

jan '23

issue 29

# NEWS TIMES

Diversity is  
all around us,  
It's there in every part  
of the world,  
You may ask 'Why is diversity so  
important?'

It's important because,  
If there was no diversity, we would  
all be the same,  
Since we are different, we have so  
many things to share,  
Like who we are,  
What we do,  
Where are we from, WHERE?

Diversity is there in people, places,  
and animals,  
Everywhere you look,  
From the tiniest ant, to the tallest  
giraffe,  
Maybe even on a holiday you took,  
But now,  
If you have understood the  
meaning of diversity,  
You know what to do,  
Observe diversity  
And, ask people,  
Where do you  
come from,  
who are YOU?

*Anezka Iris Sequeira, G5*

The name of my artwork is "The Slums", and it revolves around poverty. The intent of my artwork is to make people aware of the harsh realities of living in a slum. Amongst open sewages, filth-covered roads, one-roomed houses, and flimsy tin roofs, my work represents the hardships slum dwellers face. My artwork is inspired by the artist Zainul Abedin, a Bangladeshi painter who drew sketches of famine-stricken families during the Bengal Famine of 1943 in a similar style. **Suhani Agarwal, G8**

# LEADERSHIP SPEAK

As I walk through our corridors, I find myself wondering if our children are living in a highly homogenised urban society defined by similarities in lifestyles, food, attire, influences of admired and sometimes mimicked artists, songs sung, and tunes danced to. Are we losing plurality?

On the other hand, as I walk through our corridors, I see the paintings that adorn our visual arts studio, I listen to original songs, I experience theatre that interprets our changing world. I revel in the scientific thinking of our students, free exploration, and innovation grounded in rationality. I read the essays capturing social conflicts as well as the conflicts that lay within us. Realisation soon dawns on my conventional mind. We are experiencing a new culture incorporating disability, ethnicity, gender and sexuality and much more, giving rise to a meaning of diversity.

At Neev we offer an experience of the cultural multitudes of India characterised by living traditions of knowledge, attitude and behavioural patterns characteristic of specific geographies. We celebrate our culture and language through Language Day and Neevotsav, camaraderie through Sarvajeet Diwas, our legacy of literature through the Neev Literature Festival, India in all her reality and grandeur through our learning journeys, and our great nation on Independence and Republic day.

*"Colourful costumes. Wistful melodies from a mysterious land. Was just offered a glimpse into intricate traditions. It's short-lived- this taste of real life. I am thirsty for more passion like this. But like an elusive mirage, it leaves me searching forever."*

This impressionistic snippet from our alumni Navya Sahay (batch of '22) came after she visited Nagaland last year. Currently at Brown University studying Physics and English, Navya lives in a contemporary urban culture so diametrically opposite to the one she experienced in the North East.

And as I walk through our corridors, such diametric oppositions of the old and the new seem to blur. Plurality emerges again. Our multitudes, defined by honest pursuits of passion and diversity of thoughts, deserve celebration.

I celebrate our Neevites, I celebrate being a Neevite!



*Miss Gouri Kar, Head of Senior School*

# ACHIEVEMENTS



Fifty-three Grade 3 Neev students came together to donate 76 kgs of grain to an orphanage, servicing over a 1000 meals for disabled children. 'Fistful of Grains', initiated by Ira Singh Kapany, brought a grade together in the month of December to service the needy. The following message from Ira:

*"None of this would have been possible without the support I received from Grade 3 HRTs and Hari and George Sir for helping us through the distribution & collection process. I cannot think of anything else that celebrates the multitudes of our togetherness & efforts that have helped the lives of those in need."*

Raeya P Aggarwal secured best Putter Runner Up in the Indian Golf Union (IGU) on the 21st of December 2022 at the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) Performance Training Centre.



# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

For many decades, human society has been becoming more accommodating of diversity across religion, age, gender, and race. But recent events from the broad disempowerment of women (hijab mandates, abortion challenges, etc.) to the humanitarian tragedies of war highlight the problems facing humanity today. But when asked the question 'What is the greatest threat to humankind?', my answer would include none but that which makes the use of them possible: Hate.

Specifically, the sabotage of diversity by the blind hatred groups can have toward each other. I am convinced that separatism is the existential threat of our time. With Make America Great Again essentially meaning being Make America White Again and Brexit being a similar move towards culling diversity, our world echoes perverted sentiments of nationalism.

This year, we were overjoyed to see 'Naatu Naatu', a song from RRR, receive recognition at the Golden Globes as 'Best Original Song'. This win, however, sparked controversy as people asked who the achievement truly 'belonged' to. Members stepped forward to claim the overshadowing of the South Indian film industry by Bollywood stating that the win was not claimed for India but instead only for the Telugu and southern Indian film industry. Nothing could be less Indian.

India at seventy-five reminds me of Gandhiji's favorite story about four blind men touching an elephant and feeling it was a rope, tree, or snake to illustrate the philosophy of Anekantavad or the multi-sidedness of truth. Unlike most countries, India was not born of a single religion or language but contains multitudes. Nearly six hundred disparate princely states chose to unite as one country. One people. Bangalore is a city of migrants. Neev, a body of evolving difference. We bear multiple legacies of unity through diversity. Like all legacies including our freedom, this must be cherished, nurtured, and defended.

By Noor Sabharwal, Chief Editor



## MULTIMEDIA TEAM



### KAIRA GUPTA, GRADE 10B

I am Kaira Gupta and I am studying in grade 10. I love to bake, swim and be creative in means of design. I also enjoy knowing about pop culture and its connection to the world around us. Through this opportunity given to me, I really aim to showcase my skills to the Neev community as well as build a platform where everyone is welcome to give their input and get an insight into life at Neev.

### SRINIDHI SRIRAM, GRADE 10B

Hi, I'm Srinidhi, I love to dance and learn about science. In my free time, I love listening to RnB music and watching reality tv shows. I love making reels and creating engaging content. I can't wait to be a part of the multimedia team!



### SHENAYA BHATTACHARJEE, GRADE 8B

Hi! I'm Shenaya and I chose to be part of the multimedia team because I feel like my video editing skills, and knowledge about the school along with multiple social issues would come in handy in many different ways, and I am grateful for this opportunity to help enhance and better my skills.



### ABDUL MAJID, GRADE 10B

My name is Majid. If I'm not crying over some FI race cause Ferrari messed up their strategy. I'll probably be trying to take a video or editing something random.



# LEARNING JOURNEYS



## A SLAB OF IRON

The speakers blasted louder than ever, the people yelling and cheering increasing the sound decibel, and the Pakistan flag standing high and tall, basking in the sun's light, embraced in the clouds, just dancing to the wind, or to the Indian music? I couldn't help but stare at it, in question. What would it be like to have peace? What would it be like to stand together? What stood between us? I knew the answer. It was only a gate, with the stories of thousands oppressed, kept from peace. It was only a slab of iron.

