

# VASANT VALLEY

TODAY

## AMAZON IN INDIA: PRIDE, INSANITY, AND A LITTLE BIT OF VANITY



The beginning of the decade promised a turn of the tide for the Indian economy, when Jeff Bezos visited the country, stirring up some chatter on social media as he posed with the likes of Shah Rukh Khan and Zoya Akhtar. Bezos was certainly on the charm offensive throughout his whole trip, which was the right way to go- considering how important India is for Amazon, especially in terms of the e-retailer perspective. Despite this, his visit passed by relatively unnoticed by the government. He was denied meetings to discuss business propositions- the most prominent being his proposal to make one million jobs in the country- with the top brass in the government. He didn't have the best luck with small scale retailers, either- The e-commerce Goliath was met with protests throughout the country because of how Amazon's expansion would engulf them and spit them out like paan.

All this aside, the role that Amazon plays in this decade for India is a different debate altogether- and not the issue here. The current state of the economy has garnered many opinions. The issue is how the government is treating this like it's a Jane Austen novel: with Pride and Prejudice, where the Amazon may or may not be the single man in possession of a good fortune. Amazon owns the Washington Post: a well-reputed newspaper which has been increasingly vocal against the Indian government and its treatment of democracy like it is vermin that needs to be eradicated from every little nook and cranny. It is thus no surprise that he couldn't secure a meeting with the most powerful people with government: criticism is not taken lightly in this particular democracy. What our country so clearly fails to understand is that Bezos has absolutely no influence on what is published in his paper- he is not the editor: an idea hard for party members to grasp, for these are the same people that control every letter in popular newspapers that are thrown on lawns and doorsteps throughout the country.

Vijay Chauthaiwale, head of the BJP's foreign affairs cell, panned critical coverage of India in the Washington Post. In response to a Bezos' tweet praising India, Mr. Chauthaiwale wrote: "Please tell this to your employees in Washington DC. Otherwise, your charm offensive is likely to be a waste of time and money." The tweet speaks for itself at this rate.

A word of advice to the government: Don't let your judgements let you take drastic decisions that could be disastrous for the country. Have some semblance of self-worth so you don't need to keep getting offended by articles that originate from other countries. Care about what your people are saying. Understand the fourth estate.

*Sanaa Sharma, 12*

### SCHOOL WATCH

#### MapQuest

#### Class 6

Nirvaan Manktala

#### Class 7

Harchet Singh Majithia, Kyra Dhar, Aarush Kapur, Nikaksha Manaktala and Jai Kalra

#### Class 8

Vivasat Rastogi, Darsh Puri, Shiv Malik, Girdhar Chaok and Shashvat Rastogi

#### Class 9

Udhay Aman Chopra

#### Class 10

Katyayini Jha, Aadarsh Choudhury, and Devaditya Singh Tomar

#### Class 11

Tanmay Singh and Vansh Chopra

#### Class 12

Shiv Mehta and Asmita Shah

#### Inter-School Sanskrit Essay Writing Competition, Indian School, New Delhi

1st- Mehek Anand

2nd- Aryan Aggarwal

*Congratulations!*

### IT'S BEEN REAL, FAM



It was the day of the Batch of 2020's Farewell Class act, and I had never been more excited for school. Last-minute rehearsals were in full swing as we begged the teachers to give us lessons to practice before the fateful performance. It was pandemonium: drama students were busy giving out acting advice and improving the plays, the artists were rushing from the design center to the center

stage- giving the final touch to the backdrops and placing the sashes- and the dancers were trying to learn the steps they'd surely forgotten.

We were all filled with a sense of accomplishment when everything was ready for the stage despite even though the whole thing had hurriedly been put together in the matter of a few days. As we all stood near the center stage when the class act finally began, we observed the excitement, nervousness, and happiness of our seniors like it was our own, realising that we would be in those very spots the next year. The confetti was a blast, and each of the four segments went by smoothly with frequent bursts of laughter interspersing all of them. The dances were a great hit, with some seniors joining us on the stage for a few numbers. The plays were a success too- from the sass to the love, the Batch of 2020 appeared to enjoy our depictions of their memories in Vasant Valley School.

