

The Winter Edition

Insights Almere

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*Theme:
International voices,
issues &
developments*

January/February 2025 Edition



DISCOVER:

*Guide to
procrastination... p11-12*

*The Gold Rush of the
future... p13-14*

2024 Politics recap... 3-4

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I	<i>Editors notes</i>	2
II	<i>2024 Wrapped: Politics Edition</i>	3-4
III	<i>Legacies in Silence</i>	5-6
IV	<i>Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Our Cultures</i>	7-8
V	<i>The Unseen Crisis Below the Waves</i>	9-10
VI	<i>Procrastination: 101</i>	11-12
VII	<i>Asteroid mining</i>	13-14
VIII	<i>The Rise of Artificial Intelligence</i>	15-16
IX	<i>Why Do We Trust These Brands?</i>	17-18
X	<i>Eurovision 2024-2025</i>	19-20
XI	<i>When Will History Become Interesting?</i>	21-22

ISAlmere Insights

Notes from the Editors



Ridima Niranjana
Founder & Co-Editor-
in-Chief

Hey everyone! My name is Ridima Niranjana and I'm honoured to be the Co-Editor-in-Chief of ISAlmere Insights. A little introduction of myself - I'm a DP1 student at ISAlmere aspiring to become an International lawyer, I have lived in 6 countries, and my biggest hobbies lie in art and reading. Ever since I picked up my first issue of *Foreign Affairs* almost 4 years ago, founding my own magazine has always been a dream - a dream I have been able to realise through ISAlmere Insights.

In 2025, where information is increasingly abundant yet truth is harder to find, the relevance of meaningful journalism has never been higher. We, the students of the International School Almere, have both the fortune of being in a community that has an extremely diverse array of voices, alongside the privilege of being able to use them. We started this magazine to give an opportunity to the students of ISAlmere to share their passions, stories, and messages - an opportunity the lovely writers of our magazine have taken to create incredible articles on a vast number of topics! I would like to give a special shoutout to our Head of Administration - Aditi Singh - for her critical effort in making all the logistics of this magazine come together. We couldn't have done it without you!

Since the day Haya and I had the idea to create ISAlmere Insights, we have spent countless hours on the drawing board drafting proposals, proofreading articles, designing promotion content, and overall making this magazine happen. Our first issue of ISAlmere Insights features topics ranging from science to politics to student issues, and we hope that you enjoy your read of the very first edition of ISAlmere Insights!



Haya Tamer
Founder & Co-Editor-
in-Chief

Hello Everyone! My name is Haya Tamer, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the founder and co-editor-in-chief of the ISAlmere Insights magazine. Here are a few facts about me: I'm Egyptian, a current DP1 student (studying history and global politics), and I aspire to study politics or journalism in the future.

Having lived in different countries, I've met different people and experienced various cultures, which has shaped my perspective and thoughts. When I was in my school in Qatar, I always looked up to the students who led the magazine club. Ever since, I've aspired to create my magazine club. Today, alongside my friend and co-founder Ridima, that dream has become a reality.

ISAlmere Insights is more than just a club - It's a safe space where the students of the International School Almere can express their opinions on a variety of topics. In a world where AI is rapidly advancing and misinformation is becoming increasingly common, our magazine strives to deliver accurate information and offer you wider perspectives. My co-founder and I spent various hours editing and developing the articles to ensure you receive the correct information.

What makes ISAlmere Insights unique is our diversity and passion. As a group of students from different cultures, religions, and backgrounds, we bring different perspectives and viewpoints to the table. This allows everyone to share their ideas freely, in addition to that my co-founder and I never put any restraints on what the team members could write, it was just free writing on whatever topics the team members wanted to express their opinions about.

Lastly, we hope you enjoy reading the winter edition of ISAlmere Insights!

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2024 Wrapped: Politics Edition

Ridima Niranjana

To say that 2024 was a chaotic year for politics would be a massive understatement - from government collapses to war escalations, 2024 really had it all. As 2024 has drawn to a close, we can look back and realise the profound political events that occurred over the last year, and the implications of them that will affect the years ahead of us. It is virtually impossible to mention every single politically significant event that occurred last year within the constraints of a 2-page article, but with that being said, here is a look back at 7 key political events of 2024:

The Fall of Assad

The end of 2024 was neither peaceful nor predictable, and in the Middle East, Syria made headlines with the collapse of the dictator Bashar al-Assad's regime. Characterised by a brutal civil war that left millions displaced and half a million dead, Assad's 24 years of power came to a swift end after opposing rebel groups successfully defeated government forces - leading to Assad fleeing to Russia. The future of Syria is one of the main points to watch out for in 2025 - will the fall of a dictator bring forth progress and relief, or will the power vacuum and differing rebel groups lead to more blood being spilt?



