



**Winner
AIS Noida**



**Winner
AIS PV**

Social impact retold...

**YOUTH
POWER
2025-26**

...By A New Generation Of Bold Changemakers Unwilling To Be Sidelined

Bhawna Tuteja, GT Network

Seventeen years on, Youth Power is no longer just a programme you participate in; it's a force you step into. And this year Amity's flagship leadership programme, didn't just return. It redefined its own scale.

The journey

It started, as all powerful things do, with intent. Twelve teams. Twelve Amity International Schools. Each team adopted a cause, but more importantly, they adopted responsibility. What followed was not a checklist of activities, but a year-long immersion into real-world change. Awareness campaigns moved beyond classrooms. Stakeholders became collaborators. Fundraisers became stories of impact.

The finale

Months of groundwork quietly built momentum. Then came the moment where everything converged – Youth Power 2025-26 Grand Finale. Hosted at Amity University on April 29, the event was a spectacle to behold. Over 500 students filled the auditorium, their energy un-

mistakable, their anticipation palpable. Among them stood the constant pillar of Youth Power - Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, whose belief in youth-led change continues to shape this platform year after year. She was joined by Ms Pooja Chauhan, Vice Chairperson, Amity Humanity Foundation; Ms Divya Chauhan, Chairperson, ASFT, ASFA & ASPA; Ms Mehtab Chauhan, Head, Digital communications, and other dignitaries. The presence of IAS officer Dr Rashmi Singh, a changemaker herself, as the event's chief guest reinforced the real-world relevance of the causes being championed.

The stage

What unfolded next was not a competition, it was expression at its most powerful. Each of the teams brought their journey alive through forms that transcended traditional presentation; slam poetry echoed urgency, mime spoke louder than words, *qawwali* stirred emotions, and shadow acts left lasting impressions. Jury Arti Srivastava and Manisha Ahlawat quizzed the teams in a rigorous Q&A, pushing them to go beyond rehearsed answers, reveal-

ing the resilience behind every initiative. 'Taking CenterStage' now had an all-new meaning.

The outcome

And then, recognition followed impact. AIS Noida and AIS Pushp Vihar emerged as champions. AIS Vasundhara 1 secured the first runner-up position, while AIS Gurugram 43 and AIS Saket were declared second runners-up. AIS Gurugram 46 received the Jury Special Mention Award. Additional accolades celebrated excellence across categories such as Best Presentation, Best Creative Communication etc. Impact now had an all new dimension.

The aftermath

Moved by the journeys she witnessed, Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan reflected on the power of persistence, reiterating "lekho se dark e nauka par nahi hoti, koshish karne walo ki kabhi har nahi hoti." Perhaps that was the real takeaway. As the lights dimmed and the stage emptied, what remained was not just a successful finale, but a generation more aware, more responsible, and far more determined. Youth Power doesn't conclude. It carries forward... always evolving. **GT**

“ YP is a beautiful journey... from social responsibility to social responsiveness. ”

**Chief Guest
Dr Rashmi Singh**
Secretary, Dept of Women & Child Development, Government of NCT of Delhi, Chairperson of the Delhi Commission for Women, & Chairperson of Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

Jury Members

Aarti Srivastava
Professor and head of Department of Higher and Professional Education, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA)

Manisha Ahlawat
Founder of 'School of Nature' Member of UP State Women's Commission, Founder-partner at Kunzum Bookstores

THE GT POLL

Delhi's Urban Heat Island effect is on the rise. Which 2026 government action plan would best manage the risks?

- State Heat Action Plans
- Plans for heat-related illnesses
- Rescheduling of work hours

To vote, checkout our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next
Too pretty to be true

School	Youth Power Cause
AIS Noida	Autism
AIS PV	Financial literacy
AIS Vas 6	Mindful plantation
AIS Vas 1	Fighting insomnia
AIS Jagdishpur	Air pollution
AIS VVC Lko	Hyper consumerism
AIS Saket	Vitiligo
AIS Gur 46	Eco-friendly celebrations
AIS MV	PCOS/PCOD
AIS Gur 43	Reducing caffeine intake
AIS VKC Lko	Save energy
AIS Gwalior	First aid

What's inside

Owl' be watching
Super-creatures don't just exist in films; they also live amongst us. Let's swoop in to learn about owls' extraordinary vision. **...more on page 4**

And the award goes to
Relive the electrifying energy felt at the YP Grand Finale 2025-26 as spotlight falls on the new league of reformers. **...more on pages 6-7**

POLL RESULT
for GT Edition April 27, 2026

China is using robot dogs and attack drones in military training to cut human combatant loss. How will this change urban warfare?

