

How To Study for the SAT

The prospect of studying for the SAT may be a refreshing and welcome change at first – no course revision, multiple choice questions, using a calculator – but it can as rigorous and painstaking as preparing for any other test. However, as a SAT freshman, I've found that there are several pre-preparation steps which can give test takers a significant advantage.

Read

Anything you can get your hands on- be it the cardboard back of a cereal box or Tolstoy's *War & Peace*. Reading constantly is not only the key to expanding your vocabulary, but to widening your knowledge base, exploring perspectives and developing flow of thought- all of which comprise the critical of the critical reading section. Healthy reading habits are a given at college, so it's a smart idea to start now.

Note: Unless you're preparing for a spelling bee, word lists can be extremely counterproductive. So keep these tips in mind. 1. Take it slow. Don't absorb more than 5-7 words per day. 2. Don't only learn the meaning of the word, but familiarize yourself with how to use it in a sentence. 3. Mix it up. Learning up words in order, i.e. a set of words starting with the same letter, is most likely to confuse than help you.

Take Math

Taking math as a subject in class 11 is a blessing in disguise. It definitely gives you an edge while studying for the SAT; not only are you already familiar with the subjects covered, you're privy to much simpler techniques and time-saving approaches. And no, learning up the formulae from the CBSE textbook won't do the trick. You have to expose yourself to a variety of questions types in order to master the larger concept, and instead of burdening yourself the extra tuition, taking the class is the most convenient solution.

Take the PSAT

The PSAT is "a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT", the website concurs. Rightly so. The PSAT gives you feedback on your strengths and weaknesses, enables you to compare your performance with that of other sophomores and juniors (percentile) and gives you direct insight on the question types you'll come across on the SAT, among exposing you to the test taking environment.

Subscribe to

The Question of the Day. Months before you even register for the exam, you can subscribe to the online automated service, which is delivered straight to your email inbox (If you have email activated on your phone, you can even check it on the go). Since it's a daily question, which alternates between all three sections of the test, it gives you holistic and regular practice before even attempting full length papers. If there was a tagline for TQOTD it would be similar to that of Philips': Sense and Simplicity.

The SAT is an exam which tests your self-reliance. Your ability to trust your gut, know when to hold back, manage your time efficiently and prioritize. That final score is more than just an indicator of the strength of your verbal, writing and mathematics skills, but also a marker of how you'll juggle doing your own laundry and dishes in college, which is equally as important.

Mallika Pal, 12



Khan Chacha vs. La Piazza

La Piazza. The ultimate dining experience. Sitting at those elegant tables; though the restaurant is dimly lit, one can be sure to be rubbing shoulders with the crème de la crème of Delhi. The waiters are at your beck and call- their only job is to pamper their customers. You eat large quantities of bread and wait in anticipation for your main dish to arrive. When it does, you scarf down the piping hot pasta followed by a chocolate dessert of the sinful variety. The evening is looking pretty good, then the bill arrives and your parents begin to wonder whether it was worth it.

This brings us to a completely different experience. Walking down the crowded gullies of Khan Market, wondering whether you're feeling a mutton seekh roll from Khan Chacha or Salim Chacha's melt in the mouth *kakori kababs*. In the end you pick one, and eat it without a tinge of guilt, knowing that you still have enough money left to get that video game you've been meaning to buy. In that moment, you feel as though nothing else could ever compare. Question is, are you right?

Walking down the pristine hallway toward the coveted food court at Select Citywalk, I must admit I find myself bored. Ever since the dawn of time, Delhi has been known for its street food. Be it Khan Chacha or Karim's, *golgappas* or sweet, crispy *jalebis*, no one ever walks away from the vendor feeling dissatisfied or (most importantly) broke. More recently, however, our generation has decided that it prefers Cinnabon and M.O.D (Mad Over Doughnuts). With Five star hotels and malls springing up everywhere, most people can't help but flock towards them, drooling in excitement.

Though these malls are often touted as an indication of how far India has come, I find them grossly out of place. It appears to me that with every mall that comes up, Delhi is losing a bit of its charm; as though a tiny part of its soul were being destroyed and rebuilt. Every day, Delhi is coming closer to turning into a consumerist utopia, and even that wouldn't be so bad, if only while enthralled by the shine of branded goods we were able to keep in mind the alleys and open markets where the Indian shopping experience began.