Israel-Palestine & Wider Middle East escalations

Far from dying down, the Israel-Palestine conflict that reignited in 2023 following Hamas's attack on an Israeli music festival on October 7 2023 has reached far and alarming heights - with rapidly increasing death tolls and entrances of more actors. 2024 began with Israel's successful assassination of Hamas's deputy leader in Beirut and the continuation of Israeli military operations in Gaza but quickly expanded beyond Gaza to responding to Houthi threats from Yemen as well as Iran's unprecedented drone and missile attack against Israel in April. The widening conflict also saw increasing tensions between Israel and the Lebanese paramilitary group Hezbollah - that culminated in an almost cinematic explosion of Hezbollah's communicating devices as well as an invasion of Southern Lebanon in October. Considering diplomatic efforts from actors such as the UN Security Council remained largely ineffective in 2024, one must hope that the ceasefire initiatives of 2025 will bring forth a solution to this conflict.



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Trump Returns

The US presidential elections that took place in November 2024 saw the historical political comeback of Donald Trump - America's soon-to-be 47th President. Despite facing assassination attempts, criminal convictions, and a change of opponent from Joe Biden to Kamala Harris, Trump managed a victory by swaying all 7 swing states and gaining 312 electoral votes. Trump, of the Republican Party, brought forth an "America First" rhetoric as his agenda for his presidency.



South Korea's President Yoon impeached

As 2024 came to an end, we saw South Korea in turmoil due to President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law, and his subsequent impeachment. Yoon imposed martial law (when ordinary law is suspended and replaced by military rule) on December 3rd, 2024 to try to counter "anti-state forces" and "pro-North Korea" factions, immediately sparking a wave of protests and demonstrations across Korea that led to the National Assembly overturning Yoon's declaration. Yoon was then impeached 11 days later, and on the 31st of December, an arrest warrant was issued for him. Given following acting Presidents have also struggled to retain power, we begin 2025 with concerns regarding South Korea's political stability.

Civil War & Crisis in Sudan

Rapid escalations of conflict seem to have been a 2024 special - with the civil conflict in Sudan between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) being no exception. Beginning in April 2023, the civil war born out of governance, religious, and economic differences has continued to devastate Sudan in a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented scale. Despite thousands of deaths, 14 million displaced, and famine in the Darfur region confirmed in August 2024 - the crisis in Sudan failed to receive attention and support from the international community



The Year of the Elections

The USA was far from being the only country to see a divisive election - over 70 countries held elections in 2024 and approximately 3 billion people had the opportunity to vote. The UK saw the end of 14 years of conservative leadership with the Labour Party's victory in July, and India saw Narendra Modi secure a third term through a coalition government. South Africa's African National Congress failed to win a majority for the first time since the end of the apartheid, El Salvador's 2024 elections resulted in a landslide victory of 84.65% of the vote for President Bukele. Closer to home, the 2024 European Parliament election in the Netherlands took place on June 6, 2024, which saw the GroenLinks-PvdA alliance win 8 seats, while the far-right PVV made significant gains (6 seats). Through the increasingly divisive political changes that occurred in the year of elections, 2024 saw the world change before our eyes.

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Legacies in Silence

Haya Tamer Omar

History is filled with influential thinkers whose contributions often go unrecognized compared to their Western counterparts. From Asia, India, and the Middle East, many remarkable individuals have shaped the sciences, arts, and philosophy we know today. Without their innovations, the world would be a very different place. This article explores a few figures who deserve acknowledgement and credit for their remarkable achievements.

1. Fatima Al-Fihri (800–880 CE)

Fatima Al Fihri, a Moroccan woman, founded the University of Al-Qarawiyyin in Fez, Morocco in 859CE which is recognized as the world's oldest continuously operating universities and one of the first universities in the world. Despite women's limited rights to education at the time, Fatima insisted on making education easily accessible for all. Her institution welcomed scholars from all over the world. Her exceptional commitment and passion for education remain a legacy and a long-lasting inspiration that highlights how women play an important role in shaping our historical and modern-day societies.



2. Satyendra Nath Bose (1894–1974)

Satyendra Nath Bose was an Indian physicist and mathematician who made significant contributions to quantum mechanics. His work on Bose-Einstein statistics and the concept of bosons, which impressed Einstein himself, laid the foundation for quantum theory. Like many other scientists, his name is often overshadowed by Western ones; however, his work remains fundamental to modern physics



3. Queen Nzinga (1583–1663)

Queen Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba (modern-day Angola) was a brilliant diplomat who fiercely resisted Portuguese colonization in the 17th century. She was known for her intelligence and military strategy, forming alliances and leading her people in many battles to preserve their sovereignty. Her leadership and defiance against oppression, especially at a time when women in power were rarely admired, have made her a lasting symbol of resilience and freedom in African history.