The end of the class act bore witness to the smiling faces of our seniors as they gathered on the stage together for the final time. It was with a heavy heart that the so-called 'unlucky' batch collected its emotions, memories, blessings and- of course- portfolios before they all left on a new journey.

*-Yashaswani Bajaj and Prakriti Mahajan*

## THE IMPEACHMENT

On December eighteenth, the lower house of the American congress solemnly impeached President Donald Trump, making him the third ever U.S president to bear the shameful mark of being charged with high crimes and misdemeanours. This began the archaic process of impeachment the constitutional right of congress to remove a sitting President for either treason, bribery, or high crimes and misdemeanours. The particular reasons behind Trump's impeachment being a withholding of aid from Ukraine in the attempt to enact a quid pro quo. An exchange in which Ukraine would launch an investigation into political rival and presidential candidate Joe Biden.

Impeachment does not mean removal from office, however it is more simply a charge. The actual trial in the senate which will convict or acquit has just begun. The trial has been highly publicised and has brought with it ancient procedural rules.

The democratic half of the trial has just completed with head Democrat manager Adam Schiff presenting the democratic case quite eloquently to the hundred senators sitting as Jurors and the chief justice presiding as a minder. He has weaved a tale of corruption and bribery expertly detailing the Presidents crime. It is the democratic hope that his four day oratory performance invoking history, evidence and emotion is sufficient to convince four of the 53 republican votes to brazenly abandon partisan and political lines risk the wrath of the GOP and Trump and vote for witnesses.

Witnesses have been a key point of contention from the very beginning. There must be a vote of a simple majority one the democrats do not have to include witnesses something which would delay the trial by a week getting rid of the fast acquittal Trump desires. The current schedule for the trial states that after the democratic presentation it is the Republicans chance followed by a period of questioning.

What is truly disheartening here though is that we live in such a political and partisan world. Where money, party, and political standing work as such threats that in a defining law making precedent setting historic event we are dominated by hatred and divisions. It shocks me that there is such deep division that the people themselves cannot come together to accuse and deliver justice to their highest representative who has unfairly betrayed his duty his people and democracy itself. The plea from the people of the world to the Republicans dominating the house today: do what's right.

-Siddhant Nagrath

## दिल्ली चुनाव २०२०



दिल्ली विधान सभा के सत्तर सदस्यों का चुनाव करने के लिए ८ फरवरी २०२० को दिल्ली में विधान सभा चुनाव होंगे, जिनका परिणाम ११ फरवरी २०२० को घोषित किया जाएगा। इस चुनाव के मुख्य राजनीतिक दल हैं - आम आदमी पार्टी, ऐन डी ऐ गठबंधन की भारतीय जनता पार्टी, तथा यू पी ए की कांग्रेस। दिल्ली की जनता की अपेक्षाएँ तथा प्रमुख मुद्दों में से कुछ हैं - आतंकवाद, भ्रष्टाचार, प्रदूषण, यातायात, तथा साफ़ पानी। नागरिक/महिला सुरक्षा, अवैध निर्माण और जन लुभावनी योजनाएँ अन्य समस्याएँ हैं।

चुनाव में प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले विभिन्न दलों के वादे तथा चुनावी मुद्दे दिल्ली के नागरिकों के समक्ष रखे गए हैं। आम आदमी पार्टी के प्रमुख मुद्दे इस प्रकार हैं: मुफ्त बिजली और पानी, बेहतर विद्यालय, तथा पुराने कार्य जो पूरे करने थे, जैसे सिटी बस, सी० सी० टी० वी० कैमरे लगवाना। भाजपा के द्वारा किये गए वादे हैं- बेहतर सरकार बनाना, सम्पूर्ण विकास तथा दिल्ली का आधारीक संरचना, सुरक्षा, तथा अवैध कॉलोनीयों का नियमितकरण। विकास, दिल्ली के सभी नागरिकों को समान अवसर देना, बेहतर शिक्षा, कांग्रेस के कुछ मुख्य वादे हैं।



