freedom**
No cords, no limits, no time restrictions.
- Touch and go**
One tap, total voice control.
- Noise? Cancelled.**
Only the past gets a say.
- Aural time-travel**
Hear history, feel history.



With Voxora earbuds, you can listen to speeches, music, and even everyday sounds that occurred years ago. Just pop them on and select your preferred time period to uncover the rich history around you – environments buzzing exactly as they once did.

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

Microscopic, but mighty

Tardigrades: 'Water Bears' That Can Beat Almost All Extremes

Medhansh Choudhary, AIS MV, VII D

If nature ever hosted a survival reality show, tardigrades would walk in (very slowly) and win without even trying. These microscopic wonders, fondly called 'water bears', pack more survival power into one millimetre than most action heroes pack into an entire movie. Hidden in moss, mud, glaciers, and maybe somewhere in your forgotten plant pot, they prove that the universe has a wonderful sense of humour when designing life.

Tiny gummy bears?

Tardigrades are chubby, eight-legged creatures that look a bit like gummy bears. The 'water bears' don't really care whether there's water around or not. They can handle almost everything: boiling, freezing, drying, frying... basically everything. German zoologist Johann August Ephraim Goeze dis-

covered them in 1773. A few years later, biologist Lazzaro Spallanzani named them Tardigrada, meaning 'slow steppers', because they walk like they are permanently late and yet too lazy to hurry.

Superpower: cryptobiosis

Cryptobiosis is the tardigrade's ultimate "Nope, not dealing with this today" mode. When life gets tough - too hot, too cold, too salty, too dry, or low on oxygen - they shut down and enter something like airplane mode, where their metabolic activity drops to nearly zero (around 0.01%). They curl up like a tiny cinnamon roll and can survive like this for decades. This state is called a 'tun', and it makes them resistant to heat, cold, radiation, pressure, vacuum; imagine a vacation where you just laze around doing nothing. Types of cryptobiosis include: Anhydrobiosis (when things get dry enough to make a desert jealous); Cryobiosis (when it

gets so cold that even Elsa would be bothered); Osmobiosis (when salt levels go high enough to rival the Dead Sea); Anoxybiosis (when oxygen decides to walk out).

Supreme survival skills

Tardigrades live in oceans, mountaintops, rainforests, the Arctic, and backyard moss. Basically, if there's even a hint of moisture, a tardigrade is probably hanging out there. And yes, they can survive in outer space too - actual, airless, cosmic-radiation-filled outer space. In 2007, scientists launched some tardigrades into space, probably expecting dramatic deaths. Instead, many of them came back like, "That was fun. What's next?" Their secret? Unique proteins, incredible DNA repair, and pure stubbornness.

Other abilities

Tardigrades can survive being boiled, frozen, crushed, dehydrated, and blasted



with radiation. They're basically nature's version of an unskippable advertisement - no matter what you do, they're still there. Tiny but unstoppable, tardigrades are the universe's reminder that some of the strongest things could come in small packages. 🧐

Chai & chills

Joys Of Winter In Desi Households

Agrata Dhiman, AIS Gurugram 46, IX H

Stock up for a cozy haven, because the mercury doesn't just drop - it plummets. One season we're melting at 50°C, fans on full speed and tempers even higher; the next, we're shivering at around 0°C, turning bedrooms into battlegrounds of blankets, age-old family rituals, and struggles native to big Indian homes.

Floral blanket supremacy

Digging out mislabelled boxes of blankets and *razais* feels like a mini archaeological dig. Each quilt has a personality - florals are the class toppers, animal prints the dramatic teens, and psychedelic patterns the cool know-it-alls. And yes, your quilt has to match your vibe. Darker ones? Apparently better sleep - NASA said so (somewhere). Few things beat sinking under a heavy *razai*, toes thawing, with that faint mix of naphthalene and sunshine bringing back old winter memories - the fluffiest relics indeed.

Chai par charcha

Ek garam chai ki pyaali ho, aur mummy banane waali ho.

The kitchen transforms into the living room, where the entire family is found lounging for "just one more cup of *chai*." *Garam-garam sarson ka saag* accompanied by its soulmate, *makki di roti*, is a kaleidoscope of flavours and divine fragrances - the ultimate food-coma combo. And what's an Indian meal without its heart-clogging dessert? Let the sky rain *gajar ka halwa*!

Larger-than-life sweater

Like an out-stationed friend, that one overly large sweater your mother said you'd "grow into" revisits every winter season - a testament that this is the extent of your body and there is no growing into it. Or perhaps that uniform blazer that will eventually be passed on to your younger sibling, who might never fill it completely either. Waddling like a penguin becomes the cool runway walk.

Hot water wars

It is a truth universally acknowledged that the hot-water waitlist is longer than that of a 5-star buffet. Woe to those who dare take longer than six minutes and leave nothing but cold water for the rest. It is a betrayal remembered for seasons to come.

