

Teq-nically Speaking

Volume 1

Issue 1

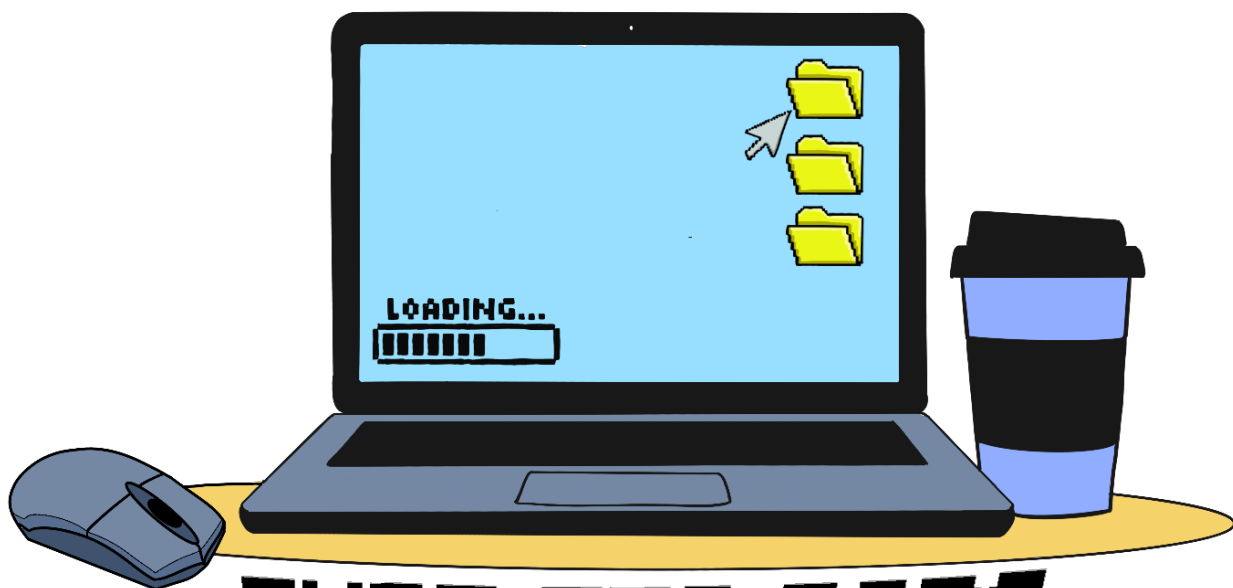
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Day One Compiled

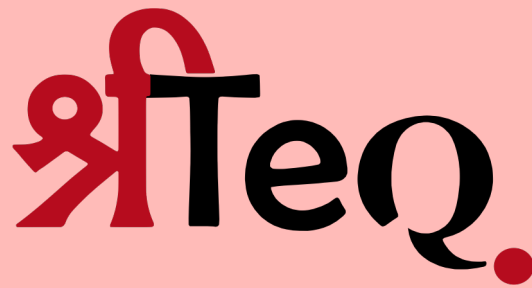
The opening morning of ShriTeq 2026 saw the school transform into a hub of innovation. The usual rhythm of classrooms and conversations were replaced by last-minute brainstorming, polishing of presentations and an unmissable sense of anticipation as students got ready to take the stage.

As the teams flooded the campus, the initial sense of anxiety transformed into laser-sharp focus. This wasn't just a gathering of smart students; it was a high-speed collision of young innovators, all running on zero sleep and a hundred percent adrenaline, ready to test their limits against strict deadlines and complicated creative prompts. The palpable tension and ecstatic energy wasn't the result of just an interschool competition, though - the very future of our digital landscape is shaped through the course of ShriTeq. Guided by this year's core theme: "SMART TECH, STRONG ETHICS," participants were not only challenged to push the boundaries of digital innovation, but also to critically evaluate the moral weight of their creations; essentially asking them to build the sports car, but proving they know how to use the brakes.

SMART TECH.
strong ethics



SHRI TEQ 2026



TSMS, NOIDA

SPS, GURUGRAM

SHIV NADAR GGN.

