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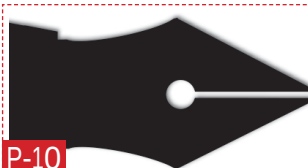
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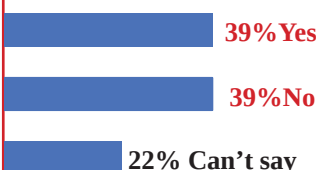
Do you support the UK government's plan to introduce a midnight social media curfew for 16- and 17-year-olds?

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Maybe

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THE GT POLL RESULT for GT Edition July 13, 2026

India is the world's most populous nation with a huge youth demographic. Can it turn that into global economic leadership this decade?



Results as on July 17, 2026

Coming Next

FIFA World Cup Special

Trapped in the algorithm

Feeds, Filters, And Fading Freedom - When Code Outscrolls Reality

Vandita Sharma, AIS Saket, XII E

It's 12 AM. You open your phone, promising yourself five minutes of scrolling before bed. Suddenly, it's 1 AM and you've been lost in an endless stream of reels, beauty 'hacks', and memes that seem to read your mind. Behind this uncanny accuracy lies a system - the algorithm. Defined as a set of rules for solving problems, it now goes far beyond mathematics; it carefully designs our experiences, tastes, and even personalities. What was meant to connect us, is now quietly curating us.

Choice charades

Every like, share, or repost is a whisper to the algorithm and it listens closely. We believe we're freely choosing what we love, but it's often the algorithm pulling strings, shaping our preferences into predictable patterns. According to The Economic Times, one-third of all purchases on platforms like Amazon are driven by algorithms. Search for one lip gloss, and your feed gets flooded with beauty ads. The same report notes that 80% of Netflix views and 90% of YouTube watch time comes from algorithmic recommendations. Dubbed the 'Influencer of the Year' by The Indian Express, the algorithm doesn't just sell us products; it sells us identities. Our wants, needs, and even our sense of self are shaped by digital prediction - choices made for us, not by us.

Coded chambers

Acting like digital propagandists, algorithms amplify certain ideas while muting others, wrapping us in 'safe bubbles' filled only with familiar voices. During Virat Kohli's 2020-22 slump, India Today noted that social media never stopped chanting his name - thanks to algorithms rewarding loyalty-driven engagement. Conversely, when Deepika Padukone requested humane 8-hour work shifts, the same platforms turned against her, painting her demand as 'unrealistic'. As Vyjayanthi Movies confirmed, she even stepped away from major projects like 'Spirit' and the 'Kalki 2898 AD' sequel. The system doesn't just distort perception - it dictates. The effect extends to consumer ethics as well. Like one sustainability reel, and suddenly your entire wardrobe is eco-friendly. A 2023 Unilever-Behavioural Insights Team (BIT) study found that 75% of people were more likely to adopt sustainable habits after watching related social media content. The 'online you' may look thoughtful, but

it's often a digital echo of what the algorithm wants you to be.

Programmed politics

Communication, once a tool of democracy, has become a weapon in the age of 'algopopulism', or algorithm-aided politics. The Conversation and India Today both reported that after India's 2024 elections, an Israeli firm used generative AI to create anti-establishment content, which OpenAI later confirmed and blocked. These systems even extend to warfare. During the Israel-Gaza conflict, investigations revealed that the Israeli military used an AI system called Lavender to identify tens of thousands of potential targets - an example of algorithmic intelligence shaping real-world violence. A 2014 Pew Research Center report found that over two decades, the number of Americans with consistently conservative views had doubled - a trend linked to social media echo chambers. Platforms reward outrage, fear, and anger because they generate engagement. Thoughtful debate loses to viral hostility, turning politics into performance and division into currency.

So, don't blindly consume what the algorithm serves; question it. Awareness is the only antidote to digital conformity. Step outside your feed. Read, explore, and listen to the voices the algorithm hides. After all, we created these systems to understand us - not to become us. **GT**



Illustration: Rabia Kaur, AIS Saket, XII F



— Around The — WORLD

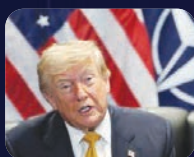
GT keeps the newswire ticking by bringing you news from around the globe



USA

Hormuz tensions return

The temporary June ceasefire with Iran has collapsed, as the US launched consecutive airstrikes and reimposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports. Trump has warned Tehran that the US will bomb civilian infrastructure unless Iranian leaders return to negotiating. He earlier reversed a threat of a 20% fee on all Strait of Hormuz cargo shipping after Gulf countries promised increased investments. Iran has firmly rejected any US claims of authority over the strait.



UK

Tennis toppers

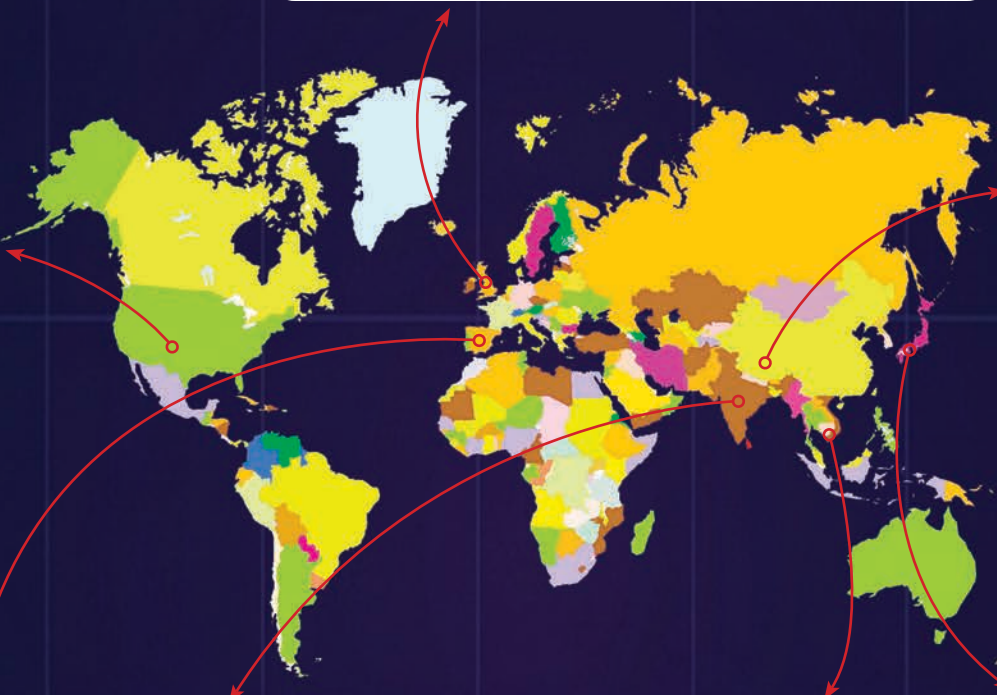
Italy's Jannik Sinner defended his Wimbledon title by defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev 6-7(7), 7-6(2), 6-3, 6-4 in the Gentlemen's Singles category to claim his fifth Grand Slam crown. He said the victory was especially meaningful after his disappointing French Open campaign. Czech Republic's Linda Noskova won her maiden Ladies' Singles Wimbledon title after overcoming compatriot Karolina Muchova in a dramatic three-set final. The 21-year-old, who became the youngest women's Wimbledon champion since 2011, dedicated the victory to her late mother.