From winter, with love

Wispy winds give way to sweaty loos. Farewells are bid to the blankets and woollens, until we see them again next year. All that's left behind is the unsettled Ludo score and memories of comfort.



Ink of intent

The Final Stroke Of Quills And Consequences

Grisha Gautam

AIS Noida, XI C

I'm often dismissed as a squiggle, a flourish, a final formality at the bottom of a page. But have you ever paused, pen hovering above the line, breath held in anticipation? If so, you already know, I'm the Signature. I do not complete things; I make them matter.

For centuries, I have presided over decisive moments. Queen Elizabeth I once took twenty minutes to craft me amid royal tensions. My flourish sealed the Indian Constitution, and with the Treaty of Versailles, I turned the page on a world war. In courtrooms, though the gavel strikes, I am the mark that makes a judgment binding. Even John Hancock tried to immortalise me on the US Declaration of Independence, inspiring the phrase 'put your John Hancock here'. But I do not exist only in old parchments and political halls, I belong to everyone.

Though trembled through nervous hands signing their first bank

forms, and being replaced in Japan with the hanko stamp, I still accompany a plethora of milestones. I appear on certificates, passports, cheques, and even letters to idols that never drew replies. You have practiced me absentmindedly in notebooks, unaware that you were sketching your future self.

Today, I live in pixels and code. Through cryptographic keys, I secure online contracts, making forgery nearly impossible. E-signatures have become the newfound trust in a remote world that works across borders. Of course, I have been faked by those who think deception slips unnoticed. Spoiler alert: it never does. Between 2002 and 2016, a Wells Fargo scandal exposed fraudulent activity involving forged customer signatures. Yet I also hold power to redeem. You could say I have a dual nature, capable of both destruction and salvation. I must say, that has a certain ring to it.

You will find me in history and in culture alike. George Washing-

ton's signed Acts of Congress fetched 9.8 million dollars in 2012. On the other hand, a young girl once clutched a jersey marked by Virat Kohli's signature, tears glimmering not just for who he was but for what my imprint represented. That moment became real because of me.

For all my grandeur, I still carry human tenderness. Before embarking on Apollo 11, Neil Armstrong and his crew signed hundreds of memorabilia so their families never worry about insurance or safety. I have sealed promises of love and belonging, affirmed the bond between strangers, and handed peace where conflict once stood. I am not merely ink on paper. I am the instant everything changes.

So next time your pen hovers above that line, pause for a moment. Take a deep breath and feel the weight of it. Every stroke you draw is a declaration, not of completion, but of consequence. I am the very witness that turns intention into reality, the final word that makes it matter. And with that, as I've done for centuries, I'm signing off.

Timeless teachings



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

On December 1, 2025 our nation celebrated Gita Jayanti, the day that marks the moment Lord Krishna imparted the timeless wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna. Amidst the chaos of the battlefield and Arjuna's deep inner turmoil, Krishna revealed a truth that remains profoundly relevant even after 5,000 years later: transformation becomes possible when we rise above the self and commit to a purpose greater than our own interests. The Bhagavad Gita is not merely a sacred scripture; it is a guidebook for living a meaningful, conscious, and balanced life. Its teachings help us navigate stress, overcome self-doubt, and make choices grounded in clarity rather than ego. Across the world, the Gita is embraced as a universal manual for purposeful action and inner equilibrium. One of its most cherished shlokas (*कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन...*) reminds us to pursue our goals with sincerity and discipline, without attachment to the final outcomes. When our efforts are pure and selfless, the results naturally align with a larger good, something which we can experience only after putting in effort. Krishna's message encourages us to become 'karmayogis', individuals who strive for excellence not for personal reward, but for the upliftment of society. In an age defined by intense competition, the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita hold particular significance for our children. Integrating its principles in Amity, through activities like Gita chanting competition help nurture resilience, emotional intelligence, empathy, and mindful decision-making. This philosophy also aligns seamlessly with Founder President's vision of BHAAG (Behaviour, Hard Work, Ambition, Attitude, and Faith in God). Together, the wisdom of the Gita and the values of BHAAG strengthen Amity's mission of inspiring students to pursue excellence with humility, purpose, and inner strength. [G I](#)