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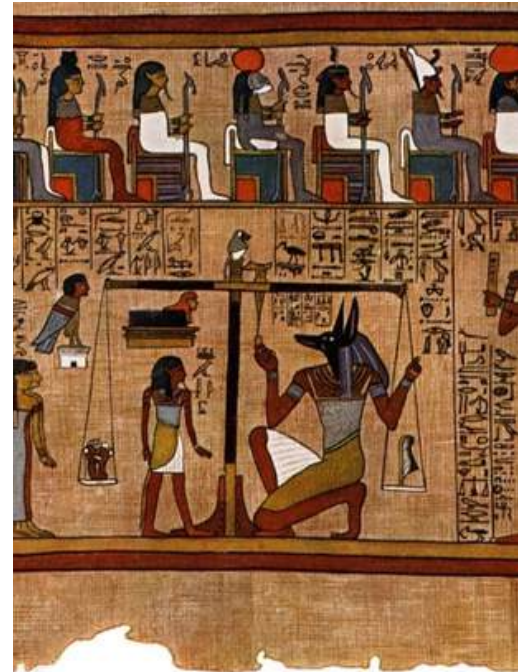
3. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648–1695)

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a self-taught scholar, poet, and philosopher in colonial Mexico, strongly advocated for women's education. Her poetry challenged societal and religious norms, which made her one of the first feminists in the Americas. Despite backlash and opposition, she left a legacy of feminism, independence, and courage.



4. Ancient Egyptian Thinkers

Ancient Egypt was the birthplace and the start of mathematics, engineering, medicine, and physics. Imhotep was a polymath architect who was one of the first recorded scientists in history. He made many advancements in medicine, astronomy, and engineering. Ancient Egyptians discovered/invented the 365-day calendar to predict the annual flooding of the Nile River. Papyrus paper was used for writing, and texts like the *Edwin Smith Papyrus* and *Ebers Papyrus* provide detailed descriptions of surgical techniques, treatments for wounds, and medicinal solutions. Makeup and cosmetics were also invented by the Egyptians to protect their skin from the heat of the sun, as well as advanced mummification techniques. These scientific achievements were not unique to men; however, uniquely, women were also significant contributors at the time. These are just some examples of what the ancient Egyptians discovered or invented. It is important to recognize this as Western scientists have always received more attention, and the works of other important civilizations and individuals are often left unknown.



5. Wang Zhenyi (1768–1797)

A Chinese scientist, Wang Zhenyi excelled in a more male-dominated field. She simplified and worked on educating herself on complex astronomical concepts and mathematics, including theories on eclipses and the movement of celestial bodies. She advocated for gender equality and the right to female education, which was not common at the time.



These were just examples of these silent or unknown legacies; there are various other scientists, writers, and doctors who helped us achieve where we are today. The purpose of this is to raise awareness about other contributors from other cultures around the world.

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Unity in Diversity: Celebrating Our Cultures

Raazia Zaidi



Walking through the halls of an international school feels like exploring a mini version of the world. You catch bits of different languages being spoken all around you, see diverse clothing styles, and taste cultural foods in the cafeteria on Cultural Day. Our school is like a big mix of different cultures, languages, and traditions all coming together - with students representing over 15 countries, and speaking at least 20 languages. This diversity isn't just a number, it's a lively mix of experiences that makes our community unique. But if you dig deeper, what does it really mean to embrace cultures and diversity, and why is it important in a global community like ours?

At its foundation, diversity is more than just the variety of nationalities represented in our classrooms. It's the different ways we see the world, shaped by our unique traditions and perspectives. In a school with students from all over the world, learning about each other's cultures isn't just interesting, it's a skill that helps us prepare for the future as we can develop collaboration and effective communication.

Take Diwali, also referred to as the Festival of Lights, for instance. Celebrated a few months ago, it's one of the most important holidays in India. It marks the return of Prince Rama, his wife Sita, and his brother Lakshman to their home in Ayodhya after 14 years of being away, during which Rama fought a war and defeated the demon king Ravana. This victory symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, and the people of Ayodhya celebrated their return by lighting lamps to guide them home through the darkness. Diwali usually falls between October and November, depending on the Hindu lunar calendar, and is celebrated by millions of people. The use of lights - including diyas (an oil lamp made from clay or mud), candles, and fairy lights - is a key part of the festival as it symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali is a time for families to come together, decorate their homes, offer prayers, and share sweets all while celebrating the importance of light, hope, and new beginnings.

