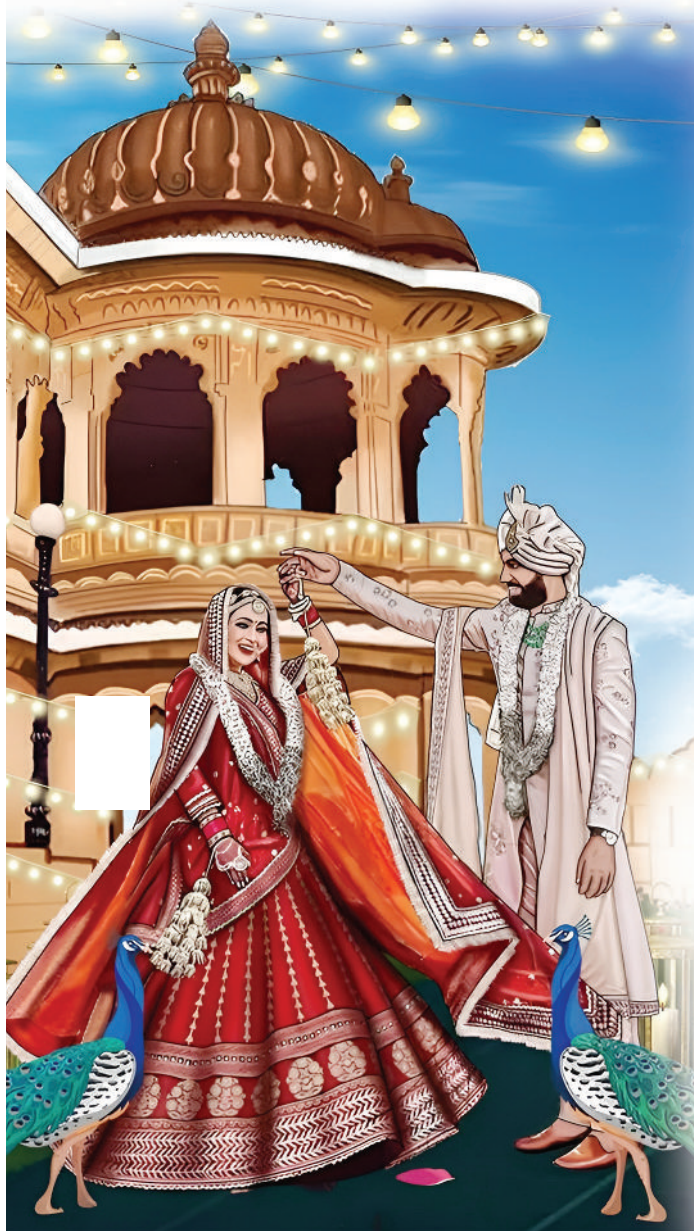


Sangeet, selfies, and sheen

Vows Or Wows? What's At The Heart Of Weddings



Soujanya Pandey
AIS Vasundhara 6, X E

A couple wants a 'small, simple' wedding. They even draw up a modest budget, promising each other to skip all the frills. But as the planning unravelled, so did the vision. Relatives pushed for extra ceremonies like sangeet and haldi, salons added 'essential' therapies, and caterers tempted with elaborately curated menus. And before the couple knew it, the 'simple shaadi' had morphed into a spectacle straight out of a Sanjay Leela Bhansali script. But in the noise of the band-baaja lingers a quiet question: are we celebrating love, or just indulging luxury?

The tech-over of shaadis

For the longest time, Indian weddings had their familiar staples: children running around, waiters with trays of 'Coke or Fanta?', and distant relatives asking if we remembered them. But today, soda pops have given way to César-Clementine Fizz, kids pose with ring lights, and the relatives are busy scanning QR codes – for menu, photos and all the superficial jazz.

Behind this lies an industry worth over ₹10 lakh crore (\$130 billion), growing 20-25% annually and ranking just slightly below food and groceries. On average, Indians spend

twice as much on a wedding as on education. Venues and catering alone consume 25-60% of budgets, with jewellery, clothing, decor, and entertainment bagging the rest.

Gone are the days of cameramen trying to capture the bride from every angle, now drones do the work. These drone entries cost up to ₹5 lakh just for a few minutes. Wedding tech industry alone values at over ₹37,500 crore. No wonder over 40% of urban families spend beyond their means, fuelling a 'borrow now, impress forever' mindset.

Luxe and custom

This trend of glamour emerged from Bollywood, where films turned weddings into grand spectacles of prosperity. After India's economy boomed in the early 2000s, families too started splurging on couture pieces by designers like Sabyasachi and Manish Malhotra, luxury venues, and celebrity makeup artists.

The wedding industry took advantage of this: What began as demand, became the standard. Today, couples want highly personalised celebrations. But customisation is a cost trap: expenses are often underestimated by nearly 40%. While guest lists shrink, budgets actually don't. About 9% of weddings now cross ₹1 crore, many as destination affairs managed by planners.

Less fun, more FOMO

A study found that 69% of millennials feel FOMO at weddings, while 78% of Gen Z admit pressure to attend or host 'Insta-worthy' functions. Around 30% of Indian couples hire social media managers just to keep up with trends. Nearly three in five brides confess their wedding plans were shaped by Instagram and Pinterest algorithm than personal choice. Radhika Merchant and Anant Ambani's wedding set new standards for Indian nuptials, with reports estimating it's worth nearly ₹5,000 crore. The spectacle included celebrity performances, a 5,000 drones' show, and even facial recognition security.

Simple... an illusion?

When the guests leave, the lights dim, and the Instagram reels stop trending, what's left behind? EMIs, drained savings, and the quiet regret of having gone too far. With 80% of weddings expected to go fully digital by 2026, the industry is only getting sleeker, faster, and more expensive. In today's India, it's almost impossible to separate celebration from flamboyance and show off. Maybe the real luxury, after all, is keeping love centre-stage. [GT](#)

THE GT POLL

In light of ban on online real money games, how do you think this regulation will impact the youth and citizens of India?

- a) Reduce gambling addiction
- b) Prevent financial losses
- c) No effect at all

To vote, checkout our Instagram page [@the_global_times](https://www.instagram.com/the_global_times)

Coming next

TedX Gur 43

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What's inside



Grace, grit, and journalism

Be true to yourself and your subject, because you're more than just a storyteller, says HT City's Kriti Kambiri on truthful journalism and self.

...more on page 3

Youth Power 2025-26

Meet the 17th batch of young changemakers of Amity, as they gear up once again to bring about a change and make the world a better place.

...more on page 6-7



A cultural carnival

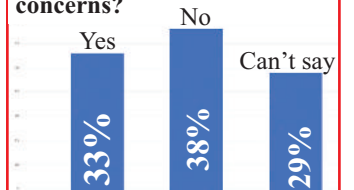
Join India's vibrant journey across different states, as Navratri unfolds the cultural canvas in surprising, colourful, and lesser known ways.

...more on page 10

POLL RESULT

for GT Edition September 15, 2025

GST revision is set to make cars cheaper from Sept 22. Is it the right step forward given rising pollution, traffic jams, and climate change concerns?



