



THE SHISHUKUNJ GAZETTE

LAUNCH
LAUNCH!
LAUNCH
LAUNCH

ISSUE #5

MARCH 2019

“There are two mistakes one can make along the road to truth - not going all the way, and not starting.”

-Buddha

WELCOME

= EDITORIAL =

Namaste

In the words of Charlie Chaplin, 'Nothing is permanent in this world' - not even Garvit's editorial. That said, I welcome you to the first issue of The Shishukunj Gazette for the session '19-'20!

The Gazette has, in all honesty, come a long way since its embarkment last year. The founding team did a splendid job in connecting the school to the world and the world to the school. Their initiative brought up many global and national issues that needed some serious teenage opinion, gave Shishukunj talent its opportunity to shine through the Student Corner, enlightened us with the extremely insightful Alumni Talks, blew our minds with its visual aesthetic, and most unforgettably, made us know that Advait Page chooses Marvel over DC! The Gazette truly has become a new member of the Shishukunj family.

I, along with the rest of the team, am deeply grateful to have the opportunity and privilege to carry forward this initiative. We hope to maintain and build on the standards set in the previous issues, bring fresh ideas, bold opinions, and innovative segments. This year shall be marked with the ambition and creativity of our fellow Shishyans. It will be our attempt to maximise the potential of their talents while staying rooted to the foundational idea of the Gazette- purposefulness, in moving towards a culture of contributing towards school publications.

Today, we stand looking forward to the year before us, filled with energy and intent, ready to work for our dreams, wishing to be better at the end of it than we are right now, at the beginning of it. In this, my wish is that the Gazette grows with you, motivates you, empowers you, pushes you, enlightens you and becomes better at the end of it than it was at the beginning of it.

To Tomorrow and Beyond!

Hardik Pandey
Editor-in-chief

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Around The World *in Eighty Lines*

- Ananya Saggi, X D

"I find television very educational. Most of the times someone switches it on, I go into the other room and read a book"
- Groucho Marx



US wouldn't let it be a 'Kim win', it certainly wasn't a 'win-win' either! We should award a Nobel Prize to Mr. Trump, or maybe Mr. Kim?



The never-ending Brexit circus has become a catch-22. Her deal has broken down, but Mrs. May survives. The deal the United Kingdom will make on exiting the EU has been rejected again, which may lead to another referendum or

modifications in the 556-page document.



Closer home, in the land of the Vedas, the country is set to take on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. History repeats itself, but the tables have turned as a scenario similar to the 1977 elections

builds up, but against the BJP. The 'Mahagathbandhan' members are grasping at the straws to stir the boat in favour of the opposition. As of now, predicting the outcome is like belling the cat.

China has yet again, sided with Pakistan, exercising its veto, to put a hold on banning Jaish-e-Mohammed chief, Masood Azhar. A selfish move, to protect the country's

investment in Pakistan, but maybe China has forgotten that Azhar can have the cake and eat it as well.



The 'school of different thought' also has a hustling- bustling world of its own. March is a month of expectations! While the current batches of Class X and XII are still writing their board papers, the school welcomed its new batch of Class X and XII on March 1, 2019. Expectations are high and I am sure that they will breeze through this year and the boards too! As for classes 7, 8 and 9, who joined us on the 14th and class 6, which is to join on the 26th, the session will be a rollercoaster of adventure for them too!

PULWAMA ATTACK

- Nirali Mahajan, X C

It's gut-wrenching how a single act of terrorism can leave a permanent black spot on the joy of the nation. 14th February, typically recognised as the day of love, was peppered with fear this year by one of the deadliest terrorist attacks Jammu and Kashmir has ever experienced.



On 14th February 2019, a convoy of vehicles carrying security personnel on the Jammu Srinagar highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber (carrying 100 kg of explosives) in the Pulwama district of Kashmir. Forty of the CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) were killed and many were left critically wounded. The Pakistan-based Islami militant group, Jaish-e-Mohammad, was responsible for the attack and India thus blamed Pakistan for it. Pakistan

censured the attack but denied any connection to it.