THE ARDEE SCHOOL

TSMS, FARIDABAD

SHIV NADAR NOIDA

SHALOM HILLS INTL.

PATHWAYS GURUGRAM

SPS RAJENDRA NAGAR

NIRMAL BHARTIA SCHOOL

THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL A

LABURNUM

TAGORE INTL. SCHOOL VV

HERITAGE INTL. XPERIENTIAL

GD GOENKA GLOBAL SCHOOL

HXLS

TSUS, NOIDA

DPS, RK PURAM

PRAKRITI SCHOOL

SFHS, CHANDIGARH

THE INDIAN SCHOOL

SUNCITY GURUGRAM

SCOTTISH HIGH INTL.

KUNSKAPPSKOLAN INTL.

TSMS, GURUGRAM

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL SV

VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL

LOTUS VALLEY INTL. GGN

BAL BHARTI PUBLIC SCHOOL

GD GOENKA, FLAGSHIP SCHOOL

MRIS GGN.

BASIS CHANDLER

Image-ination

The ShriTeq 2026 "Image-ination" finals pushed competitors to stretch their creativity to the limit, tasking them with transforming basic starter photos into compelling visual pieces using editing software and generative AI. With just two hours on the clock, the room was thick with tension as students raced to finish their digital compositions.

THE SENIOR DIVISION

For the Senior teams, the challenge was as much about marketing strategy as it was about graphic design. Competitors were handed a photo of a rusty bicycle leaning against a brick wall and were instructed to turn it into an advertisement for a high-tech electric bike that promoted green energy.

The judge didn't hold back, evaluating the submissions like professional ad pitches. Vasant Valley School took first place with their brand, "Verde", winning the judges over by understanding modern consumer habits, opting for strong, visual storytelling over heavy text and effectively communicating that green energy e-bikes are for all generations, not just for the youth. Tagore International School also delivered a standout performance in the Senior Division, earning high praise for a versatile ad featuring the tagline, "every ride starts a ripple". The judges commended their clean structure, limited use of text, and effective call to action.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

The Middle School prompt took a more surreal turn, asking students to transform an image of a swirling cup of coffee into galaxy expanding across deep space.

Bal Bharti Public School took the top spot in this category, earning high marks for a visually impressive piece that captured the theme of "finding something extraordinary in something ordinary". They were specifically commended for their thoughtful use of the AI tool Grok. The Shri Ram Millennium School, Gurgaon delivered a remarkably neat submission that strictly adhered to the prompt, creatively building a universe directly into the coffee saucer.

There was incredible conceptual brilliance on display across the board. Heritage International Experiential School envisioned coffee foam transforming into spiral galaxy arms, the rim glowing as a ring of gold light, and dark liquid turning into dusk lanes. Meanwhile, Tagore International School utilized coffee beans to represent floating stars in the background, achieving a well-balanced composition. The Shri Ram School, Aravali also brought a highly engaging and cute concept to the table, imagining "Nova Brew" coffee shops on different planets that spaceships would travel to.

The core lesson was that AI is a starting point, not the finish line. While generative tools were encouraged, judges heavily penalised teams that relied on them without showing digital editing chops. A creative concept - like turning coffee into a galaxy - falls flat if there is no actual technical development backing it up in the final file; competitors must "show their work" by applying proper layer adjustments, realistic blending, and manually adding extra elements to prove technical competency. Tool selection also proved crucial; students learned that using text-based LLMs to handle complex visual generation simply doesn't yield the best results. Ultimately, the winning designs proved that true digital artistry happens when human technical skill steps in to fine-tune and elevate rather than relying on just raw AI output.

HACKATHON

Round 1

Despite a slightly delayed start this morning, it was not long before Hackathon became the key focus of Shri Teq. The venue was filled with excitement as an endless buzz of conversations filled the air. Teams rushed through last minute preparations, rehearsed their pitches one final time, and eagerly awaited the opportunity to showcase their hard work. With this year's theme being "Agentic AI for Industry Breakthroughs," participants were tasked with developing an AI agent capable of transforming real world industries through innovative software solutions.

