

Unravelling The Hidden Power Of Fashion Weeks And Glittery Hollywood Galas

Ranya Sharma, AIS Gur 46, Alumna

From fangirling over Alia Bhatt's saree at the Met Gala to getting hooked on Instagram's reels in search of the perfect look, our social media feeds overflow with style inspiration. But fashion is much more than just a pretty aesthetic. Let's take a stylish stroll through the lesser-seen side of fashion: the one that fuels economies, creates jobs, and influences global markets.

From runways to pay days

Major fashion events like New York Fashion Week, Milan Fashion Week, Met Gala, Cannes, Oscars etc., seem so effortless on-screen but it requires an entire village to pull off these events. From event organisers and caterers to models and stylists, these shows provide employment opportunities to the locals across various sectors. Take the Cannes Festival for example. Aside from the glitz and glamour, around 15,000 movers and security personnel are hired each year! In India, the textile and apparel sector come second only to retail in employment generation – contributing 8% of national employment and more than 10% to the country's GDP.

Strolling down the fashion lane

High profile fashion events don't just benefit the industry – they turn host cities into buzzing economic hotspots. From filmmakers, cinephiles, studio executives to stargazers, over 2,00,000 people (40,000 with official accreditation) fly down to take part in the Cannes Film Festival, causing a mini economic boom every May. Oscars attract over 10,000 visitors to Los Angeles each year boosting the economy by USD 130 million. Not bad for a dress-up party! What's more, visiting VIPs spend money to get a taste of the local culture, including splurging on fashion trends. Think designer studios in Seoul, sari trails in Varanasi, or thrift crawls in Paris.



This, in turn, leads to a surge in fashion tourism. Recent analytics show 13.6 million posts on Instagram with #fashiontourism.

Dressed for success

The economic influence of fashion doesn't end at glittery galas; in fact, the fashion industry is responsible for 2% to 3% of the global GDP, amounting to a staggering USD 3 trillion. It is also one of the largest employers worldwide, offering livelihoods to over 430 million people, particularly in low and middle-income countries where garment manufacturing thrives. A key pillar of this growth is the e-commerce boom, currently accounting for 15% of global fashion sales and predicted to reach 25% by 2030. Meanwhile, the industry is undergoing a technological transformation, creating new-age tech jobs that are projected to rise by 12% annually. And let's not forget the quiet revolution in the closets: second-hand and circular fashion. This booming sector, valued at USD 50 billion, proves that sustainability and profitability can walk the same runway.

The curtain call

On an average, a 10-to-15-minute fashion show can cost anywhere from USD 200,000 to over USD 1 million! For fashion weeks overall, investments reach up to USD 50 million per season. So, the question arises - do these events generate enough revenue to justify the splurge? Be ready to have your minds blown: in 2022, the market size of fashion events totalled \$33.6 billion and is projected to skyrocket to \$61.5 billion by 2032. And how have we contributed to this? By going on a liking spree. Even that one like - yes, yours - can add thousands of dollars in digital engagement value. So, the next time you wonder about the extravagance, remember what is behind the curtains! 🇮🇳

(Ranya is pursuing B.Com (H) from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai)

THE GT POLL

Google's AI model got a gold medal at the International Math Olympiad. Should AI be allowed to participate in contests meant for students?

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

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

Heroes, humour and heart!

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What's inside



From ideas to impact
Sumitra Goenka, with 24 years across industries, is driving change—from tech ventures to eye donation drives. She shares how to lead with compassion.

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A special connection
Aarav Rajpal of AIS PV has built 'Auti Buddy', an app designed to help parents connect more deeply with kids with autism. Learn how he turned empathy into action.

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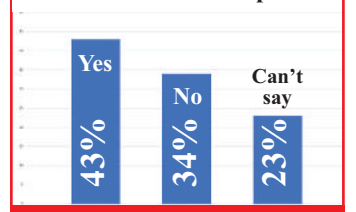


A scented journey
Some perfumes make a bold entrance, while others are whispers of freshness. Dive into the world of fragrances to know what to choose.

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POLL RESULT for GT Edition July 21, 2025

No gaming and no scrolling! A stripped-back iPhone with custom software for children will be on sale in the UK for £99/month. Worth the price?



Results as on July 26, 2025

Around The WORLD

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

BANGLADESH

Jet crash kills 27

Bangladesh Air Force F-7 BGI training aircraft crashed into Milestone School & College in Dhaka's Uttara area on July 21, killing 27 people and injuring more than 170 others. It occurred shortly after the jet took off from a nearby airbase, with reports pointing to mechanical failure in the Chinese-built aircraft. This marks the nation's deadliest aviation tragedy since 1984, that claimed 49 lives. Authorities have launched an investigation to know the exact cause to prevent future disasters.



IRAN

Water woes deepen

Amid temperatures reaching 50°C, Iranian authorities have urged citizens to minimise water usage as the country grapples with a water crisis. A prolonged five-year drought, worsened by exceptionally low rainfall this year, has left reservoirs depleted and triggered water outages lasting up to 18 hours in parts of Tehran. In response to the crisis, July 23 was declared a public holiday to manage the emergency.



UAE

Crypto court payments

Abu Dhabi takes a new step towards a digital future as the court embraces cryptocurrency for court fees. The judicial department has introduced this innovative option to accept AE coin, a regulated stablecoin. The initiative enhances citizens' convenience and reflects UAE's commitment toward advanced processes. The move aims to create a seamless and modern approach to judicial transactions.



AFGHANISTAN

Fight against polio

Afghanistan has launched a four-day nationwide polio vaccination drive, beginning July 20, 2025. This vital campaign, supported by Japan's 5 million USD contribution via UNICEF, will administer oral polio vaccines and Vitamin A supplements to 7.3 million children under the age of five in 19 provinces of the country, covering 187 districts. Afghanistan is one of the last two remaining countries where polio is still an endemic.



AUSTRALIA

Algal bloom hits marine life

A toxic algal bloom spreading along South Australia's coastline has halted shellfish farming, and led to the death of over 13,800 animals. Opposition leaders have called for an investigation into the ecological and economic repercussions of the crisis. While the damage is extensive, federal environment minister Murray Watt has refrained from declaring it a natural disaster, citing that it does not meet existing criteria.

CHINA

Controversial dam kicks off

China began constructing a 170 billion USD hydropower dam on the Tibetan plateau, billed as the world's largest, to boost renewable energy and meet carbon emission targets. The project is located on the Yarlung Tsangpo River, which flows into India as the Brahmaputra. While aimed at sustainability, the dam has raised alarms in India and Bangladesh, who fear it could give China control over trans-boundary water flow. Experts warn that the project may spark regional tensions, with some calling it a potential trigger for a future 'water war'.



INDIA

Queens' gambit

In a major breakthrough at the FIDE Women's World Cup 2025, India's Koneru Humpy and Divya Deshmukh have advanced to the semifinals, where they will face China's Lei Tingjie and Tan Zhongyi. This development guarantees India at least one spot in the 2026 Candidates Tournament, a qualifier to challenge world champion Ju Wenjun. Humpy made history by becoming the first Indian woman to reach the World Cup semifinals after defeating China's Yuxin Song, while Divya triumphed in a tiebreaker against compatriot Harika Dronavalli.



From ideas to impact INTERVIEW

Entrepreneur Sumitra Goenka Shares How To Lead With Compassion And Grit

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

Sumitra Goenka is a dynamic first-generation entrepreneur with over 24 years of diverse experience spanning technology, logistics, media, and social impact. At the helm of Triangleglobal and Rastein Infotech, she brings strategic vision and operational excellence to the forefront of business innovation. Beyond business, Goenka's passion for meaningful change is evident in her advocacy for tribal education and her role as Trustee of the Nirman Foundation, where she has been actively working in the field of eye donation. As a jury member of YP 2024-25, Goenka exemplifies what it means to lead with empathy, purpose, leadership and a commitment to breaking barriers.

