

# Vasant Valley

## LEARNINGS, MEMORIES, AND A NEW FAMILY



I walked into the summit hesitantly- I felt the sting of being a shy person and struggled to juggle the drama in India with the massive amount of summit work, and I got the least amount of sleep I've ever gotten. But it was being around people- the mere presence of teenagers my age who are so incredible, intelligent, and accomplished in every which way, that helped take my mind off of unimportant things and enabled me to enjoy this week as much as I could.

To be frank, I applied for the Summit because I love exploring and meeting new people. Saying that those two things drive much of what I do in life is a gross understatement. All the other numerous benefits, such as solving global issues, or giving interesting presentations, were certainly on my mind, but did not motivate me nearly as much. When I heard I was chosen to represent Vasant Valley School and India at large, I was excited but also pressed with the sudden realisation that perhaps this was all a bit much. Perhaps these other students, the vast majority of whom come from very different cultural backgrounds than myself, wouldn't accept me as an intellectual, and more importantly, as a friend.

I am wonderfully pleased to say I was hopelessly incorrect. Upon arriving at Hwa-Chong, and meeting the facilitators and other students, I realised that everyone there was welcoming and ready to work together. Throughout my eight days in Singapore I made countless friends, had discussions ranging from the implications of an international trade war, to whether or not pineapple pizza is acceptable (my verdict is that it is, but it's certainly not the tastiest thing in the world), and visited what are hands down some of the most amazing places I have ever been to. There is no way I could possibly have just ONE favourite activity, but some highlights for me were "Who, What, Huh", personally talking to the minister of foreign affairs, and meeting and presenting our poster on inequality to the President of Singapore.

Yes, at times the days became a bit too long, and the schedules seemed a bit too packed. I'm certain everyone found something that they wish could have been a bit different, but that is what change and feedback are for. This was not the first time the Summit was held, and this will not be the last. Perhaps that makes it seem like we were all just a flash in a pan, and that may even be true. Maybe next year the students will have the perfect time, and they will come up with the most ideal and tangible change for the world, and the 12th Summit will just become a vague and distant memory. I don't see it that way, though. Instead, I see our Summit as a reflection on the past, a review of the present, and an outlook on the future. Each Summit is different, and it will take some time before each of us comes to a personal decision as to what this one meant to us.

The summit wouldn't have been the same without my fellow delegates. Who would have thought eighty some-odd students from around the world would be able to work together to actually discuss, and not just yell, about extremely polarising subjects in the 21st century? I certainly didn't. More importantly, the bonds we've formed will last a lifetime, I'm sure of it, despite any lingering fear of us forgetting about each other.

And finally, a special shout out to the facilitators. Hearing how they would routinely pull all-nighters to ensure we had a full schedule for the next day, and to edit the end of summit video, was incredibly humbling. We, the students, will never understand truly how much hard work they put into making sure the summit ran smoothly, nor will they most likely receive all of the credit which they likely deserve. Instead, all I can offer are the fond memories and silly stories they can share for the months to come. I hope that will suffice.

It was undoubtedly a life changing experience that I will not forget easily. I have walked away from the summit with not only newly acquired knowledge but also new friends, new experiences, and a new family, and I am forever grateful.

**Aditya Venkataraman, 12**



### SCHOOL WATCH

#### Vaad-Vivaad Pratiyogita, Class 10

1st: Shrijeet Kolley  
2nd: Nilakshi Tiwari and Rishnav Thadani  
3rd: Vedika Bagla

#### Inter House Social Science Quiz, Classes 9 - 12

1st: Yellow House- Jayaditya Bagrodia,  
Prithvi Oak, Arnav Sethi and Shaurya Sarin  
2nd: Green House- Tara Jing Gopinath,  
Rishnav Thadani, Shiv Mehta and Aryan Sadh