*This an impressionistic writing piece based on a visit to Wagha Border (From the G7 Amritsar trip)*

**Dayita Raju, G7C**

## SEVEN DAYS OF SOLITUDE - A MULTITUDE OF EMOTIONS

The learning journey took us on different trips. Grade 8 was whisked off to the vibrant state of Rajasthan by a flight. And I took a trip... down a flight of stairs! This small misstep had cost me. So my seven days of solitude had begun. And that ended up becoming a learning journey by itself.

The classroom was a stage and I was the sole performer. It was just me and my fortress of solitude against the universe. Time slipped away from me, exactly how my legs slipped away from the steps. The elevator doors dissolved the world around me, the chamber moving me toward an uncertain future.

Bouncing erasers, flickering lightswitches, and gloom-ridden conversations. These made up the soundscape of my day. A discography of dispiritedness. Even as the room got a couple more occupants, it seemed empty as silence and awkward glances deepened the existing void.

Then came anticipation, as I awaited the return of my classmates and wondered - What would things be like once they returned? Would I miss the solitude that had become my friend?

I no longer saw the ghosts of the people that once filled this place with a sense of life. I only saw tranquility. And a part of me wanted it to last.

The class returned with a chorus of coughs, and I missed the chaos within the order.

Things came back to normal, but I realized that sometimes, there's a great comfort to be found out of the comfort zone.

**Samarrah Sivakumar, G8A**



# LEARNING JOURNEYS

## A NOTE ON CULTURE AND CO-DEPENDENCY IN LADAKH

Ladakh is often called “a melting pot of culture” and not without reason. Although primarily Buddhist, the people of Ladakh belong to many ethnicities and cultural origins, and the Tibetan influence was reinforced in places like the Central Asian Museum. Ladakh, through influence, has formed its own culture that is evident in places such as the Leh market – where you can find clothes made from Pashmina, silver and stone jewelry, along with Tibetan handicrafts like a prayer wheel.

Ladakh not only tolerated these differences but celebrated them, something reflected in the way we interacted. Existing 3500 meters above sea level, simply by nature of being, is no easy feat, barring the grueling trek up a mountain, or the long climb up the Shanti Stupa. Throughout those taxing experiences, we formed a sort of co-dependent system, where we would group up with people who were more adapted to the climate, and could help those who were not. Ladakh, through all its sweeping mountaintops, peculiar dogs and high altitude helped me understand what community means in vividity.

**Sanjana Garg, G9A**



## PICTURES FROM THE TRIPS:



*(This impression is about my experience on the boat, seeing the reflections of the sky on the quickly evaporating Loktak Lake.) Ripples broke away from the hull, While the sky shuddered under the Sun. About the lake that made me wonder, When the skies would halve from two to one.*

**Raghav Choudhuri, G11A**

## DAY 3

A staircase of fields. Each step is different. One was a field of paddy, another was filled with garlic, some had carrots, others; sweet potatoes, cabbages and mustard. Others had crops I had never heard of, native species, Gobstear and Nitso. Some steps were being tilled and some were burned to shades of gray and black. This

staircase was guided and supported by a railing made of gurgling water, clear as day, sparkling in the sunlight. As we walked up the cascading staircase, I learned that each step belonged to a particular clan, a particular khale, a particular family, all living in coexistence. A staircase of fields, a staircase built solely on integrity, loyalty, trust, and respect. What would they say when they saw our staircase? Where trust and respect were replaced with legal documents, contracts, and broken agreements.

**Ananya Arun, G11A**

## DAY 8

There they go, the dancers being spinny tops, spin spin spin. Graceful amongst the massive rhythmic din they bang on the drum. They look ripped for, oh my, ten years. They must have trained as children then.

Sure it is part of ©XYZ enterprises and not part of the puritans. Can we not feed the common peeps?

**Ishaan Varior, G11A**

# STUDENT VOICES

Are we all going to be toast or well, roasted like Khakras?

Climate Change is arguably the greatest issue faced by mankind. We live in an unbalanced world. One thing is clear—everything is interconnected. Climate change, food, water, waste, and natural disasters.

For my PYPX journey, I chose this topic because I wanted to find out what climate change is about and how humans can survive this catastrophe. Climate change affects all of us in different ways. From plummeting and rising temperatures to unpredictable weather patterns, complicated health issues and it also threatens food security and livelihoods. Let's face it, the planet will adapt. We, the human species may not be so lucky. Ignoring these problems may just show that our empathy levels are slowly eroding away, being washed away by rising sea levels and melting away in this ferocious heat.

After a lot of research, I found that humans will only survive climate change in two ways:

- 1) Mitigate climate change
- 2) Adapt to climate change

Adapting to climate change is a long process while mitigating climate change can be done in our daily lifestyle by reducing our waste and reducing our carbon footprint.

We are such an integral part of that awesome thing called nature. There is an entire ecosystem and it will be hard to see our earth without the wonders of trees, birds, flowers insects, fruits, etc. Let's spend more time outdoors, admire the mysteries, and conserve and protect what we see and love.

*Arjun Jain, G5C*

## WHEN NATURE MAKES A BRIDGE

In the recent winter holidays, I visited Shillong in Meghalaya. The most fascinating thing I saw on my trip was a living root bridge! The local Khasi people call these unique bridges jing kieng jri and they are created using tree roots.

Meghalaya is one of the rainiest places on Earth and the many waterfalls in the area create hundreds of streams during monsoons. The locals started building these bridges because man-made bridges would often rot and fall apart due to the heavy rains. These bridges are handmade by twining together the aerial roots of the trees. As the tree ages, the roots grow stronger and fuse together so people can cross the bridge at the same time. Moreover, just like no two trees can ever be identical, every living root bridge is one of a kind!

Where did the Khasis get this ingenious idea from? They believe their ancestors came down from heaven to Earth on a Living Root Ladder. The jing kieng jri helps connect people and is also home to several species like birds, insects, squirrels, and other mammals. So it is an ecosystem in itself and I hope too many tourists don't destroy this living legacy. But at the same time, I also wish everybody could visit Meghalaya and appreciate this marvel.

