

# Vasant Valley TODAY

## IT TOOK US ALL BY STORM...



“अरे देखो! सारे टेंट उड़ गए!”

किसी मुश्किल की घड़ी में जब दोस्त-दुश्मन साथ मिलकर उपाय ढूँढते हैं, तो एक अजब एकता की अनुभूति होती है। कक्षा 12 के छात्रों को यही अनुभूति हुई जब वे गंगा के तट पर एक भयंकर आंधी में फँसे थे अपनी 5 दिनों की यात्रा के दौरान।

इस साल कक्षा 12 अपने अडवेंचर कैम्प के लिए उत्तराखंड के ब्यास-घाट इलाके में ट्रेकिंग करने गए। परंपरा अनुसार राफ्टिंग करने का मौका न मिलने पर, सभी लोगों ने अनिच्छा से ट्रेकिंग की, यद्यपि यात्रा के समाप्त होने तक सबको आनंद प्राप्त हुआ। चाहे किसी नए दोस्त, या किसी नई सीख के रूप में कैम्प का प्रभाव सब पर पड़ा। चढ़ाई चढ़ते हुए जो एक-दूसरे की मदद की या सहायता दिया, इससे पूरी यात्रा में समूहिक एकता का भाव बना रहा, जो विद्यालय के इस अंतिम वर्ष का अनुपम अनुभव रहा। आशा करता हूँ कि यह साथ व सहयोग भविष्य में भी बना रहे।

### SCHOOL WATCH

#### Sanskrit Shlok Lekhan Pratiyogita

##### Class 6

1st- Avni Parashar and Kyra Dhar  
2nd- Kaasvee Kaur, Kabir Bahl and Aarush Kapur  
3rd- Varsha and Prisha Singhal

##### Class 7

1st- Dishita Natu and Anirudh vats  
2nd- Ritwick Sapra  
3rd- Ruhan Kumar and Ishaan Singh Puri

##### Class 8

1st- Inayaa Gulati and Advaita Sehgal  
2nd- Devanshi Sawhney, Vira Chhatwal and Mehek Anand  
3rd- Gaurang Deka

#### Speed Math 3

##### Class 3

Anant Agarwal, Anhad Kashyap and Samarth Meattle

##### Class 4

Ayaan Ismail Adib, Ayaan Khemka and Abeer Datta

##### Class 5

Udai Relan and Kavya Malik

##### Class 12

Winner- Veeraj Jindal  
Done well- Aditya Venkatraman and Zubin Soomar

Our last adventure camp? Our last outing together as a batch? The truth behind those words hadn't really sunk in till the very last moment. I'll be honest, many of us hadn't had high hopes from this camp. We had all heard about the wonders of Alaknanda from siblings and friends in the grades above and had been looking forward to the camp for years, and were very upset when we found out we would be the first batch to not go. Nevertheless, faces anxious to see where the upcoming adventure would take us, we all boarded our train and set off on a journey we would soon learn to cherish.

Extremely long and tiring treks aside, I thoroughly loved each and every bit of this year's adventure camp. Our campsite was breathtakingly beautiful. A white sand beach on the banks of a beautiful river surrounded on all sides by mountains and hills, it was like something out of a dream. The food was much better than we could have possibly hoped for (that tomato soup was to die for), taking us all by surprise as camp food has always been famed for its unparalleled tastelessness. The star-specked night sky was alluring, and staring up at that fascinating sky, painting pictures and connecting dots with my mind's eye, while laying down on the beach in silence is a memory I will never forget.

All in all, this final 5-day-long trip with the people we had all grown up



with has occupied a very special and important place in all of our hearts, never to be forgotten, and always to be remembered.

सोहम सदाशिव कक्कर &  
Sahil Armaan Kumar



# ADVENTURE CAMPS 2018



*"Escape The Ordinary"*

## Ranthambore National Park!

The moaning and groaning which resulted from carrying our heavy luggage led us to our train journey filled with tuck, cards and a whole lot of fun. The much awaited Adventure Camp in Ranthambore National Park had begun.

We waited restlessly to arrive at our beautiful campsite 'Sher Vilas' to get allotted to our spacious cottages and tents. We breathed a sigh of relief when we learned that we had our own personal toilets.

