

# Vasant Valley TODAY

## A BATTLE OF THE 'ISMS'



Ever wonder what's on the opposite side of the malls? Its something called Jawaharlal Nehru University. The university's progressive and liberal thinkers have led to the recent turn of events. It has escalated to a point wherein the border security force has been posted outside the institute. So, how did this story begin?

The first seeds were sown when Afzal Guru (the terrorist convicted of the 2001 Parliament attacks) was given the death penalty and executed on the 9th of February. Another important figure this story revolves around is Maqbool Bhat (founder of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front) who was sentenced to death as well. Some people felt that their death sentences were not fair. This led to a protest against the judicial system of India.

Fast-forwarding to the present day scenario, on the third anniversary of Afzal Guru's death, few students of JNU organized a program to raise their concerns against his death sentence. The members of the Akhil Bharitiya Vidyarthi Parishad stated that during the protests, students indulged in anti-India and pro Pakistan slogans. Purported videos of the event show the students shouting slogans against the Nation. The Government reacted to this by labeling them as anti-national.

The rationale behind the action of the Government is that without sedition laws the nation would descend into mayhem, which would lead to the collapse of any governance. The fact of the matter is, on that fateful night at JNU, the lines were blurred between right and wrong. Being the enforcement agencies were compelled by law to take appropriate action. With heightened tension, it's hard to develop an objective stand, yet it is a necessity in the midst of conjecture and violence. The government's viewpoint is that the Police are investigating the matter and courts will thereafter give their verdict. In this light isn't the government just doing its job?

The students that were a part of the protest argue that all they wanted was a demonstration to highlight the grievances expressed by some of the people of Kashmir. They also claim that no JNU students were part of the group shouting anti India slogans. But the government has turned a deaf ear to their submissions, making Kanhaiya Kumar (JNU Students Union President) and Umar Khalid (Student) the face of 'anti-nationalism'. Angry mobs have been pelting them with stones and hurling abuses whilst being taken to court. This is not nationalism, it is hooliganism.

**"This is not Nationalism, it is hooliganism."**

### SCHOOL WATCH

#### Straw Bridge Competition, 12th February

1st- Shaurya Bharadwaj, Rohil Bahl, Vatsallya Vadhw, Bhavya Mitra and Allen Binu Alex

2nd- Naina Shukla, Anandini Khanna, Asmita Shah and Esha Thakran

#### Impromptu Competition, 11th February

Class 6

1st - Siddhant Naagrath

2nd - Daksayni Chandra and Sarthak Khosla

3rd - Udhay Aaman Chopra and Ruhaan Chopra

Class 7

1st - Anshuman Singh

2nd - Vallabhi Dalmia

3rd - Vir Jain

Class 8

1st - Advait Iyer

2nd - Alice Gorry and Sanaa Sharma

3rd - Prithvi Oak

**The 26th Inter-House Track and Field meet** was held on the 19th of February. Blue house won.

**Best Athlete of the Year:** Arjun Shringi, 6

Students of JNU assert that the Government has demonized the university and deemed it "the breeding ground for Naxalites." India has turned into a nation where speaking against one's country leads to heavy penalization. Shouldn't the universities encourage critical thinking? Aren't the youth the embodiment of change, of new ideas and progression? But can we allow anybody to freely speak his or her mind against the nation? The unanswered questions do not stop there. Hence the common man is unable to form his/her own opinion due to contradictory versions from both sides.

As students we often face such situations; instead of being passive and detached, I urge you to form an opinion and take a stand. Unless you prefer DLF Promenade!



**seditious**  
(sē-dish'us) ADJ.  
OF, PERTAINING TO, LIKE, OR  
INTENDING TO EXCITE,  
REBELLION AGAINST  
LAWFUL AUTHORITY.

-Aryan Sadh, 9 CBSE



# INTER-HOUSE TRACK & FIELD MEET 2016

READY.....STEADY....GET SET....GO! Was the sound that echoed on the athletic field of Vasant Valley school on the 19th of February. The preliminary rounds and heats that had taken place over a span of six days gave the kids an opportunity to strive to reach the finishing line during the various events held. One cannot even pen down the adrenaline rush one feels before the race begins. All around the field there was cheering and applauding with each house attaching a 'tag line' for themselves, and screams being heard in high-pitched tones everywhere.