*Prisha Agarwal, G2*

Be inclusive  
Everyone belongs

The place you live is the best  
Happiness is all around you  
Enemy is noone

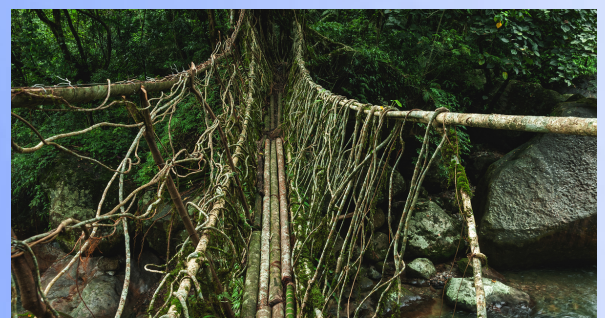
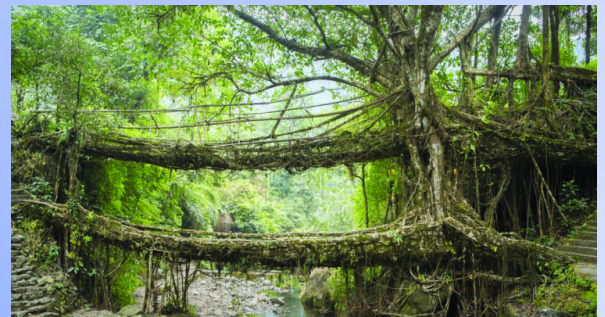
Care for everyone in the community  
Heart filled with happiness  
Always look for people in need  
Never let anyone be alone  
Give a helping hand  
Encourage people who are sad

*Venpa Senthamil, G2B*

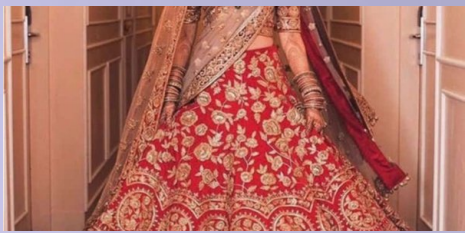
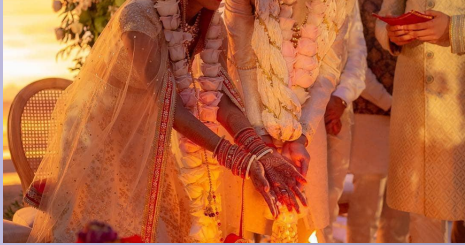
Celebrating Our Multitudes

Welcome 2023...  
Smile on every face,  
Food on every plate,  
Books in every mind,  
A mission to grind  
Unplastify the land,  
ReClean the seas,  
Unmasked Air  
Bring a Cheer...  
Raise a toast to what we achieved...  
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to G20 presidency,  
Neeraj's Gold to Messi's Dream,  
The world Celebrated in a string  
Language day galore,  
Sarabjeet Divas roar,  
ReFit and ReEducate,  
Get set to shine in 2023

*Vihaan Agarwal, G4A*



# STUDENT VOICES



We learn about different cultures in many ways, my way in 2022 was weddings!

I was blown away by the different weddings I attended from various communities. So creative, elaborate, festive, and unique in their own way.

First was a Hindu wedding. The Bride wore a red lehenga and the groom wore a sherwani. They looked like the king and queen. Both the bride and groom put a flower garland around each other's neck and sat down together with a bonfire in front of them, the pundit said some prayers for a long time and they were married.

The second was a Keralite wedding. The family members from the bride's side welcomed the groom with a garland, then the bride came with a garland around her neck already. They both wore off-white attires with gold borders. The bride and the groom both sat together doing a small pooja. There was a Taali that the groom tied around the bride's neck and they were married.

The third was a Muslim wedding where the bride and groom sat in different rooms and the Maulvi/priest asked if they were each okay to get married to the other. Once they agreed, they were married. Short but sweet.

Although all were different in terms of their unique culture, tradition, cuisines served at weddings, and many ceremonies, they had many similarities too - families came together, lots of music and dancing. Also, I learned there are more ways to get married than one. My goal for 2023 is to continue exploring the different ways people get united!

*Myra Nigam, G4C*

Dust swirled up in the atmosphere as the bus parked outside the Barefoot college. The mysterious silence of the parking space was familiarized with the casual whispers and giggles of my group members. We reached the college, while leaving behind trails of uncoordinated footsteps on the sandy terrain. As soon as we stepped in, the whispers and giggles halted and the mysterious silence erupted again. The fumes from equipment filled the air and tingled my eyes. In awe, we saw focused women, working with motherboards, screwdrivers and wires, determined to make their assigned LED's to light up. Although I had only seen the women working, I felt this aura of strength, courage and endurance around them. The women looked up at all the pairs of eyes staring at them. They felt this spotlight on themselves, straightened their Ghunghats and felt the need to give us short, yet real smiles. But behind their humble smiles, I sensed that they were hiding the many hardships that they faced through their lives that eventually got them at this college. I smiled back and continued observing them. After seeing the other diverse and efficient units of the college, we headed back to the parking space. On the way back, I tripped over a stone, disguised in the smooth sandy terrain. I tumbled as I lost my balance. My mind went back to the women that we saw working with the LED lights. I recalled my odd intuition of how the women must have faced many hardships in their lives to reach the college. I wondered how their hardships must have been similar to how I tripped over the stone. Their hardships must have been hidden, and must have hit them when they least expected it, just like how I unexpectedly encountered the rock. I wondered how the women must have dealt with their difficulties. I thought to myself; they must have collected themselves, toughened up and dealt with their difficulties face-on. I decided to do the same. I picked myself up, regained my balance and continued walking, making sure that there were no obstacles in my way. Soon enough, I looked above and realized that I had reached the bus already. I looked behind at the rocky terrain and smiled. The same humble smile that the women gave us.

*Adarshini Chandrakanth, G8B*

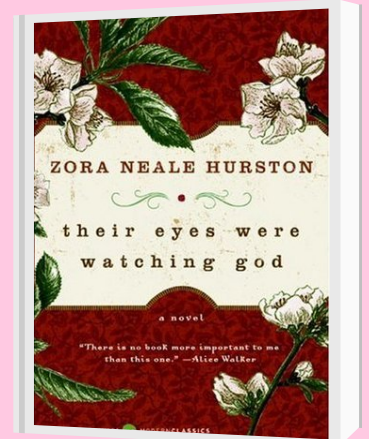


# ICLs

## LITERATURE CLUB

As readers, it is often comfortable to read books which are written without much flair or interest, because we read them in our own language. The story belongs to us, knit together with our understanding of the words and what significance they hold to us. But after all, a book is meant to show you the story of another, take you on a path you haven't been on before.

To use the dialect that Zora Hurston does in this book, forces a reader to completely engage themselves in the life of the characters, experiencing the world in a different light. I've always believed that language controls your attitude towards the world, that each language has its own way of saying things, which changes your expression of universal thoughts. This is one of the things I love about the book, although many critics have expressed their love of the language Hurston uses, I find that the language is almost there to make up for the lack of detailed descriptions. This book isn't well written because the author knows how to string words together and put them into neat little sentences which make perfect sense and sound grand. No, it's well written because the author knows how to use words to tell a story. To make a reader feel something, to touch the warm flowers on a summer's day and hear the townsfolk cry when a mule dies.