Round 1, the technical round, featured 18 teams presenting their products before judges Mr. Souvik De and Mr. Amit. The diversity of ideas on display reflected just how widely agentic AI can be applied. Lotus Valley International School, Gurgaon and Tagore International School focused on sustainability, with Freyr and ATMOS reducing energy waste in industrial facilities and buildings respectively. GD Goenka tackled game development by turning code into structured design documents, while Nirmal Bhartia School presented RIG OS, an incident response system that analyses real-time operational data. Pathways School Gurgaon and Prakriti School explored collaboration and emotional intelligence through AI for knowledge retention and emotion recognition, while Salwan Public School introduced a self-learning personal growth companion.



The second half of the round demonstrated an equally broad range of applications. Heritage Xperiential Learning School built an AI legal assistant, Vasant Valley School and Scottish High International School worked on flood prediction and wildfire response, and The Shri Ram Millennium School created a financial intelligence platform. Shiv Nadar School, Noida focused on vehicle diagnostics, while Shiv Nadar School, Gurgaon simplified hardware prototyping. The Indian School showcased an interactive virtual anatomy lab, The Shri Ram School Aravali addressed airline disruptions, while The Shri Ram Millenium School Noida built a computer diagnostic assistant, Suncity School developed WAGESHIELD for labour rights and The Shri Ram School, Mousari concluded with unlockED, an AI career counselling platform.

The judges questioned teams on the technical design, feasibility, and real-world implementation of their products, encouraging participants to justify the decisions behind their models and architectures. Congratulations to Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Pathways School, Gurugram, Shiv Nadar School, Gurugram, The Indian School and The Shri Ram School, Mousari for making it to tomorrow's finals. Even though there are only 5 finalists, Round 1 of Hackathon highlighted not only technical expertise but also the creativity and problem-solving abilities of every participating team, setting exceptionally high benchmarks and reflecting the growing potential of agentic AI across a wide range of industries.



JUNIOR SCRATCH MANIA



Today, during ‘Scratch Mania’, the panel of judges was delighted to witness the interactive yet informative Scratch-based games created by teams on the given theme: “Ethical Uses of Technology”.

Schools participating in the exciting event included Salwan Public School, Shiv Nadar School, The Shri Ram Millennium School, The Shri Ram Universal School, The Shri Ram School, Aravali, Heritage Xperiential Learning School, The Shri Ram School Vasant Vihar, and Lotus Valley International School, Gurgaon. The teams presented their intriguing project, displaying their knowledge and understanding of technology and its implications. The Shri Ram School Vasant Vihar programmed a well-animated game involving fixing an underwater fibre optic cable, a feat requiring dodging corrupted data packets, electric sparks, and more. Lotus Valley International School’s game involved a helpful robot on a mission to recover a hacked phone, chasing down a “phantom” in order to win points.

Another equally engaging team was by Heritage Xperiential Learning School, where students made a thrilling shooting game in order to save a fantastical “Hypercity”. Memorably, The Shri Ram School, Aravali had players traverse across the screen to collect crystals while avoiding a dark glitch virus. The experience was extremely insightful for teams, who learnt how to integrate new elements into their Scratch code such as timers, variables, and MCQ logic. They grasped that artificial intelligence isn’t suited for every task, and that there is power in their own imagination and creative pursuit. They were able to reinforce the difference between ethical and unethical use of technology, leaving them with skills they can use for the rest of their lives. The judges praised all the teams for their hard work and effort, giving the first prize to The Shri Ram School Vasant Vihar, followed by The Shri Ram School, Aravali and Lotus Valley International School, Gurgaon.