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More recently, was Kwanzaa, which takes place from December 26 to January 1. Kwanzaa is an African American cultural holiday that celebrates the African heritage, unity, and community. Created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, it is based on seven core principles known as Nguzo Saba, which include unity, self-determination, collective work, and responsibility. Each evening, families light a candle on the kinara (a candle holder for seven candles), talk about the principle of the day, and share stories or experiences. Kwanzaa is a time for music, dance, storytelling, and eating traditional African dishes, highlighting the importance of family and cultural pride. It's not always easy to fully understand what makes another person's culture special. Usually, it requires asking thoughtful questions, like, "Why is this tradition important to you?", or "What's the story behind this custom?" It's in these types of conversations that we find not only differences but similarities within each other's cultures as well.

For example, both Diwali and Kwanzaa are centred around the idea of bringing families and communities together. While Diwali celebrates the victory of good over evil with lights and prayers, Kwanzaa focuses on celebrating heritage and community through principles. Both festivals use symbols, such as diyas and the kinara, that bring meaning to their celebrations. Despite their different historical contexts, both encourage unity, joy, and a stronger feeling of togetherness.

When we make an effort to understand each other's cultures, we create a school community where everyone feels included and valued. So, let's be proud of being part of a school that celebrates diversity. Whether it's joining events like Cultural Day, learning to say "hello" in someone else's language, or trying a new dish, these small actions help us understand others and see the world from their perspective. In a world that's becoming increasingly connected, our school community is a small but powerful example of what's possible when we value diversity.

Let's continue to embrace it, celebrate it, and learn from it, together.

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The Unseen Crisis Below the Waves

Piyumi Pivendri Wickramatunge



Picture a colourful coral reef teeming with colourful fish and filled with marine diversity, now imagine the same coral reef bleached barren and lifeless. This is the reality we are facing. Did you know the ocean acts like Earth's carbon sponge? But what would happen when that sponge reaches its limits? Every second our oceans absorb about 30% of the carbon dioxide that is released into the atmosphere, this is turning our seas more acidic, putting an entire marine ecosystem at risk. For many marine sea creatures, life is all about finding food and staying hidden from predators but as the ocean is becoming more and more acidic the rules of survival are being rewritten for many creatures.

What is ocean acidification? Or how does it affect us? Well, to answer all those questions ocean acidification is when the ocean PH drops. This matters because when our seas get more acidic we are managing to risk an entire marine ecosystem. Think of a colourful coral reef as a town and busy fish filling up the alleys but with the ocean getting more acidic they are turning each of these towns into lonely deserted areas. Events that occur underwater can have a huge impact on us and our daily lives, and seafood lovers this might affect you guys because of the low PH levels in the ocean this could have negative effects on all marine food chains and alter the food supply to humans.

Corals act as barriers protecting coastal areas but because of the high acidiness of the ocean coral reefs are weakened and this exposes many coastal communities to extreme weather conditions. This could also reduce tourism revenue for countries that depend on marine beauty. With the corals declining this could reduce tourism.



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How can we make a change? For starters, we can reduce carbon emissions. We can make this change with a shift to renewable energy such as using solar, wind and hydropower to reduce the dependence on fossil fuels. We could practise energy efficiency at home, school etc. But how can we as a community make a change? We could encourage the use of public transport to reduce emissions of cars, or we could cycle to school to reduce carbon emissions, these are all minor steps that we as a community could take to make the marine ecosystem healthier.

So why not lend a hand? Before you all start hoarding bottled water, remember the ocean still has a chance. If we choose renewable energy and practice energy efficiency and cut down the carbon emissions we can make a change. Think of it this way: if you practise energy efficiency and bike or use public transportation to get to school you are basically a hero for the ocean. As a community, we can cut down on carbon emissions and turn the tide on ocean acidification. Every step counts, together we can save our oceans, protect marine life and ensure a healthier planet for generations to come.