The beginning of each chapter, with its positive outlook on everything to be, is then followed by a dialogue and situation which changes our own look on the characters' lives. However, Hurston gives up the first person perspective, perhaps to bring in her own philosophies and distract the reader from the protagonists' simple view on the world. But what I especially enjoy about the protagonist, Janie Crawford, is her inane sense of human-ness. Her doubts and misinterpretations of the world, and all her simple thoughts and beliefs that are still in the making. She is vastly different from the usual story of strong black women, with a voracious voice, never fearing anything or anyone ( a new sort of unrealistic figure).

We talk about writing realistic characters, well Hurston's characters seem to exist in a realm far beyond realistic, almost separate from the author's own imagination. Or perhaps they exist somewhere so close to the author's own world, that they no longer remain characters, but become people.

My love for this book stems mostly from its simplicity. Hurston doesn't try to pack layer after layer of code underneath her lyrical language, and all love and hate is expressed with vigour and sensitivity. The main reason I think audiences have enjoyed (and will enjoy) this book is because of its unadulterated, evident and explicit - good language and smart philosophy.

**Noyonika Arun, G10A**

## CHESS CLUB

Cheating in chess can occur in the most absurd ways possible - ranging from contraptions invented to rig games before they even start, to match-fixing and piece manipulation all the way to the most common form of cheating - using an engine. Cheating using an engine can only occur in online chess, but when one uses an engine, they basically insert the moves that are going on in the current game to find the best move possible in that position. It is unethical in nature but is so common that popular online chess site Chess.com bans almost 18,000-35,000 users annually just for cheating in games. There have been various scandals regarding cheating in online chess, such as how Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath cheated in a game against Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand in June 2021 and the most recent but most controversial one, the Hans Niemann cheating scandal. This scandal has been regarded by many as the biggest controversy in all of chess's history in regard to cheating.

*\*Continued in the next page*



## DANCE CLUB

The dance ICL aims to help students improve basic technique, while also being able to enjoy themselves in doing something that requires movement. We aim to ensure creativity, consistency and collaboration. Ranging from Indian classical to hip hop to contemporary and

lyrical dancing - the ICL focuses on providing students a space for creativity and self expression. Commitment, creativity and coordination is the club, in essence.

**Srinidhi Sriram, G10B**





# ICLS

## CHESS CLUB(cont.)

It starts off in September 2022, in the Sinquefeld Cup, where Magnus Carlsen, the world's highest rated chess player participated as a wildcard. It was an over-the-board tournament and with Carlsen having an unbeaten 53 game win streak, he was unstoppable. Niemann on the other hand was a replacement for one of the grandmasters who could not attend the tournament and was the lowest rated player in the tournament. In the third round of the tournament, Niemann beat Carlsen using the black pieces, and it was a shocking upset especially since Carlsen had the first-move advantage. Carlsen promptly withdrew from the tournament and in a tweet announced his withdrawal alongside stating that he preferred not to speak about it. The chess community saw the tweet as an insinuating accusation against Niemann, stating that he "cheated", and this immediately sparked controversy. Another match was scheduled between the two on September 19 in the Julius Baer Generations Cup, but Carlsen instantly resigned after move two and did not provide any statement. Carlsen later stated that he wanted more focus on "fair play" in chess and wanted authorities to investigate the matter. Niemann defended himself, saying that he did not cheat in the Sinquefeld Cup and accused authorities of trying to ruin his career. He stated that "the only two times I have ever cheated was when I was 12 years old in a prize event and when I was 16 years old in random games". He stated that he was "ashamed of himself" and wouldn't repeat the actions, especially in a competitive scenario. However, Chess.com analysed and found that Niemann had allegedly cheated in more than hundred games, and he was promptly banned from the site.

FIDE, the international board of chess, sent a team of analysts headed by one of the world's most renowned chess cheating experts, Ken Regan, to analyse Niemann's games, and Regan stated that he found no evidence of cheating in any of the games, including Carlsen's game against Niemann. This led to debates on social media, whether Niemann had actually cheated or not. The issue became even more heated in October 2022, when Niemann filed a lawsuit demanding \$100 million in compensation for the damages his career received through the controversy. Carlsen and other grandmasters dismissed it as a "public relations stunt", and a lot of chess organizations canceled their invitations to him for upcoming tournaments.

Currently, there is no answer as to whether Niemann cheated or not, and unless substantial evidence is published by FIDE or Chess.com, the answer shall not be found. Ethics always matter, even over the chess board.

***Dhruv Jain, G9B***



## BAKING CLUB

Neev Academy's Baking club has become a popular hub for our members to create delicious and decadent varieties of baked goods and savory dishes. From the ups and downs of the oven problems to chats and collaborations in creating some of our favorite foods, the baking club is always lively and interactive.

Fudgy brownies, warm banana bread, crunchy nachos, tangy lemon bars, flavorful chaat, and Christmas gingerbread cookies are just a few of the many appetizing dishes that we have created. When deciding the recipe for each session, we often try to switch between cooking and baking each week, therefore providing more exposure so that students can learn and try out techniques and unique recipes each time. Similarly, assigning each member an ingredient to bring to the session, pushes them to become more involved in the ongoings of the club. We have also noticed that splitting the club up into 2 groups with a recipe each has made our members more involved and driven to play their part in the creation of the dishes. We have noticed them become more excited to try their own creations and in the process put more effort into baking and cooking.

On days when baking ends early or we are required to wait for the baked goods to bake, we try to keep our members interested by engaging them in fun Kahoot quizzes about cooking and baking and the techniques and utensils used behind the scenes. Every week it's a competition among the students to see who can answer the questions correctly and the fastest! Sometimes our members are able to learn more about the technicalities of baking and it's always a bonus to play these quizzes together.

Overall it is always fun to work on baking and cooking projects with our members, especially when the best part is testing out whether our final products have tasted good or not.

***By Tanaya Mehta (G12A) and Kaira Gupta (G10B)***



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## student's version

# 1



If you love adventure and thought-provoking movies, do yourself a favor and watch 'Slumberland'.

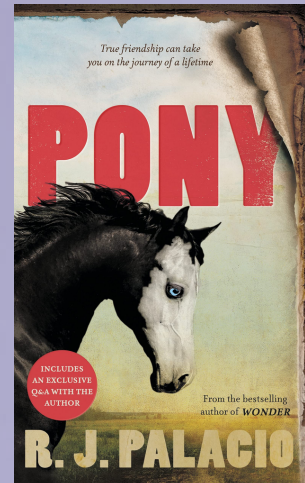
I watched this movie during my winter break. It brought out such a unique experience. It felt as though I was standing right next to the characters. This movie taught me about how we should not stick to wishes you know will never come true or else we will lose track of real life. It teaches us to come out of our shadows by being brave, independent and determined for something we want.