Seeds of inspiration

Back in the day, entrepreneurship wasn't as widely encouraged as it is now. My biggest inspiration throughout life has

been Swami Vivekananda. His dedication and impact on the society deeply influenced me. After completing my MBA in Mumbai, I landed a job at a prominent company but soon realised that a 9-to-5 job wasn't for me. With no entrepreneurial background, I took the leap to start my own journey driven by an inner calling. My husband encouraged me to dream big and invest 1000 days into building something meaningful. My father too has been a pillar of support.

Breaking stereotypes

Starting my journey in 2000, I faced many challenges as a woman entrepreneur, especially societal expectations to fulfill household duties. I was fortunate enough to have a supportive family. However, access to funding was a major hurdle during my time. As a result, many women lacked collateral to secure institutional loans. Early on, the society waived off my dedication as a 'side venture' as I was a woman. But I remained committed because when a woman steps up, the entire society takes a step forward.

A leader par excellence

I believe empathy is one of my core strengths, along with strong business acumen and management skills. A good leader walks with its people, not above them. Self-confidence and passion are critical too, especially when navigating through market volatility. Entrepreneurship is a journey that requires nurturing your business like a growing tree, with patience

Pic: Sehaj Grewal, AIS Noida, XI F



GT reporters with Sumitra Goenka

and persistence. My aim is to build a women-centric ecosystem and support women-led ventures.

Facts on the frontline

I'm not a journalist but I am the director of Madhyom, which is a Bengal-focused news portal to highlight underreported issues. We have a committed editorial team ensuring content authenticity, avoiding sensationalism and fake news. We garnered over one crore views in three years and that too without any social media promotion. We rely on sources like ANI and ground reporting journalists who often work under tough conditions. Our goal is fearless and uncompromised journalism that highlights Bengal's real concerns.

Message for Amitians

Amity is an inspiration when it comes to harnessing the power of youth in creating a difference. My message: no matter what your path, always find the time to give back. Mentor, volunteer, or support causes that build a stronger society and nation.

Sumitra Goenka, entrepreneur

The bard meets bloodshed

Synopsis: ML Rio's 'If We Were Villains' is a gripping story that pulls you into the secluded, high-pressure world of Dellecher Classical Conservatory, a prestigious school for students who live and breathe Shakespeare. At the heart of it is Oliver Marks, who's finally looking back on his past after serving ten years in prison. Told through his perspective, the novel takes us to his final year at Dellecher, where he and his close-knit group of friends slowly get caught in a spiral of jealousy, rivalry, and betrayal. When one of them tragically dies, their lives begin to mirror the dark plays they perform, blurring the line between stage and reality. Each

Book: If We Were Villains
Author: ML Rio
Published on: April 11, 2017
Genre: Suspense, Fiction

month is described intricately, giving the feeling that time itself is a character that is driving the plotline forward. Rio's vivid storytelling immerses readers in an emotional and intellectual journey, making them question art, identity, and morality.

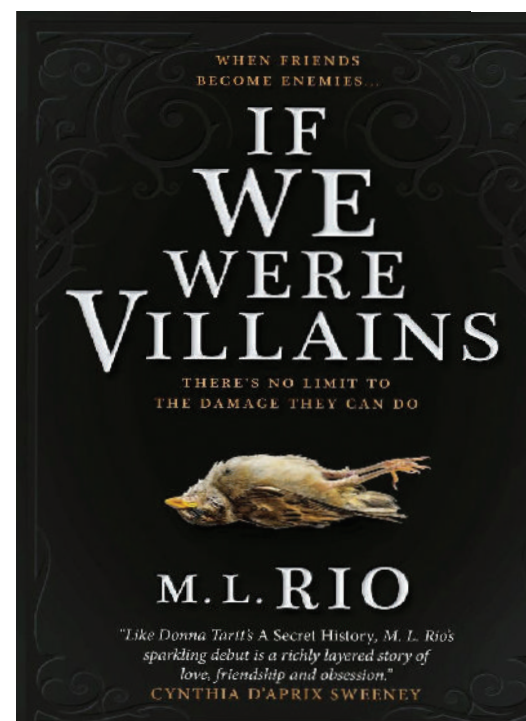
Why it's worth reading: The book's uniqueness lies in how the author has effortlessly woven Shakespearean themes into the characters' lives. Rio makes the Bard's work pulse through the

book and her take on friendship, ambition and guilt gives the book a real depth. Also, the writing is atmospheric and emotionally charged, capturing both the intensity of the characters and the haunting beauty of their remote, isolated world. For those who love intellectual mysteries and the timeless allure of Shakespeare, this book will be a very captivating read.

Iconic quote: "Which of us could say we were more sinned against than sinning? We were so easily manipulated - confusion made a masterpiece of us."

Rating: 5/5

Review by: Raj Chandra
AIS Vasundhara 1, X B



A special connection

App That Aids Parents To Understand Kids With Autism Better

Stuti Kalra, GT Network

Despite their love and dedication, parents of children with autism often face challenges in understanding and meeting their emotional needs. Recognising the need to bridge this communication gap and putting his tech enthusiasm to good use, **Aarav Rajpal**, a student of Class XI D, AIS Pushp Vihar, created **Auti Buddy** — an app designed to foster meaningful connections. This innovative platform adapts to the unique parent-child dynamic by tailoring its features based on individual responses, offering personalised support for families navigating autism. Let's dive deeper to understand the app.

A special design

Auti Buddy is a specially designed mobile application that caters to the needs of children with autism. It serves as a bridge between parents and their children by offering interactive tools and activities tailored to enhance cognition and essential skills. The app features a dual-dashboard layout, enabling parents to assign activities remotely and monitor their child's progress in real time.



A glimpse of the Auti Buddy app

Structured with science

Auti Buddy is based on behavioural psychology. The app is designed to create activities by using data and results gathered from the responses of the child.

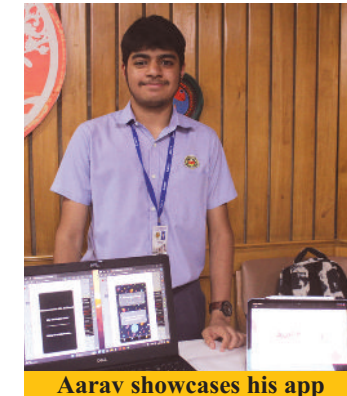
Inspired by family

The inspiration for mobile application came to Aarav when he visited the clinic of a family member who is a behavioural psychologist specialising in child psychology. Observing her work with autistic children, he realised there was a communication barrier between children and their parents. After conducting extensive research, Aarav decided to use his programming skills to build an app that

could bridge this gap. He began developing Auti Buddy during summer break when he was in Class IX and continued refining it throughout the academic year. The initial prototype took around three months to complete.

Overcoming challenges

Building the app involved not only the technical aspects, but emotional too. The main challenge was understanding the needs of an autistic child. Aarav admits it took a lot of research and understanding to build activities useful for bridging the



Aarav showcases his app

Support system

Aarav expresses deep gratitude to Chairperson ma'am and his teachers for giving him the opportunity to showcase the mobile app to the world and providing him with valuable feedback at every step of the app's development.

Future vision

Currently, Aarav is focused on adding more activities to the app, which are far more accurate and tailor-made for the child's needs.

Addressing UN SDGs

- **SDG 3** (Good Health and Well-Being for all)
 - **SDG 4** (Ensure Inclusive & Equitable Quality Education)
- Auti Buddy has been designed to promote overall wellness of children with autism by serving as an interactive bridge between them and society. This feature also enhances their participation and engagement in mainstream education.