Curious intent



Renu Singh
Director Principal
AIS Noida

"A word after a word after a word is power," said the great Margaret Atwood. Every small effort made by the learners builds their strength as a writer. Under the unmatched direction of our distinguished Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, The Global Times gives Amitians strength, fosters critical thinking, sensitivity, and eloquent expression. Her dynamic leadership is the reason ideas are nurtured with curiosity and conveyed honestly at Amity. The culture of excellence in both academics and co-curricular activities is deeply rooted in the visionary leadership of respected ma'am and the glorious vision of our esteemed Founder President, Dr Ashok K. Chauhan. This edition of AIS Noida reflects the same ethos. It stands out for its diversity of thought and craftsmanship. The cover story, 'When the devil wore Kolhapuri', offers an engaging cultural perspective. 'Voxora', an imaginative science advertisement, highlights how design and innovation work together. 'Obituaries we never write', a contemplative poem, shows how language can hold memory with strength. Turning the pages of this edition feels like exploring through a wealth of thought-provoking perspectives and captivating visuals. It is a compelling reminder that growth begins when curiosity meets intention. [G I](#)

Pic: Sehaj Grewal, XI G | Model: Grisha Gautam, XI C; AIS Noida

The qui(e)t

True Presence Or Just Pretence: A Trial

Ishaani Chaudhary

AIS Noida, XII B

Your Honour, amid the fluorescent hum of offices and muted Zoom calls, a quiet revolt brews: 'soft quitting'. No dramatic exits, but a slow disengagement — present in body, absent in spirit. Today, this honourable court must determine whether soft quitting is a way of energising agency or a symptom of a generation stretched thin.

Exhibit A: Burnout paradox

WHO classifies burnout as an 'occupational phenomenon', marked by chronic workplace stress. Surveys by Gallup routinely show that employee engagement has hovered below 25% for over a decade, meaning most workers are disengaged long before they walk out. Coupled with rising job insecurity and intense digital work surveillance, 'soft quitting' emerges as a coping strategy. Disengagement isn't confined to offices as educators report declining participation. Psychologists note rising cases of 'avoidable detachment' — staying on autopilot to avoid emotional overload. It's strange how in this age of infinite choices, avoidance has become easier than resolution.

The defence: Shield, not sloth

According to reports from the APA and LinkedIn, 74% of young adults report feeling pressured to be 'always available',

and over 60% of employees under 30 believe their boundaries are not respected at work. In such environments, soft quitting, the defence argues, is a pause button that allows individuals to conserve energy in systems built on hybrid work and 24/7 messaging apps.

Expert witnesses take the stand

Yet the prosecution warns: momentary relief won't resolve deeper problems. Research from

quitting, then, risks becoming emotional procrastination: avoiding difficult conversations and postponing decisions.

Verdict: Presence is a choice

Upon weighing the evidence, this court announces that soft quitting is neither villain nor hero, but a signal revealing a mismatch between human capacities and modern expectations. It protects people from unsustainable environments, yet warns that drifting



the UK's CIPD indicates that sustained disengagement reduces creativity and long-term career progression, as detachment becomes habitual, re-engagement becomes harder. Economists point out that low engagement costs companies billions annually in lost productivity. Hovering between staying and leaving brings more anxiety, as clarity is psychologically better than limbo. Soft

is not the same as healing. Boundaries matter, but they must be expressed, not implied. Outgrowing jobs, relationships, and routines is allowed, as long as we remember that clarity, not quiet disappearances, lead to healthy endings. So, the next time you feel scattered during a meeting or abandon a half-written draft, ask yourself: Are you still there... or have you quietly quit already?

Keep writing, keep growing

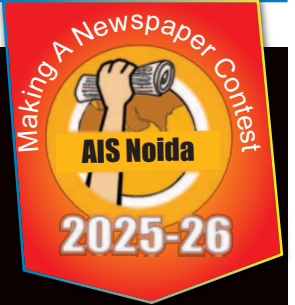
When AIS Noida began ideating on this year's contest edition, the idea was to celebrate a forum where varied voices find both direction and purpose. We express our boundless gratitude to our respected Chairperson, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, for giving this excellent foundation for growth to Amitians. The Global Times is a



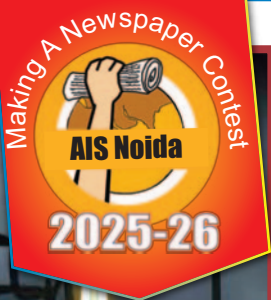
Priti Khullar
GT Coordinator

lighthouse - guiding ships through the fog and nourishing human imagination that no machine can replicate. In these times, when the world is in the grip of Artificial Intelligence, organic writing for the edition has proven to be cathartic for all the learners. We are grateful to the entire GT team, whose invaluable

guidance gave the young journalists a steady direction. Creativity was honed and authentic ideas transformed into powerful narratives under their navigation. The young journalists consistently chose curiosity over convenience and excellence over ease. This year's contest edition stands apart for its wide-ranging themes, emotional insight, and editorial courage. Dear students, keep writing, keep growing!



Graphic: Simona Biswas, XII C & Pia Mehrotra, XI H, AIS Noida



Joyeuse

Chosen one: King of Franks, Charlemagne
Legacy: Joyeuse, meaning 'joyful' in French, is a coronation sword, and a symbol of royal authority
Style: A specimen of fine craftsmanship with pattern welded steel, it holds an eagle pommel of radiating imperial grandeur.
Did you know? Called the 'French Excalibur', Joyeuse was said to blind foes and protect the bearer from poison.