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Procrastination: 101

Gargi Inamdar

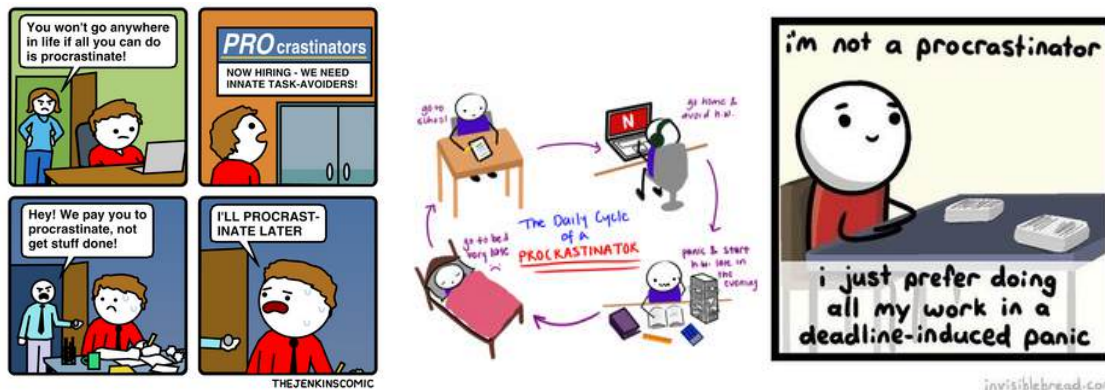


Ok, can I get a raise of hands for anyone whose New Year’s resolution list includes “stop procrastinating? Or maybe you have finally decided to check this article out because you have procrastinated so much that you need this? I cannot believe that I finished this article on time due to procrastination. So, after scouring the internet long and hard, I present to you my findings on the art and solution, of procrastination.

In short, procrastination is the “act of delaying something that you should do, usually because you do not want to do it” (courtesy of Oxford Dictionary). Usually, done when avoiding doing certain tasks that should be prioritised, such as doing the laundry that your mom told you to do 2 hours ago, but scrolling through YT shorts just seems like a better option. Oftentimes, you will try to break out of that procrastinative behaviour but will end up sitting on your bed in complete dilemma with a pile of laundry on your right, your phone in the middle and that dreaded math notebook on your left. Things like math homework and laundry are not bad, but it gets more problematic when you have to prepare for imperative exams, and even more problematic when you have goals that don’t have a deadline.

The first step to change is to understand procrastination. There’s this blog called Wait But Why by Tim Urban in which he comically explains why people procrastinate. A non-procrastinator's brain has a “rational decision maker” (RDM), while the procrastinator's brain has an additional member, the “instant gratification monkey” (IGM). The IGM is the embodiment of the freedom and lack of discipline we had when we were younger.

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As we grow up, we struggle to accept hard work and uncertainty because our procrastination resides in a comfort zone. So, is it simply a matter of courage, or is it only self-control that eliminates procrastination? Well, Dr. Tim Pychyl (a certain professor certain somewhere) concludes that “Procrastination is an emotion regulation problem, not a time management problem,” So procrastination isn’t an innate character flaw, or the incompetency to manage time, but a coping mechanism to negative emotions? Unfortunately, we can’t just stop procrastinating, and despite “productivity hacks” and YouTube videos, fixating on how to get more work done doesn’t address the root cause of procrastination.

Procrastination lies in emotions and not productivity. Because social media is so important in our lives, our brains are so expectant of immediate rewards. If the brain isn’t offered a better reward, it will not change. Constructive self-compassion and reflecting on the emotions you feel and why you feel them will help. When wanting to procrastinate, don’t succumb to a desire, instead do absolutely nothing. Eliminating distractions and forcing yourself to sit while doing nothing will make you feel so bored that you will itch to do something. Immediately starting your task will convince your brain to find relief and interest in it.

After COVID, it feels like life is moving too fast to cope with. Mondays roll into Fridays and Mondays again before you know it. Being conscious of how much time you have left on this earth and how much you waste on procrastination should provoke you to use the time you have left wisely. So, after you finish this magazine, I’m going to need you to drop what you’re doing, put your phone away, and start doing that thing you’ve been procrastinating on RIGHT NOW. Well, maybe not NOW, but you know, maybe after just one more video.

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Asteroid Mining: The Gold Rush of the 21st Century?

Aditi Singh

Throughout history, the appeal of hidden treasure and wealth has led to exploration, innovation, and competition. From the California Gold Rush of the 19th century to the oil surges of the 20th century, asteroid mining might be the next example of history repeating itself.

Why Asteroid Mining?

Asteroid mining, an idea well-seen in movies, might become a reality with the population's growing needs, and the earth's resources rapidly diminishing. The rising demand for rare materials makes mining asteroids a possible solution. The advancing technology demands metals and minerals needed for clean energy and gadgets, including nickel and cobalt, which are essential for batteries, solar panels, and converters. Further problems arise with mining on our planet, such as deforestation, water pollution, and exploitation of workers. Asteroid mining provides the choice of getting minerals from uninhabitable celestial bodies and leaving the earth's ecosystem untouched.



Asteroids, rich in colossal amounts of resources, fall into three main types. Nickel, iron, and magnesium are common in both M-type and S-type asteroids. While M-type asteroids also hoard platinum-group metals. Even if they don't have a lot of metals, C-type can nonetheless provide organic materials and water, which are necessary for space exploration.

According to some estimates, an asteroid sized a kilometre in length contains enough minerals to provide \$100 billion in mineral wealth for every person on Earth. Such numbers are effective at making asteroids an attractive target for mining operations and space agencies.