#### Inter Section Debate Results

##### Class 6

1st Kabir Bahl  
2nd Sahima  
3rd Miheeka Bagla

##### Class 7

1st Ritwick Sapra  
2nd Sumaya Beri  
3rd Shubkarman Singh Sandhu

##### Class 8

Best speaker -Taanvir sood  
2nd best speaker- Udhay Aman Chopra  
3rd Gabiya Nayyar and Jai Relan

##### Class 9

Best Speaker: Arshya Gaur  
Second best Speaker: Abhimanyu J Kumar  
Best Interjector: Mahika Dalmia  
Best section:9 A

##### Class 10

Best speaker:Rishnav Thadani  
2nd best speaker:Anahita Mahajan  
Best Interjector: Kartik Vaish  
Best section:10B

##### Class 11

Best speaker - Aditya Parashar and Anoushka lays  
Best Interjector- Tanvi Bahl  
Best Section- 11 A

##### Class 12

Best speaker- Aryan Sadh  
2nd best speaker - Mahin Bhardwaj  
Best interjector- Nayna Puri  
Best section- 12 A

# A CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE

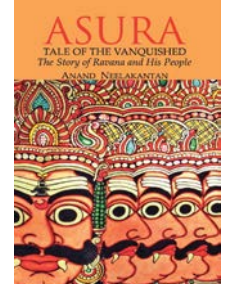
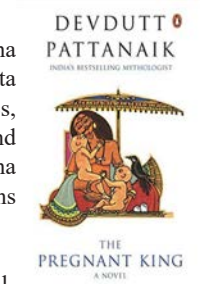
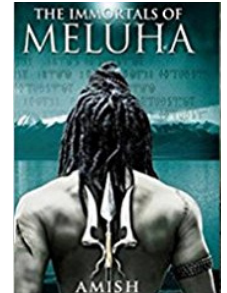
## THE GODS OF TODAY

There has been a rise in mythology present in our contemporary fiction that has led us to question societal norms and practices of ancient and present times. We have grown up hearing these tales and myths, and having them put before us in such a form intrigues the childhood curiosity we thought was long gone. Various authors are interested in this genre and have written books that beg us to imagine these myths, which we are so well versed in, with a different light.

From writing about feminism, to exploring the ambiguous meaning of truth, these authors have opened portals into the past worlds. Devdutt Pattanaik's innumerable bestsellers that raise questions about how we view stories and myths, and what makes us believe in them. In his 'The Pregnant King' he brings attention to the LGBTQ characters present in our myths, highlighting the resulting dissonance and the need for acceptance.

Amish Tripathi's chart-busting Shiva trilogy and the success of the first book in his Ramayana series, Anand Neelakantan's insights on the good in the so-called villains from the epics, Kavita Kane's and Anuja Chandramouli's interest in the minor female characters that form the epics, Amruta Patil's detailed writings that touch the souls of the ideals behind the Mahabharata and Puranas, Samhita Arni's dystopian *The Missing Queen*, that transforms the end of the Ramayana for the readers... are just some examples of people that are re-thinking and re-evaluating the myths common amongst us.

None of these tales are the same everywhere. Their stories vary from region to region and are altered upon each retelling. These authors just bring together the core ideas that have developed over centuries from these versions and present them to us in a form easy to understand. We have lost touch with our past and these stories stand to show how very similar it was to the present, with central themes like war and conflict and righteousness which make the rhetoric of the gods less questionable and more relatable. They give us a new perspective.



Kavyini Garodia, 9

## MADE IN ~~BRITAIN~~ INDIA

The Swadeshi Movement was a turning point in the Indian Freedom Struggle; a true confidant to the ideas of nationalism and nation-wide unity. The British, took away our fibres, to be processed in England, only to be sold back to India, at escalated prices. This movement was initiated as a small spark of resistance in every misery-torn Indian household, only to ignite in modern India as the scheme launched by our Prime Minister, 'Make In India.' Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje said that Gandhi's Swadeshi movement and the 'Make in India' programme were based on the same ideology.