QUIZ PRELIMINARY ROUND

The ShriTeq Day 1 Tech Quiz preliminaries kicked off the competition with both high stakes and pressure. The Middle and Senior School segments followed a strict format: teams of three were given a mere 15 minutes to complete 25 multiple-choice questions. With ten points awarded per correct answer and no negative marking, participants were tested on both their breadth of knowledge and their ability to perform well under a strict time limit. In both divisions, twenty-five teams vied for twelve semi-final spots.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRELIMINARY TECH QUIZ

In the Middle School division, participants found the questions straightforward and easy to attempt, noting only a few truly difficult exceptions. The round focused heavily on artificial intelligence, hardware components, and the histories of prominent tech giants and their flagship products. Many of these young competitors stated that they prepared by utilising AI tools and reviewing previous years' ShriTeq rounds online, showcasing excellent resourcefulness.



SENIOR SCHOOL PRELIMINARY TECH QUIZ

The Senior School preliminary round was significantly more intense; participants huddled around their desktops, hard at work and communicating in hushed whispers. The contestants required a much broader umbrella of knowledge that included topics like cybersecurity and blockchain technology. Seniors described the quiz as moderately tough but prudent for a generation building the future. The questions were centred around the future of AI and the multifaceted impact, both technological and environmental, of global data centers. The round also tested visual and historical knowledge with trivia on founders and company logos. Notably, our own school team, having prepared intensively over the preceding month, left the arena confident that they fared significantly better this time than in previous years.

Selections for Middle School Semi-Finals: 1. Suncity School, 2. The Indian School, 3. The Shri Ram School Moulisari, 4. Heritage International Xperiential School, 5. Scottish High International School, 6. The Shri Ram Universal School, 7. Vasant Valley School, 8. Nirmal Bhartia School, 9. Shalom Hills International School, 10. The Shriram Millennium School, 11. Shiv Nadar School Gurugram, 12. The Shri Ram School Aravali.

Selections for Senior School Semi-Finals: 1. Vasant Valley School, 2. Nirmal Bhartia School, 3. Suncity School, 4. The Indian School, 5. Shiv Nadar School, Gurugram, 6. The Shri Ram School Aravali, 7. The Shri Ram School Moulisari, 8. Scottish High International School, 9. Lotus Valley International School, 10. Manav Rachna International School, 11. G.D. Goenka The Flagship School, 12. Delhi Public School R.K. Puram

JUNIOR SCHOOL TECH QUIZ

The Junior School Tech Quiz Final proved to be a battle of wits that was thrilling to witness. More than just a test of trivia, this competition challenged young minds to think critically against a ticking clock.

Six teams: The Shri Ram School Vasant Vihar, Scottish High International School, Suncity School, TSRS Aravali, Vasant Valley School, and Lotus Valley International School, navigated five intense rounds. Each team was composed of three members, in accordance with a mandate of at least one female participant to guarantee equal opportunities among peers. The event was masterfully hosted by acclaimed technology journalist Rajiv Makhni, whom we have had the privilege of hosting as our quizmaster for a number of years. His presence and insights have been an invaluable addition to Shri Teq. He ensured to keep the audience and participants engaged through the course of the 2-hour final, frequently rewarding the audience with premium prizes such as JBL headphones and power banks while offering the young competitors valuable tips about participating in competitive events and quizzes, such as tactics to eliminate options, estimate answers and even intimidate opponents.

Round 1: "Tech View" kicked off the event with visual-based questions revolving around topics from the origins of the first computer "bug" at Harvard to Mozilla Firefox's new mascot, Kit, all the way to identifying Waymo's autonomous robo-taxis and South Korea's robotic monks.

In Round 2: "Order IT," teams raced to arrange tech sequences chronologically. In this round, the home team - TSRS Vasant Vihar, pulled ahead as a result of their swift buzzer play.

Round 3: "Spotlight", a crowd-favourite, placed immense pressure on a single nominated team member to answer a rapid-fire of three questions in 30 seconds. Vasant Valley School's team secured a perfect 40 points in this round as their nominated member effortlessly recalled facts about Duolingo's mascot to the full form of USB.