CHINA

Slowest growth in years

The economy expanded at a 4.3% annual growth rate in the second quarter of 2026, marking its slowest pace of expansion in more than three years when COVID had brutally hit the country. It is below Beijing's full-year growth target range of 4.5% to 5%, the least ambitious goal in decades, amid tensions with trade partners, including the US and the EU, and sluggish domestic demand. Some economists say the country's economy is increasingly unbalanced as heavy state support and private investments pour into frontier technologies like AI, computer chips, and robotics while other areas such as job-creating manufacturing and services industries languish.



SPAIN

Border barrier ends

A landmark post-Brexit agreement removed all border restrictions with British overseas territory of Gibraltar from July 15, allowing free movement of people and goods. Around 15,000 people cross the Gibraltar-Spain border every day, many of them Spanish residents who work in Gibraltar. The deal is expected to ease daily travel and strengthen regional trade. Under the agreement, Gibraltar will join the EU customs union and the Schengen free-travel zone.



INDIA

High-altitude airships

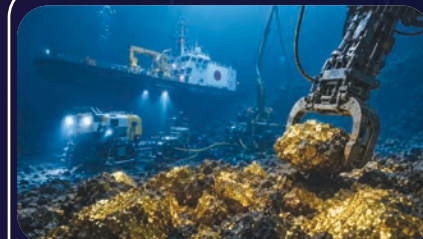
The Indian Air Force has launched a 15,000-crore INR programme to develop Air Ship-based High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (AS-HAPS). Operating in the stratosphere at an altitude of 20 km, these unmanned airships will be designed to remain airborne for months. Bridging gap between drones and satellites, they will provide real-time surveillance and communications over borders and strategic zones. Multiple Indian aerospace companies will be competing to develop prototypes.



VIETNAM

Tourist tragedy

Fifteen Indian tourists died and several others were injured when a speedboat capsized off Phu Quoc island. Marking one of the country's deadliest boating accidents, the tragedy has shaken the region. The bodies of the victims have been repatriated while authorities launched an investigation. One survivor remains in critical condition. Officials are currently examining whether safety regulations were violated during the trip.



JAPAN

Seabed gold galore

The country has found record concentrations of hidden gold at the Higashi-Aogashima hydrothermal field, 350 km south of Tokyo. A study in Scientific Reports revealed the gold is trapped within pyrite, often called 'fool's gold', at the highest level ever recorded on the seafloor. It has renewed interest in deep-sea mining, although commercial extraction remains challenging. Scientists also warned that mining could threaten fragile underwater ecosystems.

Powering energy efficiency

Heart to Heart Conversation With Dr Satish Kumar On Sustainability

Sanvi Bhatia, XI E &
Manya Taneja, XI S1, AIS Gur 46

Dr Satish Kumar, co-founder and President of the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE), has helped shape one of India's most respected energy think tanks, influencing policy and building ecosystems for sustainable change. An architect

by training, he has dedicated his career to advancing energy efficiency and conservation. In conversation with GT reporters at the TEDx event hosted by AIS Gur 46, Dr Kumar reflects on his journey, the importance of energy efficiency, and the role of youth in creating a more sustainable future.

The eureka moment

I was an architecture student at IIT Roorkee, where a lot of my batchmates were brilliant at artistry and visualisation. That wasn't my forte though. I realised early on that my strengths lay in structural design. Many of my classmates would approach me for help with assignments, and through this process, I became increasingly interested in energy and heat-transfer systems and how buildings could be designed naturally to consume less energy. That was my 'eureka moment' - the point at which I realised that energy efficiency was an area where I could truly contribute.

After studying at IIT Roorkee, I got a scholarship at an outstanding university in the US. There, I was exposed to an interdisciplinary education, where we were treated as peers by the faculty. The environment over there made me more serious in my academic pursuits.



Dr Satish Kumar with GT reporters

Guiding lights

My uncle, an engineer, played a pivotal role in shaping my thinking. Conversations with him influenced me deeply and helped shape my worldview from a young age. I was also fortunate to be mentored by the renowned physicist, author, and professor H C Verma during my college years. Many people may possess advanced degrees in physics, chemistry, or mathematics, but the ability to explain complex concepts with clarity is a rare gift. He certainly had that gift, and I learned a great deal from him.

Energy efficiency decoded

Imagine a bucket full of holes. If you keep pouring water into it while ignoring the leaks, much of the water will be wasted. Today, much of the focus is on generating more energy - the equivalent of pouring more water into the bucket - while paying little attention to stopping the losses. Plug-

ging those holes is what energy efficiency is all about. We need to prioritise energy efficiency, i.e. the 'invisible fuel'.

Three Ps for change

Working in the field of public policy requires immense patience because meaningful transformation does not happen overnight. The second essential quality is perseverance. Regulations and policy reforms often move slowly, and one must have the determination to stay committed despite setbacks. The third quality is professionalism coupled with politeness.

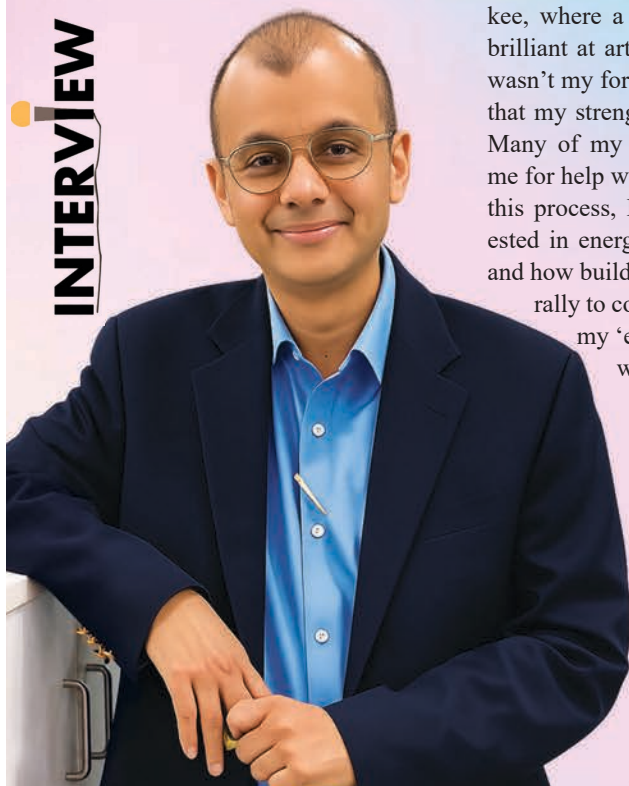
For a self-reliant future

India must strive to become more self-reliant in both energy resources and energy efficiency. The first step is behavioural change. By spending just a few extra minutes planning and optimising energy use, households can significantly reduce fuel consumption. The second step involves shifting to cleaner and more efficient energy sources. With increasing access to electricity, dependence on LPG can gradually be reduced. The third step requires stronger policy interventions from the government to promote efficient energy use.

Message for Amitians

Be thoughtful and observe what is happening around you. Try to understand how your ecosystem works and you will become a better human.