Since independence, Kashmir has always been a matter of dispute between India and Pakistan. It is divided into POK and IOK by the LOC (Line of control).

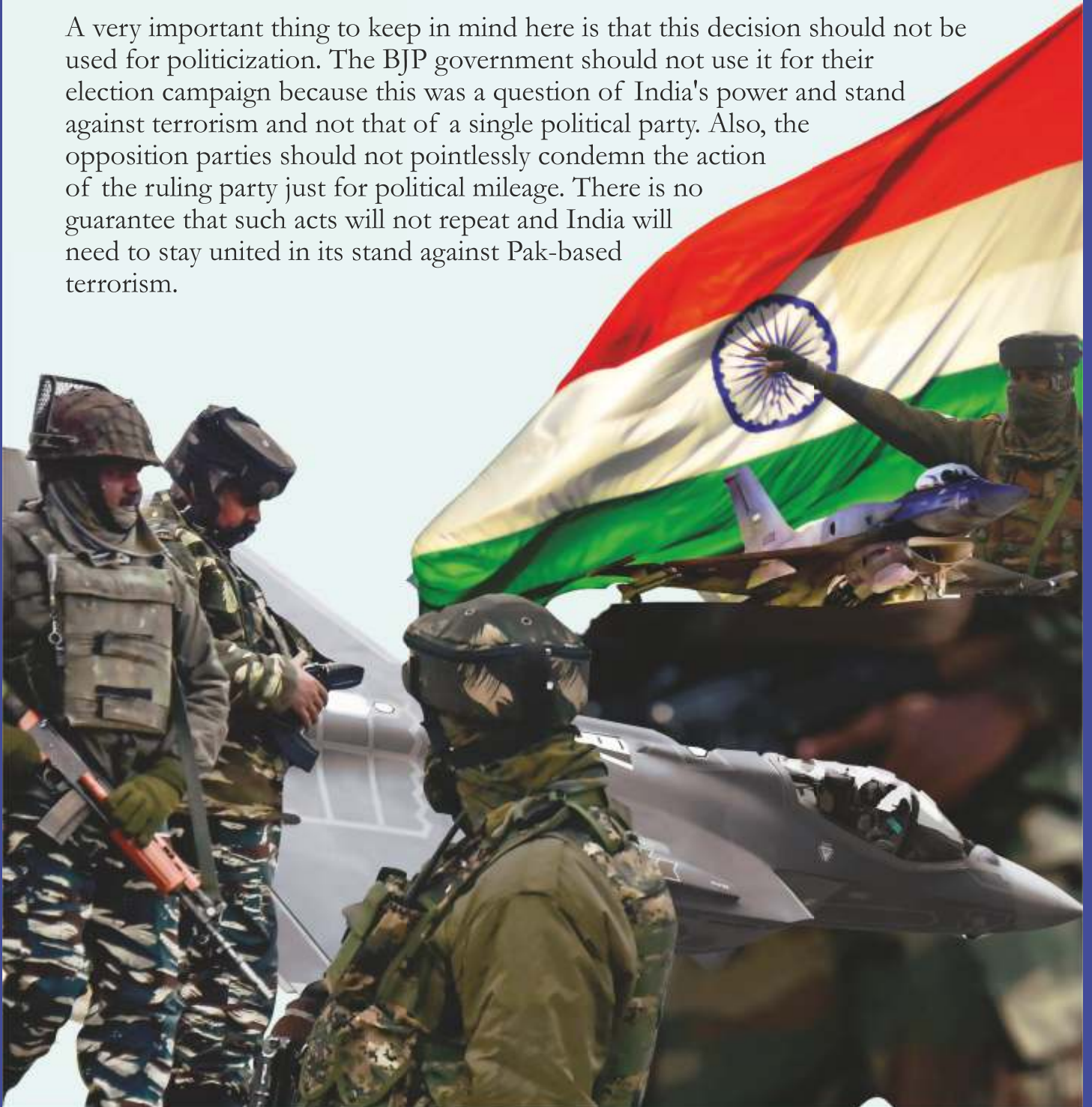
interesting fact:

Did you know, that LOC is a battle line, and not an international border?