The Track and Field Meet is an incredible commitment of time, involving hard work, strength and intense determination. Every athlete has to practise for a committed time, giving everything he or she has to improving their speed and distance. Fighting the pre-race jitters on the starting line, waiting to hear the clap, getting butterflies in one's stomach is something every Vasant Valley athlete can relate to.



As the results were announced, "Lets go blue house, let's go!" was like a chant that rang through the throes of the jubilant spectators sitting on the steps. Blue house was the winner of this years Inter-house Track and Field Meet. There was also a sense of nostalgia among the outgoing seniors as this marked the last main school event that they would get to be a part of.

This annual event teaches players that healthy competition and the spirit of sportsmanship are stepping stones to becoming a winner. Even though one house emerged the sole victor, in reality we all won something that day. The camaraderie inculcated amongst peers, teachers and parents like, all sporting their house colours with pride, is something that cannot be rivalled.

*Arushi Bhutani, 9 CBSE*

## ON THE FLIP SIDE

Anger, Fear, Confusion... a myriad of emotions overwhelmed me as Mr. Kapur announced the prefect council. It left me with a sense of hopelessness. I felt like all my efforts had gone to waste. I'm sure these cliches echoed amongst all those who thought they had a chance at becoming prefects, but didn't. Every year we see the same kinds of reactions to the announcement. Some cry, some argue and some simply lash out at all the teachers. But then there are some, who manage to look at the bigger picture. However, what remains constant is the end result for all. Two months down the line, all the regret and feelings of loss will be taken over by fear and anxiety from new sources. What happened in those centre steps will soon be forgotten and new memories will soon replace the old ones.

***"What we're exposed to within the walls of our school is but a grain of sand in the largest of deserts."***

This transition requires an emotional and spiritual journey. This journey is complete only when we come to realize how to deal with our disappointment. As far as I'm concerned there's only one right way to contemplate the loss; to realize that in the long run, a post doesn't define our limitations. In fact, the loss should give us incentive to perform better in all our respective fields, and to outshine our doubters. It's not about revenge, it's about self satisfaction. What we must realize is that what we're exposed to within the walls of our school is but a grain of sand in the largest of deserts. For every classmate that beats you in an exam, there are millions in the world who beat him. For every competitor, who clocks a faster timing than you, there are millions who leave him choking on dust. We cannot confine our world to the boundaries of our school, it should be within us to look beyond.

So to all those out there still in transition, I request you to remember this:

As time moves on, tears dry up, disappointment washes out and our regret fades away. We come to acknowledge that a badge doesn't define our capabilities nor what we've achieved, and that a badge won't define what we will become.

*-Jai Varma, 12*

## मेक इन इंडिया - वास्तविकता या कल्पना

१४ फ़रवरी २०१६ को, मुंबई में आयोजित "मेक इन इंडिया सप्ताह" के कार्यक्रम के दौरान, मंच पर लगी दहकती आग। जहाँ भारतीय कौशल को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा था, वहीं यह रहस्यमय दुर्घटना इस योजना की खामियों का प्रतीक बनी।

कहीं ना कहीं, यह योजना महात्मा गांधी के स्वराज व आत्म-निर्भरता के सिद्धान्तों पर आधारित है। सन् १९९१ में भारत की आर्थिक नीति बदली गई थी जिसके अनुसार बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के लिए भारत में व्यापार और सरल हो गया। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी भी इसी विचार को प्रोत्साहित करने का प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। यह सोच आम बोल-चाल में तो बड़ी प्रभावशाली मालूम पड़ती है, परन्तु जहाँ इसे क्रियान्वित करने का समय आता है वहीं पूर्ण विराम लग जाता है। वास्तविकता में यह योजना अपने आप में सफलता कभी नहीं प्राप्त कर सकती।