INTERVIEW



Dr Satish Kumar, co-founder, AEEE

Of bugs and men

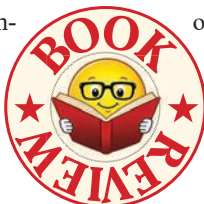
Book: The Metamorphosis (*Die Verwandlung* in German) | **Author:** Franz Kafka
Published in: 1915 | **Genre:** Novella, Absurdist fiction, Fantasy

Synopsis: One morning, Gregor Samsa, a travelling salesman, wakes up from a strange dream and finds himself transformed into a giant, unnamed insect. Don't be so shocked just yet, as the story is not really about the bug, nor is it a tale of self-discovery. Instead, it explores the horrors of everyday life, bringing forth themes of alienation, human disposability, and the burden of societal expectations. Gregor starts to feel like he's not part of his family or society anymore because of his transformation. The narrative is dictated from a third-person point of view but in a unique style, existing

externally to the story but staying closely aligned with the protagonist's thoughts.

The story draws heavily from Kafka's own family dynamics, especially his estranged relationship with his father.

Why is it worth reading: *Die Verwandlung*, as published in Kafka's native tongue, German, is one of the most influential works of the 20th century. Universally relatable, it quantifies and questions the societal value of humans. Before his transformation, Gregor worked hard to support his family, but after his transformation, his family no longer finds him useful.



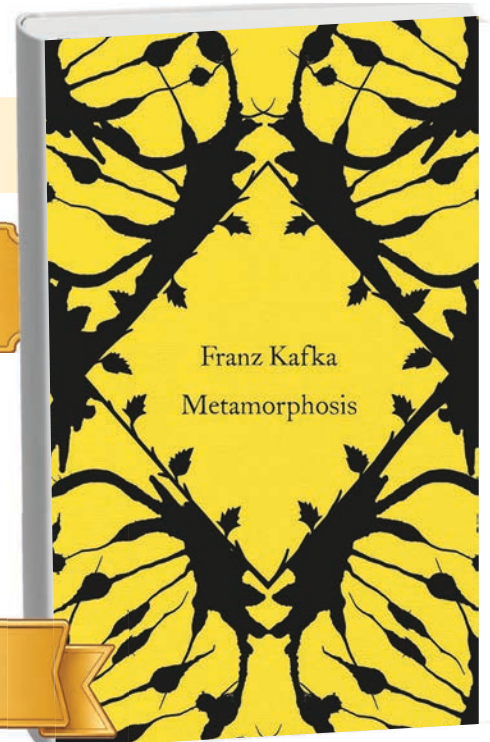
Iconic quote:

"I cannot make anyone understand what is happening inside me. I cannot even explain it to myself."

This makes us ponder as to how people are often judged based on what they can do for others and not just for who they are. The book is a must read for all those who want to delve deeper into Kafka's surreal and disorienting literary world.

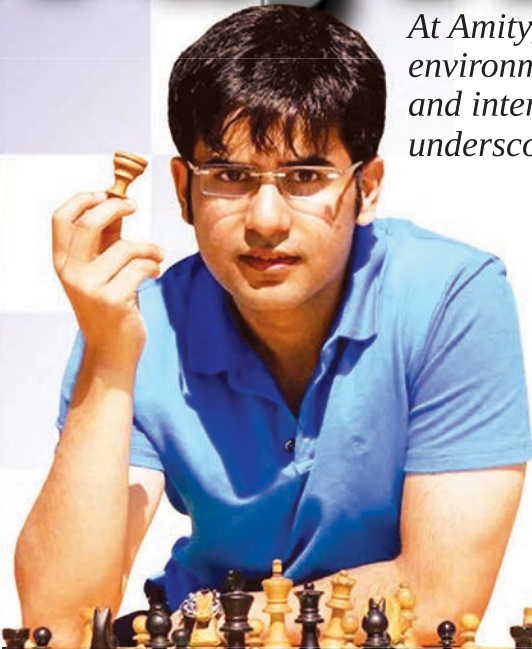


Rating: ★★★★★
Review by: Lavanya Singh
AIS Jagdishpur, X B



Arjunas of chess

At Amity, chess is more than an extracurricular activity. A nurturing environment marked with discipline has produced several national and international champions, including two Arjuna Awardees, underscoring Amity's enduring legacy of sporting excellence.



Parimarjan Negi
FIDE RATING 2612
AIS Saket alumnus

Journey of a champ

- Became a **Grandmaster** at the age of 13 in 2006, the second youngest at the time.
- He was the youngest Indian to earn the title

- at the time.
- Conferred with the prestigious **Arjuna Award** at the age of 17 in 2010.
- Was world's second-youngest International Master in 2005.
- Asian Youth Chess Champion (2009).
- Asian Chess Champion (2012).
- National Premier Chess Champion (2010).
- Asian Under-10 Champion (2002).
- Runner-up, World Junior Chess Championship (2008).
- Winner, Politiken Cup (2009, 2013).

Lessons from chess: Parimarjan has described chess as a game of war and conquest on a battlefield of 64 squares. According to him, it teaches players to confront fear, make quick decisions, and take responsibility for every move.

Acknowledgement: He has credited his Amity school, parents, and teachers for helping him balance academics with competitive chess.



Vantika Agrawal
FIDE RATING 2393
AIS Noida alumna

Journey of a champ

- Woman **Grandmaster** and International Master.
- Conferred with **Arjuna Award** (2025).
- Asian Games 2022 silver medallist.
- Member of India's gold medal-winning team at the 2024 FIDE Chess Olympiad, Budapest.
- Silver and bronze medals in The World Youth Championship.
- Honoured with 1.5 crore INR by the

Uttar Pradesh government.

Lessons from chess: Vantika has said chess strengthened her intuition, time management, decision-making, confidence, patience, and perseverance.

Acknowledgement: She credits Amity's 'zero period' sports programme for developing her and her brother's interest in chess. The support of Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan further helped her pursue chess at the highest level.

Masters



What is FIDE Rating?

It's the official score given by the FIDE, i.e. the International Chess Federation, that measures a player's global skill level. Players earn this number by competing in certified chess tournaments globally. A higher rating indicates a stronger player.

