On many occasions in India’s post independence era, one question has always arisen—just how developed has India become? When will it be considered fully ‘developed’ in every sense of the word? Whether or not the answer to that question was found is still debatable, however, the Vasant Valley family sure had a lot to say...

“India will be developed when it achieves a 100% literacy rate, and when there is education in the remotest of areas.”- Mrs. Marya

“When there will be no discrimination amongst people, and everyone will be considered one.”- Nikita Chowhan, 10

“When people begin to respect their country, and everyone living in it.”- Zara Adil, 11

“Definitely people getting better education; more resources per person. Agriculture would also become more mechanised.”- Shiv Mohan Dutt, VVS Alum ‘07

“A developed India? An India where women and children can walk without fear. Breaking religious divides which encourage religion based political parties which only divide the country more.”- Rishabh Mukherji, VVS Alum ‘10

THE GREATNESS OF A NATION AND ITS MORAL PROGRESS CAN BE JUDGED BY THE WAY ITS ANIMALS ARE TREATED

MAHATMA GANDHI

More than Just a Birkin Bag

Pakistan’s new Foreign Minister, Hina Rabbani Khar, visited India on the 26th of July for a meeting with her Indian counterpart S.M.Krishna, in the hope that the two ‘frenemy’ neighbours could ‘move forward’ toward a future that would be equally beneficial for both. The meeting may have been routine enough; the agenda consisting of confidence building measures and India’s concerns on terror and Jammu & Kashmir. India also provided the Pakistani delegation with a revised list of the ‘most wanted’ fugitives, numbering forty eight. So what exactly about this meet has sent the media into a frenzy and become a story of vast public appeal?

Could it be the Minister herself? Rabbani Khar is nothing if not... unconventional; not only the youngest FM at 34 but also the first female to hold the post. Sophisticated and beautiful, there’s no wonder the aam admi has taken a shine to her, and we needn’t look any further than her gorgeous Hermés made Birkin bag (worth Rs.17 lakh) and the stunning Cavalli sunglasses, not to mention the Choo shoes and the string of flawless South Sea pearls around her neck to understand the interest shown by the aam aurat. And the interest isn’t confined to India (or Pakistan, for that matter) – it’s worldwide. Women everywhere have been clamouring for the bag (and the shoes, and the sunglasses, and the pearls) ever since they appeared on HRK’s person – Hermés bags now flying off the shelves. Rabbani Khar has also been granted with her own abbreviation passing into common parlance – HRK is now a household name.

It is of course a major point of interest that the news doesn’t contain much information on the politics of it all; all people are discussing are the personal aspects, past or present, and with much speculation about the future. Despite the fact that the Minister’s outfit possibly has received much more attention than it would have if she were a man – indeed more attention than her policies and political prowess, my personal opinion is that it is time that someone a little unorthodox and a little younger took on such an important post. Nothing very much has changed in the relations between the two countries since the time they have existed independently, at least not for the better. Maybe what it needs is someone new... maybe it’s time for India too, to follow in Pakistan’s footsteps.

Vani Shriya, 12
What the Facebook?

India- in the mere period of June 2009 to December 2010. Why do Indians love Facebook so much? "Because they're nosy". Only stars. Another fascinating graph indicated individual Facebook connections between communities with political tensions; Iran-Palestine connections at rock bottom and India-Pakistan links at an all time high after a 100% spike this summer. It was evident that social media has a groundbreaking a political impact, most recently observed as the driving force of the Arab Spring and the subsequent censorship of the word 'Jasmine' on Google in China. This effort was made to prevent the possibility of a similar anti-government uprising in the state, but may also have serious implications for the aromatherapy industry.

