

# VASANT VALLEY

TODAY

## ♀ *She Will Rise*

This year's International Women's Day was yet again outdone with the eventfulness it had to offer. From Apple releasing a video celebrating the many talented women in their arsenal, to the US Women's National Football team suing the US Sports Federation for discrimination, the theme for this year was #PressForProgress, a call for gender parity.

Year after year we have seen the change in, and development of, feminism throughout the entire globe. This year was no exception. What was unique about this year was the fact that sportswomen pioneered the movement, demanding equality of the genders. Sportswomen have always been the underdogs - the neglected, under-rated and underestimated. However, with the #METOO movement and other such demonstrations, women have gained a sense of empowerment and are no longer afraid to stand up to speak for themselves.

At the India Today Conclave this year, two out of the five international sports personality speakers were Indian sportswomen: Olympic medalist Mary Kom and the Captain of the Indian Cricket Team, Mithali Raj. Both speakers completely transformed the atmosphere in the room as soon as they started talking, and made the audience aware of the circumstances of women athletes in India. The speakers also highlighted the change in attitude of the Sports Federation of India towards women.

Looking back to 2007, Mithali Raj expressed her immense grief when she returned to India to meet with an oblivious population, that was unaware of the fact that the Indian Women's Cricket team had stood second in the World Cup. Sparking a glimmer of hope, however, she highlighted the improvement over the years by emphasising on the change brought about by social media today, and said she is glad to have received extreme warmth from the Indian reporters and crowd in the same situation in 2017.

Mary Kom shed light on the under nourishment of women boxers by the Sports Federation. She emphasised on how the Indian Mens' Cricket team enjoyed sponsorship in crores and lavish treatment, whereas there was a lack of funding for Boxing. The main issue raised by not just Mary Kom and Mithali Raj, but also various other women artists and performers across the world, is the unfair funding and salaries women get, as compared to their male counterparts. Whether it is sports or cinema, women, even today, are being given secondary treatment. This does not just de-motivate and hinder the development of women, but it also creates an unhealthy competitive environment without morals.

On the brighter side, however, the leading smartphone company, Apple, held a recruitment on Women's Day 2019 called 'Today at Apple'- an annual day of recognition that draws attention to the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

Time is of essence, and in the 21st century it is imperative that the world views males and females through the same spectrum. We need to stop being the catalysts of the 'us' and 'them' mentality. The world is a haven which comprises of beautiful individuals, each unique in numerous ways. Embracing each other's differences is what defines us as humans.

Adam and Eve, girl and boy, man and woman - these are mere barriers that block the bigger picture from being seen; on the other side of those sky-high mountains of severance, lies a land of humanitarian compassion. All that is left to do is to open our eyes and envision a world which may today seem utopic, but can be tomorrow's reality.