Arshpreet Singh Sawhney

AIS Gur 43, XII

FIDE rating: 2337



Achievement: Participated in World Junior Chess Championship 2024

Naman Khandelwal

AIS Gur 43, X

FIDE rating: 1744



Achievement: Participated in CBSE National U-17 Championship 2023

Arnit Gupta

AIS Vas 6, VII

FIDE rating: 1722



Achievement: Gold, Mary Cherian Memorial Intl FIDE-rated Open Tournament 2026

Sparsh Bisht

AIS Gur 43, XII

FIDE rating: 1703



Achievement: Participated in Commonwealth U-8 Championship 2018

Aaditva Garg

AIS Saket, IX

FIDE rating: 1701



Achievement: Participated in U-13 Boys SGFI National Chess Tournament 2025-26

Moksha Pawriya

AIS Gur 46, VIII

FIDE rating: 1612



Achievement: Silver in CBSE National Chess Championship U-II 2023

Djas Rathi

AIS Vas 6, IX

FIDE rating: 1608



Achievement: Fourth place in CBSE U-14 National Chess Championship 2024

Aaryav Agrawal

AIS Vas 1, VIII

FIDE rating: 1593



Achievement: Bronze, U-13 World Peace Intl Rating Chess Tournament 2025

Arjun Krishna Mishra

AIS Vas 6, VIII

FIDE rating: 1579



Achievement: Fourth place in CBSE U-14 National Chess Championship 2024

Shivansh Anand

AIS Vas 6, IX

FIDE rating: 1562



Achievement: Fourth place in CBSE U-14 National Chess Championship 2024

Krish Aggarwal

AIS Mayur Vihar, XII

FIDE rating: 1559



Achievement: Bronze in CBSE National Chess Competition 2022-23

Manomay Sharma

AIS Mayur Vihar, XII

FIDE rating: 1543



Achievement: Bronze in Noida Open Intl FIDE-rated Rapid Chess 2024

Aditi Mukherjee

AIS Saket, X

FIDE rating: 1531



Achievement: Bronze, New Delhi Open Intl FIDE-rating Chess Tournament 2025-26

Keiyona Pasrija

AIS Vas 6, VIII

FIDE rating: 1493



Achievement: Silver in Delhi Open Intl Rapid Chess Tournament 2025

Aarna Aggarwal

AIS Noida, XI

FIDE rating: 1490



Achievement: Bronze in CBSE National Chess Championship 2024

Jaithra Sharma

AIS Gur 46, VIII

FIDE rating: 1485



Achievement: Silver in CBSE National Chess Championship U-II 2023

Abhinav Singh

AIS Gur 43, XI

FIDE rating: 1484



Achievement: Gold in CBSE U-II National Chess Championship 2019

Sparsh Verma

AIS Mayur Vihar, XII

FIDE rating: 1482



Achievement: Bronze in CBSE National Chess Competition 2022-23

Advit Yadav

AIS Gur 46, VII

FIDE rating: 1477



Achievement: Silver in CBSE National Chess Championship U-II 2023

Mridul Jejani

AIS Gur 46, VII

FIDE rating: 1457



Achievement: Silver in CBSE National Chess Championship U-II 2023

Around the world in **64** squares

Pack your chess coffers and join [Sanvi Bhatia](#), XI E & [Parneka Chowdhry](#), XII J, [AIS Gur 46](#), on a journey to explore how one opening gambit unfolded into an array of tactical variants with globally diverse models.

Provenance: India (Gupta Empire), 6th century CE

Travel note: Considered the true ancestor of modern chess.

Landmarks: Originally a dice-driven



Stop I Chaturanga

gamble, the pieces were characterised by ancient Indian military divisions - infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots.

Provenance: Persia, 6th-7th century CE

Travel note: This was the first major evolution of Chaturanga after its migration to the West.

Landmarks: The term 'Checkmate' was popularised from the phrase



Stop II Shatranj

'shah mat' (the king is helpless). The queen and bishop lacked punches, requiring a long-term strategy.

Stop III Xiangqi

Provenance: China, 3rd BCE - 2nd century CE

Travel note: Xiangqi has developed into one of East Asia's most influential strategy games.

Landmarks: Better known as the elephant chess, its board is divided by a demilitarised river, with a palace on each side. To capture, cannons must jump over an intermediate piece.



Stop IV Shogi

Provenance: Japan, 8th-12th century CE

Travel note: Pentagonal wooden wedges are inscribed with Kanji (Japanese characters).

Landmarks: The 'drop rule' makes Shogi quite unique. The captured pieces can return to the board as your own, allowing many more innovative attacking possibilities and creative comebacks.



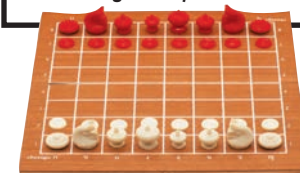
Illustration: Parneka Chowdhry, AIS Gurugram 46, XII J

Stop V Makruk

Provenance: Thailand, 13th-15th century CE

Travel note: Pieces have a much shorter range, resulting in slower, more tactical gameplay.

Landmarks: The weakest piece, the queen (met), can move only one square at a time diagonally.



Final destination Modern Chess

Provenance: Europe, late 15th century CE

Travel note: Modern chess boasts of 10¹²⁰ possible moves, outnumbering the estimated atoms in our universe (10⁸⁰).

Landmarks: The era introduced the queen as the strongest, and today, FIDE registers thousands of global tournaments annually.



Chess quotient



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

In an age dominated by digital distractions, the focus-driven game of chess equips young minds with the ability to think ahead, weigh possibilities, and make informed choices. At Amity, chess has been an integral part of the learning ecosystem since 1991. It is offered as a voluntary sport to all from Class II onwards, enabling young minds to develop critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and sound decision-making, qualities

that prepare them not only for competitions, but for life itself. Under the guidance of certified coaches and through regular participation in CBSE, School Games Federation of India, State Association, and All India Chess Federation tournaments, students receive the exposure and mentorship needed to excel. The annual Inter-Amity Chess Competition further provides a platform for students to test their skills, learn from one another, and develop a healthy competitive spirit.

As the globe celebrates World Chess Day on July 20, this edition shines the spotlight on one of Amity's greatest strengths. Amity can proudly claim two Arjuna Awardees in chess - Grandmasters Parimarjan Negi and Vantika Agarwal. Their inspiring journeys reflect how sustained mentoring and unwavering institutional support can shape champions of global repute. The legacy continues through Amity's remarkable community of 123 international FIDE-rated players. This edition features the top 20 FIDE-ranked chess champions currently studying in Amity. Each represents the spirit of perseverance, patience, and discipline that defines Amity's approach to nurturing future champions and leaders. I am confident that their achievements shall inspire countless younger students to take up the game, and prove that every move on the board can become a stepping stone towards excellence. [GT](#)

Khel shatranj ka



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Reading this edition's page on our chess champions and Chairperson Ma'am's column on Amity's legacy of nurturing world grandmasters brought back memories of my own introduction to the game. As a student, I would often watch my cousins play chess with unwavering concentration and I picked up some nuances too without even formally learning it. But my most enduring chess memory is Satyajit Ray's cinematic masterpiece

Shatranj Ke Khiladi. Set in 19th-century India when the British were steadily annexing princely states, the film brilliantly uses chess as a metaphor for strategy, diplomacy, and political manoeuvring. At its heart are two noblemen whose passion for the game borders on obsession. Their determination to continue playing under various hilarious circumstances provides some unforgettable moments. As the British army advances into Lucknow and Wajid Ali Shah loses his kingdom, the two friends remain preoccupied with finding a quiet place to resume their match. Their indifference to the changing political landscape becomes Ray's subtle commentary on misplaced priorities, while also reinforcing chess as a timeless game of foresight, tactics, and calculated moves. The film never feels like a history lesson, yet it leaves viewers with a deeper appreciation of both history and chess. It certainly did for me - I was so captivated that I went out and bought a traditional wooden chess set, much like the one featured in the film. Years later, the game continues to fascinate me just as much as the film did. [GT](#)

Good grade grief

Is First Place Really Worth The Pressure?