Excalibur

Chosen one: The once and future king, King Arthur
Legacy: From Lady of the Lake, Excalibur crowned Arthur's divine right to rule Britain.
Style: A radiant double-edged blade with a jewelled hilt, gleaming with royal power.
Did you know? Forged by the wizard, Merlin, its scabbard was said to shield the wielder from harm and bloodshed.



Wallace

Chosen one: Guardian of Scotland, William Wallace
Legacy: Welded at the Battle of Stirling Bridge, this sword is an immortal symbol of Scotland's fight for freedom and courage.
Style: Weighing nearly five pounds, the towering sword was too mighty even for horseback combat.
Did you know? After its disappearance in 1305, the sword mysteriously resurfaced nearly two centuries later.



Zulfiqar

Chosen one: Lion of God, Imam Ali
Legacy: Bestowed by Prophet Muhammad at the Battle of Uhud, Zulfiqar became an emblem of valour, faith, and justice.
Style: A unique double-blade forged to disarm foes precisely. Many have tried to copy it's design.
Did you know? Its name echoes the stars of the Orion Belt, linking it to a celestial origin.



Tyring

Chosen one: King of Gardariki, Svafrlami
Legacy: A relic of Norse legend, Tyring embodies the ruin born from greed and unrestrained power.
Style: A golden-hilted sword with a sharp edge that could slice through stone and steel alike.
Did you know? Crafted by the dwarves, Dvalinn and Durinn, it was cursed to cause three great evils each time it was unsheathed.



BLADES OF THRONES

Crafted with fire and legend, these legendary swords have built kingdoms, crowned heroes, and carried history. Join Aditi Dahiya, AIS Noida, XI M, in this journey of blades.

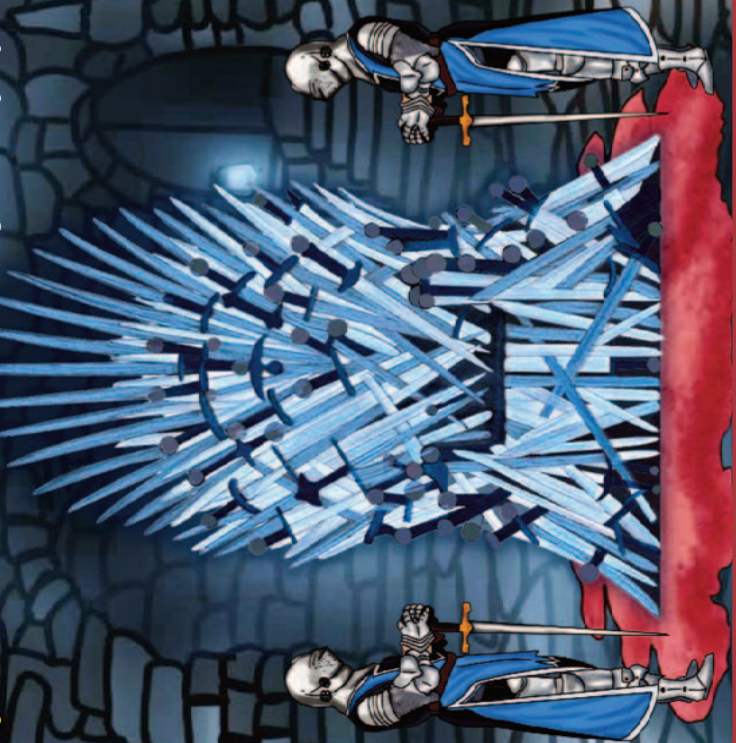


Illustration: Anushka Dharphale, AIS Noida, XI B



The final thought

Alvina Parvez, AIS Noida, XI I

Wes couldn't remember the last time he'd let himself think about his mother. In the era of the Thought Bank, memories were luxuries and emotions were liabilities. Every idea was scanned, taxed, and stamped with a value. As the Ministry liked to remind its citizens, "No thought is yours and no word is free."

Any spark of creativity or nostalgia, could drain a person's account dry. And the obedient Wes, had been conditioned to think in straight lines. Equations were safe. Algorithms were silent. Grief, however, was not. His friend, Lila, often teased him about his mechanical calm. "One day," she whispered during their shift at the AI Lab, "The Bank will drain you until there is nothing left to remember." Wes' muscles tensed

and his implanted chip warned, "-0.5 credit". "Better than going bankrupt," he replied, keeping his voice flat as the mind-sensors pulsed.

As Wes spoke, he guarded a thought, an ember hidden within the folds of his mind. He protected it fiercely, burying it deep beneath the daily monotony: work, eat, sleep, code and repeat. It was the only thing the Thought Bank couldn't price.