He discussed the nuances of Facebook, from photo tags- "That strip of photos on the top of your profile- are those your best pictures? No! They're random photos some idiot friend tagged you in!" to how your basic information is more suited for an obituary- "Studied at, Worked at; they make you sound like you're dead". He credited- rather, discredited- these whimsical changes in the layout to the brilliance, yet arrogance that is Mark Zuckerberg- "He thinks he knows what's best for you". He introduced us to the concept of the 'Real Name Culture', executed by employees who track down and terminate multiple profiles and fake identities and cautioned us to use our privacy settings constructively and be weary of what we type in our chats (FB detects every word you write and sells your information to make money through ads), the photos we upload (FB gains copyright and fake identities), and the photos we upload (FB gains copyright and fake identities). He discussed the nuances of Facebook, from photo tags- "That strip of photos on the top of your profile- are those your best pictures? No! They're random photos some idiot friend tagged you in!" to how your basic information is more suited for an obituary- "Studied at, Worked at; they make you sound like you're dead". He credited- rather, discredited- these whimsical changes in the layout to the brilliance, yet arrogance that is Mark Zuckerberg- "He thinks he knows what's best for you". He introduced us to the concept of the 'Real Name Culture', executed by employees who track down and terminate multiple profiles and fake identities and cautioned us to use our privacy settings constructively and be weary of what we type in our chats (FB detects every word you write and sells your information to make money through ads), the photos we upload (FB gains copyright of all the photos on its site) and what we post on walls (your parents might see it). He spoke to us about the revolutionary Google+, the brainchild of two geniuses whom he very nonchalantly referred to as 'Larry' and 'Sergey', and the 'Sparks' (news titbits catered to your interests), 'Circles' (blocking off 'creepy cousins' from stalking what you did last Friday night) and 'Hangouts' (facilitating group video chats for up to 10 people, giving Skype a run for its money) that went into it. With over 20 million profiles in 3 weeks, the question now posed is, 'Will Google + toppled Facebook?'

Professor Sreevenusavan was pretty impressed that we had 900 Facebook friends each, and we equally admired that he didn't try to 'friend' his kids on Facebook.

Mallika Pal, 12
R.I.P NEWS OF THE WORLD

The News International phone hacking scandal has taken the world by storm. So much so, that journalism ethics and morals are being questioned worldwide. Be it India or Australia, it’s the top story on every news station. But for those of you living under a rock, this is what went down.

The News International phone hacking scandal is a controversy involving the 168-year old British tabloid newspaper News of the World, published by News International. It centres on allegations that individuals working for the paper have engaged in phone hacking, including additional charges on journalists who have been obtaining illicit information by bribing police officers and exercising an ‘improper’ influence on politicians. Originally, it was thought that the News of the World was hacking the phones of British celebrities like Sienna Miller and members of the Royal Family. However, recent revelations that the phones of murdered school girl Milly Dowler and the relatives of deceased soldiers and families of the victims of the 2007 bombings in London have also been tapped have spread public outrage across the world, forcing Rupert Murdoch (chairman and chief executive officer of News Corporation, the parent company of News International) to shut it down.

The scandal has led to several high-profile resignations and arrests and Rupert Murdoch and his son James were summoned to provide evidence before a parliamentary media committee. Ironically, the Murdoch who was the highlight of the gruelling parliamentary session wasn’t Rupert Murdoch or his son, but his wife Wendy Murdoch. It was Wendy who lunged across the hearing room to defend her husband when after about two hours of intense questioning, a protester stormed the witness table, trying to hit Mr. Murdoch with a shaving cream pie. Instantly she became a favourite across the globe. Sites including Facebook and Twitter made comments like, “When Wendy Murdoch does press ups, she doesn’t push herself up, she pushes the world down.” But her fans aren’t just on Facebook. Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee chairman Tom Watson even went ahead and said, “Mr. Murdoch, your wife has a very good left hook.”

The scandal has also brought the ethics of journalism into scrutiny. It has exemplified that there is so much high pressure and competition in media and journalism that errors and ethical issues in reporting bypass normal checks. However, these reporters need to know where draw the line or they could be the potential cause of ruining an innocent person’s life.

Suvira Raj Chadha, 12

LOVE TRIANGLES?

