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SCHOOLASTIC NEWS

IMPACT-FOCUSED SCHOOL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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Education Event - Samanvay and Chaitanya
Student Voice - Summers are for Friends, Family and Food!
FairGaze Initiatives - Why AI Cannot Replace
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Editorial

Dear Readers,

Summer vacation is not just a break from school, but a season of laughter, freedom, adventure and unforgettable memories. For students, summer is like stepping into a world where there are no alarm clocks, school bags are lying undisturbed in corners, and every day holds the promise of something fun. The echoes of summer are forever in our hearts, bringing us back to the happiest days of childhood.

In this issue, we bring you a taste of Summer in heartwarming poems, short stories and articles by students and teachers who tell us how this season renews the heart and mind.

We begin a new monthly column, MUN Talks, on building student capacity to be future leaders. This month's nugget takes you through why Diplomacy and International Relations are a must for all.

The Schoolastic Team was privileged to be invited to two events that addressed moot points in education - Samanvay, by the Delhi Regional Chapter of the Institute of Town Planners, India, on sustainable city planning, and Chaitanya, Gurgaon Progressive Schools Council XXIV Annual Convention 2026, on wellness and wellbeing. We bring a comprehensive report on both events.

In Educator Focus we bring you not just a person but a different idea on schooling: Alternate schools and the philosophy behind their idea of education. Beyond the Cubicle throws light on a career in sustainability and its significance for planet Earth.

We also bring you our take on the idea of a vacation in the time of Artificial Intelligence, and a DIY for you to create a green ecosystem in your home.

Happy Reading!

Do write to us your thoughts about this Issue.

Warm regards,

The Editorial Team
FairGaze Schoolastic News Magazine

Summers are for Friends, Family and Food!

Trisha Sawant, Grade 12, Gurugram Global Heights School

For most people, summer is just a season. Another stretch of time marked by hot, winding days and the same monotonous life. However, for the school-going younglings, like me, that last bell, which is a sound of liberation, marks the start of summer vacations. This feeling is the most special when school years are coming to an end, and this time of “summer vacations” will never again be the same.

Every year, the long-awaited holidays start with plans with my closest friends, swimming, going out to lunch and endless sleepovers. Summer holidays are also a prime time to visit family. Being a part of a nuclear family, it is not every day that I stumble upon opportunities to be close to my extended family. So, flying to the ever-changing and fast-paced Bombay city is a must.

As soon as I land, I am surrounded by those I value most in life-- family. Uncles and aunts and grandmothers and grandfathers all waiting to hear the latest updates from my life, clamouring around to feed me exotic Maharashtrian dishes that I seldom find anywhere else.

Exploring the city is always a new adventure, catching trains bursting at the seams with people, crowds talking around me in my mother tongue, and the amazing coastal air acting like a channel of catharsis. My favourite thing to do is to set out and eat as much as possible.

Being a part of a family who take their mealtime with utmost seriousness, concerns of health go out the window as we indulge in hot and spicy vada pavs and crunchy fish fry. Stopping for sugarcane juice in the middle of a street in this star-studded city, the juice sellers tell you stories of all the famous personalities who came by to drink the same sugarcane juice at that very stall.

The summer fun continues as my family and I pile into cars to drive off to our native place, a village four hours away from Goa, the most magical and spectacular destination.

The long, winding beaches, with stunning sunset views far away from the hustle and bustle of the cities, are exactly the type of getaway that one needs to fuel up for the rest of the year. If I had to summarise the summers, I have had over all these years, it all comes down to Friends, Family and Food. The three pillars of the most adventurous and encapsulating summers ever.



Picture Credit: www.freepik.com

Echoes of Summer

Mrs. Shailaja Veerabathini, Teacher at Convent Girls' High School, Mumbai

Summer is a joyful and sunny season that many people enjoy. Summer typically arrives in the months of March, April and May. Summer is the hottest season of the year, following spring and characterised by long, bright days and high temperatures. The sun shines its brightest and the days are long. It is a period of wearing light clothing, eating refreshing fruits like mangoes, enjoying cold treats like ice-cream and refreshing cold drinks.

Summer is synonymous with vacations, offering a necessary break from the daily routine for students and families. Summer vacation is a break from the usual school routine, allowing kids to recharge and rejuvenate. It's a reason when school is on a break and children have the freedom to explore, play and enjoy themselves. It's time for endless adventures. Summer vacation also presents opportunities to explore new hobbies and interests.

Families often embark on vacations to explore new destinations during this time. It is a time for relaxation, beach visits and enjoying nature's peak, picnicking in parks. Some of the outdoor activities of Summer vacation for students are swimming, camping and visiting the hill stations to escape the heat. Evenings offer opportunities for stargazing and outdoor gatherings with friends. It is also the time for laughter, fun and making unforgettable memories.

Proper diet also plays an important role during summer season. Consumption of hydrating foods like watermelons, cucumbers, mangoes and healthy food is necessary for every individual. Remember to drink plenty of water, staying hydrated and applying sunscreen are important for staying safe in the sun. Trees may shed leaves due to lack of water, while farmers prepare for cultivation. Many cultures hold festivals to celebrate the bounty and warmth of the summer season.

While enjoyable, the intense heat can pose risks like dehydration and sunburn. It is essential to wear light, cotton clothes, stay hydrated and use sunscreen to stay safe. Despite the high temperatures, summer remains a favoured season, balancing intense, sunny days with fun-filled opportunities to create lasting memories. It is vibrant to relax, travel and enjoy the outdoors. Summer is a season filled with laughter, joy and the creation of cherished memories.

Summer

Nity Verma, IX-A, Lions Public School, Gurugram

Summer is a season full of fun,
As it brings Joy for everyone.
People spend their time with family,
And plan their trips happily.
Summer has mango, Summer has weekend,
And allow children to play with friends.
It also has homework with spoil children's mind,
But it helps them to make all the syllabus stay in mind.
Children wants this weekend,
To bring fun and may never end.
Summer of season full of fun,
As it brings Joy for everyone.



Picture Credit: www.freepik.com

The Sound of Childhood

Khushi Kataria, Class 9th, Gurugram Global Heights School

Summer does not begin on the calendar.
It begins when the clock forgets to hurry.
When mornings spill like golden honey
across the floor, and sunlight writes
its warm signature on the walls of our home.

It begins in the perfume of mangoes,
in watermelon moons cut open at lunch,
in the silver clink of ice cubes
diving into glasses of nimbu pani.

Summer is the kingdom of barefoot days.

Where roads shimmer like secret rivers,
where kites argue with the wind,
where cricket balls become comets,
and every evening sky blushes
as if it has heard a beautiful secret.

At my grandparents' house,
time loosens its shoelaces and sits on the veranda.
Stories rise with the steam of tea.
Grandmother folds love into every meal.
Grandfather opens old memories
like treasure chests of monsoon and moonlight.

Cousins laugh until the stars lean closer to listen.

We build palaces from pillows, turn corridors
into racetracks, and believe, without question,
that holidays are endless and happiness is
as simple as staying awake past bedtime.
Summer teaches softly.

That joy can taste like raw mango with salt.
That silence can sing in the afternoon heat.
That growing up does not mean
we must stop collecting wonder.
When June packs its golden suitcase,
it leaves behind invisible souvenirs:
the brown map of sun upon our skin,
the smell of sunscreen and rain-soaked dust,
the chorus of memories fluttering in our hearts
like letters that were never mailed.

Years will pass; uniforms will be folded away.
Childhood will wave from distant platforms.
Yet somewhere within us,
a bright season will keep opening its windows.

And on ordinary days,
when life feels too fast,
we will hear it again;
the rustle of mango leaves,
the crack of bat on ball,
the laughter of people we love,
ringing through time, not as a memory,
not as a dream, but as proof
that some summers do not end.

They become music.
And their echoes
stay with us forever.



Picture Credit: www.freepik.com

That One Roof

Prizleen Malhotra, Class 8th , Lions Public School, Gurugram



I did not even go inside. But just seeing the top of that temple stopped me for a second. Those golden domes stacked up against the hazy sky — it looked almost unreal, like summer had turned the contrast up too high.

The trees were full, the road was busy, and right in the middle of all that ordinary noise sat something that had clearly been there long before the city grew around it. Summer has a way of making you notice things you walk past every day. This was one of those things. The calm, ethereal, dreamlike beauty with a hint of culture made me pause for a moment to admire the beauty of the rooftop, ordinary yet beautiful.