**Iqra Rahiman, G5B**

PONY by R.J. Palacio is a book on true friendship.

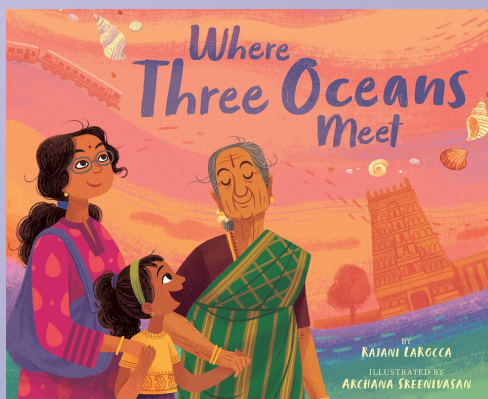
Silas Bird wakes in darkness to three strangers taking his beloved father away. He is left scared, accompanied only by Mittenwool (a ghost). But when a pony shows up at his door. Silas knows what he has to do. So an adventurous and perilous journey begins. A journey that connects him to the unknowable world around him. This book says that true friendship can take you on a journey of a lifetime.

**Tara Hiremath, G4D**



# 2

# 3



“Where Three Oceans Meet” by Rajani Laroocca and illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan

I am a Gujarati but I never got to experience the South of India. This book, where three oceans meet, gives a glimpse of India's vibrant, colorful, and traditional Southern region. The book's main character is Sejal whose Pati (grandmother) lives in Bangalore and mother lives in the United States. They decide to visit the southernmost tip of the Indian subcontinent, Kanyakumari where the three oceans—the Indian Ocean, the Bay of Bengal, and the Arabian Sea—meet. This story tells us how our languages are influenced by our place. Pati spoke Tamil and Kannada, while Sejal spoke

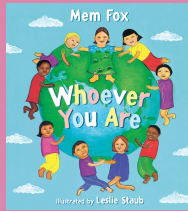
English, and her mother spoke both Tamil and English. Their clothes varied, but they all spoke the same language - the language of love and care. This reminded me of a line I read in another book- “The Book of Cultures” that said, “We all smile in the same language”. This tale presents the unique lifestyles people in South India adopt based on the environment. My favorite part of the author's writing is how she compares braided hair to the blending of three oceans with the line “Three entwined, stronger than any alone”.

**Samvit Desai, G2C**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

library's version

1

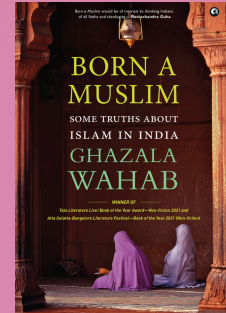


'Whoever You Are' by Mem Fox is a beautifully illustrated book celebrating diversity by embracing differences between cultures as well as similarities. Kids learn that regardless of skin colour, language spoken, and lifestyle, all children love, smile, and cry the same.

Descriptions based on blurbs available online.

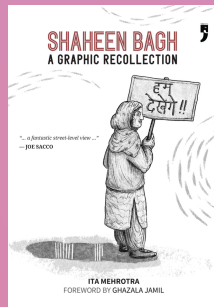
'Born a Muslim: Some Truths About Islam in India' by Ghazala Wahab.

In this book Wahab, examines the factors that have stalled the socio-economic and intellectual growth of Indian Muslims and attributes both internal factors as well as external ones that have contributed to the backwardness of the community. Weaving together personal memoir, history, reportage, scholarship, and interviews with a wide variety of people, the author highlights how an apathetic and sometimes hostile government attitude and prejudice at all levels of society have contributed to Muslim vulnerability and insecurity.



2

3



'Shaheen Bagh: A Graphic Recollection' by Ita Mehrotra

A Graphic Account of the most famous political sit-in of recent times. The book tells the story of the Muslim women who started the protest and became the catalyst for a pan-India political movement against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC). Based on conversations and interviews with the women who were part of the protest, Ita Mehrotra's graphic narrative archives moments from a movement that spread like wildfire through the length and breadth of the country and continues to inspire voices of dissent.

'Betty Before X' by Ilyasah Shabazz and Renée Watson

Written by the daughter of the civil rights icons Malcom X and Dr. Betty Shabazz with the acclaimed novelist Renée Watson, this novel explores Betty's life as an eleven-year-old living in Detroit in 1945. The connection Betty longs for at home is instead filled by her activist church. This eventually leads her to volunteer with the Housewives League, an organization advocating for black-owned businesses.



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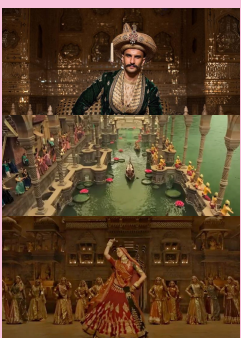
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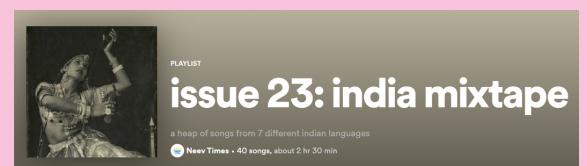
'Stella by Starlight' by Sharon M. Draper

Things have been peaceful in eleven-year-old Stella's small North Carolina town for awhile. Peaceful doesn't mean equal. In the Jim Crow South, Stella notices the nicer white school building and the fact that the white doctor doesn't treat African Americans. But the KKK hasn't been active in a long time. Until in 1932, with the Depression making finding work hard for everyone, the Klan resurrects itself. And when Stella's Dad decides to vote with two other black men, Stella's family and her entire community are in danger

## MULTIMEDIA CONTENT



Scan the QR code to access a montage of five Bollywood movies that the multimedia team recommends. Each of these movies narrate a story about Indian history; while some are based on important historical figures who've created change in society to eras that have been unique to our culture and history. Don't miss out on these movies!



Access a playlist ranging from songs in Kannada to Urdu to Punjabi to Hindi. Scan the code and jam to these tunes!



# REPORTAGE

## PETER BROOK'S MAHABHARATHA AND DIVERSITY DONE RIGHT

In the last few years, there is a game my father, brother and I love to participate in. Whenever we open up a show or a movie, there is dead silence for ten minutes straight, before one of us screams, "HEY LOOK OVER THERE, IT'S A TOKEN XYZ GUY". This can extend to being black, mexican, asian, disabled, tamilian, muslim, bihari, you get the point. It's funny, but deep down, it's disheartening to see how superficial it is, because the only reason they are on screen is because it's a half hearted attempt to gain an audience and solely for money. It's hard to find an example where this entire idea of multitudes is celebrated when surfing through stuff like this, and the piece that does this right, in fact, goes back to the 80s. I'm talking about Peter Brook's Mahabharatha.

