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Trace the Bharatnatyam steps of guru Priya Venkatraman.



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One marvellous Monday...

A captivating photo-comic that chronicles a syllabic habit.

THE GT POLL

Practical Magic 2 and The Devil Wears Prada 2 capitalised on nostalgia. Do you feel it is a 'creative death' for fresh ideas?

A) Yes B) No C) Can't say

To vote, checkout our
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THE GT POLL RESULT for GT Edition Sept 14, 2026

Which word best describes your view on the 'whimsy-maxxing' aesthetic?

52%

Creative expression

38%

Overconsumption

10%

Indifferent

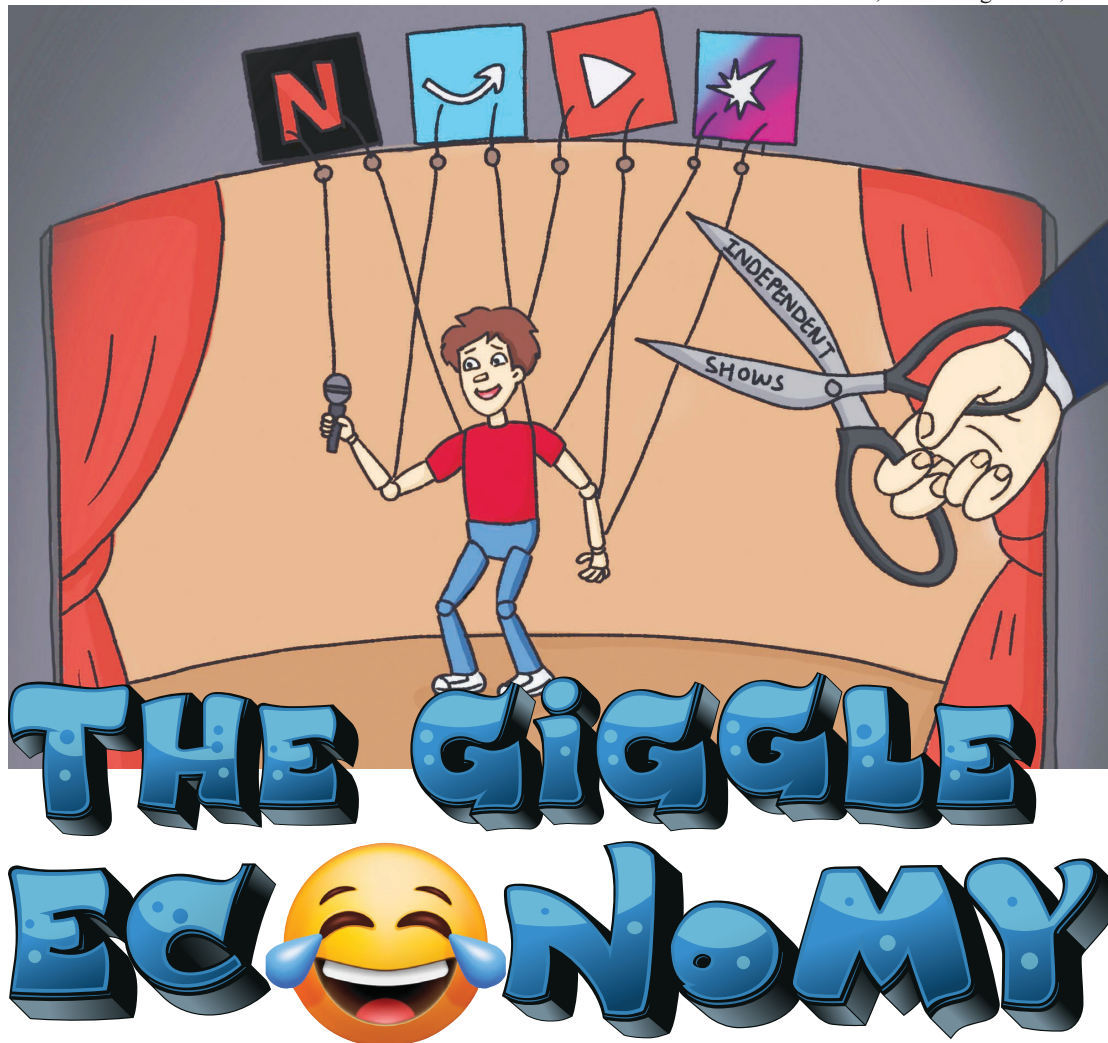
Results as on Sept 19, 2026

Coming Next

World Heart Day special

Stand-up Goes From Being A Side Hustle To A Serious Business

Illustration: Manasvi Sharma, AIS Gurugram 46, XI J



with deals ranging from 5-20 crore INR per show. YouTube, on the other hand, has emerged as the great equaliser, allowing comics to bypass the traditional market gatekeepers entirely. Spotify has entered the mix, too, with podcasts like Kenny Sebastian's Simple Ken drawing millions of listeners.

DIY your own stand-up

For decades, the path to comedy success was linear: get discovered by a club, work your way through open mics, grab attention of an agent who finds you funny, and eventually land a TV deal if your north lunar node aligns with Jupiter in your 10th house. These days, comedians are booking their own tours, and selling tickets directly through BookMyShow and social media. They're filming their own specials, with YouTube ad revenue, sponsorships, and fan memberships making self-produced features profitable. Over the years, comics Sharon Verma, Prashasti Singh, and Shane Gillis have shown that DIY route works as a pathway to success, proving that the stage is wherever you build it.

Found in translation

For years, English was the default language of Indian stand-up. But, with the changing media landscape, comedians in Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, and Punjabi are filling local auditoriums and headlining tours across the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia. Aashish Solanki's PUNJABI TOUR sold out shows in London, Dubai, and Toronto, with crowds singing along to his 'saanu kehndi si'. Tamil comedian Karthik Kumar regularly performs to stadiums in Singapore and Malaysia, where the diaspora shows up in droves. Moreover, YouTube and Amazon Prime now offer auto-generated captions, making regional comedy more globally accessible.

The mic may still be the same, but the business around it has changed completely. Today, a comic can sell out a tour, land a streaming deal, and monetise millions of views. The joke, it seems, has finally become a serious business. 

Parneka Chowdhry
AIS Gurugram 46, XII J

Once upon a time, making a living as a stand-up comic meant stuffing oneself into a cramped car to drive to a dingy café, hoping the coffee shop's owner would pay you a few hundred rupees in exchange for a twenty-minute run of jokes. The audience? More often than not, limited to the other comics waiting for their turn and the lone café-goer. But today, stand-up comedy has shed its humble, sad-café origins to become a rapidly rising trade.

The comedy boom

Not so long ago, pursuing comedy was simply a side hustle. In the West, around the turn of the 20th century, performers like Steve Martin, Richard Pryor, and Robin Williams started drawing crowds with their unique personalities. Then, programmes like The Tonight Show and SNL gave comics

a national platform. Despite a history of staged comedy acts from the 16th and 17th centuries, modern stand-up in India was pretty late to the jig. In the late 1990s, Johnny Lever gained footing with his hilarious impersonations such as that of Michael Jackson. But it was only in early 2000s when India saw its very first successful stand-up comedy show. The Great Indian Laughter Challenge turned Sunil Pal, Ahsan Qureshi, and Raju Shrivastava into overnight stars. Today, the genre has become such a crowd favourite that The Great Indian Kapil Show regularly lands at No 1 on Netflix's India charts.