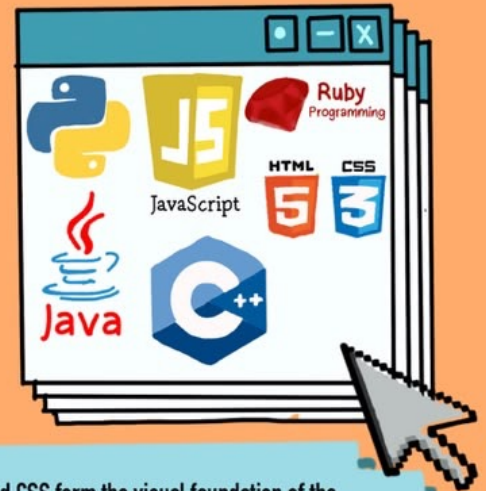


Round 4 was all about strategy, where teams had to showcase their prowess in unique categories like Minecraft mods, bizarre internet router locations and coding platforms before a final "Buzz Bytes" round sealed their fates.

Ultimately, TSRS Vasant Vihar's team dominated the scoreboard, with one standout participant whose confidence and expansive knowledge won over the crowd. TSRS Vasant Vihar was crowned the Junior Tech Quiz Champions with an impressive 115 points, followed by Aravali at 80 points and VVS at 60 points. The prize distribution concluded a brilliant display of young technological talent which, by all accounts, served to reassure us that the future of tech is in capable hands.

WHICH PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE ARE YOU?

As the foundational scripting language of the World Wide Web, JavaScript implements interactive and dynamic features across various webpages and platforms, all the while evolving to meet the demands of the modern web. You are energetic and can operate comfortably in spite of chaos; in fact, you thrive in a fast-paced, constantly changing atmosphere.



Python is the most widely used language across AI and data science domains, renowned for its readability and extensive standard library. Do you value clear communication and efficiency, and consider yourself an approachable and adaptable individual? If you prefer to achieve your goals as swiftly as possible rather than starting from scratch, your personality reflects Python.

HTML and CSS form the visual foundation of the internet. While technically markup and style sheet languages rather than traditional programming languages, they are responsible for the layout, presentation and typography of digital content. You possess a strong aesthetic sensibility and focus on presentation. The philosophy you live by is: how information is displayed is just as critical as the information itself.

C++ is a compiled language that provides developers with high levels of control over memory and system resources.

To some, you may seem like a perfectionist as you pay close attention to the minutest details and are unforgiving about seemingly trivial errors. Intricacy is your forte and you are willing to manually manage difficult tasks that others would turn down.

Ruby: Designed solely with “developer happiness” and a natural syntax in mind, Ruby is an open-source programming language famously utilised alongside the Ruby on Rails framework. If you are expressive and empathetic, firmly believe that work should be a joyful and fulfilling experience and treat your projects as a form of art, your programming language counterpart is Ruby.

Opinion pieces

ARE ALGORITHMS RUINING OUR ABILITY TO DISCOVER NEW THINGS OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONES?

There is an undeniable, quiet comfort in the digital spaces we inhabit today. We open our screens, and the world presented to us is beautifully curated. It is a space where music always suits our mood, articles align perfectly with our beliefs, and art matches our established aesthetics.

Yet, in this frictionless environment, one finds themselves missing the chaos. For all their sophisticated design, recommendation algorithms are slowly causing our ability to discover the unknown to fade away.

Every consumer and creator values the evolution of their taste, often viewing it as a journey of independent exploration. However, the technology giants that govern our digital experiences are driven by an entirely different metric: retention. In an industry where a momentary drop in user engagement equates to a loss in revenue, the fear of losing an audience's attention completely overrides the pursuit of genuine discovery. Consequently, our feeds feel increasingly repetitive because they are explicitly engineered to be predictable.

Before the era of algorithmic curation, developing personal taste was an inherently frictional process. It required borrowing an unfamiliar book, sitting through a film that challenged our worldview, or navigating genres of music we did not immediately understand. We had to endure the discomfort of the unknown to eventually stumble upon the extraordinary. Today, that productive friction has been systematically eliminated. Algorithms interpret hesitation or disinterest not as an opportunity for intellectual growth, but as a technological failure. If a piece of media does not instantly captivate us, the system rapidly pivots to safer, more familiar content, trapping us in a relentless echo chamber of our own past preferences.