So has anyone else noticed how the triangle- yes, that very three sided polygon that has been tormenting us in our math lessons for the past few years- has been making its rounds in the music business lately? And quite successfully, if I could be so bold to admit. The entire situation really has had me perplexed. What is it with this newfound fascination? I mean is it some major rock band conspiracy that the world has managed to keep me out of? These thoughts really had me perturbed, so I took it upon myself to do a little research and here are my findings:

Apparently the triangle has been around in the music business for a long lot longer than I thought. It can be dated back to 1966-67, when it was depicted in the album cover for collaboration between three artists, Liz Anderson, Bobby Bare and Norma Jean, where the poor love struck souls actually made the triangle to be shaped like a heart. The album is called ‘The Game of Triangles.’ However, this isn’t what set the world on fire. That honor can be bestowed on the legendary English band Pink Floyd and its immortal album, Dark Side of the Moon, which depicts a white ray of light shooting into a prism and divulging into a band of colour. But it’s not only in album artwork that the triangle is superior. I suppose it was ‘Little Boots’ who introduced the shape into the blogosphere with her popular black triangle t-shirt. But don’t blame her, she knew not what she was about to spark. Since then there have been many who have incorporated it into their designs. To name a few, Def Leppard’s ‘Hysteria’, The Police’s ‘Zenyatta Mondatta’, and Keane’s ‘Perfect Symmetry’.

Then there are the ‘weird triangles.’ To start with I suppose I’ll have to mention Fever Ray’s. This album artwork confuses me. At least I’m not alone; blogger Ollie Russian wonders whether it is the beam from a hidden lighthouse or just a giant house sinking evil sea triangle. He also points out that if you type the words ‘rock’ and ‘triangle’ into a Google image search you get lots of pictures of a girl in a two piece bathing suit. He wonders if she is the Ambassador for Triangles in Rock. How do you get that job?! Eve n least I’m not alone; blogger Ollie Russian wonders whether it is the beam from a hidden lighthouse or just a giant house sinking evil sea triangle. He also points out that if you type the words ‘rock’ and ‘triangle’ into a Google image search you get lots of pictures of a girl in a two piece bathing suit. He wonders if she is the Ambassador for Triangles in Rock. How do you get that job?! Even Tinie Tempah’s album ‘Disc-Overy’ depicts him making a triangle with his arms while a city grows through. What can I say? Some people try to make Triangles look cool. They’re all still triangles, you know? I can sum up this list with a quick reference to the artists of Japanese Pop band ‘Perfume’, which in some of their promo shots thought it would be fun to drape themselves inside and around a giant metal triangle. At least they came up with something kind of original, kudos to them.

Finally, triangles in names. Both bands that I’ve encountered with Triangles in their names are absolutely fantastic. The first one is British one-piece BASTILLE. With sultry vocals and addictive beats, I guess I can find it in me to ignore the polygon wedged in between. The other one is Δ. Yes, that’s their name: Δ. Trust me, I used to like to them equally well when they were called ‘Films.’ This name change just screams pretentious and attention seeking. Frankly, when a band produces music of such high standard, a move like this is rather daft. Now the question arises, ‘What are they to be called?’ My natural inclination would be to call them ‘triangle’, but no. Apparently this symbol can only be typed by pressing ‘alt-j’ on a Mac. So everyone, including the band, is referring to them as Alt-j. Or just simply, Δ.

It’s all rather obtuse, this matter of the triangle. And frankly, I don’t get it. I suppose this means that Triangle Pony may actually be the musical savours of Myspace.