प्रत्येक दल को नागरिकों द्वारा समीक्षाएँ दी गई हैं। आम आदमी पार्टी के लिए लोगों द्वारा कहा गया है कि उन्होंने अपने कुछ वादे पूरे किए, जैसे बेहतर विद्यालय और शिक्षा, कुछ स्थानों में सी० सी० टी० वी० तथा मोहल्ला क्लीनिक। परन्तु अधिकांश कार्य अंतिम ६ महीनों में किये गए है, अगले चुनाव में वोटों के लिए। उन्होंने बड़े वादे नहीं निभाए, जैसे घोटालों और भ्रष्टाचार खत्म करना। उनका हर समय केंद्रीय सरकार से टकराव रहता था, और वे उनके विरोधी लहर थे। जनता के भाजपा के प्रति विचार थे कि वे कभी दिल्ली के चुनाव में नहीं जीते। अन्य विचार इस प्रकार है - भ्रष्टाचार मुक्त सरकार, सुरक्षा, आतंकवाद पर सख्त प्रहार, तथा भविष्य के भारत की पार्टी बन सकती है। कांग्रेस की समीक्षाएँ हैं कि वे पुनः दिल्ली के पुराने विकास की रफ्तार देंगे, क्योंकि उनकी पुराने युद्ध घोड़े की छवि है। उनका दोष बताया गया है कि वे मुस्लिम तुष्टिकरण करते हैं। इस चुनाव में दिल्ली के नागरिकों से आग्रह है कि भारी मतदान हो, तथा वे दिल्ली के लिए सही राजनीतिक दल का चुनाव करें।

- विवस्वत रस्तोगी और शाश्वत रस्तोगी, कक्षा ९



# ANJALIKA KAPUR INTER HOUSE DRAMA FESTIVAL

## *Blue House*

Unique among the other three plays portrayed in the festival, Blue House's play interpreted the theme of 'Switch' with a story revolving around the average lives of teenagers. The story also spoke about dismantling gender roles. Our process started in November last year when we first thought of a 'gender switch' with our seniors. After working so hard for those weeks, we were forced to practically recreate our entire play without our seniors, due to the flu... I remember the first day of practice this year when Blue House had only two people present (one recruited that very day!). Yet, we stuck through it. We coordinated with each other, maximized any time we got to practice and had loads of fun along the way. Since ours was a more serious play than the others, it was a challenge for us to write scenes that would keep the audience engaged, but with Mr. Mukherjee and Ms. Pant's help, we managed to pull it off. The story of Uday and Amaara's modern relationship and the constant pressure on Uday to be the 'ideal man' was something I think the audience could relate to. Finally, after arduous weeks of practice and begging teachers to let us go, after lengthy discussions on WhatsApp groups and actors falling victim to the flu, and after managing to somehow piece together a presentable play, we all gave our best for our house on the final day. We may not have won the race against time and sickness, but our teamwork and willingness to perform helped us showcase a play that we were very proud of.

-Jai Kapoor

## *Green House*

The Anjalika Kapur 2020 Inter-House Drama Festival had much to offer in terms of stories, characters, and the theme 'Switch'. Green House presented the story of a switch in the roles of two friends, Shloka and Pratap, leaving them both stunned. The once shy, lonely Shloka had metamorphosed into a buff, popular boy; meanwhile, Pratap, who was once popular and cool had become just a regular, everyday student. Horrified and jealous, Pratap uses Baba Anish's help to control Shloka and his actions- getting him into all sorts of trouble from punching his teacher to dancing on his principal's table. Broken and helpless, Shloka is finally enlightened about the same by Baba, who offers him revenge. The audience was left in fits of laughter from this episode of unparalleled comedy as the play came to an end.

