

Forget The Wall Street Charts, Keep Tabs On The Lipstick Uptick Instead

Priyamvada Rao

AIS MV, XII D

There's something disarming about the Finance Bro in his element, with his slicked-back hair, glimmering Rolex, and sentences that start with "statistically speaking" and end with "per annum." Economics is treated as abstract equation on an economist's chalkboard and recession is defined by dips in GDP, market volatility or dry graphs of industrial output. But if we widen our lens we begin to see the human fingerprints on the downturn-trend in community optimism, spending behaviours and even subtle changes in mental health and social wellbeing. Markets may crash on paper but recessions are truly measured in the lives they touch. Let's find out if these real time signals are the true reflectors of recession.

Bulls and bears jargon

For the Average Joe, opening a news site and being confronted by rapidly changing numbers along with confusing jungle of Bulls and Bears, Candlesticks and Mountain Graphs, tells nothing about why their heart races every time they check their bank account or why a sense of existential dread seems to coexist with economic discontent. But if economics is the study of human choices, then why is there so little humanity in it? To combat this fundamental gap, economists and journalists are in-

Unconventional Recession Clues

creasingly interested in studying unconventional recession indicators.

Dresser draw maths

It might be surprising that economics has somehow climbed down from its high horse and reached your dresser drawer. Offbeat indicators like the Lipstick index, Nail Polish index and the Men's Grooming index follow the logic of a spike in sale of products that are free-size, easy to use and provide a boost in confidence at a lesser cost compared to other discretionary fashion purchases such as handbags, during recessions. Estee Lauder reporting increased lipstick sales despite falling luxury fashion revenue in 2008, and global men's grooming grew 11% in 2008-2010. This is due to their urge to indulge in cheaper personal care during financial restrictions. Who knew that all those big buildings or bling gold jewellery that people love to flaunt might be an

indicator of something other than prosperity? Indicators such as the Skyscraper index and Scrap gold supply theory validate the cyclical nature of business postulated by theories such as Austrian Business Cycle Theory.

Another economic trend that is projected for future recessions is consumers turning to resale markets for affordability, with ThredUp's 2023 Resale Report projecting the second-hand apparel market to double by 2027.

Offbeat signals

These quirky indicators seem more valid due to their relatability and also overcome the flaw of the lagging nature of traditional economic indicators. The recent acceptance of a more nuanced approach to understand recession, is part of a larger movement to democratise economics by considering it as a study of human behaviour rather than a cookie-cutter behaviour which matches data-points. These clues may be an off-kilter approach but offers more immediate real time signals of economic sentiment and stress. They immediately capture changes in public mood and financial confidence that traditional data misses or reports belatedly. Hence, there is no doubt that these indicators hold importance as they are channelising macro-economic analysis through a micro-economic lens to find hidden patterns.

Criticism and cynicism

However these offbeat indicators haven't been a mainstream choice because of their frivolity. Critics have expressed that these indicators pander to changing consumer sentiments, which are easily moulded through channels such as social media, reducing their validity. For example, the Lipstick index theory didn't ring true during the Covid-19 pandemic as sales of makeup declined, because consumers were restricted to staying at home.

The path forward

Fortunately, we don't have to pit mainstream and unconventional economic indicators against each other, because they both serve a different purpose. One holds up a mirror to the society, picking up signals before balance sheets, while the other is a targeted metric, having a nearly perfect record in predicting recessions.

Illustration: Arnav Singh, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII C

Page editor: Ashee Srivastava, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII A

THE GT POLL

With the SC banning firecrackers, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta suggests allowing 'green' ones this Diwali. What are your views on this?

- A) Environment comes first
- B) Green crackers are costly
- C) Culture must be preserved

To vote, check out our Instagram page @the_global_times

Coming next

AIMUN 2025



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

What's inside

Turn up the volume, P3

Aurasphere, P4

A mouse-trious tale, P5

Fractions gone wrong, P8

A \$100k dollar question, P9

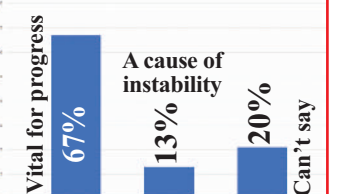
Truth without tact, P11

Mission improbable, P12

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition October 6, 2025

Gen Z in Indonesia, Peru, and Madagascar are protesting against corruption using social media to demand change. How do you view this trend?



Results as on October 10, 2025

Around The WORLD

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



USA

SpaceX secures Pentagon

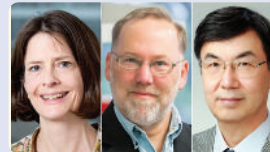
SpaceX has won a 714 million USD contract to handle five of seven key US military launches through 2027, solidifying its lead in defence space operations despite tensions between Musk and Trump. The deal, part of the NSSL programme, shows Pentagon's reliance on SpaceX for critical missions, including payloads and satellites. United Launch Alliance got the remaining two missions, while Blue Origin was excluded as its rocket lacks military certification.



SWEDEN

Nobel prized immunity

On October 7, 2025, Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in Stockholm for discovering regulatory T cells and linking them to the FOXP3 gene, revealing how the immune system avoids self-attack. The breakthrough helps in treating autoimmune diseases, improving cancer therapies, and ensuring organ transplant tolerance, marking a major leap in understanding human immunity. The trio will share 11 million Swedish kronor; however, Ramsdell remains unreachable, reportedly "living his best life" hiking "off the grid" in Idaho.



INDIA

Antibiotic breakthrough

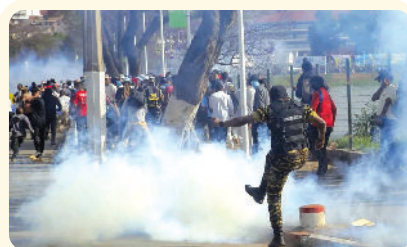
Pharmaceutical firm Wockhardt has developed Zaynich, the nation's first homegrown antibiotic in 30 years, designed to combat multi-drug-resistant gram-negative bacteria, such as E. coli and Klebsiella. The drug combines cefepime and zidebactam, that blocks bacterial defences and enhances effectiveness, reportedly 20% higher than current treatments. Amid global antibiotic resistance, Zaynich marks a promising step forward, pending successful clinical trials and affordable production.



GEORGIA

Dissent tightens

PM Irakli Kobakhidze announced a crackdown after protesters tried to storm the presidential palace in Tbilisi. He accused the EU of backing efforts to overthrow his government. Police used pepper spray and water cannon, detaining several people, including activist Paata Burchuladze. At least 27 people were injured. Kobakhidze warned opposition forces would no longer operate politically, deepening tensions.