Results as on May 1, 2026

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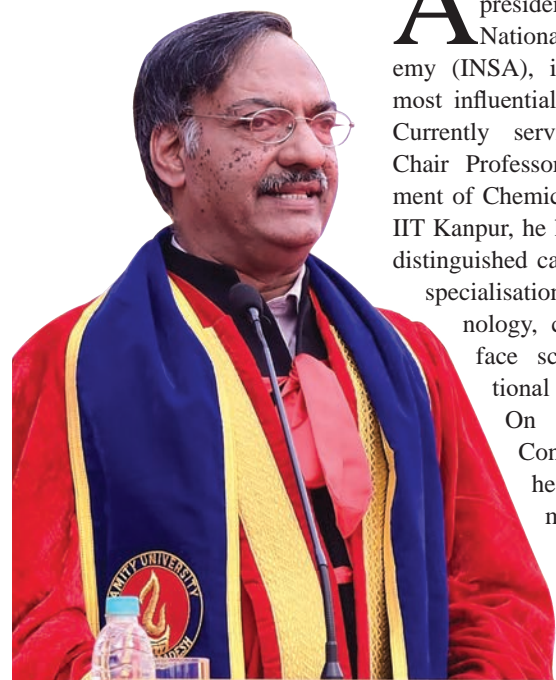
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Thinking ahead of time

Ashutosh Sharma: The Man Who Laid The Foundation For India's Mission On AI

INTERVIEW

Naisha Parnandy & Saanvi Pruthi, AIS Noida, XII I



Dr Ashutosh Sharma, former president INSA

Ashutosh Sharma, former president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), is one of India's most influential scientific minds. Currently serving as Institute Chair Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Kanpur, he has to his credit a distinguished career that includes specialisation in nanotechnology, colloid and interface science and functional nanomaterials.

On the occasion of Convocation 2025, he shared his remarkable journey with GT reporters. Read on as he tells GT all about it.



Dr Ashutosh Sharma with GT reporters

Enduring philosophy

My original plan was to study philosophy and not engineering. To pursue that interest, I enrolled at Rajasthan University. But around the same time, the IIT Joint Entrance Exam came along, and everyone was of the opinion that studying philosophy would lead only to a teaching job, while engineering promised a better-paying and more secure future. So I went ahead and gave JEE exam. Ironically, I became a teacher anyway, even after going to IIT Kanpur. For me, it never really mattered what I studied, for I always knew I wanted a life of intellectual pursuit, not a bureaucratic position.

Decoding AI

When I was Secretary in the Department of Science and Technology about eight years ago, I found myself witnessing the advent of artificial intelligence. AI, at the time, was still widely unheard of, but I knew we had to wake up to its dangers at the right time. I advocated for a national mission on AI long before the term entered everyday vocabulary. Today, India's National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems - an investment of nearly 4,000 crore INR - has been operational for over five years, establishing foundational research hubs across universities. The future of AI lies in convergence of areas like communication, computing, auto-

nous decision-making, and autonomous action through machines and algorithms.

Importance of choice

There is a powerful parallel between AI and the first Industrial Revolution when machines took over physical production. AI will do the same for the human mind. Even creative products - art, literature, education, scientific research - will increasingly be produced by machines. AI will transform nearly everything, so the deeper question is - what will be the role of humans fifty years from now? In my opinion, while production is becoming increasingly automated, humans remain as the final consumers. Hence, there will be a profound shift in how society defines purpose and value. Eventually, it will all come down to the choices one makes in life.

Message for Amitians

Take ownership of your life. Make your own decisions, learn to live with their consequences, and avoid blaming others. Success is shaped by circumstances, collaborations, and support, while failure is deeply personal. Above all, avoid stereotypes. Deal with people, not images... and you'll be happier. **GT**

Book Review

From text to emotions

Book: Wonder
Author: R. J. Palacio
Published in: Feb 14, 2012
Genre: Contemporary fiction

Synopsis: Wonder, written by R. J. Palacio, reaches the depth of the reader's heart, leaving an imprint in the form of a question: "How would I react if a student who had a visible physical deformity like Auggie (August Pullman) came to my school?" The story can have different reviews because emotion is not defined; the reader may see Auggie like his classmates Jake or Summer do, some with initial

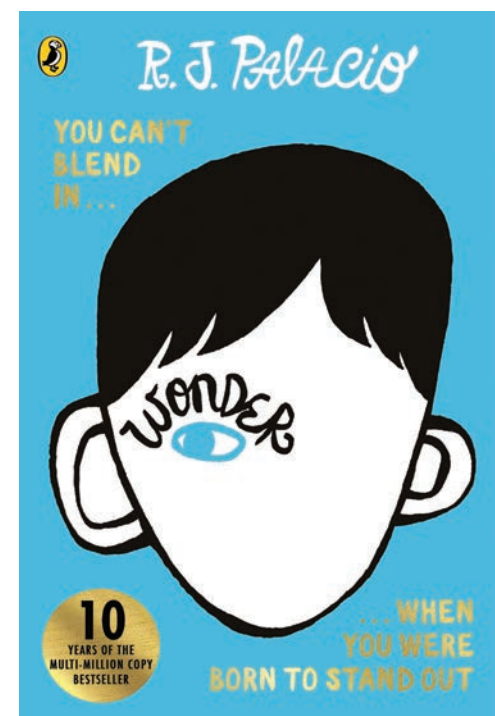
reluctance and others with immediate compassion. Jack Will is one of the three students tasked by Principal Tushman to welcome Auggie alongside Charlotte and Julian. Auggie's character imparts insights to the readers as well, for he is a boy who has physical differences but he too, longs for a true friend who would support him even in the toughest of situations and accompany him not out of pity but because of his pure heart. The plot also features Auggie's resilience, antagonists shaped by familial biases, and friends with redemption arcs and deeper loyalties; making this book a trove of profound empathy.