-Armaan Gandhi

## *Red House*

What happens when 'boss' becomes 'candy floss', 'snicker' becomes 'sneaker' and the intern becomes the boss? All of it sums down to havoc in the office. All of this was caused by just one man who's hard of hearing and forgets his precious hearing aid at home on his first day at work! Red house presented a comedy of errors in which a newly appointed peon mistakes the intern to be the boss of the company and sends the intern for an extremely important meeting with an international client, Miss Malik. The play began with a series of interviews of various applicants- from a hardcore Delhi boy with all the attitude in the world and a Kabir Singh craze, to an old man who got appointed on the spot- his talent was to be able to sit in one place the whole day- to our very own peon who had run away from Bhopal. In the end, we see the intern get the number of the client- not for the company, but a date! We initially started with three different stories but ended up merging them. The jokes and punchlines which weren't working had to be continually replaced, and we were figuring certain things out even till the last day. However- thanks to Mr. Mukherjee and Ms. Pant- it all eventually worked out.

-Shrijeet Kolley

## *Yellow House*

The Anjalika Kapur Drama festival has always been one of the most anticipated events of the year. This year the theme was 'Switch'. Yellow House's play was a comedy that had the audience cracking up. It was about a crazy doctor and his creepy, Dhokla addicted assistant inventing a 'personality switching formula' and them choosing between three test subjects: a social media-obsessed girl (Ayeshaxx\_therealcutie\_xx), a fake British billionaire who tried to act posh but wasn't (Sir Simon Winchester aka Yogesh) and a bland and boring person (Gappu). After choosing Gappu, the scientists experimented on him, making his personality change to that of an intoxicated individual. The scientists were satisfied with the results and left, not knowing that things were about to go downhill very soon. Over the next few days, Gappu's personality switched from that of a pretentious know-it-all to that of a famous political leader, a science geek, an environmentalist, and finally a woman. The doctors realized that the main switch- which was controlled by the guard- was causing the personality change. The assistant and the guard fought over the switch, overburdening it. This led to the Gappu being stuck with his last personality- that of a woman who loved the doctors. Being a part of this play was an amazing experience, and all our hard work paid off when we put up a remarkable show.

-Girdhar Chandok

Skylanders: Alexander Rajovisk stood on the island, looking at the gathering storm. He was ten years old with green eyes and hair and an elf like appearance. He looked mischievous too. He wasn't one you would meet everyday, but he lived on the Skylands where nothing was what it seemed. The Skylands were a floating group of islands above a lake. Even though the World Tree was in the air, Nilfheim and the rest were below ground and Asgard was in the sky. Alexander had looked high and low for a person to play a prank on that day. But since there wasn't a soul in sight, he was severely bored. He decided to look for his collection of odds and ends that he used to play pranks on people. When he realised they had disappeared he wore his explosion belt, which had hard gunpowder in it. Then he strapped his father's empty croc skin sheath onto his back. He headed to Yagdraeil after he had weighed his pros and cons. When Alexander got there, he realised that something was amiss. There were four dragons guarding the gate. One of them sneered at him, "You are lucky. We are sick and tired of human meat. Get in!" Alexander shrugged and went inside. There was Ratatosk talking to Nidhoyg. Nidhoyg sighed and said, "Come here and tell me why are you here. And don't make a song and dance about it!" Alexander felt a wave of fear wash over him.

Anhad Kashyap V - C



I watched the Republic Day Parade and loved the tableaux on the state of Goa as it depicted the save the frog campaign started by the Government of



Nursery children recapping the '5 senses' through Show and Tell using the big story book.

कक्षा पाँच का पहला दिन

कक्षा पाँच का पहला दिन आठ जनवरी को था जो बहुत अच्छा और मजेदार था। मैं पाँच - सी में हूँ। मुझे अपनी अध्यापिकाओं का पता लगा। मेरी कक्षा अध्यापिका श्रीमती चोपड़ा हैं। हमारी कक्षा में ३१ बच्चे हैं। मुझे यह जानकार अत्यंत खुशी हुई कि मेरी हिन्दी अध्यापिका मिस तिवारी हैं जो कि हिन्दी बड़े मजेदार तरीके से पढ़ाती हैं। हमें हिन्दी व अंग्रेजी के अलावा अन्य विषयों के समूहों के बारे में भी बताया गया। जैसे तो पी.ई. में सभी बच्चों को बहुत मजा आता है किन्तु कक्षा पाँच की पहली पी.ई का मजा तो कुछ और ही था। नई कक्षा में कलम से लिखने का भी मौका मिला। कक्षा चार की भी बड़ी याद आई। उस दिन तो २-३ बार मैं कक्षा चार में जाने वाला था। अपनी पुरानी कक्षा अध्यापिका की भी याद आई। मैं कक्षा पाँच का हर दिन यादगार बनाने की कोशिश करूँगा।