Arshya Gaur, 10

## SCHOOL WATCH

### Turncoat Competition

**Class 9:** 1st - Siddhant Nagrath  
2nd - Gabita Nayyar  
3rd - Advaita Sehgal

**Class 10:** 1st - Katyayani Jha  
2nd - Anshuman Singh  
3rd - Mahika Dalmia

**Class 12:** 1st - Advaya Gulati  
2nd - Karamvir Chopra  
3rd - Aditya Parashar

### Hindi Kavita Vachan Pratiyogita

**Class 6:** 1st - Kabir Gupta  
2nd - Amyara Puri and Kavya  
3rd - Taneya Sardar

**Class 7:** 1st - Saiesha Mishra  
2nd - Kyra Dhar & Kabir Bahl  
3rd - Kaasvee Kaur & Devangana Jain

**Class 8:** 1st - Girdhar Chandok  
2nd - Dhairveer Singh  
3rd - Shubhkarmann Singh Sandhu and Priyanshu Sen

**Class 9:** 1st - Advaita Sehgal  
2nd - Daksayani Chandra  
3rd - Ruhan Shanker Chopra

**Class 10:** 1st - Aaryak Raj  
2nd - Ayushman Kher  
3rd - Praneel Midha

### Elocution Competition

**Class 6:** 1st - Inika Gour Tirath  
2nd - Avni Gandhi  
3rd - Vijay Karan Mehta

**Class 7:** 1st - Gia Beri Chaddha  
2nd - Diksha Sen and Kabir Bahl  
3rd - Miheeka Bagla

**Class 8:** 1st - Girdhar Chandok  
2nd - Sara Jaykumar and Darsh Puri  
3rd - Kabir Dutta

*Congratulations!*

# adventures of VVS

*"Real freedom lies in wilderness, not in civilization"*

## Class 6 - ALWAR AND ABHANERI

Adventure camp is an opportunity to make eternal memories and bonds with friends and teachers. Camp this year felt like an exhilarating and adventurous trip that ended too soon. This marvellous experience at Alwar and Abhaneri allowed us to enrich ourselves with nature's bliss of solitude.

After a seemingly long journey to the campsite, we finally reached our destination - Alwar. We got some time to relax, and then laced up our boots and got ready to visit the majestic fort and the crocodile lake. The next morning, we went bird watching. The fresh dew on the dry grass shined as we heard the birds chirping away. This camp, we connected with nature in a way that we don't get to in Delhi.

Even though our safari trip was cut short due to heavy rain, we remembered that Birbal always said, "Whatever happens, happens for good!" Owing to that, on our way back we experienced the thrill of seeing two tigers. We set off for Abhaneri with our adrenaline running. Later that evening all of us put up an enthralling talent show. All the tents put up humorous plays and skits. Sad to leave, we all took back with us the values of teamwork, conduct and adaptability.

**Prasann Batra and Kabir Gupta, 6**



## Class 8 - CAMP DOGADDA

From the very first morning of camp itself, the Batch of 2024 went wild. Together we set off on a journey to camp Dogadda, in Gharwal. From hiding our tuck from the teachers and organisers to playing uno or cards whenever we got free time, in its entirety, camp was amazing. After an extremely tiring walk to the campsite, we were assigned groups by the teachers. With these groups, we set off on new adventures each day. Be it the acclimatisation walk, the friendship ladder, the commando web or the spider web - each activity left us with either memories that would last forever, or temporary injuries.

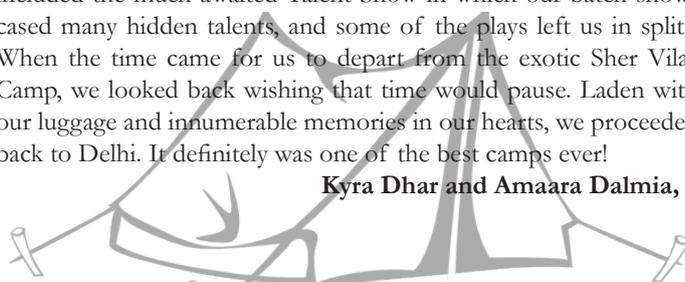
We played whacky games like 'Bob The Weasel' and enjoyed the 'power ups' the most. From intense games of bluff and the 'Helter Skelter' activities, to immense commotion during Uno matches (sorry teachers!) and cutting three cakes in the duration of four days, we really had it all this camp. The exploration, freedom and spending time with friends all added up to a great journey from the concrete jungles of Delhi to the actual jungles of Gharwal!

**Ritwick Sapra and Sara Jayakumar, 8**

## Class 7 - CAMP SHER VILAS

Camp this year was nothing short of magical. It all started on the 25th of March, when Class 7 woke agog with excitement, as it was finally the beginning of our Adventure Camp! Anxious but also extremely happy, we kickstarted our travel on-board the Kota Jan Shatabdi train where we lost track of time chatting, playing and having tuck with friends. Over the course of the next 3 days, between the 2 groups, we spotted five tigers, many crocodiles, three leopards and one sloth bear - it seemed like we had hit a jackpot in spotting wildlife up so close! Another highlight of our trip was climbing 600 steps to the Ranthambore Fort and temple, which left us with extremely sore legs. We also interacted with other kids at Tiger City school and played games that were enjoyed by all. Our special evening together included the much awaited Talent Show in which our batch showcased many hidden talents, and some of the plays left us in splits. When the time came for us to depart from the exotic Sher Vilas Camp, we looked back wishing that time would pause. Laden with our luggage and innumerable memories in our hearts, we proceeded back to Delhi. It definitely was one of the best camps ever!