MADAGASCAR

General becomes PM

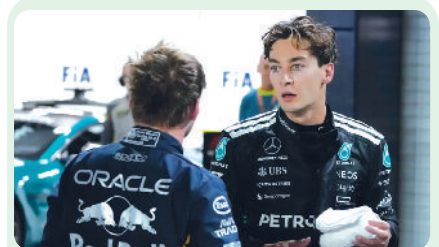
In a bid to ease anti government protests President Rajoelina has appointed army general Ruphin Fortunat Zafisambo as the new PM, replacing Christian Ntsay, a week after dissolving the government amid protests over resource shortages. Rajoelina said Zafisambo's priority will be restoring power and water supply. Demonstrations entered their third week, with protesters demanding that the president steps down.



TIBET

Everest blizzard rescue

A severe blizzard trapped nearly 1,000 trekkers near Mt Everest, with rescue teams guiding 350 to safety and maintaining contact with over 200 others. Heavy snowfall cut off access routes, prompting locals and rescue teams to clear blocked paths. Trekkers reported hypothermia risks and unusually harsh weather. The region's rare storm coincided with heavy rains across neighbouring areas, triggering landslides and floods.



SINGAPORE

Russell reigns

Mercedes' George Russell dominated the humid Grand Prix at Marina Bay Street Circuit, converting pole into a flawless win ahead of Max Verstappen and Lando Norris, with a fifth career victory. Despite a clash between Norris and teammate Oscar Piastri, their P3 and P4 finish secured McLaren the Constructor's Championship for the second time in a row, even with six more races to the season's end.

Turn up the volume

Mohit Chauhan Shares The Melodic Contours Of His Life



INTERVIEW

Shantam Neogi, XII D &
Akshit Kaul, XII F, AIS MV

Mohit Chauhan is one of India's most loved playback singers who has defined an era of soulful music. From his early days with the iconic band Silk Route to becoming the voice behind countless Bollywood hits, his journey is nothing short of inspiring. With two Filmfare Awards, a Maharashtra State Film Award, and three Zee Cine Awards to his name, Chauhan has etched his place among the finest voices of Indian music. Today, he is one of the most influential figures in the world of Indie pop. Let's hear it from the man himself.

Venturing into music

I don't recall the exact moment I began singing as it has always been a part of my soul. As a child, I would sing in my neighbourhood, experimenting with tunes and rhythms. But professionally, my journey started much later. When I moved to Delhi, I formed a band called Silk Route, and in 1998, we released our first album. That was when I truly stepped into the world of music as a career. From that point onward, my life revolved around music, and I never looked back.

Taking the Silk Route

In Delhi, I tried my hand at music profes-



Mohit Chauhan with GT reporters

sionally, starting with jingles and advertisements. I had never seen the inside of a studio before, so it was an entirely new experience. It was during this time that I met Kem Trivedi, a trained classical pianist, and Atul, who played guitar and saxophone. We began jamming together, creating original tunes, experimenting with arrangements, and shaping songs from scratch. That was the beginning of Silk Route, and that camaraderie and creative energy fuelled our music.

Tackling the Bollywood divide

There is a subtle but significant difference between performing in a band and singing for films. When you're in a band, you make your own music. In playback singing, you are lending your voice to a character, a story, and a scene. Someone else writes the song, someone else composes the music, and you bring it to life. Each approach has its challenges, but both are equally rewarding. At the end of the day,

it's about creating music. Since I'm largely self-taught, I have spent countless hours exploring, experimenting, and enduring small frustrations. But this struggle has shaped me. It has taught me patience, persistence, and the joy of discovery.

Remembering the guru

Kishore Kumar has been my guiding star. Even though I never met him, listening to his songs taught me nuances of pronunciation, dynamics, and emotion. Every song I sing requires a different emotional approach - a patriotic song might need aggression, while a romantic song requires tenderness. Adapting to a music director's vision or singing in non-native languages like Tamil adds another layer of challenge. But these experiences have enriched me as a singer.

Message for Amitians

Success in music is unpredictable. You need to stay happy, hopeful, and compassionate. For young artists, empathy is essential as it fuels creativity. Above all, keep practicing and embrace the journey. The so-called 'Ten Thousand Hour Theory' holds true - dedication can take you to remarkable heights.

Pics: Nandini Rastogi, AIS MV, XII D

Mohit Chauhan, singer

Book Review

The soul from the past

Synopsis: Many Lives, Many Masters tells the true story of Dr Brian Weiss, a sceptical psychiatrist who discovered past life therapy after his patient, Catherine, began recalling traumatic past life memories and channelling messages from spiritual 'masters' during hypnotic sessions. These sessions, which revealed details about Weiss's own life, led to Catherine's healing from anxiety and depression, prompting Weiss to change his understanding of the mind, death, and the interconnectedness of life. This book presents evidence supporting the concept of reincarnation, where souls are reborn into different bodies to learn lessons and pay karmic debts. It tells us that

Book: Many Lives, Many Masters

Author: Dr Brian L Weiss

Published on: July 15, 1988

Genre: Psychological, Science, Spiritual, Non-fiction

souls may choose different lives and families in order to learn specific lessons, which helps them to spiritually progress. Souls must pay off their karmic debts accumulated in previous lives, which can influence their current circumstances.

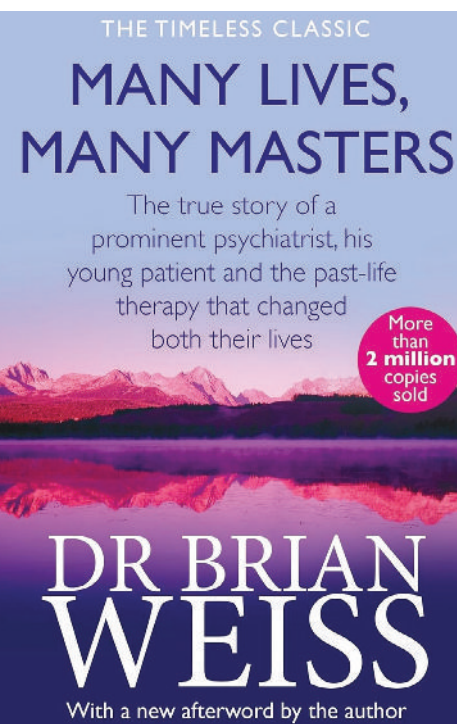
Why is it worth reading: The novel is a profoundly moving account of one man's unexpected spiritual

awakening. It emphasises love, compassion, forgiveness, and learning as the new purpose of life. Moreover, the book offers powerful insights into healing and helps readers find deeper meaning in life through medical experience. The narrative is appealing, making you question the world beyond science and humanity. Some of the stories portray Indian mythology as well, which makes it very relatable.