Why is it worth reading: Wonder is a story which creates a realistic modern school environment and also presents the personal motivations of each child. The story is also relevant to the lives of many students, who feel prejudiced and go through the challenges of social interactions, especially those facing special challenges. Wonder stands out because it is backed by the author's real-life encounter; its gripping plot truly makes it a crackling page-turner.

Iconic quote: "It's not enough to be friendly. You've to be a friend."

Rating: 5/5

Review by: Ananshi Maheshwari, AIS Gur 46, IX I



Be-Baby



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QR code for the Be-Baby App

Inside the Box

3 smart sensory patches

Your Baby's Mood Decoder

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

Shaurya Sharma, AIS PV, VIII E

Owl' be watching

An Eye-Opener To Bird-Of-Prey's Night Vision

Super-creatures don't just exist in the movies; they live amongst us as well. One such mortal is the 'king of the night sky', a.k.a. the owl. Here's a question for you - what is the first thing that you



notice about owls? Surely, their large, tennis ball-sized eyes. They're no ordinary eyes; they are literal binoculars. So, let's swoop in to find out how these nocturnal birds use their extraordinary vision to catch prey in the dead of the night.

270° telescopic view

Unlike our spherical eyes, owls possess tube-shaped, elongated eyes that are held rigidly by bony structures called sclerotic rings. The tubular form allows the eyes to act like a telephoto magnifying lens, which helps them to zoom in on far-away objects - apex predator physiology! These eyes are fixed in their sockets to maximise light gathering for night vision, forcing owls to turn their heads up to 270° to view their surroundings. It is strictly an exorcist-style display of flexibility and maybe a bit flex. Humans too have binocular vision, but owls compete in

an extremely narrow field - an asset to lock-in on scrumptious gourmet meals like mice, but terrible if you are trying to find keys.

Tri-threat shield

Owls are the ultimate stealth hunters; they possess in-built gadgets such as three eyelids - one to sleep, one to blink, and one to protect. The sleeper eyelid closes when the owl sleeps, protecting the entire eyeball. The blinker eyelid is used for everyday blinking and to prevent dust invasion. The bottommost lid, called the nictitating membrane, sweeps horizontally like a windshield wiper and works like transparent goggles when the owl is nosediving on its meal, shielding them from dust and debris. With a 'visionary' device like this, there's a high probability that Batman might consider turning into an Owlman!

High-tech scotopic lens

Owl eyes are nature's night-vision goggles. Their retinas are packed with rod cells and

contain fewer cone cells, which may prevent them from seeing colours very well but are exceptional for detecting movement in dim light. With eyes this sharp, they wouldn't just catch their prey, they'd probably catch you sneaking snacks at midnight too. And guess what? Owls have a fascinating feature called the tapetum lucidum that give their eyes an eerie glow. The layer of tissue behind the retina imitates a biological mirror, giving incoming light a second chance to reach the photoreceptor cells.

The colour code

An owl's eye colour holds more than what first meets the eye. Dark retinas are often associated with species that prefer the graveyard shift, while orange or yellow eyes suggest activity at dawn and dusk. Hence, one can say that the eye colour reflects the owls' preferable workhour.

Did you know?

Even though it may seem like they belong at Hogwarts, it's not all magic. Owls cannot hunt in absolute darkness; they require a tiny bit of light from either the moon or the stars. And if they do find themselves in Stygian black, they switch to their other superpower - hearing. Truly a wizard!

The power to create change



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Congratulations to all the winners and participants of Youth Power for making the 17th year of the programme another meaningful chapter. Amitians have shown that change does not depend on age, but on awareness, compassion and the courage to act. Each one of you has proven that young minds can become powerful voices for causes that matter. From vitiligo to mindful plantation, autism to insomnia, first aid to financial

literacy, energy conservation to caffeine addiction, your concerns reflect deep thought and a growing sensitivity to social challenges. What makes me even more proud is that you are moving beyond conventional causes to meaningful grassroots issues, reaffirming our mission of nurturing critically aware and conscientious human beings.

School years are deeply formative. What you observe, question and imbibe during these years quietly shapes your values and decisions. It is with this belief that Youth Power was designed - not merely as a platform for presenting projects, but as a space to cultivate mindfulness, responsibility and compassion. Over the past 17 years, thousands of Amitians have worked on more than 170 issues, contributing in their own ways as agents of change. This spirit extends beyond Youth Power. Through 'Annual Days' built around themes of patriotism, peace and perseverance, Amity constantly promotes an ecosystem of holistic learning rooted in values. This helps young minds grow empathetic, and empathy gives rise to love, harmony and peace. In a world that needs humane leadership more than ever, I hope that all of you will continue to rise above the ordinary. **GT**