Walking through Dilli Haat or Sarojni Nagar, most shoppers are tourists. Is it true that one needs to be foreign to appreciate INDIAN culture? In the sterile environment of the mall, nothing seems authentic; no food seems to have any real flavor. If you're looking for the real thing, then all you need to do is give Indian street food a chance. Try the steaming *aloo parathas* of Parathe Wali Gali in Chandni Chowk; buy *bhel puri* from the hawker at the traffic light. Don't be afraid of what is affectionately called 'Delhi Belly', because in the end (most of the time), it's worth it.

Namrata Narula, 10

Camp Checklist

- ✔ Tranquilizer Gun- This one's for the teachers. Because seriously, have you met us at camp?!
- ✔ Barf Bags- For all those friends who have a weak stomach. A really weak stomach.
- ✔ Breath Mints- These are for the ignorant people who refuse to brush their teeth.
- ✔ Tent- Just in case you get chucked out of yours (trust me, this happens a lot).
- ✔ Battery Operated Mini Fan- To use when surrounded by people full of hot air.
- ✔ Forever 21 Umbrella- To turn all the forest animals green with envy.
- ✔ Magnifying Glass- To observe the disgusting creatures around you- and we don't just mean the insects.
- ✔ Stale Food- Even though it's stale, it's way better than camp food.
- ✔ Blackberry- Haha, you wish.
- ✔ A Blue Alien- For no apparent reason.

Rhea Khanna & Tarini Sardesai, 9

some of us found other subjects' attention worthy. After two days of fun and learning, we almost feel like professional photographers. This experience has taught us a lot, motivated us, and we hope that we can use our newfound skills to their full potential.

Photography Workshop 2011

A few of students of the photography hobby were taken by Mrs. Srivastav to attend a workshop organized by TERI at the India Habitat Centre on the 17th and 18th of February. We were taught the basics of photography by Mr. Ashish Bhattacharjee, a professional photographer. In the first workshop session, we travelled through time, seeing cameras dating back to 1913. The oldest cameras were 'box cameras', the working of which intrigued us. We then discussed more recent cameras like the professional SLRs, which are used to take pictures with utmost precision. Mr. Ashish went on to tell us about more technical aspects of photography. Different types of photography require different lenses and cameras which can be set accordingly. The surroundings and light play a major role in the programming of the camera, and on how the picture turns out. The clarity of the picture depends on the ISO of the camera, which controls the sensitivity of the sensor or film towards light. The white balance should be changed according to colour, temperature and type of light available. All these settings require the camera to be on manual mode. There are certain short-forms to help us remember the basic rules of good photography. F-A-S-T stands for focus, aperture, shutter speed and trigger. After learning the theory, we went outside to put our new found knowledge to practice. Around the Habitat Centre itself, we found many interesting compositions which made for some great photographs. The next day, we went to Lodhi Gardens, where the scenic views provided us with landscapes for innovative pictures. The 'strong points' of a camera screen are where the focus object should be placed. Our assignment was to take a series of at least 10 pictures, which related to each other in some way. Some of us took pictures of the recreational beauty of Lodhi Gardens, while



Photograph by Shikha Sharma

Swasti Bajoria, 10

'The MUN Training Program'

Last week, a few students got the wonderful opportunity to take part in a training session for the Model United Nations (MUN), and awaken the future leaders in themselves.

Mastering the art of carrying out an organized session of international decision making under the model of the United Nations is definitely not an easy task. Our school was very fortunate to have with us a very intelligent and helpful professor, Mr. Tom Whitmore, who was visiting us all the way from the USA.

Under the guidance of Mr. Whitmore, who carried out the training session, many of us learned and experienced the proper etiquette and conduct of an MUN conference. For those of us who enjoy discussing current affairs and world politics, and are enthusiastic public speakers, it was a world of fun.

In our first class, we were introduced to the organization of a MUN conference. We learned how to address the speakers, our fellow delegates, and how to conduct ourselves during a session. A prominent aspect of the training session was when we were taught how international agreements or resolutions are organized, and drafted, a part of the program I personally found very interesting. At the end of the class, we agreed on an issue on which we would hold our own MUN conference the coming week, and were each assigned countries, of which we would be delegates.

