

# VASANT VALLEY

TODAY

## Stop It Like It's Hot

From the boiling smithereens of rock 56 million years ago to the frigid glacial landscape of the Ice Age, our planet has undergone massive climate change since its birth. As a result of human activity since the mid-20th century, global warming has been proceeding at a rate 10 times faster than 65 million years ago; that is unprecedented over decades to millennia. With a 1.5 degrees Celsius increase in the earth's temperature, we are in for a blistering ride.

With industrialisation came technological advancements, spread of print and ideas of democratic liberation. However, since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere have made our planet a potential furnace. The balmy grey fog of January in Delhi is an evidence of the gas chambers that cities like Delhi, Beijing and New York have become.

From sunburns to sweating, this year has been scorching for Delhi, served with a rainless July. On the other hand, Mumbai has been, quite literally, drowning in the devastation of the heaviest rains recorded in the last 20 years. Holiday destinations, such as Switzerland and France have been popular among South Asian countries for their lower temperatures and pleasant winds. The summer of 2019, however, was disappointing for many, due to the weak-long heatwave from Spain to Switzerland that hit 40 degrees Celsius. In Italy, the most intense heatwave in a decade was under way, with hospitals preparing to deal with a wave of heat-related illnesses and the health ministry suggesting army doctors may be needed to counter a shortage of medics. In France, officials in Paris set up "cool rooms" in municipal buildings, opened pools for late-night swimming and installed extra drinking fountains as temperatures in the capital reached 34 degrees Celsius.

The Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets have decreased in mass. Greenland lost an average of 286 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2016. The rate of Antarctica ice mass loss has tripled in the last decade. Glaciers are retreating almost everywhere around the world; the Alps, Himalayas, Andes etc.

Global sea level rose about 8 inches in the last century, and is accelerating slightly every year. Since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, the acidity of surface ocean waters has increased by about 30 percent. This increase is the result of humans emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and hence more being absorbed into the oceans.

While alternative energy sources such as solar energy and hydro-electricity do exist, they aren't being utilised to their full potential. However, now many new buildings are being established with collaboration with Green-e Energy, an organization that vets renewable energy options. People have started using gas-smart cars, such as hybrids and fully electric vehicles, that save fuel and money. Even though such measures exist alongside the awareness to carpool, reduce, reuse and recycle, and plant trees, very few people effectively practice them. Global warming is a global issue and can only be tackled by participation of maximum residents of this planet. We must promise to conserve the wonders of Earth for future generations and not anticipate the creation of an unavoidable dystopia. The minute we wait to think while buying a plastic bag or entering a car for a distance that can be traveled by foot, we can conserve this blue planet and prevent it from going grey. So let's think globally, act locally and panic internally.

Katyayani Jha, 10

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Cricket World Cup at a Glance Pg 2

Visits to Vasant Valley Pg 3

Spider Man: Far From Home Movie Review Pg 5

An Interview with Mr. Jo Johnson Pg 6

### SCHOOL WATCH

#### July Map Quest Results:

**Class 6:** Nirvaan Manaktala

**Class 7:** Krish Jain, Harchet Singh Majithia, Noor Srivastva, Asmara Dang and Shrishti

**Class 8:** Anirudh Vats, Ritwik Sapra, Ishaan Puri, Shashwat Rastogi, Girdhar Chandok and Darsh Puri

**Class 9:** Dakshayani Chandra

**Class 10:** Arshya Gaur

**Class 11:** Jind Saroop Kaur

**Class 12:** Shiv Mehta, Karamvir Chopra and Rithwick Sethi

#### Hindi Vartni Shodhan Pratiyogita:

**Class 9**

1st: Advaita Sehgal

2nd: Shaviya Gupta, Samved Ojha and Inaaya Gulati

3rd: Vedant Singh

**Class 10**

1st: Katyayani Jha

2st: Arshya Gaur

3rd: Aditya Garg and Anshuman Singh

#### Economics Symposium Results:

1st: Aditya Parashar, Advaya Gulati and Yash Gupta

2nd: Nandini Aggarwal, Meha Kapur and Sanaa Sharma

3rd: Anahita Jain, Sehej Kaur and Tanvi Bahl

#### Mock Stock Exchange Competition:

1st: Kartik Kajaria and Krish Garg

2nd: Allen Binu Alex and Ritwick Sethi

3rd: Vaibhav Kochhar and Ayush Mathur

#### Marketing Strategy Competition:

1st: Idekaa Dang, Vaibhav Kochhar, Ransher Manhas, Maahir Sachdeva and Darinee Chandok