'Make in India' encourages the feeling of 'swadeshi' to make India economically independent and self-sustaining, which is the need of the hour. It facilitates investment and enhanced productivity in skill, innovation, development and infrastructure, and emphasises on letting domestic countries grow. It encourages khadi, art, painting, printing and handicrafts, and tries to make these fields attractive for the youth, while keeping ideals of the past alive.

This movement encouraged nationalism and independence then, and today it keeps these ideas alive. To make a strong nation, that is young in terms of independence, being rooted to the lessons of the past, promises progress. Having been nurtured by great minds, like Gandhi, India can grow and learn simultaneously.

Katyayani Jha, 9

## Economic Development in India

These 70 years have seen many changes in the economic landscape of the World's 6th largest economy. At the time of Independence, India accounted for only 3% of the world's GDP. In 2017, India accounts for 8.5% of WGDP. From being on the verge of bankruptcy, to becoming the fastest growing major economy in the world, India has come a long way.

In 1947, agriculture accounted for 54% of India's GDP. Now it accounts for approximately 13%. Earlier, 60% of India depended on agriculture to sustain themselves. In 2017, this number reduced to about 52%. By 2050, India will have a population of over 1.7 billion, and a good part of that population will have to be gainfully employed outside of agriculture and the rural sector.

The nation's foreign exchange reserves have grown to over \$406.06 billion from a mere \$2 billion at the time of independence. Strong foreign exchange reserves have given the economy more fire power to withstand external shocks.

By the turn of the 21st century, India had progressed towards a free-market economy, with a substantial reduction in state control of the economy and increased financial liberalization. This has been accompanied by an increase in life expectancy, literacy rates and food security. This exponential growth has led many to believe that while India has come a long way, it has yet to grow and develop more.

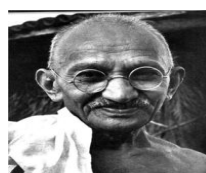
Anahita Kukreja, 9



1857: Indian Rebellion



1885: Indian National Congress Established



1915: Mahatma Gandhi Returns to India



1917: Champaran Satyagrah



1919: Jallianwala Bagh Massacre



## INDIAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN CINEMA

When we talk about India, or Indian culture, an aspect of the country that always comes to mind is the Indian Cinema, or more specifically- Bollywood.

Bollywood is the largest film industry in the world in terms of number of tickets sold and number of films produced, and as such it has many impressive achievements that as Indians we should be very proud of.

Mother India (1957) was the first ever Indian film to be nominated for the Oscar for best foreign film.

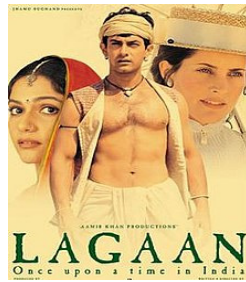
Lagaan (2001) won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. It was also the first ever Hindi film to be released in China.

Kaho Naa... Pyaar Hai (2000) won the Guinness World Record for most number of awards for a movie.

In 1999, Amitabh Bachchan was honoured with the Actor of the Century award at the Alexandria International Film Festival in 2001.

Shah Rukh Khan, another prominent Bollywood figure, is the second richest actor in the world, and received the Padma Shri, a prestigious Indian civilian award, by the Government of India in 2005.