The following class, we had our own MUN conference. The motion set before us was, that Col. Gadhafi should be handed over to the International Criminal Court, for his crimes and oppressive autocratic regime in Libya. We had a very interesting and fiery session, where a lot of views were put forward, and a lot of conflict arose. Of course it was a training session, and so we were free to question the chair, held by Mr. Whitmore whenever we felt like, or were unsure about a certain aspect of our conduct in the session. I represented the UK, and in thus in character, supported the motion strongly in the favour of a democratic decision against the autocrat in Libya. Being in character with our country, we were taught, was the most important part of the MUN, an aspect we must always keep in mind. After a lot of countries put forward their views, a resolution was finally drafted, going against the motion and suggesting a domestic settlement of the issue in Libya itself, and not in the ICC. Yet, due to inadequate support, the resolution fell, and thus our session came to an end. As always, democracy wins.

As a student and an aspiring future leader, I really enjoyed the training session. It couldn't have been possible without our wonderful visitor. An enriching learning experience, I hope to take part in many more MUN conferences in the years to come, and grow as a thinker, speaker and MUN delegate.

Rishabh Prakash, 10+

Stars in the Day Sky

I walked into the Sanskriti School auditorium not knowing what to expect, but as soon as we entered, I heard a buzz going around about 'Vasant Valley' having arrived! I felt a sudden surge of pride and knew instinctively that I would enjoy myself enormously that morning.

I am talking about the Leadership Program's 'Grand Finale' - a conclusion to our participation through classes 9, 10 and 11 on Saturday, the 12th of February, 2011. The Global Education and Leadership Foundation and the Khemka Foundation had sought to summarise our journey through the Youth Leader Competition 2011. Seven inspirational students from seven different schools, seven different walks of life and seven different worlds had come together on that one platform, each showcasing the difference they had made in the last 6 months. During the course of last year, groups of students had formed Leadership Clubs in their schools in which they had implemented a solution to an identified problem. Students from two schools spoke about their experiences in these Leadership Clubs; of how they worked with NGOs and devoted their time and effort. As we heard them talk, we asked ourselves, 'Had we at Vasant Valley really made any change at the grassroot level?' YES. We had multiple discussions amongst the twelve members of our club. After much debate, we had chosen to collect old books and distribute them amongst underprivileged children. This way, we re-used and saved paper as well as helped children in their education. As most of you may recall, we went around each classroom asking for old text books and reusable note books. The response we got was beautiful! Lots of you stepped out to help us in our mission. In junior school, some children actually fought with teachers, saying that their younger siblings could buy new books and that this cause was more important. Tears welled in our eyes as we walked with piles of books that were going to new owners, owners who would be impacted with the knowledge of these books.

We sorted out these books and as we handed over the multiple cartons that we had collected to the NGOs, we felt proud of our baby steps in this direction. But why was this donation such a big deal? I had always firmly held a view that anyone could donate money or things. It is only when one actually spends time with their cause do they make an impact. Yet, over the course of the last few months, I realised that I had changed my belief. This donation was not just putting a tenth of our pocket money into a charity box and never revisiting it. We had motivated hundreds of students into helping our environment and children who may not be as privileged as us. The hours we spent were not just a contribution of twelve students trying to make a change - we were just catalysts. Over 200 change makers came together! The leadership programme gave us the skills to mobilise so many students into action. We, as participants, have learnt, grown and seen changes within ourselves. But more importantly, we have seen a change around us, in every student we have come in contact with.

Advika Gupta, 12

VVS Mini Soccer Tournament

Recently, our school hosted its 11th mini soccer tournament. It had been a dream of mine to be in the VVS 'A' team since I joined Vasant Valley about a year ago. This year, our school along with Step-by-Step school reached the finals. It was a very interesting match. Everyone watched us play and really boosted us by hooting and cheering. Our opponents did not let us score and we also did not let them. Toward the end of an intense game we surprisingly scored two goals.



The best keeper was Milan from Step-by-Step, the best player and the highest scorer was Asith Khosla and Ranchsher from VVS. Playing for VVS was a great experience. Our whole team thanks Mr. Gogoi for coaching us and our VVS students for cheering us.