Impact of youth



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Last week, as your Youth Power teams proudly walked home with their coveted awards, the entire Amity family celebrated together. Amidst all the excitement, we, at GT, found ourselves taking a quiet journey down memory lane. Seventeen years ago, Chairperson ma'am envisioned nurturing a generation of young Indians - knowledgeable, empowered, yet deeply compassionate - who could help transform our nation into a true knowledge

superpower, as envisioned by our respected Founder President sir. Her focus has always been to shape individuals who rise above self-interest and serve society with empathy and purpose. This vision gave birth to YP, which began as a year-long social sensitisation programme. Today, it has evolved into a one-of-a-kind initiative fostering ethical awareness and social responsibility. It is heartening to witness how Amitians are growing into conscientious individuals, many even choosing careers in social impact. Our alumni Ananya Grover, for instance, created the Maitri app, fostering bonds of love and care between orphaned children and the elderly in old-age homes. She later went on to design an app supporting women through menopause. Such stories are not just achievements, they reflect the profound influence of YP in shaping thought and action. After all, we are shaped by what we see, hear, and experience. Equally remarkable during the YP finale are the cultural presentations, which have become deeply impactful over the years, reflecting both creativity and maturity. More power to you all! **GT**

Self-love for sale

When Capitalism Rules Personal Development

Anaya Dogra, AIS Gur 43, XII S

Once upon a time, indulgence was considered a sin. Now, it has become a shopping category. Welcome to a world where 'treating yourself' isn't just a mood, but a marketing strategy. Scroll through Instagram, listen to a self-help podcast, or stroll through your local boutique wellness store, and you'll find it everywhere. Whether it's a 40 USD crystal water bottle or a monthly subscription to meditation candles, the concept of the self has now become a profitable product category. Pleasure, which was once a fringe benefit of consumption, is now front and centre.

Capitalism has always been behind the scenes of pivotal cultural phenomena. Over the decades, regardless of the zeitgeist, one thing has remained constant - anything that can be sold will be sold. From the bulk sale of cheap-to-produce ripped jeans in the 90s, rebellious makeup in the 2000s, to vanity products that preach 'self-love' in the 2020s, the desire for big profits has set the standards into which societal norms settle. Of late, it seems companies have cracked the code to inducing over-consumption. In today's tumultuous age, it's easy to feel small in the face of the big socio-economic changes that seem to take place every day. These companies offer to relieve that burden from your shoulders and show you a lifestyle all about 'you'. Under the guise of loving yourself, crash courses, self-help books, and even skincare products are selling like hot cakes. Therapy-adjacent media, including reels about 'cutting off toxic people', red-pill podcasts, and subliminal videos, repeatedly drill



into you the narrative that you need to look out for yourself more.

It's easy to get caught up in it, especially when it's constantly being bombarded towards you at every turn you take. Even if you're not actively searching, you've probably come across commodities that preach self-indulgence anyway. It's why books like Atomic Habits have sold over 25 million copies worldwide, or influencers like 'The Wizard Liz' and Ashton Hall have millions of followers on their social media platforms. The self-improvement market, valued at 64.48 billion USD in 2025, is expected to grow to 70.22 billion USD in 2026. In fact, studies show that 59% of settlers in countries like the US have 'personal development' on their list of goals.

So, people are loving themselves, indulging themselves a little more. And why exactly is that a problem? Come to think of it, self-love as a

concept holds enough water for you to take it seriously. We have all heard how you cannot love others, until you love yourself. Studies indicate a strong relationship between self-care and mental health. Another Harvard study points that self care is a strong predictor of long term happiness.

The problem like any other good thing lies in 'overdoing'. Self-love, when real, is grounding, not indulgent. In a world where the idea is often packaged and sold back to us through trends, products, and routines, it's important to question: is this truly nurturing me, or just convincing me that it should? Genuine self-love is less about expensive fixes and more about mindful choices - rest when your body asks, boundaries when your mind feels stretched, and habits that sustain rather than spike comfort. The balance lies in being aware enough to not confuse consumption with care. **GT**

Dear Editor,

It is the journey, not the arrival that matters. And our Youth Power journey was never just a set of activities - it was an awakening against insomnia. Day by day, the shift was observed. Eyes that had once dismissed sleep began to honour it. Faces that carried exhaustion started to value rest as healing, not a mere luxury, refusing to be weighed down by stress, screens, and endless overthinking any further. Through gentle practices like Tai Chi, night suit labs, sleeping



GT M@il

sips café, and 'Cool to Snooze' sessions, Team Shubhtratri didn't just hear about sleep, they felt why it matters. They were no longer just mediators and participants in the activities, they became aware and conscious individuals who were kinder to themselves. The hardest part was never choosing a right topic. It was changing habits, rewriting the quiet choices made at midnight. But with shared stories

and relatable moments, walls came down. Acceptance grew. And real change began.

This journey reminded me that transformation does not need grand gestures. Sometimes, one small realisation - that sleep is self-respect - is enough to light the way. Youth Power is not merely a competition, but a lifelong learning experience that will remain in our hearts forever.

Sonia Rao, AIS Vasundhara 1
YP Mentor Teacher



AIS Vasundhara 1 earns the 'First Runner Up' position



AIS Saket secures the 'Second Runner Up' position



AIS Gurugram 43 captures the 'Second Runner Up' position



AIS Gurugram 46 bags the 'Jury's Special Mention' award



Best Documentation: AIS Vasundhara 1

The feats of Youth Power

The air crackled with energy and hearts swelled with pride and gratification as hard work finally met its moment of glory at the Youth Power Grand Finale 2025-26. The spotlight was turned to the next generation of leaders who spent a year shaping and laying the foundations of change, ensuring that their vision for their cause came to life.