Results as on September 19, 2025

Around The WORLD

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



USA

Emmy record

15-year-old Owen Cooper has made history as the youngest male ever to win an Emmy, taking home best supporting actor in a limited series for Netflix's 'Adolescence'. The drama, which explores the impact of social media, cyberbullying, and online misogyny on teens, swept the night with awards. His win at the Los Angeles event broke the 52-year-old record held by Scott Jacoby, who won at the age of 16 in 1973. Roxana Zal remains the youngest winner overall. She was 14 when she won in 1984.



URUGUAY

Bronze breakthrough

Julia Paternain took a surprise third in the women's marathon in Tokyo to claim Uruguay's first medal in World Athletics Championship's history. Ranked 288th globally and running only her 2nd marathon, she was not even sure she had finished the race and had to be informed by an official. Raised in the UK, the 25-year-old recently switched allegiance to Uruguay, making it a proud moment for her family's homeland.



China

Nvidia faces scrutiny

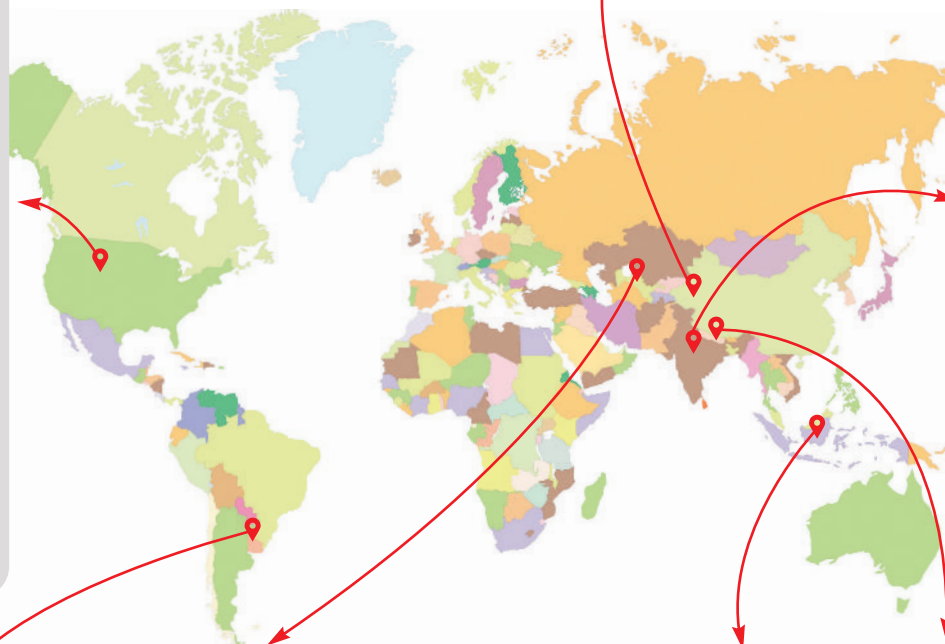
A preliminary review found that Nvidia - America's leading chipmaker - violated the country's anti-monopoly rules, the latest sign of tension between Beijing and Washington. China's regulator intends to deepen its probe as the case centres on Nvidia's 2020 acquisition of Israeli chip firm Mellanox Technologies, which Beijing had conditionally approved. The announcement comes as China and the US hold fresh trade talks in Madrid. The chip giant, whose processors power AI systems, saw shares fall by 2.5% in pre-market trading immediately after the announcement. The move sheds light on the growing friction over AI technology.



INDIA

A green milestone

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first bamboo-based ethanol plant in Golaghat, Assam, calling it a step toward energy self-sufficiency. Billed as the world's first 'zero-waste' green bamboo bioethanol plant, the 5,000-crore INR facility will use 5 lakh tonnes of bamboo annually to produce nearly 49,000 tonnes of ethanol and other byproducts. The project is expected to boost Assam's economy by 200 crore INR. Modi also laid the foundation of the ₹7,230 crore polypropylene plant at Numaligarh Refinery in the same district, saying both projects will benefit local farmers, tribal communities and the youth.



UZBEKISTAN

Pushing clean tourism

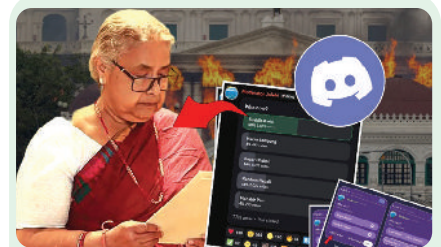
Uzbekistan has launched a nationwide study of hygiene and accessibility in public and tourist facilities, aiming to align with global standards as part of its strategy to attract 1.5 crore foreign visitors annually by 2030. It will cover public toilets, schools, and transport hubs, with emphasis on barrier-free environments for the disabled. The move comes ahead of October's UNESCO General Conference in Samarkand.



INDONESIA

Worst floods in a decade

At least 17 people have died in Bali after the island's worst flooding in over a decade. Torrential rains unleashed flash floods and landslides, sweeping victims away and leaving severe damage across the island. Maximum rain was recorded when over 385mm of rain fell in 24-hour period, forcing mass evacuations and cutting transport links. Experts warn the climate crises and unchecked development are intensifying floods during Indonesia's rainy season.



NEPAL

PM chosen on Discord

In a first for an electoral democracy, Sushila Karki was elected as interim PM through a virtual poll on Discord, a platform used for gaming and online socialising. The vote was organised by the Gen Z group behind the anti-corruption protests that led to KP Sharma Oli's ouster. Karki, an ex-chief justice known for anti-graft rulings, was chosen after a debate among 7,713 participants. Karki, 73, also made history by becoming the first woman head of the country.

Grace, grit, and journalism

Kriti Kambiri Tells Why Journalism Is More Than Just Storytelling

Zoya Negi, AIS Noida, XI I

Don't be a mouthpiece, be true to yourself and your subject, because you're more than just a storyteller. That was the message Kriti Kambiri, senior correspondent at Hindustan Times and an Amity University alumna, left with Amitians at this year's GT Awards on August 5, 2025. As someone who curates and edits content for HT City - one of India's most widely read lifestyle supplement - she uses her pen and perspective to shape feature journalism. With a decade of newsroom experience, a background in classical dance, and several appearances on public panels and cultural forums, Kambiri embodies both the spirit and the grace it takes to thrive in media today.

Inside the newsroom

Being an editor is very different from being a field reporter. Deadlines are non-negotiable. Focus and teamwork are essential to ensure editions are ready



Kriti with GT reporter

to be sent for print on time. Just like The Global Times, a national daily like ours too has multiple sections for lifestyle, entertainment, and features. What I love most about HT City is that the stories have a much softer approach - focused on conversations rather than just stating the facts. We speak to everyone, from administrators and high-profile personalities to local artists and public. The challenge is to ensure that the content is always fresh, never repetitive. Journalism, to me,

has always been dynamic and interactive, and that keeps the entire process rewarding.

Inspiration from art

As a Bharatanatyam artiste, I often draw parallels between performing on stage and editing stories as both connect you with the audience. I believe in highlighting art and culture in the most graceful way, while reminding people of the realities behind the glamour. What appears glamorous often hides immense grit. The role of a reporter is never one-dimensional. I describe it as wearing multiple hats - you are, at different points, a teacher, a businessperson, and even the individual you're interviewing. To truly tell someone else's story with honesty, you first need to understand their world.