2nd: Yash Gupta, Sehej Kaur, Advaya Gulati, Rishad Luthra and Karamvir Chopra

**Congratulations!**

## THE CRICKET WORLD CUP AT A GLANCE

The most anticipated event of men's cricket is the ICC ODI World Cup, which England hosted from the 30th of May to the 14th of July 2019. Eight teams were competing for the Cup: India, Australia, England, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan, South Africa and New Zealand. England is known for its unpredictable weather and disappointingly, due to excessive rainfall, four matches got washed out.

Over the last one month we have witnessed a bout of superb cricket with great audiences as well. This included the 80 plus elderly lady, an ardent fan, Charulata Patel ji, who became an internet sensation overnight. Before we go on to the Indian report, here is a background of the Cup:

The ICC Cricket World Cup is the international championship of One Day International (ODI) cricket. The event is organised by the sport's governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), every four years, with preliminary qualification rounds leading up to a finals tournament. The tournament is one of the world's most viewed sporting events and is considered the "flagship event of the international cricket calendar" by the ICC.

Our team set off buoyantly with great confidence. They started on a winning spree and the audiences seemed to be full of Indian fans. Early on in the tournament, India suffered a setback as India's opener Shikhar Dhawan got hurt and KL Rahul replaced him. At first this seemed to be a matter of concern but Rohit Sharma, "The Hit Man," scored five centuries and sealed the deal of many matches. "Boom boom Bumrah" (Jasprit Bumrah) was consistent for India and contributed supportively to Captain Virat Kohli at crucial junctures when the team was in trouble, by picking up important wickets. Mohammed Shami too was absolutely exceptional and became the second Indian after Chetan Sharma to take a world cup hat-trick. Hardik Pandya, India's all rounder, played a crucial role with the bat and ball respectively. MS Dhoni, the man who has won all world cups in different formats for India, was lightning quick behind the stumps as our wicketkeeper and pitched in with important runs whenever India required them. Several people questioned his batting and strike rate but we must remember that MS Dhoni plays for the team and not for himself.

India reached the Semi Finals, having lost only one match to England, but lady luck turned her face away. First, the bad weather interrupted our match, till which time our position over New Zealand was strong, and the next day the disastrous fall of our opening line up with Rohit Sharma Virat Kohli tumbling in quick succession led to a loss for Team India. Our middle order collapsed quickly till Dhoni and Jadeja established credibility raising the score to a respectable one till they got out.

While captain Kohli kept a brave face, all of us were heartbroken. The Kiwis played the hosts, England, in the finals. After a thrilling 50 overs and a superover, England became the World Champions.



Daksayani Chandra, 9

## CHANDRAYAAN 2

Chandrayaan 2 is an indigenously built lander, orbiter and rover which will be launched by our space agency (ISRO). The history of Chandrayaan 2 is interesting and goes back to 2007 when the Indian and Russian space agencies decided to work together to build the craft. Russia was to provide the lander while India would build the rover and orbiter. However, issues on the Russian end caused them to be unable to deliver the lander in time for the launch date, so India decided to push ahead and build the lander. It is hoped that this mission will succeed after the failure of Chandrayaan 1 with whom contact was lost in 2009. If this succeeds then India will be the 4th nation to land on the moon after USA, Russia and China. The goals are to demonstrate a soft landing on the moon. Scientific goals include studies of lunar topography, mineralogy, elemental abundance, water ice, etc. The craft was initially meant to launch on 14th July 2019 and enter orbit by 6th September, however, now it has been postponed to a later date. This will be a huge achievement for India and her space agency and will help us launch many more spacecrafts.