I kept thinking, how many people had walked past this exact spot and not looked up? How many summers had come and gone while the city got louder and faster and this roof just stayed, golden and patient, not asking for anyone's attention but absolutely deserving it?

There is something about old things that summer brings out. The light gets warmer, the pace slows just enough, and suddenly you are seeing what was always there but had never noticed till the very moment.

I took a photo. Not because it was perfect, but because I did not want to forget that I stopped. That for two minutes, I was not somewhere else in my head. I was just there, looking up, letting something beautiful be exactly that, and having all my attention because it deserves it.

Summer Sunshine

Jagadish Veerabathini, Class VI, Our Lady of Salvation High school, Dadar, Mumbai.

Summer sunshine, summer sunshine,
I'm so glad you're here!
Let's give a cheer!
I'll meet you at the park
Summer sunshine, summer sunshine
An awesome break from school
Let's go out and play
And stay up till dark!

Summer sunshine, summer sunshine
Swimming to stay cool,
Time for fun, and lots of sun
And late-night bites.
Summer sunshine always makes
The world so nice and bright
Summer is the best of all
The seasons that go by!

Diplomacy through the Eyes of an IR. Enthusiast

Manasvi Bangarh, Founder President, INDIA- The Debating Forum

Everything is possible within you.

In my opinion, the field of diplomacy is not only complex in today's world, but the most nuanced area of study. Instilling this habit in the students at schools and colleges through programs such as public speaking and Model United Nations (MUN), not only provide them a platform to hone the skill but also to have an experience to act, behave and see themselves as future diplomats and leaders.

If International relations are the theoretical and more academic framework for global relations, diplomacy is more about serving your countries' interests while maintaining international relations.

The MUN programs help students learn both diplomacy at the sovereign state level as they research and analyse the broader frameworks that determine international relations.

I firmly believe, both are crucial for a just world. As a student, programs such as the MUN encourages each participant to be the change, that they wish to see today.

4ever Summers

Kushagra Bhardwaj, Class 10, Gurugram Global Heights School

Summer stays 4ever in our hearts. It leaves its mark behind in subtle forms, the scent of raindrops landing on hot asphalt, the music of faded songs in passing cars, and the feeling of sun rays that pour through the window at 5 PM and make you feel nostalgic about the day you forgot you loved.

It lives on in unfinished talks, blurred photos, and feelings of freedom that lasted for a brief period but seemed like an eternity. Because summer is not just a season; it is a feeling.

Our laughter, louder than ever, our long nights, and people we were sure we would be with forever. However, when it is all over, it does not disappear at once. Instead, it gets back to us in parts at the strangest times.

Echoes on deserted beaches after nightfall. Echoes in tan lines that are gradually fading. Echoes in a playlist we cannot turn on without feeling something stir within us.

Perhaps that is what makes remembering summer a little bit painful. Because deep down inside we understand that no matter how hard we try, nothing can recreate that experience.

The people have changed. So have we. Yet, the memories will always remain untouched somewhere along the timeline.

Reimagining Education, Alternative Schools

Sidhi Arora



Picture Credit: AI generated

Across India, a quiet educational revolution is unfolding in forests, hill stations, riverbanks, and small learning communities. These schools are asking a radical question: What if education was not about competition, standardization, and exams—but about awareness, creativity, community, and connection with nature?

From the misty heights of Kodaikanal to the riverbanks of Varanasi, more alternative schools are moving away from rote learning and rigid classrooms. Instead, they are adopting project-based learning, ecological literacy, self-directed education and emotional intelligence.

These schools are not just 'different schools'; they represent a fundamentally different philosophy of learning. Institutions like Sholai School, Blue Mountains School, The Yellow Train School, Rajghat Besant School and Sahyadri School are part of a larger movement inspired by the ideas of thinkers like Jiddu Krishnamurti, Rudolf Steiner, Sri Aurobindo, Maria Montessori and Ivan Illich, who wondered if real learning could happen through memorizing, standardization and constant testing alone. For adolescents navigating the critical years between childhood and adulthood, these schools attempt to create environments where education becomes meaningful, self-driven, experiential, and deeply connected to life itself.

This increase of alternative education in India is closely linked to the growing dissatisfaction with mainstream schooling models that value marks, coaching and competition over creativity, emotional well-being, ecological awareness and independent thinking. Studies around the world have shown that project-based and experiential learning lead to much higher long-term retention, collaboration skills, critical thinking and intrinsic motivation than rote learning methods. Traditional classrooms tend to separate subjects into distinct categories—science, math, literature, geography—whereas alternative schools tend to view learning as interconnected and interdisciplinary. A Class 8 student studying water, for example, may not simply memorize the water cycle from a textbook but instead test water quality in nearby streams, map local watersheds, calculate rainfall patterns, study river civilizations in

history, write reflective essays, and discuss water ethics and sustainability. This integrated approach allows students to understand concepts in context rather than isolated information designed only for examinations.

Jiddu Krishnamurti's philosophy and an inspiration from the Waldorf education developed by Rudolf Steiner, has had a profound impact on such schools. Krishnamurti said that education should free the mind from fear, comparison and conditioning.

Most mainstream schools rank and assess students all the time which creates anxiety and unhealthy competition. Krishnamurti schools strive for a non-competitive environment for learning, fostering independent thought and deep self-understanding in students. Situated in the Western Ghat near Pune, the Sahyadri School encourages learning beyond classrooms to forests, farms and community spaces.

Academics are complemented by student activities in environmental conservation, the arts, sports and reflection. Rajghat Besant School in Varanasi similarly emphasises inquiry, simplicity, and social awareness, encouraging students to engage with both nature and society meaningfully.

The rise of these alternative schools is also connected to the larger ideas of homeschooling and deschooling. Deschooling questions the idea that learning happens only within rigid institutional frameworks. Many families today are looking at educational models that offer more flexibility, self-directed learning, and real-world connections. Not every parent homeschools fully, but alternative schools offer a compromise, mixing education with freedom, creativity and personal exploration.

Importantly, these schools are not rejecting academic excellence. What differentiates these institutions is their definition of success. Instead of measuring intelligence solely through marks, they value curiosity, adaptability, empathy, ecological awareness, and independent thought. In an age shaped by climate change, digital overload, and mental health concerns, these skills may prove as important as academic achievement itself.

Alternative schools are still a small part of India's educational landscape, but they are raising important questions on what learning should look like in the twenty-first century. They provide an education that is not only academically meaningful but also profoundly human to students passing through the difficult years from Class 6 to 12.

The need for such schools has never been more relevant in a world where we are increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, climate change, mental health challenges and rapid social change.

Today's students need so much more than textbook knowledge. They need creativity, emotional resilience, critical thinking, environmental awareness and readiness for uncertainty and these schools attempt to nurture these qualities by creating learning environments that are inquiry-driven, collaborative, and connected to real life, reminding us that education should not only prepare children for exams or careers, but also for life itself.



The Haunted Summer House

Yohaán, Class 6th, Gurugram Global Heights School

One day, Myra and her family were going on a vacation to Ibiza, a Spanish island. They had booked the perfect summer house. Little did they know, it was far from perfect. Myra felt off about the vacation from before, but she kept to herself.

Everything went well on the flight, nothing bad happened. When they arrived, the staff were a bit creepy, but they thought nothing of it. At 3:00 am, Myra woke up between her parents, who had dozed off. She got up and went to the mini fridge, to take a bottle of water.

She walked over, and took it out. She took a deep gulp directly from the bottle. Suddenly, she saw a shadow move. She screeched at the top of her lungs and fell back in fear. Her parents immediately woke up and rushed to her side. Her father said "What happened Myra? I was scared to death!"

Myra replied with a trembling voice "I s-saw a shadow move papa."

Her mother said "Baby that's not possible, we are the only ones in this room."

She replied "Please mumma, you have to believe me!"

Her mother said "Let's check the room thoroughly Armaan."

Armaan (Myra's Father) said "There's no need Janvi, it was probably something random."

Janvi (Myra's mother) convinced him, and they went to look. They found nothing, and scolded Myra for lying.

The next day, they went to the beach, everything was going perfect. In the hotel room, Myra's parents were in the balcony, while Myra was in her room. She saw the light start to flicker. She started hearing whispers, saying "You think i'm afraid of your parents?" and "You thought you could catch me?"