This demand for frictionless consumption inevitably dictates the supply side of culture as well. When artists, writers, and producers recognise that an algorithm serves as the ultimate gatekeeper to their audience, the incentive to take creative risks plummets. Instead of building something genuinely novel, the focus shifts to optimising content for the machine- shortening media to ensure completion, or endlessly replicating formats that have already proven successful. The result is a digital landscape that is highly optimised but creatively stagnant proving that a technically perfect user experience does not automatically yield a culturally rich one.

It is remarkably easy to surrender to the convenience of automated curation. More often than not, the algorithm successfully predicts exactly what will entertain us in any given moment. However, in a world where convenience is the default, we must recognise the cost of this extreme personalisations. True discovery demands vulnerability. It requires us to occasionally be bored, confused, or confronted with ideas we disagree with. If we wish to retain our capacity to be surprised by the world, we must actively choose to step outside the algorithmic bubble, embrace the discomfort of the unfamiliar, and accept that the most profound discoveries are those a machine could never predict.



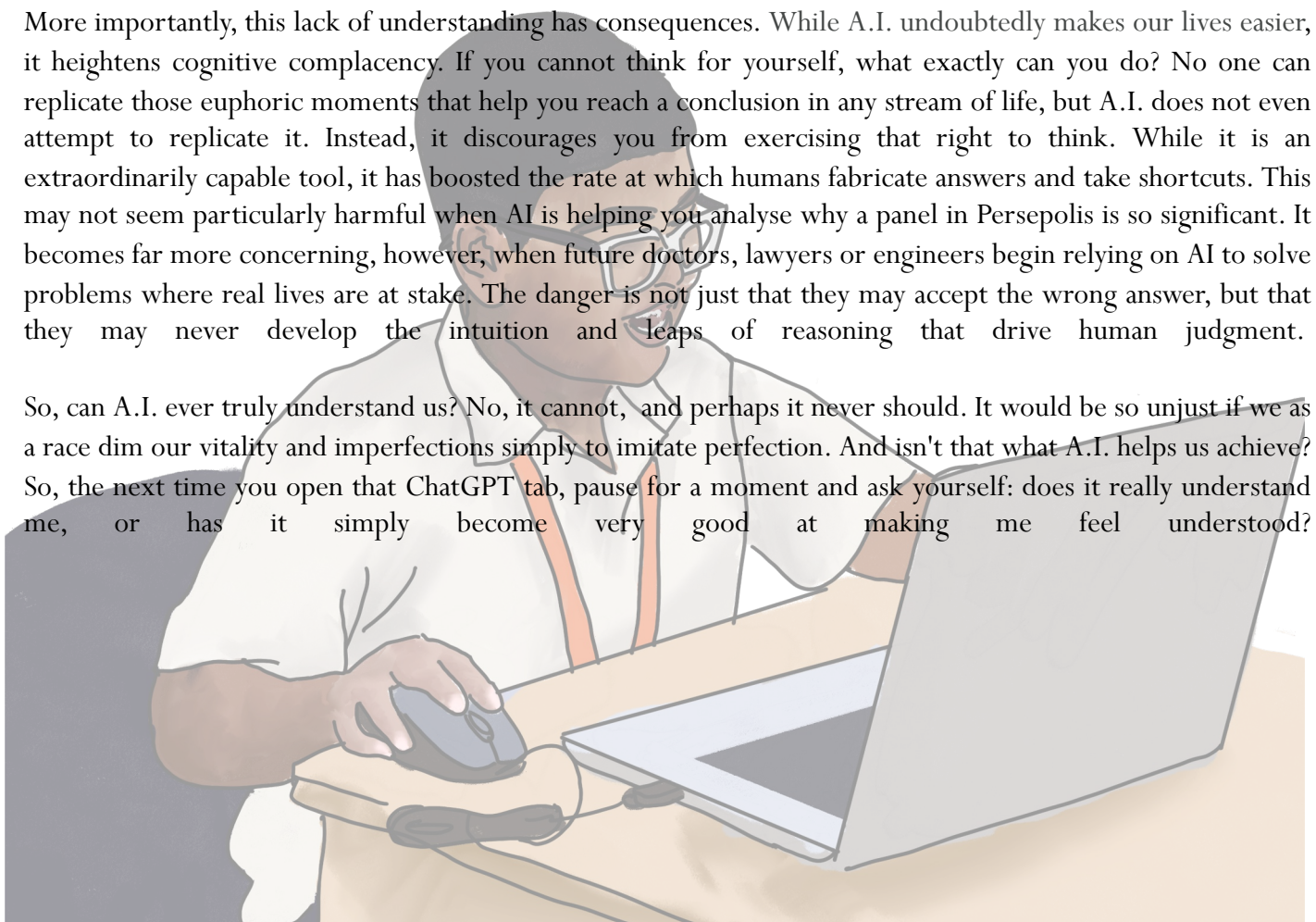
CAN AI EVER TRULY UNDERSTAND US?