**Kyra Dhar and Amaara Dalmia, 7**



## Class 9 - NAUKUCHIATAL

This year for camp, class 9 headed to the lake of nine corners - Naukuchiatal. After a long train journey, we got off at Kathgodam and got into a number of small jeeps which took us to the campsite through the winding hillside roads. Once we reached, we were briefed about the rules and regulations of the camp. Then we divided ourselves into three teams: "Kamlesh from Bhopal", "Jugaadu Jaguars" and "Ronan Orange". This year the camp theme was "Collaboration and Team Work," hence chants of participation and collaboration were soon heard.

We would wake up each day with power up sessions, feeling energised and ready for the day ahead. Following this we would have breakfast, and then head out to do our 'WOW' (Wonderful Outer World) activities. One of the three activities was Rope course, in which we learnt how to make a bridge, went rappelling and also played the game 'Mission Impossible'. Trekking was the second activity. During the course of our trek, we made hot cocoa and learnt how to build a fire among other important survival skills. Community service was the third activity, in which we went to Model School in Naukuchiatal to interact with the students studying there. Each team did all the activities in rotation. On the third day, we moved to the nearby 'Lake Resort' due to heavy rains. We moved in small groups under a tarp which we all held up. Once we reached, we assembled in a covered area where we did various fun activities such as the human version of the game 'Chinese Checkers.' Each day, we would learn new games which we enjoyed playing thoroughly.

As the day to go back to Delhi arrived, each one of us packed our bag with a heavy heart - we didn't want to leave. Once we reached school, we said goodbye to our friends, teachers and the instructors and went home with a sense of satisfaction, happiness and memories that we would never forget.

**Mehak Anand and Daksayani Chandra, 9**

## Class 10 - CAMP KAUDIYALA

It was that time of the year again. Excitement surrounded every household of Class 10 as we packed our rucksacks and got ready for Adventure Camp. Nestled away into the verdant Himalayan hills, in an embrace of air that our lungs aren't used to, was our campsite. From building a fire with flint stones and dry wood, to brewing our own hot chocolate on it, we managed to not give everyone a severe case of food poisoning. From kayaking in a thunderstorm and braving ice-cold rapids to building our own make-shift raft, we learnt values of team work and unity. With a resonance of bursting balloons and giggles we even aced the team games. We had left Delhi, in a flurry of early morning mist and excited stirs, for a much required getaway. There was a certain tension in the air. All of us were concerned about our tents. The train ride was packed with the first rounds of tuck and meticulous tent plans. The best way to spend the time was with UNO. Little did we know, that this infamous card game was much more 'intriguing' than one could imagine. 'Why?' You may ask; The dreaded 'Draw 4' card! It tainted several friendships over the course of the train ride. Our free time consisted of rap songs and football. From free styling diss-tracks to.. compliment tracks?! That's correct. Our camp had it all. From singing 'Bohemian Rhapsody' on the tiresome treks to imitating the talent of the 'Gully Boy' raps; our camp was full of people screaming "Mama" and "Apna Time Aayega."

Even though our stay followed a rocky path of laughter and exhaustion, we manoeuvred through it with a duffle-bag load of excitement. Camp served as a place where new bonds developed and existing ones strengthened. It's safe to say that this was an experience that none of us will forget.



Kavin Bhatia and Katyayani Jha, 10



## THE FIRST OF MANY LASTS

Our entire school life, we had associated Class 12 camp with the hyped image of Alaknanda, which had been created by our seniors. We had all hoped to raft on the tides of the river, push our peers into the freezing water and set up camp at a beach each night. To our disappointment, however, we were informed that our camp had been arranged at the Bulls Camp in Tons Valley, Uttarakhand. Upset, yet excited to see what the school had planned for us, we packed our bags and got ready for what would be our last adventure camp with the Batch of 2020.