Iconic quote: "We are frightfully concerned with our own deaths, sometimes so much so that we forget the real purpose of our lives."

Rating: 4/5

Review by: Praneel Praval
AIS Gwalior, X A



Text: Ashee Srivastava, XII A | Illustration/Graphic: Akshita Rathore, X C, AIS Mayur Vihar



AUR ASPHERE

Master Urban Air Defence Effortlessly!



STEP 1

Smart Auto-Activation launches an invisible bubble when pollutants are detected - no buttons, no hassle!

STEP 2

Dual HEPA and Anion Power neutralises harmful particles to provide clean air.

STEP 3

Bursts automatically when the air is clean.

►► Easy to wear – wrist mounted system

►► Simple refill system

►► No mask discomfort

►► Expert recommended

Your clean-air journey starts now!

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

Kriti Sharma, AIS Vas 1, XII C

The universe, over 13.8 billion years old, hides countless wonders – none more fascinating than exoplanets. These are worlds orbiting stars beyond our Sun. Some are scorched giants, some are icy, and a few may even be drenched in water. Each defies what we call ‘normal’.

The water world

Kepler-138d, about 2.1 times Earth’s mass, is a ‘water world’ candidate. NASA’s Hubble and Spitzer telescopes suggest it may be rich in water or other light materials, though its high temperature and pressure make Earth-like oceans impossible.

The marshmallow planet

Then there’s WASP-107b, the ‘marshmallow planet’. Though nearly Jupiter-sized, it’s barely one-tenth as massive. It’s so puffy that scientists compare its density to candy foam. Its bloated at-

Mystery of cosmos

Exoplanets That Break The Rules of Space



mosphere shows how extreme heating can inflate gas worlds.

The whiplash planet

HR 5183b doesn’t play by orbital

rules. With a 74-year eccentric orbit, it slingshots chaotically through space. Its unpredictable movement makes it feel like the galaxy’s true rebel planet.

The glass rain world

HD 189733b, a ‘glass-rain world’, lies 64 light-years away. Its cobalt-blue hue comes not from water but silicate particles. Fierce

winds, reaching thousands of km/h, whip molten glass sideways across the atmosphere – hardly a tropical paradise.

The ultra-hot Jupiter

Even harsher is WASP-12b, an ‘ultra-hot Jupiter’ so close to its star that it’s stretched into an egg shape. Intense tidal forces strip away its atmosphere, slowly consuming the planet - a cosmic death in slow motion.

The darkest planet

Finally, TrES-2b stands out as the darkest planet ever found, reflecting less than 1% of incoming light – darker than coal. It absorbs nearly everything, glowing faintly red from its own heat.

Together, these worlds prove how wildly different planets can be. Some are bright blue, some nearly invisible; some are dissolving, others impossibly light. In a universe this vast, being ‘normal’ is the only impossible thing. **G.T**

A mouse-terious tale

Small Paws And Big Legends - The Myth, The Mouse

Akshita Rathore, AIS MV, X C

They always say that curiosity killed the cat, but who escaped? Squeaks! This is me, Nibbles. And I'm no average mouse, rather also an explorer, survivor, lab legend, and mythology's unsung sidekick. I have outlived a multiplicity of cats, starred in cheesy- peesy cartoons, and got you passed in science tests... did you forget those mice experiments?

I belong to order Rodentia, and my family's name is Muridae. Cool name, right? I exist since the days of the Egyptian Civilisation... yes that old! My grandma once told me that her friends were really sneaky and adventurous! They went to the Pyramid of Giza many times, for carrying out the mission to steal wheat as their motto was - a little mouse adventure never hurts anyone!

And why just Egypt, my connections, just like my little paws, are spread wide across the world. In Indian mythology, I am revered for being the *Vahana* of Lord Ganesha. In fact, I was once a celestial musician named Krauncha. Oh, my lord mouse! I have so many names. So, what I did was

that I annoyed a sage slightly (big mistake), got cursed, and turned into a rodent. I am still grooving though, now with a better sense of direction and divine GPS.

And then there's my Greek connect. The Greek God Apollo was not just sun and songs. He was the Mouse-Siah (as we call him) but humans call him Apollo Smintheus - the mouse god. Back then, Mice were a symbol of both plague and healing, and temples honoured us for our mysterious powers. Do you feel even the tiniest bit mouse-merised?

No wonder, I am the Hollywood's go-to guy. The mice there have quite a few 'tails' to share - like Mickey Mouse who is the face of a Global Empire. Or Stuart Little who wore better suits than most of the humans, and Remy from *Ratatouille* who could cook circles around any celebrity chef. Fievel, Jerry, Geronimo Stilton, Despereaux, and the great mouse detective, Basil, all are an addition to this long legacy.

Before you brush me off as all fiction and myth, allow me to reign you in on my scientific genes - which are 98% like that of humans, a-mouse-ing right? We have the same basic body plan as

brain, lungs, heart, and little emotions (just like me).

Barely surprising then that we face same diseases - diabetes, cancer, and anxiety (yes, we get stressed about cheese and bread). Call me small, but I'm of genetically large importance. I have helped in studies on memory, addition, intelligence, and genetic disorders.

And yet our fate remains intermittently mice-erable - we're prodded, poked, tested, injected, genetically modified, and even poisoned, all for eating a few clothes. Not fair! We don't ask for much, just a crumb, a quiet corner, and a little less poison. So, next time, if me or any of my companions visit your kitchen, don't scream. Now that you know so much about me, my friends, relatives, and ancestors, when someone says "Ew, a mouse!" tell them "It's *Mus Musculus* and they are just mouse-ing around!" Nibbles promise? Yay, Nibbles Promise!



Illustration: Yadvi Kumar
AIS Mayur Vihar, X D

Motivation snoozed?

It's Time To Try Momentum And Give Chance To Patience

Bhavana Iyer, XII E &
Krishna Singh, XII B, AIS Noida

Ever felt like your motivation hit the perpetual snooze button and never got up? Congratulations, you have officially joined the Slump Club. One minute you're taking a break when suddenly, you're staring at over twenty undone tasks and empty water bottle; falling behind on things you once handled with ease. All alone, you scroll endlessly through reels only to wake up with two hours to finish what your parents had asked. Your excuses become your only creative mo-

ments. Slumps are like buffering, but we cannot just wait them out.

