

# A celebration beyond self



Dr. Amita Chauhan  
Chairperson

Birthdays are special. They are full of moments of joy, gratitude and reflection. For me, however, this day has for a long time been something much larger than a personal celebration. Every year, this day reminds me how beautifully my Amitians have imbibed the human values I have always wished them to uphold. When my birthday is observed as Prerna Diwas, and children dedicate themselves to caring for the environment through tree planting, sustainability initiatives and other acts of kindness, my heart fills with profound gratitude. There can be no greater gift than to see one's special day being celebrated in service of Mother Earth. I am equally moved when I witness the entire Amity family renewing its commitment to compassion, empathy and respect for all life during the 'Human Values Quarter'. Such moments reaffirm my belief that education must go far beyond academic excellence, it must nurture humane hearts and responsible citizens. Every act of kindness, every helping hand, every effort to protect nature takes us one step closer to a better world.

I have always believed that human life is meaningful only when it is used to spread positivity, hope and love. To observe that my dear Amitians live by these ideals on a daily basis is deeply humbling. On my special day, I urge each one of you to make every birthday a day of giving back - plant a tree, support a needy person, bring comfort to the elderly, or brighten a life through compassion. Let your celebrations carry purpose. When we inspire others through good deeds, we discover the truest meaning of life. [GT](#)

# Destination green



Vira Sharma  
Managing Editor

This edition's top story focuses on some breathtaking tourist destinations - many in India - that may disappear within the next two decades due to climate change and reckless human activity. It is a sad thought that despite being one of the planet's most powerful species, we have too often used our power to destroy rather than preserve nature's beautiful gifts. This crisis is not the result of a few years or decades, but the out-

come of a century defined by 'over' - overconsumption, over-tourism, and the excesses driven by social media trends. This brings to my mind a moving legend from Dronagiri village in Uttarakhand which offers a profound lesson about protecting Mother Earth. The villagers do not worship Lord Hanuman, for they believe he uprooted their sacred Dronagiri mountain while searching for the *Sanjeevani booti*. For them, it was not merely a mountain, but a protector and a provider. Their love for nature was such that they held even a God accountable for harming it. This folk wisdom carries timeless messages for all of us. First, that we must honour the natural world that sustains life. Second, safeguarding the sanctity of nature is a collective responsibility. Responsible tourism begins when travellers leave behind not waste, but respect, ensuring destinations thrive for communities, cultures, and generations. India already offers inspiring examples - from Sikkim's eco-sensitive tourism model to the mangroves of Sundarbans with their conservation-led practices. Protecting the environment should come naturally to all of us - because in preserving nature, we preserve a part of ourselves. [GT](#)

# Survival of the fittest?

## More Like Survival Of The Most Comfortable

Ekam Sibia

AIS Gur 46, XII I

Charles Darwin, bless his cravat, the man who brought us the theory of evolution, would likely be rolling in his grave if he saw the state of modern humanity. Here's the thing, Charlie (can I call you Charlie?), your whole 'survival of the fittest' business seems a tad outdated in the era of ergonomic chairs and unlimited chips.

The animal kingdom is a gladiator arena - the strongest, fastest, sneakiest creatures reign supreme, leaving the slowpokes and the fashionably challenged to become lion kibble. Makes perfect sense, right? But then you meet a millennial and you realize that they are of a different make. For them, the modern world has thrown a giant, fluffy beanbag chair at Darwinian concepts. It's a generation that thrives on takeout and avoiding anything remotely strenuous. Their motto? 'Work smarter, not harder', which translates loosely to 'delegate everything to a robot while they perfect their bed-rotting game'.

You know what, Charlie? In 2026, the 'high performers' are those who master the art of 'strategic napping' under fluorescent lights and convince their boss they were just brainstorming with their eyes closed. Not to mention, the 'fittest' human now has a perfectly curated online persona that screams success even if their bank account sings a different tune. Take, for instance, the gazelle. In Darwin's day, it was all about outrunning the cheetah. These days, the gazelle would probably just whip out its smartphone, order a ride-sharing cab with a five-star rating, and be



sipping on a grass smoothie before the cheetah even showed up.

Here's how Darwin's theory gets lost in translation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Natural selection? More like selection of the most comfortable Netflix queue. Strength? Not required, as feasts are just a tap away. Think about it. We've engineered a world where weakness is not just tolerated, it's celebrated. We have participation trophies for everyone, elevators for climbing one measly flight of stairs, and self-checkout lanes so that one can avoid socially awkward human interaction.

Darwin pictured a world where only the toughest survive, and we're all out here surviving on naps and existential memes.

But hey, maybe Darwin was onto something after all. Maybe in the modern world, the crème de la crème are those who can adapt the best. The ones who can navigate the complex social jungle of brunch reservations and dodge awkward office small talk. People who mastered the art of completing chores while simultaneously bingeing reality TV.

Maybe 'survival of the comfy' or 'survival of those who can fake it till they make it' would be more fitting for our modern, snack-binging, carpal tunnel-inducing world.

But hey, Charlie, thanks for the whole evolution thing. It's pretty cool, even if we have become sybaritic, screen-addicted, and self-entitled creatures in the process. [GT](#)

Dear Editor,

The article 'Perfect score', published on page 1 of the GT edition dated April 20, 2026, showcased the phenomenal Class X results of Amity Schools. Upon examining the score tally, I was awestruck by the academic excellence it reflected. That instantly brought to my mind Iqbal's iconic couplet, often amplified by our respected chairperson: "Khud hi ko kar buland itna ke har taqdeer se pehle Khuda bande se khud pooche, bata teri raza kya hai?"

These words inculcate a relentless



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spirit of perseverance among learners. Amitians never fail to surprise, be it academics or extracurriculars. Two students scored a perfect 500, 1,288 achieved above 90%, and 2,067 secured distinctions, reaffirming Amity's ethos. The article beautifully acknowledges all the venerated school Principals, teachers, and parents who continuously guided the students.

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Issue: Page 1, April 20, 2026