Laughing to the bank

The modern comic's income looks nothing like it did a decade ago. India's stand-up comedy industry is now estimated to generate around 1,500 crore INR annually, having grown tenfold since 2018. Top comedians now earn 10 to 25 crore INR per year from ticket sales

and brand endorsements. Ticket prices have somersaulted from 300 INR to 3,000 INR on an average. Social media has emerged as a lucrative second stage. Samay Raina reportedly receives offers of 75 lakhs INR for a single branded Instagram Reel, while viral reports claim that Netflix paid about 15-20 crore INR for the latest season of India's Got Latent. And this is not counting the profits from the bonus content on YouTube, a hybrid model of multiple revenue streams. Abhishek Upmanyu and Anubhav Singh Bassi are next up on the leaderboard at 22 lakh INR per reel. Behind the scenes, even the editors and managers now make up to three crore INR annually.

Stream it till you make it

Streaming platforms have fundamentally rewired how comedy reaches audiences, and how comedians get paid. Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and SonyLIV are competing for exclusive specials,



— Around The — WORLD

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ticking by bringing you
news from around the globe**



UK

Extinct no more

Conservationists received 1,50,000 GBP to reintroduce the regionally extinct Chequered Skipper to England. In May, 46 butterflies were released in Rockingham Forest, Northamptonshire, from a Belgian donor population. Funding from Natural England's Species Recovery Programme will support a self-sustaining population and eventual reintroduction to Peterborough. Five translocation efforts have released 200+ butterflies, producing England's first Checkered Skipper caterpillars in decades.



SCOTLAND

UK union threatened

First Minister John Swinney has signed a tripartite pact with the leaders of Wales and Northern Ireland, declaring their right to 'self-determination'. It raises questions over the UK's future. Swinney and Northern Ireland's Michelle O'Neill called for independence and unification referendums respectively, while Rhun ap Iorwerth declined to set a timetable for Wales. The UK dismissed the pact and ruled out a second Scottish independence vote after 2014.



CHINA

Drone rules tighten

Beijing has introduced some of China's strictest drone regulations, banning all unmanned flights and drone possession, storage, and transport of drones across the capital. A no-fly zone began September 20, while the possession restrictions take effect on November 15. Authorities will allow owners to sell drones through designated channels or transport them outside Beijing via subsidised China Post EMS. The government said the measures aim to strengthen airspace security and address safety risks.



USA

US Open champs crowned

The US Open concluded with Alexander Zverev and Elena Rybakina claiming the men's and women's singles titles. Zverev defeated Ben Shelton in four sets to secure his second Grand Slam of the year after the French Open title. Rybakina defeated Aryna Sabalenka in the 3-set final to become World No 1. In the doubles, Neal Skupski and Christian Harrison, won the men's title; while top seeds, Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend, clinched the trophy in the women's category.



YEMEN

Houthis expand control

Iran-backed Houthi rebels seized the islands of Greater and Lesser Hanish in the Red Sea, strengthening their control over a key global shipping route. After capturing Mokha port and Perim island near the Bab al-Mandab strait, their advance has pressured Yemen's Saudi-backed government. Nearly 94,000 people fled from their homes since fighting escalated this month, while concerns over oil supplies have intensified as Brent crude rose 1.17% to 106.92 USD a barrel.



INDIA

BRICS backs reform

The 18th BRICS Summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration, supporting reformed multilateralism and greater representation for developing countries. Members backed UN Security Council reform, opposed unilateral tariffs and sanctions, and called for stronger intra-BRICS trade and local-currency settlements. The declaration urged peaceful conflict resolution and 'maximum restraint' in West Asia, condemned the April 2025 J&K terror attack, and backed zero tolerance for terrorism.



SINGAPORE

Bookworms turning profits

The city has launched a gamified scheme to battle against doomscrolling by paying citizens to read for 15 minutes daily. Readers must log five sessions on a government website to earn one SGD. Each 15-minute session earns 20 virtual coins, with 1,000 coins worth one SGD. Limited to one session daily, the initiative aims to boost critical thinking and imagination amid excessive stimulation, especially among young people.

Tradition in motion

The Journey From A Devoted Student To An Inspiring Guru

Annanya Gupta & Harshull Grover
AIS Gurugram 43, IX E

Bharatanatyam is more than a dance form. For over thirty years, Priya Venkatraman has brought the classical form to audiences across the world. Trained under Padma Bhushan awardee Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan, Shri A Lakshmanaswamy, and Smt Bragha Besell, she now preserves this knowledge as the founder-director of Nrityadiksha, Gurugram. Speaking with GT reporters at SPIC MACAY, hosted by AIS Gur 43, Venkatraman spoke about her journey and the preservation of tradition.

Song of movement

I fell in love with Bharatanatyam for its discipline and the spectrum of emotions one can express. Through *abhinaya*, I can touch people's hearts without speaking. The audience's reaction becomes part of the conversation. This shapes my choreography. *Ahimsa*, staged in Chicago, was designed to educate children about non-violence, whereas *Ram Ki Shakti Puja* was influenced by Pandit Nirala's poems. Yet, adapting to diverse thematic needs doesn't have to betray

Pic: Dhriti Bhargava, AIS Gur 43, XI B



Priya Venkatraman with GT reporters

tradition; my choreographies remain firmly rooted in classical repertoire.

The guru within

Before becoming a guru, I was a student. My teacher, Dr Saroja Vaidyanathan, was like a mother to me. At the time, my dance mates did not understand the privilege of learning from such skilled masters. I, too, understood it much later. Teaching and dancing have always gone hand-in-hand for me, although maintaining that balance can be difficult. Today, forty-three of my students have completed their *Arangetram* (debut solo performance), and I, as a guru, continue to learn through my students.

Grace under pressure

Experience helps an artist grow, but it does not erase nervousness. Before performances, especially with prestigious guests present, I still feel butterflies. Artists and athletes bear the same weight of pressure - years of excellence cannot always guarantee success. Preparation is the key. When I performed at Rashtrapati Bhavan during

INTERVIEW

President Barack Obama's visit in 2010, my team rehearsed extensively. You never take an exam without preparing; a performance is no different.

No shortcuts to taal

We must preserve the purity of Bharatanatyam and not water it down through fusion. I worry about how young dancers learn. Bharatanatyam was traditionally learnt orally; I learnt by observing my guru's movements. Today, dancers often ask for videos. My advice is: Observe through your eyes, learn through your mind. Technology gives access to information, but it can also distance us from libraries, books, and human connections.

Message for Amitians

Recognise the value of art and tradition as part of education. I appreciate the efforts of respected Chairperson Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, as well as all Amity's directors, teachers, and staff, who bring artists and traditions to students. This exposure shapes students beyond marks and accolades, impacting their demeanour, confidence, and expression. I encourage Amitians to remain connected to their roots while embracing the world around them. Tradition survives when generations carry it forward, one step, one memory, and one tale at a time.



Priya Venkatraman, dancer & choreographer

Burns, bonkers & burgers!