When the hospital called to say that

his mother might not survive the week, the walls of his carefully built mental fortress began to crumble.

Lila placed a com-

forting hand on his arm, "Wes, don't let them take this from you." He tried to smile, but his voice thinned. "If I think freely now, I'll lose everything." "Maybe," she said softly. "Or maybe you'll gain something."

That night, when he went to the hospital, each step felt like it cost more than the last. His mother lay pale beneath the humming lights, breaths shallow and her eyes searching.

"Wes?" she whispered. Taking her frail hand, he unlocked the thought he

Every idea was scanned, taxed, and stamped with a value. As the Ministry liked to remind its citizens, "No thought is yours and no word is free."

had locked away for years. Memories flooded in an electric rush: his knees, as a boy, scraped from falling. His mother's gentle hands brushing dust from his bruises; her laughter echoing

in their apartment. The smell of vanilla cakes on the counter, and the way she tucked him in bed on stormy nights whispering - her love louder than the

thunder. The sensors overhead blinked red: an unregistered surge of emotions detected. But Wes no longer cared. Tears blurred his vision as and grief dissolved into tenderness. His mother squeezed his hand, her smile soft as though she felt every memory he had unleashed.

"My boy," she whispered. "Your thoughts were always yours." As her hand turned cold in his, Wes understood the true cost, and the immeasurable worth, of one final thought.



Obituaries we never write

Illustration: Anviti Alok Tiwari, AIS Noida, XI B



Noor Chawla
AIS Noida, X E

No candles, no prayers, no black parades
For ringtones lost in a phone upgrade
No tombstone etched for bedtime giggle
The one that faded mid-pillow squiggle

We mourn the loud, the public, the seen
But not the tears we shed at sixteen
Nor the 'Mummy' that slipped to 'Mom'
A switch flipped, we never moved on

No eulogy for the dance left halfway
When your best friend moved towns away
Or that voice note you meant to keep
Till storage failed and fell too deep

Loss doesn't always dress in veil or black
Often it's something that won't come back
A login, a laugh, a name we outgrew
Still breathing, but no longer true.

Read Play and Win 98

Reading your favourite GT can fetch you a prize too. Complete all the boxes below. Click a picture and send it to editor@theglobaltimes.in or submit your responses by visiting The Global Times website (<http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week!



Q.1 What is the title of the story on page 8?	Q.2 Which brand had it's 'Kohlapuri moment', as mentioned on page 1?	Q.3 What is another name for Tardigrades?
Q.4 Name the volcano that erupted in Ethiopia.	Q.5 What is the headline of the autobiography on page 5?	Q.6 Which legendary sword did King Arthur wield?
Q.7 Which Indian film director has been interviewed on page 3?	Q.8 On which page can you find the article 'Ek ghar, sau tanaav'?	Q.9 What is the byline of the perspective article on page 6?

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

Results of Read Play & Win-97: **Prakriti Singh**, AIS MV, VII D;
Reyansh Srivastava, AIS Saket, V A; **Parth Lohia**, AIS PV, IV B

Magma-ficent Disruption



The Grand Visit Of The Volcanic Plume Puts Aviation Affairs On Hold Globally



BREAKING NEWS!!!
Several flights cancelled as Ethiopian volcanic ash drifts towards India. The Hayli Gubbi volcano erupted for the first time in nearly 12,000 years, sending thick ash plumes across the Red Sea toward Yemen and Oman. The cloud has now stretched over the northern Arabian Sea.

Naisha Parnandy, XI I &
Zoya Sikander XI C, AIS Noida

Once upon a time in a land that lay southwest to India, stood a great volcano. For many millennia it stood stoic. But then, something unexpected took place. On November 23, 2025, the Hayli Gubbi volcano erupted - possibly for the first time in 12,000 years.

ACT I: The volcano that refused to stay quiet

Belonging to the Erta Ale Volcano Range located in the Afar region of Ethiopia, the volcano is surrounded by instability. It is situated at the edge of the East African rift - where the Arabian and African tectonic plates are drifting apart at an alarming rate of 0.4-0.6 inches per year. The increasing separation of the plates caused the hot mantle rock to rise, melt, and accumulate into a magma chamber located under Hayli Gubbi. Over a millennia, silica-rich magma trapped gases and volatile substances, built pressure until the crust could no longer contain it. When it finally erupted, the volcano expelled a dense ash plume consisting of volcanic ash, sulphur dioxide, and tiny particles of glass and rock - after all, one can only stay quiet for so long! The eruption didn't affect any civilians directly, but it is said to soon affect the lives of local pastoralists due to streams and soil now being defiled with magma content. Most of its impact is limited to the atmosphere, adding to the already stressed global air.