After five hours on a train followed by eight hours on a bus, we were welcomed by the familiar arrangement of tents and make-shift bathrooms (after rustic Yatra, however, buckets and mirrors felt like luxury). The stunning scenery took a while to get used to with its large entrapping mountains overlooking the magnificent Tons River, its course cascading down a bed of rocks and boulders.

With snow capped mountains to one end and a field where animals were often caught grazing, it was a view that took a while to get used to.

When tiring days of trekking, mountain climbing, river crossing and competitive games of volley ball would come to an end, the nights would greet us with a wide spectrum of stars above, where we spotted constellations before we retired to our nylon chambers. The next day would again begin with an adventure of journeying up the mountains, 'happy packs' in one hand (a very sweet idea of incorporating packed lunches on our treks) and garbage bags in the other, as we joined the camp organisers in their initiative of picking waste up on all their trekking endeavours. Every activity we participated in revolved around trekking, even our trip to a nearby village where we experienced a day in the life of its residents and helped clean up their vicinity. From ploughing the fields with the help of buffaloes to coating walls with cow dung and helping farmers de-weed patches of their farm land with their traditional tools, the activities we indulged in this camp were very different from those of earlier camps. While we definitely did enjoy these, a part of us also wished we could go back to the mainstream camp activities we had participated in our entire school life.

One particular night was proof that nature truly does not discriminate. We witnessed rain pour down in all its glory, trapping us in the tented dining hall post a heated feed back session with the organisers. By this time, trips to the washroom felt more like an obstacle race!

Just like in every other camp we had been to over the last nine years, we didn't forget our camp traditions. From the wackiest card games and breaking out into dramatic songs in the train, to strengthening our bonds with our friends and teachers alike ('London Bridge' being a prime example) and sneakily eating tuck at night after claiming to have given it all up, we indulged in all the madcap practices camp would feel incomplete without. Although we wished the journey had been shorter and our time spent together at the site longer, what created memories of a lifetime was embarking on an adventure together, this one last time.

Harnoor Singh and Anahita Jain, 12

## ADVENTURE CAMPS

My Jim Corbett camp was real fun and full of adventures, even though I did not see a tiger. We took 8 hours to reach there and we stopped on the way at Haveli for lunch. When we reached Jim Corbett, we went for a walk to the Khichdi river. Then we came back and drank hot chocolate. We saw a movie on birds and slept. Next day, we went for bird watching. After that we went to play inside the Khichdi river. That was my favourite activity. We ate lunch and went to see the tiger. But while I did not see any tiger, I saw beautiful deer, monkeys and langoors. We drank hot chocolate in the evening and ate dinner and slept. Next morning, we drank hot chocolate, ate breakfast. While we were eating lunch, it rained. We played indoor games while it was raining. After rain stopped, we went for a nature walk. We started performing our plays. We ate dinner and slept. Next day we headed back to Delhi. I really liked it because I got to spend lots of quality time with my friends. When I came back home, my mother asked me whether I missed her or not, I gave a very candid answer that I had no time! **Kushal Sachdeva 5-B**



Our Adventure Camp to Camp Baghaan was real fun. My excitement knew no bounds and I woke up at 5 a.m. to reach school. After a five hour journey we reached the camp site around 1 p.m. I was looking forward to see tents but the fancy, spacious cottages nestled amongst the mango trees were so beautiful and clean. After a sumptuous lunch our teachers allotted us the cottages. Later in the afternoon, we were divided into three groups and each group got a chance to do candle making, pottery, zip line, and tent pitching through the three days. The hot chocolate and snacks served every evening seemed like a reward after the long trek and the activities. And every night after a hearty dinner we slept like logs under warm quilts. The second day, we went for a walk through the fields and saw some crops. We reached the Ganga canal where we saw a water flour mill for the first time. The local people call it, 'Panchakki'. Soon it started drizzling and we boarded the bus to head back. In the evening we practised for our plays and some groups performed. Next day, we woke up to a rainy day. But we all loved it as we saw two movies. A movie on River Ganga and Three Idiots. In the evening we celebrated Ameiyra's birthday. On 28th February, we left early after breakfast. We reached school at 2 p.m. Such a great camp it was! I loved every bit of it and was finally happy to be home.