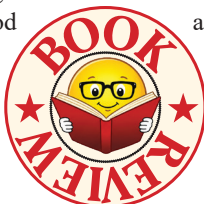
Book: Small Fry | **Author:** David Baddiel, Cory Loftis (Illustrator)

Published on: October 10, 2024 | **Genre:** Children's literature, Adventure, Comedy

Synopsis: Benny Burns dreams of saving his father's struggling burger van, but achieving that means taking on a renowned and ruthless fast food empire. Armed with passion for food and his grandfather's secret recipes, Benny sets out to prove he has what it takes. As his burgers become a local sensation, Benny finds himself caught in a highstakes battle involving burgers, friendship, family, and some seriously risky decisions. This book features everything from last-minute recipe changes to a heartwarming father-son relationship. At the end, Benny discovers that success is

more than just making the perfect burger.

Why is it worth reading: Baddiel serves a delectably delicious tale, capturing a young boy's passion with the world, not through exotic condiments, but through classic comfort food made with a secret ingredient that makes everything better - love. Baddiel merges cooking with competition while maintaining a heartwarming quality that makes the story especially enjoyable. Loftis's illustrations complement the story beautifully, bringing Benny's food-filled adventures to life. With descriptions that make you want to delve into Benny's



Iconic quote:

"Cooking isn't just about food - it's about love."

world, complete with mouthwatering street food and memories that last a lifetime, you can practically smell the food and feel the energy! Perfect for fun-loving foodies, this book is a witty treat that any young reader in search of a feel-good adventure is bound to enjoy.



Rating: ★★★★★
Review by: Arohi Handa
AIS Gurugram 46, VII C



CRUNCH MODE: ON



Picture the crack of a chip, the pop of popcorn, the pssst of soda... sounds that make snacking irresistible. Do you ever wonder how science turns simple ingredients into sensory explosions? **Owais Ahmad Khan, AIS VYC Lko, VIII A**, brings to you part IV of GT's Science Behind Snack series, where every snack shall have its moment. Without further ado, let's dig in!

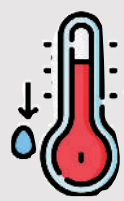
Power type



Chip's superpowers - The crunch comes from its brittle, porous structure, while seasonings and fats work together to create an intense flavour experience. As you bite, the chip fractures into tiny pieces, releasing aromas

and flavours across your mouth. The fat helps carry flavour compound like umami, tang, spice, and savoury notes. With this, you have a snack engineered for maximum sensory impact.

Snack-ology



The process involves controlling everything from slicing and starch levels to frying temperature, moisture removal, and oil uptake. Food engineers work hard to make sure that every chip has a predictable texture, flavour, and appearance while also meeting safety and quality standards. Physics plays a major role too. During frying, convective heat transfer moves heat from the hot oil to the potato. Water inside the chip turns into steam and escapes, leaving behind a dry, porous structure. It is this rapid moisture removal that helps transform a soft potato slice into the crisp snack we know and love.

Lab behind the bite

Starch gelatinisation occurs when potato starch absorbs water and swells during cooking, helping shape the chip's structure. Then



comes the Maillard reaction, which occurs during high-temperature cooking between sugars and amino acids, creating many of the colours and flavours we associate with fried foods.

Meanwhile, heat causes water inside to turn into steam. As moisture escapes, it leaves behind tiny pores in the starch-rich structure, making the chip light and crisp. Oil is absorbed during frying, adding richness, flavour, and mouthfeel. The final crunch depends on getting the balance of moisture, starch, oil, and cooking temperature just right.

Did you know?

The secret behind the freshness of chips lies partly in the puffiness of the packet. Most packets are filled with nitrogen, a gas that helps displace oxygen and reduce oxidation, which can make fats turn rancid. It also cushions the chips during transport, helping prevent them from being crushed.

and high energy density let small amounts pack more calories. The combination of fat, starch, and salt can make chips particularly appealing, encouraging us to keep reaching for more. Even the crunch plays a role: the sound and texture provide feedback that makes it more satisfying. So, while evolution did not specifically design us to crave chips, our brains are naturally responsive to energy-rich foods and rewarding sensory experiences.

Rating: 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

Well, why can't you stop munching?



Chips combine several sensory cues at once creating a highly rewarding eating experience. Their crisp texture quickly breaks down when chewed, while low moisture



Ghosts above the storm

Unveiling The Fleeting Red Flashes That Dance Above Thunderstorms

Anaya Soni
AIS Saket, VI D

Imagine looking up at a thunderstorm and spotting a giant red flash flickering high above the clouds, so brief that it vanishes before your eyes can fully register it. For decades, pilots reported these strange bursts of light, only to have their accounts dismissed as optical illusions. Today, we know they were witnessing sprites i.e. enormous flashes that dance at the edge of space, revealing that thunderstorms can reach far beyond the clouds we see. Let us uncover the mystery of these ghostly lights.

Into the light

Sprites are massive flashes of red light that occur in the mesosphere, about 50–90 km above Earth. During thunderstorms, charge

builds up within clouds, sometimes producing a powerful positive lightning strike. This creates an electrical field above the cloud, exciting nitrogen molecules in the thin upper atmosphere. As these molecules release energy, they glow reddish orange, forming giant flashes known as sprites, often resembling jellyfish or carrots. Unlike ordinary lightning, sprites belong to a group of phenomena called Transient Luminous Events (TLEs).

An atmospheric assortment

Sprites appear in several forms. Jellyfish sprites have a glowing, bell-shaped head with trailing tendrils. Carrot sprites feature a broad upper section that narrows as it descends. Column sprites resemble towering pillars of red light, while Ghost sprites are faint, wispy flashes that seem almost trans-

parent. Their shapes depend on atmospheric conditions such as air density, temperature, electrical field strength, and the amount of charged particles present in the sky.

Above the storm

Sprites inhabit a hidden electrical region of the atmosphere, where the air is thin and the sky is darker. Powerful lightning below can trigger these glowing displays high overhead, revealing that storms influence not only the clouds beneath them but also the atmosphere above. Sprites are not alone. Other members of the TLE family include Blue Jets, ELVES, and Halos. Scientists find these regions difficult to study because they lie too high for weather balloons and most aircraft to reach, yet too low for satellites to observe closely. Darkness and severe weather add further challenges.

Capturing ghosts

Sprites are notoriously difficult to photograph because they last only a few milliseconds, sometimes for just a single millisecond. Most people never see them because they appear briefly above distant storms. They are more commonly observed by pilots, astronauts, and astrophotographers. Their existence was finally confirmed in 1989, when their first photograph was captured accidentally by a team of scientists from the University of Minnesota. Since then, high-speed imaging has revealed much about these atmospheric 'ghosts'.

Scientists continue to study sprites because even though much has been learned, these ghostly flashes still hold many secrets, making them one of the atmosphere's most intriguing mysteries.

Strumming against the odds

The Journey Of A Four-Stringed Instrument

Raunak Gupta & Siya Makhija
AIS Vasundhara 6, Alumni

The time had come for the string family reunion. The hall was bustling when a small figure standing at the door caught everyone's eye. It was the Ukulele, attending the reunion for the first time. The Guitar commented, "Hey, mini me. Fancy seeing you here." Accustomed to being looked down upon, Ukulele had finally decided to take matters into its own strings.