Momentum over motivation

Waiting for motivation won't help. Start with something ridiculously easy: get out of bed and into fresh clothes. You don't need to become someone who wakes up at 5 am and nags themselves all day, which just leads to headaches and exhaustion. Begin with any small and doable task: finish one topic from a subject you like. Don't fancy schoolwork? Sit with it for at least two minutes. Breathe through it, use every last bit of your willpower. If you can't continue, take a break. Return to it for two minutes again. Repeat. It may eventually stick.

One at a time

Don't try to tick off everything at once. Start with two tasks, then grow your list gradually. Your days will feel more productive. Add small wins, like greeting the neighbour, watering the neglected plants, or brushing your teeth. No need for big social plans yet. Just reconnect in small ways: catch up with a friend, sit with your mom over evening *chai* and listen to her day. Be around people. Slumps worsen in silence, so embrace the noises - kids screaming, sibling rivalries, and friendly debates. Stay connected to life.

Understand yourself

The slump means you need a break. It's like hitting snooze on your alarm. Though it may feel endless, it's only temporary. Accept that you need this time and trust that you will get back up. Life's not a Bollywood movie; no dramatic glow-up is needed. Give yourself time, be patient with yourself. Rock bottom is quite alright, you're still fine.

Run For Right To Learn



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

I truly believe that when you educate one girl, you educate an entire family and an entire society. But, every time a girl is denied the right to education, a dream is broken. Hence, at Amity, we have taken it upon ourselves to ensure that no such dream is ever left unfulfilled. With this vision, Amity recently hosted the second edition of Amity BHAAG India – Race for Girl Child Education marathon at AIS VYC Lucknow. Inspired by the BHAAG mantra (Behaviour, Hardwork, Attitude, Ambition and God) given by our Founder President, this initiative of Amitasha Foundation is not just a race, it's a movement, it's a 'Race for Her Right to Learn.' It represents Amity's continued effort to unite citizens in the shared mission of educating and empowering girls, especially those from less privileged backgrounds. The marathon brought together thousands of people from diverse fields, including celebrities, eminent civil servants, social media influencers and industry leaders, who passionately championed the cause. These marathons have blended social responsibility with fitness and entertainment, establishing Amity and Amitasha as educational organisations committed towards social upliftment and giving back to society. Amitasha, has been providing free education to over 1000 less privileged girl children because we at Amity believe that it is our moral duty towards the nation to empower its youth, especially girls, who can build a better tomorrow. I am glad that after two successful editions at Raipur and Lucknow, our next run for the third chapter will be in Gwalior. I hope that one day this marathon will emerge as the flame of awakening for girls' education in India. Let's run for her right to learn. 

A curious craft



Meenu Kanwar
Principal, AIS MV

It is with immense pride and infinite joy that we unveil the first Contest Edition for this year, an inspiring compilation crafted by the exceptionally talented editorial board of AIS Mayur Vihar.

This edition marks the beginning of a vibrant creative journey, one that reflects the spirit, imagination, and dedication of our young Amitians. Under the visionary guidance of our Chairperson, Dr (Mrs)

Amita Chauhan, we continue to nurture global leaders, thinkers, dreamers, and changemakers who are ready to shape the world. Every Contest Edition is more than just a mere publication; it is a quintessential celebration of youthful energy and artistic expression. From the first spark of an idea to the final printed page, this edition is a testament to the discipline, collaboration, and passion that define our students.

It's truly heartening to witness the editorial board in action - debating ideas, racing against deadlines, and pouring their hearts into every word and illustration. Their conviction and creativity shine through every page.

As the world embraces the transformative power of AI, the GT remains a dynamic platform that equips our students with the skills and mindset to thrive in an era of innovation and change. We invite you to dive into this edition and experience the brilliance of our young minds. The editorial board loved creating it, and we hope you'll love reading it just as much. 



The jubilant winners and dignitaries of the marathon



The zealous marathon runners

Amity BHAAG India

Lucknowites Ran Marathon for 'Her Right To Learn'

Amitasha Foundation AIS VYC Lucknow

The city of Lucknow witnessed a powerful movement of change which blended Amity's legacy of blending education with social responsibility as AIS VYC Lucknow proudly hosted the second edition of 'Amity Bhaag India – Race for Girl Child Education' under the aegis of Amitasha Foundation on September 21, 2025. The theme of the marathon was 'Run for Her Right to Learn', inspired by the vision of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of

Schools and RBEF to provide every girl child in India access to quality education. Addressing the event virtually the Chairperson said, "Every step we take in BHAAG India is not just about running; it is a pledge to ensure that every girl gets her right to education. When we empower her, we empower the nation."

The marathon was flagged off by Dr Anil Vashishth, pro vice chancellor, Amity University, Lucknow; wing commander Dr Anil Kumar, deputy pro vice chancellor Amity University, Lucknow; Dr Rajesh Tiwari, dean academics, Amity University, Lucknow and school principal Roli

Tripathi. The race was held in two categories, a three km fun run and a five km competitive run, both of which saw over 1000 participants including school children, NCC cadets, specially abled runners, faculty and seasoned athletes. The competitive run was marked by spirited performances, with winners being honoured with cash prizes and certificates. All the proceeds of marathon went to Amitasha Foundation.

The event received wide admiration from various renowned personalities, like actor Amit Sadh whose support amplified the event across social media platforms. 

Distinguished Partners: Development Partner (Ahluwalia Contracts India Ltd.); Banking Partner (Punjab National Bank); Healthcare Partner (Apollomedics Hospitals); Technology Partner (Lenovo); Print Partner (AmarUjala.com); Outdoor Partner (Ad India); Radio Partners (BIG FM); Fitness Beverage Partner (CP Milk & Food Products Pvt. Ltd.); Zumba Partner (Dancing Fitness); Snacks Partner (Cornitos); Hydration Partner (Aasan Himalayan Mineral Water); Sports Partner (Rocksport); Holiday Partner (Mahindra Holidays); T Shirt partner (VATS)

Learn, create, thrive

Umberto Eco once said, "To survive, you must tell stories." Each Contest Edition is a testament to the grit, imagination, and creative talent of the Editorial Board. In a world reshaped by technology every minute, survival skills are becoming essential, and The Global Times is nurturing them beautifully.