Most of you will probably know the very basic story of Mahabharatha, and I would argue it would be interesting if someone who doesn't know the story go blind into this adaptation, minor spoilers ahead.

The story in Mahabharata is central to a lot of cultures in India, and there are thousands of interpretations, through Koothu and other art forms, there's the OG as well in sanskrit. But in this play it's directed by an Englishman and performed by a cast of around 30 different nationalities, including Indian. When you have this diverse of a cast, most of the characters are realised in different ways. Seeing one of the pandava brothers as greek, then Dhrona as asian, each role 's nationality adds a lot to the dialogue, this goes from how the accent and how each actor times their lines similar to how they do it in their own country gives a different and more importantly, contemporary spin on the play.

The fact that this is also a modern play gives a new and nuanced version of the play. There are several elements where compared to productions like Doordarshan's version of the Mahabharata, characters who weren't given as much importance or ability to play with power dynamics are given them now, like Ekalavya or in terms of power, Draupadi. The disrobing of Draupadi and that entire episode is worth watching this entire play for, and Mallika Sarabhai knocks it out of the park. The contemporisation and actually making sure the characters are not these stock npcs give the play more depth, and actually induce this story with more stakes in its conflicts.

So, if you want to see this multiracial cast perform Mahabharatha and some really out of this world acting, go ahead on youtube and search for the play. It's five hours of solid entertainment and depth.

*Ishaan Varior, G1A*

I get up in the morning and life seems perfect. I feel lucky that my friends and I are born with our personal genies. I mean, how different is our life from a fairytale? We live in safety and the comfort of our homes. Has any one of us really looked outside, and seen the real world- the one Across The Wall?

The world outside our wall is full of challenges, and troubled people, who hang on to everything they have got. To them, every single rupee counts. Now compare that to us. We have access to all our needs and a lot of our wants. We have Didis and Bhayas to do our work for us for 'hardly enough' amount of money.

However, empathy and sympathy will be the topic for another day. Today, we celebrate our differences and inequalities with grace and admiration. Because it's not true that the less privileged are any lesser than the more privileged ones. After all, we are all made of same matter and material and money doesn't, and shouldn't, define us. Our differences, all of them, are what makes us special and each and every one of them deserves to be celebrated and loved. For example, my Sunday Didi, Savitri Didi, has 2 kids, the younger one's name is Bhagya, who is 11 years old and studies in a government school, is really good at studies and is at the top of her class. The older one, Bhima, is on a scholarship at a decent college on the outskirts of Bangalore. How are they and I different? All three of us are given an opportunity to do our best, and a shot at life. I will not be surprised if Bhima and I are working for the same company one day

My mother is a Chai person and she enjoys it in a fancy cream white cup which has light and dark blue zig zags embroidered on it. She usually sits on our deck on a couch to have her cup. One day, one of my didis, Vanilla didi, invited my mom for chai at her place. My mom sat on a floor, had her chai in steel mug and the excitement on her face was just about the same. The preconception that only one particular category of people know how to eat right was broken that day. We are different from each other, yet the smiles, the togetherness, the love and respect for each other was what made us both special.

Our helpers from the outside world do a great deal of service to us. I can name at least three things my helpers do for me- Narayanamma does our cooking, Savitri didi and Vanilla didi do our cleaning and Vanilla didi always goes to the local market to get us day to day things. That is how they serve us. In return, we give them the respect and love that they pine for, we fund their kids' education, we share meals with them on the same table, we celebrate each other's birthdays and we tend for them when they fall sick. And that, my friends, is how we serve them.

In my opinion, money should not define who's who. Life should be about celebrating and admiring others. It should be about accepting the differences and using them as service to the community - whether inside or outside the wall!

*Guneeva Kalkat, G4B*



ACROSS THE WALL

# REPORTAGE

## NEW YEARS

Can you think of one day that almost the entire world celebrates? New years. According to the Gregorian calendar, the calendar most of the world uses today, new years day takes place on January first. And even though most of the world celebrates new years on the same day, the way they do it is different. One thing however remains clear throughout history, that no matter how different cultures are, we still all come together to await the bong of the clock when it strikes 12. The only day that the entire world steps together into a new year. But what goes on around the world during this important day?

In Japan, celebrations go on until January third. A dish called Osechi-ryori fills awaiting stomachs. The idea is to make the food early, in order to keep the cook free from the cooking for the next 3 days. Bells are rung to welcome the new and usher out the old.

Across the world celebrations are completely different. In The Netherlands, a small country in northern Europe, an important part of New Years is the fireworks. The supplies range from tiny sparklers to big rocket fireworks. Along with this you'll find many satisfied Dutch as they munch on *oliebollen* waiting for the countdown. *Oliebollen* literally translates to *oil balls*, however they are more like dough fried in oil.

Not far away, people in Denmark wake up to find smashed plates on their doorsteps. You are probably confused why. Well it signifies good luck, so you're up for a lucky year if you have broken glass at your doorstep. And a lucky year, that's something everyone wants! Meanwhile the Cape Town City parade in South Africa is well underway as visitors from around the world rush to the unique new year celebration as bands, dancers and others alike usher the new year in!

But what is really unique is how the new year is celebrated in the US. They drop things slowly and in time with the countdown, then when it touches the ground, you should probably close your ears because the cheering will have begun to celebrate the new year! The things lowered and dropped range from balls, to watermelons, and sometimes even shoes! But you will probably find the biggest crowd in New York City as people from all over the world gather to watch the big glowing ball slide down the flagpole.

Back in Europe, the Spanish are busy popping grapes into their mouths. It is believed to bring good fortune if you eat one grape every second of the new year, traditionally this is only for the first twelve seconds.

How do you celebrate New Years though? In India, one thing that is really common on new years eve is partying. We are a diverse big country, rich in culture, and therefore the way we celebrate could be the same or very different. And even though our multitudes are many, we all manage to cheer when the clock strikes 12:00 on January first. For centuries the date has been celebrated with vigor and joy and that's why you may find even the oldest and the most young in our communities say "Happy new year". For the day is the same all over the globe and together the world celebrates it, with our multitudes.