ACT II: The great airborne traveller

Apparently, even volcanic ash needs a vacation after staying inside the 'burrow' for so long. With all its might, the dramatic explosion sent the ash 14 kms up into the atmosphere, making it international news. The ash reached the upper troposphere/lower stratosphere, resulting in the particles entering a domain where the laws of large-scale

atmospheric flows dominate. Their voyage set afoot - the eastward jet stream carried volcanic plumes all the way from the Red Sea to the Arabian Sea. It even drifted towards Yemen, Oman, and Iran. The EU, using their observation programme Copernicus, detected the ash cloud blowing east over the Arabian sea to reach India. It reached India's western border on November 24 at 5:50 pm and was out of its hair a day later by 10:30 p.m. Moving at around 100-120 km/hour at an altitude of 15,000 to 25,000 feet, the plume travelled over Rajasthan, parts of Gujarat, Delhi-NCR, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh before crossing over to China.

ACT III: The airport drama (Starring: your flight)

While in India, the ash cloud made sure to make its short stay worthwhile, leaving flight cancellations in its wake. Since ash contamination can't be detected by regular radar, airlines were advised to take precautions and avoid the affected areas. Akasa cancelled some of its flights that were scheduled to fly to the Middle East. Similarly, Air India cancelled eleven of its flights. It also conducted precautionary checks on the airplanes which got close to the ash, examining them for potential damage. But what exactly are these potential damages? As the ash has the tendency to melt inside the jet engines upon contact, they are at the highest risk of failure. Apart from causing severe abrasion of aircraft exteriors, ash clouds can also obscure pilot vision. Moreover, particles also interfere with sensors and cockpit instruments. With the great cancellation of flights comes an even greater aftermath: a congested airport. Delayed plans frustrated passengers to no end. Just ask the 1.2 million passengers who were stranded each day in Europe when the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland erupted continuously between March-June 2010, leading to cancellation of 95000 flights.

ACT IV: Delhi wonders: A mask for this too?

The ash was luckier than most of us, for it got to meet its friends - smoke and polluted air. Together, they seem to be making history. However, raising the AQI seems like something the ash didn't intend on contributing to, though it did carry with itself sulphur-rich gases that took refuge in the Himalayas. The ash cloud's immediate traces were prettier, taking the form of hazy skies, colourful sunsets and a 'weird' sky colour - effects common when volcanic ash high in the atmosphere scatters light. The ash, however, won't have enough time to enter our breathing atmosphere. At cruising altitude, it disrupts aviation far more than ground-level air. But Delhi's smog? Well, it has its own agenda.

The reading refuge

A Bookstore That Turns Pages Into Purpose

Anushka Manoj, XII D &
Noor Chawla, X E, AIS Noida

A lot of shops sell paper and ink. Only a few manage to sell meaning. Sisters of the People Bookstore, tucked inside Lajpat Bhawan near Moolchand metro station, is one of those rare gems. Founded by the Servants of the People Society, a non-profit established in 1921 by freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, the bookstore carries forward his belief that education and service go hand-in-hand.

Foreword: Looking beyond self

True to its name, the store was started by a group of women and it continues to be run with the same spirit. Founded in 2000 by the late Krishna Satyanand, the bookstore began as more than just a place to buy books. She had one simple belief: to give back to society because she had received so much from it. From this belief came the idea of Balwadis - preschools for underprivileged children aged three to five. Each Balwadi accommodates around 40 to 50 children and provides them with uniforms, shoes, books, and a safe learning space. "Our entire proceeds are a small part of the contributions towards running twelve Balwadis," explains Sreelata



Making a change, one book at a time

Rudra, the head of department of Sisters of the People. "Each school costs around four to five lakh rupees per year. The kids are trained to join mainstream schools, with many going on to complete graduation."

Prologue: Cherished chronicles

Forgotten first editions, rare signed copies, and stories that have travelled across generations find a home here. "We have had signed copies of Khushwant Singh, Ruskin

Pics: Mahakk Sharma, AIS Noida, X K



GT reporters with store's volunteers

Bond and many others," says Manisha Bedi, a volunteer for over two decades. What makes the store truly exceptional is that every book here has been donated. "Our collection comes from personal libraries - the books people truly loved and preserved. Unlike commercial stores that stock current bestsellers, our shelves reflect what people cherished enough to pass on," she shares. A completely non-profit space, the bookstore is run entirely by volunteers, including professors, IIT students, and PhD scholars.

Turning pages: Reviving reading

In an age of swipes and screens, Sisters of the People has quietly rekindled the pleasure of unhurried reading. "Reading was almost extinct, like dinosaurs," says Bedi. "But after COVID, people rediscovered the joy of holding a book again." The store now hosts

silent reading sessions, open-air meet-ups, and college society discussions with students of Lady Shri Ram, Gargi, Jamia, and many more. Their Instagram page has further amplified their presence, drawing new visitors every week. "Once a person visits us, they never leave," she laughs.