As a newspaper by the students, for the students, it fosters vital skills for staying relevant in such rapid times. As the GT mentor teacher, I've wit-

nessed how collaboration built on trust, work ethic, creativity - the most resilient human skill, accountability for actions, empathy for diverse cultures, and emotions are gently cultivated. And when we reflect on the privilege of having our own registered newspaper, we can't help but feel immense gratitude towards our respected Chairperson



Manisha Batra
GT Coordinator

ma'am, for her vision and unwavering support.

A big shout-out to the GT team for being teachers without a classroom or a blackboard, subtly guiding students to trust their own instincts and skills rather than rely solely on AI. This initiative is a remarkable contribution to the educational journey and continues to empower young minds.

Illustrations: Akshita Rathore, AIS MV, X C



What really happens upon tapping 'install'? It's like inviting unknown guests to your house, letting them wander about some rooms, and leaving a few doors unlocked. So, **Nandini Rastogi**, AIS MV, XII D, brings to you a guide to unravel the verbosity of 'Terms & Conditions'.

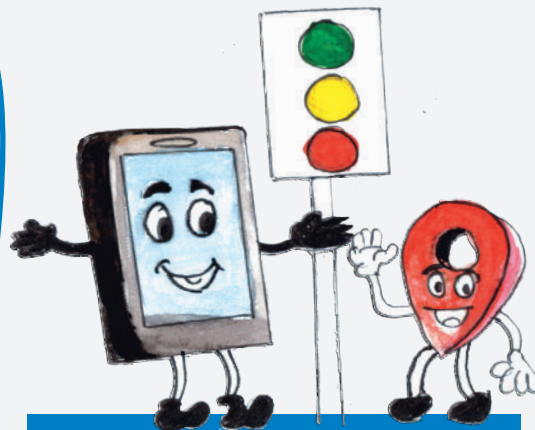
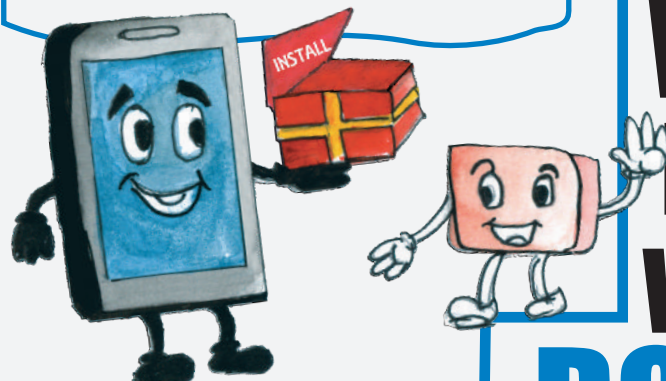
1

Behind the install button

What you do: Tap 'install' and a new icon is added to your home screen.

What really happens: The app has now become a part of your phone's storage, bringing with it all files necessary to run the app in the form of codes and scripts.

Why it matters: The app connects to your device's location, camera, microphone, and more. Its access is neither specified nor controlled. Most media and messaging apps keep running in the background.



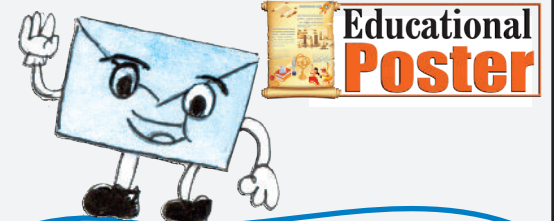
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DOWNLOAD AN APP?

2 Tap to agree... to what?

What you do: Tap 'Allow' on access to camera, location, contacts et cetera.

What really happens: The app gets access to your contacts, call logs, files — confidential or not, and even your real time movements — both digital and physical.

Why it matters: Once these permissions are granted, the app will have unrestricted access to your data. Even when you select 'Allow only while using the app' the app still collects and stores data in the background. And the catch is, some of these permissions are non-negotiable; meaning that unless you grant them, the app won't work.



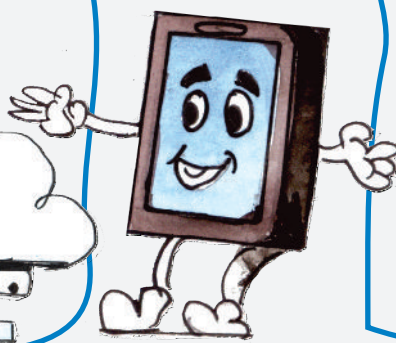
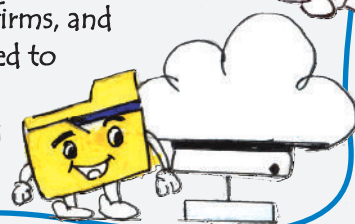
The data domino effect

3

What you do: Open the app and start using it.

What really happens: The app will also connect to internet servers and communicate with other softwares through Application Programming Interface (API).

Why it matters: The servers store your data for various purposes, making it accessible to authorised users i.e. the apps, leading to a more efficient user experience. Once stored, it's nearly impossible to erase this data. Apps then share your data with third party sources such as advertising networks, analytics firms, and cloud services, which is combined to create your digital profile. Your data may now be resold starting a whole new chain of data use.



4

Outsmarting the app trap

What you do: Review app settings and permissions.

What really happens: Limits apps' access to data.

Why it matters: By taking small, cautious steps such as granting limited permissions, using privacy tools, and curtailing background activity you ensure that your guest has access only to the information it needs. By proactively protecting your data you reduce risk of identity theft and unauthorised access.

Graphic: Pearl Sharma, AIS Mayur Vihar, X A



Fractions gone wrong

Varnika Nagpal Nafees
AIS Mayur Vihar, X D

Amay, a twelve-year-old boy with messy hair and a permanently puzzled expression, was often spotted scratching his head over his math homework. Fractions, decimals, word problems, no matter what it was, his notebook always ended up looking like a battlefield. With every passing day, his excuses for incomplete homework ran thinner, and the punishments from his teacher grew harsher. He had already used the classics...“My dog ate it,” “I left it at home,” and even “Aliens stole it.” But now, he was running dangerously low on creative excuses.

One evening, while half-heartedly searching the internet for ‘easy math tricks’, a bright pop-up caught his eye: “An app to solve all your math problems in seconds!” His eyes widened. Finally! A saviour! “An app that can solve everything while I sit back and relax? This is it!” he whispered, adrenaline rushing through him.



Without a second thought, Amay downloaded it and pulled out his dreaded homework.

The first question was simple: “Simplify 12/18.” Amay typed it in and waited. The app chirped cheerfully, “Hello! Before we begin, did you know fractions were used by the ancient Egyptians? They even used pictures of birds!” Amay frowned. “Uh, no thanks. Just give me the answer.”