## वार्षिक वित्तीय विवरण

आपको जानकर हैरानी होगी कि संविधान में 'बजट' शब्द का इस्तेमाल ही नहीं किया गया है, इसे वार्षिक वित्तीय विवरण कहा गया है। भारतीय परंपरा में लाल रंग का विशेष महत्व होता है। अंग्रेजों की गुलामी की परंपरा से मुंह मोड़ कर इस वर्ष वित्त मंत्री ने ब्रीफकेस की जगह बजट के कागजात को एक लाल मखमली कपड़े में प्रस्तुत किया, जिसे बही खाता कहा जाता है।

भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 112 के तहत, केंद्रीय सरकार की 'वार्षिक वित्तीय रिपोर्ट' को प्रस्तुत करने की जिम्मेदारी है। सरकार ने फरवरी में एक 'इंटरिम बजट' की घोषणा की थी लेकिन वास्तविक बजट चुनाव के परिणाम के पश्चात घोषित होता है। वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण भारत के इतिहास में केवल दूसरी महिला हैं जिन्होंने सरकार की केंद्रीय बजट को पेश किया। बजट में एक तरफ घर और इलेक्ट्रिक कार खरीदारी में छूट देकर मध्यम वर्ग को राहत देने का प्रयास किया गया है, वहीं दूसरी तरफ पेट्रोल डीजल पर सेस लगाकर सरकार ने हिसाब बराबर कर लिया है।

माना जा रहा है कि पूर्ण बहुमत से केंद्र की सत्ता में वापसी करने वाली मोदी सरकार ने बजट-2019 में भविष्य के भारत और उसकी आवश्यकताओं पर ध्यान दिया है। वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने कहा कि गाँव, गरीब और किसान हमारे केंद्र बिंदु हैं। इस बजट से अमीरों पर टैक्स का बोझ बढ़ गया है। वित्त मंत्री ने 5 करोड़ रुपये या उससे ऊपर की आय वाले अमीरों के लिए टैक्स पर लगने वाला सरचार्ज बढ़ा दिया है। इसके अलावा जिनकी आय 2 से 5 करोड़ के बीच है, उनको 3 प्रतिशत का सरचार्ज देना होगा। 5 करोड़ से ऊपर की आय पर 7 प्रतिशत का सरचार्ज देना होगा। वित्त मंत्री ने कहा कि खेलों को हर स्तर पर बढ़ावा देने के लिए राष्ट्रीय खेल शिक्षा बोर्ड स्थापित किया जाएगा। वित्त मंत्री ने भाषण देते हुए देश को अगले पांच साल में 'फाइव ट्रिलियन डॉलर इकोनॉमी' यानी 5 लाख करोड़ डॉलर की अर्थव्यवस्था बनाने की बात कही।

वेदिका बागला, 11

Jehan Bhandal, 9

# VISITS TO VASANT VALLEY

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. DHRUV BOGRA

Mr. Dhruv Bogra is an adventure cyclist. On his visit to VVS, Mr Bogra shared a short gripping film of about 6.5 minutes on his epic solo journey on his bicycle 'Quest' that he undertook from Deadhorse in Alaska to Cusco in Peru in 2016-17.

### Q.1 What was the defining moment, or the main instance in your life that inspired you to go on this journey?

For me, most of my life had gone by and I felt I should rediscover and explore the world. I had fulfilled life's other responsibilities but felt I was not leading my own life. I wanted to explore the world and had already travelled India. I wanted to go on an expedition and rethink my life and system and was looking for some sort of awakening. In life you need to ask yourself what needs to change and how can I be a part of it and work towards discovering more about the self and the world.

### Q.2 What do you feel, especially as you have experienced working for large multinational companies, is the importance of taking on physical expeditions or experiencing sense of adventure in today's modern world?

Everybody's sense of adventure is different, whether you're in the corporate world, in business, are an author or artist. You have to activate that energy within which is why physical fitness is crucial. It activates chemicals that induce creativity and happiness. You should not lead a sedentary life. For example, I don't drive to work, instead I take a metro or auto as it keeps me more physically active. All that activity usually tends to stop after school, but it shouldn't.