She started shaking and crying. She saw a black figure, and she screamed so loud, that the noise would go to Germany. Her parents sped in, and saw her crumbled up in a tiny ball. They immediately came beside her and started to comfort her.

Her mother said "What happened honey?" in a gentle and affectionate tone.

She said terrified "I was hearing whispers, and I saw this black figure, it had glowing red eyes."

Her Father said "You must be seeing things pumpkin."

She said "No dad, I really saw it"

Her father said "Let's sleep it off."

At 12 am, Myra woke up, this time she sat in the bed, watching TV. She saw a figure, Like a wolf-man hybrid, his mouth drooling and panting. She started crying. The beast slowly began moving forward, to pounce. She shouted and clung to her mother. It was to no avail. Suddenly, her dad rose from the bed, hearing her scream. The beast was gone.

Her father said "Let me guess, you saw a beast again."

She said “Papa, why don’t you believe me? I never lie!”

Her father said. “You are right... Let’s cut this vacation short.”

Her father stepped out to go to the bathroom, and the drool touched his feet. He said “Eww, what is this?”

Myra said “That’s the monster’s drool.”

Her father just chuckled.

On the flight back, she sat on the window seat. She woke up after being in a deep sleep. Everyone was asleep. She looked out her window and saw that same beast. The beast said “I SEE YOU!” She woke up and realized it was a dream. When they arrived home. No more scary shenanigans happened.

Two months later, she woke up to the beast drooling over her, and he exclaimed “MY PREY!”

The End.



Picture Credit: www.freepik.com

Warm Sparks on Quiet Days

Vanya, 9th Gurugram Global Heights School

Summers to me are like sparks of fire after quiet days. It comes sudden, but impossible to ignore. Mornings begin early, effortless and ordinary and yet the day sinks into golden sunsets, cold coffees and the unforgettable chilled mangoes with gossips in the balcony.

Some days are ordinarily extraordinary, while some give warmth and of course the celebratory energy of birthdays, that make the season stay a little longer.

Along with the familiar sound of ice clinking in glasses and flavorful ice creams, summer somehow leaves behind golden retriever energy – playful, happy and excited as ever.

Summers become joyful yet sober. Books lie half open, airphones going through the same comfort albums, desert after every meal and the needed terrace visits that last longer than they should.

Even the simplest plans feel special in summers. Going downstairs for a walk turns into gossip sessions with cold drinks and ice creams. And the AC room? It turns into a story exchange place, and that too regardless of age. From a child completing their holiday homework to an adult relaxing into the evening, everyone enjoys winding up in summers. And oh, that joy of not waking up early for school or work is just heavenly.

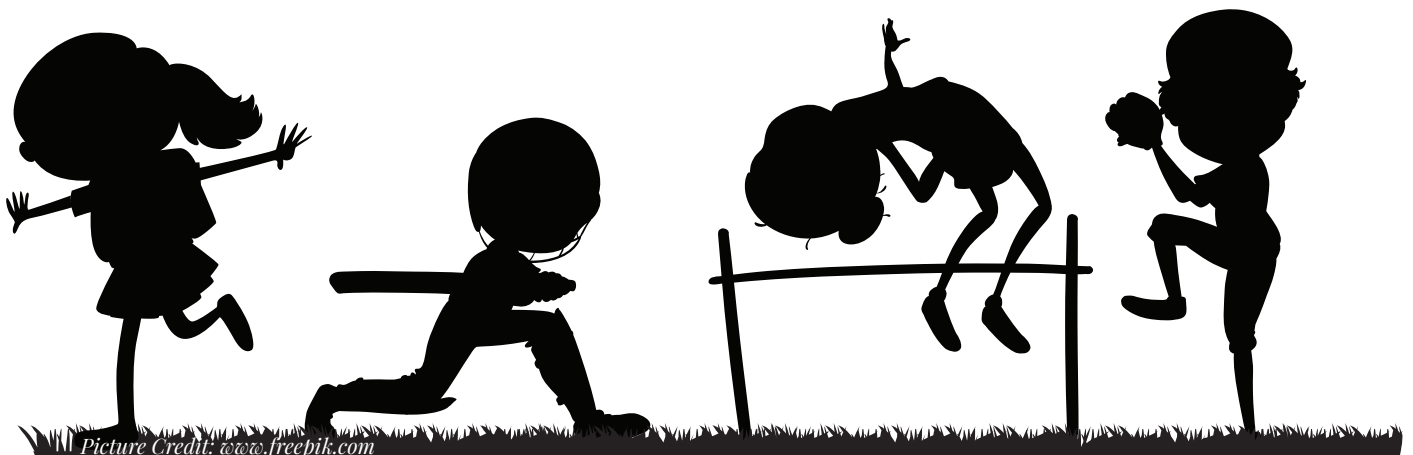
Well one of my favourite parts about summers is also how it brings people close. That unexpected meet up with cousins or old jokes returning in those hangouts? The best. Along with the fun side quests of summer with your closest.

And in between all this, there are some quiet moments where you just sit with yourself. Moments where u discover yourself, your friend groups and realize how easy happiness is when time doesn't rush you.

And just like that, summers go. Without really saying goodbyes. Mangoes and ice creams disappear from fridge, the evenings get shorter, the AC fades into no use, and days get busier, melting into the usual routines. But that's the fact, for me summers never really disappear, they just say goodbye for a while.

Golden hours and sunlight feel softer. It's not just a season, it's a feeling that lingers quietly even after leaving, reminding us that happiness shouldn't arrive in just big achievements or picturesque days...it shall arrive in the small, simple moments. And that, people, is the beauty of summers, the silent yet joyful echo of summer.

And as William Carlos Williams once said "In summer, the song sings itself."



Picture Credit: www.freepik.com

Surviving Delhi Summer

Divyansh, Class 9th, Gurugram Global Heights School

As now summers have come, I would say that I do not like them. I like winters more because, you know, I am from Delhi and I have lived there all my life. I enjoy the winters of Delhi much more than any season. I live in a house on the top floor, so it gets extremely hot. There was time when the temperature reached 50 degrees, which is just too much. If I had to ask a question to nature, I would say, "Why are you killing us after torturing us so much?"

Since my house is on the top floor, my water tanks are also up there. Because of this, my house feels like a furnace whenever I enter it. Even the water from the tap becomes so hot that I feel like I need to melt ice first before washing my face. The summers are really that harsh.

I have seen Delhi's summers closely. People are always irritated and everyone seems to be in a bad mood. That is why it feels impossible to live without an AC. Earlier, there was a time when people only needed to run the AC at night or for a little while in the afternoon. But now, it feels like the AC has to run 24/7.

Talking about holidays, they are a lot of fun because during that time I can watch any movie or show I want. Sometimes, I also enjoy watching podcasts and reading biographies. If you ask me for suggestions of shows, I recommend:

Stranger Things: It is a sci-fi and horror series about a group of kids who face mysterious creatures and secret experiments. I like it because it has suspense, friendship, and great storytelling. It is also relevant for school students because it shows teamwork, loyalty, and courage. One thing that could be better is that some scenes feel a little too long.

Breaking Bad: It is about a chemistry teacher who enters the crime world after finding out he has cancer. People like it because of its amazing character development and story. It also shows how one wrong decision can completely change a person's life, which can be an important lesson for students. However, some parts are very serious and not suitable for younger audiences.

Spider-Man franchise: These movies are about a superhero who tries to balance school life and saving people. I like these movies because they are fun, emotional, and full of action. They are relevant for school students because they teach responsibility and hard work.

Good Bad Ugly: It is an action and entertainment movie with powerful dialogues and mass scenes. People enjoy it because of the energy and style of the characters. It is fun for students who enjoy action movies, though the story could have been more detailed.

Vikram: It is an action thriller movie with many twists and strong characters. I liked it because of its intense story and amazing action scenes. It can be very interesting for students who enjoy mystery and suspense, although sometimes the story becomes a little confusing.

If you ask me about podcasts, I suggest **The Prakhar Gupta Xperience**. This podcast is about real-life experiences, self-improvement, careers, and different opinions of people. I like it because it feels real and motivating. It is useful for school students because they can learn about confidence, communication, and important life lessons. However, some episodes feel a little too long and could be shorter.