Grit beyond glamour

Strength of my newsroom is its woman-dominated team. Within the office walls, I don't face stereotypes. Outside, however, women journalists are

often viewed through caricatured lenses. When I am on field, my focus is on blending in, making the interviewee comfortable, and choosing my words with care. Discrimination exists in every field, but I have learned to use stereotypes to my advantage; these have sometimes led me to some of my biggest scoops. Yet, one must not forget to balance professional drive with personal safety. When people try to intimidate you out of a story, it is about deciding - do you stay for the story or prioritise safety?

Message for Amitians

People ask if journalism is stagnating. With digitalisation and

changing formats, every platform has a different voice to lend. So, find your voice and use it to uplift your roots. As a journalist, you're not just a storyteller; you also have a responsibility to yourself, the person's story you're telling, and the audience. My message to aspiring journalists will always be to find your voice, hone it, and stay true to it.

INTERVIEW

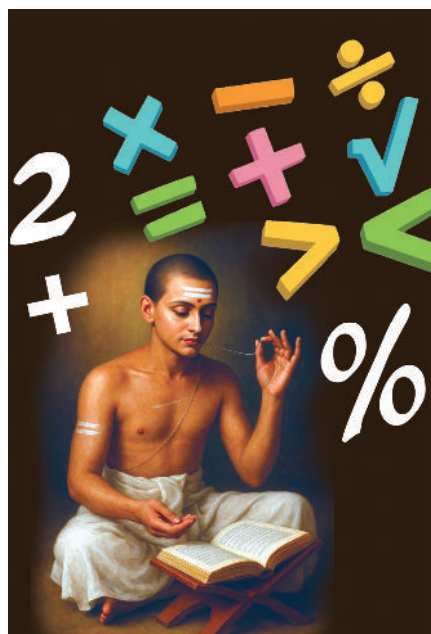


Kriti Kambiri, senior correspondent, HT City, Hindustan Times

Vedic maths: heritage or hurdle?

Vichar Junction

Adding Up The Pros And Cons Of UGC's New Draft Curriculum



Harshita Udayashankar, GT Network

The UGC has released a draft for a new undergraduate curriculum that mixes ancient Indian ideas like Vedic maths, traditional timekeeping (Kala Ganpana), and Indian algebra (Bharatiya Bijganit) with modern subjects. Supporters say it's a great way to celebrate India's scientific heritage. But not everyone agrees. Kerala and Karnataka have pushed back, calling the plan politically motivated, and worry it could weaken scientific standards. The UGC has asked for feedback from stakeholders. Let's see what Amitians think...



Traditional wisdom

India, known for its rich history, sadly has large sections of people who remain unaware of it. Countries like China and Japan focus on preserving and promoting their traditional wisdom. While in India, we are still caught in an education system where Hindi and other regional languages are pushed to the status of second or third languages. That's why I agree with the UGC draft. Teaching of Vedic maths will not only help preserve our heritage but also nurture a generation of Indian minds enriched with traditional wisdom. This will aid in global development while keeping our roots intact.

Abhiraj Tiwari, AIS VKC Lko, X A

Focus on future

While the inclusion of Vedic maths and Indian algebra may seem like a commendable effort to blend cultural heritage with intellectual growth, it is important to recognise that these subjects today hold more historical than practical value. In an era where students must focus on cutting-edge technology, data sciences, artificial intelligence, and global geopolitics, dedicating time to ancient methods of calculation may not serve them well. Respecting tradition is important, but education must prioritise skills that shape the future rather than revisit methods that no longer align with contemporary needs. What we need are forward-looking reforms that enable students to stand tall in an increasingly competitive and interconnected world.

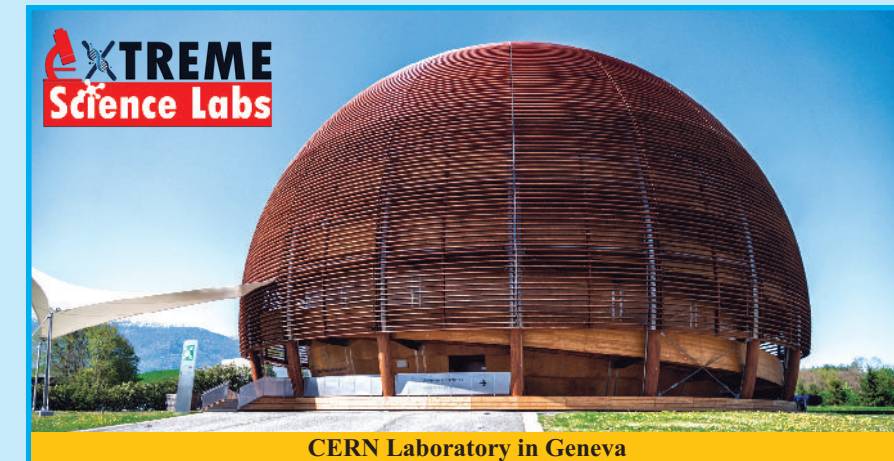
Bahaar Chandra, AIS VKC Lko, X A

Unlocking cosmic code

Have you ever thought of DIY-ing Tony Stark's particle accelerator but didn't have the right tools? Well, the CERN Laboratory in Geneva doesn't have this problem for they have the world's largest Hadron Collider. **Kanyaka Sinha, AIS Navi Mumbai, VIII D**, brings to you **part V** of GT's Extreme Science Labs series, where we travel from the scorching arid deserts to sub-zero polar regions, from deep underground to towering mountain peaks, exploring laboratories that host some of the most daring experiments ever conducted.

Where is it situated?

If Alice Liddell were a physics fanatic, her rabbit hole wouldn't lead to Wonderland – it would drop her nearly 175 metres underground into a 27 km tunnel where the European Organisation for Nuclear Research Laboratory, popularly known as CERN, houses the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) on the Franco-Swiss border, near Geneva. The world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator, it is operated by scientists from a control centre, using a complex sys-



CERN Laboratory in Geneva

tem of superconducting magnets to guide particle beams in an ultra-high vacuum.

Chasing the unknown

CERN is where science begins to feel a little like science fiction. Their mission is to conduct world-class research in fundamental particle physics. With a total power consumption of 1.3 TWh per year, the LHC is kind of like a giant underground racing circuit where it accelerates and collides subatomic particles, primarily protons, at incredibly high speed. This reveals the ru-

dimentary building blocks of atoms, matter and the forces that govern them.

Built for the extremes

Near-absolute zero temperatures are required for LHC's magnets to recreate the earliest moments of the universe a.k.a. Big Bang. The collision also generates immense amounts of data that require enormous computing power and storage. All these challenges are resolved through international collaborations. CERN is a global effort, with thousands of scientists from

around the world working together on experiments and sharing knowledge.

Lab legends

Many experiments are performed in this lab, both awesome and sometimes scary. One of the experiments is the ALICE Experiment. Think of it as a time machine disguised as a science lab. It replicates the conditions of the universe right after the Big Bang. ALICE heats matter to an extent that protons and neutrons melt, freeing the forces that hold them together – quarks and gluons – into a soup of quark-gluon plasma (QGP). This helps scientists understand how the universe was DIY-ed with the creation of stars, planets, and even atoms.