"Erm, hello everyone. I'm Ukulele, but you can call me Uke. You may think that I'm nothing but a smaller, 'short-stringed' version of the Guitar," Uke, though nervous under the glares from his family, stood strong. "But I would like to have the chance to introduce myself. First of all, I want to tell you that even though I live in Hawaii, my ancestry is Portuguese. I hail from the mighty Lute family, which travelled through Europe and then came to Hawaii as the *Machete de Braga*."

"If you were known as the 'Machete' how come you are called 'Ukulele' now?" asked the Harp. Uke replied, "There are many theories as

to how my name originated. Some say it was kept after Purvis, an official in King Kalakaua's court who played me. Others believe that the last monarch of Hawaii, Queen Lili'uokalani, translated it to mean 'the gift that came here'. But, most people agree that it is because my name translates to 'jumping flea', a phrase that described the motion of a ukulele-player's hands."

Glad to hear its descendant, the Lute offered encouragement, "Do tell them how you gained popularity." Uke was pleased to be noticed by its elder. "Well, I have to thank my Hawaiian roots, for it was inclusion in royal gatherings that led to my popularity. Kings would often ask for me at royal performances. Moreover, I was first introduced to mainland America at the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915, where many ukulele-players featured Hawaiian music and created a 'ukulelean' boom in America for the next decade or two. After interest in me waned, it was revived during World War II when Hawaii was a strategic outpost for the US. The soldiers stationed there took ukuleles back home as souvenirs."

The Guitar, now growing envious of

Uke's newly gained attention, taunted, "But I don't remember hearing about you before the 90s." Uke knew better than to engage with such unkindness, "By the mid-1950s my

popularity had ebbed again, but for a much longer period. Even though I was played by famous musicians such as The Beatles, general interest did not return until 1993, when

Israel Kamakawi'ole's version of 'Over the Rainbow' was released. As the song gained popularity, my fame was restored and later sustained through social media."

Seeing everyone sitting and following with curious eyes, Uke concluded, "I might not be as old as the Lyre, or have as many strings as the Guitar, but I have explored my fair share of diverse music genres. My four nylon strings are easier to push down, making me popular among beginners. My low cost made me a go-to choice, even during the Great Depression. I have finally found the courage to be proud of myself. And if I piqued your interest through my words, then please make sure to go and listen to 'I'm Yours' by Jason Mraz, one of the most popular songs featuring me. It ruled over the Billboard Hot 100 chart for 76 weeks." The hall filled with applause as Uke smiled at everyone with newfound confidence and a respectable place in the string family. **GT**

(Raunak is currently pursuing Bachelor of Design (Interior) from MSAP, Manipal.

Siya is pursuing Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Psychology at Dr B R Ambedkar University, Delhi.)



Types of texters

Inside The Chaotic Digital Zoo Of Our Wildest Text Habits

Yoshita Chug, XII C & Arisha Agarwal, XII A, AIS Vas 1

Texting began as a way to send brief alerts. Now, whether sharing gossip that 'OMG, can't wait!' or oversharing, we are always typing on our phones, or *tuk-tuk-ing* as our mothers would say. It's a simple act, done by everyone, all the time. So, how weird can texting get? Well, you are about to find out.

Typo terrors

You: What time are we meeting?
Them: 7 PM. Domt forgot the snacks. There are some people whose messages are an absolute nightmare to

read. Is there really a human on the other end? Or are you being baited by an extraterrestrial? To understand their texts, you need to become a digital cryptographer, decoding hidden messages before replying. It's the 21st century, use autocorrect already!

Grammar gurus

Person 1: See you 2morrow than
Them: It's 'tomorrow'! Use words, not Algebra. And for the last time, 'then' and 'than' are different words! Grammar-gurus are always hot under the collar. When a sentence doesn't begin with a capital letter, one risks enraging a demon. They correct every minute grammatical error, almost

as if they are secretly grading texts.

Short, shorter, shortest!

You: Raj and Max got into a fight!
Them: Idk n idc.
You: Rumours say it involved you.
Them: Srsly? U finna tell me fr
You: I will tell you tomorrow.
Them: alr, gn, ttyl.

These abbreviation connoisseurs are a unique species. What are you saving all that time for? Imagine if they talked like this in real life. Even Google Translate would burst into flames due to these riddles.

Text-bombers

Them: My cat fell

Them: Asleep
Them: On my
Them: Lap!

These people don't text normally. They bombard you with messages, one after another, turning a sentence into a jigsaw puzzle. These texters are like the human versions of relentless pop-up ads, enough to make anyone yearn for the pre-texting era.

And so, the texting-zoo continues to thrive, where grammar-gurus reign supreme, abbreviation-ninjas sneak attack, and ghosters leave you forever wondering. May your auto-correct be strong, your patience stronger, and your sanity intact, somehow.

Beyond books



Dr. Amita Chauhan
Chairperson

Holistic education cannot be confined to the classroom. In fact, much of what children learn comes from the world around them - experiences that shape their personalities and prepare them for life. While classrooms do nurture scientific temperament and critical thinking, the world is their ultimate laboratory to engage, explore, and experiment. This is why, at Amity, we provide students with diverse opportunities to learn, interact, and grow through exchange programmes, international seminars and workshops, MUNs, and many such platforms. During these thoughtfully-curated programmes, students showcase their creativity, experiment with ideas, and test their innovations alongside peers from across the globe. Recently, two young innovators, Khushi Narula of AIS Saket and Aanya Agrawal of AIS Gur 46, participated in the AI @ Business Academy Summer Programme at The University of Hong Kong with 100 per cent scholarships from the Amity Career Counselling and Guidance Cell. They also won the gold medal for 'Best Idea' (page 11). The visit beautifully blended science, innovation, culture, and diversity. Such exposure during the school years makes children aware of the vastness and diversity of people, geographies, scientific thought, languages, and cultures, helping them make more informed career choices. More importantly, these experiences teach them to appreciate perspectives beyond their own. The world today is connected by technology, with communication faster than ever. Yet, meaningful connections between hearts and minds are what the world needs most. Such programmes become hubs for forging lasting connections, where diverse cultures and ideas come together to create better innovations, policies, works of art and literature - and, ultimately, better versions of ourselves and a better world. **GT**

Mindfully funny



Vira Sharma
Managing Editor

Nostalgia. This is what I feel when I look back at those simpler times, when humour did not need a stage or a million views. A family member's mimicry of a not-so-favourite relative, or even a friend's witty one-liner would have us in splits. In the 80s and 90s, laughter came in many such little packages. We looked forward to reading R K Laxman's pitch-perfect satirical take in 'The Common Man', enjoying the funny anecdotes in Reader's

Digest, and chuckling at the absurdities of everyday life in TV shows like 'Flop Show' and 'Uta Pulta'. Later, sitcoms such as 'Sarabhai vs Sarabhai' and 'Khichdi' gave families another reason to laugh together. No one thought about what was trending. Today, comedy has travelled far beyond the living room. Stand-up and digital platforms have turned comedy into a serious profession (Read page 1). This is surely a welcome change, as in today's world, comedy, too, can become a thought-provoking tool. Yet, the larger the canvas, the greater the responsibility. In the name of being edgy or bold, humour can sometimes cause hurt. Sometimes, too much unfiltered language can leave the audience uncomfortable rather than amused. While a certain amount of tolerance is needed so that comedy can remain spontaneous and inventive, the person holding the microphone must also know where to draw the line. After all, comedy is an art. And the finest art does not merely make us laugh - it makes us laugh without making us lose our sense of dignity or our sense of responsibility. **GT**

Free-economics 404

The Price We Pay For Things That Don't 'Cost' Us

Saanvi Pruthi, AIS Noida, XII I

This solicitous phrase, "Would you like a free sample, miss?" is often music to the ears of shoppers, and why wouldn't it be? After exhausting oneself in the shopping aisles, desperately fighting the urge to buy junk food, that single sentence from the salesperson makes them look like an absolute angel. But after standing in the queue for hours for the tiny package of a freebie, one is forced to introspect: is the sample even free or just a mere illusion?