Even after all these harsh summers, Delhi is still my home, and I love living here. But every year the heat keeps increasing, and it makes me realize how important nature and climate really are. Summers give us holidays, free time, and fun memories, but they also teach us how difficult life can become without balance in nature. That is why we should take care of the environment, plant more trees, and try to make the future better. And until winter finally comes back, all we can do is sit in our rooms with the AC on and wait for cooler days again.

Why AI Cannot Replace Summer Vacations

The Schoolastic Editorial Team

A vacation stands for rest, emotional connection, and sensory experiences.

Rest or inactivity, peace and tranquillity is what a human needs to recover, regain, feel refreshed to perhaps do new things, to go back to old routines with a renewed energy, perspective, and vigour. Vacations, quiet times, and me times do that for us humans. It helps us to distance ourselves from tiredness, as well as cognitive and emotional overloads.

A vacation helps the mind and body to disengage, wander with or without a plan. It may be away from your home ground, or right there on the home turf. While it can be either structured, or spontaneous, it is certainly experiential. Humans unwind, quieten down, and bond, sometimes with themselves, other times with family and friends, and sometimes with co-travellers.

Warmth of a sunny beach, savouring the magnificence of a green canopy on a forest trek, the feeling of wonder as we watch the sunset, or sunrise, the conversations on a train or a bus journey are human social experiences that technology cannot simulate.

We go on a vacation from a lived context that is unique to an individual. There is no prompt that can simulate your experience of a routine; what tired you, and how did the tiredness feel; or what did you crave for in that moment of tiredness. It is not a generic code that can replicated for all. It is unique to you in that moment. Hence, wherever you go, you search for and savour an experience that satisfies your unique need.

AI can help with organization of a trip - planning, getting information, booking, etc. The feeling associated with rejuvenation is beyond AI. AI can suggest a meso-level plan but not own the essence of what you desire and feel.

AI can give you the best price or deal of the day that may make you happy. It can tell you which street is bustling with quaint cafes. However, it cannot curate the reason for choosing café A over B. That reason happens when you walk the street, and experience the smell, music, banter, décor, furniture of the cafes; and one that tugs at your heart and mood is your choice.

This summer do a digital detox, and embrace the blue skies, cool oceans and the green around you. Savour conversations, walks, find a nook to browse in a bookshop, listen to music, catch up on movies, ditch expensive hobby classes, instead learn a hobby from someone around you, and spend time with friends and family. Sit with your own thoughts, and come back with fresh new perspectives and learnings.

Perhaps, AI can help you sort out your unique ideas that the summer vacation helped to nourish.



Picture Credit: AI Generated

Samanvay: The Future of Integrated Urban Development

A Report by The Schoolastic Editorial Team

The Interactive Workshop “Samanvay” organised by the Delhi Regional Chapter of the Institute of Town Planners, India, on May 16th, 2026, brought together policymakers, urban planners, sustainability experts, architects, mobility specialists, and industry leaders to discuss the future of integrated urban development in India.

The workshop focused on balancing development with sustainability, citizen participation, mobility, climate consciousness, and future-ready city planning in the age of digitalization and Artificial Intelligence. The discussions highlighted the urgent need for coordination (Samanvay) between government bodies, industries, citizens, and urban planners to create inclusive and sustainable cities.

As representatives from FairGaze, we attended the event to understand how urban development policies and planning directly impact citizens, students, future generations, and sustainable growth.

Integrated Urban Development and Long-Term Planning

One of the central themes of the workshop was the importance of integrated urban planning. Speakers discussed how, after the 1990s, land gradually stopped being subsidized, changing the nature of urban expansion and infrastructure development in India.

The dignitaries emphasized that cities cannot simply “grow” on their own; they need careful nurturing, structured planning, and continuous citizen engagement. Urban development must focus not only on present needs but also on imagining how today’s decisions will impact society ten years into the future. The role of Artificial Intelligence, digital technology, mobility systems, and smart planning tools in future city development was also discussed extensively.

Insights Shared by the Speakers

Dr. Ramanand – Founder-Director Centre of Policy Research and Governance (CPRG).

Dr Ramanand stressed the philosophy that “Sheher basta nahi, basana padhta hai.”

He highlighted that cities do not develop automatically; they must be thoughtfully built through collective effort and inclusive governance. According to him, understanding citizens’ concerns and listening to their voices is essential for sustainable urban development.

He also spoke about the importance of present and future-oriented planning, where policymakers must imagine how a city will function and benefit society even after a decade, and he further discussed how rapid technological growth, Artificial Intelligence, mobility systems, and smart governance tools are changing urban planning practices.

However, he cautioned against blindly copying metropolitan models everywhere. He pointed out that hill and mountain regions can never be transformed into Delhi-like urban spaces because environmental, geographical, and ecological realities differ significantly.

He criticised earlier planning approaches where environmental discussions were often ignored before development projects began. His message strongly emphasized the need for “Samanvay”, coordination between ecology, technology, governance, and citizens.

Dr. Abhishek Tondon – Jt. CEO, Unmodaya Foundation Startup Ecosystem of DU.

Dr. Abhishek Tondon shared his personal connection with urban development by mentioning that he has lived in Rajinder Nagar for nearly 39 years. He discussed the role of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and suggested that the institution should evolve into a more regulatory and development-oriented body. He highlighted the importance of startup ecosystems and innovation in shaping modern cities.

Dr. Tondon also raised concerns about unplanned urbanization affecting residential colonies, children’s play areas, and community spaces. He emphasized that development should not come at the cost of basic human needs and neighbourhood culture. He appreciated initiatives promoting cycling infrastructure and sustainable mobility while discussing how urban policies must support healthier and safer lifestyles.

Vanika Bajaj – Project Manager, Climate Parliament.

Vanika Bajaj focused on climate governance and rural sustainability. She emphasized the importance of making villages self-reliant instead of abandoning them in pursuit of urban migration. According to her, every constituency should be treated as an “energy zone” capable of contributing to sustainable development.



She also highlighted the role of climate-conscious legislative frameworks and stressed that development must include rural communities rather than leaving them behind during urban expansion.

Kavita Aggarwal – Assistant Vice President DLF Limited.

Kavita Aggarwal spoke about the need to connect urban planning with the everyday realities of citizens. She highlighted the importance of recognizing essential workers such as dhobi workers, drivers, and service providers within residential planning systems. Urban development cannot function effectively unless it understands the needs of all sections of society.

She mentioned that while urban development policies and planning frameworks have improved significantly, there is still a gap between planning documents and ground-level realities. Digitalization, according to her, is necessary for modern governance, but it must be supported by real citizen engagement and field-level understanding.



Rajat Kalsi – Architect/Urban Planner Road Safety Expert, RAAHGIRI.

Rajat Kalsi discussed the importance of safe mobility and sustainable transportation systems. He referred to initiatives such as Gurugram’s Vision Zero and Chandigarh’s road administration models to explain how cities can improve road safety and urban connectivity. His discussion focused on enhancing walkability across cities, ensuring safe connectivity between homes and workplaces, developing better public transportation systems, promoting landscaping and green urban spaces, creating pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and encouraging public sitting spaces and community-oriented environments. He stressed that urban planning should ultimately improve the overall quality of life for citizens.

The workshop successfully highlighted the growing importance of collaborative and future-focused urban planning in India. The discussions reflected that city development today cannot be limited to infrastructure alone; it must also include sustainability, environmental protection, citizen participation, mobility, digital governance, and climate resilience. The event created an engaging platform where policymakers, planners, industry experts, and citizens could collectively discuss the future of Indian cities under the guiding principle of “Samanvay” – coordination and balance.

Conclusion

The Interactive Workshop “Samanvay” provided meaningful insights into the future of Indian urban development and governance. From discussions on sustainable mobility and climate-conscious planning to citizen-centric policymaking and digital transformation, the event reinforced the idea that successful cities are built through collaboration, inclusivity, and long-term vision.

As representatives of FairGaze, attending the workshop offered valuable exposure to the evolving conversations around urban planning, sustainability, and smart governance. The event served as an important reminder that cities of the future must prioritise both human needs and environmental responsibility while embracing innovation and technology responsibly. We also had the opportunity to take insightful bytes from the panellists, gaining diverse perspectives on the challenges and opportunities associated with building safer, smarter, and more sustainable urban spaces.





ST: Should students be consulted while designing education-related policies?