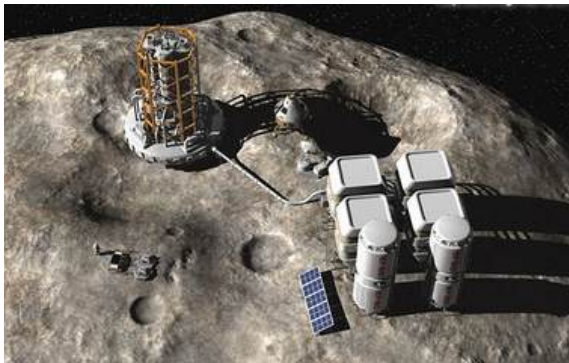
While the mining operation remains hypothetical, a hypothetical plan has been developed. The first step involves identifying an asteroid rich in minerals using telescopic spectroscopy, which examines the light reflected by an asteroid to analyze its composition. After the asteroid is chosen, spacecraft such as rovers and landers will be sent to further study the asteroid and make sure it is worth mining. The second phase of this process will involve sending compact, solar-driven spacecraft. These spacecraft would be used to deliver cutting-edge mining robots to the asteroid. Due to asteroids having little to no gravity, the robots would need to anchor themselves to the asteroid using grapples and drills for stability.

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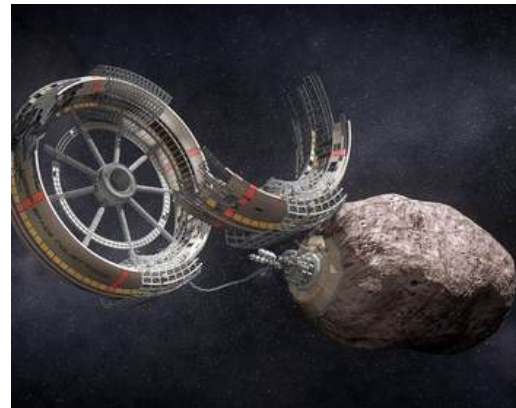
The two methods of mining the asteroid involve scraping the surface and tunnelling. Scraping the surface would involve robots scraping off the top layer of the rock, this layer would likely contain a heavy concentration of minerals. To access the metals buried deep within, drilling tunnels would be more be the more suitable method. After the extraction process, the minerals would float away due to the lack of gravity. To solve this problem, machines might use big nets to collect and secure the minerals. Once the resources are extracted and processed, they need to be sent back. Small spacecraft will be able to ferry minerals back to Earth. Since space transportation is expensive, prioritizing high-value resources will be required to make asteroid mining economically feasible.



It is also important to consider the ethical and legal considerations regarding this. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 prohibits claiming land in space but still lacks specific regulations for mineral extraction. The Artemis Accords offers guidelines and safety zones for lunar activities, which could potentially serve as a model for asteroid mining regulation.



Several companies are making efforts to turn this a reality, with Astroforge testing space mining technologies and Karman+ and Trans Astronautica Corporation exploring methods for extracting hydrated clay and other materials. Further developments have made rockets reusable and drastically reduced launch expenses twentyfold since 2005. Companies like SpaceX and Rocket Lab are in the lead for more affordable space missions, encouraging private sector involvement in asteroid mining.



Asteroid mining represents a groundbreaking opportunity for humanity, taking into consideration resource shortages and paving the way for space exploration. By using innovative technology to our advantage and encouraging international collaboration, this industry has the potential to create tremendous economic potential and address critical environmental and ethical issues. As humans reach for the stars, asteroid mining has the potential to transform industries and change our relationship with the universe.

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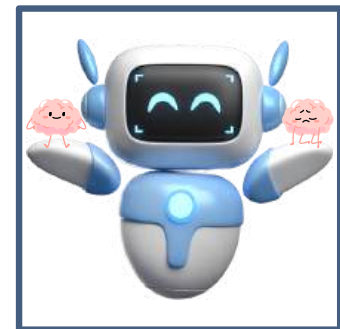
The Rise of Artificial Intelligence

Ayana Roy



Artificial Intelligence is something we all know about. In fact, we see it in our daily lives. It is actually changing jobs all around the world, bringing both new chances and problems. The impacts of using AI technologies in companies are huge when it comes to jobs. From automating tasks to helping workers, AI has an impact on many different kinds of industries and skills. Even though it boosts productivity and innovative skills, it also fuels worries over job displacement, skill gaps, and rising economic inequality. Understanding how AI will affect jobs in the future is thus extremely important for individuals, businesses, and policymakers, especially in the coming years.