The zero-price effect

Economically, the zero-price effect is a behavioural phenomenon in which demand for a product spikes disproportionately when the price is reduced to zero. In 2013, Baskin Robbins offered free ice cream across the UAE to celebrate Dubai being announced as the site for World Expo 2020. Huge crowds formed, with lines stretching for blocks and spilling out of malls. This chaos makes one wonder why people waited hours for a three-dollar treat. The hidden costs of zero-price effect are rarely materialistic, and are instead about emotional currencies such as our attention and time. People have stopped weighing normal pros and cons because 'free' feels like a risk-free win.

Convenience or ignorance?

And then, there are the environmental costs. What we get for free is one tiny sachet or bottle. That sample was made in a factory, branded,



packaged separately, boxed up in bulk, shipped across the country, and given to a person who may or may not decide to buy the product in the future. For the sake of convenience, we have normalised excessive single-use plastic waste, manufacturing resource depletion, and transportation emissions. But convenience can't justify the serious effects that we are blind to. Intentionally or unintentionally, we, the society, end up paying heavily for these hidden environmental expenses. Along with the air we breathe and the water we drink come the free microplastic pollutants; a freebie we never asked for.

The cost of free content

One may wonder the same regarding the content we consume on social media. Every time we scroll through Facebook, Instagram, or X, we pay with our privacy and data, which these platforms then

sell to advertisers. While the 'free' model of social media certainly benefits users in terms of accessibility and affordability, it also raises significant concerns about the commodification of personal information. There are other side-effects too: 'comparisomitis', FOMO, addictive behaviour, low self-worth, risk of depression, and the constant pressure to perform to please algorithms. And it isn't just a teen problem. At Pew Research, 59% of adults said social media negatively impacted their mental health.

A momentary mirage

What makes the 'free' illusion so convincing to us is its subtlety. The cost is rarely immediate and seldom visible to the one who is benefitting. What initially feels like a momentary gain, oftentimes stretches into a slow-burning loss. Free is just a word for a deferred payment. The currency might not be cash, but make no mistake, because you will always pay a weighty price. **GT**

APERSPECTIVE

Dear Editor,

Have you ever found comfort in a memory that isn't your own? The other day, I was scrolling through the GT archives, reading away years of stories, perspectives, and moments frozen in time. That's when I stumbled upon the May 7, 2012 issue, which was headlined 'My Dream Farewell.' Dedicated to the graduating batch of 2011-12, it featured reflections from students across every Amity branch, their smiles so radiant they seemed to spill light into my dimly lit bedroom. The farewell photos also



GT M@il

served as a reminder of 2000s pop culture trends. Reading those twelve pages, published fourteen years ago, left me smiling and wondering where those teenage faces are now. It also made me realise how close I am to the end of my own school days, with a similar path ahead. I hope that someday in the near future, another student will discover this piece and feel that same, sudden wave of nostalgia.

Naima Oberoi
AIS Saket, XII F





Neelakurinji

Strobilanthes kunthiana

Habitat: Shola forests and grasslands of the Western Ghats, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

Uniqueness: Covers hills in shades of violet-blue every 12 years. Tribes, such as the Paliyan, use its blooms to mark time.

Uses: Draws tourists, supports the regional economy, and helps prevent soil erosion.

Symbolism: Its highly anticipated bloom represents patience, nature's smooth rhythm and divine grace, and renewal.



Palash

Butea monosperma

Habitat: Dry deciduous forests of central and northern India.

Uniqueness: Known as the 'Flame of the Forest' for its fiery orange blossoms.

Uses: Source of natural dyes, Holi colours and traditional remedies.

Symbolism: Represents passion, sacrifice, and vitality. Its fierce exterior conceals deep love and benevolence.



Queen of the Night

Epiphyllum oxypetalum

Habitat: Found in the tropical and subtropical regions of India.

Uniqueness: Blooms only at night, often just once a year, and wilts by dawn. Its rare and much awaited bloom is considered a sign of good fortune.

Uses: Ornamental houseplant; valued for skin and respiratory ailments.

Symbolism: The fleeting bloom of its petals reminds us to cherish life's rare moments. Rising in darkness, it manifests hope amid despair.

Nature's hidden jewels

Step into India's land of ceaseless flowers with Anjani Babbar, AQS Gurgaon, XI Synchro, where poetry is without words and landscapes are painted in every colour of the rainbow - transforming dull grounds into breathtaking carpets of heaven.



Himalayan blue poppy

Meconopsis betonicifolia

Habitat: High altitudes of 3000-4500 m in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bhutan, and Tibet.

Uniqueness: An elusive, sacred flower in Tibetan Buddhism, linked with meditation and enlightenment. Its blue petals inspire the name 'Flower from a Dream'.

Uses: Supports mountain tourism; also used in folk medicine.

Symbolism: Blooming in harsh climates, it represents endurance, resilience, and beauty born of struggle.



Kadamba

Neolamarckia cadamba

Habitat: Native to the Indo-Gangetic plains.

Uniqueness: Sacred in mythology and associated with Krishna's divine play beneath the Kadamba tree.

Uses: Grown near temples, it's used in perfumes and garlands. Its bark and leaves have ayurvedic value.

Symbolism: Inspires poetry, songs, and monsoon festivities. Its clustered canopy embodies divine love, joy, community, and unity.



Frangipani

Plumeria

Habitat: Warm tropical climates.

Uniqueness: Its bright and fragrant petals remain luscious even after being plucked, earning it associations with eternal life.

Uses: Religious offerings, perfumes, and ornamental gardens.

Symbolism: Represents immortality, grace, and devotion. Its resilience reminds us that through inner strength one can endure life's trials.



Indian coral tree

Erythrina variegata

Habitat: Native to tropical and coastal regions.

Uniqueness: Its flowers bloom when many trees stand bare of any - the scarlet flowers attract parrots and mynas in a vivid spring symphony.

Uses: They provide natural fencing and shade; also used as a source of dyes.

Symbolism: Represents courage and hospitality, with branches that offer shelter like a mother's gentle embrace.