Awards & Recognition

- **INSPIRE Awards - Manak (2023)**
Received a grant of INR 10000 as one of the winners
- **IRIS National Fair (2023)**
Featured amongst top 10 projects in national round
- **ATL Science Fest (2023)**
Secured third position
- **B 20 Science Expo (2023)**
Showcased the project
- **Malaysian & Indonesian University Delegates Conference (2024)**
Showcased the project

The app will also feature a reward system which will help motivate the child to use the app and try out more and more activities. 🇮🇳

Read Play and Win
85

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 headline of the story published on page 1?	Q.2 Who is the author of the book 'If We Were Villains'?	Q.3 _____ can help reduce carbon emissions in the Arctic.
Q.4 Which country is struggling with water crisis?	Q.5 What is the full form of STEM?	Q.6 When was the album 'x (Deluxe edition)' released?
Q.7 What is the name of the app created by Aarav Rajpal?	Q.8 Which Bengal focused news portal is being run by Sumitra Goenka?	Q.9. What does the word 'Amok' mean?

Name: Class: School:

Results of Read Play & Win-84: **Agasthya Kalalia** AIS Gur 43, X C;
Akshaj Malhotra, AIMC, IX; **Ishita Chandra**, AIS VKC Lucknow, VII B

Krishna Rastogi
AIS Saket, XI C

Life does find a way

De-Extinction: Time To Heal Earth

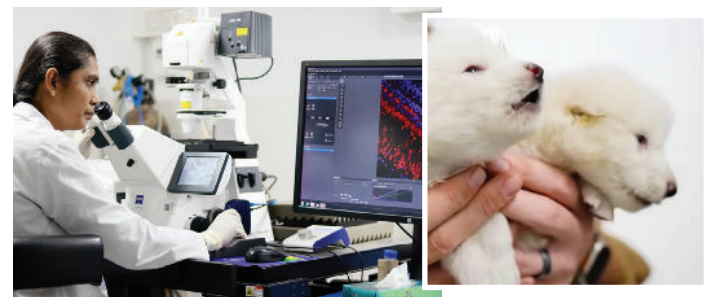
Remember the dodo? What if it could waddle back into the world? Scientists are trying to flip nature's script with a bold move: de-extinction. Cloning, genome editing, and selective breeding in labs make it possible. Researchers believe it could help fix damaged ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and even tackle climate change. Here are some animals that may make a comeback.

In spotlight: Dire wolf

Once a top predator, the dire wolf vanished due to dwindling prey and rising competition. **Second chance:** To restore predator-prey dynamics.

In spotlight: Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacine)

Seen as a threat, settlers hunted it to extinction. **Second chance:** Bringing it back could re-establish its role as an apex predator in Tasmania.



In spotlight: Woolly Mammoth

The giant, shaggy creatures disappeared due to climate change, hunting, and shrinking habitats. **Second chance:** Their return could slow permafrost melt and reduce carbon emissions in the Arctic.

In spotlight: Dodo

Extinct due to overhunting and invasive species brought by humans. **Second chance:** Its return may assist in restoring plant life and

ecosystem balance in Mauritius.

In spotlight: Passenger pigeon

Once numbered in billions, it was wiped out by overhunting and deforestation. **Second chance:** To restore North America forests.

In spotlight: Quaggas

The zebra-like creature with half-faded stripes was hunted into extinction in the 1800s. **Second chance:** To help regenerate grasslands.

SPECTAC-ULAR GLOW UP

Just A Humble Frame Carrying The Weight Of Your Vision With Zero Appreciation

Akshita Shrote, AIS Vas 1, Alumna

"Arey, ab kahaan rakh diye maine?"

"Bathroom mein check karo!"

"Mil gaye! Sir pe hi toh the!"

Humans. Forever misplacing me even when I'm literally perched on your forehead like a crown you didn't know you were wearing. Sometimes I'm stepped on, sat on (Velma from Scooby-Doo, I'm squinting at you), or abandoned on side tables like yesterday's newspaper. And don't even get me started on the names four eyes, *chashmish*, binocular face? Eye mean, really?

Ungrateful. All 62% of you who rely on me. Without me, you'd be out there squinting at traffic signs, waving at the wrong relatives, or simply mistaking shampoo for a conditioner.

Let's rewind a bit, shall we? I was born in 1284, in Italy. That's right. Salvino D'Armati, a man clearly tired of misreading scrolls, introduced me to the world. Back then, I was no fashion icon: heavy, clunky, made

from wood, bone, and copper. Thankfully, by the 1600s, Spanish craftsmen gave me side arms, so I didn't have to sit awkwardly on your nose like a rogue coin.

But even with all I've done, I'm still treated like that one friend who tags along but never gets a proper photo unless I'm reincarnated as cool sunglasses. Speaking of

which, my stylish cousin has roots too. The Inuit communities invented early tinted lenses 2,000 years ago to prevent snow blindness. And the tinted glasses you now flaunt? James Ayscough first developed them in the 1700s not for the 'vibe' but to help those with colour blindness.

I've been round, square, frameless,

bedazzled, oversized, rimmed in gold. I've had glow-ups and makeovers across centuries. Yet I face constant competition. Contact lenses? Please. They dry out faster than group chats post-exam. And LASIK? One bad sneeze away from permanent regret.

But I wait patiently. Because you always come back when your eyes are tired, your screen time's through the roof, and the world feels just a little too blurry.

No, I'm not some forgotten invention. I'm your daily ride-or-die. I help you see clearly literally and sometimes metaphorically. I'm there for job interviews, late-night movie marathons, panic before surprise tests.

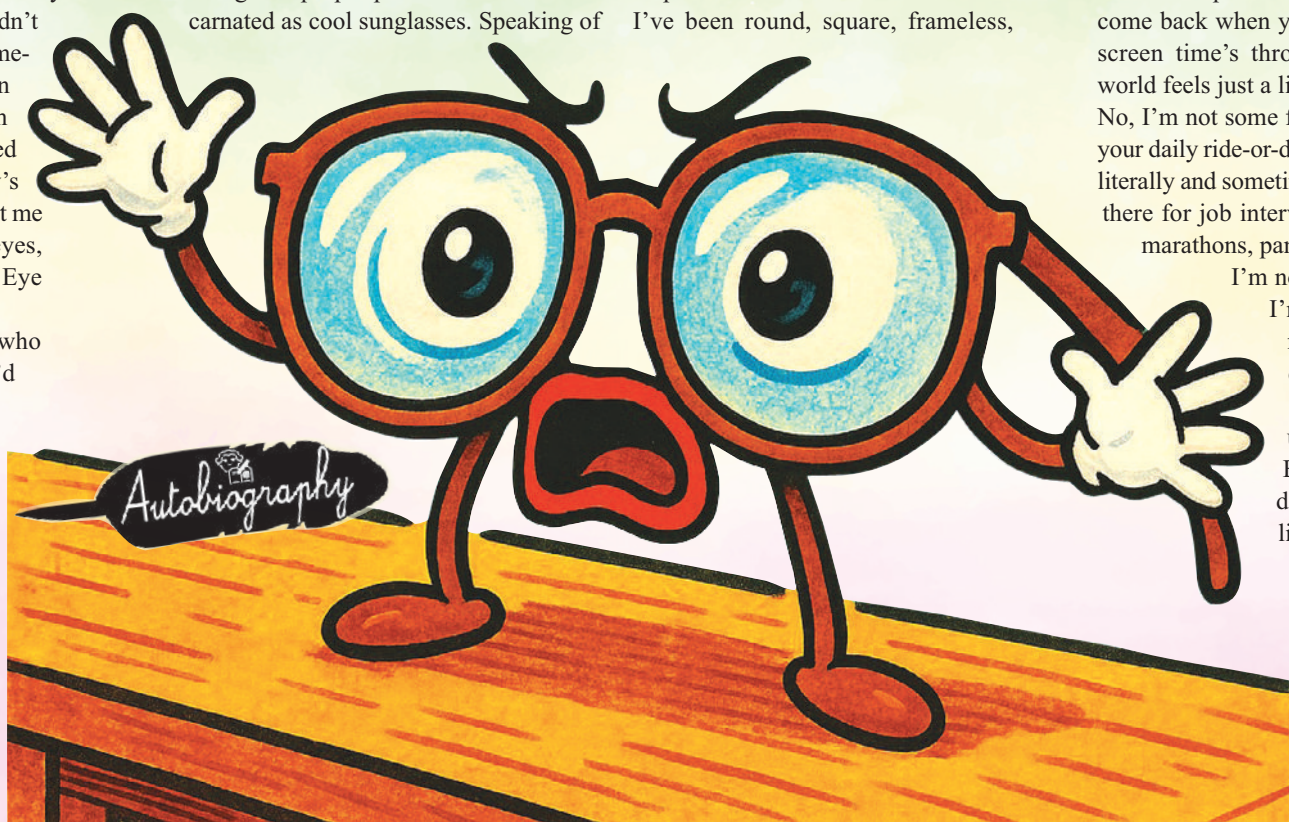
I'm not here for a revolution.