Saachi Liza Maurya, X & Khevna Pankaj, Alumna, AGS Gurgaon

The end of exams feel like an ultimate relief. The panic settles, and the air feels lighter. The season of furiously writing papers for history, computers, and English has finally passed. Or so it seems. Soon, teachers announce the answer sheets will be returned the next day, and suddenly the calm shifts. You lie in bed hoping, maybe even praying for a few extra marks. You wonder where you'll stand on the leaderboard this time. Will it be enough for your parents, teachers, or even yourself? "Didn't you study? Why aren't you the topper?" For students, being second or third can still feel like falling short. But it's worth asking: why does the first rank hold so much weight?

School rankings have existed for generations, created to recognise effort and motivate students. Healthy competition can push many to do their best. But over time, the idea of 'topping' has evolved. Today, colleges look beyond marks. For instance, Harvard applicants average a 1550 SAT score out of 1600 which is far above the national average and yet only about 4.6% are admitted. The reason? Institutions value versatility: sports, creativity, community service, and leadership qualities that show a whole personality, not just academic strength. In a world where many students excel academically, grades are no longer the deciding factor.

Schools also face this challenge. Strong results bring pride and visibility, and it's natural to celebrate



student achievements. However, this can sometimes add pressure. Students may feel the need not just to do well, but to outperform peers.

The Union Ministry of Education has reported that around 81% of students experience exam-related anxiety and pressure, showing how results can drastically affect young minds. Family expectations can add another layer. Parents want the best for their children, and comparisons often come from a place of concern rather than criticism. Still, hearing phrases like "Look how much someone else studied!" can sometimes hurt more than motivate. Not every student responds to pressure the same way, some push harder, while others withdraw. Over time, students feel as though their value depends entirely on their rank, which isn't true.

And then social media enters the picture. With achievements shared widely, it's easy to do the compari-

son. While celebrating success is important, constant comparison can create insecurity among the

vulnerable students. Studies show that too much academic comparison online can affect self-esteem and lead to stress or burnout. It's natural to want to do well but remember that everyone's journey looks different. Ranking isn't inherently negative; it can be a source of motivation and inspiration. But it works best when balanced with encouragement, understanding, and appreciation for a student's overall growth. Students are more than numbers; they're learners, explorers, and individuals discovering their strengths and weaknesses. Trying for the top is admirable, but not reaching it doesn't diminish who you are or what you're capable of. [GT](#)

(Khevna is currently pursuing BA (Hons) Economics from Ashoka University, Haryana.)

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the article 'Popping-ulation' on page 1 of The Global Times edition dated July 13, 2026. Almost everyone has, at some point, looked at global population numbers and felt completely detached from their magnitude. This piece completely changes that dynamic by turning heavy demographic data into a familiar, everyday slice of life which readers feel more connected to. What truly set this piece apart is its milestone achievement as the first inter-school student collaboration for



GT M@il

a GT top story. Seeing writers from AIS Noida work hand-in-hand with AIS Gurugram 46 proves that shared vision can transcend physical distances. It is incredibly heartening to witness the Amitian spirit operate as a single, cohesive unit, setting a meaningful precedent for what our campuses can create when we write together as one.

Agrima Swaroop
AIS Noida, XII H



Issue: Page 1, July 13, 2026

Tricks of the trade

TEDx is a mega global platform that invites motivational speakers from different walks of life. Here, each of the speakers narrate their personal accounts, which enable the audience to see the bigger picture of life, and make them realise that the glass is always half full and not the other way around. This year, on March 19, 2026, **Amity International School, Gurugram 43** organised their fourth instalment of TEDx on the theme '**Igniting minds, inspiring futures**', aimed to inspire young minds. Here are some noteworthy expressions from changemakers who chose courage over convention to transform their passions into reality.



Art of showing up for yourself

“Choosing your career path can be daunting. You may not know which direction to take, and that is perfectly okay. Working in the advertising ecosystem at Amazon taught me one thing above all else: learning never stops. I encourage you to stay curious and keep learning. As you choose your path, do not let distractions hold you back and do not fear failure. Both are essential to discovering what truly excites you. I also want to acknowledge something rarely discussed before entering the corporate world: burnout. Showing up for yourself with positivity and self-awareness should be non-negotiable. It is okay to fail, okay to feel exhausted, and okay to begin again.” **GT**



Prkriti Sethi, business development manager Amazon

Life is not a fixed script to follow

“At school, I believed I had my future planned out but life had other ideas. I did not get into my dream college, but life surprised me. In a prestigious debate competition where many of my dream colleges were participating, I represented my non-DU college and scored a win for it for the first time in 25 years. That experience taught me that your circumstances do not define your worth. Eventually, I became a CXO at Drifflie. The role brought success, yet something felt incomplete. My passion for fitness and health remained strong. One day at the gym, a chance conversation led me to an opportunity at MuscleBlaze. Moving from a CXO role to brand manager felt risky, but it aligned with what mattered to me. Life is not a fixed script. So, do what you enjoy, give it your best, and trust yourself.” **GT**



Shivank Badyal senior brand manager MuscleBlaze

Negotiating with circumstances



Shubhankar Goel general manager, F&O Prashant Advait Foundation

“For me, success isn't fixed. My journey has never been about conventional success. Over a decade of working with the Prashant Advait Foundation has taught me that life is more about negotiating with circumstances. Rather than chasing distant ideals, I focus on responding honestly to my own circumstances. Along the way, I also learnt to distinguish between wants and needs. That clarity influences the paths I choose. Every setback prepares us for a challenge ahead. Much confusion arises from comparison. Instead of comparison, focus on what is meaningful to you.” **GT**

Explore and follow your passion

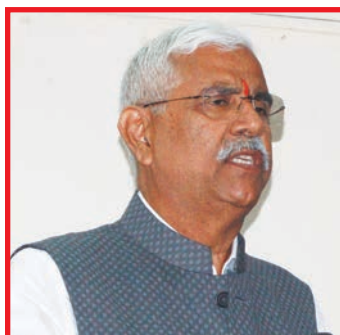


Chirag Jain, co-founder WanderOn

“Many years back, I had no idea what I wanted in life. It was during my time at NIT Kurukshetra that I was able to explore different interests. That made me discover my love for travelling. After graduation, I secured a comfortable job in a data science company. Yet something felt off. Along with a few friends, I began brainstorming business ideas. Eventually, we created a Facebook page and listed trips. Surprisingly, many people signed up. Today, WanderOn has grown into a thriving company with a digital community of more than one million followers. And I firmly believe that since so much of our time is spent on our professions, it better be something we love doing.” **GT**

The three golden rules of life

“There are three golden rules that I believe one should follow. The first is honesty. It creates internal alignment, where thoughts, words, and actions remain consistent. When a reputation for honesty makes people trust you, opportunities naturally follow. The second rule is to respect your elders. Elders carry valuable experience and lessons that can guide you through life. The third rule is rooted in the importance of safety, discipline, and balance. Maintaining healthy routines and being mindful remain essential in today's fast-changing world. In a world that constantly evolves, honesty, respect, and discipline form the foundation of a meaningful life which will serve you well.” **GT**



Major General Balraj Mehta war veteran and leadership coach

The endurance behind creativity

“At some point, someone will tell you to ‘follow your passion’. It sounds nice, but the real challenge is figuring out your passion. I didn't always know what my passion was, so I focused on my strengths instead. My association with The Global Times gave me an early glimpse into journalism and communicating. My Class XII results, though respectable, fell short of my hopes for North Campus. I felt lost. But literature, poetry, and dramatics exposed me to new possibilities. I eventually found a purpose in promoting Indian literature and languages. Translation entered my life through a creative writing course, leading me to translate a Chetan Bhagat novel into Hindi. In the end, I return to three principles: learn every day, do honest work, and stay committed to what you truly care about.” **GT**