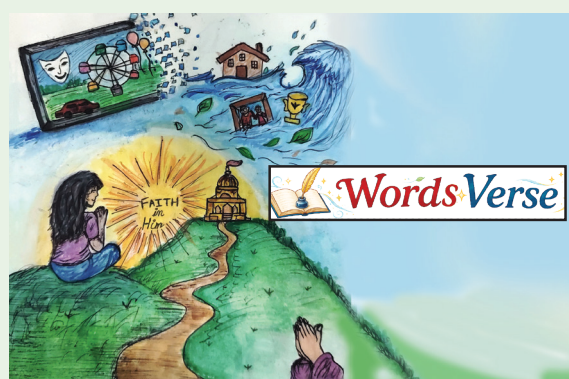
One marvellous Monday...

This captivating photo-comic chronicles how **Ayantika Sen, AIS Saket, III D**, transformed a routine morning greeting into a sweet, syllabic habit, bringing smiles on faces of her teachers and classmates.



Moral: Simple acts of kindness can bring countless smiles and spread happiness wherever you go. The use of repeated sounds, or alliteration, makes the phrase catchy and memorable, emphasising how thoughtful words can bring light to someone's day.

Illustration: Ananya Singh, AIS VYC Lko, XI C



Amidst illusion

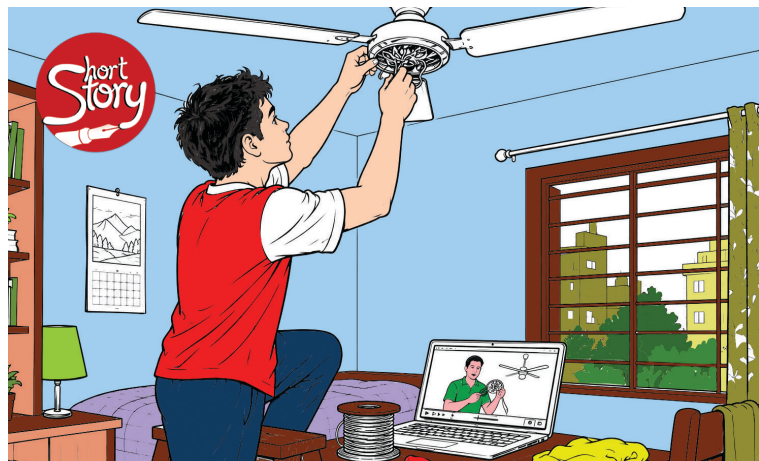
Namrata Amit Sharma
AIS VYC Lucknow, Teacher

Everything seemed so real
So authentic and so pristine
Everything seemed genuine
So deep and so everlasting

I guess we did not know
All that seemed to be so real
Was just a passing show
A deceiving illusion in which
We all got so utterly lost
The one thing that assuaged us
Was saying, 'This too shall pass'

Everything shall eventually course
In this transient, illusory world
Like a picture passing on a screen
What shall always remain intact
Is your unwavering faith in Him
Your faith in His mighty power
And His boundless benevolence
Come, let's freeze this moment
Pray and call out His name
For His love knows no bounds
His grace - an eternal flame.

Wired with memories



Vidhav Avasthi, XII A & Abhiraj Srivastava, XII C, AIS VKC Lko

It was a pleasant evening when Aman's daughter called out, "Dad! Can you help me weld the circuit for my science project?" Her voice carried a hint of panic, "I totally forgot it's due tomorrow!" Aman, with calm reassurance, nodded and walked to the garage to find the old spool of wire he had kept for many years. The instant his fingers brushed against the cool, familiar metal, something shifted. Memories surged like a little spark. As they worked together, twisting wires, checking connections, tightening the screws, and more, a smile crept onto his face. His daughter noticed the smile immediately. "What are

you thinking about dad?" she asked curiously. Aman chuckled. "Just realised that the 'endless' spool of wire I thought would last forever is finally running out." "Really? You've had this for that long?" she said, eyes widening. Aman nodded. "Well, the first time I used it, I was fourteen. I was sitting in a dark, gloomy room the night before an exam, my heart pounding louder than the fan. The bulb wouldn't turn on because the connection was loose. I remembered the new wire I had bought, and I used it to fix the bulb. When the room lit up, it felt like hope itself had walked in." He paused before continuing. "Then, when I moved out to start my own life, I rented a tiny

The instant his fingers brushed against the cool, familiar metal, something shifted. Memories surged like a little spark.

apartment. The fan didn't work, and I couldn't afford repairs either. So, with this same spool of wire I spent the whole night fixing it. That was the day I realised growing up meant solving problems even when you don't feel ready."

"And then came the day you were born. The heating wasn't working, and you were crying. It was just me, a screwdriver, and this spool of wire. Sure, it took me three hours, but I fixed it." His daughter grinned, "I bet mum was impressed." Aman sighed with a smile, "She was." He looked at the spool resting in his hand. "And now here I am, helping you with the same wire." He looked at his daughter's beaming face, "This **unassuming** spool of wire may seem very ordinary to an outsider, but to me, it represents the circle of life." **GT**



So, what did you learn today?

A new word: Unassuming
Meaning: Not attracting attention

It's Me!

KNOW ME

My name: Meher Jaisingh
My Class: Nursery A
My school: AIS Noida
My birthday: December 29

MY FAVOURITES

Teacher: Shalini Chauhan ma'am and Nishtha ma'am
Subject: Environmental studies
Friend: Asmi
Game: Hula hoop dance
Cartoon: Bluey
Food: Dal makhani
Mall: Mall of India
Book: I Want to Be... an Astronaut



MY DREAMS AND GOALS

Hobby: Painting
I like: Horse riding
I dislike: When I can't play my favourite songs.

My role model: Seerat didi
I want to become: An astronaut
I want to feature in GT because: I am a superstar.

GT READ • PLAY • WIN

Answer • Participate • Win Prizes

1 Write answers of all the questions below

2 Click Photograph

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

120

Name: _____ Class: _____ School: _____

Q.1 Whose photo-comic chronicle is published on page 8?	Q.2 Which Jason Mraz song dominated the Billboard charts for 76 weeks, as mentioned on page 5?
Q.3 For Youth Power 2025-26, which school worked for the cause 'Mindful Plantation'?	Q.4 Who drew the outline for Colouring Fun for this edition?
Q.5 Which music album by Radiohead is reviewed on page 12?	Q.6 Who won the women's singles title at the 2026 US Open as mentioned on page 2?

Winners 119

Result of Read Play & Win: **Aadhya Madiri**, AIS Gur 43, VIA;
Gia Jha, AIS Pushp Vihar, V Sy;
Agrim Kesharvani, AIS Mayur Vihar, IV C

Colouring Fun

Name: _____

Class: _____

School: _____

Outline by: **Ananya Singh**, AIS VYC Lucknow, XI C

Please send your entry to editor@theglobaltimes.in

Best entries for Colouring Fun

Dated: August 31, 2026

Avika Luthra
AIS Vasundhara 1, IV D

Linasha Chitkara
AIS Gurugram 46, II A

Planting with purpose

Mindful Plantation: An Art That Connects Us With Nature And Our Inner Self

Youth Power is an annual social leadership programme organised by The Global Times, where different teams from Amity schools engage in varied social causes in several stages. One of them is 'Panel Discussion', where experts from different walks of life discuss various aspects of the chosen social cause. Here's presenting **Part X** of this exclusive series, based on the panel discussions organised by YP teams for the year 2025-26, and a host of opinions and insights shared by experts on '**Mindful Plantation**', the cause chosen by the YP team of AIS Vasundhara 6.



