



GYRA Newsletter

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EDITORIAL

A Butterfly's Feet

Dear GYRAites,

Imagine walking into a grocery store and knowing if a packed food item is fresh—without even opening the package! Wouldn't that be an amazing tool to have?

Well, butterflies have something quite similar. These incredible creatures can taste their food with their feet! When a butterfly lands on a flower, it senses whether the nectar inside is good using tiny taste sensors on its legs. If the flower passes the test, the butterfly uses its long, straw-like tongue—called a proboscis—to sip the sweet nectar, much like an elephant using its trunk to drink water. Now, think about this: what if we could create technology like the butterfly's feet to sense whether food in a sealed packet is safe or adulterated without opening it? Just like a butterfly knows the best nectar, we can know if our food is pure or non-allergic.

This raises a fun research question: Can we develop tools inspired by butterflies to help us make better choices about what we eat just by sensing it from the outside?

What do you think? Could this be the next big invention? The world of butterflies might hold the secret!

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"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."

– Pelé

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Upcoming Events

Virtual Symposium

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For those interested in hosting the Virtual Symposium in February 2025, please drop an email to thinkgyra@gmail.com

CURIOUS FACTS

Discovering Hidden Oceans on Mars: An Exciting Adventure for Young Scientists!

Hey there, young explorers! Have you ever wondered if there could be water on Mars? Well, guess what? Scientists have made an amazing discovery that might blow your mind! Recently, scientists found huge underground oceans of water on Mars. Imagine oceans so big that they could cover the entire planet! But there's a twist – these oceans are hidden deep below the surface, about 11.5 to 20 kilometres.

You might wonder, "How did they find water so deep underground?" Great question! Scientists used a special tool called the InSight lander. This lander sent back seismic data (kind of like how we use ultrasound to see inside our bodies) that helped scientists understand what's beneath Mars' surface.

Even though this discovery is exciting, there are some challenges. The water is very deep, and our current technology can't reach it easily. But who knows? Maybe one of you will invent a new way to drill deep into Mars and explore these hidden oceans!



Did you know that Mars is often called the "Red Planet" because of its reddish appearance? But with these discoveries, we might start thinking of it as the "Blue Planet" too!

So, keep dreaming big and exploring the wonders of space. Who knows what amazing discoveries you'll make in the future? 🚀

WELCOME ON BOARD



Dr. Sini Sunny is an accomplished postdoctoral fellow with over 8 years of experience in cardiovascular biology and diabetes research. She completed her PhD at the Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, focusing on HDL oxidation and inflammation in coronary artery disease. Continuing her research journey at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she has delved into redox biology and proteomics, publishing extensively on cardiovascular disease mechanisms and management. Dr. Sunny's contributions have been recognised with numerous awards, publications, and leadership roles in scientific symposia and committees.

GYRA Fosters Research and Innovation Among Students with Disabilities

GYRA empowers students with disabilities from over 10 special schools in Kerala by nurturing their scientific curiosity and research skills. Through tailored mentorship, students research topics that match their abilities and interests, building confidence and critical thinking skills. This initiative not only enhances their scientific understanding but also boosts their communication skills, enabling them to engage confidently with diverse audiences.

Pratheeksha Training Centre is a notable example. Under the guidance of Mr. Sanal..., they researched what time of the day does the productivity of a person is the best to apply stickers onto the bottles. They presented their findings at the International Research Conference for Children (IRCC 2024) in Kochi.



About Pratheeksha Bhavan

Established in 1986 by the Sisters of Charity, Pratheeksha Bhavan supports marginalised children through education and vocational training, aiming to integrate them into mainstream society. The GYRA mentorship program has further empowered these students, enabling them to excel academically and practically, highlighting the value of inclusive education.



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 If you'd like to join GYRA, please feel free to contact us @ (9778234964) / (8547420090)

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