A big impact of AI is in job automation. More and more, machines are doing jobs that are reliable, repetitive or involve a lot of data. For example, robots now put together cars, sort packages, and even help with customer service using chatbots. AI software can review large amounts of data in seconds, eliminating the need for people to enter or process data by hand, which impacts the world greatly.



McKinsey estimates that up to 45% of work activity currently done by human workers can be automated using current technologies. Most of these are in manufacturing, logistics, and administrative support. For example, vehicles will reduce the number of drivers needed in many areas of transportation and delivery. Similarly, some tasks of accountants, such as auditing or preparing taxes, are likely to be taken over by machines with AI. However, automation does not mean job loss in total. In historical terms, technical progress has supplanted some positions while creating new ones. How fast this happens and whether the workers supplanted can grasp the skills in demand for newly created jobs determines the challenge in this regard. On one hand, AI comes with new learning systems, thus new jobs. Machine learning, data science, and software engineering professionals are in rising demand due to the integration of AI into company business processes. Over time, new professions are emerging, including AI ethicists, trainers, and explainability experts, to deal with complexities and ethical challenges thrown up by these technologies.

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AI is rapidly revolutionising healthcare testing and personalised treatment, leading to job possibilities for data analysts, AI professionals, and bioinformaticians. Similarly, AI has helped boost agriculture techniques, such as crop monitoring using drones, which requires experienced operators and maintenance professionals. AI tools frequently enhance, not replace, human talents and careers. AI can help doctors analyse medical pictures more accurately and efficiently. AI-powered technologies enable teachers to offer personalised learning paths and increase student performance.

As AI is changing the face of industries, the kind of skills necessary to be successful in the workforce keeps changing day by day. Of course, hard skills related to programming, data analysis, and machine learning are in very high demand. But creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence are vital skills that are irreplaceable, and therefore, highly valued by any organization for collaborative and strategic positions. The impact of AI on jobs also raises a number of ethical and societal questions. For instance, who is responsible for retraining workers who lost their jobs to AI? How do we prevent increasing economic inequality if the high-skill, high-wage jobs will increase and meanwhile lower-skilled, lower-wage jobs decrease? Fairness in AI decisions requires transparency.

For example, AI-powered hiring systems should be unbiased, so that they do not use discrimination. Ethical AI practice and accountability are key concerns for companies in their effort to reduce harm. The future of work in an AI-driven world is neither utopian nor dystopian; it is what we make of it.

By responsibly harnessing AI, society can unlock levels of productivity and innovation, but proactive steps will be needed to meet the challenges AI presents for jobs. People should have a mindset of lifelong learning and be continuously updating their skills. Companies must invest in reskilling programs and take the lead in deploying AI responsibly. Policymakers need to design frameworks that protect workers yet allow innovation to flourish. AI, of course, is a tool-powerful, but with the potential either to widen inequality or empower people. Choices we make today will decide if AI leads to shared prosperity or a deepened divide. Standing right in the middle of this transformation, collaboration among all stakeholders is critical to a future where technology serves humanity, not vice versa.



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Why Do We Trust These Brands?

Elif Minel Bolukbasi



Have you ever noticed how some brands just feel reliable? Whether McDonald's golden logo, the carefully bitten simple apple of Apple, or the cosy swoosh on every Nike product. All of these have a similar feel in terms of creating instant comfort through various psychological tricks. So, what is the secret sauce? Let's look into what these brands do to earn our trust every time.

Simplicity is one of the most powerful tools in building trust. Even the most famous brands usually go for the plain and minimalist style in all their designs. Take Apple, for instance. Any form of a package marketed by Apple can be showcased in a modern art gallery. It's glossy, simple, and ultimately elegant. Although this simplicity isn't just about aesthetics, it's a simple psychological trick that makes us link minimalism with honesty. If a brand keeps its design simple and free of complicated features, you get a sense of transparency, contributing to its reliability.



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It's not just about staying consistent. Think about how banks usually use blue. This is because of humans' tendency to perceive different colours linked to different feelings. It's not just a random choice, blue is a colour that raises feelings of trust and reliability (*Cherry, The Color Blue*). That's why companies like PayPal rely on it to nudge the feeling of security and professionalism. On the other hand, Starbucks' earthy green isn't just about looking fresh, it symbolizes growth, health, and a touch of calm, which ties perfectly into their goal to be a place of relaxation. Then there's Coca-Cola, whose bright red symbolizes energy and excitement, making it instantly recognizable and hard to resist (*Cherry, Red*). These carefully chosen colours aren't just design choices, they're psychological tricks that shape how we perceive a brand.

Another aspect that keeps people on the hook is consistency. Imagine if every time you ordered a Big Mac, it tasted completely different. That'd be a disaster! McDonald's understands that consistency is key, which is why every burger, every logo, and every store looks and feels familiar, no matter where you are in the world. No matter where you are, the experience you get is the same in Paris or Amsterdam. This brings comfort, just like a predictable friend who will always be there. Brands that have a consistent style and experience build trust by reassuring us that we know exactly what to expect.