“The real answer,” the AI purred mysteriously, “lies deep within your soul.” Amay’s jaw dropped. He stared at his dog, Biscuit.

“Forget Math homework, Biscuit. Just eat me instead.” Biscuit wagged his tail happily, as if that was the best idea he had heard all day.

Five minutes later, the AI was still blabbering about prime numbers and cracking jokes that weren’t even funny. In desperation, Amay video called his best friend Mike. “This app won’t shut up!” Amay groaned. Mike smirked. “Try bribing it. Maybe cookies work?” It sounded ridiculous but Amay was desperate. He dangled a

With every passing day, his excuses for incomplete homework ran thinner, and the punishments from his teacher grew harsher.

chocolate cookie in front of the webcam. “Answer my question, and this cookie is all yours.” The AI hummed. “Tempting... but sugar is bad for my processors. Instead, how about I tell you a knock-knock joke?” “No!” Amay screamed, while Biscuit barked furiously at the laptop, as if siding with him. Minutes ticked by. Amay’s patience drained faster than his phone battery. Finally, he decided to try the last trick. “Okay, AI. I’ll pay you in Bitcoin if you stop messing around.” The app chuckled smugly. “Bitcoin? Sorry, I run on bits and bytes, not bitcoins. Also, I don’t like market volatility.” Amay collapsed on his desk, de-

feated. It was already 7:30 pm, just thirty minutes before the deadline. He groaned, shoved the app aside, and opened his crusty Math notebook. His only chance was to solve it himself.

The app, sensing defeat, finally surrendered. “Twelve over eighteen simplifies to two over three,” it announced calmly, as if it had solved the meaning of life. Amay scribbled the answer, stuffed the cookie in his mouth, and

vowed: never trust a flashy ad. Biscuit wagged his tail, clearly proud that his human had survived yet another Math battle.



Pic: Shantam Neogi, XII D | Model: Eshal Ahmad, XI C; AIS MV

Aadya Behl, AIS Mayur Vihar, IX A

I am the rear-view mirror inside a car
Whatever the distance, never getting far
Never an entity, never my own, but
Just a reflection on tempered chrome

They glance at me to see someone else
Never important, never seen as the best
I am looked at only to help them steer
A trivial tool to check, not one to revere

They search for the roads fading behind
But never pause to look for what is mine
I am a silent watcher, steady and near
And yet all they do is change the gear

Objects in the mirror are closer, they say
I wish they would notice me someday
I guess a mirror is all I am fated to be
Never the one they will truly get to see.

Poem



Read Play and Win 92

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 tagline of the top story on page 1?

Q.2 Who is narrating the autobiography on page 5?

Q.3 What is the name of Amay's dog in the short story 'Fractions gone wrong'?

Q.4 On which page can you find the poster on 'What happens when you download an app'?

Q.5 Which famous playback singer has been interviewed on page 3?

Q.6 What is the name of the product that has been advertised on page 4?

Q.7 Which mission is being planned on page 12?

Q.8 Who has conducted the ground reporting on page 10?

Q.9 Name the editor-in-chief of AIS Mayur Vihar.

Name:.....Class:.....School:.....
Results of Read Play & Win-91: **Vibhav Goyal**, AIS Gurugram 46, IV H; **Avant Jain**, AIS Gurugram 43, V E; **Drashti Singh** AIS Vasundhara 1, V B



The 100k dollar question

When The American Dream Got A Six-digit Shocker

Eshal Ahmad, AIS MV, XI C

“Hello, Aryan bhaiya, Trump has imposed a work-visa application fee of USD 100,000. What is going on? Will you have to come back? We can’t afford this fee, we...” Ayansh’s voice turned to a whisper in Aryan’s mind as the news sank in. He and hundreds like him had crossed seas, oceans, and continents chasing that American dream. Now, he wondered if it was about to turn into a nightmare. The headline about sweeping H-1B visa reform blinked on the screen. Ayansh’s panic bubbled; Aryan took a deep breath.

The hype and the hustle

“Bhaiya, everyone in India is talking about it,” Ayansh said breathlessly. Aryan nodded. “Yes, it’s huge. The H-1B visa allows US employers to hire foreign workers in specialised roles - especially IT, engineering, research. Every year, about 85,000 new H-1B visas are issued under the cap. Indians have claimed a large share, at times around 70 % of new visas. That’s why this matters so much to us.” As Aryan spoke, a ‘Breaking News’ banner flashed on NDTV, showing Ayansh the potential impact on Indian tech giants like Wipro and Infosys. These companies frequently use the visa programme to place Indian employees in US client projects. The news anchor explained that the September announcement could be crucial for India’s economy. “The stakes are high,” she said in a grave voice.

The fee fable

Ayansh gasped. “So 88 lakhs INR per year? More than 50-fold hike from what used to typically cost between 2,000 USD and 5,000 USD. Why is this happen-

ing?” Aryan gently corrected him. “First, it’s not 88 lakhs INR every year, and it’s not for everyone. The new rule imposes a one-time 100,000 USD fee, but only on new H-1B petitions filed on or after September 21, 2025, and only when the beneficiary is outside the US at the time of filing. So, it’s not for renewals, or petitions filed before that date. Also, the fee must be borne by the employer... as has always been the case.” He calmed Ayansh’s nerves, telling him that the confusion was sparked by US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick’s initial remarks and amplified by WhatsApp forwards, which the US government later clarified.



chance to join his brother in the States after he finishes his B.Tech in AI. “Exemptions are possible,” Aryan replied. “The US govt said it will allow exceptions if it deems an application in the national interest. So, there’s hope, especially in emerging fields like AI.”

“But they are replacing the lottery system too,” Ayansh interjected with frustration. “Yes, the government has proposed a new process that would give more weightage to applications by employers who pay high wages, which will facilitate a merit-based system. But that’s not locked in yet,” Aryan responded. “There’s uncertainty, but not necessarily absolute closure.”

The wheels of change

“Oh, okay. But what about me?” asked Ayansh, worried that he may lose the

The whys of the why

“Why did they do this in the first place?” Ayansh asked. Aryan sent him a link which

H1B VISA\$\$\$ FOR US!!



read - The official explanation: To ensure firms hire Americans instead of leaning too heavily on foreign talent; to discourage misuse of the H-1B programme, where foreign workers are allegedly used to undercut wages or substitute for American workers. Aryan continued: “But this is being criticised widely. The US Chamber of Commerce has warned that the new fee could cost American firms billions in lost productivity if skilled positions remain vacant. Several tech industry groups have cautioned this might accelerate the relocation of R&D hubs to Canada, Ireland, and India, where visa policies are more welcoming. In 2024 alone, Canada recorded a 40 % rise in tech worker inflows, many of them former H-1B hopefuls. It could stifle the inflow of global talent, hurt innovation, and favour big firms over startups. Some warn the H-1B scheme itself may face an existential threat. A lawsuit has already been filed by a coalition of unions, employers, and other groups, challenging whether Trump had the authority to impose such a fee without Congress’s approval. So, this could be tied up in court for a while.”