**Sahil Armaan Kumar, 12**



### भारतीय विदेशी संबंध

भारत ने विश्व की कई संस्थाओं का निर्माण करने में सहायता की है जैसे कीकि युनाइटेड नेशंस, एशियन डेवलपमेंट बैंक, ब्रिक्स बैंक, सार्क और जी-२०।

भारत असंयुक्त आंदोलन (नॉन अलाइनमेंट मूवमेंट) का भी संस्थापक था।

भारत की बांग्लादेश को स्वतंत्रता दिलाने में एक प्रभावशाली भूमिका थी।

भारत अपनी लगातार कोशिश से अमेरिका, इजराइल और अरब देशों में सुरक्षा व दूसरे साधनों को पाने में समर्थ हो रहा है।

**रिआना सोनी, १०**

## Microfiction Mornings:

*The topics for this edition of microfiction were chosen to relate to Independence Day.*

*Freedom to live as we wish comes with the responsibility to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong, and India has done so with flying colours. (Freedom)*

**Kabir Bahl, 6**

*Freedom is a precious gift. It gives you the ability to choose your own path to success, and pave your own ways to succeed. (Freedom)*

**Ayesha Thakur, 6**

*The war was over and the cities had been secured. But questions still arose, "Who had won?" "Was there even a winner?" (Nation)*

**Darsh Puri, 7**

*Respect and love your nation as much as its soil respects and loves you. (Nation)*

**Sumair Gupta, 7**

*Her breathing becomes softer and fainter. Life is lost from her eyes. But the unity she spread brings colour back into her world. (Unity)*

**Adeena Adeeb, 8**

*In this divided world of colour, caste and religion, there needs to be a sense of unity, where we stop looking at differences, and focus on similarities instead. (Unity)*

**Mehek Anand, 8**

*A few limbs missing, a few teeth broken, he returned to his country; his final words spoken. As his soul faded away, fire burned in the people's hearts. (Courage)*

**Kavin Bhatia, 9**

*On that stormy night, in the dark alley, there was a boy surrounded by four grown men. He knew getting out of the situation would be tricky, but with courage in his heart, he had to try. (Courage)*

**Ishaan Wahi, 9**

*Pride- the feeling that accompanied her unbearable sorrow when the call informing her of her sons death on the battlefield arrived. (Pride)*

**Jindsaroop Kaur Sandhu, 10**

*Although he had suffered much misery in the nation, on the 15th of August, he was proud to be an Indian. (Pride)*

**Kushagra Goenka, 10**

*One word, seven letters long, with the power to determine our every next step. (Destiny)*

**Anahita Jain, 11**

*Maybe our destiny does not have to be spelt out in galaxies, or hidden between the stars, or even engraved in the lines of palms, in order to exist. (Destiny)*

**Devaki Divan, 11**



**1920: Non-cooperation Movement**



**1922: Chauri Chaura Incident**



**1930: Civil Disobedience Movement**



**1942: Quit India Movement**



**1947: Independence**



Foundation 'Getting Ready to Celebrate 72nd Independence Day'

### Bullying

They'll beat you up  
 Black and blue  
 Small vs big  
 One vs two  
 Kicking, punching  
 Skinning to the core  
 Those can't be the only things that hurt  
 Words burn much more  
 Teasing, jeering  
 Calling each other many a names  
 Emotionally scarring, scaring  
 Oh, what a shame!  
 A stranger's been blackmailing you  
 Your computer has been hacked  
 Safety and security  
 Is what's the internet has always lacked  
 Bullies are usually cowards  
 If you confront them, they'll run away  
 If you threaten to tell the authority  
 They won't hurt you from that day  
 Bullying can be physical  
 Bullies can use words  
 Bullies can bully through internet  
 They are everywhere in the world.  
**Vijay K Mehta, Kaavya M. Saha Class V**

### बारिश की आत्मकथा

हेलो; दोस्तों मैं बारिश, आप सभी मुझे वर्षा बुला सकते हैं। आज मैं आपको अपनी कहानी सुनाऊंगी। मेरी कहानी मेरी माँ, नदी से शुरू होती है। मैं अपनी माँ के साथ रहती थी। लेकिन मुझे मेरे पापा मेघ जी की बहुत याद आती थी। मैंने अपने भैया सूरज को यह बात बताई तो सूरज भाई ने कहा, "नो प्रोब्लेम।" एक दिन सूरज बहुत तेज़ चमके, और नदी का पानी गर्म होकर भाँप बन कर मेरी छोटी सी बूँद को मेरे पापा मेघ के पास ले गया। दोनों बहुत खुश हुए लेकिन मुझे मम्मी की याद आने लगी और मैं रोने लगी, मेरे आँसू बारिश बनकर नदी के पास पहुँचे। ऐसे ही जलचक्र का आरंभ हुआ और मैं, पापा, मम्मी और भाई खुश हो गए। **जोशुआ जॉर्ज चार ब**