Best Community Outreach: AIS VKC Lucknow



Best Panel Discussion: AIS Jagdishpur



Best Social Implementation: AIS Vasundhara 6



Best Fund-Raising Model: AIS VYC Lucknow



Best Mentor Teacher
Shivani Chawla Sehgal, AIS Vas 6



Best Mentor Teacher
Poorvi Rai, AIS Jagdishpur



Best Ground Survey: AIS Gwalior



Best Presentation: AIS Pushp Vihar



Best Creative Communication Act: AIS Saket



Most Impactful Answer: AIS Gurugram 46



Creativity For A Cause: AIS Gurugram 43



Most Collaborative Approach: AIS Noida



Best Awareness Movie: AIS Mayur Vihar

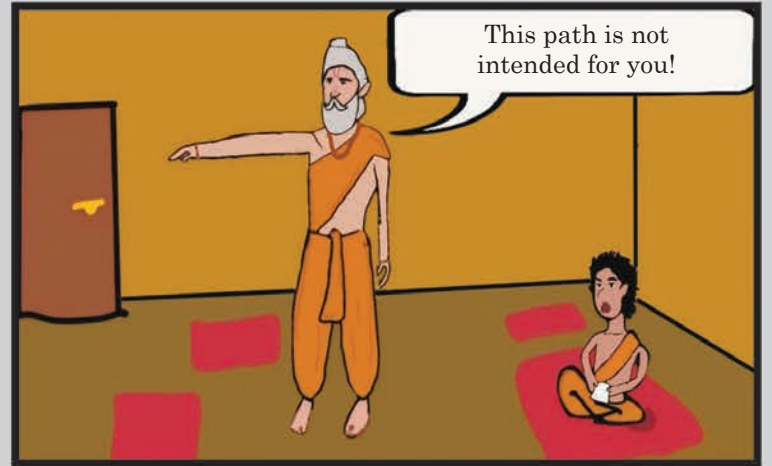
Inspired by the timeless tales shared by **Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan**, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, GT presents **part XV** of a vibrants comic strip series, crafted by **Arjun Mhapralkar**, AIS Navi Mumbai, IX C.

NEVER
SAY
QUIT

Long ago, there was a young boy named Varadraj, who struggled with studies at his *gurukul*.



This path is not intended for you!



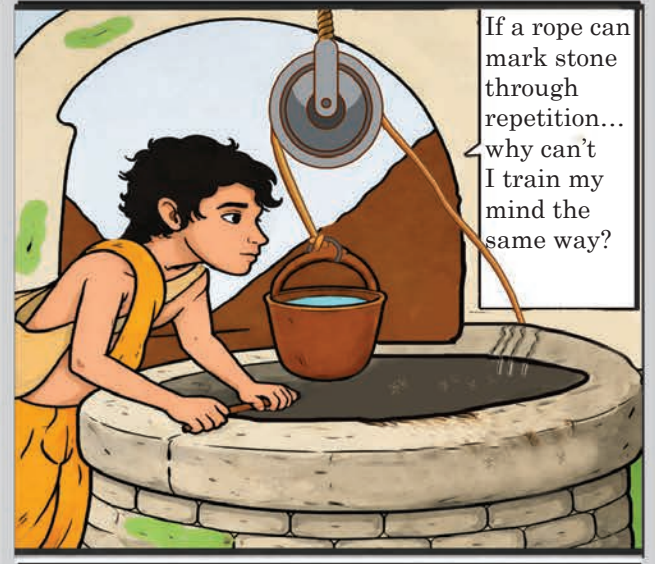
With a heavy heart, he left the *gurukul*, feeling like a failure.



What is that?



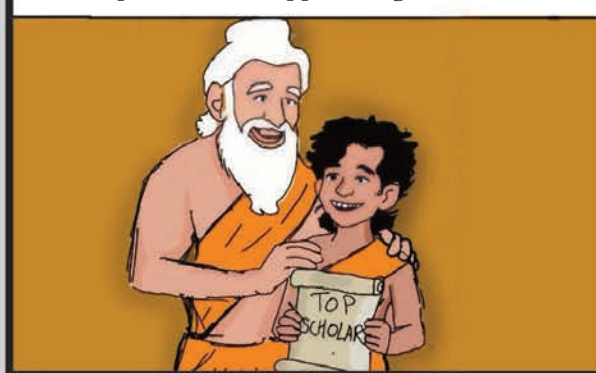
If a rope can mark stone through repetition... why can't I train my mind the same way?



Inspired, he returned to the *gurukul* in order to challenge and prove himself.



With hard work and focus, Varadraj not only passed... he topped the *gurukul*!



(This comic is inspired from the real life story of Varadraj, who wrote *Laghu Siddhanta Kaumudi* and *Mugdhabodha*, two fundamental books of Sanskrit grammar and phonetics. His works today form the basis of phonetics not only in Hindi and Sanskrit, but also in English and German.)