Why it matters

CERN's research, though focused on fundamental physics, has an impact on real world in surprising ways – even far beyond the lab. It's where the World Wide Web was born, initially as a communication platform for scientists. Technologies developed for particle detection and data processing have transformed medical diagnostics, especially in cancer treatment through advanced imaging and accelerator-based therapies.

Read Play and Win

90

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. Following is the link: (<http://theglobaltimes.in/readplaywin/>). Three lucky winners will win a prize every week!



Q.1 The world's most powerful particle accelerator is housed in _____.	Q.2 Which states celebrate Bommai Golu?	Q.3 What is the title of the comic strip story on page 8?
Q.4 The director of the movie Now You See Me is _____.	Q.5 Who is the author of the story Sangeet, Selfies and Sheen?	Q.6 Which creature is referred to as Silvermoon in the story on page 9?
Q.7 What's the headline of the perspective story on page 5?	Q.8 The Quizzat competition was organised by _____.	Q.9 Name the actor who became the youngest male ever to win an Emmy.

Name: Class: School:

Results of Read Play & Win-89: **Vibhav Goyal**, AIS Gur 46, IV H; **Aprajita**, AIS Saket, X B; **Parth Lohia**, AIS Pushp Vihar, IV B



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Values in India's festivals



Dr Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

This edition is particularly special as it coincides with the beginning of Navratri and a host of other festivals celebrated across India. Our GT journalists have done a commendable job compiling a list of lesser-known regional festivals of India as well, shining a light on the vibrant folk traditions and customs that continue to thrive in different parts of our incredible Bharat. As I read about these festivals, I was struck by

how each celebration is a treasure trove of values and life lessons. One of the most profound messages these festivals carry is the deep respect and love for nature. Whether it is grains, grass, sand, sun, air or water, our festivals honour their vital role in sustaining life. The rituals and Vedic mantras convey timeless messages of love, devotion, and care for the environment. Long before terms like eco-consciousness, eco-friendly, or sustainability became popular, our sages understood nature's essential role in creating life's balance. Perhaps that is why traditional festive practices deliberately include restrictions on activities that could harm the earth, preserving it for future generations.

Same goes for the rituals of fasting observed across the communities. Today, experts promote detox and cleansing as health trends, but our festivals always came intertwined with mindful fasting. Our festivals instil other priceless values as well - discipline, gratitude, community spirit and more. Heritage celebrations like Kullu Dusshera and Bommai Golu remind us that these are not just times for fun and feasting, but a collective effort at harmony and brotherhood. I wish all my children a happy festive season and hope that you imbibe these values as a way of life!**GT**

For a noble cause



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Youth Power enters its 17th year, unveiling the ambassadors of change for 2025-26, and I feel immense gratitude towards our beloved Chairperson ma'am whose vision has nurtured India's first-of-its-kind youth sensitisation programme. Looking back, Amitians have raised awareness on hundreds of issues, impacting thousands of lives across the globe - from writing to the PMO to save birds to conserving India's heritage. Now, our new YP teams are set to

carry this legacy forward. AIS Noida will champion the cause of autism, while AIS MV will shed light on the ignored issue of PCOS/PCOD among teenage girls. AIS Saket will create awareness about vitiligo, and AIS Vas 1 will explore solutions to insomnia, a rising concern for all age groups. AIS Gur 43 will focus on reducing caffeine intake for healthier living and AIS Gwalior will equip society with the life-saving skill of first aid. Our eco-warriors are ready as well - AIS Gur 46 will promote eco-friendly celebrations, AIS VKC will put the spotlight on energy conservation, AIS Jagdishpur will draw your attention to air pollution, and AIS Vas 6 will share insights on mindful plantation practices to maximise afforestation benefits. AIS VYC, recognising the perils of hyperconsumerism, will urge us to think about what and how much we buy, while AIS PV will empower people with financial literacy.

These causes are as exciting as they are relevant, and I look forward to witnessing how our ambassadors will bring them alive. Our alumni have often credited Youth Power for their success in college and careers. I hope this year, too, fosters the spirit of giving back to society and raising the nation above self.**GT**

Good and Simple Tax

Making Life Easier, One Cut At A Time



Yuvika Satija, AIS Gur 46, XII J

September 22 hasn't arrived quietly. The GST rate cut is more than just another line in the Finance Ministry's notifications - for millions of Indians, it's a small but welcome shift in their daily math. It could mean a lighter bill, a slightly fuller shopping bag, or even the luxury of finally saying yes to something that has been on hold. On paper, the government's decision to cut GST rates on select goods and services may look like a few percentage points shaved off, but in the daily rhythm of life, these small numbers carry a surprising weight.

Consider a middle-class household planning for the festive season. A 2% or more tax reduction might not rewrite their budget, but it softens the edge of inflation's bite. Toiletries like toothpaste, shampoo, and hair oil that previously sat at 18 percent GST will now come under 5 percent, and essentials such as roti, UHT milk, and paneer have been moved to a nil-rate category. That means an extra box of sweets, another set of diyas, or even the long-postponed family trip can feel a little more within reach. For the small business owners, GST cuts can translate into better margins, re-

newed competitiveness, and in some cases, the difference between survival and shutdown.

What makes the move significant isn't just the relief it brings, but what it symbolises. Taxes are rarely loved, but they are tolerated when they feel fair and responsive. In recent years, GST has often been a source of complaint; too high, too complex, too harsh on small traders. These cuts, then, are more than fiscal adjustments; they are signals. Signals that policymakers listen, that the system is not immovable, and that the government does choose to ease rather than squeeze.

Of course, no good news arrives without its shadows. Economists warn about the fiscal impact: the overhaul is expected to cost the government around 48,000 crore INR in forgone revenue, far less than earlier projections, but still a significant hit. Will industries pass on benefits, or quietly pocket the margin while consumers remain none the wiser? Policy intentions, after all, often seem to falter in the marketplace. A GST cut written in Delhi does not guarantee a cheaper plate of momo in Dehradun. The burden of ensuring fairness lies as much with the watchdogs as with the businesses.

And yet, despite these questions, one cannot deny the mood such cuts create. Taxes are not just instruments of revenue; they are instruments of sentiment. A nation feeling pinched by rising costs finds a psychological lift in knowing that something, no matter how small, is being returned to them. In that sense, the GST cut is as much about confidence as it is about consumption. It fuels hope that wallets need not always be stretched to breaking points.

For rural India, where every rupee stretches further, this change could matter even more. A cheaper utility, a lower service cost, an affordable product - these ripple effects reach beyond the metros into smaller towns and villages, where government decisions often feel far away. Here, a tax cut isn't abstract; it is a part of their everyday life.

Perhaps the real story is not the rates themselves, but the reminder they carry. It shows us that governance is not only about balancing spreadsheets, but about tilting scales, however slightly, in favour of ordinary lives. A percentage cut may not transform the economy overnight, but it certainly transforms, even if for a brief duration, the way people feel about living in it.**GT**

Dear Editor,

This is in reference to the Hindi article 'Social media aur hum,' published on page 5 of The Global Times edition dated September 15, 2025. The article touched upon a major concern in today's technology-driven world, ie, social media and how it affects our overall development. It emphasises on the growing use of social media across all ages, especially students. The piece beautifully weaves daily life and social media usage, while also carefully elaborating our over-dependence, and reliance on the



GT M@il

internet. The writer has eloquently presented that raising awareness about the detrimental effects of excessive social media use is the foundational step for tackling this digital epidemic.