The 40 CRPF officers who died in the Pulwama attack are not war martyrs as they are a part of the paramilitary forces (not officially a part of armed forces); they died as a result of a terror attack where they didn't even get to put their military skills into action.

On the other hand, the government's reaction to the attack and the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces, particularly the Air Force, are something to be proud of. The Indian government did not succumb to international pressure, and carried out an air strike targeting the JeM Terrorist base in Balakot, Pakistan. Also, Indian MIG-21 under Wing Commander Abhinandan shot down a Pakistan F-16, one of the most powerful planes till date. Even though Abhinandan was kept hostage by Pak after his aircraft took a hit, they could not hold him for long because of escalating international pressure.

A very important thing to keep in mind here is that this decision should not be used for politicization. The BJP government should not use it for their election campaign because this was a question of India's power and stand against terrorism and not that of a single political party. Also, the opposition parties should not pointlessly condemn the action of the ruling party just for political mileage. There is no guarantee that such acts will not repeat and India will need to stay united in its stand against Pak-based terrorism.



COLOURING INDIA!

- Shruti Laddha, X B

The very beginning of March brings a wave of excitement amongst all of us as it brings with it Holi, one of the favourite festivals of India.

The night before Holi, as I stood by the roaring bonfire in my colony, the whole story behind the festival flashed before my eyes. Legend has it that once, there was a demon king Hiranyakashyap, who took so much pride in himself that he wanted everyone to worship only him. Disappointingly, his own son Prahlad was a great devotee of Lord Vishnu, and refused to worship his father. This infuriated the egoistic king and he carried out various attempts to kill his own son, who was always saved by Lord Vishnu. Finally, Hiranyakashyap asked his sister Holika, to sit on a burning pyre, with Prahlad on her lap. Holika had a boon, whereby, she could enter fire and remain unharmed. So, with Prahlad on her lap, she sat on the pyre and ignited it. However, what happened next was totally unpredicted. Holika was burnt to ashes, as her boon worked only when she entered fire alone, and Prahlad was once again saved by the almighty, Vishnu. This marked the end of Holika and the victory of good over evil.

Since then, the day is celebrated as Holi all over India. It is believed that Lord Krishna celebrated Holi by applying colour on his beloved Radha. The trend continues even now, with Holi being referred to as the festival of colours.

Besides being of great religious significance in making people believe in truth and honesty, Holi has immense cultural and social significance too. It is celebrated when the peasants are eagerly waiting for their harvest, and gives them a reason to rejoice. It reflects the secularism of India as even non-Hindus celebrate this colorful and joyous festival. Almost all the states enjoy the festival with their own cultural variations, including the 'lath maar' Holi of Uttar Pradesh and Rang Panchmi of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. This festival truly colors many lives!

I hope this Holi, we all understand and witness the power of goodness, leave behind all our evil deeds and pledge to celebrate the festival in its true sense, without wasting any water. Have a colorful, safe and happy Holi!




MARCH 8 Women's Day

- Pranavi Agrawal, XII A

'Better the balance, better the world'. With this theme, the entire globe celebrated the contribution of women in the form of an international festival on 8th March- International Women's Day. I woke up to a plethora of messages in my inbox- discounts on cosmetics, shoes, handbags, clothes, and what not. There were offers in salons and restaurants all over too. Despite women organising conferences on finance, environmental problems and concerns on gender equality, digital media had already threatened to reduce the occasion largely to hashtags and discounts.

On checking the International Women's Day 2019 website, I saw that the partners included Amazon, Oracle and McDonald's. Ironically, Amazon is facing a huge backlash from the world due to a gender diversity problem, Oracle is reported to be facing a civil rights suit that alleges females were on an average paid less per year than men doing similar work, and McDonald's has reportedly failed to pay its largely female workforce the minimum wage. In India too, several companies with pay gap and gender diversity problems celebrated the day, despite the alarming trend of more and more women withdrawing from the workforce. All of them supported the campaign, #BalanceforBetter.