Some reassurance

“Don’t worry too much, Ayansh,” Aryan said gently. “Because you’re in India now, this new fee might or might not affect your path. It depends on when and how you apply, whether your employer is ready to absorb the cost, and whether you qualify for an exemption. This policy isn’t final... it is currently set for one year, and it may or may not be extended. It’s also being contested legally. Things could shift. But the safest move? Stay informed, follow official guidance, align with a strong employer who can navigate this - and don’t trust rumours on WhatsApp. Trump’s US is changing fast. But that doesn’t mean dreams have to die.”

Nandini Rastogi, XII D &
Ruqayya Rahman, IX B
AIS Mayur Vihar

Disappearing strings

Delhi's Puppeteers - From The Global Stage To Silence



In the heart of Delhi once thrived Kathputli Colony — a living museum of India's folk heritage. Home to generations of puppeteers, magicians, musicians and craftsmen, it was a world where art wasn't just livelihood, it was legacy. Today, the echoes of that vibrant past struggle to be heard as the artists await a place — and a future — they can call their own.

Of legacy that lives

"We've lived here for hundreds of years," says Harish Bhatt, a puppet maker whose family has called Kathputli Colony home for as long as memory stretches. "My father used to make them, so I learnt it from him."

In the same narrow lanes lives Pappu Keshav, a puppeteer with a legacy just as deep. "My forefathers performed in royal courts," he recalls. "They travelled across villages, performing their puppet shows. This tradition has run from generation to generation." Here, art isn't just livelihood — it's lineage. Each family, each home, is a story carved by hand, passed down through centuries.



Pics: Roudrodeep Chowdhury, AIS MV, X C

Of art once celebrated

The puppets of Kathputli Colony are more than wooden figurines — they are echoes of a celebrated tradition. Bhatt points to a puppet with pride. "You can see this 8-inch piece," he says, "but I make 12-foot elephants too. You must have seen them in Pragati Maidan or Dilli Haat. We make all of them by hand."

There was a time when Kathputli Colony's artists took the folk cul-

ture of India all around the world. "I went to Washington, America, in 1985," Bhatt recalls proudly. Keshav, too, carries memories of global applause. "I have performed in Holland, Thailand, Hong Kong, Dubai, and Norway," he says. "We represented India at world stages and brought glory to our country's name."

Of glory that's lost

But the applause has faded. "Work

has stopped," Keshav says. "There are no opportunities. Earlier, we used to perform in schools, but that has ended now. Our daily earnings have diminished, and with no government support, it is difficult to survive." Bhatt nods to a similar truth. "Maybe people no longer value handmade craft," he says softly. The younger generation, too, drifts away from their ancestral strings. "The children play drums and guitars," Bhatt explains. "I tell them they should learn this skill too. But they are more interested in other things."

Of a home that was

Amongst several reasons that can be attributed to this fading glory is the relocation of Kathputli Colony, which is currently in transit. Once alive with rhythm and colour, the colony in Shadipur was home to nearly 3,000 families of performers and craftsmen. But today, its artists live in transition — displaced by a redevelopment project. "When we were in Shad-

ipur Depot, people would approach us for shows," Bhatt says. "Now, work has stopped because no one knows where to find us."

Of people that dream

Today, Kathputli Colony's artists stand at a crossroads of survival and silence. Their dream is simple — a place to work, a home, and to be seen. "I want to find a nice shop in the market where I can sell my products," Bhatt says. "Because we don't have those means, the value of our art is dwindling." Keshav adds, "We've made India proud internationally — is it too much to ask to live with dignity?" Harish Bhatt's words linger like a song's last note: "I want to take this art forward, so future generations also get to know about it." The puppets hang still, their painted eyes reflecting a glorious past — and a flickering hope that the world will once again see their strings not as relics, but as roots of India's living heritage.

Pics: Roudrodeep Chowdhury, AIS MV, X C



Illustrator, pouring soul into stories



Editorial board of AIS Mayur Vihar, crafting and capturing compelling narratives



Photographer, freezing time



Writers, weaving with words



Editors, brewing their best ideas

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

Truth without tact

Must Candour Cut Through Care?

Shantam Neogi, AIS MV, XII D

Everyone has a friend who says, “Bro, I’ll be dead honest with you, it’s looking very bad.” He isn’t trying to rage-bait, just being ‘dead honest’. And all you wish that the friend was dead for being so brutal, or do you – for he was nothing but honest. So, this maybe the perfect time to ask – are we confusing candour with cruelty?

Problem: toxic truths

From childhood, we’ve heard ‘Honesty is the best policy’. Yet sometimes, being honest destroys relationships. Paradox, right? This begs the next question that, should honesty – the most underlined virtue – come with a limit? Today, we thrive in a digital era, where

honesty often turns into rudeness. Algorithms reward extreme, attention-grabbing hot takes, so people deliver their ‘truth’ in the loudest, most offensive way possible.

Trolling and insulting clips go viral; the line between critique and contempt collapses. A pop example is Samay Raina’s “India’s Got Latent,” which thrived on negativity, defended as “just being dead honest and funny.” Psychologists also note a pattern: ‘brutal honesty’ can mask a superiority play – using candour as cover for one-upmanship instead of genuine care.

At work, ‘radical candour’ asks us to challenge directly while caring personally. When that balance is lost, it morphs into obnoxious aggression – blunt truth without em-

pathy. That’s not courage; it’s carelessness.

Solution: cushioned critiques

The brutal truth is a roadblock to growth because harsh delivery triggers a threat response and defensiveness. Incivility is like a social contagion – degrading focus, judgment, and performance. That’s why ‘rudeness is a neurotoxin’ isn’t just a metaphor; unkindness can poison group climate. So, no, ‘sugarcoating’ isn’t the point – but packaging matters. A cake needs cream just like how feedback needs cushioning.

Being truthful should be balanced with empathy. Both ends of the sword should have equal weight. Voltaire put it crisply: “Everything

you say should be true, but not everything true should be said.” He isn’t endorsing deceit; he’s advocating strategy – timing, tone, and relevance. Also, honesty is not always the truth; it’s often an opinion. Hate a new haircut? Sceptical of a project idea? That’s hypothesis, not fact. Ask, “What outcome do I want?” If the goal is growth, choose clarity with care.