Thank you, GT, for giving us this essential reminder to reconnect with our intellect, and the real world, instead of just scrolling through virtual platforms mindlessly for hours and hours.

Iha Nuvi, AIS Gurugram 43, XI B



Issue: Page 5, September 15, 2025



Youth Power 2025-26

Meet The 17th Batch Of Young Changemakers Of Amity, All Geared Up To Bring A Change And Make The World A Better Place



AIS
Noida Autism

Divisha Gupta (team leader) & Katyaini Kesari, XI I; Anviti Alok Tiwari, XI B; Joshua Philip Mathews, XI G, with mentor teacher Smita Bhardwaj



AIS
PV Financial literacy

Yukti Dahiya (team leader) XI D; Adhiraj Chauhan, XI E; Abhinav Varma & Meemansa Munjal, XI C, with mentor teacher Sonali Batra



AIS
Saket Vitiligo

Aarna Behal (team leader) & Vivaan Tageja, IX B; Vaanya Jain & Shaurya Srivastava, IX A, with mentor teacher Garima Pandey



AIS
Gur 46 Eco-friendly celebrations

Anushka (team leader) & Angel Dua, XI J; Vanya Saluja, XI A; Soham Mukherjee, XI B, with mentor teacher Deepika Bailey



AIS
Vas 6 Mindful plantation

Dakshayani K (team leader), Siddhant Singh, Jai Sharma & Aarav Tyagi, VIII A, with mentor teacher Shivani Sehgal



AIS
Vas 1 Fighting insomnia

Yoshita Chug (team leader), XI C; Aditi Thakur & Ritisha Kapoor, IX A; Shreyansh Kar, IX D, with mentor teacher Sonia Rao



AIS
MV PCOS/PCOD

Bhavyaa (team leader), XI C; Aanya Jain, XI A; Anandita Sen & Shourya Pratap, XI C, with mentor teacher Sushmita Roy



AIS
Gur 43 Reducing caffeine intake

Atulya Kharb (team leader), XI C; Parmeshi Juneja & Amodini Vermani, XI B; Saiyam Garg, XI S, with mentor teacher Jyoti Mutreja



AIS
Jagdishpur Air pollution

Anjum Rahbar (team leader), XI B; Pranav Bhatt, XI A; Satyansh Mishra & Zoya Fatima, IX B, with mentor teacher Poorvi Rai



AIS
VVC Lko Hyper consumerism

Chehak Sharma (team leader), Akarshan Misra & Yashika Yadav, XI C; Smita Bharti, XI B, with mentor teacher Sharmista Basu



AIS
VKC Lko Save energy

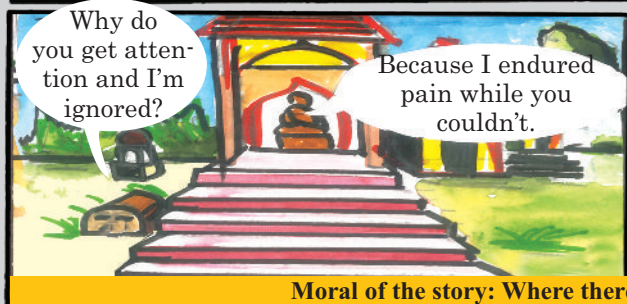
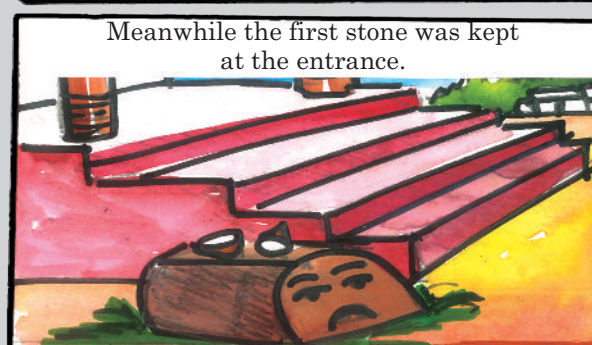
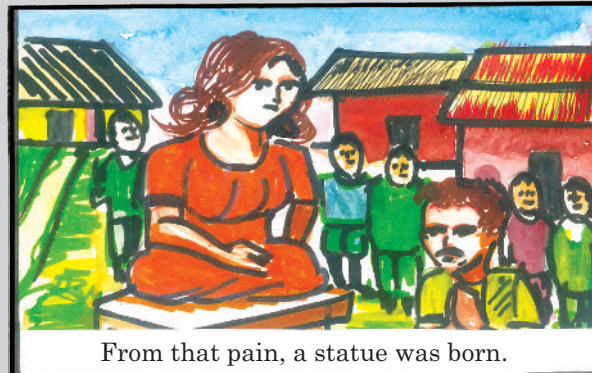
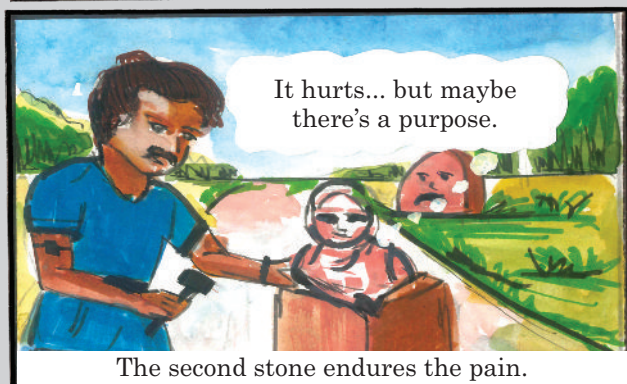
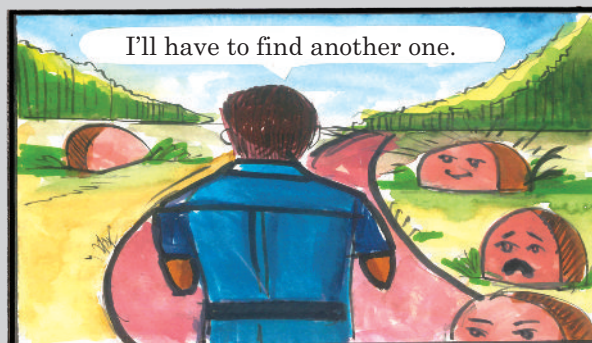
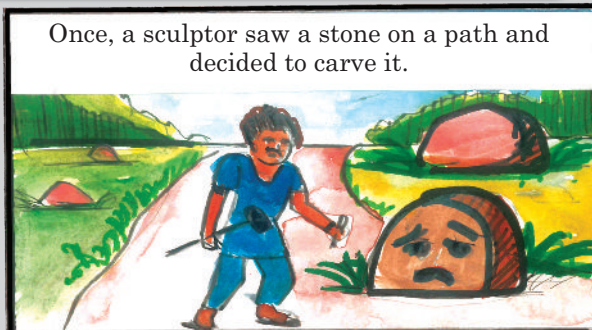
Deetya Bisht (team leader), Anika Purwar, Utkarshita Bajpai & Vidhav Avasthi, XI A, with mentor teacher Pratibha Chauhan



AIS
Gwalior First aid

Aadya Sahu (team leader) & Mohit Saxena, XI B; Ayan Abbas & Mahaveer Singh, XI A, with mentor teacher Jenice Fredrick