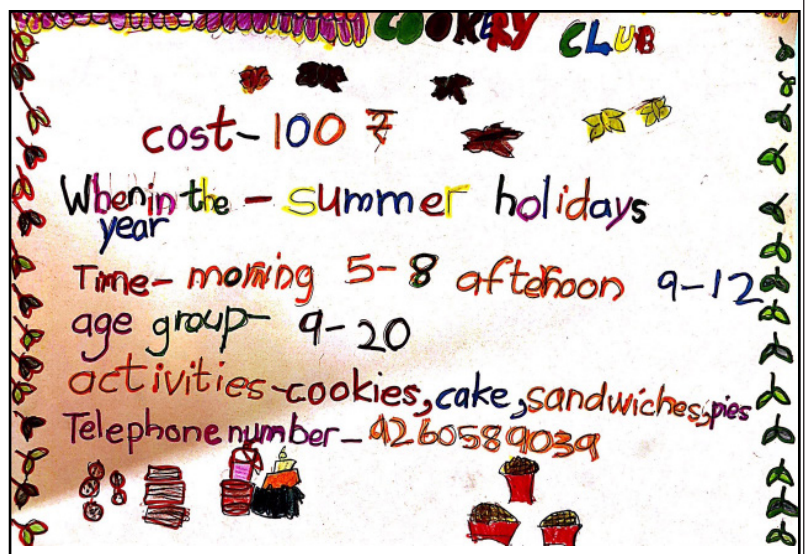
### Limericks

There were two boys George and Cherry.  
 They loved to eat wild berry.  
 They fell in the mud.  
 They bathed in curd.  
 The two zombie nerds were happy and made merry.

Arin Ganeshan III - C

On top of a tree there lived a big fat spider.  
 It moves from branch to branch in his yellow glider.  
 It has many credit cards.  
 Insects made his life hard.  
 When he again flew on his glider it burst open wider.

Ridhay Singhi III - C



Navya Modi, Ruhaan Singh, Naisha Garg, Rhea Bhushan and Ritik II - C

**A Lonely day:** It was a usual sunny Monday. I had just got back from a tiring and exhausting day at school. I rushed into my parent's room to meet them but they weren't there so I headed to my brother's room. I realised late that he had gone for the adventure camp. So I went to where my didi always sat and then I suddenly remembered. She was sick and had gone back to her hometown. I was now alone, but only until my parents came. So I decided to go into the kitchen to have a small snack. After I had finished it, I changed out of my school uniform. But what was taking my parents so long? I started to get worried and I called my mom. She picked up the phone after a long time and told me she had to go with my dad for a day trip to a nearby town. She also said I could play on my iPad. But I was going to be home all ALONE!! I was sad, unhappy, tired, lonely and bored. So I read a book and finished it by dinner time. Mom and dad had still not come. Then I opened my iPad to see something and the battery was at 10%. "Now what do I do!", I muttered under my breath. It would take too long for it to be charged. Television was so boring. Since I was so tired I just went to bed and fell asleep. Maybe tomorrow won't be so lonely. **Saumyaa Todi V - C**



**WORLD TODAY**

*the easiest way for you to ace a GK Quiz*

Burka ban in Denmark: The women facing fines for what they choose to wear.

Turkish lira slumps to new record low as Donald Trump doubles tariffs.

North Korean heatwave could have 'catastrophic effects'.