### Q.3 You spoke a lot about the concept of spirituality and connecting with the world. In today's fast paced, technological world what would you say is the importance of such concepts?

Spirituality is often confused with religion. It is about how you are harnessing your energy. It is about gaining better understanding of how the world works. Often I would talk to nature, to trees, to plants. I would dissolve into nature and get detoxified. Being in nature, you understand why man worshipped it. The forces would truly talk back to you. Technology takes you away from the world and keeps you from connecting to higher energies and spirits.

### Q.4 Through the lens of the vast experiences you encountered during your journey, understanding various unique and ancient cultures, what do you feel is the true importance of preserving the native cultures of various societies across the world?

The government should preserve the Andamans and gives access to education and health care to its people. It is completely criminal to have mining jobs done there and take away their cultures like they do. I once met a village elder from a tribe and had conversation with him for a while and I remember him putting his hand on my shoulder and asking me "Can you please come back, learn our language and teach our children?" And it shook me to the core. I still have nightmares about it and it was just the energy between us at that moment that made me feel like that.

Harnoor Singh and Sanah Kapur, 12



## A TALK BY MR BIBEK DEBROY, A RENOWNED ECONOMIST

The Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, and one of the most conscientious and accomplished authors and thinkers of the country, Mr. Bibek Debroy engaged in a conversation with students of classes 11 and 12 about the joint role of the government and the public in the development of the nation.

Being an economics laureate, he shared with the students the hurdles to India's ambitious economic development goals, and what it requires to do in order to overcome these challenges. He talked about the importance of youth participation in a democracy and the imperative need for them to voice their concerns and demands in order to expedite the process of taking up the matter. With all the knowledge, he interspersed various life experiences in the form of anecdotes, which were very fascinating to listen to and grasp certain learnings from. One of these anecdotes went all the way back to the 1980's, a time when a telephone connection and trunk dialling were huge ordeals. He spoke of his struggles with the same, and how things have developed within the nation since then.

In the question and answer session with Mr Debroy after his talk, he was asked various questions about the Indian economy, as well as his personal story as an economist and writer. As someone who has read and translated various ancient Indian epics, he said that economics and these epics definitely do not run on parallel tracks, and have a point of intersection. These epics, he said, include various instances where economic choice-making behaviour is evident, and several principles of economics are reflected. Apart from this, he was also questioned about the current state of the Indian economy, his views on the high rate of unemployment and the criticism of certain trade policies in the recent Budget. His answer to most of these questions emphasised on the importance of us, as citizens, taking on the responsibility of looking into these problems instead of simply relying on the government to do so. He also mentioned the state governments, and how their budget is a matter of concern and needs to be analysed too.

Interacting with and listening to Mr. Debroy talk was an extremely enriching experience, and we hope to continue to have such compelling orators visit Vasant Valley.

Anahita Jain & Yash Gupta, 12

## DESIGNING A SCHOOL UNIFORM

If I design a uniform, it would have a minions design on the shirt because they are funny and they are small like the kids in school. The uniform will be green in colour because green is one of the colours in the Indian flag. The fabric I will use in winter is silk because it will keep the children warm. And in summer I will use cotton because it is soft. It will also be red because it is the colour of fire. The PE uniform will be black shorts and a blue shirt. The shoes will be blue in colour as it is my house colour. **Sehaj Chopra III - B**



If I could design a school uniform it would be a pink and white dress for girls and for boys a blue shirt and white shorts or pants. The summer uniform will be made with linen. My winter uniform will be made with cashmere and wool. The girls uniform will be the same dress with white leggings and a pink jacket or sweater. The boys will be the same with blue jacket and sweater. I chose these fabrics because in summer linen will keep them cool and in winter wool will keep them warm. I chose these colours because I think they will look good with white. **Jaya Grewal III - B**