Although International Women's Day is an occasion for pampering ourselves and enthusiastically celebrating women in various roles as mothers, daughters, and sisters, it is also so much more. It focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, instead of allowing a day rooted in protest to be taken over by consumerism. Therefore, in honour of this International Women's Day, I urge all the strong, confident and independent women around me to mobilise around specific issues like the areas of social protection systems, access to public services, better sanitation facilities, and equal wages, and make sustained demands for effective change in the existing conditions. Here is to the women of the past, the present, and the future, and all of the women to break barriers and pave ways for the next generation of women.

STORIES

WHEN THE RIVER MEETS THE HORIZON

- Adviteeya Khujneri, XII E

“Out, beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing there is a field. I’ll meet you there. When the soul lies down in the grass, the world is too full to talk about.” - Rumi

Shahida said her evening prayers while Aamir lay on the grass next to Salman (their father) watching the sky change its paint. She called for the boy of seven and her father when supper was ready. And by supper, she meant boiling water with a few carrots and peas, a loaf of bread, and some boiled potatoes. It was all they could afford. When she came to call her brother inside, he asked her if she saw the clouds turn pink.

“They’re still white, and now come on inside. You don’t want the mosquitoes to make supper off you.”

“But are they really?”

“If you get too used to looking at them, a small difference doesn’t escape the eye,” said Salman, lost in his own thoughts.

“Of course, baba. Aamir, come in now, supper is ready.” But Aamir refused to go inside at once.

“Let him be,” Salman said.

“But baba, he has to sleep, too—”

“What did I tell you?”

She went inside.

It was close to three in the morning, when Aamir came to Shahida’s room. They lived in a small hut in the village. It was their identity now.

“I can’t sleep.”

“What happened?” asked Shahida, even though she knew the reason Aamir couldn’t sleep every night. He missed her. Terribly. And he came to Shahida for comfort because she was ‘her’ in both face and character. Seventeen, but strong like her mother. Seventeen, and trying her best to make a seven year-old not miss his mother too much.

Aamir, Shahida and Salman had managed to escape when the Taliban had come to burn down their village. They didn’t know if she survived. The grief of separation had completely broken down the children, and their once playful abba. Shahida instructed Aamir to not mention their mother in front of abba. After all, abba was just a man in too much pain, and ‘he doesn’t deserve this either’ were the only words that kept her going.

Shahida kept stroking his head until Aamir fell asleep. She didn’t know when abba was to come home, and her burdens kept her awake under the old roof.

The next morning, they all went to the fair to see people float their paper boats down the river in remembrance of their loved ones. Shahida helped Aamir make his boat. It was small, but strengthened with emotion and sorrow. When they set the boat to sail,

it started raining. Shahida knew that the boat wouldn’t survive. Aamir looked up at his sister with his child-like innocence and sorrow. She couldn’t possibly show her tears now. She saw the Taliban flag on the hilltop across the river, and put her hand on Aamir’s shoulder. “Let’s go, Aamir.”

Just a few steps on their way back home, she realised Aamir was not following her. Shahida called out his name countless times. But he was nowhere to be found. Suddenly, a voice came from beyond the crowd, “Shahida! Come here!”

She followed his voice, for her eyes were betraying her because of all the tears. She loved him and had always protected him from the outside world, scared of what it could do to his innocence. This worry made her overly protective of him sometimes.

After all, he was just a young boy, and her worries clouded her rationale. All this time, her idea of protecting a flower was to keep it in a box and not in sunlight. To her relief, she saw Aamir running along the bank of the river. Just when her protective instinct was about to grab hold of him, she saw the boat still making its way through the river. She looked down at him, confused.

“I didn’t mean to scare you. I’m sorry. I just wanted to see where it’s taking her.” Aamir said. She smiled, the tears right there, only happier. “Can we?” he asked. Shahida nodded with a grateful smile on her face. And they ran, and ran, and ran, and kept running with their hands holding their spirits. Shahida found her brother in that little boat. Aamir, his life.