I'm here for every little moment you need me quiet, dependable, often smudged, and forever underappreciated.

But that's okay. Because deep down, you know life's a blur without me.

Signing off,
Your spectacles

(Akshita is pursuing BSc Research Economics from Shiv Nadar University)



Smile. Reset. Rise.

Let's Laugh At The Mess, Learn From The Lows

Esha Bhattacharya

AIS Gurugram 43, X C

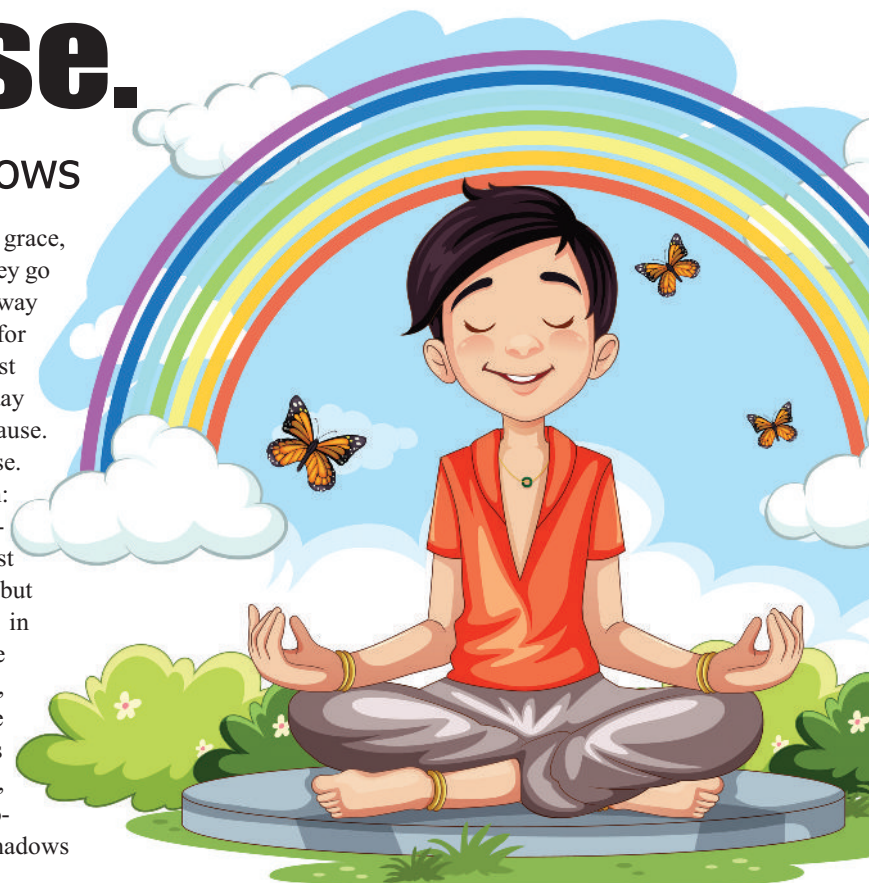
Let's be honest—life rarely feels like a fairy-tale. Some mornings, the alarm clock rings more like a personal attack than a gentle nudge. Math problems begin to resemble ancient hieroglyphics. And that favourite snack? Mysteriously missing from the lunch-box again. But here's where the plot thickens: attitude is the real author of the story.

Positivity isn't about painting over problems with a bright brush. It's about choosing courage in the face of chaos, laughing when plans derail, and walking through the storm with

that quiet, steady 'main character energy'. As the stoic philosopher Marcus Aurelius once wrote, "The soul becomes dyed with the colour of its thoughts." The question, then, is simple — are you colouring your story with limitations, or with unlimited possibilities?

The clincher is that science agrees. Harvard research reveals that individuals with a positive mindset aren't just more cheerful; they're more resilient, healthier, and remarkably more successful. They focus not on the wall but on the window. They don't avoid challenges, but use them as springboards. Positivity, in fact, rewires the brain. It strengthens the mental muscles needed to

bounce back, pivot with grace, and grow through what they go through. So, when the hallway becomes a runway for clumsy stumbles, the test paper goes blank, or the day falls apart—just pause. Breathe. Smile. Reset. Rise. Because here's the truth: mindset is a quiet superpower. It shapes not just how one sees the world, but how the world responds in return. So, laugh at the mess, learn from the lows, and lead your life like the star of your own script. As Walt Whitman wisely said, "Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you." 🌈



Empowering girls with STEM



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

At Amity, one of our core missions is to empower girls of our nation with world-class and future-ready education. I believe that girls are natural innovators, thinkers and nurturers. Hence, when equipped with right tools, their ideas have the power to create solutions for a better and a more sustainable world. This is why we have launched 'Girls in STEM' initiative this year, under the aegis of Amity Children's

Science Foundation that shall empower young girls by fostering their curiosity, creativity and confidence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). This is a year-long journey of experiential learning that includes hands-on projects and real-world problem-solving. Guided by expert mentors, the programme creates an inclusive learning space where every girl can explore, engage, and excel. Activities such as STEM awareness workshops, hands-on tinkering, role model talk series, STEM fairs, mentorship programmes, design thinking challenges and quizzes have been curated to equip them with critical thinking skills and a spirit of innovation.

Over the years, we have seen girls shine on national and global stages - from receiving the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar Award 2024 to an all-girls team winning the Best Practices of Project Management Award at the F1 in Schools World Championship. Such achievements prove that confident and capable girls are fearlessly stepping into the world of STEM. Indeed, in today's world, women in STEM are shaping the future. At Amity, we are committed to creating classrooms where gender equality is a reality, curiosity thrives and more girls are inspired to design rockets, code solutions, develop life-saving drugs and lead the world with an innovative mindset.

The pitter-patter



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

This Sunday morning, as the skies opened up once more, I found myself walking out into the balcony instinctively and with joy in my heart. The dark, dense clouds seemed so low that they were almost touching the roof of my house, and the earthy smell felt familiar and truly comforting. Everything around me looked lush and green, all the dust having been washed away in an instant. I could see neighbours out on their balconies too, enjoying tea and pakoras,

smiling and chatting away. It felt good to see that people could find joy in the rains in the most natural and simple way. All this musing also brought back a flood of memories. I was reminded of my own childhood - jumping in puddles, making paper boats, getting soaked to the skin when that first downpour hit, never worrying that it would make me sick.

Growing up hasn't changed how rain makes me feel. I end up listening to old songs, or picking up a favourite book while the rain taps gently on the windows. These days, unfortunately, rain is mostly associated with traffic jams and waterlogged streets. Ironically, we ask for rain on hot, dry days, but once it pours a little too much, we start wishing it away. While the inconvenience is a reality, let's not forget the other side - the joy, the nostalgia, and the calm rains bring. I feel children today are missing out on the freedom and small pleasures that a rainy day offers. Maybe it's time we let them step outside and discover the simple magic of the pitter-patter.