जैसे ही विदेशी कंपनियाँ भारत में अपना डेरा जमाती हैं, भारतीय व्यापारियों को बढ़ती गुणपूर्णता तथा घटते दामों का मुकाबला करना पड़ता है। इससे बाज़ार में सस्ती चीज़ें तो आ जाती हैं, लेकिन भारतीय कंपनियों का मुनाफा नुकसान में बदल जाता है। इस प्रकार "मेक इन इंडिया", जो भारतीय और विदेशी, दोनों कंपनियों को बढ़ावा देना चाहता है, अपने आप में एक अंतर्विरोध है। जब तक देशीय व्यापार स्थिर नहीं हो जाता, उसका विदेशी व्यापार के साथ मेल असंभव है।

कई लोगों का यह भी तर्क है कि बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियाँ हमारे देश में ही रोज़गार का सृजन करती हैं, भारतीयों को नौकरी देकर। लेकिन ये कंपनियाँ हमारे देश में आती ही हैं कम पगार लेने वाले मज़दूरों और कामगारों के लिए। इस वजह से जिन लोगों को नौकरी मिलती भी है, उनके लिए आमदनी बहुत कम, और खर्च बहुत ज़्यादा होते हैं। और तो और, उन्हें बुनियादी सुख-सुविधाएँ भी नसीब नहीं।

"मेक इन इंडिया" की सोच तभी सच्चाई में बदलेगी जब कानून मज़बूत हो और उनका पालन निष्पक्ष होगा, नहीं तो भ्रष्टाचारी और घूसखोरी के इस ज़माने में इस समाज-केंद्रीय योजना को एक स्वार्थी, राजनैतिक खेल में बदलना कितना कठिन है। दुनिया के सभी राष्ट्रों में घूमना-फिरना मनोरंजन के लिए बहुत लाभदायक है। लेकिन अपने देश की अंदरूनी समस्याओं को सुलझाने के लिए सिद्धान्तों से बाहर निकलकर, वास्तविकता का सामना करना होगा।

-निकिता धवन, १२

## A FANCIFUL FAREWELL

We've seen it every year- the energetic dances, the scandalous skits, the awards that make every junior wonder what exactly this batch is all about. And it was finally our turn; as hard as it was to admit, our innocent batch was finally in class 12, expected to create the awaited farewell class act. And did we have energetic dances, scandalous skits and mysterious awards? You bet we did.

And just like every other batch, it was pure madness. We sorted the awards out barely five minutes before the show began. We yelled changes and cancelled skits (not voluntarily) from backstage through the entire show. We pushed each other onto stage because to be honest, no one had any idea what exactly was going on. But somehow, miraculously, it worked. We were able to put together a show that, despite all the drama, confusion and insanity, made every audience member laugh, cheer and gasp in shock (because hey, what's a farewell class act without a little bit of a scandal?).

Yes, the receiving end could've taken a few jokes more graciously. Yes, the teachers did stop us halfway. Yes, there were many that hated our class act. But then again, there were many more that loved it — and it showed when, forgetting all the scandals, the batch above joined us on stage for one last dance to their beloved gallan goodiyaan.

So here's to the last minute changes, the dance divisions and the hooting when someone actually tried to get something done. Here's to the serious dancers, the hard workers and the ones that just played football all day during rehearsal. Here's to dancing to music instead of doing what we were supposed to do and still making it work. And, of course, here's to getting into formal clothes and rushing back to school before the seniors just so we could watch them arrive in their saris (you know who you are). And, finally, here's goodbye to a scandalous, unique (ahem), and loveable batch — you might just be missed.



-Riya Kothari, 12

## GRAVITATIONAL WAVES

History and experimental physics has taught us time and again: you just can't beat the overlord of theoretical physics, Albert Einstein. And another recent discovery just proved him right yet again after 100 years.

Einstein predicted the existence of 'gravitational waves' as a postulate in his General Theory of Relativity, stating that very violent and energetic cosmic events create ripples in the fabric of spacetime. The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) in Louisiana and Washington, houses one of the most sensitive masterpieces of engineering ever made, built specifically to sense these ripples.

Why they have to be sensitive, you ask? Well, with the average predicted distance of an event powerful enough to create G-waves, a wave passing through you would change your height by...0.0000000000000000000001 metres. And this is why LIGO had to be recalibrated every time a truck honked too loudly down the street or a powerful lightning storm in Africa took place. From 14,000km away.