Apology letter from time

Grisha Gautam, AIS Noida, XII C

I apologise for not lingering or staying long
Even when you begged me to hush my song
You cupped the fragile dark in your palms
Hoping I'd stay still, offering stolen calms

I arrive quickly when you need me slow
Pushing quiet mornings into restless flow
You ask me to be gentle, I disagree
I pass through open doors you cannot see

I drag my heels when you find your pace

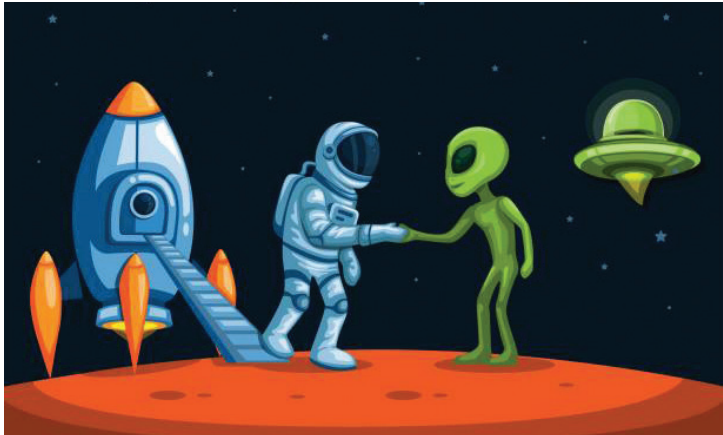
Undoing all the scenes you try to trace
You build bright hours with your hands
I let them fade like footprints on sands

When colours fold their wings at night
I dim the day before you hold it tight
Straying in shadows you can't redesign
All your breaths are borrowed from mine

For I am the pulse beneath your days
Shifting shadows, keeper of your ways
Meet me in moments you can't outrun
I am Time, the echo of all you've done. **GT**



Invisible monster's pull



Short story

Shachi Agrawal

AIS Gurugram 43, XI C

Known for his adventures and explorations, Captain Edmond, the most scatter-brained explorer of Venus was awarded 'Adventurer of the year'. He was proud, and he never felt the need to pause. His next destination was the red planet Mars.

Captain gave the take-off command, and his spaceship 'Venusian Fleet' rose from planet Venus and soared towards Mars. Midway, the spaceship wobbled and gave a terrifying jerk as if someone suddenly had grabbed it and pulled it down.

As the spaceship crash-landed, all of Captain Edmond's team members collapsed. He looked for his

respiration mask but realised he didn't need it. Just then, someone knocked on the spaceship door. Captain Edmond flung the door open only to scream at the sight of a creature with two eyes, legs, hands, and a fluffy thing on its head. The creature blinked and stood gaping for a few minutes. Suddenly, it started moving its mouth and made sounds like a duck with hiccups.

Captain Edmond stood perplexed. Taking out his speech detector device, he heard the creature ask, "What in the cosmos are you?" Captain replied, "I am a space explorer. As we were traveling towards Mars to discover its red secret, a huge invisible force pulled us towards this unknown land, and astonishingly, I'm alive without my respiration mask...?"

The creature laughed, "You have

To avoid suspicion, he wore a perfectly normal-looking human suit, though he never quite understood why it came with a tag that said, "Dry clean only."

landed on planet Earth and the pull of the invisible monster is the Earth's gravitational pull, and you are alive without your mask because Earth has an atmosphere containing oxygen, produced by plants."

Captain Edmond grinned. The 'invisible monster' wasn't scary, it was actually quite impressive. Deciding Mars could wait, he stayed back on Earth to learn more about this fascinating force called gravity.

Soon, he teamed up with a human named Newton, occasionally dropping hints (and trying not to laugh when apples fell **dramatically**). To avoid suspicion, he wore a perfectly normal-looking human suit, though he never quite understood why it came with a tag that said, "Dry clean only."

And so, while the world remembers Newton as the man who discovered gravity, somewhere behind the scenes there was Captain Edmond, an alien who quite literally fell for the planet Earth. **GT**

So, what did you learn today?
A new word: Dramatically
Meaning: In a noticeable way



It's Me

KNOW ME

My name: Anaya Bindlish
My Class: P4
My school: AGS Noida
My birthday: April 4

MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Pooja Parwal ma'am
Subject: Units of Inquiry (UOI)
Friend: Zara
Game: Crossword
Cartoon: Wolfoo
Food: Poori with aloo matar
Mall: Ambience Mall
Book: Let's eat by ourselves

MY DREAMS AND GOALS

Hobby: Art and craft
I like: Collecting shells from the beach
I dislike: Sitting in the car for a long time
My role model: My cousin Miloni
I want to become: A dancer
I want to feature in GT because: It will make me, my family, and my friends feel proud and happy.

Red Play and Win 107

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 genre of the book mentioned on page 3?	Q.2 Name the device depicted in this edition's Advision.	Q.3 Which schools emerged as the winners of Youth Power 2025-26?
Q.4 Who was awarded 'Adventurer of the year' in the short story on page 9?	Q.5 What inspired Varadraj to challenge and provide for himself in the comic on page 8?	Q.6 What was the theme of AIS Gurugram 43's annual day?
Q.7 Who was the chief guest at Youth Power 2025-2026?	Q.8 How many schools participated in Youth Power 2025-26?	Q.9 How many eyelids do owls possess?