**Adhiraj Jaswal 4 - C**

कक्षा चार को शिविर यात्रा के लिए गढ़मुक्तेश्वर ले जाया गया था। हम सब 25 मार्च का उत्सुकता से इंतजार कर रहे थे। सुबह जल्दी उठकर हमें स्कूल पहुँचना था। वहाँ से हम बस में बैठकर अपनी शिविर यात्रा के लिए गए। पहले दिन हमने मोमबत्ती बनाई और



मिट्टी के बर्तन बनाए। दूसरे दिन हम सब आटा चक्की देखने गए वह गढ़ गंगा के ऊपर स्थित थी। हमने नदी में अलग-अलग रंगों की मछलियाँ देखीं। अगले दिन हमने जिप लाइनिंग और ओबिस्टकल कोर्स किया। मुझे बहुत मजा आया मुझे सबसे ज्यादा मजा आखिरी दिन आया। अब जाने का समय पास आ रहा था तो अपने बैग ठीक करने को कहा गया। 28 मार्च सुबह-सुबह हम वापिस दिल्ली की ओर निकल पड़े।

वेदा मेनन चार - बी

कक्षा पाँच को शिविर यात्रा जिम कॉबेट राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में बहुत ही रोमांचक थी। हमने वहाँ ढेर सारी चिड़ियाँ, पेड़ और फूल देखे। मुझे रंग-बिरंगी बुलबुल बहुत अच्छी लगी। उसकी चोंच बहुत अनोखी थी। जंगल में हमने बंदर, मोर, गीदड़ और हिरण भी देखे। खाना तो बहुत ही स्वादिष्ट था। नान इतने अच्छे थे, मेरे घर के नान से भी अच्छे। सुबह-सुबह ठंड में हम गरम दूध पीते थे। रात को हम आग के सामने नाचते और गाते थे। यह तीन दिन बहुत ही आनंददायक थे। हम अपने माता-पिता और अध्यापक-अध्यापिका को इतनी अच्छी और मजेदार यात्रा के लिए धन्यवाद कहते हैं। मैं चाहती हूँ कि अगले साल भी हम प्रकृति कि गोद में छुट्टी मनाए। **वेदा कालरा पाँच अ**



We left on 25th February for Bull's Camp, Pahari. When we reached we were told which tent we would be sleeping in. Then we were put in some groups. We learned how to make a campfire with sticks, we also learned how to make a tent. Then we ate lunch and played games for a few hours. After that we had our dinner and went into our tents to sleep. The next morning we got up and ate breakfast. We went for a long walk. When we came back, we had lunch. We did a treasure hunt and some pebble art. At night we watched a movie, Grinch and ate popcorn. The next morning we had our breakfast and left for home. I had a nice fun time at the camp.

**Naintara Kapur III - B**

### TRIP TO SURJIVAN FARM

On the 8th Of March, Friday I went to Surjivan Farm by bus with my teachers and friends. When we reached the farm we saw plants, flowers and trees that were very beautiful. First, we sat in the Gol Ghar. We were told about the activities we would do through the day. Next, we drank nimboo paani and ate pakoras. After that, we went for a Nature Walk. We saw