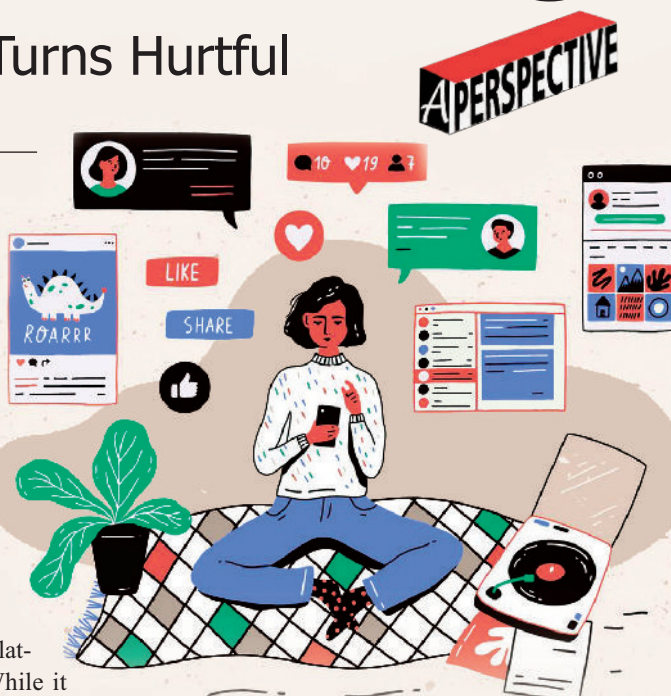
Voicing or vilifying?

When Social Media Turns Hurtful

Naisha Abbey, AIS Noida, Alumna

From the moment a message is posted online, it gains the power to amplify, uplift or destroy. Social media, envisioned as a digital agora where ideas and thoughts mingled freely, now increasingly resembles a volatile amphitheatre. Here, powerful synergies meet brutal contradictions: it elevates marginalised voices, yet gives rise to mobs that drown them out. In theory, social media allows activists, victims, and everyday individuals to speak without reservation. In reality, however, it reflects deeper societal fractures amplifying misogyny, harassment, and targeted abuse under the guise of anonymity and 'free speech.' The problem isn't with the way social media platforms are designed, but the way we use it. While it offers space for victims to speak and ostracised communities to find solidarity, it has also become a ruthless battlefield where outdated ideas are propagated, hate speech runs rampant, and digital mobs wreak havoc. One clear example is the struggle for gender equality. And despite calls for change, and trending hashtags, online harassment has only intensified; especially targeting women, who have already endured centuries of marginalisation. This shows how the patriarchal machine continues to dominate online spaces as well, revealing that even technological progress can't erase the social bias that has become so ingrained into society. The contest between the progressive and the old-school factions is in full force on platforms like X and Facebook, and they won't end anytime soon. And while it does serve its purpose of amplifying voices, there is a complex problem: a significant portion of users still cling to regressive views. This causes online uproar under the guise of debate, driven by a twisted sense of superiority and a baseless desire to 'win'.

The factor which worsens the situation is anonymity.



This cloak allows 'keyboard warriors' to hurl verbal abuse and engage in insensitive trolling through tweets. Disagreements often escalate to campaigns of hate, and users start demanding the opposing parties to be silenced or banned. But silencing others is not the solution, as it is against the very purpose of social media: to serve as a means of expression.

Moreover, unpopular opinions, too, are tiny brushstrokes in the grand painting that is democracy. Instead of putting the blame on algorithm, we need a thorough introspection. It will make us realise that free speech is not so 'free' after all. Freedom of expression comes with a cost: accountability, and the courage to listen to voices we may not always agree with.

Social media stands at a crossroad - it can continue to mirror society's worst tendencies, or be reshaped into a space where the right to speak is matched by the right to be safe. For it's not social media that is broken, but a precious (now rare) human quality - empathy.

(Naisha is doing BBA.LLB at OP Jindal University)



Issue: Page 9, July 21, 2025

Dear Editor,

Reading the short story and poem published on page 9 of the GT edition dated July 21, 2025, was a very enjoyable experience. The story titled 'Pencil conspiracy' was nostalgic as it reminded me of all the moments when I have lost my pencils. The story highlights that things we think are important are not always what we need. I also found the poem 'Changing chalk'



GT M@il

insightful as it depicted the wide range of stories a chalk and blackboard could narrate. I look forward to reading more such stories and poems.

Aditya Gururaj & Aditi Gururaj
AGS Noida, A2

Dear Editor,

The article 'Louder than life' on page 4 of the GT edition dated July 14, 2025, was truly a fascinating read. The introduction instantly drew the readers in by showing how sound shapes our daily lives and offered a glimpse into real life scenarios and incidents. It was astonishing to learn that Krakatoa's



Issue: Page 4, July 14, 2025

eruption was heard thousands of miles away and that rocket launches can reach 200 decibels. Even nature proved impressive with howler monkeys and bulldog bats producing incredibly loud calls. The 'Did you know?' section added a playful twist by giving more information. The article was both informative and engaging.

Chehak Sharma
AIS VYC Lko, XI C



A scented journey!

From ancient royalty to modern celebrities, people have been obsessed with the power of scent for centuries. But not all perfumes are created equal. Some make a bold entrance and linger like a dramatic plot twist, while others are fleeting whispers of freshness.

Swati Negi, GT Network, helps us dive into the world of fragrances - so you'll always know exactly what you're spritzing!

Eau de Toilette (EDT)

Fragrance oil content: 5-15%

Lasting time: 4-6 hours

Notable features: Often lighter and more vibrant than EDP, making it a versatile choice for daytime use and warmer climates.

Most expensive: Les Larmes Sacrées de Thebes by Baccarat, 6,800 USD per ounce.

Most popular: Dior Sauvage EDT - a worldwide bestseller, features notes of bergamot, pepper, and amberwood, ideal for everyday wear.



Eau de Cologne

Fragrance oil content: 2-5%

Lasting time: 2-4 hours

Notable features: Known for its refreshing and invigorating citrus-heavy composition, traditionally applied after shaving or as a quick burst of freshness.

Most expensive: 4711 Acqua Colonia Intense, a premium cologne that is priced around 150 USD for a five-ounce bottle.

Most popular: 4711 Original Eau de Cologne - a timeless citrus-based classic popular worldwide.



Perfume Oil

Fragrance oil content: 10-20%

Lasting time: 8-12 hours

Notable features: Alcohol-free, highly concentrated, and applied directly to pulse points for a more intimate and long-lasting fragrance experience.

Most expensive: Shumukh by Nabeel - priced at 1.29 million USD, its crystal bottle is adorned with 3,571 gems, topazes, giant pearls, more than five kgs of pure silver and two kgs of 18 carat gold, making it one of the world's most opulent fragrances.

Most popular: Oud Hindi Attar, known for its deep, woody, and luxurious scent.



Parfum

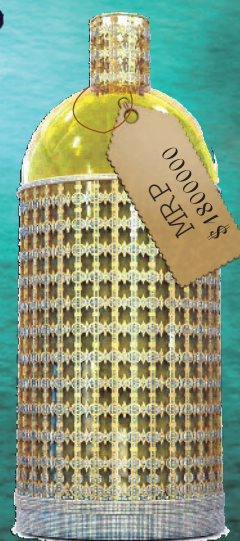
Fragrance oil content: 20-40%

Lasting time: Up to 12+ hours

Notable features: The most concentrated fragrance type, offering a dense, rich scent with strong sillage that lingers for hours. Ideal for special occasions and evening wear.

Most expensive: Le Monde sur Mesure, created by Morreale Paris, is priced at approximately around 1.8 million USD.

Most popular: Chanel No. 5 - an iconic fragrance, famously worn by Marilyn Monroe, featuring aldehydes and floral notes.



Eau de Parfum (EDP)

Fragrance oil content: 15-20%

Lasting time: Up to 10 hours

Notable features: Offers an excellent balance of longevity and projection. It is the most popular fragrance type in the industry, widely used for both day and night.