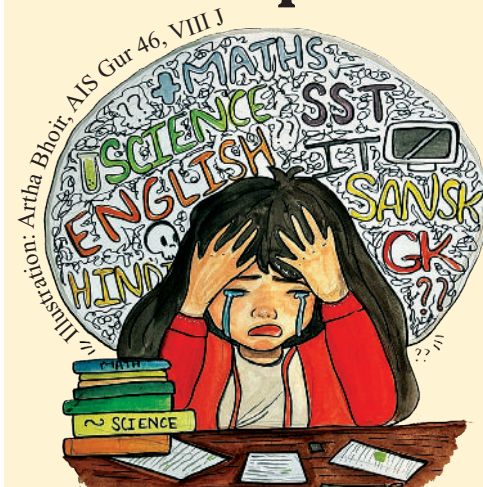
Inspired by the timeless tales shared by **Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan**, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, GT presents **part XII** of a vibrant comic strip series, crafted by **Divyansh Mishra & Sudiksha Sahu, XI C, AIS Jagdishpur**



Moral of the story: Where there is no pain, there is no reward.

WORDS VERSE

Exam-o-phobia



Saanvika Gupta, AIS Gur 46, VIII I

February and September, the feared twin foes
When teachers endure our most foolish woes
You guessed it right - they are exams indeed
Where students, with confidence, do mislead

Anxiety and peer pressure - their cruel weight
While nervousness and sleepiness seal our fate
Ask any student, they'll groan in reply
"Ten chapters to learn? I'd rather just cry"

At last, exam day - our only resort is prayer
Hoping our brains have knowledge to spare
Midway through, washroom becomes our mate
Some sneak to cheat, some accept their fate

Poor front-benchers, under invigilator's stare
Each scribble and shuffle, monitored with glare
Some answersheets burst with confident ink
Others are bleak and blank - no time to think

For some, exams are blessings in disguise
For others, they're storms under gloomy skies
But whether you consider it a curse or a boon
Exams prepare us for life's toughest monsoons.

Echoes on the road home

Kashni Mahajan, AIS Saket, XI D

Time's wheel swiftly turns homeward
Memory blurs as road moves onward
Going back from that moment in time
All the moments are worth every dime

If only we could travel to that memory
Once more, to feel that warm remedy
A pill to heal all our problems maybe
A key that solved all my issues daily

Lifetime's treasure forever, I will hold
A nostalgia of moments etched in gold
Though home awaits, the heart roams
Among the dreams we will carry home.

Silvermoon's greed



Short Story

Ziyana Dawar, AIS Noida, IX D

Once upon a time, in the kingdom of Drakonis, lived a beautiful silver-scaled young dragon named Silvermoon. Her scales had the most beautiful shimmer in the whole kingdom. Though she was pretty, her personality was anything but beautiful. She never played fair with the other young dragons and perceived herself superior. Her arrogance also stemmed from being the queen's niece. The queen, however, was the opposite: kind, fair and loved by the people of the kingdom.

As Silvermoon grew up, her flaws deepened into something darker. Her **vainglorious** personality repelled those who once tried to care for her. She drifted further from reason. She no longer dreamed of serving the crown;

she hungered to seize it. But for the title you had to challenge the queen and Silvermoon had little to no combat skills. So, she came up with a wicked plan. She went to the throne room with her silvery wings folded – her beauty cloaking her darkness. As the queen arrived, she saw her niece and asked, "Silvermoon, dear, why are you here?" Silvermoon replied, "Your majesty, I have prepared a gift for you!" To hide her cunning plan, she added, "I would love it if you could come to see it!" The queen replied, "Why of course, dear." Silvermoon took off, and the queen followed. After a long flight, Silvermoon landed in a forest, with the queen close behind. The queen trusted her niece, so she didn't bring her security guards. "Why are we in the rainforest, dear?" she asked, baffled. "Because I deserve to be the queen," Silvermoon replied

"After a long flight, Silvermoon landed in a forest, with the queen close behind. The queen trusted her niece, so she didn't bring her security guards."

devilishly. The queen tried to move forward but got trapped in quicksand! As she sank, mud covered her wings, making it harder to escape. "How dare you, Silvermoon! You will never get away with this!" the queen screamed. Before Silvermoon could reply, guards surrounded the forest. They rushed to save the queen, leaving both of them shocked. "How did you find us?" the queen asked. The guards explained, "Your Majesty, we have known Silvermoon since her childhood. So, when we heard that she got you a gift and wanted you to follow her, it was certainly a trap. We followed and waited, knowing you trusted Silvermoon, we didn't wish to interrupt." The queen was speechless and as guards took Silvermoon away, the queen told her, "I thought you would change but I should have known... Outer beauty doesn't guarantee a kind heart." Silvermoon's beautiful scales never got her anywhere, and neither did her greed - except to land her in the royal prison.

So, what did you learn today?
A new word: Vainglorious
Meaning: Vain and excessively boastful

POEM

My dad, my superhero



Shiven Garg, AIS MV, VII D

My dad's a superhero, no doubt at all
 My safety net, saving me before I fall
 He's kind, calm, and always stays near
 But hides the remote as cricket's dear

When mom's angry and starts to scold
 Superhero dad flies in, brave and bold
 He calms Ma, 'It's fine, he's just a kid'
 But scolds me for the same thing I did

He teaches, 'Eat veggies and be strong'
 Then gobbles a snack when I'm gone
 He helps me with homework in grace
 Solves math so fast, as if it's a race

But when my mood is sad and down
 He cheers me up, relieving my frown
 With his silly laughs and funny cheer
 He makes all my problems disappear

So, here's to dad, my guide and friend
 Who's always there, right till the end
 His relentless support helps me grow
 I know his love is more than he shows!

It's Me

KNOW ME

My name: Ameshi Arora
My class: II C
My school: AIS Vasundhara 1
My birthday: November 1

MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Nikita ma'am
Subject: English
Friend: Saarya
Game: Basketball
Cartoon: Tom and Jerry
Food: Sandwich and Popcorn
Mall: Mall of India, Noida
Book: Disney Princess/Beauty and the Beast

MY DREAMS AND GOALS

Hobby: Colouring & painting
I like: Travelling and vacations
I dislike: Junk food
My role model: My mother
I want to become: Doctor (a child specialist)
I want to feature in GT because:
 It will be an honour