pine trees, peach trees, Chinese Orange trees, hens, ducks, rabbits, a rooster, chicks and duck eggs. At the Medicinal Garden we saw lemon grass, odomos, mehendi and camphor growing and Ms Jerath made us smell them one by one. Then, we went for a tractor ride to the village. We saw a 150 year old tree and parakeets, owls and mynahs who lived on it. Mr. Pandey showed us 'uplas' or cow dung cakes and told us how they were made. We also saw the thick tubewell pipes and wheat and mustard fields. We came back and did many activities like churning butter from curd, grinding green chutney on a 'silbatta' or grinding stone, rolling rotis, grinding wheat in a 'chakki' to make atta and using an 'okhli' to pound bajra. Finally, we ate matar paneer, karhi chawal, raita, gobi aloo, gur, salad, rotis, papad and gulab jamuns for lunch. The food was yummy. After lunch we played and then celebrated Ishan's birthday. It was time so we got onto the bus and came back to school by 4:30 pm. I felt happy after the trip and would like to go there again. **Parthivi Kanoria II - C**

## In Remembrance of Luke Perry

On March 4, 2019, Coy Luther "Luke" Perry III, an American actor, passed away at the age of 52 after suffering from a massive stroke. Perry has been on American television since he portrayed the quintessential teenage bad boy, Dylan McKay, on Beverly Hills 90210. He became a teen idol for playing Dylan McKay from 1990 to 1995, and again from 1998 to 2000.

This generation, however, will remember Luke Perry as Fred Andrews of Riverdale, CW's grim adaptation of the Archie Comics. Fred Andrews, father of the protagonist Archie Andrews, embodied the archetype of a conservative sitcom dad. Fred served as the moral compass of the show, which is usually fuelled by murder and morally ambiguous characters. Luke's on-screen portrayal as Archie's caring father was deeply heartwarming and will be remembered by all.

The older generations, on the other hand, will never forget the feeling of tuning in every Wednesday night to witness Perry's tender portrayal of the brooding bad boy, Dylan McKay. Luke embodied Dylan in a way that all the guys wanted to be like him - he defined '90s 'cool.' Aware of the craze surrounding his character, Luke once said, "I'm going to be linked with him (Dylan McKay) until I die, but that's actually just fine. I created Dylan McKay. He's mine."

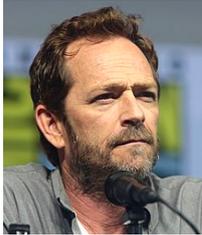
The greatest actors, I believe, can make you think that their character is a living, breathing human who is a part of your daily life. Luke Perry did just that. His charm, skill and passion for acting has been etched into the hearts of countless people, forever.

Advaita Sehgal, 9



Luke Perry... you were a joyful and vibrant soul. You will be missed but most certainly your legacy will be remembered forever. Rest in love and peace, friend. #Riverdale  
77.9K 11:50 PM - Mar 4, 2019

16.5K people are talking about this



## शून्य भेदभाव दिवस

१ मार्च को संयुक्त राष्ट्र एवं दूसरे अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगठन शून्य भेदभाव दिवस मनाते हैं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र का यह कहना है कि दुनिया भर बहुत सारी जगह में आज भी लोगों के साथ कई आधारों पर भेदभाव किया जाता है। इस भेदभाव की वजह से लोगों की सफलता पर बुरा असर पड़ता है। शून्य भेदभाव दिवस पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र हर व्यक्ति की गरिमा और अस्तित्व का ध्यान रखता है।

दिसंबर २०१३ में UNAIDS और संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने शून्य भेदभाव अभियान शुरू किया ताकि आम जनता में यह जानकारी पैदा की जाई कि हमें एचआईवी ( ह्यूमन इम्यूनो डेफिशिएंसी वायरस) के लोगों को भेदभाव नहीं करना चाहिए। एड्स एचआईवी का कारण है। शून्य भेदभाव दिवस पहली बार १ मार्च २०१४ को मनाया गया था। शून्य भेदभाव दिवस का प्रतीक तितली है।

इस साल शून्य भेदभाव दिवस का विषय "कानून को बदलने के लिए अधिनियम जो भेदभाव करते हैं" था। UNAIDS और NACA (नैशनल एजेन्सी फोर थे कंट्रोल अंव एड्ज) ने एचआईवी से पीड़ित लोगों के कानून को रक्षा करने के लिए विभिन्न अभियान और जुलूस निकाले हैं। UNAIDS ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय से अपने देश में कानून बदलने का भी आग्रह दिया है ताकि एचआईवी पीड़ित लोग आनंद से भी रह सकते हैं।