Kanhav Uppal, 6

नीम हकीम खतरा ए जान

एक शुक्रवार का सुहावना दिन था। विद्यालय में बहुत उत्सुकता थी क्योंकि विज्ञान दिवस निकट आ रहा था। सब बहुत उत्साहित थे और सबसे अच्छा विज्ञान प्रयोग बनाना चाहते थे। चारों तरफ हलचल "मची थी।

रीना भी बहुत उत्साहित थी और पहला इनाम पाना चाहती थी। वह ग्यारह वर्ष की थी और थोड़ी आलसी थी। उसने रोबोट बनाने की सोची जो कमरे साफ कर सके। घाह रोबोट बनाने की पूरी जानकारी हासिल नहीं कर सकी क्योंकि उसने काम देर से शुरू किया था। उसने आधे ज्ञान से रोबोट बना लिया।

अखिरकार विज्ञान दिवस आ ही गया। सब पूरे जोश और उम्मीद के साथ विद्यालय पहुंचे। सबने अपना अपना चमत्कार दिखाया। जब रीना की वारी आई, उसने घमंड से अपना रोबोट निकाला। जमीन पर रखते हुए उसने उसका बटन दबाया।

रोबोट थोड़ा ज़्यादा ही तोज़ी से भागने लगा। उसके वाद पूछो ही मत, सब गलत हो गया। जो उसके रास्ते में आया, उसे, उसके झाड़ू से मार पड़ी। सब इधर उधर भागने लगे और हल्ला मच गया। लोग कहने लगे, "यह जमीन की सफाई नहीं, हमारी धुलाई कर रहा है।" बहुत कोशिश के बाद रीना ने रोबोट का बटन दबाकर उसे रोका। वह शर्म से पानी पानी हो गई।

इसलिए कहते हैं, 'नीम हकीम खतरा ए जान'। अधूरा ज्ञान कभी कभी खतरनाक हो सकता है।

दिया नारग 7

अक्षर की स्वर माला

अक्षर की एक स्वर माला

अक्षर की एक स्वर माला

मैंने आज पिरोई है।

चुनते-बुनते, बुनते-चुनते

यह सतरंगी संजोई है।

'क' से क्यारी जोत के जब

'ख' से खाद छिड़की है

'ग' से गीतों की सरगम में

'घ' घनघोर भिगोई है।

'च' से चिड़िया चहक-चहक कर

'छ' से छत पर फुदकती है

'झ' से झरोखे के द्वार पर

टनटन आवाज़ थिरकती है।

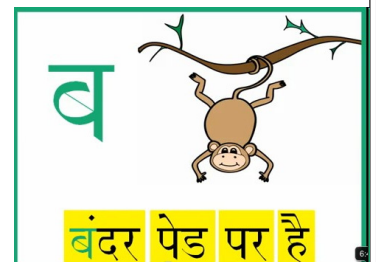
इन रंगों के मेलजोल में

कैसी रंगत टटोली है।

अक्षर की एक स्वरमाला

मैंने आज पिरोई है।

विवान सेटिया 6 अ



If I had a Magic Wand...

It was a gloomy, foggy and dark evening. There was no one in sight. I crossed over the Lane Bridge and saw something glowing in different colours at the edge of the Uskudara River. It looked like a magic wand. Just before I was about to grab it, its top dipped in the river. After a few seconds the river grew hands and battled with me for the wand. At least now I knew that the wand was magical. I won the battle casting the spell 'Expecto Patronum'. The river should have probably grown a mouth instead of hands if it wanted to win the battle. I read the instruction manual for the wand, which said that the wand would grant me one wish. I chose to become taller. They do say magic is unpredictable, so instead of becoming taller I became the Green House Captain. On the second day of school, I entered the school gate feeling taller than ever before. A true story, well most of it anyway.

Aryan Sadh V- A

The Magical Horse

The horse I saw on the rainbow Was rainbow coloured by himself.



But it's head was the only part that didn't have any red. That horse I saw was so strange And it could go through a cage. The horse I saw had no legs On top of that he lived in a nest. And after all its just a horse And it's also time for me to go to bed.

Meerashree Goel and Devaki Jayal III- C

Bio Poem

Aadishree
Funny
Intelligent, humorous, naughty, talkative
Loves to eat chicken, Maggie, popcorn
Likes reading, playing, movies
Wants a puppy, get subject awards, have more friends.
Plays Scrabble, Monopoly, puzzles
Believes that she can be a famous guitarist one day.

Aadishree Arora IV- B

Bread Making!!