Footnotes: More than a retail space

Over time, the bookstore has turned into a home. Readers range from three-year-olds to eighty-year-olds. Volunteers and visitors form an ever-growing circle of friends, each contributing in their own special way. College students collect donations, professors send in their library collections, and locals drop by just to talk about books. "It's become very personal. We've made a family here," says Jitin Jose, a student volunteer. Within these shelves, people didn't just discover stories - they discovered each other.

Epilogue: Message for Amitians

"Give what you've been given" says Bedi. Her message for Amitians is just as timeless. "Read. And gift reading even if it's just to one person." At Sisters of the People, every book finds two homes: one on a reader's shelf, and one in the life it helps change. [GT](#)

Pics: Sehaj Grewal, AIS Noida, XI G



Illustrators, transforming trends



Editorial board of AIS Noida, elevating expression and aspiring excellence



Graphic designers, curating creativity

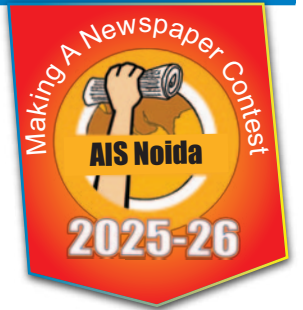


Photographers, framing perfection



Editors, publishing hopes and dreams

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



MI Fest 2025

Celebration Of Talent, Intelligence and Sustainability



AIS Noida, the winners of MI Fest receive the winners trophy from principal, Dr Arti Chopra

AIS Gurugram 46

The school organised its 13th annual inter-school Multiple Intelligence Fest 2025 on November 18, 2025. Envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the fest nurtures all eight multiple intelligences through diverse activities. This year, the event saw enthusiastic participation from pre-primary and primary students of 18 schools across Delhi/NCR, with AIS Noida emerging as the overall winner of the competition. For Nursery and KG, multiple environment-themed competitions were conducted. In Eco Trendsetters – The Green Fashion Parade (Nursery), children showcased costumes made from recycled materials, with AIS Noida winning first prize. Eco Tunes

(KG) featured action-based musical performances on themes such as water conservation and animal protection, where AIS Gurugram 43 won third prize. In Green Tales (Nursery & KG), young storytellers presented stories on the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles, and AIS Gurugram 43 secured second place.

The primary wing hosted several sustainability-inspired competitions, beginning with Earth Saviour (Class I), where AIS Gurugram 46 and AIS Noida won first and second place respectively. In Trash to Treasure (Class II), students designed many unique board games based on healthy living, with AIS Gurugram 46 and AIS PV winning first and second prize. Green RJ (Class III) showcased engaging radio-style shows on reducing e-waste, won by AIS Gurugram 46 with AIS Vasundhara 1

in second place.

Indian Master Chef (Class III & IV) saw young chefs prepare nutritious Indian dishes, as AIS Gurugram 43 and AIS Gurugram 46 won first and second prize respectively. Junkyard Jammers (Class IV & V) featured musical instruments created from waste, with AIS Gurugram 46, AIS Noida and AIS Saket securing first, second and third positions.

Nrityanjali (Class IV) presented folk and contemporary dances to highlight the significance of energy conservation, where AIS Gurugram 46 stood first, AIS Noida second and AIS Vasundhara 1 third. In Ad Mad (Class V), humorous advertisements promoting eco-friendly alternatives were showcased by the participants, with AIS Saket winning first prize and AIS Gurugram 46 securing the second prize. 🇮🇳



Basketball girls team fights it out at the court for top spot

Esperanza 4.0

AIS VKC Lucknow

The school organised 'Esperanza 4.0', the fourth edition of its annual inter-school art and culture fest, from October 14 - 16, 2025, under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF. The vibrant fest brought together students from nearly 30 leading schools of Lucknow and featured multitude competitions ranging from digital creations to cultural events and sports, offering participants a platform to explore creativity and innovation. All the events were evaluated by distinguished jury members from respective fields, including academia, art, politics, and education.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lamp lighting, followed by a warm welcome of the judges and participating teams. In her address, school principal Rachna Mishra moti-

vated students to put in their best efforts and reminded them that true competition is not against one another, but alongside one another in the shared pursuit of excellence.

Amidst the host of events, Amity Group of Schools also secured several awards. The host AIS VKC Lucknow won first prize in Kalasync, Reimaginica and Sangeet Samarpan; second prize in Basketball (girls), Finsmart and as both speaker and interjector in Symposium; and third prize in Dolcissimo Gala. AIS VYC Lucknow on the other hand, bagged first prize in Samskriti and third prize as speaker in Symposium as well as in Mindxcel. Other competitions held as part of Esperanza were: Budding Bizz, Basketball (Boys) and Digital Palette. The event finally concluded with a grand prize distribution ceremony, wherein winners of all the competitions were rewarded for their performances.