Name: Class: School:

Result of Read Play & Win-106: **Swastik Sachan**, AIS Noida, VI H; **Aadya Gupta**, AIS Gur 46, VIII S; **Vanshika Chaturvedi**, AIS MV, VIII B

COLOURING FUN

Sketch by: Amogh Sethi, AIS MV, X C

Click a high resolution picture (1 MB or more) of the entry and mail the same to: editor@theglobaltimes.in. The best entries will be published in GT.

Best entries for colouring fun

Dated: April 27, 2026

Avika Maheshwari
 AIS Gurugram 46, V H

Chehak Katyal
 AIS Noida, UKG J

Conscious celebrations

Where Joy Meets Responsibility And Tradition Leads To A Greener Future

Youth Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion' where experts from different walks of life discuss several aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part II** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams for the year 2025-26, and a host of opinions as experts share their insights on 'Eco-friendly Celebrations', the cause chosen by YP team of AIS Gurugram 46.



Panellists share their views on sustainable celebrations

Awareness through storytelling

Panellist: Asha Vats
Founder, Keshav Farm

"Celebrations can go hand in hand with nature. At Keshav Farm, everything we do is rooted in nature. For decorations and return gifts, we never use plastic. We use cloth *potlis* and handmade flowers that can later become hair clips or decorations. We plant around five thousand trees every year and we take care of them like children. We do not just plant and walk away. We also believe in celebrating by planting. Instead of burning crackers, we connect with the earth by growing something. Our diyas are made from cow dung. Storytelling is very important for us. When people hear how waste becomes something beautiful and how it creates livelihood for underprivileged communities, they remember it. Every product carries a story, and that story gives it meaning. This helps create awareness about our planet. That is how celebrations become purposeful."



Start asking questions

Panellist: Sameera Satija
Founder, Crockery Bank for Everyone

"Fun has nothing to do with fancy venues or expensive things. It has everything to do with who you are with. I work a lot with children and textiles. When they sit down with colourful threads and bits of fabric and make something with their own hands - a pouch, a toy - their joy is real. They carry that home proudly because it means something. Through Crockery Bank, I give people party kits with reusable crockery and decorations. You borrow them, enjoy your party, and return them. It saves money and it saves the planet. We also take groups to ponds and heritage water bodies. The air is cleaner, the birds are beautiful, and you go back feeling lighter. One thing I always say - make sustainability cool. Make it part of who you are."



Focus on mindful consumption

Panellist: Sandeep Trehan
COO, Karma Lakelands

"Celebrations today are happening at the cost of the planet. Balloons and plastic cutlery take years to decompose. At Karma Lakelands, we decided that purpose comes before profit for us. Today, people come to us because of what we stand for. We have made our golf course non-smoking. People resisted at first, but slowly they accepted it. During events, we are now seeing cloth décor, flowers, and more mindful planning. Food waste is still a huge problem. One of the simplest things we did was remove dustbins from cafeterias. When people had nowhere to throw half-eaten food, they became careful about what they took. At Karma, we serve half a glass of water for the same reason. You can refill, but do not waste. Mindfulness in small actions adds up. You just need to celebrate with respect for the resources you are using."



Being sustainable is our duty

Panellist: Ashutosh Senger
Environmental lawyer

"From a legal point of view, being sustainable is fulfilling your constitutional duty. Article 51A(g) of our Constitution says every citizen must protect the environment. When you recycle ceremonial cloth, when you avoid chemicals in your *havan samagri*, you are doing exactly that. The Supreme Court has also linked the right to life to the right to a clean environment. So, when you protect the planet, you are protecting your own right to breathe. Another important idea is the precautionary prin-



ciple - if you know something will harm the environment, you do not wait for proof, you avoid the harm in the first place. That is exactly what sustainable celebrations do. They prevent damage before it happens. Green crackers and sustainable idols - these are not bans on celebration, they are ways to celebrate without creating tragedy. Our environmental laws are among the best in the world. Enforcement is a challenge, but that is where citizens come in. When you do your part, you have the moral authority to demand better systems."

Part II



Expert Speak

Move away from excess

Panellist: Dr Sonam Mahajan
Media professor & founder
The Content Canvas

"Indian households were once deeply sustainable without even calling it that. A saree was not just worn seldomly, but repurposed too. Switching lights off and closing taps while brushing were not trends; they were habits. I feel we have moved far away from that wisdom. We buy balloons that will sit in landfills for years. We cut massive cakes that harm both our health and the planet. Celebration is about



togetherness. It is about sitting with your family, eating together, laughing together. If you want décor, we already have the most beautiful options at home - dupattas, sarees, cloth backdrops. Substitute junk food with traditional home-cooked food that nourishes us. Even gifting has become an exercise in excess. Why not gift a plant, a book, something handmade? These are small shifts, but together they change everything. Celebration should move away from excess and come back to joy, love, and belonging."

Annual days @ Amity



Chairperson with the special awardees of AIS Pushp Vihar

Annual days at Amity have always been woven around myriad themes testifying the indomitable spirit of excellence fostered in every Amitian. GT brings you the synopsis of some of the recently held annual days at Amity.