Most expensive: Clive Christian No 1 Imperial Majesty - priced at 12,721 USD per ounce, it is one of the most expensive EDPs.

Most popular: Maison Francis Kurkdjian Baccarat Rouge 540 Eau De Parfum - this fragrance is celebrated for its luxurious blend of jasmine, saffron, cedar, and amberwood.



Eau Fraîche

Fragrance oil content: 1-3%

Lasting time: 1-3 hours

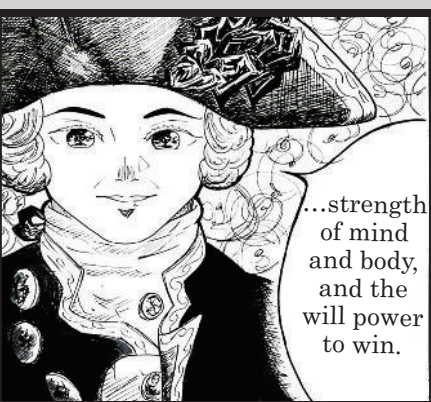
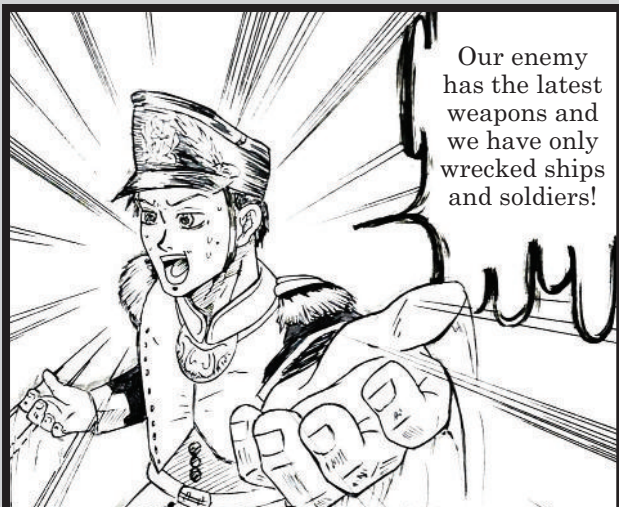
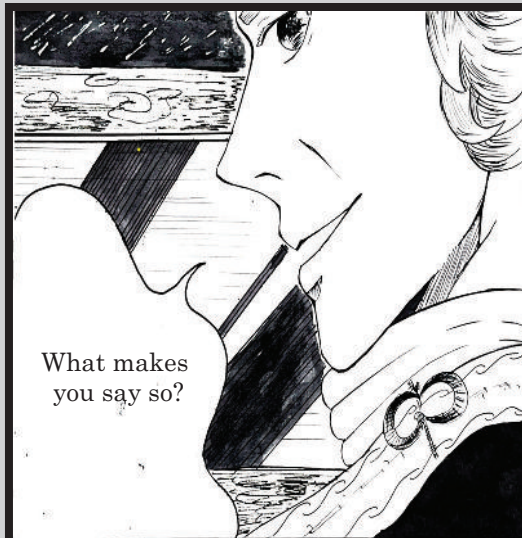
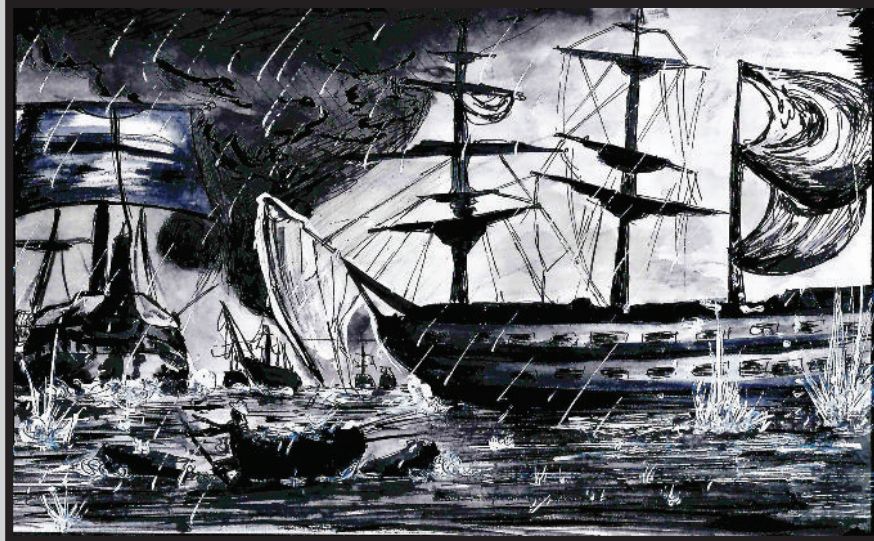
Notable features: Perfect for hot weather or post-workout freshness, providing a subtle, clean scent without overwhelming intensity.

Most expensive: Chanel Chance Eau Fraîche - priced at approximately 170 USD for a five-ounce bottle.

Most popular: Versace Man Eau Fraîche - a popular aquatic fragrance known for its fresh and crisp composition.



Inspired by the timeless tales shared by **Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan**, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, GT presents **part VII** of a vibrant comic strip series, crafted by **Arnav Verma, XI A & Shivansh Biswas, X B, AIS VKC Lucknow**



This comic is based on a real life incident involving Admiral Lord Nelson and his captain at the Strait of Gibraltar, where the Battle of Trafalgar was fought. His army went on to win the war.

WORDS VERSE

Nightmares in fantasies



Ragini Singhal, AIS Gur 43, XII S

From cerulean oceans to expansive skies
With beating hearts and muffled cries
She was like wildflowers in the rain
Some magic, chaos, and some pain
She was the kindest, her heart unbound
An unfinished melody, never found

Her hair was woven out of strands of fire
With anger in her veins, her pleas were dire
With her eyes she lied, with her smile she cried
The flame in her, slowly flickered and died
Her mind wobbles, with unreasonable questions
And along with that, there are suggestions

As she propped up at dawn
The quiet came before the storm
And in that moment, something snapped
Saw what mattered the most as it collapsed
She closed her eyes and pulled the thread
And quietly watched, with words unsaid

The world she'd built for herself
No torn letters, no burning shelves
The picture-perfect fantasy
No lines to step over cautiously
She brings her knees up to her chest
And hopes to change what she detests

The world that existed in her mind
With smiles of joy; no one left behind
But her efforts were in vain
As she took the longer lane
She thought she'd be different
But it was the same, cent percent

She could not tell when
For she didn't know it then
Her darkness will be replaced
With light and choral praise
Where people would stay for days
And when her smile never frays

It is however, as they all say
Every great story has a day
When the last page finally turns
And the pages shut and burn
What remains is the journey one took alone
Haunted by the wonder of what lurks unknown

A stroke of magic



Short story

Mohammad Ali Jamee Saeed Khan, AIS VYC Lko, X B

Many people wish to turn their dreams into a reality. So did Dan Huxleigh, a 25-year-old artist who lived in the quiet town of Middlesbrough. Passionate about art, he spent hours lost in the paintings he created. His one wish was to go and live in one of his fantasy creations. And not as any ordinary citizen, but as the king of his painted world. Determined to make this dream real, Dan spent months researching ancient techniques and mind-training rituals. His journey took him across the globe, learning from monks in China, India, and Nepal. After three gruelling

years, he mastered an ancient method once used by Greek soldiers to escape reality through dreams. It was called Inyaniso. And finally the night arrived, Dan lay down, closed his eyes, and slipped into the fantasy world. And it was everything he'd imagined. The skies shimmered with hues only he could have painted. The people adored him and with his loyal army, Dan explored the magical kingdom. But after a day or two, he realised that he hadn't witnessed the real world. It seemed time moved slower in dreams. Twelve hours were equivalent to 10 days in the real world. He had gone into a comatose state. Dan explored every corner of his world except the Nether, the

His one wish was to go and live in one of his fantasy creations. And not as an ordinary citizen, but as the king of his painted world.

place of his worst fears and best memories. He was convinced that the only way to escape was through Nether. Mustering all the courage he had, Dan entered Nether, where his nightmares were running amok, but with the help of army, he was able to ward them off and move forward.