PRISON STORIES

- an excerpt from Dostoevsky's biography by Jennifer Jay

In April of 1849, the members of a group called Speshnev's Secret Revolutionary Society were arrested by the Tsarist police and taken to the Peter and Paul Fortress, a prison used for important and maximum-security prisoners. One of these prisoners was a young man in his 20's who went on to become one of Russia's most revered authors- Fyodor Dostoevsky.

The conditions in this prison were bleak at best. The prisoners slept on hard straw beds in small, damp rooms without much light. For eight months Dostoevsky and his fellow prisoners were questioned and kept in jail. For the first part of the imprisonment, the inmates were without books, without any form of entertainment. The conditions were as those in solitary confinement. After some time, books were allowed, which helped alleviate the ennui. Most of these books were of a religious nature, so Dostoevsky spent his time poring over the Bible and various spiritual books.

In October, the prisoners were finally removed from their cells and led to awaiting carriages. They were not sure of their fate yet, but assumed the sentence would be fairly light. When the carriages stopped, the prisoners were led onto a square and lined up on a gallows. The men were sentenced to be shot; they were given a cross to kiss, the chance to confess to a priest, and then were dressed in peasant shirts and hoods for the execution. The first three men in line were led to some stakes and tied; the soldiers took aim, and held their positions. Soon Dostoevsky heard a drum roll and realized that he, the sixth in line, and his fellow prisoners, were to be saved. The tsar's messenger came riding into the square and read the pardon. Dostoevsky and his group were taken back to the prison and prepared for the long journey to hard labor camp in Siberia.

This scene on the square, the staged execution, and the last minute pardon were to have a lasting effect on many from the group. Two even went permanently insane from the psychological trauma experienced as they faced certain death. While the experience was definitely traumatic for Fyodor Mikhailovich, he internalized the situation much differently. This scene was to serve as a reaffirmation and strengthening agent of his religious beliefs. This close scrape with death gave Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky a new appreciation of life.

As his appreciation for life was renewed, he discovered that man can overcome oppressive circumstances and be joyful. His philosophy became one of unconditional love and forgiveness -- two moral values which struck him in the moments before his "execution." In a letter to his brother Mikhail, Fyodor told him of his new outlook towards life. Never before had Fyodor had a true appreciation for life. "When I look back on my past and think how much time I wasted on nothing, how much time has been lost in futilities, errors, laziness, incapacity to live; how little I appreciated it, how many times I sinned against my heart and soul - then my heart bleeds. Life is a gift, life is happiness, every minute can be an eternity of happiness."

A Pale Blue Dot

- Ranveer Kapoor, XII E

Some time in 1980, the famous space probe, The Voyager, went further in the universe than any other human-made-object had ever gone. When it reached the rings of Saturn, NASA was asked by one man to turn its cameras to the Earth and click a quick shot of how the planet looked from there. This man was none other than the eminent astrophysicist and author, Carl Sagan. What followed was arguably one of the greatest pictures ever clicked, only outshone by the speech, 'The Pale Blue Dot', that followed from its instigator.

In this 'vast arena' we call the universe, our planet is very insignificant yet very important. In his speech, Dr. Sagan focused on one simple fact: 'This is what our entire world looks like from 6 billion kms. This is the place where everything has happened to everyone we know who has ever existed. Everything that happened in the history of the world happened at this exact place, at that 'unnoticeable dot.' And yet, that is just what is seen from the edge of the solar system. The Universe is way, way bigger. The distances to the stars you see in a beautiful starry night make the distance to Saturn look like a centimetre. Makes us look very insignificant, doesn't it? Well, here is another fact: Although so small, our place in the universe is indeed very important, because we are the most beautiful of its creations. As far as we know, out of the nine planets in the solar system, out of the billions of solar systems in the galaxy, and out of the billions of galaxies which make up the universe, we seem to be the only planet which sustains life. Life, which is so intelligent, it has the capacity to question itself and the universe's existence. So intelligent, that it can almost control nature. Life is a descendant of the stars because the iron in our blood and the carbon in our skin, all came from those twinkling beauties. Life, which came into being as the consequence of the working of the universe is now a huge part of it, just by existing.