Karan Dhall, writer and translator

Ward's enigma

Illustration: Pia Mehrotra, AIS Noida, XII H



Grisha Gautam
AIS Noida, XII C

It was an extraordinarily chilly morning for November as I picked up the newspapers from the balcony. I laid the dailies across the table and saw every front page screaming the same headline: Benjamin Ward, the world's richest man, was dead. The news was sensational as it would put markets and the oil industry he controlled in turmoil. But what intrigued me was that he had left behind a cryptic will, promising his entire wealth to the one who could crack its mystery. Mr Ward was an oddball, who had no one to call family, no one to leave his luxurious estates to. The news piece mentioned that the will had been put up on his website. I rushed to my laptop and skimmed through the handwritten document. The letter's opening lines jumped up at me: "The key to my wealth lies within the puzzle. To convolute is to lose, and to ignore is great foolishness." It didn't take time for the mystery-drenched testament to take

the world by storm. The 'Ward Revolution,' as media dubbed it, saw the brightest minds from every field descend upon the challenge. Mathematicians crunched numbers, historians visited dusty archives, and codebreakers pored over the document, convinced of an elaborate code. My dad, glued to the news coverage, chuckled, "Alex, you love puzzles. Maybe you should crack this one." I scoffed, dismissing it as just another billionaire's eccentricity. But the seed was sown. The will itself was a labyrinth of seemingly random elements. Experts toiled for weeks, theories growing wilder and byzantine with each passing day. One afternoon, as the news blared out about a team of archaeologists trying to decipher ancient symbols in the will, I found myself staring at the document on my laptop. Unlike the stressed-out experts, I wasn't looking for hidden codes or lost civilisations. It felt...different. Like a story waiting to be found. I read and re-read the opening phrase: "To convolute is to lose." Suddenly, wind gushed to my face

The letter's opening lines jumped up at me: "The key to my wealth lies within the puzzle. To convolute is to lose, and to ignore is great foolishness."

with realisation. Blind to their own orbit, everyone sought for galaxies far away. But maybe, just maybe, Mr Ward had stripped all illusions in his final days. "Dad," I blurted out, "what if the key is right there, in the message?" He raised an eyebrow, scepticism replacing amusement. "He says to not convolute it. Maybe the answer isn't so complicated." A spark ignited in his eyes. We spent the next hour re-reading and dissecting every word in the document. Then, it hit me. "Look at the first sentence," my voice trembled with excitement. "The key to my wealth lies within the puzzle." Frantically, we scanned the document. Every historical passage, every equation... and then we saw it. Nestled at the bottom, right below every page number was a simple letter, forming a sentence. "My possessions lie in a safety locker at Atlas Bank, Branch 14, Access Code: WARDIN131118." We immediately made a phone call to the lawyer whose number had been provided on the website. The world held its breath as I, a teenager with a knack for puzzles, was declared the heir to Mr Ward's treasures. The cameras flashed, the reporters clamoured, but a nagging thought lingered. Was this it? Was Mr Ward just a quirky billionaire with a taste for theatrics? Or was there a deeper layer that we, in our rush to find the fortune, had foolishly ignored? It is now the next mystery for me to crack. **GT**

Illustration: Esha Singh & Nirvi Mahtta, AIS PV, XI D



WordsVerse

Meemansa Munjal, AIS PV, XII C

In darkness I tick, a silent ache
Dreams gather dust for old time's sake
Regret is dialled in for each mistake

Yet minute by minute, hope will wake
Tireless hands, though worn, don't break
Still trying to heal what hearts forsake

From dusk to dawn, I mark the ache
Each second formed, each moment's stake
Tick tock, tick tock, my hands awake

In shadows deep, where silence wakes
I hear the dreams each morning makes
Hope hums beneath the endless ache

A whispered wish I cannot speak
Yet still my fragile heart may quake
As time folds in, I mark the ache.

Clock's Lament

Clicked by
Darsh Keshri
AIS Gur 43, XII S

City of mist

Lunar hobbies

Send in your entries to cameracapers@theglobaltimes.in

READ • PLAY • WIN

Answer • Participate • Win Prizes

1 Write answers of all the questions below

2 Click Photograph

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

112

Name: Class: School:

Q.1 Which two Amitians have been conferred with Arjuna award for chess?	Q.2 Name any two variants of chess as mentioned on page 7.
Q.3 Who was declared the heir of Mr Ward's treasure in the story on page 8?	Q.4 _____ is the director of the movie 'The Vaccine War'.
Q.5 What's the tagline for perspective story on page 6?	Q.6 Which new word did you learn from this edition's page 9 short story?

Winners **111**

Result of Read Play & Win: **Heena Garg**, AIS Gurugram 46, VII H; **Saina Gupta**, AIS Vasundhara 1, IV D; **Prakrit Das**, AIS Gurugram 43, V A

The boy and his tree



Illustration: Aarna Sinha, AIS Vas 1, X D

Shyam was a child of wonder. His world was painted in shades of innocence, and his heartbeat moved to the rhythm of the world. Yet, he did not have anyone to call a friend. One afternoon, a flicker of green on the red, barren ground caught his eye. A closer look introduced him to a tiny sapling, struggling to survive in the sweltering heat of Rajasthan. A surge of tenderness washed over him. He knelt, his small hands cupping the delicate stem. In that moment, a silent promise was made. He would save this life, watch it grow, and share with it the journey of life.

He dug a new home for the sapling. As he filled the hole, he whispered dreams and hopes into the soil for his tiny friend. The sapling stood tall, its first leaves unfurling like emerald banners in the wind. Days turned into weeks, painted with the colours

of Shyam's care. He spoke to the tree in a voice that resembled a gentle melody. He sang lullabies as the sun dipped below the horizon. The tree responded with silent but sturdy growth, its branches reaching for the sky like outstretched arms. Seasons changed, and so did the tree. In spring, it was tender green, a promise of life. Summer transformed it into a lush canopy. Autumn turned it golden, and winter left it bare. Through it all, Shyam was there, his care and warmth never faltered in a world that is constantly changing.

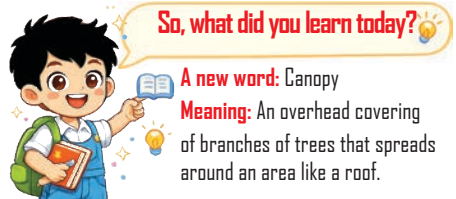
As years passed, the boy made many friends, but his bond with the tree remained strong. The tree was no longer just a plant; it grew taller than Shyam! Its roots ran deep into the soil of Shyam's heart, and its branches touched the sky of his dreams. Under its shade, Shyam found peace. Through

Days turned into weeks,
painted with the colours of
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a gentle melody.

the power of a child's love, a tiny sapling blossomed into a towering oak of friendship. And so, they grew together, the boy and his tree, offering a home to countless creatures in return, making new friends.