शून्य भेदभाव दिवस मनाना महत्वपूर्ण है ताकि हम न केवल उन लोगों के बारे में जागरूकता फैलाएँ जिन्हें एचआईवी है, बल्कि वे भी जो अपनी जाति, लिंग या धर्म के कारण दैनिक भेदभाव से पीड़ित हैं। हमें अपने देश के जिम्मेदार नागरिकों के रूप में यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि इस प्रकार का भेदभाव हमारे आसपास नहीं होना चाहिए।

शायला उपाध्याय ९

## MICROFICTION MORNINGS

the theme for this time's microfiction was 'Spring Colours'

The moon crawled out of the snow white clouds and I appreciated this natural phenomenon, as the orange sun gently sank into the valley.  
(Sunset Orange)

Avni Gandhi, 6

Sunset marks the end of the day - orange light takes over the sky and you reflect on the day gone by. (Sunset Orange)

Kyra Oberoi, 6

As a painter, she understood the value of each colour in her palette. Her favourite, however, was lime green. The effect, the hue - everything about that colour was simply too astounding. (Lime Green)

Kyra Dhar, 7

A century back, the town had lost its light. After 130 years of living in the dark, the door opened and the bright lime green stung their eyes. (Lime Green)

Asmara Dang, 7

A man, not having money, power or fame, is a simple man. However, a man having money, power and fame, but lacking honesty is like a rainbow without indigo blue. (Indigo Blue)

Vivastav Rastogi, 8

Her skin was sun kissed, complimenting the breathtaking beauty of her eyes. Her eyes, a delicate shade of indigo blue, matched the shining sky. (Indigo Blue)

Meher Dhawan, 8

Once vibrant, soft and plump  
The crimson rose stole all the attention  
But as the years passed, it turned to dust  
And the longing looks, once again, faded away.  
(Crimson Rose)

Mehek Anand, 9

The sound of a gunshot echoed in her ears. The bullet pierced the skin of a white dove and stained it the color of crimson rose, making all the peace faded away. (Crimson Rose)

Ayesha Gupta, 9

Treading through the deep dark woods of seamless uncertainty, the little speckles of fuchsia pink seemed to light the path to home and belonging. (Fuchsia Pink)

Arshya Gaur, 10

She stood in the biting cold  
With her eyes glittering black.  
Her cheeks glowed fuchsia pink  
For her, there was no turning back. (Fuchsia Pink)

Kavyini Garodia, 10

## चुटकुले और पहेलियाँ!

बेटा: माँ! आज मुझे १०० अंक मिले!

माँ: अरे वाह! किस चीज में?

बेटा: दो चीजों में! गणित में ६० और साइयन्स में ४०!

आज की ताजा खबर: मोदी जी ने पूरे देश में 'Wi-Fi' लगवा दिया है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि "यदि मुझे २०१९ में जिता दिया, तो मैं पैस्वर्ड भी बता दूँगा"...

1. आँखें हैं पर देख नहीं सकती, पैर हैं पर चल नहीं सकती, मुँह है पर बोल नहीं सकती। बताओ मैं कौन हूँ?

2. मुर्गी अंडा देती है और गाय दूध मगर ऐसा कौन है जो डोनों देता है?

जवाब: 1- गुडिया 2- दुकानदार

शैच्या गुप्ता

## And The Oscar Goes to... Inclusion!

With an array of contenders in major categories that have the potential to be as diverse as the Academy has ever seen, the #OscarsSoWhite phenomenon can very well be forgotten. Alfonso Cuarón's, technically-dazzling "Roma" won many hearts and even a nomination for Best Picture. The Mexican writer and director even won the award for Best Director. "Green Book," Peter Farrelly's interracial, feel-good flick, was a slogan against racism. Both the Best Supporting Actress and Actor were African Americans and the Best Actor; Rami Malek, was of Egyptian descent.