## पैंसिल की आत्मकथा

मैं एक पैंसिल हूँ। मेरी कहानी कुछ अलग सी है। लोग पहले छोटे होते हैं और फिर समय के साथ बढ़कर बड़े होते जाते हैं। किन्तु मैं पहले बड़ी थी अब छोटी होती जा रही हूँ। मेरा जन्म भारत के जंगलों में हुआ था। पहले मैं पेड़ का हिस्सा थी। फिर कारखानों से मैं एक दुकान के पास पहुँची और कुशाग्र ने मुझे खरीदकर एक बॉक्स में रखा जिसे वह पैंसिल बॉक्स कहता था। मुझे यह बहुत अच्छा लगता था कि यही मेरा घर है। परंतु उस बॉक्स में दो और प्राणी थे। एक छोटा सफ़ेद रबर और दूसरा छोटा पीला शार्पनर। पहले तो मुझे ये दोनों बिल्कुल पसंद नहीं आए। शार्पनर हमेशा मेरे सिर पर गोल-गोल घूमकर मुझे छोटा कर देता और रबर हमेशा मेरे काम को मिटा देता था। फिर धीरे-धीरे मुझे बात समझ में आई। शार्पनर मुझे सुंदर और नुकीला बनाता है। रबर मेरे गलत काम को मिटाकर मुझे उसे सही करने देता है। अब ये दोनों मेरे बहुत अच्छे मित्र हैं। हम तीनों कुशाग्र के बॉक्स में साथ-साथ व खुशी-खुशी रहते हैं।

कुशाग्र ठाकुर 4 - ब

## HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER HOLIDAYS

On June 3rd, my twin brother Prithvi, my Dad and I, said our goodbyes, wiped off wet kisses and began our long journey to America. We were off to the Land of the Brave for a squash training with some of the worlds best coaches. And boy we were excited!! As our flight was longer due to the airspace closure we landed in New York really late at night. After a couple of days there we flew on to Charlotte, North Carolina. Once there we went straight to the Charlotte Squash Club to begin training with the worlds best Egyptian junior coach. The training was very intense and lasted for four hours a day after which Prithvi and I would devour juicy burgers! As the rest of the kids selected in the program were Americans, they could not pronounce Prithvi's name so he had to be renamed Peter. He became friendly with a boy named Parker so the camp started calling them "Peter-Parker". Get it? Like Spider-Man!!! In between training, I got a chance to visit the NASCAR Hall of Fame. I loved every minute of the month long camp and hope Spidey and me get to go again next year! **Shiv Sharma V - A**

## CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

The time was here. The 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup was finally about to start. The ten teams taking part in this year's World Cup were: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangalore, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and West Indies. India were the favourites to win and we were all terribly excited. The first round of matches were qualifying matches where all the teams played against each other. There were 45 qualifying matches – more than in any other World Cup! The teams that reached the semi finals were India, New Zealand, England and Australia. Now it was time for the first semi final. We were waiting to see India sail through to the finals. New Zealand won the toss and decided to bat first. Honestly New Zealand did not start off the strongest and India had them in a stranglehold and was doing a great job of keeping New Zealand to a low score. But before we knew there was a slight twist. It had started to rain and the other half of the match was postponed. Next day fans were waiting anxiously for the game to begin. Our team had unfortunately not been able to seal its victory on that day and fans were disappointed. The next match was between England and Australia. The Aussies started out strong but were just a piece of cake for the English and so very easily England sealed their win. Now it had come to the point where things got interesting. It was time for the final between England and New Zealand. This wasn't a final for the faint hearted. It was the kind that left both players and fans gob smacked. New Zealand scored 241/8, England after thriving on Ben Stokes, were also bowled out for 241. The World Cup summit clash was tied and a Super Over was needed. England scored 15 with Stokes and guess what? New Zealand replied with 15 too! Yet England prevailed as it had more boundaries (26) than New Zealand (17) and England were declared World Champions. Many felt that this was highly unfair on New Zealand. But at the end of the day Cricket is all about sportsmanship and New Zealand proved to be the Champions in that! **Shirin S Shaw V - C**



I learnt reading in my holidays. I wanted to be intelligent in school and thats why I learnt to read better. I learnt reading from my mother. **Amyra II - A**



Action Words  
Komal is eating a mango and an ice-cream with her sister. **Komal Pal I - B**

## MIGRANTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

Millions of people are desperately fleeing an unstable Libya across the Mediterranean on overloaded lifeboats, and dying in the process. The deadliness of the journey is proof of how desperate the people of Libya are. They need only a safe, stable environment which they hope to find in Europe. However, migrants who survive the journey are not given asylum, in Europe or anywhere else.