Ms. Anurita Bhatnagar: That is a very interesting thing, actually. It is almost like a double-edged sword because it is like asking a person to make the checklist for their own well-being. So, yes, students' opinions matter, but it should come from an informed space. And it should not compromise with their well-being and what their learning trajectory should be. So, I would say they should be consulted, but the opinion should be taken with a pinch of salt.

ST: Do you think experiential learning, such as city walks, sustainability project or community engagement should become part of school education?

Ms. Alka Arya: Of course, all three segments that you mentioned should be part of our curriculum, as well as practising that curriculum. For students, it becomes very, important what they are learning and how it is being executed. Learning and execution come with the people's engagement for whom we are studying, you know, it is for the social benefit. So, for them it is utmost necessary to engage with public and to have these walks and openness towards open learning system.

ST: How can students start understanding city planning and sustainability in their everyday lives?

Mr. Manan Mehra: I think the best way is to look around where you live and where you stay and maybe walk around. When you walk around your place, you much of it is walkable and non-walkable, how the cars moving around are affecting you. How are the residential areas, how is it sustained not only for the people who are staying and working there, and the commercial complexes, but also how liveable is it and how do you feel walking around it. If you feel good walking about the area, I think that will give you a perfect idea of how your city and your local area should be.

ST: How can policymaking become more accessible to young people?

Dr. Ramanand: I think policymaking has become accessible since a few days and because of now people are getting more interest in, you know, about the nature of policy and government is also inviting them through forums. There are a lot of intensive opportunities, public dialogue bringing young people into policymaking. But policymaking is not enough.

I think our governance system should be more public centric. Because the problem now is that there is no public involvement in our governance. So, until and unless there is no public involvement in decision making, people will not be interested. Because policymaking is one step; the more important step is the governance, which delivers it. So, delivery is more important. They are getting space in policymaking but the second part is more important.

Chaitanya, Gurgaon Progressive Schools Council XXIV Annual Convention 2026

A Report by The Schoolastic Editorial Team



A Transformative Journey Towards Conscious Education

In an era of rapid educational transformation, the Gurgaon Progressive Schools Council (GPSC) Annual Convention XXIV, held on 25th April 2026, stood out as a powerful confluence of vision and action. Successfully hosting its XXIV Annual Convention 2026, GPSC brought together an extraordinary gathering of educators, policymakers, thought leaders, and visionaries, all united by a shared commitment to reimagining education through consciousness, awareness, and purposeful action. Centred around the profound theme “Chaitanya: The Awakening”, the convention emerged not merely as an event, but as a transformative movement aimed at nurturing mindful, compassionate, and future-ready learners.

The day commenced with registration and a warm welcome, setting a vibrant tone for the proceedings. A ceremonial Honour March by the Head Boys and Head Girls of GPSC member schools added dignity and pride to the occasion, symbolising leadership, and collective responsibility. The inaugural session commenced with the auspicious lamp lighting ceremony by esteemed dignitaries, founder members, and the executive body, symbolising the dawn of knowledge and igniting a ripple of transformation in the realm of education. This was followed by a deeply reflective prelude, “Awake Within, Act Tomorrow,” by Ms Ruchi Rai from the Art of Living, who spoke about mastering the restless mind, living in the present moment, and connecting with one’s inner self to awaken true clarity and purpose.

A green welcome was extended to all dignitaries, symbolising warmth, sustainability, and a heartfelt embrace of the gathering. The soulful rendition of the Gurgaon Sahodaya Song resonated with unity and shared vision. Ms. Alka Singh, Chairperson, GPSC, warmly welcomed all dignitaries, presented the annual report highlighting the collective progress and milestones of GPSC, and in her reflections emphasised the urgent need to transition from information-driven education to consciousness-driven learning, where the development of the inner self is as significant as academic achievement. A captivating Taal dance performance beautifully illustrated the journey from

knowledge to being, where rhythm, expression, and movement came together to embody conscious, experiential learning in alignment with the vision of NEP 2020.

Kartikey Sharma, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, as Chief Guest, emphasized that education is not merely about information but about character building, highlighting the teacher's role in awakening the inner eye and fostering critical thinking through a multidisciplinary approach, and stressed that education must go beyond textbooks to prepare students for life and lifelong learning. He further noted that technology drives gradual transformation of society, while education enables adaptation and growth, adding that with advancements like AI and the emergence of AGI, we are witnessing one of the most significant scientific transformations in human history.

The GPSC Annual magazine was unveiled by the dignitaries, showcasing insightful articles by principals, vibrant student artwork, and a reflection of the previous year's achievements, beautifully capturing the spirit and journey of the institution. A defining highlight of the convention was the keynote address by Dr. Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE, on "From Evaluation to Elevation", where he emphasized the transformative role of assessment in nurturing learners' potential and deep understanding beyond mere measurement, while also highlighting that health and happiness will be key priorities in the future and stressing the need to create an inclusive and conducive environment for all.

The immersive session "**From Knowing to Being: The Taal – Conscious Education in Motion**" urged educators to move beyond traditional pedagogy towards self-realization and inner growth. Dr. Ameeta Mulla Wattal, Chairperson and Director of DLF Schools, in "**Charting the Day**," highlighted the essence of ideate, act, and reflect, describing education as both dharmbhumi and karambhumi, a sacred space of learning and inner pilgrimage rooted in sadchitanand. She stressed the need to go beyond mechanised education by reconnecting the inner and outer worlds through chaitanya, integrating the five layers of existence, and restoring reflection as a vital link between action and awareness to bring true joy (anand) into learning, while also emphasizing the mind's ability to widen the gap between trigger and response and the need to bring flow into our lives.

Dr. Niti Shankar Sharma, Joint Director, CBSE HQ, emphasized reimagining education by shifting from information to insight and from academic excellence to holistic well-being. She highlighted rising student stress due to societal pressure and digital influence, urging empathetic responses, trust-building in classrooms, and embedding consciousness in education by moving from a reactive to a proactive approach, in line with NEP's vision of strengthening schools with psycho-social and career counsellors.

A highly engaging Panel Discussion I on "**Nurturing the Future: Integrating Emotional Intelligence, Values and Consciousness in the AI Era**," curated by Mr. Chetan Jaiswal, featured Ms. Aditi Mishra, Ms. Chitra Nagpal, Dr. Jitender Nagpal, Ms. Niti Shankar Sharma, and Mr. Mohit Aggarwal, who collectively reflected on the importance of emotional intelligence, strong value systems, and conscious awareness in education, emphasizing the need to balance technological advancement with human sensitivity, ethical grounding, and the evolving needs of learners in the AI era.

The convention was further enriched by the insightful address of Mr. Devesh Mahala (IPS), Regional Head, FSSAI India, who emphasized understanding the psyche of the child and highlighted meditation and healthy food as essential for holistic growth, stressing that habits like meditation and reading can address many challenges and urging schools to become centres of transformation and awareness, where conscious actions foster a calm, healthy, and aware generation ready to lead India. Building on this, Ms. Preeti from FSSAI presented the **Eat Right initiatives**, highlighting the 50-metre rule restricting the sale of HFSS foods around schools and promoting healthier, trans-fat-free food choices for students.

The deeply contemplative session "**Governance Meets Guru**," curated by Ms. Rupa Chakravarty and led by Swami Santatmananda Maharaj of the Ramakrishna Mission, beautifully blended governance with spiritual wisdom, urging educators to look beyond ranks and positions towards inner divinity. Emphasizing Atmashradha and the importance of instilling strong sanskar in children, he highlighted that true education lies in the manifestation from within, drawing upon the paths of gyan yoga, bhakti yoga, karmayoga, and rajyoga, affirming that every child is unique, carrying inherent knowledge, strength, and potential that can be awakened through conscious effort and self-belief. He further reminded educators to recognize their inner strength, work with confidence beyond pressure, trust the capability of others, and take pride in their role as nation builders shaping the future.



A session, **“From Role to Presence: Rediscovering the Self that Leads and Teaches,”** by life and leadership coach Mr. Ritesh Bhatia inspired educators to lead with the heart, embrace authenticity, and recognize the human behind the teacher. He emphasised self-awareness through simple reflection on one’s current state and emotions, and encouraged brief moments of meditation to reconnect with oneself. Adding a practical dimension, Ms. Moksha Yadav introduced the **PRANA Framework**, offering a structured approach to implementing conscious education in classrooms.