सिद्धांत सिंह पाँच ५ - सी

सर्दी

सर्दी आई सर्दी आई  
ठंड की पहने वर्दी आई।

सर्दी का मौसम नवम्बर से फरवरी तक होता है। सर्दी आते ही मोटे - मोटे ऊनी कपड़े पहनने पड़ते हैं। सिर पर टोपी, हाथों में दस्ताने आ जाते हैं। सर्दी के मौसम में सब कुछ ठंडा - ठंडा हो जाता है। सबसे ज्यादा मजा तो गरम - गरम चाय, पकौड़े, गाजर का हल्वा, मक्के की रोटी और साग खाने में आता है। सर्दी के शुरू होते ही दिवाली, क्रिसमस, लोहड़ी और मकर संक्रांति सभी त्योहार खुशियाँ लाते हैं। मेरे लिए सर्दी की खासियत यह है कि मैं सर्दी में 'हॉट चॉकलेट' पीती हूँ जो बहुत स्वादिष्ट होता है। हमें सर्दी में रजाई में सोना और टेलीविजन देखना अच्छा लगता है। सर्दी में त्योहार मनाना और गरमा - गरम खाना खाने में हमें बहुत मजा आता है।

लेकिन हम सब छोटे बच्चे

कभी नहीं घबराते  
मस्ती करते हैं सर्दी में  
दिनभर मौज मनाते।

डोना छतवाल चार - 'सी'



My first few days in...

I am happy to go to class 2-B. I have got a big desk and a big chair. The classroom is big. Class 2 is upstairs. I have got new teachers and new books. I am learning how to read a map. I love class 2.

Rudra Bholia II - B

On the first day of school, when I stepped into Class 3, I was very nervous. Ms. Hundal told me to sit down next to Sohum. The teachers told us the groups for Math and Life Science. We were split into different groups. Like for Math, I am in 3 B. We were split class wise too. And Class 3 teachers told us to bring our mats to school. My friends in the class were, Vansh, Devina, Sia, Ansh, Vardaan and Zubin. On the second day, we came to know about our tutors. My tutor is Ms. Roy, a Class 5 teacher. The tutors teaches us about goals.

Aarav Punj Tripathi III - A

My first few days in class 3 were amazing because my friends and I had to carry a bag, bottle and a mat. I loved the two songs Ms. Mohan taught us in the Western Music class. We all went to different groups for Maths and Life science class. We met our tutors on the second day. My tutor is Ms. Hundal, she explained the road map to all of us. We also learnt about making goals and I have made a few. I look forward to achieve my goals this year.

Meera A. Mann III - C

# SPORTS SECTION



1. The Tokyo Olympics is just a few months away and Tokyo seems all ready to host the games. The Indian contingent is still forming but we have booked spots in archery, athletics, shooting and wrestling for sure. Tokyo is the fifth city which will host the Olympics more than once and these games will be the first summer games where 33 sports will take place. The medals going to be used are designed by recycling old electronic devices and for the very first time, an NEC provided face recognition sys-

2. बी.सी.सी.आई. के सेंट्रल कॉन्ट्रैक्ट में महेंद्र सिंह धोनी का नाम नहीं है। धोनी एकमात्र कैप्टन है जिन्होंने दोनों ५०- ओवर और २०-ओवर का विश्व कप जीता हो। पिछली बार उन्हें हमने न्यू-ज़ीलैंड के खिलाफ २०१९ के विश्व कप में खेलते देखा था। आई.पी.एल २०२० में यह तो पक्का है कि वह चेन्नई सुपर

3. Our badminton players haven't assured themselves an Olympic berth yet. Olympic medallist PV Sindhu (6th) and B Sai Praneeth (11th) and men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty more or less have a berth. Shuttlers Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth have lately been inconsistent with their rankings being 22nd and 23rd. The BWF Olympic qualification rules say that two players from each singles category can qualify if their ranks are within the top 16 by April 26th. The Thailand masters haven't proven fruitful for any player, be it Saina or Kidambi.