*Elizabeth Stoeckel, G5C*



## THE MITTI CAFE

All non profit organizations make a huge impact on the people they are targeting to help. But only a few of them help both the victims along with the rest of the population. The Mitti Café is one of these one of a kind NGOs. 27 year old Alina Alam was working with 'Bangalore's Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled' when she truly realized the untapped potential of the disabled. During an interview with The Logical Indian, she said that she wanted to build a social enterprise that engaged with the disabled in an empowered set up, away from the scope of charity. And so, 6 years ago, in a dilapidated tin shed in Hubballi, Karnataka, Mitti Café was born. At the start, Alina had absolutely no cash surplus or capital in hand. For some time, she ran the café solely on grants, donations from the community and support from IIM (India's Institution of Management) Bangalore. But despite all of this, Alina was clear about one thing - she was starting this café to help provide dignity, opportunity and training to people with physical, intellectual and psychiatric disabilities. The word 'mitti' means mud, and Alina Alam believes that we all come from the same mud, and in the end are going to go back to the same mud. Her goal is to make an enterprise that will help the disabled to live as economically independent people with dignity. She wants to show people that disabilities should not be seen as something that limits you, that disabilities are new abilities in disguise. The Mitti Café started out with one

wheelchair bound employee, in one temporary café. It now has a chain of 25 permanent cafés with 116 employees spread out across India. The Mitti Café has trained over 2,500 people with disabilities and has given out over 5 million meals to all kinds of people. Employees in the Mitti Café have disabilities like Paraplegia, Dwarfism, Autism, and Down Syndrome. Each employee is carefully evaluated, and given a role that is suitable for their disability. The Mitti Café has truly celebrated the multitudes of the disabled, bringing them together so that they can achieve something they may not have been able to achieve alone.

*Arushi Chandra, G7D*

# REPORTAGE

## SHOULD QATAR HAVE HOSTED FIFA WORLD CUP 2022?

Honestly one of the best world cups ever. Qatar 2022 had everything, from breath taking stadiums, major upsets and surprises, passionate supporters from all nations, and also marks the end of an era, with players such as Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar Jr, Thomas Muller, and Luis Suarez playing their last world cups. Every Argentinian and Lionel Messi fan will remember this for a lifetime. This world cup has helped put the Middle East on the football map.

However, should all this have really happened in the first place? Under what circumstances were Qatar given hosting rights to this tournament? From the moment Qatar were awarded hosting rights in 2010, there were always questions about migrant worker rights, given their abysmal record before. For this event, more than 6500 workers have given their life working tirelessly for long hours in the scorching Qatari heat. And by scorching I mean 45-50 C, where no normal person would even dare step out of their shelter. Was this worth all the sacrifice?

It was bizarre for everyone when Qatar was awarded rights to host the world cup in 2022. At the time, they were ranked 113 in the world, and there were questions on whether they deserved to be in the world cup, and if they could qualify on merit. Although now I do believe they would have qualified on merit, after winning the AFC Asian Cup in 2019 by beating the likes of South Korea, Japan, and Saudi Arabia.

During the bidding process, the main contenders were the trio of USA, Canada, and Mexico, and Qatar. However it was shocking that many CONCACAF (North America) voted for Qatar. There were obviously speculations of corruption. The then FIFA president Joseph "Sepp" Blatter was also known as one of the most corrupt FIFA presidents. So, it is possible that Qatar could have been involved in corruption such as bribing North American nations and FIFA to vote for them as hosts. In the aftermath, a lot of high-ranking FIFA officials were found guilty of corruption, including Sepp himself. Later on, he confirmed that it was a mistake giving Qatar world cup hosting rights. But the trouble did not stop there. Although Qatar did have successful and ambitious visions for the world cup, it was not achieved in the right way. While some people were sitting in their luxury mansions in the AC, some had to work under treacherous conditions with little to no pay till they died. For

migrant workers, their passports were confiscated once they arrived in the country and had to work in the searing heat all day, and stay in places without running water, AC, and electricity. They could not leave the country, as their passports were confiscated, and if they complained, the police would not take them seriously. They could not switch jobs in the country, as the employer had the authority to refuse permission to quit the job. This privilege was removed a little over 2 years ago. But until then, the workers worked in inhumane conditions, with no proper shelter, food, or pay. They couldn't even quit their job even if they wanted to. This phenomenon in layman's term is called slavery. So, until 2 years ago, slavery was still existent in Qatar, and was removed after heavy international pressure. Unsurprisingly, this world cup saw much more migrant worker deaths than the past few world cups put together.

In conclusion, Qatar should have not hosted the world cup given its horrible human rights and migrant workers death record, and possible corruption. The then FIFA president also confirmed that it was a mistake on their part. Regardless, the world cup was largely successful, bringing people of various different backgrounds together, and increasing the popularity of football in the Middle East and Asia. Qatar's FIFA ranking has also drastically improved, from 113 in 2010 to 58 today. Next, Qatar will host the AFC Asian Cup 2023 (which India is participating in) and the U23 AFC Asian Cup in 2024, bringing Asia closer together. Since all the infrastructure is already in place, hopefully there are no more cases of migrant worker deaths when preparing for these two tournaments.

**Anvit Anand, GIIB**

### EXTENDED READ HERE

The controversy began when Qatar launched its bid for the world cup. 14 people voted for Qatar to host the world cup in 2010. At the time Qatar did not have the resources to host a

world cup. In Fact, even FIFA stated that Qatar was not a suitable host for the world cup so how? Mohammed Bin Hammam was one of the executive members of the FIFA voting community. From Qatar, I think you can see how this story is going. He bribed most of the executives like Jack Warner who was paid 1.6 million dollars for his vote. This bribery continued for 8 people but 2 got disqualified. Michel Platini (UEFA president) who was persuaded by the French president to vote for Qatar. With the world cup handed over to Qatar. The Qataris started gathering construction workers from countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, etc. Companies started offering these plans with high pay and many workers decided to go to Qatar. The workers were offered High pay and good accommodation which were lies. When they reached the handlers would take the passports of the workers and they were then made to work under extreme conditions in Qatar's extreme heat. Workers frequently suffered heat strokes and heart attacks while constructing these stadiums. Many workers were sent back in critical health conditions. 6500 migrant workers have died since arriving in Qatar. Most death certificates don't have many details.

The Qatar world cup could have been better. If I were there in 2010 I would not have liked Qatar to host the world cup because of the lack of resources and football interest. With recent events, I would stay firm with my opinion. Qatar could have done it better by providing better working conditions and timing to the workers. The Qatar world cup showed something to the world. Football is supposed to connect people whatever their caste, race, or religion. That is the power of sport and the world cup but Qatar showed what really mattered Money.

**Nikhil Ganesh, G9A**



# REPORTAGE

## CLIMATE CHANGE & THE STEP BEING TAKEN

Floods had destroyed a third of Pakistan and many parts of India earlier this year. Europe battled its hottest summer in the past 500 years while the Arctic and Antarctic glaciers melted away faster than ever. High intensity Hurricanes and Cyclones left a trail of destruction costing billions of dollars across the world. The war between Russia and Ukraine left its mark and left an adverse impact on the climate. Climate change equally impacts the rich & the poor, people of all faiths, the developed, developing and underdeveloped countries, the young and the old, all of nature including humans and animals.