The convention was further elevated by an insightful keynote address by Capt. Abhimanyu Singh Sindhu. He reflected on the journey of self-discovery, citing “Tat Twam Asi” and “Vedo Asi,” and highlighted that learning begins at birth and continues lifelong through a process of learning and unlearning, guided by parents and teachers, with the guru playing a vital role in nurturing awareness, values, and the making of a true ‘arya’- a good human being.

The thought-provoking Panel Discussion II, **“Digital Natives, Digital Dilemmas: Navigating Consciousness in the Age of Data,”** moderated by Ms. Rakhee Chachra of IBM, featured Mr. Abhishek Kumar, Dr. Gaurav Kapoor, Mr. Ankit Kapoor/Mr. Prateek Kumar, Mr. Karunn Kandoi, and Dr. Meera Chadha, who collectively explored digital ethics, cyber awareness, and responsible technology use, emphasising the need to guide students towards becoming mindful and conscious digital citizens in an increasingly data-driven world.

The session **“Kaushal se Kushal: From Self-Assessment to Continuous Learning for Transformative Growth”** by Dr. Biswajit Saha emphasised lifelong learning, self-reflection, and skill development as key drivers of growth. He highlighted the transition from kaushal to kushal, noting that schools will serve as the driving force for Viksit Bharat, where mark-sheet based employment will gradually diminish, making skill development an essential pillar in shaping future-ready learners and urging educators to focus on future perspectives.

An enriching **Author’s Talk** by Ms. Varsha Varghese shed light on shaping informed, sensitive, and discerning individuals in a complex and rapidly evolving world.

Another impactful session, **“Engineering Awakening: Translating Education Policy into Conscious Classrooms,”** curated by Mr. Mikin Lalla, Founder of LogIQids, brought together Ms. Seema Wahi Mukherjee, Mr. Aman Batla, Ms. Charu Bajaj, Ms. Ragini Chandrashekhar, and student representative Tanvi Arora, who collectively highlighted the need to bridge policy and practice through innovative, inclusive, and experiential learning, integrating perspectives from educators, creatives, and learners to foster critical thinking, curiosity, and conscious classrooms.

A visionary perspective on “Chaitanya” was shared by District Education Officer Capt. Indu Boken, who reinforced the importance of value-based and purpose-driven education in shaping future societies. The session “Decoding Scientific Parenting” by Dr. Tullika and Ms. Sona Gombir added a meaningful dimension, highlighting the critical role

of parents in fostering conscious and balanced development.

One of the most significant moments of the convention was the collective realisation that education must evolve from a system of instruction to a journey of awakening; where learners are empowered not only with knowledge but with awareness, empathy, and purpose.

As the convention drew to a close with a soulful musical adieu and networking over tea, the atmosphere was imbued with inspiration, reflection, and renewed commitment.

The GPSC XXIV Annual Convention 2026 stands as a powerful testament to the evolving vision of education- one that seeks not only to inform minds but to awaken consciousness. It marks the beginning of a transformative journey where educators are not just facilitators of learning, but catalysts of change, nurturing a generation that will lead with clarity, compassion, and conscious intent.

We had the opportunity to have a few quick conversations with some eminent panelists.

Dr. Jitendra Nagpal is a psychiatrist at the Moolchand Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences and works with government agencies on school mental health programs.

ST: How do you believe that Chaitanya translates into classrooms and what does Chaitanya mean to you?

Dr. Jitendra Nagpal: To me, the most important part of Chaitanya is about awakening. I think it is a new awakening where responsibility and empowerment become a part and parcel of our concern in any classroom. Do not forget that being awakened, being aware, being responsible and being empowered is not only the teacher.

Every child that I come across in the corridors of the school, in the classroom, apart from being aware and responsible for their own life, our responsibility lies in helping them to get the best out of their abilities. Am I doing the best for every child, not the roll number, every child by name? Do I know every child by name? Do I help every child to generate the best of his or her abilities and also improve the capacity for positive mental health in life? So, education is today not about getting report cards or getting marks or getting 90% marks in the board exams. It is a lot to do about getting prepared for life.

Getting ready for life is education. Getting ready for board exams is not education. So, when you are getting prepared for life, then you need life skills. You need life skills more than academic skills and livelihood skills. Apart from job skills, career skills and studies, there is something else as well. That is called Jeevan Kaushal.



Life skills, responsibility, self-awareness, empathy, critical thinking, and interpersonal relationship. Where is all this? When I go to higher education, I go to IITs, I go to medical colleges, I go to law college. You are finding children committing suicides.

Why? Where is emotional intelligence suddenly in the universities? Why are we not able to understand the child? KYC is not know your customer. KYC is know your child. Each child is a wealth of the nation. Every child is a wealth of the nation. We should also prepare in the country, along with NEP that every child is a celebration. We should celebrate every child's life.

Then when emotions are good, intelligence will rise. When emotions are positive, learning will be better. Memory will be better. Competency will be better. Competition is not required. Competency is required. So, I think that is what I learnt from the word Chaitanya. And Chaitanya is a way of life where every life feels celebrated with happiness. Not with a report card of 95% marks.

ST: What does Chaitanya mean to you?

Dr Ameeta Mulla Wattal: The event means the coming together of educators who are all together in the same platform where they believe in learning both intimately and globally and try to transact it in their classrooms through all the mediums that they hear in this book, in this particular workshop and I think that the GPSC has done some marvelous work by bringing together the topic of this conference which is essentially consciousness. So, I think that itself creates a lot of energy, it creates a lot of activity, it creates a lot of action and learning and that is what it means to me.

ST: How do you believe that Chaitanya translates into classrooms?

Dr Ameeta Mulla Wattal: Everything is Chaitanya, Chaitanya is enlightenment and education is enlightenment because when you come into a class you are not enlightened but when you leave a school after class 12, you have a certain wisdom, a certain knowledge, certain information which all emits from Chaitanya.

Dr. Gaurav Kapoor, School and Skill development consultant working with schools across India, United Arab Emirates, Singapore, and other countries.

ST: What does this event mean to you?

Dr Kapoor: The theme of this event is called Chaitanya, which means inner freedom for me. I think it means, you know, peace inside and wisdom outside, because if you are peaceful inside you will definitely search for wisdom outside. And how do you believe that this event incorporates learning in classes? You look at this event from at least three different views. One thing I say in terms of high networking because when you meet people you try and understand their perspective about things, about life.

Second, look at it from an educator's point of view. A lot of best practices are being shared in that networking sessions. And last but not the least, we are also trying to look at it from an innovation and AI perspective, the emerging technology because here educators are coming across the world and they are talking about the future technology or AI. So, I think all these three angles are very important for a human being to grow.

Prateek Kumar, co-founder Go Sharpener, an organization that help schools measure and promote sustainability through environmental impact scorecards.

ST: What does Chaitanya or this event mean to you?

Prateek Kumar: This event of Chaitanya as a concept is a very powerful thought, which pushes us to think about the things that have not been done so far and how we as individuals can start working towards them.

It is bringing together all the school leaders and innovative concepts like Go Sharpener so that we can contribute, bring in our best and create the world of tomorrow.

ST: And how do you think Go Sharpener contributes to this event?

Mr Prateek Kumar: Go Sharpener is very, honoured to be the sponsor for this event. We are also on the panel where we are discussing about ways of creating sustainable future through students and schools and we are playing our bit in making sure that everybody is aware and also contributing towards the sustainable practises in India.

ST: How do you think Chaitanya initiates this thinking into classrooms?

Mr Prateek Kumar: So, Chaitanya is a very important concept because it's all about students. Go Sharpener as a concept, enables students to work on very specific activities on Earth Day, Environment Day, Water Day etc. And Chaitanya around classrooms enables them to adopt these practises. So that's how it works together and makes it a very powerful concept.

Rakhee Chachra, IBM Telecom domain, analyzes industry trends, emerging technologies, and future developments by engaging with company leaders and standards experts. Her work focuses on understanding what lies ahead in the telecom sector and helping organizations prepare for the future.

ST: In a world of digital natives, how do you solve the digital dilemma of being constantly connected, yet emotionally disconnected?

Ms Chachra: I think that is a very deep question and I do not know if I can do justice to it in two three sentences but I will try. I think one of the most important things is that we have to change our approach, the world is going to be digital, you are all born into a world which is digital, you are going to be using technology and you can use technology both for connections and to disconnect.