Each day had a variety of adventurous activities in store for us. From spotting tigers and leopards, to trudging up and down 600 steps to seek the blessings of lord Ganesha, to visiting a monkey infested fort and temple and attending all the parties around the Campsite each night, each day was exciting.



The sight of Kumba T-34 brushing past us was just amazing. Obviously, the regal and magnificent tigers were the star attraction, but that did not diminish our delight at spotting the Indian Gazelle, Sambar deer, Chital deer, warthog and many unique birds belonging to a variety of species.

We rounded up our trip by dancing all night to Rajasthani folk songs. As we packed our suitcases, we took a last look at our camp with wistfulness. We left Ranthambore with fond memories, controversies (oops) and moments which we will cherish forever. With the breathtaking sights still fresh in our minds, we all reached back to the bustling metropolis of Delhi, a mere 6 hours away from the peaceful town of Ranthambore.

Girdhar Chandok



*"You must go on an adventure to find out where you truly belong"*

## CAMP DOGADDA

There is a lot of euphoria and excitement which takes place in Vasant Valley before the much awaited adventure camps every year. The night before we were to set off for camp, I hardly got a wink of sleep. After the seemingly incessant bus journey, our stomachs filled with tuck (shhh!), we finally arrived at the campsite. The view was breathtaking.



Every morning we woke up to the sound of instructors yelling at the top of their lungs (not the best thing to wake up to) and went for adventure activities in our groups (Southside Papoos, Starfire and Legendary Rances). We went for activities such as rope climbing and trekking- a feeling of accomplishment flowed through us all upon completing each one.

The highlight of my whole trip, though, would be the InMe Style Olympics – Helter Skelter. It consisted of various activities including balloon bursting, bullseye and balancing the bucket.

On the last night there, we had quite a punny talent show along with an extension of our curfew (although it didn't make much of a difference considering it was never followed anyway).

Time had flown by and we finally reached Delhi (No one spared by the Bichu Booti) with hoarse throats, bug bites, relieved to get our lovely beds back! This camp has been one of the best experiences of my life, its memory shall be forever etched in my heart.

Advaita Sehgal

## AN ADVENTUROUS EXCURSION



On 12th March, the batch of class VI gathered at 5:45 AM outside school, ready and excited to embark on the four hour bus journey to the Alwar Bagh Resort, Alwar, Rajasthan. Our buses left from school at 6:30 AM and after a joyful ride with lots of singing, chattering, munching our tuck, and a short bio-break at McDonald's, we reached our destination. We were all allotted rooms and after freshening up, we all enjoyed the scrumptious lunch. We then went to see the 'Ram Bihari' palace. The palace has a beautiful view of the Siliserh lake and is a 300 year old fort.

On the next day, we woke up at 6 am and after half an hour of warm-up yoga and games, we had our breakfast and then prepared for our 'Talent Night'. We visited 'Bala Quila', went for a village walk, watched a film on wildlife and then went off to sleep after dinner.

On 14th March, we went for bird-watching and really enjoyed the melodious sounds and saw a variety of birds. After breakfast, we did a lot of adventure sports' activities and also learned the art of basket-making. After lunch, we left for the much-awaited 'Sariska' safari where we all saw deers and peacocks and some got lucky enough to spot owls. On our return, we saw a folk-dance performance and, after dinner, we all performed for our 'Talent Night' show. Exhausted, we all fell into a deep slumber on our last night there.

The next morning, we woke up with a heavy heart and packed our bags. We visited the nearby greenhouse in groups, and after lunch we bid goodbye to Alwar Bagh and boarded our buses for the return journey. We reached our school at about 4:30 pm, where our parents were eagerly waiting for us and our stories. Thus ended our short yet fun-filled trip to Alwar Bagh with lots of memorable moments and plenty of tales to tell for many days to come.