Migrants flee Libya due to the conflicts between militias and government forces, which resulted in chronic instability and lawlessness. This lawlessness and instability stems from its two civil wars, in 2011 and 2014, which also had a huge impact on Libya's crucial oil industry. The country's numerous detention facilities house Libyan migrants who tried to flee, and other migrants who use Libya as a transit country to Europe. At these centres, detainees are abused and even tortured. It is no wonder that they prefer to risk death than the terrible life in detention camps.

The migrants only need a home where they can heal, however, the European Union is unwilling to give them one. Italy forbade NGO rescue boats from entering territorial borders. This decree allows for fines up to 50,000 Euros and the impounding of boats bringing migrants to Italy. The EU strikes migration control deals with Libya to limit the flow of people across the Mediterranean. These deals include equipping Libyan forces to intercept migrants and refugees at sea and take them back to Libya.

People recognize the extent of the issue and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has also sought an answer to the problem. The 31 year old captain of a migrant NGO rescue ship, Carola Rackete, rescued 42 migrants and brought them ashore safely despite a jail threat due to breaking the Italian decree. The UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration are urging a return of EU search and rescue boats in the Mediterranean and extra support for the Libyan coast guard as long as it does not return the migrants to the country.

The fact that the EU is unwilling to accept the migrants and is leaving them to die on the sea illustrates humanity's selfishness. In this world in crisis, everyone wishes to save themselves, unaware that global warming will kill us all, whether or not we accept migrants. Because of this selfishness, it is likely that the migrants will be stranded on the sea forever.

Tara Jing Gopinath, 10

### Movie Review

## Spider-Man: Far From Home

The Marvel cinematic universe or the MCU is a gargantuan powerhouse dominating not only in terms of the box office but also in the quality of its films. When Avengers Endgame released, it was the culmination of eleven years, twenty two films and a powerful majestic end to a saga worth every fan's time. This sequel film starring Tom Holland in the titular role of Spiderman, Zendaya as MJ and Jake Gyllenhaal as the classic spider man villain, Mysterio, had the weighty burden of executing its plot while answering the questions Endgame left in the minds of fans. It executed this with a masterful level of skill. The movie is witty in its humour delivering gut busting one liners in traditional MCU fashion while keep the story fast paced and the action scenes thrilling.

The plot, without revealing too much, does stray from the formulaic storyline of MCU sequels. From the blip, as the events of endgame are called, to the sixteen year old on vacation in Europe, the plot angles are played for maximum humour while bringing some complex emotions to the story. The hero angle involves Peter being pressured into Iron man's shoes while looking for a new mentor. The two mid credit scenes and end credit scenes are the biggest points of the entire film. All in all, the film is a worthy finale to Phase 3 of the MCU and well worth watching.

Siddhant Nagrath, 9



## US-IRAN TENSIONS

The relationship between United States of America and Iran has never been a very strong one. From the overthrow of the Iranian Prime Minister Mossadeq in 1953, to the confrontations between President Trump and Irani leaders, it has been a very rocky 65 year old relation.

Subdued over the past few years, tensions between Iran and the US tensions have been rising again. In May 2018, President Trump exited the Iran Nuclear Deal and imposed the lifted sanctions on Iran, disallowing them to trade internationally. This proved to be a big loss for the Iranian economy. President Trump disliked the deal very much because he felt that without sanctions, Iran was using its money on terror, oppression and violence.

The Nuclear Deal is not the only thing that has caused a rift between the two countries. In June 2019, there were a series of six explosions on two Japanese oil tankers on the Strait of Hormuz, and on four commercial ships off the coast of the UAE last month. US blamed Iran for the explosions, and Iran denied the accusations. The Strait of Hormuz is the only way to transport oil from the Persian Gulf to the world's oceans. Tensions in this area can cause the closing of the Strait, which could lead to a fall in the world economy. That is why the attacks on the Gulf of Oman were of big concern. President Trump then announced the deployment of 1000 additional troops and extra military resources to the middle east.