AIS Pushp Vihar

Theme: *The Epic Saga of Prithviraj Chauhan*

Date: April 25, 2026

Chief Guest: Lt. General Anil Kumar Bhatt, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd.), DG Indian Space Association

The school's 16th annual day was graced by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, guest of honour, Levente Kardos, Economic and Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Hungary and members of the Chauhan family. School principal, Ameeta Mohan presented the school annual report sharing students' achievement in academics and co-curricular activities during 2025-26.

The highlight of the evening was the grand theatrical presentation based on the journey of the warrior king Prithviraj Chauhan from childhood to his reign as a fearless ruler. The occasion also marked a special felicitation of Sapna Chauhan, Chairperson, Amiown and ACERT, along with Mohina Dar, Director, Academic Projects, Amity International and Global Schools and TPS Chauhan, Senior Advisor to the Chairperson.

The chief guest in his address encouraged students to strive for excellence with discipline and the guest of honour appreciated the efforts of Amity Group in nurturing young minds and promoting cultural heritage. Chairperson narrated the story of Bopadeva (Varadraja) and inspired the students to be perseverant and persistent.

Special awards conferred

- Baljit Shastri All Rounder Award: Samaya Chauhan & Samara Chauhan
- Vedvati Vidya Alankar Award for Values: Harshil Bedi & Shambhavi Sharma
- Dhananjay Mohan Award for Scientific Temperament: Ani Gandhi & Tavish Rajgarhia
- Europa Indian Foundation Cup in sports: Arnav Kapoor & Siddhant Siddhana
- Chairperson's Excellence Award in Extra-curricular activities: Geet Chaudhary & Sarthak Hemrajani
- Chairperson's Excellence Award for Leadership: Naavya Lodh
- Chairperson's Excellence Award in Coding and Technology: Arushi Mendiratta

AGS Gurgaon

Theme: *Amity for Peace*

Date: March 25, 2026

Guest of Honour: Vinay Sharma, senior vice president and director, Cambridge International Education-South Asia,

The school organised its fifth annual day inspired by the prestigious Youth Noble Peace Prize which was conferred upon the Chairperson in 2025 by the Assembly of International Model United Nations. The event was virtually graced by the Founder President,



The song of peace being sung by the budding singers of AGS Gurgaon



A rhythmic ode to the bravehearts of Operation Sindoor by AIS Gur 43

Dr. Ashok K. Chauhan and the Chairperson along with in person presence of Inderpal Singh, regional manager-North India-Cambridge International Education, Sanjeev K Ahuja, founder and editor in chief, ACN Network and Dr Mariann Erdo, director of Lizst Institute as the special guests.

The event commenced with school principal Arti Gupta highlighting the achievements of students in academics, sports, interschool and intraschool events and brilliant placements of IB2 students in the annual report. Five members of academic staff were also felicitated for completing over a decade of service along with school principal, for her committed service for over 14 years at Amity Global School. The cultural highlight of the evening was the musical drama 'Symphony of Voices; United for Peace' set in 2045 at the inaugural World Peace Summit in which all students, from Pre-Nursery to Grade XII, participated. The cultural show concluded with dances from Spain, Russia, Japan, and India providing a glimpse of the culture of these places.

Special awards presented:

- Baljit Shastri All Rounder Award: Lakshya Narula
- Dhananjay Mohan Award for Scientific Temperament: Anushree Khandelwal
- Vedvati Vidyalkarji Award for Values:

Eashaan Yadav

- Europa Award for Sports: Keisha Satish Nair
- Chairperson's Excellence Award: Palak Chopra and Khevna Pankaj

AIS Gurugram 43

Theme: *सृजन Road to Success*

Date: April 11, 2026

Chief Guest: Er. Arun Jagga, chief engineer, PWD (B&R) of Haryana

The 20th senior annual day of the school graced by the Chairperson, was a cultural showcase of six C's of success – Concentration, Core Interest, Co-operation, Consistency, Commitment and Competence. School principal, Dr Anshu Arora presented a report of the prestigious awards and achievements of the students at various national and international levels during academic year 2025-26. The cultural highlight of the evening was an innovative ballad based on the life of the cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni and a soul stirring performance on Operation Sindoor which highlighted the spirit of patriotism and the sacrifices made by our soldiers.

Rishabh Yadav, a proud alumnus and world champion archer was also honoured with a cash prize of INR one lakh by the Chairperson. In their addresses, while the chief guest appreciated the performance and emphasised upon building character, the Chairperson lauded the students and motivated them to continue to persevere and dream big

Special awards bestowed:

- Baljeet Shastri All Rounder Award: Jiya Arora
- Vedvati Vidyalkar Award for Values: Mannya Shridharr
- Dhananjay Mohan Award for Scientific temperament: Aradhya Sharma
- Europa Cup for Sports: Arshpreet Singh
- Chairperson's Excellence Award: Anvi Goel and Chhavi Gupta **GT**



AIS Gur 43



AIS Gur 46



AIS Jagdishpur

What an act!

AIS MV



AIS Vas 1



AIS Noida



AIS VVC Lko



AIS PV



AIS Vas 6



AIS VKC Lko



AIS Gwalior



AIS Saket