The panellists share the importance of mindful plantation

Follow the eco-centric way of living

Panellist: Dr Damini Sharma
Researcher, CSIR-NIScPR, New Delhi

"Mindful plantation is the awareness of all the 'W' questions. First is 'what' - we must know what we are planting and whether it suits the local ecology. Then comes 'where' - every plant has its preferred bio-geography. For example, cotton grows best in black soil, not loamy soil. Some plants need full sunlight, while others grow better in shade. Third is 'when'



- we must know the right season and even the best hour to plant. Fourth is 'why', which implies we must understand the purpose. Are you planting for greenery, food, fragrance, shade, or soundproofing?

And finally, 'water'. Mindful watering determines whether your plants thrive or fail. Indoor plants are very important because they purify the air by absorbing toxic gases like formaldehyde and giving us oxygen. Similarly, a kitchen garden is a powerful way to stay close to nature, eat fresh food, and protect biodiversity at the same time. Some of our daily habits, like plucking leaves, walking on grass, disturbing butterflies, or peeling off tree barks can disturb biodiversity balance. We

must follow the eco-centric way of living, which means that humans are not the centre of the world, as other living beings are just as important."

Grow native plants for biodiversity to thrive

Panellist: Dr Madhu Lata, botanist and biodiversity conservation expert

"Mindful plantation is a holistic practice that combines awareness, scientific care, and personal intention. It transforms tree planting from a routine activity into a meaningful, sustainable process that nurtures both ecosystem and human well-being. If the objective is long-term ecological health, higher plant survival, and sustained ecosystem services, mindful plantation is the better approach than conventional plantation. The latter



may achieve quick greening targets, but thoughtful planting ensures timeless benefits. Some techniques include selecting native plant species suited to

local regions, creating a mix of flowering plants, herbs, and vegetables that builds balanced ecosystems and attracts pollinators. Sustainable soil practices - like composting, mulching, encouraging earthworms and microbes, and reducing chemical inputs - are essential, along with water conservation methods. Choosing the right plants requires understanding local climate, soil type, drainage, and more. Native

plants are especially valuable because they are resilient, low-maintenance, and pest-resistant. By embracing native plants, you can create a beautiful garden that flourishes with minimal effort."



PART X

EXPERT SPEAK

Revel in gardening as spiritual therapy



Panellist: Dr Anjana Mathur Jagmohan
Geography professor, Dyal Singh College, Delhi University

"Mindful plantation is a contemporary concept that draws on ancient traditions of holistic, spiritual, and organic agriculture. The practice combines the intentional awareness of mindfulness, rooted in Eastern philosophies, with the cultivation of plants. The philosophical and spiritual roots of mindful plantation can be traced all the way back in the eastern traditions of Buddhism and Hinduism. Our Vedic farming, in fact, views agriculture as a sacred activity, and Japanese gardens have perfected the concept of asymmetrical balance. This asymmetry is achieved intentionally to imitate nature, thereby creating a harmonious and naturalistic effect. Such approaches avoid damaging methods like harmful chemicals, non-native species,

and offer a plethora of constructive alternatives to widespread deforestation, biodiversity loss, and soil erosion. As mindful planting involves intentionally connecting with the sensory experience of growing plants, it nurtures patience, and a deeper connection with nature. Focusing on the present moment while actually doing the planting, tending, observing the plants, taking care of the soil texture, the smell of leaves, and the slow process of growth is a highly therapeutic exercise as it develops skills like focus, patience, and emotional well-being. Even in arid regions, one can select native and drought-tolerant species that enrich the soil, conserve moisture, and create symbiotic relationships. Some plants suited for such regions are *Neem*, *Khejri*, *Babul*, et cetera. Thus, one can say that mindful plantation is not just a technique but a practice that teaches us virtues through the action of caring and nurturing the environment. It integrates spirituality with the nature, blooming not only a serene garden but mindfulness within."

Exploring new skies

Amity Students Achieve Global AI Excellence At HKU



Khushi and Aanya with their peers at HKU

ACCGC

Khushi Narula (XI) of AIS Saket and Aanya Agrawal (XII) of AIS Gur 46 were nominated by the Amity Career Counselling and Guidance Cell (ACCGC) for 100% scholarships to participate in the AI @ Business Academy Summer Programme at The University of Hong Kong (HKU), ranked 11th globally in the QS World University Rankings. Held from June 15-20, 2026, the programme recognised the academic excellence and potential of the students.

Out of the two, Aanya Agrawal was also part of the team that won the gold medal for 'Best Idea' at the concluding business pitch competition, where participants presented innovative AI-driven solutions developed during the programme. Her team's winning project, 'CogniFlow', is an AI-powered student productivity application built to integrate with school calendars, generate personalised study schedules, and support student well-being through adaptive motivation techniques. The five-day programme offered an enriching blend of academic



Presenting with confidence

learning, innovation, entrepreneurship, and cultural exposure. Participants interacted with HKU faculty, industry experts, and peers from diverse backgrounds while exploring how Artificial Intelligence can be applied to real-world business challenges. A major highlight was the visit to the Advanced Biomedical Instrumentation Centre at the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park. Participants also experienced Hong Kong's vibrant culture through guided city walks and local cuisine. The programme came to an end with a certificate ceremony and networking reception, providing participants an opportunity to interact with faculty, mentors, and fellow participants from across the globe. **GT**



Winners of Amity Utsav with their mentors

Amity Utsav

AIS Vasundhara 1

The school organised the 8th Amity Utsav, its annual interschool cultural and literary fest, on August 3 and 13, 2026, with the participation of over 300 students from schools across Delhi-NCR. The fest featured a diverse array of competitions designed to nurture innate creativity, mathematical aptitude, and linguistic abilities of young minds. All the competitions were evaluated by jury panels comprising experts from numerous fields. Students from the Amity Group of Schools put up an impressive show, clinching several top positions and special mentions across various categories.

In 'Story Weaver', AIS Noida secured the second position, while AIS Gur 43 received the consolation prize and AIS Vas 1 earned a special mention. Following that, 'Indradhanush' saw AIS Gur 43 and AIS Vas 1 secure the second and third positions, respectively, with AIS Vas 6 receiving a special mention. In 'Talking Titans', AIS MV and AIS PV emerged first and second, respectively, while AIS Vas 1 received the consolation prize. 'Mathsmith' saw AIS Vas 1 secure the second position, with AIS Gur 43 receiving the consolation prize and AIS Noida earning a special mention.