Pia Kochar, 10
Rain
Monsoon my favourite season,
For many different reasons,
Beautiful and romantic,
Though the lightning makes my dog frantic.
Dreamlike with a mysterious shine,
When magic and reality have a very faint line.
Full of surprises and suspense,
With a peaceful and welcome silence.
The thrum of the raindrops matches your heart beat,
You feel like you’re floating and can’t hear your feet,
It has a graceful beauty even in stillness,
Rain has an elegant finesse.
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
When soft thumps and peacocks are
It is the most enjoyable time of the year,
When soft thumps and peacocks are all you can hear,
It is a good time to sit and think,
All you can hear,
Our Class Trip to Alwar

All of us woke up early and left for school with great excitement as we were going for our trip to Alwar. The bus left at 6:30 am and we reached Alwar at 10:00. We then drove to SiliSerh fort, where we walked around and learnt about its history. We also saw the SiliSerh lake. By then we were all hungry, so we ate pakoras and cooled ourselves with some cold drinks. On the way back we saw some people wearing traditional Rajasthani clothes with huge turbans. We spotted some camels and Keeker trees too as we drove through the beautiful Aravalli Hills. I enjoyed the trip.

Nehmat Mann III - B

Our Trip to The Mint

We went to a private mint in Delhi as we were learning about 'Money' in Maths. We saw the process of making coin blanks. First, we saw the melting of the raw material, and then, Milling, Cold Rolling, Annealing, Pickling, the final Cold Rolling, Blanking, Edge Rimming and Annealing. At last we saw the Polishing process. After the coins were polished we got one each. In the end we got edibles in a bag. We came back happy having learnt where coins begin their journey from.

Suhasini Takkar IV- B

Mera Bharat Mahan

I am proud of my country because as it has many monuments and one of the biggest mountain ranges, the Himalayas. I am proud of my country for another reason as we speak many languages and eat different kinds of food in each state. And one more thing I like about India is that we celebrate any festival that we like. My country is a democratic country. After one is eighteen years old, one can vote. I hope to do so one day!

Aarya Vohra III- A

The Story of My Life

My name is Chavanni. I could fill books with all I have seen and been through, but I will share only some of my stories here with you. It all began in the year 1947, when my great country, India, became independent. The government decided to make coin currency and so began the tedious process of burning metal and the hammering, the cooling and polishing, and out popped me... the first Chavanni. Those were the days when I too had value. I could fill a person's stomach with a good meal. I was used by a wonderful boy, who bought a gift for his mother instead of buying sweets and toys for himself. I was fought over, scribbled upon and passed from hand to hand, giving joy and living dreams. Over the years my polish faded and I became dull. My importance lessened, my value too, diminished. Until one day a kindly grandmother handed me to her grandson telling him that she had received me from the temple and he should keep me carefully as I was a lucky coin. I have stayed with him ever since. I have felt cherished and loved. I have shared his dreams, his worries, his sadness and his laughter. He takes me everywhere with him. Today he is the Chief Minister of Gujarat and for the past few weeks he has been faced with a dilemma. Everybody has said the Chavanni is not used anymore and they should be taken out of the system - demonetised!! Alas! Even he had to bow down to the pressures of the government. But he says I am his closely guarded secret and would never lose value for him!!

Kabir Seth V- B

My Dream Vehicle

My car has a lazer and it has a gun. It has wings and it has a magical door. It has many wheels. It flies in the air and it goes very fast. I hope someday I will be able to use it.

Kaira Puri II- C

Hands

Two hands with each five fingers, Have the thumb, then the Index which indicates ‘no’, Then comes middle and ring finger, Last comes the ‘Pinky’ standing low. Writing, cleaning and eating, Doing jobs: big and small, Even to give somebody a beating, Without a complain they do it all. Put on bracelets, rings and bands, It has the right to look pretty too, Even decorate the nails on your hands, With colours such as purple and blue. Lifeline, heart line and many others, Tell if your fate lies in good hands, Lets just see you last a day, Without these wonderful things called hands!

Manya Kapur V- B

Nursery

‘Getting Ready for the Independence Day’
**SUMMER MOVIE GUIDE 2011**

1. **Bridesmaids:** Much to the dismay of many, women are commonly known as the less humorous sex. However, there are many exceptions to this rule, such as the cast of this movie. Every dialogue was delivered with a sense of hilarity and genuinely left us laughing. However, the storyline was not quite as grasping, but the humor more than made up for it.