Besides that, on June 20, Iran shot down an American surveillance drone, claiming that it was in its airspace. Such an act is against international law, said Iran. President Trump claimed that the American drone was in international airspace and to retaliate, he tightened sanctions and has denied Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his office access to financial resources.

These tensions between Iran and US could indeed be fatal. By shooting down the drone, Iran declared that they are "not concerned with US interests- they despise diplomacy and thirst of war". The leaders of the two countries must be careful, or else they will start a full-fledged war very so on.

Shyla Upadhyay, 9

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. JO JOHNSON

\* Durga Basu, of class 8, interviewed Mr. Jo Johnson, member of the British parliament and brother of Mr. Boris Johnson, candidate for the next British PM during the summer. Here is a part of that interview:

### Q.1 What benefits of Brexit do you see, since you supported 'remain'?

Well, yes, I supported remain because we benefit from the easy trading arrangements which it enables with our biggest trading market – the European Union. That's not to say that in time we can't develop easy trading relations with other parts of the world, we will be free in principle if we do Brexit to strike our arrangements with other countries and that will make it potentially easier for us to have closer trading relations with countries such as India. It's a good example, India: an EU-India free trade agreement has been under negotiation for over 12 years and it hasn't made much progress. That's partly the result that the EU has 28 member states and their interests are not easy to co-ordinate in a single negotiation. It's possible that bilateral trading discussions between say UK and India could make progress more rapidly on a more tightly defined set of interests.

### Q.2 How has British politics changed over the last 10-15 years?

I was elected an MP 2010, so nine years ago. I came back from India, where I had been working, in 2008 and almost immediately we had the global financial crisis that was a political challenge, ensuring that the country's financial system didn't fall over and then dealing with the economic and financial consequences. So, it was a period of very serious cuts to public expenditure as government tackled that big challenge and that obviously led to a lot of difficulties. The big challenge was to deal with the financial crisis and the anger which built up in parts of the country, as a result.

### Q.3 In the recent general elections, Congress party has lost very badly. How will the Conservative party limit its losses in the next elections?

Well, I have been following the Indian elections closely and I saw that the Congress won about 50 seats, a small increase in the number they had won in 2014. A nonetheless disappointing result for the Congress, many prominent people in the party lost their seats, including my friend Jyotiraditya Scindia in Gwalior, sad to see him lose out, he has always worked hard there. British politics is volatile at the moment; we are dealing with a very difficult situation, as we try to navigate the consequences of the referendum decision in 2016. It is certainly not a foregone conclusion the Conservative party will lose seats in the next elections. We will be out there fighting very hard for every seat, making sure that we are getting our arguments to the country.

### Q.4 You have changed career paths from being a banker, journalist, to finally a politician, what will be your advice to high school graduates?

Well, there is no career which is going to last your lifetime in the 21st century. You have to be flexible and prepare to re-skill and adapt to the challenges that you will face throughout your work life. You are going to be looking at a working life of 60 plus years, you need to be ready to adapt, to be ready to accept lifelong learning, you will be required to reframe and reskill.