Ingredients
Water, flour, yeast and salt

Method
1. Wash Hand
2. Mix ingredients
3. Knead
4. Set it to rise
5. Bake
6. Eat it!!

Sukriti Jain I- B

मेरा अनुभव पक्षियों के बारे में

हम वस से चिड़िया घर गए थे। वहाँ पर हम ने तरह - तरह के पक्षी देखे। मोर हमारा राष्ट्रीय पक्षी है। कुछ पक्षियों की आँखें चमकीली थीं। मुझे पक्षियों के पिंजरे बहुत अच्छे लगे। मुझे चिड़ियों के पंख बहुत अच्छे लगे। मुझे तोते की मीठी आवाज़ पसंद आई। हमने वंदर भी देखे। हम छात्रों ने खूब मजे किए।

अनाहित बिन्द्रा तीन - ब

एक किरण

अगर मैं भी एक किरण होता तो लोगों की मदद करता और अपने काम में सबसे अच्छा बनने की कोशिश करता।

माहिर सचदेवा चार - अ

यदि मैं किरण होती तो मैं सब अच्छे काम करती जैसे मैं कहती कि गंदे काम मत करो और सबको दिखाती कि आप भी मेरी तरह अच्छा बन कर दिखाएँ और दुनिया में जीवन फैला दें।

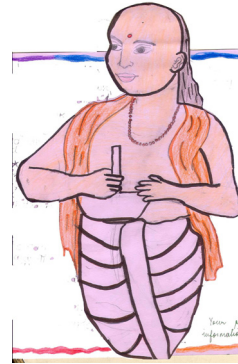
अस्मिता शाह चार - अ

अगर मैं एक किरण होता तो मैं दुनिया में जीवन, लाली और ज्योति निराली फैला देता और इसके साथ में सबका आलस और दुर्गुण भगाकर सबको परिश्रम और गुणों से भरा बनाता।

शुभम कलंत्री चार - अ

Facts about Charaka

Acharya Charak is known as the 'Father of Medicine' He lived about 20 centuries ago. The term 'Charak' means 'wandering'. He travelled far and wide and gained knowledge. His work the 'Charak Samitha' is considered an encyclopaedia on Ayurveda. Scientists say Charak was an expert at 'Kaya Chikitsa' 'Charak Samitha' describes the medicinal qualities and functions of around 100,000 herbal plants.



Ashutosh Trivedi V- A

We saw these two 'Nesting Owls' from our class window!!



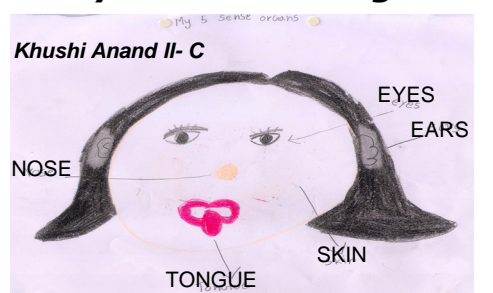
Sarthak Munjal II- B

The Bird Rests!



Kaira Puri II- C

'My Five Sense Organs'



Khushi Anand II- C

HORRORSCOPES

ARIES: This is a great month to start a business. So open up a roti stand, it will do wonders. You might even become a millionaire! However, that is unlikely. For good luck, hang a miniature shoe around your neck.

TAURUS: Don't annoy anyone important this month. Telling Lady Gaga that her outfit for the Grammys was a stupid idea-it will get you into some tabloid trouble. We all know that isn't pretty. To get lucky this month, buy a gold biscuit.

GEMINI: Your twin personalities will be out in full force, so here's a warning to the innocent people of New Delhi- there might be a hulk walking around your streets. Keep a lamb in your basement for luck.

CANCER: You may be feeling like you have no friends right now. While this is probably the truth, don't lose hope! Eat gummy bears 5 times daily to combat the lonely blues.

LEO: Lions have a mighty roar, but this month yours is a puny little meow. To become a majestic lion, you must find your voice. Though I may not have the answer to how you can do that, I know I have helped you ;) Wear rainbow colours to get noticed.

VIRGO: Your search for unicorns must end. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but they don't exist. I may have burst your bubble for now, but you will thank me later. Why not find a new obsession? Philately is great for a disillusioned individual like you.

LIBRA: Are your friends fighting? Do you feel caught in the middle? Do you want to do something about it? DON'T. It'll just get messy, and maybe even a little bloody. And in the 21st century, no one likes to spill innocent blood. XOXO, Gossip Girl.