A.I. has become so heavily integrated into our lives that it feels impossible to remember a day when it did not exist. From serving as a personal assistant and decision-maker to, at times, even a therapist, AI has helped make our lives effortless. Think back to the number of times you have had a disagreement with your parents or best friend and have gone straight to ChatGPT to vent – it tells you exactly what you need to hear, and it somehow seems to just 'get' you. Think of all those moments where it has helped you create the perfect homework answer, because it just 'knows' how you think. It is these very moments in our everyday life that make us feel so heard and understood by the bots that live inside our devices. However, it also raises an important question: does A.I. actually understand us or have we confused validation with recognition?

This illusion that a large language model is one and the same as a human stems solely from its so-called perfection. In just a matter of seconds, it is able to produce what we perceive to be the right answer, yet this very perfection is exactly what separates it from us. The human race is defined not by perfection, but by its imperfections. Human progress has never been driven by flawless logic. If Alexander Fleming had not accidentally left a lab window open, he would not have ended up creating the first life-saving antibiotic, penicillin. If Chef George Crum did not get upset at a customer who complained his fried potatoes were too thick, we would never have tasted the wonder that potato chips are. If engineer Wilson Greatbatch did not pick up the wrong resistor for a heart monitor circuit, the artificial pacemaker would not exist and neither would so many people who are kept alive by it. These mistakes are what make humans human. We learn, adapt and innovate because we are imperfect. AI, built to minimise mistakes rather than make them, can imitate these outcomes but never experience the messy process that creates them. That is why it can never truly understand us.

More importantly, this lack of understanding has consequences. While A.I. undoubtedly makes our lives easier, it heightens cognitive complacency. If you cannot think for yourself, what exactly can you do? No one can replicate those euphoric moments that help you reach a conclusion in any stream of life, but A.I. does not even attempt to replicate it. Instead, it discourages you from exercising that right to think. While it is an extraordinarily capable tool, it has boosted the rate at which humans fabricate answers and take shortcuts. This may not seem particularly harmful when AI is helping you analyse why a panel in Persepolis is so significant. It becomes far more concerning, however, when future doctors, lawyers or engineers begin relying on AI to solve problems where real lives are at stake. The danger is not just that they may accept the wrong answer, but that they may never develop the intuition and leaps of reasoning that drive human judgment.

So, can A.I. ever truly understand us? No, it cannot, and perhaps it never should. It would be so unjust if we as a race dim our vitality and imperfections simply to imitate perfection. And isn't that what A.I. helps us achieve? So, the next time you open that ChatGPT tab, pause for a moment and ask yourself: does it really understand me, or has it simply become very good at making me feel understood?



RIDICULOUS START-UPS

THAT ACTUALLY GOT FUNDED



Every developer and founder dreams of getting that Y Combinator acceptance email or walking out of Shark Tank with an envelope of cash in their hands. In Silicon Valley (the home of thousands of startup companies and major tech giants), investors are constantly hunting for "contrarian bets"— ideas that look completely impossible or absurd right up until they literally change the world.