The space collab



Nitya Stuti with school principal

AIS Vasundhara 6

Nitya Stuti of Class IX won second prize for her painting at Think Global, Act Global event held as the part of a national level Indo-Russian space collaboration competition on Nov 7, 2025 to inspire students for becoming next generation space innovators. Organised by the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, New Delhi, the event focussed on highlighting Indo - Russian strategic global partnership in the space. Nitya was felicitated for her painting depicting Russian and Indian astronauts by the renowned Russian artist Olga Levchenko.

AIS Noida

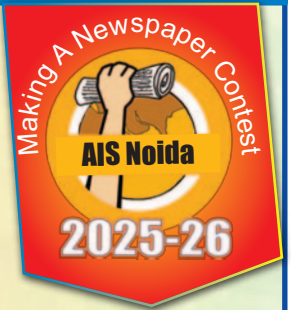
The young chess champions of the school secured second runners-up position in under-17 girls category of the CBSE National Chess Championship 2025, marking their third consecutive podium finish at the nationals. The event was held from September 2-5, 2025 with teams from India as well as CBSE schools in UAE, Dubai and Oman also participating in it. The chess masters who remained unbeaten were Ananya Dudhuria (X), Anika Tyagi (IX), Inaaya Kukreja (IX), and Ridhima Gupta (X). 🇮🇳

Chessmasters



Chess champions with their trophy

Ek ghar, sau tanaav



The Great Indian Renovation: With Tiles Here, Tantrums There

Agrima Swaroop, AIS Noida, XI F

It began as all middle-class adventures do – with an innocent, “Let’s just paint the walls.” Seventy-two catalogues, six swatch books, and one emotional breakdown later, the Chaddha household had transformed into a full-blown battle zone of dust and disputes. The living room was as mucky as the fairground after closing day, and the kitchen seemed to be taking its last breath. The only thing holding the family together was a WhatsApp group titled ‘Ek Ghar, Sau Tanaav’.

The perfect shade of beige

The Chaddha family’s Sunday outings were now guided showroom tours to hunt down the perfect wall colour. The living room’s beige had to be ‘sunny and warm’, but the master bedroom’s beige needed to look like it ‘reads Frost under the clouds’. The elder daughter, at the frontlines, fiercely debated her options between a beige-beige or a white-beige. Between the options – ‘Honey Drizzle’, and ‘Whipped Butter’ – she swore by the latter, probably because it sounded more like dessert than décor.

The roommate revolt

When renovations reached the bedrooms, the real war broke out. The elder Chaddha sister declared, “I

need my own room. I cannot dorm with this hazard of a boy!” – pointing at a disorganised pile of clothes, a mammoth mess of a table, and a bafflingly sticky doorknob. The younger brother, unfazed, demanded a space where he wouldn’t have to endure the maddening snores of his sister every five seconds. The parents suggested bunk beds. The siblings requested disownment. At this rate, one more argument and the Chaddhas

might qualify for a family therapy package – discount included.

The tile trials

“Do we want gloss or matte?” asked Mr Chaddha, ankle-deep in grout samples. Mrs Chaddha wanted a spa aesthetic, while their daughter campaigned for marbles straight out of Modern Family. “You aren’t living in a Netflix sitcom, beta,” rang the parental reminder. Then came the discovery of new tiles from the contractor – complete

with cracks and wrinkles. “It’s abstract,” he claimed. “It’s cracked,” countered the son. “That’s how trends are born, *puttar*,” concluded Mr Chaddha. Everyone went silent – except the elder daughter, who suggested framing the defective tiles and calling it ‘Family Trauma, 2025’.

The coffee table crisis

Mr Chaddha’s latest obsession was a coffee table for the master bedroom – something that said IKEA catalogue but whispered South Delhi duplex. “A vintage *Shaktimaan* poster would crown the look. A classic,” he mused. “Send him back to the 80s, my God,” sighed Mrs Chaddha. As Mr Chaddha plotted the table’s debut as if it were a celebrity kid, Mrs Chaddha swore she’d never serve tea there. Why bother? He’d only leave behind cup stains just as enduring as the emotional wear-and-tear from this ‘Great Indian Renovation’.

Eventually, even the Chaddhas ran out of energy to argue – a first in history. Spices found shelves, posters found walls, and the spare tiles retired to the balcony. Yet, the father-daughter duo stood side-by-side, scrutinising the dull wall-paper as it peeled off. Well, home is where the heart is... even if the heart still disagrees with the undertones.



Illustration: Saanvi Jain
AIS Noida, XI G

Pics: Aisha Khan, AIS Noida, XI E



Editors-in-chief: Ishaani Chaudhary & Manya Gupta



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