4. मातृत्व अवकाश से लौटी सानिया मिर्जा ने नादिया किचेनोक के साथ डब्ल्यू.टी.ए होबार्ट इटर्नेशनल युगल का खिताब जीता है। दुर्भाग्य से उन्हें एडी की चोट के कारण ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन से बाहर निकलना पड़ा है। दूसरी ओर सेरेना विल्यम्स ऑस्ट्रेलियन ओपन के तीसरे राउंड में चीन के किआंग वांग से हार चुकी है और अपना चौबीसवा गैंड स्लैम जीतने में नाकाम रहती है। जॉन मिल्वमैन को हराकर



5. In La Liga Santander, Real Madrid and Barcelona are tied at 43 points with Lionel Messi as the top scorer with 14 goals. 16 teams remain in the Champions League. The top scorer is Robert Lewandowski from Bayern Munich. In the Premier League, undefeated Liverpool top the table with Manchester City 16 points behind at second place. The European International Tournament 2020 will start on 13th June. The top contenders are defending champions Portugal, Netherlands, England and France.

-Daksayani Chandra

## The Outbreak

Even as the temperature dropped to 6 degrees, the children of Vasant Valley came to school in nothing but a single jacket, not expecting the frigid weather. Anxious mothers clasped their hands in worry as their beloved children strutted off happily. This only amplified the spread of the flu that hindered school attendance for two weeks or so. It started with a sneeze or two from class nine. A runny nose, which is relatively normal during

time of the year. But it spread, and by Monday, 20th January most of the second floor was wiped out. Attendance went for a toss. From a couple of children being absent, it turned into just a couple of children being present. Teachers urged us to sanitise our hands after contact with anyone. The sick children sat wrapped up in blankets, a box of tissues and warm water nearby, at home. Fevers soared and parent's WhatsApp groups were flooded with homeopathy treatments and DIY remedies. The few unaffected children were also quarantined at home for fear of catching the viral (we all know it was to miss their impending reviews!). Children missed school for not 1, not 2, but 7 days at a time! Doctors became used to seeing patients from our school. People were seen sprinting away from their friends when they coughed. Sneezing in front of a teacher became a surefire way to go home and rest. As the strength of our classes now slowly returns back to normal, we advise you to stay warm and wash your hands as frequently as possible.

Although many joked about this so called coronavirus in our school, it is illogical to create any kind of paranoia around a mild case of flu-transmitted amongst many people in a relatively small area-which is how viruses work. The coronavirus is indeed very deadly and much more serious than what has come to be known as this 'plague' in Vasant Valley. The first case of coronavirus was confirmed in India just yesterday, and it is much more serious than a mild fever and a cold- the virus has already killed hundreds. It is important to take this seriously and at face value, because the effects are fatal. Even though this was all in jest, we must be aware and empathetic of what is going on in the world.

*Mehek Anand and Aanandini Tayal, 10*



# MEGXIT

## What happened?

After months of conversation, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle finally made the decision to step back from their Royal Duties. They are now “semi-moving” to North America.

## What will happen now?

The prince and the retired actress have decided to split their time, residing both in the United Kingdom and in either the United States or Canada. The couple has been stripped of their titles and will now be referred to as ‘Harry, Duke of Sussex’ and ‘Meghan, Duchess of Sussex’. They will be funded by Prince Charles until they have a steady income but will no longer be financially dependent on the royal family. Harry was sixth in line for the throne, so this step will not affect the line of succession significantly.