One stormy evening, Shyam sought refuge beneath the sprawling oak. A bolt of lightning struck the ground nearby, but the tree, as if protected by magic, absorbed the shock, leaves shimmering in the thunderlight. He realised then - the tree's gift extended beyond mere companionship; it was a magical shield. Their bond deepened, and the tree became like a guardian to Shyam, while his love was the gentle rain nourishing the tree's soul. Their friendship became a legend whispered in the wind. **GT**

As shared by **Adhiraj Pratap Singh**
AIS Vasundhara 1, IV A



POEM Silent witness

Naivedya Kumar Sethi
AIS Gurugram 43, IX C

A silent witness, a mirrored face
Reflecting truth, a fleeting grace
A captive soul in glass confined
A universe within a mystic mind

It sees entirety - the in-between
Joy, sorrow, and the silent scene
A faithful friend, a constant guide
Revealing secrets hidden inside

A portal for the self - unknown
Mystical realm, shadows groan
It shows the true facade, a mask
All fake replies, whatever you ask

A silent judge, without a sound
Observing keenly the life around
A timeless truth, a cosmic sight
A mirror to the soul, day and night

So gaze upon its surface bright
Find yourself with smiles and fright
For in its depth a mystery resides
The enigma of self it never hides.

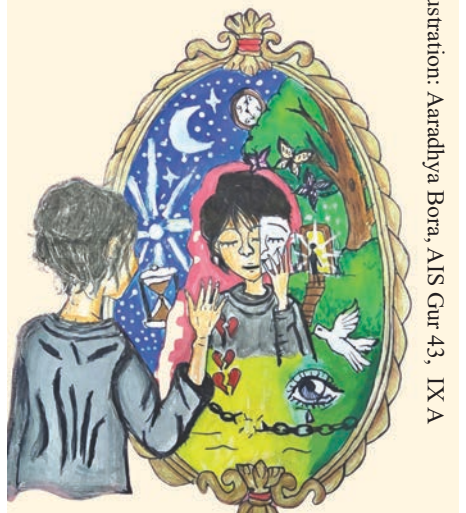


Illustration: Anandhya Bora, AIS Gur 43, IX A

It's Me!

KNOW ME

My name: Kanishk Singh Bedi
My school: AGS Noida
My Class: PI
My birthday: September 5

MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Nidhi ma'am
Subject: Maths
Friend: Hridaan
Game: Basketball
Cartoon: We Bare Bears
Food: Homemade pizza
Mall: DLF Mall of India & Dubai Mall
Book: The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

MY DREAMS AND GOALS

Hobby: Colouring, solving puzzles, and building blocks
I like: Hiking and skateboarding
I dislike: Pickles, lettuce, and bullies
My role model: My uncle
I want to become: An IPS officer
I want to feature in GT because: I want everyone to learn about me.

Painting Corner

Painting by: **Rebecca Angel**, AIS Vasundhara 6, VII E

Jokey Pokey

Sehej Kapur, AIS MV, VIII D

Q. Why don't scientists trust atoms?
A. Because they make up everything.
😄😄😄

Q. What do you call a bear with no teeth?
A. A gummy bear.
😄😄😄

Q. What's a math teacher's favourite place in New York?
A. Times Square!
😄😄😄

Q. Why did the student sit on top of his homework?
A. He wanted to work under pressure.
😄😄😄

Q. Why don't elephants use computers?
A. They're afraid of the mouse!
😄😄😄

Writing is an art and there's no better platform to exercise it than your own beloved GT! To unleash the writer in you, GT brings you a new topic every time and asks for your views on the same. Here are some intriguing responses from the students of AIS Vasundhara 1 for the prompt...

Encoding digital media into synthetic DNA molecules is emerging as the next-gen technology for long-term archiving. Recently, the US created a time capsule containing a DNA vial with digitalised historical artifacts. If you could preserve just three of your best memories in a DNA molecule, which ones would you choose?

The prompt

BOX



"With this amazing chance, I would choose moments that feel simple yet truly meaningful to me. One would be my everyday school mornings, when I reach my bus stop early just to feed biscuits to the dogs waiting there; this meet-and-greet excitement brightens my day instantly.

Another would be evening walks with my friends after a tiring day, where talking to them makes everything feel lighter and builds my confidence. The third would be family vacations, where we slow down, stay away from fast-paced city life, and genuinely enjoy and understand each other more."

Ritvik Bhattacharya, AIS Vas 1, XII C



"If I could capsule my best memories, I would preserve the moments I hold close to my heart. The first would be the day I received my Class X Board results. After months of anticipation, finally seeing my results gave me a sense of fulfillment that I will always cherish. The second would be when I first arrived in India after living in the US since birth. As I stepped out of the plane, I felt a connection with my motherland. Last would be the day I learnt to write the alphabet at the age of four. The joy of presenting it to my parents, their happy tears, and the relief on my teachers' faces is something I never want to forget."

Raj Chandra, AIS Vas 1, XI A



"These memories are already etched into the corners of my mind, so I doubt I'd ever forget them. But just in case, here are the three I'd never want to lose: meeting my best friend. I still remember that day vividly, how he randomly showed up in my life and simply never left. Moving from Chennai to Delhi - I lost my friends and family in the process, but it taught me resilience and helped me grow stronger. Lastly, a completely ordinary day because sometimes it's not the grand moments, but the small, forgettable ones that hold the most comfort when you look back."

Hridaان V Jain, AIS Vas 1, XI B



"If I were to preserve my three best moments, I would have a hard time choosing. But something that means so much to me is the time my mother underwent a life-saving operation; the ineffable relief will forever stay in my heart. The second moment would be the day I joined Amity, for I'd like to preserve the day that led to countless memories. The final moment, one that is more significant to my life than it sounds, is the first time I listened to my favourite musician, Mac DeMarco."

Kushagra Pandey, AIS Vas 1, XI C



"To defy the fact that moments fade, my DNA vial would contain the moments that define the human experience. First, the intense energy of chairing a Model United Nations Conference and guiding diplomatic debates. Second, the exact moment when my Youth Power Team, Team 'Shubhratri', was awarded First Runner-Up and the Best Documentation Award. It made me realise that a project I built from scratch had created a concrete impact. Third, when I secured the first rank in my grade after months of relentless pursuit. These memories remind me of the exact moments where I learned what passion, discipline, and leadership truly meant."

Aditi Thakur, AIS Vas 1, X A



"Best memories are the ones that fill my life with simple moments of joy and quality time. My mother, brother, and I eagerly awaiting my father's return from the office and then all of us enjoying nights filled with UNO, Ludo, and laughter. With my cousins, every gathering becomes chaos, adventure, and endless fun. These ordinary yet extraordinary moments taught me that true happiness lies not in grand destinations, but in the warmth of family bonds and the laughter we share. This made me realise that the most precious moments are often the ones we don't appreciate until they become cherished memories."

Divisha Singh, AIS Vas 1, IX B



"If I were given the choice to preserve three of my best memories in a DNA molecule, my first would be the last lunch break with my friends before they switched schools and our sections were divided. The second would be the day my board exam results were announced, for the adrenaline rush and sheer disbelief I felt that day. The third would be a late-night call with my friends, filled with inside jokes that kept us laughing until 3 AM. These are the moments I will cherish forever."