The inclusivity of this year's Oscars has liberated several communities and provided them with an equal platform, instilling the hearts of budding performers with hope. It stands as a statement against racism, inequality and xenophobia. The industry has addressed the taboo of historical oppression of races in a hard-hitting manner, making it clear that success is blind to race.

With viewership sinking to record lows this year, the industry needed a jolt in ratings in 2019. Diversity among the nominees is what provided it. As is evident, inclusion sells. The more diverse the nominees, the larger the audience, and vice-versa. Hence, it leaves us with the dilemma of whether the Hollywood industry favours viewership over talent. This clouds the clarity of what can be expected from the industry, in terms of criteria for judgement, in further years.



Katyayani Jha, 10

## WAS THE BALAKOT AIRSTRIKE JUSTIFIED?

### *Balakot Airstrike was all about votes*

In response to the Pulwama attack, Prime Minister Modi's decision to bomb a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp across the Pakistan border in Balakot will likely fail to end Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks in Kashmir. Instead, the strike will act as a high-risk public relations project designed to garner the BJP more votes in the upcoming general elections.

It appears that Mr. Modi was willing to risk the fate of millions of people for political advantage. Unsubstantiated claims about where the Indian bombs hit and how many people were killed suggest that the strikes were really about politics. Modi claimed a large Jaish base had been destroyed even though a Reuters journalist visiting the site only found damage to trees and rocks. Satellite photos showed that the target buildings appeared untouched. BJP President Amit Shah claimed, without proof, that 250 terrorists were killed even though the Air Force said it did not count the number of casualties.

Balakot, in my opinion, has only been successful as a stunt to get votes. It gave PM Modi the ability to paint the entire Opposition and all those that question the government as 'anti-national' and allowed him to turn public attention away from his many failures - creating jobs, finding black money or even dealing with the agrarian crisis.

India and Pakistan are now the only two nuclear powers in the world to have bombed each other, and Kashmir was almost the flashpoint of a nuclear war. Instead of engaging in reckless military operations, the government needs to win the trust of the Kashmiri people. This, however, is something that Mr. Modi and the current government seem to be least bothered with.

Tara Jing Gopinath, 10

### *Balakot Airstrike was needed and justified*

On the morning of 26 February 2019, the Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India issued a statement claiming that a "non-military preemptive action" (sic) was undertaken by the Indian Air Force against a military camp of the JeM located in Balakot, Pakistan.

India's strike on the terrorist camps in Pakistan occupied Kashmir is a bold statement, asserting that our patience has reached its limit. The repeated cowardly acts of terrorists killing innocent people, including women and children, has been borne by us for long.

The recent Pulwama attack on unsuspecting Indian soldiers amounted to waging a war against India. In such a situation, our nation was forced to demonstrate its sovereignty, and it gave a befitting reply to the attackers. While our country has always believed in the principle of democracy, freedom, non violence and liberty, it is equally important that we demonstrate that these principles do not imply that anyone, through dastardly acts, can attack our citizens. In this way, the air strike was justified.

We still do remain a peace loving country. The target of the attacks was an NSA, and not the military or the civilian population of Pakistan. The air strikes sought to simply destroy the terror camps of JeM. Finally, irrespective of the initiation of an international armed conflict, declaring the specificity of the attack in the official statement, and focusing on avoiding civilian casualties reflects India's compliance with the Geneva Conventions.

Anahita Kukreja, 10

### VVIQ

What does the word 'kowtow' mean?

1. "Gossiping?" - Ms. Narula
2. "A Japanese dish" - Samaira Tomar, 9
3. "I don't know. A restaurant?" - Amiya Kumar, 12
4. "Screaming and chaos" - Chaya Paumier, 9
5. "A bow tie" - Rishi Pahwa, 6
6. "Wrestling" - Siddhant Nagrath, 9

'Kowtow' is to act in an excessively subservient manner.

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