Varyaa Agnihotri,
 AIS VYC Lko, III A

Q. Why are frogs so happy?
 A. Because they eat whatever bugs them!



Q. What is a pirate's favourite letter?
 A. AARRR!



Q. How do cats bake cookies?
 A. From scratch!



Q. Where do fishes keep their money?
 A. In a riverbank!

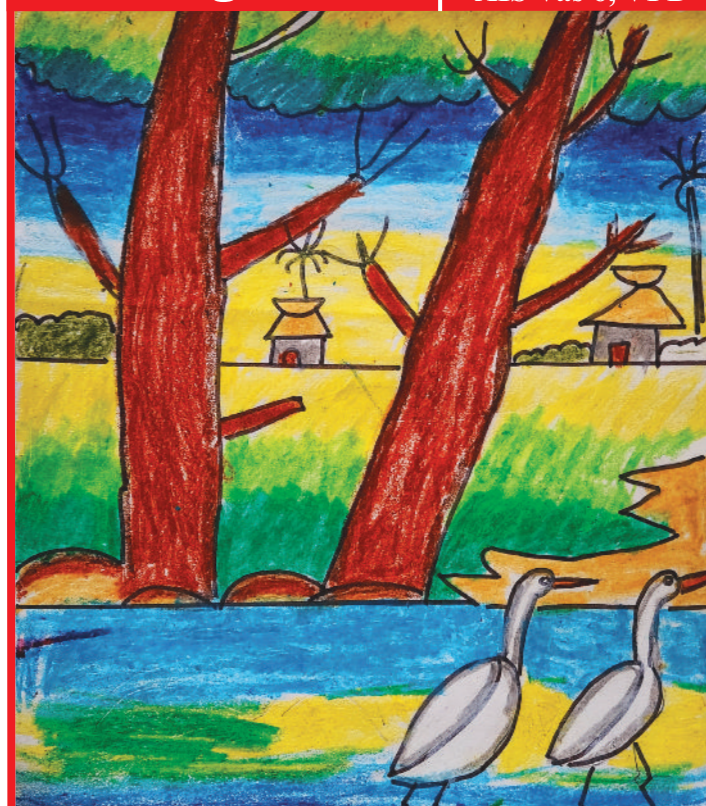


Q. A cow's favourite read?
 A. The cattle-log!



Painting Corner

Shrivi Agarwal
 AIS Vas 6, VI D



A cultural carnival



India's cultural canvas isn't just painted with grand Durga Puja pandals of West Bengal or the Garba beats of Gujarat. Across states and communities, Navratri unfolds in surprising, colourful, and lesser-known ways. *Kriti Verma, GT Network, takes you on a journey into these vibrant corners where traditions bloom in uniquely magical styles!*

Kullu Dussehra

Where: Himachal Pradesh

Uniqueness: Starts on Dussehra, the last day of Navratri, with Lord Raghunath's idol carried in a royal chariot procession, followed by a week of fairs and celebrations.

Significance: The festival celebrates regional devotion and brings together over 200 deities from across Kullu Valley, showcasing local harmony and pride.

Did you know? Invitation letters are sent via local officials (*tehsildars*) to the deities' temples with a committee handling accommodation, security, and ceremonial offerings.



Bomma Golu

Where: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana

Uniqueness: Families arrange intricate, multi-tiered displays of dolls (*golu*), each narrating mythological tales and rural scenes throughout Navratri.

Significance: Preserves visual and oral storytelling traditions.

Did you know? Odd-numbered tiers are considered auspicious. Placed highest are a pair of wooden *marapachi* dolls - couple symbolising prosperity and fertility.

Where: Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and UP

Uniqueness: Families sow barley seeds (called *khetri* or *jau*) in earthen pots at the start of Navratri. The sprouts symbolise growth, prosperity, and fertility.

Significance: The healthy sprouting of barley is seen as a blessing from Goddess Durga. The ritual also honours agricultural cycle and nature's bounty.

Did you know? After Navratri, barley shoots are immersed in rivers or placed under sacred Peepal trees to spread the goddess' blessings in the nature.

Khetri



Vidyarambham

Where: Kerala

Uniqueness: On Vijayadashami, the last day of Navratri, children are initiated into learning by tracing letters on rice or sand, seeking Goddess Saraswati's blessings.

Significance: Marks the sacred start of formal education for thousands across Kerala.

Did you know? Writing on sand means practice, while writing on rice means gaining knowledge that brings prosperity.



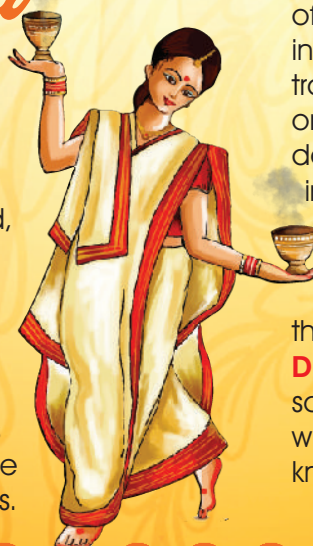
Ayudha Puja

Where: Karnataka

Uniqueness: On Navratri's ninth day, all tools, vehicles, and weaponry are worshipped, including royal swords.

Significance: Honours the link between daily labour and divine force, uplifting objects to a spiritual level.

Did you know? Mysuru sees a spectacular public parade of regal swords and weapons.



Young diplomats

VKCMUN Arrives And Impresses In Its Pilot Edition



Student delegates put forth their points at VKCMUN



Committee in action

AIS VKC Lucknow

The school hosted its first ever VKCMUN from August 29 – 30, 2025, under the visionary guidance of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools & RBEF, and the leadership of school principal Rachna Mishra. The event, led by secretary general Abhiraj Srivastava (XI C), commenced with an inaugural ceremony featuring inspiring addresses by the school principal and the secretary general, setting the tone for this pilot event which was designed to hone students' diplomatic skills as well as geopolitical awareness. The two-day event brought together over 300 delegates from Class IX-XII, who assumed the roles of executive board members, delegates, and press reporters. They actively participated in dy-

namic committees, reflecting on global issues. The MUN comprised six committees, each deliberating on pressing agendas. World Health Organization (WHO) addressed the agenda recognising 'AMR as a Silent pandemic'; United Nations Women (UN Women) discussed 'Bridging the gender gap in STEM and leadership'; World Trade Organization (WTO) examined 'The global impact of protectionist trade policies in the post Trump era' and passed a resolution restoring the WTO appellate body and diversifying global supply chains; Constituent Assembly of India (CAI, 1948 - 49) revisited the 'National language policy' and their intense debate culminated with the adoption of a 'Trilingual framework' ensuring inclusivity of Hindi, English, and regional languages. Disarmament and International Security

Committee (DISEC) debated 'Proliferation of hypersonic weapons and state sponsored terrorism' and Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) deliberated on 'Balancing economic growth with climate commitments.' Delegates of each committee engaged in drafting position papers, debating, and shaping pragmatic solutions, emphasising climate conscious trade reforms and capacity building for sustainable growth. The event concluded with an award ceremony where students were lauded for outstanding performance across categories such as best delegate, high commendation, special mention, and verbal mention. The landmark VKCMUN enriched the young delegates with diplomatic insight, critical thinking and problem solving skills, as well as global awareness. [G.T](#)



A soulful patriotic rendition by the young artists

Patriots on stage

AIS VYC Lucknow

On August 15, 2025, the school organised an inter-house skit and monologue competition titled 'Drama-Rama', to mark grand celebration of the 79th Independence Day. Ananya Pandey, co-founder, Bewajah Samiti and a renowned theatre artist, graced the event as chief guest and the judge. The celebrations commenced with flag hoisting by school principal Roli Tripathi and the chief guest, followed by impressive presentations by all the four houses.