Kyra Dhar

## नौकचियाताल

यह अडवेंचर कैंप हम सबके लिये एक बहुत ही अनोखा अनुभव था। हम सब, कई सारी उम्मीदें लेकर पहुंचे थे और शायद पहली बारी हमने अपने आराम क्षेत्रों से बाहर निकलकर एक-दूसरे के साथ बातचीत की और नए मित्र बनाये। यह बात तो तय थी कि इस कैंप में हम सबकी, सबसे ज्यादा मनपसंदीदा गतिविधि क्याकिंग ही थी। हमने खुशी से मिलजुलकर नए छात्रों के साथ मित्रता



की और हर समय एक दूसरे की मदद की मदद के लिए हमेशा हाज़िर थे। इसलिए यह कैंप, एक बैच के रूप में हम सभी को एक साथ लाने में सफल रहा! और हमेशा की तरह हम सब हँसी-मज़ाक और लड़ाई-झगड़ों की यादें भी अपने साथ दिल्ली लाए हैं। " यो यो यो कक्षा नौ !"

## माहिका डालमिया

### कैंप एक्वाटेरा अटाली गंगा

कक्षा १० के छात्र इस वर्ष कैंप एक्वाटेरा, अटाली गंगा, ऋषिकेश देवप्रयाग ट्रेन से गए थे। हम सब बड़ेमज़े में अपना खाना खाते हुए बात कर रहे थे, जिसके कारण शोर भी मच रहा था इसी कारण हमें एक सहयात्री से डांट भी पड़ी थी। उस यात्री के ट्रेन से उतरने पर सबको राहत मिली थी और हमने बाकी के सफरमें बहुत मज़े किए।

कैंप में हमने बहुत सारी चीज़ें कीं, जिसमें से एक पंद्रह किलोमीटर के ट्रेक को कोई भूल नहीं सकता। कई घंटों पहाड़ों के ऊपर- नीचे जाने के बाद जब थके हुए बच्चों को आखिरकार वापिस बस में बैठने का मौकामिला, सबकी जान में जान आयी। कैंप लौटकर भी सभी इस अनोखे अनुभव के बारे में बातें करते हुए अपनीथकान भूल गए और कुछ ही देर में फिर से यहाँ- वहाँ भाँगते हुए खेलने लगे। इसके साथ हमने 'माउंटेनबाइकिंग' और एक 'हाई रोप कोर्स' भी किया था जिसमें कई बच्चों ने अपने ऊँचाई के डर का सामना किया। हमने एक अत्यंत सुन्दर तट पर क्याकिंग भी की थी, जिसके बाद हमें गंगा नदी के ठंडे पानी में खेलने के लिए समय दिया गया था।

हमारे साथ आने वाले अध्यापक-अध्यापिकाओं का भी इस यात्रा को अविस्मरणीय बनाने में बहुत योगदानरहा। 'गाँव के बाबाजी' से मुलाकात हम कभी नहीं भूल सकते। उनके निर्देशों के अनुसार हम सब



ने अपनी कक्षा के ऐसे बच्चों से बातें की जिनसे हम साधारणतः बात नहीं करते हैं। इस वर्ष हमने कैंप में कुछ बच्चों का जन्मदिन भी मनाया था, और अग्नि की रौशनी में केक काटना एक अनुभव है जो हम कभी नहीं भूलेंगे।

कैंप से जाने के पहले हम सब ने बैठकर अपने अनुभव के बारे में बातें की और सभी को बताया कि हमें कैंप के बारे में क्या बहुत पसंद आया था, और इसे और बेहतर कैसे बनाया जा सकता था, इसके प्रति अपने विचारप्रकट किए। इस वर्ष हम सब को बहुत मज़ा आया था और घर लौटते समय हम ट्रेन में केवल अपने अनुभवके बारे में ही बात कर रहे थे।

सिमरन शीना कुमार और प्रकृति महाजन

## Microfiction Mornings:

*The tiniest and most entertaining way to read new literature*

*The night sky shimmers with the bright stars above. Owls fly in search of their prey. The frog croaks softly in the dark. All is quiet and calm. (Night)*

Amaara Dalmia, 6

*As the trees whispered to each other, the dark and mysterious night fell on the city, covering it like a blanket. Lamps lit on fire and silence grew rapidly. (Night)*

Vaani Chopra, 6

*My heart was beating rapidly in my chest, my mind was in a daze. This was it. A bridge lay there, beckoning. The gateway to heaven was open. (Bridge)*