Girl dies in Mumbai school, 426 rushed to hospital on suspicion of poisoning.

Lok Sabha OKs bill to help make India hub for domestic, global arbitration.

California blazes threaten populated areas.

Pakistan election results: Imran Khan wins.

Apple- first publicly traded US company to hit \$1 trillion in market cap.

Ikea opens its first store in India (Hyderabad), almost caused a stampede.

Lionel Messi named Barcelona captain

**M.I. FALLOUT**

The sixth movie in the renowned Mission Impossible series, Fallout delivers exactly what it promised in the trailers, nothing less than what one would expect from a Mission Impossible movie.

A combination of thrilling stunts, insane daring and clever writing make this a stunning piece of action cinema, and a perfect movie for an adrenaline junkie. The thrill factor of all the Mission Impossible movies have been the stunts that the lead actor, Tom Cruise pulls off himself. Whether it's scaling the Burj Khalifa, or riding a motorcycle at 200 kilometres per hour, Cruise delivers an 'ooh factor' via every stunt he does. In Fallout, he is able to pull off not one breathtaking stunt, but three. The script is tight and the action non-stop. Nothing seems superfluous.



Although the movie glorifies Cruises Ethan Hunt as per the norm, the supporting cast, including the likes of Alec Baldwin and Henry Cavill hold their own. The rest of the supporting cast that plays Cruise's team add some much needed humour- another trait unique to the movie as compared to others in the series.

Even though Fallout does follow the cliché of a typical action movie, with good triumphing over evil, it doesn't make it any less enjoyable.

**Sanaa Sharma, 10**

**THE FIRST OF ITS KIND**

The Man Booker Prize is a literary prize awarded annually to the best original novel published in the United Kingdom and Ireland in the English language. It is the leading literary award for works of fiction and is open to writers of any nationality welcoming both debutants and established writers.

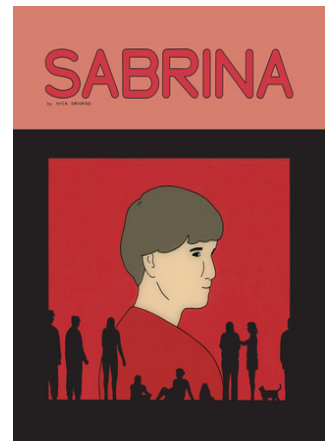
The Longlist, or the 'Man Booker Dozen'- the list of novels in the running, was released only recently with a selection of thirteen books chosen from a whopping one hundred and seventy one submissions. The selection was done by a variety of judges- this time's panel including philosopher Kwame Anthony Appiah, crime writer Val McDermid, cultural critic Leo Robson, writer Jacqueline Rose and artist and graphic novelist Leanne Shapton.

2018 poses to be quite a significant year for the prestigious Booker Awards, being not only the first time novels published in Ireland have been eligible for the award, but the very first time a graphic novel has found itself a position amongst the Booker Prize nominations. This has led to a higher readership for such novels, and has provided them with a platform to be read and relished outside comic-reader circles.

Nick Drnaso's highly acclaimed 'Sabrina'- a modern mystery novel inspired by the vicious rumour cycle of today's internet hit the nail on the head with its contemporary themed setting and simple yet downright terrifying visuals. Being the first graphic novel to ever be shortlisted for a Booker Prize in the 50 years since its establishment it found itself at the receiving end of a myriad of praise and appreciation for both its incredible narrative as well as its elements of strong pictorial.

"Reading Sabrina is an experience akin to watching a movie. It's as if the lights have gone down: absorbed and gripped, the skin prickles." The Guardian

**Harnoor Singh, 11**



## A History Never To Be Repeated

On August 6th, 1945, a soundless flash shook the world. United States President Harry S. Truman had dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. At least 80,000 people died instantly. Three days later, Truman dropped a larger atomic bomb, the equivalent of 22,000 tonnes of TNT, on Nagasaki, killing another 40,000. Over the next few days, tens of thousand of people died in both cities due to radiation. Japan surrendered just days later. World War II was over. The U.S. had defeated Germany on May 7th, 1945, but the war against Japan in the Pacific continued.