Durga Basu, 8

## हिमा दास

दोस्तों, भारत के इतिहास में अब वो दिन आ गया है जब हर क्षेत्र में महिलाएँ पुरुषों की बराबरी करने में पूरी तरह से समर्थ हो गई हैं। यह बहुत पहले की बात थी जब महिलाओं को घर में अपने परिवार का पालन-पोषण करने मात्र की अपेक्षा की जाती थी, परन्तु वर्तमान में महिलाएँ पढ़ाई से लेकर हर तरह के खेलों में अपना झंडा गाड़ रही हैं। भारत की नई उड़ान परी कही जाने वाली- हिमा दास ने ओलंपिक्स से अपनी शानदार प्रदर्शन से सभी भारतवासियों की छाती गर्व से फुला दी है व पूरे विश्व को हक्का-बक्का कर दिया है। चेक गणराज्य में आयोजित क्लाद्रो मेमोरियल एथलेटिक्स मीट में हिमा दास ने २० दिनों में पाँच बार स्वर्ण पदक प्राप्त किया है। हिमा ने २०० मीटर की दौड़ में २३.४३ सेकंड का एक बेहतर सुधार किया परन्तु उनका खुद का रिकॉर्ड २३.१० सेकंड है। 'नोवे मेस्टो नाड मेटुजी ग्रां प्री' ४०० मीटर की रेस ५०.९ सेकंड में पूरी की और स्वर्ण पदक हासिल किया। हम आशा करते हैं कि आने वाले समय में हिमा दास जैसी युवा महिलाएँ खेल के क्षेत्र में आकर अपने देश का नाम रौशन करती रहें।

Arshya Gaur, 10

## महिला विश्व कप

महिला विश्व कप के आठवें संस्करण को इतिहास में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बताया गया है। इससे पहले कभी इतनी प्रतिभा या इतने प्रसिद्ध दावेदार नहीं रहे हैं और शायद, इससे पहले कभी भी महिला फुटबॉल का ऐसा कोई मंच नहीं मिला है। यह ७ जून और ७ जुलाई के बीच हुआ, जिसमें फ्रांस के नौ शहरों में ५२ मैच खेले गए। कई जबरदस्त मैचों के बाद, USWNT ने विवार को नीदरलैंड्स को २-० से हराकर अपना दूसरा सीधा विश्व कप जीता। यह जीत २००३ और २००७ में जर्मनी



की जीत के बाद दोहराने वाली केवल दूसरी टीम थी। अमेरिकी महिला फुटबॉल टीम की विश्व कप जीत सिर्फ एक खेल में जीत नहीं है। यह नारीवाद और प्रगतिशील राजनीति के प्रतीकात्मक जीत के रूप में देश भर में गूँज रहा है। टीम, विशेष रूप से सह-कप्तान मेगन रापिनो, महिलाओं के अधिकारों और एलजीबीटी अधिकारों और डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के खिलाफ के लिए खड़ी है।

Anahita Kukreja, 10

## CAMERON BOYCE, DISNEY STAR, PASSES AWAY AT 20

Cameron Boyce, a popular American actor of this generation, best known for his role of Luke Ross in the Disney television show 'Jessie' passed away on the 6th of July, 2019. At a young age of 20, he had an epileptic seizure in his sleep, a condition he had been taking treatment for.

Born and brought up in Los Angeles, he started out in show business as a dancer. He later got his acting start in commercials before moving on to television and movies. He made his first acting appearance in a 'Panic! at the Disco' music video in May 2008. After making his foray into television, Boyce appeared in various Disney Channel series, including Shake it Up and Good Luck Charlie, before breaking out with the role of Luke Ross, a bubbly and mischievous teenager on Jessie. Boyce later played Carlos de Vil, the son of 101 Dalmatians villain Cruella de Vil, in the "Descendants" movie series.

Adam Sandler, who played Boyce's father in the movie "Grown Ups" paid tribute to the actor on social media. He wrote: "Too young. Too sweet. Too funny. Just the nicest, most talented, and most decent kid around." Disney channel too offered condolences on Twitter, writing "Rest in peace, you'll always be in our hearts. A huge part of our generation's childhood, he will surely be missed. His memory and impact on others will live on forever."

Advaita Sehgal, 9

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Advaita Sehgal, Siddhant Nagrath, Shyla Upadhyay, Daksayani Chandra, Jehan Vir Singh Bhandal, Katyayani Jha, Tara Jing Gopinath, Arshya Gaur, Anahita Kukreja, Kavyini Garodia, Prakriti Mahajan, Prithvi Oak, Reana Soni, Sanaa Sharma, Vedika Bagla, Anoushka Clays, Darinee Chandok, Harnoor Singh, Tanvi Bahl, Sanah Kapur

Editor - Anahita Jain

Send all articles/suggestions to anahitaj01@gmail.com  
Online issue available at www.vasantvalley.org