On September 14th 2015, in the wee hours of the morning, LIGO heard a little blip that made headlines everywhere. Upon analysing the data, physicists concluded that this signal was caused by the collision of two black holes, 1.3 billion years ago! After their merger, the black hole formed had the mass of 62 times the mass of our Sun. The force of the gravitational wave caused by the merger was equivalent to 3 times the mass of our Sun (that's why it travelled so far).

The existence of G-waves completely validates Einstein's Theory of Relativity and allows physicists to research black holes in greater detail, such as how they grow and even information regarding the unusual warping of spacetime around them, as they do not emit any light. Physics is at a new stage of solving gravity, and the discovery of G-waves has just brought us one step closer.

-Varun Vasudeva, 10

### Problem Solving

**Friends Forever-** On the last day of class 3, I was told that my section was going to be shuffled and that my best friends were no longer going to be with me next year. I was really upset and went home crying and begged my mother to come to school and talk to my teacher and ask her to let me be in the same section as my best friend. My mother explained to me that this was done on purpose so that I could make new friends and know everyone who is in my class really well. I was very angry with my teacher and my mama for doing this to me and went to school very scared on my first day in class four. But to my surprise, I had many other friends from my previous class with me. At the end of the first week I realized that being shuffled was not that bad and though I missed them, I could still meet them in break and at home for playdates. I am now enjoying my new class and have made many new friends. **Zinnat Kohli IV-B**

**My Short Temper-** I have a small problem, which creates unhappiness within me as well as to others. The problem is my short temper as I have no control over my anger. Small little things, like people asking me the same thing again and again or people touching my things makes me very angry. I try very hard to control my temper but fail to do so. When I am very angry I like to be left alone for sometime, but some people don't realize this which makes me even more angry. I am trying to work on it and will succeed. **Aditri Jain IV - B**

#### If I had a magic wand

If I had a magic wand I would be kinder to my brother because the more I try I still can't control myself. I hit him or shout at him, so this is one of the things I would definitely want to change about myself because I feel very sad later. If I change this habit of mine, I will keep myself happy as well as my brother. The second thing I want to change about myself is that I want to make myself better at P.E. I always try to push myself but it doesn't happen. I'm confident I can do it but when the time comes to do that activity my confidence just breaks into pieces. I would also want to become a kinder person to everyone, especially the poor. The other very important thing I would like to change about myself is that I would like to become more confident. I would like to stand up to any challenge. I think everyone in this world will be lucky to have a magic wand. We can add so many good details in our life with the help of a magic wand.

**Rianna Chhabra V - A**

#### All About Us

My new friend is Ishaan. He is seven years old. His birthday is on 27th August. He lives with his mom, dad and elder sister Vanshika. He looks nice and he wears glasses. He is a kind person and he is very hardworking too. He also has black hair and he is tall. He likes to eat 'rajma chawal' and he loves his mom and dad. He enjoys reading and playing soccer. He likes to read Geronimo Stilton. His hero is his father because he is very hardworking. He wants to become a soccer player when he grows up. Once in class 1 he forgot the spelling of tree and felt very embarrassed. I love my new friend and will always help him. **Krishnashree Pothula III - B**

My name is **Yuki**. My favourite colour is blue. I like to eat pasta. My favourite game is Hide and Seek. I am happy when I play with my daddy. I like to play with my friend. In my family there is daddy and mummy. When I grow up I want to be a sports person.

My name is **Rehaan Dehia**. My favourite colour is yellow

I like to eat chocolates. My favourite game is Spies.

I am happy when I go for a trip. In my family there is mom, dad and my brother Krish. I like to play with Krish.

When I grow up I want to be a spy.