Truman thought that any attempt to invade Japan would result in massive American casualties. To avoid that and bring the war to an end at the same time, Truman decided to drop the atomic bomb. He thought it would force Japan into an unconditional surrender. We do not know for sure whether Truman's decision to drop the nuclear bombs was necessary to end the war, or whether it was the reason for Japan's surrender.

Tara Jing Gopinath, 9

### खेल विजेता

06-Aug-2018- पी.वी. संधु ने चाइना में "वर्ल्ड चैंपियनशिप" में बैडमिंटन के खेल के लिए 'रजत पदक' प्राप्त किया।

06-Aug-2018- सचिन तेंदुलकर के बाद, पहली बार आई. सी. सी. की श्रेणी में "टेस्ट बैट्समैन" के वर्ग में विराट कोहली के द्वारा प्रथम स्थान प्राप्त किया गया।

25-Jun-2018- दीपिका कुमारी को "सॉल्ट लेक वर्ल्ड कप" में तीरंदाजी की प्रतियोगिता में स्वर्ण पदक मिला।

16-Apr-2018- "कामनवेल्थ गेम्स" में इंडिया के द्वारा तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया गया। भारतीय खिलाड़ियों को कुल मिलाकर ६६ पदक दिए गए।

13-Apr-2018- अनीश भनवाला ने भी भारत के लिए शूटिंग में स्वर्ण पदक प्राप्त किया।

07-Apr-2018- सतीश सिवलिंगम को भारोत्तोलन में स्वर्ण पदक दिया गया।

06-Apr-2018- संजीता चनु- एक महिला भारोत्तोलक- को "कामनवेल्थ गेम्स" में भारोत्तोलक प्रतियोगिता में प्रथम स्थान मिला।

अर्शिया गौड़, ९



### VVIQ

**Q. What is the meaning of the word "autarky"?**

"The piece you put inside a burger." - Anonymous

"When autos control the traffic." - Zaayra Singh, 10

"Something near Turkey." - Anonymous

"Tacos?" - Aadi Jain, 10

"It sounds like a sauce." - Chaya Paumier, 8

"Vehicular movements?" - Jai Relan, 8

"Some form of anarchy." - Gabiya Nayyar, 8

"Something tacky." - Anahita Mahajan, 10

**Autarky means economic independence or self-sufficiency.**

Conducted by Prakriti Mahajan and Sanaa Sharma, 10

### क्या आप इस स्वतंत्रता दिवस प्रश्नोत्तरी को हल कर सकते हैं?

- इस साल, लाल किले में तिरंगा झंडा कौन फहरायेगा?
  - नरेंद्र मोदी
  - प्रनब मुखर्जी
  - राम नाथ कोविंद
- "स्वराज मेरा जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार है, और मैं इसे लेकर रहूँगा!" किसका नारा है?
  - भगत सिंह
  - बाल गंगाधर तिलक
  - सुभाष चंद्र बोस
- 'तिरंगा' में तीनों रंगों का क्या महत्त्व है?
  - निःस्वार्थता, अपक्षपात और धर्म
  - त्याग, शान्ति और समृद्धि
  - धर्म, आनंद और एकता
- भारत का राष्ट्रीय ध्वज पहली बार कहाँ फहराया गया था?
  - पारसी बागान स्क्वेर, कोलकता
  - लाल किला, दिल्ली
  - गेटवे ऑफ इंडिया, मुंबई
- भारत का राष्ट्रगान किसने लिखा?
  - रबिन्द्रनाथ टैगोर
  - बंकिम चंद्र चतुपाध्याय
  - सुभाष चंद्र बोस

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