Brutal honesty is passé

The key is thoughtful honesty. Keep the courage, drop the cruelty. Name facts as facts; mark opinions as opinions; add context, respect, and a path forward. In short, stop being truthful – and start being kind and thoughtfully honest. [GFI](#)

APERSPECTIVE



Illustration: Sahaj Rana, AIS MV, X C



Wassup

School Lounge



The stage sizzled with creativity when chemistry met theatre

Great chemistry

AIS Noida

The Chemistry club organised a drama competition titled, ‘The pH of Emotions’ on August 25, 2025. The programme commenced with a warm welcome by, Aditi Dahiya (XI) and Khushali Sharma (XI). This was followed by an introduction to the club and its vision by Aarini R Baranwal (XII). The other core members of the club were Anshika Chand (XII), Anvi Adita Mohanty (XII), Bhavleen Kaur Sethi (XII) and Saket Singhal (XII). A total of seven teams participated, each presenting a short act on diverse themes such as, ‘The Litmus of Friendship’, ‘Big Bond Ballot’, ‘pH of Hearts’, ‘Logged In: The Elemental Net-

work’, ‘The Elemental Trail’, ‘Chemistry in Constitution’, and ‘Reaction of Hearts: A Displacement Story.’ The performances ranged from humorous to thought-provoking ideas, weaving science, emotions and creativity together.

The first prize was awarded to Team Big Bond Ballot, while Team Logged In: The Elemental Network bagged the second prize. The third prize went to Team Reaction of Hearts - A Displacement Story, while Team Chemistry in Constitution earned special mention. After the contest, the core members of the club presented a special act on the topic, ‘Chemistry Courtroom’ followed by announcement of including Class IX and X also in the Chemistry Club.

Rewarding Distinction



The distinguished awardees at one of the felicitation ceremonies

Cambridge Programme

Various branches of Amity Group of Schools across India organised prize distribution ceremonies to felicitate distinguished performers of Cambridge English Qualifications from Pre A1 Starters to C1 Advanced levels of their respective schools under the aegis of Educational Services Organisation (ESO). An initiative of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, the programme encourages Amitians to enhance their linguistic proficiency to global standards. Every

year, trophies are awarded to students who score grade A and 100% marks in Cambridge English Qualifications exams.

A total of 1064 students were felicitated in September and October, 2024-25, for exemplary results with seven students, Eeshan Dhar, AIS MV, FCE; Aditi Hrishikesh, AIS Vas 6, FCE; Sparsh Joshi, AIS Noida PET; Aaradhya Marya, AIS Noida, KET; Katyayani Konda Bajpai, AIS Noida; KET; Reyansh Tayal, AIS Vas 6, KET; Chaitannya Aggarwal, AIS Vas 6, KET, scoring 100%. Notably, for the second consecutive year, Cambridge has also acknowledged the outstanding

efforts of Amity Group in advancing English language skills by bestowing the prestigious Mountain Movers Award.

Cambridge English Qualifications, spanning from Pre A1 Starters to C1 Advanced, are internationally recognised and accepted by over 29,000 educational institutions in 140 nations. All Amity International and Global schools are recognised preparation centres for Cambridge English Qualifications. The programme is run under the aegis of ESO, which is an authorised exam centre of Cambridge University Press and Assessment for Pan-India. [GFI](#)

MISSION IMPROBABLE



School Picnic? It's More Like A Covert Operation In Chaos

Pearl Sharma, AIS Mayur Vihar, X A

Two innocent-sounding words that send parents into panic mode and teachers into tactical formations: School Picnic. While outsiders think it's just a fun day out, cadets (aka students) know the truth. It's not a trip; it's an operation – a top-secret, high-stakes mission of chaos, comedy, and survival.

Phase 1: Permission slip protocol

Operation begins at home: securing the golden ticket – the permission slip. But first, one must pass through the Parental Clearance Bureau. Cue the holy trinity of tactics: “I swear I’ll get 95% in maths!” “If you don’t let me go, I’ll be emotionally shattered!” Strategic silence till they sign just to stop you from sulking. Finally, clearance granted. Mission Go.

Phase 2: Reporting for duty

With exactly 1.7 hours of sleep, you wake up at an ungodly hour. Officer Dad scans the checklist like it's a rocket launch, while Officer Mom is on parantha patrol. The dogs are asleep, the birds are asleep, but you are definitely not.

Phase 3: Tiffin inspection tactics

The rules: no chips, no chocolates, no joy. But cadets are built different. They hide Subway sandwiches in pencil boxes and bubblegum disguised as erasers. Instructors use their spidey senses to find every last crumb. Still, hope lives on for the next snack smuggle.

Phase 4: Roll call rumble

The roll call begins. Instructors scream, ca-

dets howl. “Roll No. 21?” “Present, ma’am!” croaks a voice from the chattering crowd. As always, one cadet is MIA. Chaos ensues. Tension builds. And then, “I was in the washroom, ma’am.” Classic.

Phase 5: The bus ride chaos

Backbenchers act like they're on a comedy show, middle-seaters become wannabe DJs, and front-benchers sit in mournful silence, rethinking their life choices. Somewhere in the middle, the snack gobbler throws up exactly half a cheese sandwich thanks to a well-timed speed bump.

Phase 6: Ground-level operation

Upon arrival, the bus doors open and kids explode out like confetti. One actually gets stung by a bee and runs in circles, screaming. Everyone races to claim the ‘Secret Snack Smuggling Spot’, where black market deals for chips begin immediately.

Phase 7: Return protocol

Cadets drag themselves back, sunburnt, sand-coated, and sticky with melted ice cream. They're laughing now, but they know the Home Gen-

eral (Mom) will cancel dessert privileges after seeing the state of their uniforms. The once-lively bus now snores in unison.

Final report

The mission concludes back at HQ – bed. Operation Picnic may have left battle scars (bee stings, busted bags, and snacks), but it forged lifelong comrades and created memories of snack heists, and full-blown fun. Because in the end, the best part of school isn't the syllabus – it's the shenanigans.



Illustration: Arnav Singh, AIS Mayur Vihar, XII C

Pics: Roudrodeep Chowdhury, AIS MV, X C

In Spotlight



Editor-in-chief: Ashee Srivastava, AIS MV, XII A



Guardians of thought, curators of dreams; they write to move hearts - the EB of AIS MV