But I think what is important is to focus not on technology being the problem but working across and changing our approach, learning, re-learning, failing fast, working in this area of ambiguity. These are skills which are very different from school skills that you have taught, so these are I would say life skills.

So, as you move forward in life, being able to find emotional connects and finding that balance; that is what is going to help us manage this because technology is not going away, it is how your relationship with it is. Keep it healthy, keep it positive and it will be good. The moment you make it like a taboo and say oh god, four hours, five hours, it is taking away my life. I mean, it is the way you look at everything right, so just look at it in a positive way and see what else you can do to build positive relationships.

ST: What does this event mean to you?

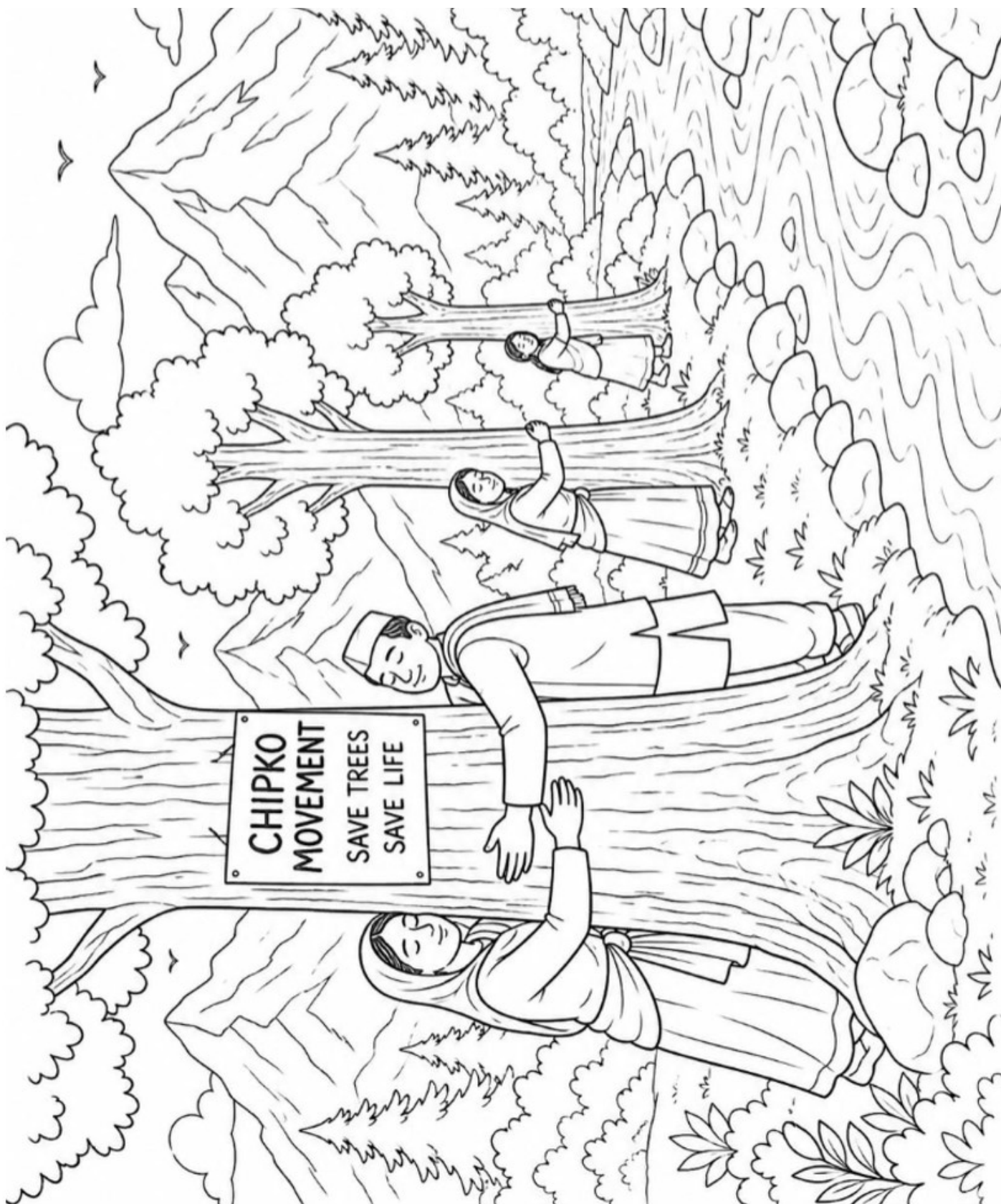
Ms Chachra: I think for a person like me who is very much from a technology background it gives me a chance to a share my learnings; as I told you, the issues that we think about in education are not as dissimilar to what we see in corporate.

So, it is not that far away, that gives me a chance to understand that, and also I think personally for me it gives me an opportunity to understand the enormous work that is happening in this space and it's mutual learning and receiving and I think that's fantastic.

Conserving Nature for the Future Generations

The Schoolastic Editorial Team

5th June, Celebrating Environment Day!



Make A Terrarium

The Schoolastic Editorial Team

Terrariums are both open and closed. The DIY brings steps to make an open terrarium. Try to choose indigenous plants from your locality.

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|---|--|--|---|--|
| <p>1 GATHER YOUR MATERIALS</p>  <p>You will need a glass container, small plants, pebbles, charcoal, potting soil, and decorations.</p> | <p>2 CLEAN YOUR CONTAINER</p>  <p>Wash the glass container with water and let it dry completely.</p> | <p>3 ADD DRAINAGE LAYER</p>  <p>Add a layer of small pebbles (about 1–2 cm) at the bottom. This helps water drain.</p> | <p>4 ADD CHARCOAL LAYER</p>  <p>Add a thin layer of activated charcoal. It keeps the terrarium fresh and prevents bad smell.</p> | <p>5 ADD SOIL LAYER</p>  <p>Add potting soil on top (about 2–3 cm).</p> |
| <p>6 PLANT YOUR PLANTS</p>  <p>Gently plant small plants in the soil. You can choose easy plants like succulents, moss, or ferns.</p> | <p>7 DECORATE YOUR TERRARIUM</p>  <p>Add decorative items like stones, mini figures, or small pebbles to make it look beautiful.</p> | <p>8 WATER LIGHTLY</p>  <p>Spray or add a few drops of water. Do not overwater. Plants need very little water in summer.</p> | <p>9 PLACE IN A BRIGHT SPOT</p>  <p>Keep your terrarium in a bright spot, but not in direct harsh sunlight.</p> | <p>10 ENJOY AND TAKE CARE!</p>  <p>Enjoy your mini terrarium! Check it regularly and spray a little water when the soil looks dry.</p> |

Terrarium origins in Asia.

In Asiatic philosophy the art of Penjing (miniature landscapes in shallow trays or pots), Bonsai, Moss Gardens (Kokedera), symbolize age, harmony, and tranquillity. The Wabi-Sabi is a similar thought of finding beauty in imperfection, asymmetry, and natural transience. This echoes the Buddhist principles of Pratityasamutpada (dependent origination), illustrating how all living things rely on each other to survive. The philosophies emphasize the art of patience, a key tenets of mindfulness. Zen décor brings miniature statues, Bodhi tree leaves, or smooth river stones; focal points for meditation.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>206 BCE – 220 CE (Han Dynasty)</p> | <p>Early tomb murals and texts indicate the beginnings of keeping miniature potted plants in low containers, likely by Daoist practitioners seeking to spiritually shrink entire natural landscapes to fit into a home.</p> |
| <p>618 – 907 CE (Tang Dynasty)</p> | <p>The oldest known visual evidence of Penjing is a 1972 excavation from the tomb of Crown Prince Zhang Huai, depicting servants carrying a potted miniature tree and a tray landscape.</p> |
| <p>960 – 1279 CE (Song Dynasty)</p> | <p>The wenren (literati) categorized Penjing into formal styles: Shanshui (mountain-and-water scenes) and Shumu (tree-centric displays).</p> |
| <p>7th – 9th Century CE</p> | <p>Buddhist monks and diplomats brought Penjing to Japan during the Tang Dynasty, where it eventually evolved into the more minimalist art form known as Bonsai.</p> |
| <p>6th–12th Century (Asuka to Heian Periods)</p> | <p>Chinese penjing (tray landscapes) is introduced by Buddhist monks. The Japanese aristocracy begins adapting these miniature natural landscapes for indoor and outdoor viewing.</p> |
| <p>17th–19th Century (Japan's Edo Period)</p> | <p>The Japanese art of Bonkei and Hachinoki (the precursor to Bonsai) flourishes. This sets the aesthetic foundation for shallow “dish gardens”, open-air vessels featuring moss, rocks, and miniature trees, which is widely regarded as the historical predecessor to the Japanese open terrarium.</p> |
| <p>1842</p> | <p>The closed terrarium is accidentally discovered by Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward, an English physician and amateur botanist. He discovered that sealed glass jars could support plant life while observing moth pupae.</p> |

What have you chosen to create this summer? Send in pictures of your creativity.