So, whenever you look up at the sky, don't feel small. Feel Big. You are the very child of the cosmos. You come from the stars. The atoms that were made when this universe burst into reality are the same atoms that you and I contain. Sagan reminded us of our insignificance to only emphasise on our role in this grand reality. Like the 'Pale Blue Dot', be the light of hope, knowledge and kindness in the vast dark around you.



Interpreting Masterpieces

Voyager 1

Photograph of planet Earth taken on February 14, 1990, by the space probe from a record distance of about 6 billion kilometers, as part of Family Portrait series of images of the Solar System.

THE NEXT SMALL STEP

- Hardik Pandey, XII B



As the Apollo 11 crew on July 16, 1969 counted down the ticking alarm clock, 10...9...8...7..., millions of hearts around the world matched its rhythm, counting down on what was the launch of the greatest human adventure. An adventure leading to a cosmic moment, a moment that has not only defined humanity, but all life on earth. A small step, equivalent in magnitude to the first combination of RNA or the first bacteria to exist on land or the human cognitive revolution. A small step, that excited millions of young minds, allowed them to dream of achieving what seemed unachievable. It has been around 50 years since then, and today, at the advent of a new decade, the same young minds that were fascinated by human ambition and drive 50 years ago have brought us closer than ever to the next small step. British space journalist and broadcaster Sarah Cruddas says, "Exploration is what defines us as human beings. Mars is the next step. We're just doing in terms of space travel what we've always done in terms of exploring the globe."

Scientists and Presidents around the world have also reached a similar conclusion, and rightly so. There is reason behind the next small step being on Mars. It's a planet that used to be warmer and wetter, which once could have harboured life – and when on the surface, humans will be able to do much more than the rovers on the planet can. Mars is also relatively closer, and more earth-like, allowing the possibility of completely terraforming (to deliberately modify a planet's temperature, ecosystem etc. to make it similar to Earth) the planet. The debate is not on, where do we go? But more of, how do we get there? And, who will get us there? The scale of a mission to Mars is hard to envisage. Several challenges, like the different distances according to the orbits, load capacity, fuel management and multi-stage launch and landing system, are problems we are still in the process of answering. While NASA has partnered with Boeing to work on the Space Launch System (SLS) – the most powerful rocket yet developed, a crucial part of their objective of reaching Mars by 2030, it is the private players that have taken the industry by a storm.

SpaceX recently launched the world's most powerful rocket- the Falcon Heavy- into orbit with a Tesla Roadster as its package. The main boosters of the rocket landed back on Earth on either landing pads or floating pads in the ocean. In the past decade, the concept of reusable rockets-mastered by SpaceX and Blue Origin (owned by Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos, respectively) has made space travel more financially viable than ever before. But while SpaceX dreams of colonies on Mars, Richard Branson run Virgin Galactic wants to provide a fun round trip around Earth, and Blue Origin wants to focus on its research based application. Overall though, the increase in competition has only resulted in good things.

The culmination of the return of excitement surrounding space travel, passionate private players and an accepting global scenario on reaching Mars means that it is time for humanity to venture into the unknown- again.



Khaled Hosseini's literary debut has been undeniably read 'a thousand times over'. A plot that revolves around two boys who want to win a kite-fighting tournament, **The Kite Runner** will thrill and move you, at the same time. Readers will be amazed by the detailed descriptions of Afghan life and the hardships that come with it. The Kite Runner builds on its primary plot quickly, keeping the readers engaged, and then talks of a story of the triumph of good over evil and of right over wrong- a thought we should all learn from.

GAZETTE RECOMMENDS:

Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice is one of those stories that are truly capable of resisting the passage of time. Jane Austen, its author, does a credible job at immersing the reader into a time completely different to ours, while maintaining clever dialogue, interesting characters and a plot for the ages. However, it is the relevance of the problems depicted in the novel to our present world that makes this book the classic it is.



