Text: Saanjh Sahay, X D | Graphic: Artha Bhoir, VIII J; AIS Gurugram 46

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Making A Newspaper Contest AIS Gur 46 2025-26

A sleek smart panel that fits right inside your closet to be your very own fashion consultant.

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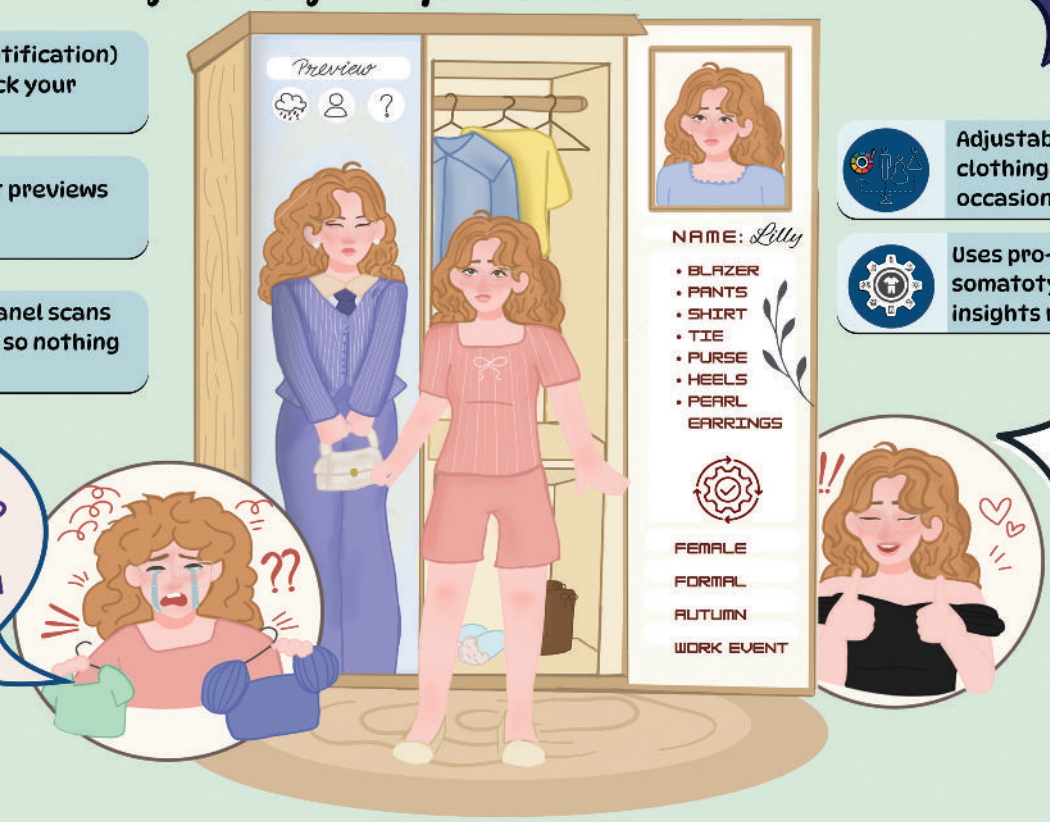
- AR mirror shows you outfit previews and analyses your style.
- Smart wardrobe tracking panel scans and organises your clothes so nothing gets forgotten.
- Adjustable settings for gender, clothing preferences, weather, and occasion through machine-learning.
- Uses pro-level colorimetry and somatotyping to provide instant styling insights reserved for fashion studios.



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

The microbial warfare

The Truth Behind Nature's Puppet Master

Sehej Kapur
AIS Mayur Vihar, VII D

Deep in the humid understory of tropical rainforests, a chilling drama unfolds – one that could rival any horror film. It stars an unsuspecting ant and a sinister fungal parasite with a flair for mind control. This is the story of Ophiocordyceps unilateralis, better known as the zombie ant fungus.

Conjuring ants

As the name suggests, the zombie ant fungus is a parasitic organism that infects ants to manipulate their behaviour in a sinister act of mind control. Once inside, it spreads through the ant's body and takes charge of its muscles, forcing it to climb plants and bite onto a leaf or twig in what's called a 'death grip'.

The origins

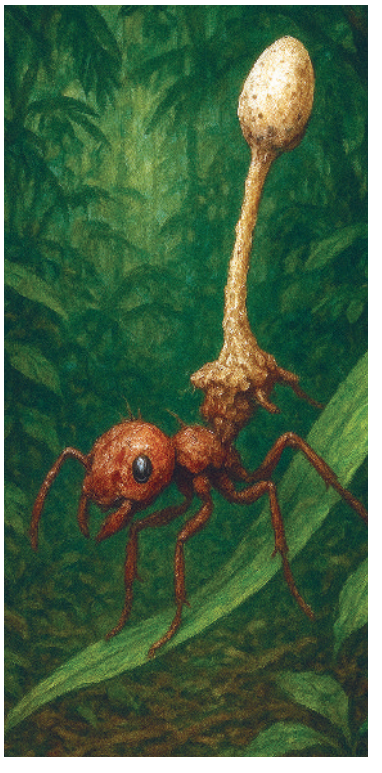
It thrives in humid environments of tropical rainforests in South America, Southeast Asia and Africa. After killing the ant, the fungus uses the host's body as a nutrient source. It grows a stalk from the back of its head and releases spores into the environment - often directly onto the forest floor, so they come into contact with other ants. The fungus helps control ant populations and supporting biodiversity.

Real-life zombies?

The fungus' life cycle is closely tied to the behaviour and biology of the ants, making it a perfect example of nature's 'zombies.' Although it is shown that humans can be infected by the zombie ants in the game and series 'The Last of Us', it is far from true. The fungus cannot survive the high internal body temperature of humans. Though similar species can infect insects such as spiders, and moths.

Fun-gi facts

The fungus doesn't control the ant's brain, it floods its body with chemicals and takes over its muscles. The ant isn't 'aware' of what's happening, but can no longer be the conductor of its orchestra. Nature's horror story, indeed! GT



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So, what's the verdict

Today, Rights of Nature laws exist in nearly 40 countries and over 400 localities. From glaciers in the Andes to sacred forests in Asia, Earth's voice is beginning to ring in parliaments and courtroom halls. Imagine a future where rivers sue for clean water, forests challenge deforestation, and glaciers file cases against fossil fuel giants, not just in protests, but in courtrooms. The trial of Planet vs Humanity is still underway. Its outcome will define not only ecosystems, but the future of our species. Will we be exploiters, or stewards? The evidence mounts. The gavel waits.

The Earth now speaks through laws not cries;
Your Honour - will we listen or turn a blind eye?

Page editor: Saanjh Sahay, AIS Gurugram 46, X D