A lot of expectation to reverse climate change rested on the over 45,000 multitudes that came together in Sharm Al Sheikh for the COP27 climate change discussion. The question on everyone's mind was, "Would the adults leading these discussions today make the future bright for the kids of tomorrow?"

## COP 27 AND ITS OBJECTIVES

The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the group of nations that have signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. Today, over 198 countries are part of this forum. COP27 was held at Sharm Al Sheikh in Egypt between 3rd and 20th November 2022. The participants engaged in discussion on over 38 different initiatives. They focused on the following major objectives:

- 1.Reducing greenhouse emissions
- 2.Adapting our existing environment to climate change
- 3.Committing to Investments to reverse climate change
- 4.Improving Collaboration between Governments, Companies and Communities



## RESULTS OF COP27

While a lot of topics were discussed, very little was accomplished. Progress was disappointing on all major objectives:

**Reducing emissions:** A firm commitment was not made by developed countries on reducing emissions.

**Adaptation:** An action plan called the "Global Goal for Adaptation" was created for the first time. It included a general commitment of funds of over \$230 Million US dollars.

**Investments:** The forum agreed that an investment of \$4 - \$6 trillion dollars a year was needed to fight climate change. However, there was no clarity on how this will be made available

**Defining standards to become net zero:** The forum also decided to create a framework and set standards for private companies to become net zero

**The loss and damage fund:** A major success in this session was the establishment of "The loss and damage fund" to help developing countries manage the damage caused by climate change on their environment by developed countries

## WHAT CAN BE DONE?

I feel that there are a lot of actions we can take to combat climate change. We can act as individuals, as schools, companies and a country to fight climate change. A celebration and the strength of the multitudes can come together to help us combat climate change effectively.

**As individuals:** We should reduce the amount of products we buy and use. Every product has to be manufactured and most products need to be manufactured in factories and transported to stores which cause emissions. Every manufactured product also uses natural resources. Did you know that a single cotton T shirt uses around 2,700 liters of water to be produced?

**As schools:** Schools should take an active role in educating students about climate change. Students will in turn educate parents and relatives. This can help spread the message of climate change and the urgency to act

**As companies:** Companies should take the lead in investing in becoming carbon neutral. They should look to investing in green buildings and factories, renewable energy and electric vehicles.

**As a country:** We can take the lead showing other developed countries how we can grow quickly while not saving the environment. We should encourage our startups to focus on coming up with solutions to combat climate change. We should encourage more projects in renewable energy and the development of electric vehicles.

## SUMMARY

"We should view of the Climate change emergency in the same way the world

viewed Covid as a global emergency. Countries across the world quickly arranged billions of dollars and came together globally to fight the pandemic. It is time for us to act in the same manner to take on global warming. It requires collaboration across countries, a significant financial investment, R&D capabilities and permanent changes in lifestyles to effectively combat this emergency" said Dr. Adithi Mukherjee from CGIAR.

The World Economic Forum has clearly said that our lack of action on Climate Change is the number 1 global risk! The time to act is now. There is a lot we can do as individuals and a society to combat climate change. I am hoping that we as youngsters can inspire adults to make the world a better place.

# OPINION PIECES



Climate protests have started to come with new ways to combat rising global emissions and their latest tactic has been throwing food, glue and paint at art. These attempts have brought quite the laugh as one would expect from a man attempting to glue his baldhead to the Dutch Painter, Johannes Vermeer's "Girl with the pearl earring", to throwing a cake on the Monalisa. These shenanigans have been committed by a variety of Climate groups, but the ones which have been more prominent in these acts have been "Just Stop Oil" and "Letzte Generation". These stunts luckily didn't cause any harm to the paintings which were protected by the glass covering them.

To form an opinion on this topic I think it's important to delve into why these acts were committed. From the protests, we can see that these acts have been clearly committed to draw people's attention to the issue of climate change. Although the reduction of emissions has been the main reason, there are many underlying objectives for these protests which change from country to country. For example, in Germany, the stunts have been committed on the demand to cut speed limits on the country's highways to 100 km/hr and make public transport more affordable in turn reducing emissions. While in the UK, the stunts were committed as a protest against the government's decision to give access to new drilling locations to oil and gas companies.

The art stunts have gained the attention of a large audience all around the world and in a way it could be said that the activists have achieved their goal. People have had many different opinions about this form of protest: Is defamation of artwork necessary to bring awareness to a concerning subject? This can clearly be seen when the British Foreign secretary said "stop giving these attention seeking adult-toddlers the coverage they crave", while the famous Irish artist, Bob Geldof, said that what the activists are doing is "1000% correct."

In my opinion, the defamation of art or destruction of any property can't be used as a means of raising awareness. The damaging art should not be a method of civil disobedience and rather the offenders should be apprehended for this as a crime. Paintings are unique as they are able to display messages, history and aesthetics. These relics should be left untouched when protesting.

There are many other ways to spread widespread awareness on a topic without defaming artwork and still gaining a global audience. This can be done by the government and civil societies encouraging citizens to voice their opinions by giving them access to powerful platforms. For example, if a petition gains over 10 million signatures it could be considered a law or should be accepted by the government as a concern that they need to act upon immediately. Protesters have postured that the "protection of the painting is less important than the protection of the planet". This is down-right stupidity as firstly how is a painting impacting global emissions and secondly defaming the painting will, although bring attention, but this attention might not always be positive and lead to change.



## CLIMATE CHANGE PROTESTS

Yash Reddy, G9B

The Lawrence Livermore laboratory has made a major breakthrough by being the first to create nuclear fusion successfully in a lab! This is a major scientific milestone because nuclear power plants currently use nuclear fission, and scientists have been trying to replicate nuclear fusion reactions for decades. Now that we have replicated it successfully, nuclear fusion can be a safer and better alternative to nuclear fission. Nuclear fusion combines two hydrogen atoms to form helium, just like in the sun. Hydrogen is abundant on the earth's surface. The waste produced in fusion is much less radioactive than in fission, as fusion does not create any harmful emissions. Nuclear fusion cannot cause nuclear accidents because it is not based on a chain reaction and cannot be used to make weapons. Therefore, nuclear fusion is a clean, sustainable, and safe source of energy.

Skanda Kashyap, G4C

*The decision to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar has been a controversial one, due to criticism of the level to which human rights have been upheld by the nation in question. Was this the correct decision to take, or should it have been relocated?*

**READ MORE ON PAGE 13!**

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