Anoushka Arya, AIS Vas 1, XI A



"My DNA molecule would not contain historical events at all; instead, I would choose memories of growing up. First in line would be the smell of the monsoon and eating pakoras with my family. Second is the time I recall playing games with friends in the society compound in the evenings, where the streetlights were a reminder to go home before it got too dark! Finally, I would choose the memorable school days when we would sign our names and write inside jokes on each other's uniform shirts. These memories are what truly made me who I am."

Aviral Tyagi, AIS Vas 1, XI B



"How exciting is this idea! I would choose the memories that have helped me grow as a person. I would love to preserve my first day of school, which was a bittersweet moment encompassing love, care, and opportunities. The second memory would be going to late-night movies with my family, which signifies our rich bond and a level of comfort that is ethereal. Last but not least, I would love to preserve the memories of school life, especially rainy days when the environment at school felt so relaxing."

Shalika Saxena, AIS Vas 1, X A

A saga of global excellence

AICE

Amity Institute for Competitive Examinations' (AICE) two flagship events: the 24th Amity National Camp for Mathematics (ANCM) from May 23-30, and the 11th Amity International Olympiads (AIO) from May 25-30 were held at Amity University Noida Campus. Inaugurated by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, both the events blended academic rigour with collaboration which nurtured scientific temperament and developed critical thinking abilities of the young learners across the globe. In her inaugural address, the Chairperson emphasised upon the vital role of competitive examinations in building strong logical foundations.

Amity National Camp for Mathematics

The seven-day residential math camp, aimed at fostering mathematical inquiry, logical reasoning, and creative problem-solving skills, witnessed participation from over 300 students of Class V-XII from reputed schools across India including Amity Group

of Schools. The camp balanced intensive academic rigour with holistic personal development by organising yoga sessions, followed by advanced daytime mathematics workshops. Evenings were dedicated to recreation and teamwork, featuring sports activities, movie screenings, and vibrant cultural programmes.

Amity International Olympiad

Simultaneously, the Amity International Olympiad brought together over 150 students from Class IX-XII including teams from Bhutan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Russia, South Korea, and top-tier Indian schools, who competed in Maths, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. The opening ceremony witnessed vibrant march past by teams from different countries, each bearing their national flags. All the participants also pledged to strive for excellence with absolute integrity. This was followed by intense academic evaluation which included three-hour theory exam, followed by practical assessments to test experimental skills. The in-



ternational teams were also taken on a day's tour to the Taj Mahal. Besides, they were also shown Amity University Noida's state-of-the-art infrastructure like AI Lab, Biotech lab, library, etc.

The grand finale

The dual events culminated with valedictory ceremony graced by Chief Guest Prof (Dr) Dheeraj Shah, principal, University College

of Medical Sciences and eminent dignitaries from reputed institutions and embassies. Total 65 outstanding performers of Amity International Olympiads were honoured with medals and trophies. Furthermore, 64 national toppers of the Global Talent Search Examination (GTSE 2025) were felicitated with trophies, books, and cash awards worth over 1.5 lakh at the grand finale. **GT**

Summers@Amity

PART III

During summers both the educators and learners of Amity embarked upon a unique journey of enriching and honouring excellence. Read on to discover the awards they won at AICE Olympiads and learnings they imbibed at HR & Training Workshops.



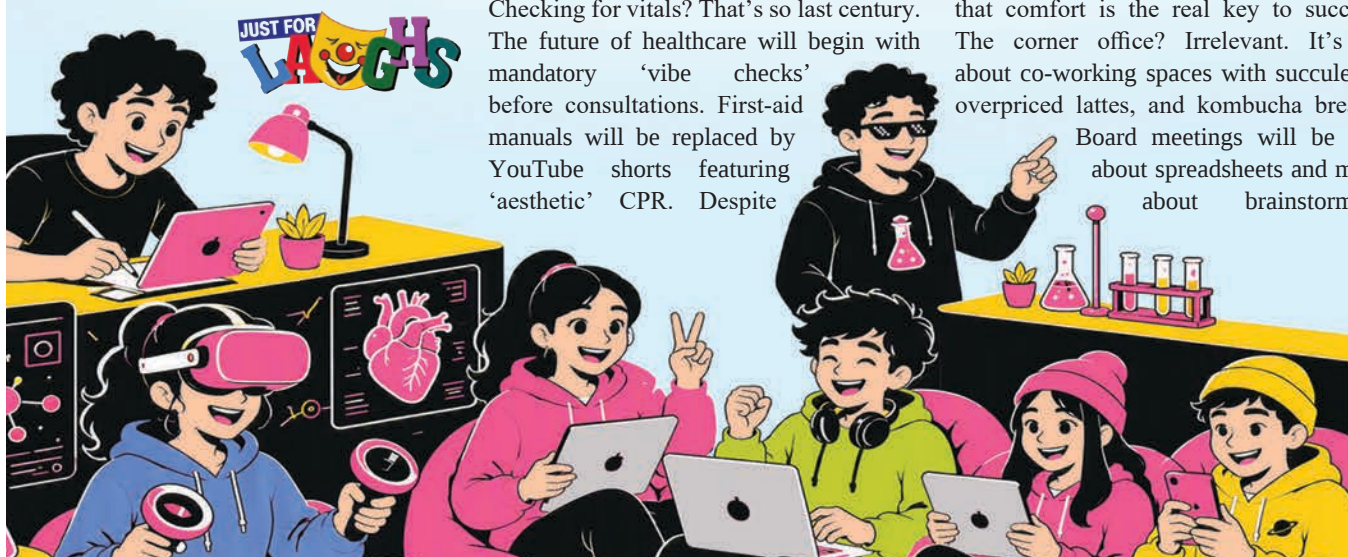
Nurturing the educators

HR & Training Department

The 11th edition of Professional Development Programme (PDP) was organised by HR and Training department for approx 1500 pre-primary, primary, and middle school teachers of all branches of Amity Group of Schools from May 25-27, 2026, in hybrid mode. The annual training and development programme, envisioned by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, was curated to enhance classroom effectiveness, strengthen teachers' pedagogical practices, and equip them with contemporary skills required to nurture future-ready learners. The three-day training programme comprised 114 sessions hosted by AIS Noida, AIS PV, and AIS MV and conducted by 96 internal (experts from Amity Schools & Amity Institute of Competitive Examinations) and 18 external resource persons. These experts from diverse fields imparted comprehensive understanding of modern teaching methodologies, student engage-

ment strategies, assessment practices, and integration of technology in classrooms, fostering social-emotional learning to the teachers through collaborative discussions, hands-on activities, and reflective practices. The curated topics comprised vedic math, positive classroom approaches, AI powered educator, developing receptive skills (reading and listening), decoding the milestones, building classroom routine transition and behaviour, learn smarter not harder, activity integrated pedagogy for new textbooks and NEP 2020, etc. Thought provoking workshops on inner child healing, story telling as an effective pedagogical tool, and effective integration of AI in education to create engaging, efficient, and future-ready learning environments were also organised. A key highlight of the PDP was the Chairperson's address wherein, she emphasised that teacher empowerment is the cornerstone of educational excellence. She also highlighted the importance of fostering a culture of lifelong learning among educators to develop confident, creative, compassionate, and competent future citizens. **GT**

From TikTok To The Boardroom... Say Hello To Gen Z Professionals



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