The skit competition featured thought-provoking themes. Bhagirathi House secured first position with a compelling performance on water conservation. Mandakini House earned second position with an emotive portrayal of a martyr's family, conveying a powerful message of sacrifice and patriotism. Third place was awarded to Pawani

House for their dramatic depiction of a road accident. Alaknanda House earned applause for a stirring act on the workings of the law and its interpretation. The monologue segment celebrated the timeless works of William Shakespeare. In this category, the first position was awarded to Ayushman Banerjee (IX) from Pawani House for bringing to life the wit and humour of 'As You Like It'. Second prize went to Aneja Deep (X) from Mandakini House, who delivered the passionate 'Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears' from Julius Caesar. Maria Shadab (VIII) from Alaknanda House stood third for presenting the iconic 'To be or not to be' from Hamlet. Vatsalaya Yadav (VIII) from Bhagirathi House delivered the haunting 'Is this a dagger I see before me?' from Macbeth and earned fourth place. The judge praised all the students for their expressive and artistic flair.

Quizzat '25

AIS Saket

The eighth edition of Quizzat, the annual inter-school quiz fest, was organised on August 4 & 5, 2025. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 29 schools across Delhi/NCR. Hosted by renowned quiz master Aditya Nath Mubayi, the two-day quiz fest focused on various themes. Day 1 centred on the theme of 'People Who Inspire Us', while Day 2 emphasised heavily on general knowledge and current affairs. On both days, the competition unfolded in challenging stages. It began with a written preliminary elimination round, where more than 50 teams battled through a tough mix



Participants @ Quizzat

of written and visuals based questions related to the day's theme. The top six teams then advanced to the finale where they faced a wide range of questions on personalities, history, culture, entertainment, etc. AIS Saket and AIS Mayur Vihar were amongst the finalists on Day 1 and Day 2 respectively, putting up a remarkable fight. [G.T](#)

Creativity at Natya Utsav

AIS Mayur Vihar

The school organised 12th inter Amity Hindi Natya Utsav on August 26, 2025, in which students from various branches of Amity Group of Schools showcased their talent and creativity in Hindi theatre. The event was judged by Dr Jasveer Tyagi, professor of Hindi, Rajdhani College and Alka Anand, assistant professor Hindi, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College. The event commenced with an address by school principal Meenu Kanwar, who highlighted the significance of theatre in foster-



An act by young Amitians

ing love for culture and heritage. Amitians presented thought provoking plays on the themes of social awareness, human values, patriotism etc. Their dialogue delivery and acting impressed the audience. The event concluded with a valedictory ceremony, wherein AIS MV secured first prize, AIS Saket won second prize, AIS PV bagged third prize, AIS Gur 46 received consolation prize, and AIS Vas 6 was awarded jury special mention. [G.T](#)

No console-ation prize

PS1 To PS5: A Sibling Showdown For Supremacy

Nandini Aggarwal, AIS Gur 46, Alumna

Once upon a time, in the fierce and competitive realm of gaming, a legendary family emerged - the Sony PlayStation clan. Like any quirky but lovable household, each sibling had their share of drama, quirks, and a ruthless desire to be everyone's favourite controller. For them, pressing each other's buttons isn't just a habit - it's practically a full-time job.

PS1: Pixel papa

The one who walked so the rest could sprint in 3D fields. The eldest amongst all - he's practically the dad of the pack. A trailblazer in his time, PS1 isn't just a console - it is a vibe. It introduced millions to gaming, making it a hip activity for present-day uncles. But now, like an elderly granduncle who always says, 'Back in my days...' PS1 is mostly remembered fondly - and slightly pitied for its blocky graphics.



PS2: Swiss knife for gamers

Enter the golden child: She's adaptable and versatile. Loaded with tonnes of features, she is modern and futuristic but still in touch with her OG roots. Cool and reliable, she has a vast range of games in her library. And yet, she's pocket-friendly!

It was like the student who aces science, plays guitar, and still helps mom with groceries. Naturally, everyone loved PS2. Unsurprisingly, it still remains the best-selling console of all time. No pressure, younger siblings.

PS3: Rebellious teenager

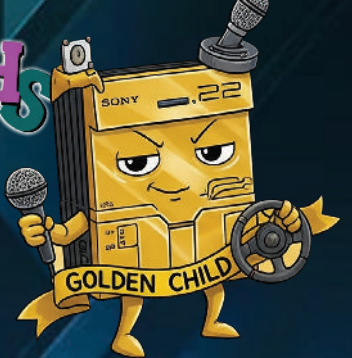
Ah, the middle child. Always the misunderstood one. He had his share of blues, and it was not because of his cutting-edge Blu-ray capabilities. Initially, he just wasn't a proper fit - his



complicated software and expensive games made him hard to love at first. And just like any angsty teenager, he was hot-headed too! However, years later, his naysayers came crawling back, "Wait... this is actually good." He was just ahead of time!

PS4: Life of the party

She just knows how to let her hair down! PS4 is all about spreading joy and happiness with its multiplayer magic. She went global before 'going viral' was even a thing, selling more than a million units in just 24 hours - a record that still stands tall. With her swagger and speed, she has remained the life of every gamer's party.



PS5: Next Gen-genius

Just like any baby in the family, he has been stealing all the limelight. But it's for all the right reasons: His ultra-fast loading and stunning 4K graphics are unmatched. Despite being born with a silver HDMI cable in his mouth, no one is calling him a 'nepo console' just yet. Blame his immersive tech!

The PS family might be living in the digital sphere, but their quarrels are like those in a K-drama. Daily memory-drama (read melodrama) and button-smashing battles are normal. Because in this house, no one's ready to settle for the console-ation prize.

(The writer is pursuing Bachelors in Psychology from NTU, Singapore)

Movie Review

Illusions meet heist

Movie: Now You See Me
Directed by: Louis Leterrier
Released on: May 31, 2013
Starring: Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Morgan Freeman, Isla Fisher, Dave Franco
Genre: Action, Thriller



Synopsis: Charismatic magician Atlas leads 'The Four Horsemen', a group of gifted illusionists celebrated for their daring spectacles. The four mesmerise audiences with elaborate stunts that end up blurring the lines between crime and performance, leaving both fans and authorities baffled. FBI agent Dylan Rhodes, Interpol detective Alma Dray, and magic debunker Thaddeus Bradley are hot on

their trail, but then the pursuit quickly becomes a battle of cleverness and illusions. Just when the Horsemen seem to be cornered, they raise the stakes with a final act that leaves the world stunned and questioning what they witnessed. The deeper truth is layered with secrets, betrayals, and a revelation that shifts the meaning of everything seen before, showing that the real trick

lies in who is truly pulling the strings all along.

Why it is worth watching: The movie combines the thrill of a heist and stage magic, constantly blurring reality and illusion. It is a tale of deception, betrayal, and misdirection, reminding us everything is not as it seems. It traps the audience the same way as the FBI: always watching, but never noticing the bigger picture, until the final twist unravels. And just when everyone thinks they've solved the final puzzle, the story delivers its ultimate revelation: that the real magic was hidden in plain sight all along. An exhilarating fast paced entertainment, with its endless twists, deceptive narration, and relentless suspense, 'Now You See Me' stands as a true must-watch.

Iconic dialogue: "The closer you look, the less you see".

Rating: 4.2/5

Review By: Tvisha Kashyap
AIS Pushp Vihar, VIII A

GT Travels to Singapore



Amay Yadav, Nursery B, AIS Gur 43, poses with his copy of The Global Times at Universal Studios, Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore. It is Southeast Asia's first Hollywood-themed park, featuring seven different zones with rides, shows and attractions inspired by blockbuster films and TV shows.

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