2. **Transformers 3:** Contrary to popular belief, Megan Fox was definitely not the epicenter of the Transformers series and was easily and smoothly replaced by Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. Everything from the graphics to the soundtrack was profound. Definitely one of the must watch, most impactful and fun movies released this summer.

3. **Pirates of The Caribbean: On Stranger Tides:** The much awaited fourth addition to the dynamic Pirates of The Caribbean series received mixed reactions from us. Undeniably slow and definitely not as action-packed as its prequels, the movie seemed to beat around the bush in such a way that it never came back. However, everyone's favorite Captain Jack Sparrow didn’t fail to make a memorable and amusing comeback.

4. **Bad Teacher:** Here’s a duo we’d never thought we’d see together after the much publicized break up of 2007. However, Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake proved to be the best couple lighting up the silver screen this summer. Sensationally funny and quirky, the movie was packed with promiscuous humor and Jason Segal classics.

5. **X-Men: First Class:** Probably the best movie out this summer. Everything from the perfectly portrayed characters to the gripping action sequences and incredible cinematography contributed in making this movie sensational. The alpha male clash between the two mutant leaders Professor X and Sebastian Shaw added a drama quotient to an otherwise perfect movie, making it an instant box office hit.

6. **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2:** Move over fairy tale princess, Harry Potter’s here. If this was an O.W.L it would inevitably get an O in our books. Being a generation that grew up with Harry Potter, we don’t think it would be fair to describe this finale with the aid of just any word. So, quoting a very famous somebody, it was legendary.

7. **Delhi Belly:** Not for the faint hearted, and definitely not for the oversensitive, this movie was… interesting, to say the least. We wouldn’t say it’s essentially about Delhi and its ‘true essence’, but close enough. The soundtrack was definitely one of the highlights.

8. **Shaitan:** This is what a regular teenager does these days, apparently. Exaggerated, but then again true to an extent, Shaitan is a movie with fresh new faces and a whole new direction with Bollywood has taken. Definitely worth a watch, but just for the ingenious ideas, and should not be considered as a guide to a REGULAR teenager’s life.

9. **Green Lantern:** Despite Ryan Reynolds’ smoldering appearance, matched equally with Blake Lively’s poise, the movie honestly, honestly failed. In our opinion the acting was subpar, the special effects could easily be imitated on Microsoft PowerPoint and the dialogues were occasionally funny, but not because they were genuinely meant to be, but because they were outrageously stupid.

10. **Your Highness:** With a cast set to please, and a trailer that promised so much, this movie was most looked forward to by us. Danny McBride, James Franco and Natalie Portman – seriously, how much better could it get? Sadly, it only got worse. Confusing and trying hard, too hard really, to be funny, the movie could have been executed much better. However, Rasmus Hardiker more than compensated for the drawbacks with his quirky and wry dialogues.

**Aakanksha Jadhav and Sharanya Thakur, 10**

**SINCE YOU ASKED**

Q. I'm always in the late line! How can I be more on time? - Out of time, out of mind.
A. If you're late sometimes, it's forgivable. The late line is much like a game of baseball, three strikes and you're out. If you're a compulsive late comer, you'll always be one- trust me. I'm glad you're at least trying to change your procrastinating ways, which is more than I can say for some people. Now this is something you have to inculcate into your daily routine. It's one of my favourite grown ups' word- punctuality. I know school is a snore but it's just one of those things you have to do. So choose an alarm that's super jarring; it'll wake you up even if you don't want to. Once you're up, make a playlist of 'getting ready' songs. I'd recommend 'Friday' by Rebecca Black because the lyrics are just so... apt (Waking up in the morning; Gotta be fresh, gotta go downstairs; Gotta have my bowl, gotta have cereal). That's really all it takes to be punctual. But if you're really trying very hard to be on time, try sleeping at an earthly hour, preferably before midnight. Play some soft music like Julio Iglesias (the man can really rock a lullaby style song), and voila! You'll be snoring before you know it. And while you're at it- you know, trying to turn over a new leaf and all- try giving up all your assignments up on time as well.

Until next time, The teachers’ favourite apple polisher