#### I like Winter

I like winter, so do all

I wish winter would come at my beck and call

Last winter I played and I ran  
I wore good clothes, always spick and span  
Winters can't last forever, the clock is ticking

But while it lasts I am alive and kicking  
When the winter came I was so fired  
I ran round and round until I was tired

Winter time is full of light,  
Winter time is big and bright,

Winter time has lots of sun  
winter time is games and fun,  
Winter time is time to be free,  
that's why winter time is for you and me

सर्दी

सर्दी आई सर्दी आई  
'क्रिसमस' और 'न्यू ईयर' लाई  
शीत लहर भी साथ में लाई।

सर्दी आई सर्दी आई  
सबने लादे मोटे गर्म कपड़े  
चाहे दुबले या फिर तगड़े  
दुबक कर बैठ गए सब लोग  
चाहे छोटे हों या बड़े लोग।  
दिन छोटे और रातें बड़ी लाई  
सूरज की लुका छिपी दिखलाई  
धुंध और कोहरे की चादर बिछाई  
फूलों और फलों की घटा छाई।

नहाने से कतराते लोग  
गर्म गर्म खाना खाते सब लोग  
हाथ सेकते सब लोग  
सर्दी से घबराते सब लोग।

कायरा धर पॉच - स

**Class II**

# SPEAKER'S FORUM 2016

*A platform for budding authors, debaters and writers alike*

The Speaker's Forum encouraged the creativity of children from grade 6-9. This was done through various events both competitive and non-competitive. The book discussions were enriching experiences for the children. Students also let their imagination run wild through the tall tale competition.

## BOOK DISCUSSION



The book discussions consisted of highly spirited young readers putting forth their critical views, and opinions on two novels- The Maze Runner by James

Dashner and Wonder by R. J. Palacio. Paired up, students from various school got to interact with one another through the medium of literature; they discussed themes, characters, relations, and even hypothetical 'what if' variations in the novel. It involved voices shooting from one end of the room to the other, each providing the other with something they didn't know.

An interactive discussion, the presentation being viewed had videos, pictures, clues and riddles that one needed to solve in order to win. The winner would get chocolate, or so they said. (Spoiler-everyone got chocolate by the end of it!).



The discussion on 'Wonder' delved into the involved activities including the rapid fire round and writing down one's own precepts. As it was said, discussing a novel not only helps you recognise things you missed whilst reading yourself, but also provides you with another option- one deferring from your own.



## TALL TALE COMPETITION

The contestants entered the room, chattering with excitement, nervous and ready to write their tall tales on the given prompt. They sat down and listen to the rules and got down to writing their tall tales, filled with bombastic characters, scenarios, landscapes and settings.

The stories were written on the prompt 'I turned the key in'. There were a total of six participants each who wrote about many different scenarios, each more unrealistic than the next, truly living up to the theme of tall tales. The stories were ranged from ghosts, queens, witches, under water worlds and parallel universes. A recurring factor in some of the stories was that of Alice in Wonderland and some even inculcated Wonderland into their stories instead of just drawing upon it's many aspects and factors.



The confidence of the participants and their passion for writing was truly commendable and inspiring.

## TURN COAT COMPETITION

The Turn Coat event took place in the Vasant Manch. It began with a short brief of all the rules and regulations. Each speaker got two minutes to prepare and two minutes to speak, where they had to turn the coat after a minute.

The seven speakers were very enthusiastic and we heard an array of conflicting views and strong opinions over the two rounds. The motions panned over various socio- political and economic subjects. Animal testing, reservations, censorship, space research and media were only a few of the many subjects that were debated. Mr. Raghav Adlakha was the adjudicator for this event.

*And the winners are...*

*Turn Coat Competition: 1st- Aryan Sadh of Vasant Valley School; Runners Up- Rhea Gillani of The Heritage School  
Tall Tale Competition: 1st- Maya Srikrishna of Springdales School; 2nd- Advait Iyer of Vasant Valley School and Tishia Shekhar of The Shri Ram School, Aravali  
Congratulations!*

## वृक्ष का वार्तालाप

सूर्य ढलता गया क्षितिज पर  
इस खेत में खड़ा अकेला  
जब अचानक हवा के झोके से मेरे  
तन पर खिला आखरी पुष्प  
सूखी धूल पर गिरा

हाँ मानुष! यह सत्य है  
जो बात, तुझसे भी नहीं छिपाई गई  
अपनी काया से अधिक, भू पर बिछे है,  
मेरे वह कोमल, सुन्दर पात,  
यहीं मेरे पैरों में मूँछित पड़े हैं  
आज की शाम, शीत आ ही बसी है

अब गेहूँ, सरसों, चने,  
यही मेरे साथी बचे हैं,  
शीत की इस कठोर मार से  
यही जीवित बचे, उगे हैं  
बोलते अपनी फुसफुसाती आवाज़ में  
"काका, मौसम के हालत कुछ बदले हैं ?"