Just then, he came upon his favourite memory where he saw his mother and a 5-year-old version of himself at a market stall buying his first paintbrush. But when his younger self reached out for the paintbrush, Dan stopped him and replaced it with a Harry Potter book. The world around him began to crack and crumble. Suddenly, he was in Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Dan went straight to Dumbledore and explained his situation. Dumbledore agreed to help and sent Dan back to reality with the help of a magical locket. Dan never returned to his fantasy world ever again. But he kept the locket close, just in case he ever wanted the taste of magic again. 🧙‍♂️

So, what did you learn today?
A new word: Amok
Meaning: behave uncontrollably and disruptively



Aarvi

Chocolate cookie shake

Aarvi Choudhary, AIS Saket, III A

Ingredients

Oreo cookies	8	Whipped cream	1 small cup
Milk	1/2 cup	Chocolate syrup.....	to garnish
Vanilla ice cream	2 cups	Chocolate chips.....	to garnish
Vanilla extract.....	1 tsp		

Procedure

- Take a tall glass, drizzle chocolate syrup along the inside of the glass. Refrigerate the glass for 10 minutes.
- In a blender, combine oreo cookies, vanilla ice cream, milk and vanilla extract. Blend them until smooth.
- Pour the prepared shake into the chilled glass. Top it with whipped cream, drizzle chocolate syrup and some chocolate chips.
- Serve the yummy chocolate cookie shake with a straw and a big smile to savour it.

Painting Corner

Sia Gautam
 AIS Noida, V C



It's Me

KNOW ME

My name: Bhargavi Singh Vishan
My Class: LKG A
My school: AIS Vasundhara 6
My birthday: May 10

MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Ashaa Jhunjunwala
Subject: Art
Friend: Rudrakshi Singh
Game: Ludo
Cartoon: Masha and the Bear
Food: Idli and dosa
Book: Colouring books

MY DREAMS AND GOALS

My role model: My father
I want to become: A doctor
I want to feature in GT because: I want to be famous.

Riddle Fiddle

Agastya Batra

Amiown Noida, UKG

- What's something that is yours but your family and friends use more than you?
- If you cut me in half, I'm nothing. If you tip me on my side, I am forever. What am I?

Answers: 1. Your name
 2. The number 8

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 Mayur Vihar for the prompt...



While this bold move may kickstart an electoral revolution, it also holds the possibility of failure. Giving students who haven't even graduated high school, a say in the country's future seems concerning. This decision hopes to improve youth engagement, political literacy, and trust in democracy. Since students will hold a significant share in the vote bank their demands and needs will not go unnoticed. Whether it ages like milk or fine wine, this decision will be remembered as a significant step in the evolution of human rights.

Homansh Mehta, AIS MV, XI A

The UK government has announced that the voting age will be reduced to 16 for all elections beginning with the next general election. How will it reshape civic engagement, political discourse, and democratic governance in the UK?

The prompt

BOX



Lowering the voting age may seem gratuitous to some, but isn't it condescending to assume that all teenagers are incapable of forming opinions of their own? Since the advent of social media, are kids less aware than adults? After this, schools and colleges full of youth could turn into sacred spaces for debate and intricate discussions leading to more awareness. The youth can change political discourse with their fresh perspectives and creativity. This would lead to more informed decisions in the long run. The passions of young minds could bring a salubrious change to politics in the UK, encouraging other countries to also contemplate this law.

Shrishti Narayanan, AIS MV, IX D

The mind of most 16-year-olds may not be as mature as those of adults – but by this time most teenagers develop analytical skills needed to examine issues critically. It will lead to increased participation, but teenage minds can be easily influenced, and for some Instagram trends are more important than politics. They face many complicated changes in their appearance as well as their academic stress, which may impact their vote – or lead them to not vote at all. This is sure to bring chaos as there will be increase in political parties and demonstrations in public.

Kanav Gupta, AIS MV, XI A



It's a big shift that could seriously change how politics works in the UK. Now, schools may focus more on political education, and overall civic engagement will increase. Climate change, mental health, and education might get more attention as parties start paying a closer look at what young voters care about. Some might question whether 16-year-olds are ready or not but giving them a say is a step towards a forward-looking democracy — one that reflects the future it's meant to serve.

Samridhi Jain, AIS MV, XI B



When executing such changes, the political authority needs to remain firm and sure. The democratic bodies maintain the legislative functions, ensuring that each step is in order and absolute. It is to no one's surprise that this would determine the function and future of every country, not just the UK. Engaging academically burdened students that are also 16 years-old is a bold decision. The decision could be a double-edged sword, one that allows more of the country's population to participate and present their ideals of righteousness but it comes with including a demographic that might not fit in the role of preferred voters. This could lead to disturbed legislatures and rough seas for the administration of the UK. In my opinion, this is a mix of inclusivity and ideal governance done incorrectly.

Shaurya Gupta, AIS MV, IX D

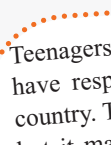
In my opinion, involving younger teenagers in the voting system is a revolutionary step in UK's democratic landscape. Younger generations are filled with higher levels of enthusiasm and determination for a good change and rebellion, are more likely to explore alternative options as they are less obstinate in their loyalty to certain political groups. Further, due to the growth of domestic and international political awareness through their active use of social media, the youth voting brackets are more likely to push for political agendas in favour of global co-operation. It will allow these developing individuals to feel the value of their voices. Encouraging political participation from an early age would pave the way to a population that is more politically aware and vocal.

Eshal Ahmad, AIS MV, XI C



This change may interfere with controversies regarding political maturity and engagement at a very young age. Teens may not cast their vote to righteous leaders if they get influenced by certain political parties or their friends. Their preferred choices may lead to power landing in the wrong hands. They'll be influenced to vote for the popular leaders instead of the genuine ones who will take actions regarding issues. Sixteen years is too young for a person to comprehend political scenarios in the right manner.

C. Chetna, AIS MV, IX A



Teenagers, who aren't self-dependent shouldn't have responsibilities to shape the future of a country. Their civic contributions will be valued but it may drag the country down. This challenges traditional political strategies, forcing parties to engage with the youth. Moreover, this young generation lacks experience to make informed decision. While it has the potential to energize democracy, the challenge will lie in ensuring that they are equipped with knowledge and critical thinking skills to navigate extremely complex issues.

Nandana Singh, AIS MV, IX A



UK's decision to lower the voting age is revolutionary as well as thought-provoking because it gives them the ability to influence policies in future on social justice, education, climate change and many more things. This could lead to a new wave of civic engagement. Political campaigns will also change; parties will need to speak directly, utilizing the social media platforms and focusing on undermined issues. Low youth voter turnout may limit the influence unless campaigns truly engage them, and some people doubt their maturity to make wise decisions. Furthermore, if they're not careful, false information on the internet could influence them. Still, this change could shake up voting patterns and push political conversations in a fresh direction.

Sanvi Marwaha, AIS MV, XII A



If the younger age choose and decipher their own leader, that could be very crucial and beneficial in the near future. British people would attain political intellect and mental maturity a bit earlier than other people around the world. This decision would bring improvements in various important fields by involving AI courses. With this move, there would be an increase in voters in the country which would result in a broad and mix range of opinions and better competition among the participating competitors or parties. However, many other individuals would disagree upon this but reducing the age by just 2 years won't pay off in a negative phase for the country.

Anmol Patni, AIS MV, IX D

Empowering educators

PDP Updates Teachers With Latest Innovations, Promotes Collaborative Teaching

HR & Training Department

The eighth edition of the annual Professional Development Programme (PDP) was organised by the HR & Training Department under the visionary leadership of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF. The programme, synced with NEP 2020 guidelines, was designed to enhance teachers' skills, and update them with latest innovations. It was held from May 19-21, 2025 for primary and middle school teachers, and May 22-23, 2025 for secondary and senior school teachers, in hybrid mode.