When you start to pay attention, it's fascinating to see how these elements work together. Everyday brands like McDonald's, Starbucks, and Apple have mastered this art of consistency, play on colours, and the power of psychology, to win our trust every time. So, the next time you feel drawn to a brand, remember that it's not just a good marketing trick but it's a psychological play that is crafted by professionals of these techniques. Who knows? Maybe you'll use some of these techniques to build your own brand one day :)

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Eurovision 2024-2025

Tapasvi Mangalapenta

The Eurovision Song Contest is an annual international song competition held among primarily European countries. It has been a tradition for over six decades, engaging audiences with its special and different kinds of music, performance, and cultural interaction. The contest is known for its incredible stage shows, diverse musical genres, and the famous Eurovision logo. Each participating country submits an original song to be performed live on television and radio, with countries either performing solo or in groups. The performances often include complex choreography, costumes, and special effects, making it an eye-catching display of talent and creativity. Over the years, Eurovision has become a place for showing extraordinary talents that people have and would like the world to know. The competition is done and performed in different stages, including semi-finals and a grand final. The countries are divided into different pots based on voting patterns, and each pot competes in one of the semi-finals. The top performers from each semi-final, along with the host country and the "Big Five" (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom),



The Eurovision Song Contest 2024 in Malmö, Sweden, featured diverse performances and memorable moments. Nemo from Switzerland won with the song "The Code," energizing and awesome stage presence, the song code got 591 points. This was Switzerland's third Eurovision victory. The competition was hard, with intense semi-finals and competitors, where everyone wanted to win with the "Big Five" and host Sweden.

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Different musical types were showcased inside many special effects. The event highlighted and showed diversity, and a lot of understanding from the audience. Overall, Eurovision 2024 celebrated music, creativity, and cultural exchange, with Nemo's victory as a standout moment.

The Eurovision Song Contest 2025 will take place in Basel, Switzerland, following the country's victory in 2024. The event will be held at St. Jakobshalle, with 38 countries participating, including Montenegro after a two-year break. The slogan is "United By Music," which tries to show unity and collaboration. The competition will have two semi-finals on May 13th and 15th, and the grand final on May 17th. Fans wait for the performance and to see who will win this time.



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When will history be cool again?

By Isabella Irwin

In a world obsessed with trends and the new things of consumerism, history seems like old news – it gets forgotten and written off as boring. For so many people it's nothing more than a dull page of dates and figures irrelevant to their lives, they think it doesn't impact them.

History is far more than that, it's the story of how we came to be today, the right question isn't whether history can be cool. It's how can we remind people that it already is.

Why is this happening?

Let's face it: history often gets the short end of the stick. In classrooms across the globe it's taught as an endless timeline of treaties and revolutions which doesn't interest the average student. Teachers forget the betrayals, love stories and hero's who helped change the world today. Along with that, history has to compete with newer and ever advancing STEM subjects. Generally at our school STEM dominates the interested lesson choices as it opens a promising future for students as the world is evolving, thus leaving behind history in the dust with it's old kings and queens which is hard to sell against these new innovative things.

The truth is history still holds the key of the world we live in today, every headline you see in the news whether if its about war, politics or climate change it has roots in the past. We cant tackle modern issues without knowing what causes them.



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But history isn't just about the large things that affect the world, it's also personal. It connects us to our ancestors, traditions and identities. Knowing where we come from helps us decide where we're going and maybe even who we want to be. I know it helped me to find what I wanted to do. Beyond that it helps us sharpen our minds, trains us to analyse, question and empathise turning us to those critical thinkers the IB loves so much.

How do we change this?

So how do we stop history from feeling like homework and start making it exciting again? It all begins with storytelling. But perhaps the most important thing we can do is shine a light on diverse stories. Too often, history focuses on the same faces and the same narratives. There's power in hearing untold tales: the brilliant women, underrepresented communities, and heroes who shaped our world.

If anything has proven history can be cool, it's pop culture. Take Hamilton. A musical about America's Founding Fathers? On paper, that sounds dreadful. Yet it turned centuries-old history into something revolutionary energetic, exciting. Social media plays its part too. History TikToks, Instagram reels, and viral videos transform bite-sized facts into shareable, addictive content.

History doesn't need to be reinvented to be cool, it just needs to be told better. It's the ultimate adventure story, filled with heartbreak, triumph, and everything in between. By rediscovering its relevance and embracing its magic, we can remind the world why history matters.

After all, if we don't learn from the past, we might just repeat it.



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