'Shlokavali' witnessed an Amity sweep, with AIS Vas 6, AIS Vas 1, and AIS Saket securing the first, second, and third positions, respectively, while AIS Gur 43 received a special mention. In 'Impromptu Debate', AIS Vas 1 emerged first, followed by AIS MV and AIS Saket in second and third positions, respectively. The 'Young Innovators' saw AIS Vas 1 secure third position, while AIS Saket received the consolation prize. AIS Gur 43 and AIS Vas 6 shared the special mention award. 'Poster Mania' saw AGS Noida emerge first, followed by AIS Vas 1 and AIS Gur 43 in second and third positions, respectively, with AIS Vas 6 receiving the consolation prize, and AIS Saket earning a special mention. In 'Street Play', AIS Vas 1 and AIS Noida secured the first and second positions, respectively, with AIS MV receiving a special mention. 'Light Camera Action' saw AIS Gur 43 and AIS Vas 1 emerge first and second, respectively, while AIS Noida received the consolation prize and AIS MV was awarded a special mention. The fest concluded with a valedictory ceremony, wherein school principal Raina Krishnatray felicitated the winners with trophies and certificates, celebrating their creativity, talent, and enthusiastic participation. **GT**

Nurturing innovators



A participant demonstrates his project



Budding innovators of Vasudha 4.0

AIS VYC Lucknow

The school hosted the 4th edition of Vasudha, its annual Interschool Science Fest on August 21, 2026, bringing together young minds from 20 schools across Lucknow to celebrate scientific innovation, creativity, and curiosity. Based on the theme 'Innovate & Illuminate: The Future of Science', the fest provided students with a platform to explore ideas and showcase their understanding of science through engaging activities and presentations.

The event was graced virtually by Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan, Chairperson, Amity Group of Schools and RBEF, along with chief guest Prof M G Thakkar, director, Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleosciences; guest of honour Dr Javed Alam, CBSE city coordinator and director, Lucknow Public Collegiate; heads and dignitaries of various institutions of the Amity Group. The event began with *Jal Samarpan*, by the dignitaries followed by a lively welcome dance. Vasudha was held in four categories namely Category A: 'Vi-

sionary Pioneers' (Class XI-XII), Category B: 'Science Trailblazers' (Class IX-X), Category C: 'Emerging Innovators' (Class VI-VIII) and Category D: 'Foundational Explorers' (Class IV-V). Participants of all the categories showcased their innovative exhibits, working models, and projects which were evaluated by juries comprising eminent scientists and academicians. AIS VYC emerged as the winner of Category A and secured the second place in Category D, while AIS VKC secured the second place in both Categories B and C.



Young talent on display at Amity Utsav

Rajbir Singh & Chhavi Gupta
AIS Gurugram 43, Alumni

Ringtone roulette

Discover The Sound Of Public Embarrassment

Imagine this: You are taking that one nap that you waited for all week. And then... your phone explodes. Because your device believes quiet moments are illegal. And personalised ringtones? Even better. Nothing screams maturity like 'Baby Shark' echoing across a conference room. Yes, my ringtone goes *doo doo doo doo doo doo*. Welcome to ringtone roulette – where every call is a gamble.

The rock anthem disaster

It's 2 AM. The world rests, but your dad's on a call with important US clients next door. Suddenly, a guitar solo rips through the night like it's auditioning for a tour. You panic. And across the room, Bon Jovi roars at maximum volume: "Woahh, we're half way there!" Your ringtone doesn't just ring; it performs.

The classical overcorrection

Embarrassed by your rock concert phase, you switch to something elegant. A soft and peaceful melody. Now your phone rings with the enthusiasm of a polite whisper. So polite, in fact, that you never hear it. It rings. It stops. Life goes on. You discover three missed calls



and a disappointed mother. If it slips under a pillow? Gone. You could exhaust unlimited calling and still not locate it. It's less a ringtone and more a background suggestion. Very useless.

The 'normal' ringtone crisis

After enough humiliation, you retreat to the default tone. But now comes a new fear... the fear of being boring. Your phone rings among friends. Heads turn.

Someone whispers, "You never changed it?" There is no winning from this judgement.

The infamous iPhone tone

Every iPhone user knows it. That

cheerful, unstoppable jingle. The one that cuts through walls, dignity, and inner peace. It doesn't ring; it announces. If ancient wars had this ringtone, history would appear very different. Forget swords and strategy, just press play and watch your enemies surrender within seconds.

The Android lullaby

And then comes the legend of the Android ringtones - 'Flowers' tone. Set it as an alarm and congratulations, you have invented a musical sleeping pill. Suddenly, you are in a meadow, chasing butterflies, ignoring calls from your boss. Productivity? Questionable. Peaceful? Absolutely.

In the end, ringtones are tiny chaos machines we willingly carry in our pockets. Too loud, and you terrify wildlife. Too soft, and you miss life entirely. Too normal, and society questions your personality. So, the next time your phone erupts at the worst possible moment, take a deep breath. After all, it's not just a ringtone; it is character development.

(Rajbir is pursuing Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical) from Panjab University and Chhavi is pursuing B Com (Hons) from Hansraj College, DU.)

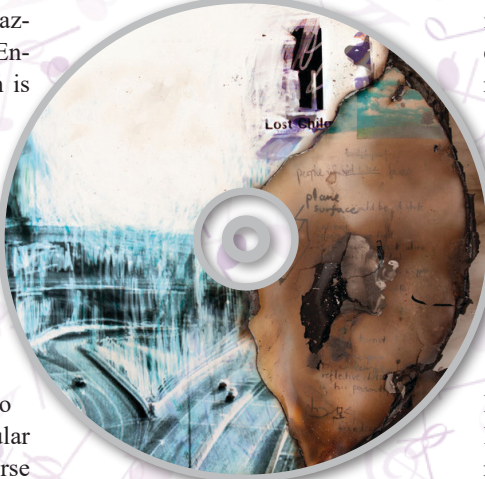
Still human? Not so sure!

Name of the album: OK Computer | Artist: Radiohead

Released on: May 21, 1997 | Genre: Electronic & Alternative rock, Art pop

ALBUM Review

Synopsis: This album is a trailblazing musical achievement by the English rock band Radiohead, which is widely hailed for its atmospheric soundscapes and deep exploration of humanity. Nearly three decades after its release, OK Computer remains one of the most celebrated albums in the music history. It is a reflection of modern humanity's rapidly growing dependence on technology in the pursuit of progress. But do not mistake it for following a singular storyline, the album presents a diverse collection of interconnected tracks, capturing the complexity of chaos that is real life. Each song combines poetic lyricism, symbolism, and unconventional structures with haunting melodies, giving the album unique perspectives and making it both powerful and



thought-provoking.

Why is it worth listening: OK Computer is a rare blend of musical innovation and sincere storytelling. While this piece of artistic brilliance has earned a Grammy and a Brit Award,

it needs no trophy to prove its influence and rarity. Radiohead's experimental production resonates with the listeners' souls by exploring themes of isolation and human connection through clever symbolism, forcing the audience to introspect and reflect on life. The album is an immersive experience that will be relatable for generations to come.

My favourite song: 'Karma Police' has to be my absolute favourite. It not only evokes timeless emotions like guilt and pressure, but it also makes one want to perhaps be a better human being. However, it is the unusual chord progression and beautiful bridge that truly make this track stand out from the rest of the album.

Rating: ★★★★★

Review by: Jyena Gupta
AIS Raipur, X A



GT
Travels to Sri Lanka

Explorer: Shlok Thakur, AIS Vasundhara 6, VII D

Location: Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Rambukkana

Attraction: Home to the world's largest herd of elephants in captivity, it's famous for elephant's public river baths. It spans 25 acre of coconut plantation adjacent to the Maha Oya River.

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