## Why make such a decision?

The constant media presence, tense atmosphere and inability to lead a private and peaceful life led to them making this decision. British tabloids have been very judgmental towards Markle ever since her marriage to the prince- passing racial comments, calling her a ‘commoner’ as an insult. She found the royal confines ‘soul crushing’, and could not take on the stress and anxiety any further as it had affected her mental health. At the same time, Harry said he will not be “bullied into playing a game that killed his mum.” They want to raise their son with an “appreciation for the royal tradition into which he was born,” while also providing his family with the space to focus on the next chapter, including the launch of their new charitable entity.

## How have people reacted?

The reactions regarding this decision were mixed. The Queen sent out a supportive statement, although she did not seem too happy about the decision. Mr Thomas Markle, Meghan’s father, said that this decision was embarrassing for him many celebrities like Oprah Winfrey voiced their support. On hearing the news of their step down, ‘Suits’ fans are now enthusiastically waiting with their fingers crossed, hoping for a show renewal of some kind, and ‘The Crown’ directors are expected to be bursting with new ideas (memes about the same are surfacing on social media). Many say that the Duke and the Duchess will become influencers very soon, entering upper echelon, where they will join the Kardashians-Jenner clan, models Gigi and Bella Hadid, Pop stars Billie Eilish and Ariana Grande, and the other significant Instagram personalities. Who knows, Archie Windsor could be the new Taimur Ali Khan. **Advaita Sehgal**



# फ़िल्म समीक्षा : छपाक

रिलीज की तारीख: 10 जनवरी 2020 (भारत)

निर्देशक: मेघना गुलज़ार  
प्रोडक्शन कंपनी: फॉक्स स्टार स्टूडियो

निर्माता: दीपिका पादुकोण,  
मेघना गुलज़ार  
अभिनय : दीपिका पादुकोण,  
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आनंद तिवारी



‘छपाक’ लक्ष्मी अग्रवाल के जीवन पर आधारित फिल्म है, जो कि एसिड अटैक सर्वाइवर है | अपनी हिम्मत से इन्होंने समाज में एक उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया |

दिल्ली में एक मध्यम वर्गीय परिवार में पैदा हुई लक्ष्मी ने पंद्रह साल की उम्र से ही एक गायिका बनने का सपना देखा। इस दौरान उनके एक पारिवारिक मित्र नईम खान इन्हें पसंद करने लगा | वह एक बत्तीस साल का आदमी था| वह लक्ष्मी से शादी करना चाहता था लेकिन लक्ष्मी को इसमें दिलचस्पी नहीं थी।

नईम खान जवाब के रूप में ना सुनना नहीं चाहता था, इसलिए उन्होंने अपने भाई की पत्नी मदद से एक दिन किताब की दुकान पर लक्ष्मी पर एसिड से हमला कर दिया। इस दुर्घटना ने लक्ष्मी को लंबे समय तक दर्द के अंधेरे में छोड़ दिया | एक साधारण महिला की तरह दिखने के लिए उसे बहुत सारी सर्जरी करवानी पड़ी |

लक्ष्मी ने कभी हार नहीं मानी| 2013 में उसने एसिड की बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए एक जनहित याचिका दायर की और कई ऐसे अभियान शुरू किए, जिसने उसे एसिड अटैक सर्वाइवर्स की आवाज बना दी।

व्यक्तिगत रूप से मुझे भी एहसास हुआ कि कि इन सभी संघर्षों के बाद भी वास्तव में कोई बदलाव नहीं आया | एसिड अभी भी दुकानों में आसानी से उपलब्ध है और अभी भी लड़कियों पर हमला करने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है |

मेरे विचार से फिल्म में पूरी कहानी को शानदार तरीके से फिल्मांकन किया गया है | कुल मिलाकर फिल्म कुछ ज्यादा भावुक हो सकती थी। कुछ बिंदुओं पर मुझे ऐसा भी लगा कि कहानी को घसीटा गया है। लेकिन यह एक सरहनीय प्रयास था और इसके द्वारा दिल को छूने वाला संदेश दिया गया।

-Bhavini Nagpal

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