“I am Bored”!

Anna Chandy

You will, as a parent, hear it during holidays, or as a teacher, seen signs of this in your classroom. Bored is the need or want to engage in activity/task. It points to an unengaged mind, often seen as a negative in this age, where as an adult your instinct is to find a way to fix it.

However, have you considered it as an opportunity - to build resilience, self-awareness, independence and creativity in that child at home or in the classroom?

Boredom may be initiated when one is overwhelmed by choices, or is unable to self-direct. Among younger students, it could be either overstimulation (screens) or repetitive routines, or too much structure, a cognitive overload (because of the enhanced difficulty), or underload (relative easiness of a task easy, or insufficient challenge).

Adolescents may speak of boredom because they find a lack of relevance of what they learn, repetition and routine, passive learning experiences, improper pacing of lessons and challenge, and often the experience of learning towards a standardized test creates a lack of flexibility for both students and teachers to explore topics in-depth and with creativity.

What sets in is default mode network, that looks for attention and new connections. It could manifest as lethargy or frustration and being antsy. What you could do as a teacher or a parent is validate the boredom. However, most importantly, encourage the pause, instead of jumping in with a plan.

Having conversations on contemplative idleness—“what you feel is not external, instead an internal process on how to engage with the world around you”.

Boredom is good if there is a way to encourage independence to find out what else can be done in their own way. To find ways of how they would uniquely engage with their routines, surrounding and people around them. What conversations have you planned with children when they are disengaged?

Pause and reflect, as the teacher in that classroom, where and when did you lose the students’ interest. How is your lesson plan designed to engage or challenge that child in the classroom to be resilient, and independently take on a task that is just right for each one of them.

For the parent amongst you, how do you encourage disengagement so that your child connects back thoughtfully and independently. Do we ever say, “Glad that you are bored. Find out something that you do want to do,” or “Great, you can do think something else to do.”

Encouraging and appreciating independently and creatively thought-out tasks with what is immediate and contextual grounds the child in the present and the now. The mind is able to declutter and make space for new ideas.

FortiSteps from FairGaze is a comprehensive SEL programme for K-12. Do reach out at suma@fairgaze.com; anna.chandy@fairgaze.com; pranav@fairgaze.com for enquiries.



Sustainability is a Responsibility Towards the Future You!

The Schoolastic Editorial Team

Sustainability is a word you will find all around you today. It is there in your curriculum, in discussions on news, in sectors such as finance, investment, climate technology, energy, corporate, manufacturing, supply chain, real estate, urban planning and architecture, policy, research, law, food, agriculture, fashion, and music.

It is the practice of maintaining, supporting, improving environmental, social, and economic processes without reducing or depleting essential resources.

The scope of sustainability in 21st century careers is immense. In your curriculum it is built in to deepen your understanding of the environmental, social, economic and governance aspects of the world around you and preserving it for the future.

Every sector and industry in today's world are in need of people who are able to find solutions for a sustainable future. The United Nation's 2030 mark for Sustainability Goals is a globally acknowledged timeline to unify issues of environmental preservation and socio-economic development.

Skills in sustainability for different sectors range from ESG analysis, Data analysis, critical thinking, research and interpersonal skills. Professions such as carbon accountants, ESG consultants, Life-cycle assessment specialists, sustainability officers and managers, environment data scientists, renewable energy engineers and auditors, sustainability supply chain managers, Environment-Health-Safety managers (EHS), Green architects, climate policy researchers are recruited by different sectors of the economy.

A more relatable example would be the music industry, which is actively seeking sustainability officers to make green concerts. The recent tours of Coldplay, BTS, Billie Eilish offer insights into how music labels and artists are making conscious efforts to power stages through renewable energy and storage of battery, minimizing, or banning single-use plastics, highlighting fan incentives for low-carbon travel, etc.

Closer home, the Bengaluru music festival Echoes of Earth have been supportive of sustainability by building stages from scrap, upcycling waste into eco-art, complete resource traceability, ecological conservation and enforcing a zero-waste policy.

From B.A. and B.Sc. in Bachelors and Masters to MBAs, Indian universities offer a wide range of courses on Environment and Sustainability Development, Sustainable Food systems and Processes, Packaging, Practice, Sustainability Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Fashion Design and Sustainability, Architecture, Hospitality, Culinary Arts, etc.

When you plan your future, do read up, and research on sustainability as a possible career.



CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS

July 2026 Issue

Thank you for being a part of FairGaze Schoolastic!
Every new month brings fresh opportunities, fresh dreams, and fresh ideas—and July is all about embracing them with confidence and creativity.

As schools reopen, new friendships begin, goals are rewritten, and many of you start discovering new passions, talents, and ambitions. This month, we invite students and teachers to contribute to the Schoolastic News Magazine and share stories that celebrate growth, courage, creativity, and positive change.

Theme
New Beginnings – Kickstart with Determination

Deadline
15th June 2026

Email
schoolasticeditorial@fairgaze.com

A new beginning can be as simple as learning a new skill, making a new friend, starting a hobby, or setting goals for the future. It can also mean taking the first step toward solving a problem you care deeply about.

This month, we encourage you to think about the future you want to create.

- ◇ Have you started a new hobby, skill, or passion project?
- ◇ Are you preparing for your dream career or future goals?
- ◇ Do you see a problem around that you want to solve?
- ◇ How can social media be used responsibly and positively to inspire, educate, or build something meaningful?
- ◇ If you could turn your skills into a future business or startup, what would it look like?
- ◇ Can young creators, influencers, artists, gamers, coders, athletes, or entrepreneurs build their identity and monetize their talent responsibly? Do you have a true story where you, or someone you know created social impact through creativity, leadership, innovation, or entrepreneurship?

We also invite students interested in sports and global events to share their thoughts around football and the spirit of the FIFA World Cup season.

Football is more than just a game, it brings people, emotions, and nations together. Whether you are a sports enthusiast, a future entrepreneur, a young artist, a changemaker, or simply someone discovering their path, this issue is your space to express yourself.

Do write to us about:

- ◇ Memories of Your First Match.
- ◇ What the Playground Taught Me That Class Never Could.
- ◇ Watching football together with friends: The thrill of the cheers!
- ◇ Your favourite football players and teams.
- ◇ Cristiano Ronaldo vs Lionel Messi – Your perspective.
- ◇ FIFA World Cup excitement and memorable moments.
- ◇ The future of football in India.
- ◇ 5 things football and sports can teach

NOTE: We welcome original (NOT AI-GENERATED) articles, poems, stories, reflections, interviews, artwork, opinion pieces, and creative projects. You may also submit drawings, photographs, illustrations, DIY activities, startup ideas, campaign concepts, or social impact initiatives inspired by the theme.

Please mention “July Theme” in the subject line and include:
Your name, Grade, School name, Complete school address

Let your ideas flow like a warm summer breeze. We can't wait to see your creativity shine!

THINKING ALOUD

For July 2026 we recommend a little build up with Football nostalgia

Books

Toward the Goal, Revised Edition Paperback, by Jeremy V Jones and Janna Jones, 2014.
Soccernomics: 2026 World Cup Edition by Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski.

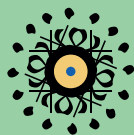
Movies

Little Zizou, 2008. Escape to Victory, 1981. Shaolin Soccer, 2001

Music

From Waka Waka by Shakira, and Dreamers by Jungkook of BTS, to the Neymar and Brazilian favourite Parado No Bailao, or if you are a fan of the Spanish player Lamine Yamal, then listen to Dance Like Lamine Yamal.

We are eagerly waiting for your submissions!



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