SCORPIO: As your sign suggests, you've got some mean pincers and you should use them to your advantage. If anyone's talking about you, being rude, or being just plain annoying, give them a little pinch. Do this until you have all of mankind lying prostrate in front of you.

SAGITTARIUS: I know your social life is pretty dead right now, but that doesn't mean you should sit on the computer reading webcomics all day. That's what Cancer should be doing this month! You, however, can buy a new wardrobe, head out and BE the party. But just to warn you, you will be laughed at.

CAPRICORN: You're feeling your capricious self this month! No one appreciates it. How about doing some charity work? It will melt your otherwise stone cold heart. Wear a little pink and not so much gray. This will make you more approachable.

AQUARIUS: Try joining a dance class. Preferably something exotic. Not only will this impress people, it will also give you a sense of accomplishment. And God. err.. the stars know that you need that. Carry a model of a famous car around for luck.

PISCES: Many people win the lottery unexpectedly. Alas, you are not one of them. If you want something, you're going to have to get it the old fashioned way- hard work. And even then there's no guarantee that you'll get it. But for a little extra help, wear a peacock feather in your hair for the next month.

As prophesized by Vedika Berry, 12



THIS MONTH: PISCES

modernfamily

Steven Levitan and Christopher Lloyd have created a show so ingenious, it could easily become terrible in years to come. Modern Family is a single-camera show with documentary-style interviews. The greatest cast currently on television makes each half hour seem too short, and the calamity that dictates this family's discoordination only becomes more hilarious as the episode continues. The oldest, and the respectable patriarch, is Jay Pritchett, recently married to Gloria, a sassy-decades-younger Columbian with a precocious preteen son named Manny. Jay, however, has two kids of his own. His retentive daughter Claire is married to the belligerently naive Phil Dunphy. They have three kids: Luke, the innocently thick son; Haley, the older supremely independent daughter; and Alex, the slightly manipulative younger one. Haley ends up dating Dylan, who looks like Russell Brand with all of the ignorance and the messy hair. Jay's son Mitchell is the self-assumed



black sheep because he's gay. He and his partner, Cam Tucker, have adopted Vietnamese baby Lily. Jay loves Gloria, but clearly isn't aware of anything in Columbian culture, and is much too old to relate to an adolescent son who himself behaves like a learned psychiatrist. There's a similarly genuine love between Claire and Phil that features an equally amusing disconnect: Claire is an adult and Phil is a child. Whether

he's treasure hunting with Luke, having puppy love for Gloria, or stealing bikes in order to teach someone a lesson, Phil is clearly (quoting him), a 'cool' dad. While Phil and Luke work on the same wavelength, Claire and Haley are almost the same person, just a generation apart. Alex, aside from her witty insults, doesn't have many plotlines to showcase her character, but that's okay, we love her anyway.

The spinoff-ready Cam and Mitchell are crazy every time they pop on the screen. Not only are they wholly original, but they're layered with idiosyncrasies. Mitchell is the uptight workaholic lawyer with a soft spot and Cam is the stocky ex-football player and current Drama Queen who loves to dance. Also, he's Fizbo the Clown. Modern Family takes even the most trodden plot devices and makes them fresh with intelligent scripts and engaging performances. Every episode is as funny, or funnier, than any dysfunctional family sitcom in years. It all develops from the believably textured relationships that are cross-woven between these people.

Aakanksha Jadav, 9

WIQ

Who is Mouammar Gaddafi?

"He's the bro who went to Libya na.. We that thing on him also na.."-
Rishika Dhawan

"I don't know, who is it?"- *Brea Dutt*

"Hitler's step brother."- *Shubh Mehra*

"By the way, his name is spelt Quadaffi."- *Amar Singh Dhingra*

"The next Osama bin Laden."- *Aayushmaan Wassan*

"A type of barfi? Like sweetdish?"- *Aalika Peres*

"The cricketer from Pakistan who was caught for matchfixing?"- *Arjun Srivastava*

"Some tribal?"- *Simran Puri*

The correct answer:

"The dictatorial leader of Libya who the people of Libya are protesting against and who is refusing to step down; opting instead to turn the protests violent by ordering the army to shoot at the civilians."- *Vani Shriya*

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