The programme included 161 sessions in which 450 teachers from all branches of Amity Group of Schools were mentored by 232 internal resource persons (including Amity International Schools' teachers, ACERT, AICE, AKC House) and 26 external resource persons. A new feature of this year's PDP was collaborative teaching and resource sharing in all subjects across all classes. It was aimed at creating a collaborative resource pool through which teachers can help each other enrich their lessons and resources on a specific topic.

During the entire programme, experienced resource persons from diverse fields ap-



Teachers at one of the PDP sessions

prised educators on the new pedagogy, technology integration, CBQs, CUET, art integration, language skills, latest research, methodologies, and best practices in their subject. They also empowered them with a wide range of instructional strategies, teaching techniques, classroom management approaches, effective student engagement, differential and experiential learning methods, assessment methods, and reflec-

tive practices. Some of the key sessions held were: AI in Class XI and XII, AI with data mining tool, storytelling through visual art practices, art integration in mathematics etc. Sessions were also held on strategies to support students with special needs and students from diverse cultural backgrounds to promote inclusive practices and equitable learning opportunities. Apart from these, educators were also guided on the need for

communication skills, power of yoga, meditation, and positive thinking.

Addressing the educators on May 21, 2025 Chairperson motivated teachers to learn and upgrade their teaching skills while asserting the importance of health and fitness for educators, emphasising that happy teachers make happy students. She also felicitated the winners of Teachers' Day essay competition 2023 on the occasion. [GFI](#)



Chairperson addresses the educators

A celebration of values

AIS Gurugram 43

The primary wing of the school celebrated its 18th annual day, titled 'Mulyadhara – Based on Indian Values (Gandhiji)', on April 8, 2025. The occasion was graced (virtually) by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, while chief guest Ravindra Kumar

Tyagi, chairman and managing director, Power Grid Corporation of India, enriched the event with his presence along with guest of honour Shashank Jaiswal, deputy commissioner of police, Delhi Traffic Police and dignitaries from Amity Group of Schools. The event began with lamp lighting, followed by a vibrant song. The cultural performances by primary wing students, included tra-

ditional dances, plays, and music, highlighting Gandhiji's life and values, his principles and teachings. They conveyed powerful Gandhian messages about social responsibility, truth, non-violence, and being mindful of our actions. The occasion also witnessed felicitation of six students who excelled in academics, sports, and co-curricular activities during the academic year 2024-25.



A vibrant rhythmic ode to the vision and values of Gandhiji by the students



Maestro Kavita Dwivedi demonstrates basics of Odissi dance

An Odissi recital

AIS Gurugram 46

The school hosted a mesmerising Odissi performance by maestro Kavita Dwivedi on May 8, 2025, under the aegis of SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth). She was accompanied by Prashant Mangaraj on the mardal, Suresh Sethi on vocals, and Nikhil Kumar on the flute. The event began with lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by

an enchanting performance interwoven with engaging dialogues to help students understand the graceful footwork and expressive eye movements characteristic of Odissi. It culminated in an interactive Q&A session, where the artists shared insights into the history, cultural significance, and nuanced beauty of the classical dance form.

School Principal Arti Chopra presented all the artists with mementos, honouring their contributions to Indian culture and heritage. [GFI](#)



Lingua fiesta

Where Accents Meet To Converse And Collide

Saamya Arora
AIS Saket, Alumna

The room was bustling with an array of aspirants for the decade's coveted conference headed by linguist and polyglot, Miss All Inclusive. All enthusiastic members, Mr Elite Englishman, Ms Amerigalo, Mr Aussiebloke, and Mr Indenglish Patel gave her a modulating welcome. After that, the floor was open for a debate.

Elite Englishman: Greetings from London! It's an absolute delight to enjoy your company today, Miss All Inclusive. (She smiled and began to speak only to be interrupted)

Amerigalo: Howdy, ma'am? Could we directly talk business rather than mere pleasantries? (She said, chewing on a straw.)

Miss All Inclusive: Definitely! It's music to my ears that not much has developed in any of your English 'slang' vocabularies, except for the Americans.

Aussiebloke: That's ace, ain't it now, mates? Hey, fella, pass the biscuits. I didn't get any brekkie.

With No Malice

Amerigalo: It's cookies!

Elite Englishman: That terminology doesn't rock my boat. Dear God! These words are an abomination.

Amerigalo: That's a bummer, innit now? I believe your bo'oh'ow a'er isn't even a real word.

Aussiebloke: I reckon that's right! But you call a living space, a 'flat' instead of an apartment.

Amerigalo: Yeah, as it should be! At least I don't call kangaroos a bouncy mouse!

Elite Englishman: Blimey, pal! This is turning out to be a show I'd watch on any Chewsdays!

Amerigalo and Aussiebloke: It's Tuesday!

Elite Englishman: Same way it's 'vaaz' not 'vays', and 'day-ta' not 'daa-ta', but you choose to ruin it!

Amerigalo: That's 'cause we have a larger English speaking 'paa-pyu-lay-shn' than you so-called creators of English!

Miss All Inclusive: Silence! (Her calls were in vain until the debate saw a riveting turn.)

Indenglish Patel: Everybody, quiet! I belong to India, and I may not have an English degree from Oxford, but your English language has 'kuhn-fyoozd' us.

Elite Englishman: That is mental, bruv.

Indenglish Patel: Yes! You fight over words we don't even use. We say 'ladyfinger' instead of 'okra', and we invented 'prepone', but, hey, we convey what we want.

Miss All Inclusive: True, we may speak the same language, but in practice, all Anglophone countries have their linguistic nuances, and we should all talk in harmony. I believe that's fine?

Indenglish Patel (monotonously): Ok.

Elite Englishman: Oh yes!

Aussiebloke: That's bonza.

Amerigalo: Dunzo!

Miss All Inclusive: Indenglish Patel, nice save there! Fancy some sweets, candies, or lollies to mark this victorious session?

Indenglish Patel: I'm alright with my toffees!

(Saamya is currently pursuing BA LLB (Hons) from Symbiosis Law School, Pune.)

Album Review

Snapshots of life

Album: x (Deluxe Edition)

Artist: Ed Sheeran

Released on: June 20, 2014

Genre: Pop, Folk-pop, Soul



Synopsis: Ed Sheeran's confessional and vulnerable album has lyrics that reads like pages from a personal diary. 'x', also known as 'Multiply', is a beautifully messy snapshot revolving around different themes, from youth and nostalgia to mortality and inner resilience. It is a coming-of-age album wrapped in melody. It is about grieving, holding on, letting go, and finding strength through self-discovery. From the honest simplicity of acoustic ballads to genre-blending tracks with hip-hop and soul influences, the emotions and lyrics 'x' carries are just as rich as its musical diversity.

Why is it worth listening to: 'x' is a carefully curated collection of songs that balances storytelling with experimentation. The lyrics are raw and honest. Whether it is the aching grief of losing a grandparent in 'Afire

Love', or the enveloping nostalgia in 'Photograph', each track is full of emotional depth. If you're someone who loves music that lingers long after it ends or if you appreciate stories woven through melody and lyrics, this album is worth diving into.

My favourite song: 'One' is a beautiful expression of quiet yearning. The bittersweet ballad captures the delicate hope of love returning. Stripped down, the acoustic arrangement highlights Sheeran's vocals and guitar work.

Rating: 4.5/5

Review by: Bhaavya Asthana
VKC Lko, XI A

GT Travels to Singapore



Samaira Lalwani, AIS PV, VI D, poses with her copy of The Global Times in front of the Night Safari, Mandai, Singapore. Night Safari is the first nocturnal zoo in the world. Currently housing over 900 animals, the Night Safari is an abode for over 100 species, 41% of which are threatened species.

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