यह तो फूले, फले, गिरे,  
में युगों-युगों तक जीता रहा,  
मृत्यु जैसी खामोशी में शीत,  
यू ही आया, बीता चला  
और आये मेरे नवीन पात  
साथ लाये एक प्राकृतिक सन्देश...

मेरी पत्थर समान जड़ों के किनारे,  
हजारों घास के फूल, श्वेत बिछे हैं,  
गेहूँ और सरसों तक भी,  
फूलों से शानदार लगते हैं,  
क्या खेल है यह, कुदरत का,  
शीत की कठोरता के परे  
वसंत की बहार लाया है !

वसंत में सारा संसार  
प्रेम गीत में डूबा सा है  
पेड़- पौधे- पशु, सभी में  
बेकाबू प्रणय उमड़ आता है  
सभी के पुष्प खिल आये हैं  
हर कोई प्रकृति का संगीत गाता है।

अब धीरे सबके कुसुम सूखने लगे हैं,  
हवा में सुगंध बहकने लगी है,  
धरती ऐसी सूखती,  
जैसे गर्मी पुनः आने लगी है  
ऐसी जलती गर्मी जैसे हो  
किसी क्रोधित देव का अभिशाप  
किन्तु दूर, धूल-भरे आकाश में...

देख मनुष, कैसे मेघा आये,  
जो वर्षा की सुगंध से,  
पूरे आकाश को भर देते।  
मोटी, ठंडी बूँदें गिरती,  
सूखे, हरे पत्तों पर,  
यह दिव्य आशीर्वाद,  
स्वीकार कर, स्वीकार कर।

WHAT KIND OF CAMPER ARE YOU?

Q1. How do you pack for Camp?

- A-Sanitizers and wet wipes are my number one priority.
- B-I Make sure to save space for tons of board/ card games.
- C-Pack exactly according to the list- I don't want to get into trouble!
- D-Dedicate a compartment to family photos: I'm going to miss home.

Q2. How do you busy yourself during the train/ bus journey?

- A- Attempt to minimize contact with everything because it's a public place.
- B- Jump around and sing songs with my friends.
- C- Try not to make noise so I can fulfil my role as a responsible fellow passenger.
- D- Dread sleeping on stinky sleeping bags and begin missing my cozy bedroom.

Q3. Initial thoughts when you reach?

- A- Too...Much...Dirt. Get me out of here!
- B-I can't wait to go crazy with my friends!
- C-\* Think to myself\* What can I do to get elected as Group Leader?
- D-Wish I could be home watching Gossip Girl/ playing FIFA right now. Sigh.

Q4. What's your favorite Camp activity?

- A-Erm... Does showering count as a Camp activity?
- B-I love them all!
- C-I don't know, but whichever one leaves me with the greatest learning experience!
- D-Getting a bus out of here.

Q5. If you were told Camp was being shortened by a day, what would your first thoughts be?

- A-Thank God! Who knows what diseases I could have caught by now?
- B-This cannot be happening. I love Camp!
- C-Yes! I finally get to go home and study!
- D-Few! I was almost out of sanitizers- what a haunting idea.

If you got:

### Mostly A's: You are an OCD Camper

Whether you're actually OCD or not, it all boils down to this- you know that an untidy world would be a world not worth living in. You are organized and know exactly where everything is, qualities that are going to help you out big-time when you're out in the real world!

### Mostly B's: You are a Happy Camper

You are great fun to be around simply because the fun is where you're at! Stay hyper and forever positive because everyone loves that in a person.

### Mostly C's: You are the Goody-Two-Shoes Camper

You always follow the rules and never set a toe out of line; you never EVER get into trouble and you're fabulously hard- working. Sometimes it's not bad to let loose a bit, though, so don't stress out about everything and have fun- especially at Camp!

### Mostly D's: You are the Homesick Camper

True, nothing is better than Mom's homemade food and the warm embrace of your blankets, but just remember, home will be just the same five days later. It's good that you don't take home for granted, but remember to stay open to a change in scenery!

-Anoushka Clays & Tanvi Bahl, 9

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