STUDENTS / CORNER



Rupika Rathore
Class X A



Agya Chetan
Class VIII C

सूरज को भी ढलने दे

मैं समझ नहीं पाता हूँ
उनके आँसू किस दर्द के होते हैं,
जो बढ़ना भी चाहते हैं आगे
और अपनों को छोड़ने से डरते हैं।

अरे तू सपने बड़े देखता है तो
हौसला भी तू रख बुलंद
छोड़ना भी पढ़े अगर तो
छोड़ दे सब जो तुझे हो पसंद

रास्ते में अंगारें हों तो
पैरों को भी जलने दे,
अंधेरों से डरता है तो
सूरज को भी ढलने दे।

तू गलने दे उस कश्ती को
नदी जिससे तू पार करे।
तू मरने दे उन इच्छाओं को
भी जिनसे तू प्यार करे।

असंभव भी संभव कर दे
तू अपने मनोबल से
पैर भी तू लम्बे कर ले
इस छोटी सी कम्बल से।

इतनी ज़ोर से बढ़ा क़दम
की भूकंप भी आ जाए
धरती तो हिले ही मगर
आसमान भी हिल जाए

तू ऐसे अपनी मंज़िल को
अपना खुदा बना लेना
की खुदा भी अड़चन बने अगर तो
उससे भी तू लड़ लेना।

Harshwardhan Saklecha
Class XII B

The Bazaar

When I checked the fridge there was no food
 And I could do nothing but drool
 So I picked up my bag and went to the bazaar
 A place which was very far
 Now rumors go around that it's a strange place
 With flying pots and a magical race
 Funny shopkeepers with a mysterious past
 And the shoppers there are never the last
 I saw a man breathing fire and a genie lamp
 And the atmosphere over there was pretty damp
 People placing bets on theories and watching shows
 An auction being held which got everyone on their toes
 Seeing everything there put me in shock
 Guess I forgot for what I was there for

Aaheli Roy
Class 8-E

Interested to Contribute for Students' Corner?

Some Guidelines:

- 1) Make sure to have a well thought out content.
- 2) Photographs are recommended in 'TIFF (.tiff)' format.
- 3) ONLY scanned copies of Sketches/Doodles are acceptable.
- 4) Reach Out - gazette@shishukunj.in



ACCOLADES

We take immense pleasure in sharing the following three accolades that have been bestowed upon Shishukunj recently:

1. The Shishukunj International School, has been recognized as one of **“The Economic Times Best Education Brands 2019”** in a research involving over 9000 participants across the country. The foremost brands from pre-school to post graduate institutes were part of this research.

2. The Shishukunj International School, Indore, has been selected to feature in the fifth edition of **“Forbs India (Marquee) Publication - Great Indian Schools”**, to be released between May and July 2019. Schools that have set a benchmark for quality education in our country are featured in this prestigious publication.

3. As you are aware **‘ASSET’** is a nationally acclaimed test for academic audit. ‘ASSET’ report speaks about the academic health of a school. It tests how well students have understood the concepts underlying the school curriculum and NOT just how well they remember the facts given in textbooks. ASSET is taken by over 3,50,000 students from approximately 1000 reputed schools of India.

We are happy to share that more than 50% students from Classes III to X of The Shishukunj International School, Indore, fall in the category of top-16 percentile at National level:

80 students among top 1% nationally,
340 students among next top 5% nationally and
585 students among next 10% nationally.

In Mathematics and Science, all classes (except Mathematics of grade 3) are above average when bench-marked with top 10 ASSET schools of India. We extend our sincere thanks to the educators for their consistent hard work and compliment the young and energetic Shishyans for this significant success.

* 16% to 44% higher than the National benchmark
* 13% to 33% higher than the regional benchmark and
* 18% to 46% higher than Metro benchmark (nearest metro Mumbai).

“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.”

-Edward Everett Hale

SEE YOU NEXT MONTH

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