However, because venture capitalists are terrified of missing the next Blinkit or Uber, the fear of missing out occasionally overrides basic sense... in other words, sometimes, an idea sounds crazy because it is crazy.

YO

If you are stressed over whether your hackathon project has enough features to impress judges, take a deep breath and simply remember the story of Yo. BuiltOriginally built in just eight hours, the app had exactly one function: you tap a friend's name, and their phone receives a push notification and an audio clip saying, "Yo." You literally couldn't do ANYTHING else; couldn't attach text, photos, voice memos...nothing.

If you're thinking that this startup must not have made it, you'd be wrong. Yo raised a whopping \$1.5 million (or 14.31 cr) in seed funding, at a staggering \$10 million valuation. While it was mocked relentlessly (and in my opinion, rightfully), its enthusiasts defended it as an exercise in "zero-character communication" before it inevitably faded into the background. Let's just say, "Yo" will not be missed.



JUICERO

While software apps can be built on a tiny budget, physical products require serious cash. One such example is Juicero, a startup that promised to revolutionise fresh juice for your home. They built a beautifully designed, Wi-Fi-connected machine that required special packets of pre-chopped fruits and veggies. The machine squeezed the juice into a glass for you. The catch? The \$400 machine (originally priced at \$699) was completely useless.

Investors and consumers alike were horrified when a Bloomberg report revealed that you could squeeze the juice bags with your bare hands just as fast as the expensive machine could. Top-tier investors poured \$120 million into Juicero before the company finally folded in 2017. It remains the ultimate cautionary tale of building a complex solution to a problem that never existed.



COLOR LABS

In the startup world, founders are usually told to build something simple, test it, and improve it over time. Color Labs skipped all of that and went straight to the bank. The concept was an app that allowed people to share photos with strangers nearby. It completely lacked normal social media features like "friending" or "following."

Because the founders had a history of starting successful companies, investors blindly threw \$41 million at the idea before the app was even launched. When it finally hit the App Store, the layout was incredibly confusing, and the core idea of sharing photos with random people around you felt a little too creepy for most users. The app bombed almost instantly, proving that a great resume doesn't automatically equal a great product.



PAVLOK

While most wearable technology focuses on tracking your steps or monitoring your heart rate, Pavlok took a much more aggressive approach to self-improvement: training yourself with literal electric shocks. The wristband would actually zap you if you failed to meet your goals or engaged in a bad habit, like oversleeping, biting your nails, or eating junk food.

You could even give your friends the ability to shock you through the app if they caught you slipping up. Despite sounding like a modern torture device (and getting absolutely roasted on Shark Tank), Pavlok successfully raised hundreds of thousands of dollars. Surprisingly, unlike others on this list, Pavlok actually found a dedicated audience and is still selling devices today.



QUIBI

Quibi was supposed to be the absolute future of entertainment. Founded by Hollywood heavyweights, the platform offered high-budget TV shows and movies sliced into 10-minute chapters. The core gimmick? You couldn't watch it on a TV - it was strictly for your phone. If you turned your screen, the video would smoothly switch between vertical and horizontal views.

The real problem was their timing. They launched right at the start of the 2020 pandemic lockdowns, when everyone was trapped at home in front of their big-screen TVs and nobody was riding the bus to work. They raised an unbelievable \$1.75 billion from major studios and investors before launching, only to shut down entirely just six months later. It goes down in history as one of the fastest and most expensive face-plants the startup world has ever seen.



It is incredibly easy to laugh at these ideas in hindsight, but they are a perfect example of how startup investing actually works. Nine out of ten people might tell a founder their idea is completely ridiculous, but it only takes one overly excited investor to write a check. In a world where a single massive success pays for 99 failures, investors would rather take a risk on a crazy idea that might become a global phenomenon than sit on the sidelines and miss out entirely.



श्रीTeQ.

Day 1 Compiled