Sara Jayakumar, 7

*He sprinted across the bridge, fleeing from the terrible land. He turned around to see it collapse, leaving his old life on the other side. (Bridge)*

Myra Prasad, 7

*He lost it all. Lost his life, lost his spirit, lost himself. Lost everything so that he could find himself again. (Lost)*

Veeraj Puri, 8

*Lost in the wonder of possibilities. Lost between chances and opportunities, between dreams and reality. Lost from the start until the end, lost in every single bend. (Lost)*

Vira Chhatwal, 8

*She left that morning, heart full of joy. It was the most special day of her life. But little did she know, that journey would be her very last. (Journey)*

Prarthna Batra, 9

*He beat the beast, he defied the law; only to be defeated by his fatal flaw. As his journey came to a sudden end, he clutched Rip-tide- his very best friend. (Journey)*

Kavin Bhatia, 9

*She couldn't love a woman, they said that it was wrong; but whenever they were together, the world was vivid with the colours of the flag representing who they were. (Vivid)*

Tia Goculdas, 10

*He stumbled around in this vivid world with milky eyes full of wonder. Clearer eyes looked all around, but he saw what they could not. (Vivid)*

Dev Karan Singh, 10



In grade 3, I went for my first adventure camp to **Bull's Camp Pahari, at Damdama Lake**. I was super excited to get onto the bus and reach the camp. When we got there the instructors told us all the rules and gave us a mouthwatering lunch. After which we went to our respective tents and arranged our heavy bags. After that, all our activities started. We did many things like obstacle course, bullock cart ride, pottery on the potters wheel, rain dance and participated in talent shows where I asked a riddle. At camp we got scrumptious food like bhel puri, rajma chawal, kaali dal, salads, pop corn, soups, delicious chicken and matar paneer. The highlight of the trip was meeting Retired Major General Yadav who narrated many experiences about his bravery while in service. It gave me goose bumps. My second highlight was watching a video of endangered species of snow leopards. It made me gloomy and sad. We also visited the village and the school there and sang songs for the village kids. We explored a farm, saw some wheat fields, cow dung cakes and observed some buffaloes grazing. Though I missed my family and my bed, it was the best two days of my school life and I can't wait to go back again next year. **Kartikey Gupta III - B**



**Camp Baghaan** in U.P., was a great experience. Activities, food, cottages...all were part of the fun. Another big part were the early morning walks. The food was great. And the cottages - Amazing! We found everything neat and clean. In fact, it was so clean that the teachers organised a contest to know which tent was the most organised. The teachers would 'surprise check' our rooms to determine the winners. My tent came third...a great score I think. The activities were a lot of fun. The only scary part of Zip-lining was when I was standing on a stool near a ledge while being harnessed to the line. We were also taught all about how to pitch a tent. Candle making was the one I enjoyed a lot. We made petroleum jelly candles. I gave mine as a gift to my mother after returning from camp. And, at last but certainly not the least, we brought over children of classes 4 and 5 of a nearby government school to have lunch in Baghaan. They told us about all that they do in school and sang their school song. They also taught us a new game - 'Andaa Toll'. It's a bit like cricket but in many ways it is not. We took a



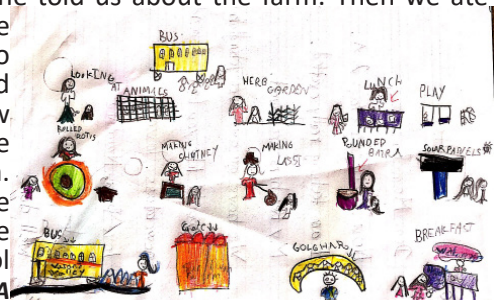
Bullock-cart ride to a village - loads of fun! I had a great time doing everything at the camp. **Abeer Datta IV - B**

I awoke at the crack of dawn. I could feel a pang of excitement as I put on my jacket and closed the zip of my bag. On the way to school I could already imagine myself seeing tigers in **Jim Corbett**. On reaching, I hopped out of the car and climbed onto the bus and waved goodbye to my parents and sister one last time. The bus stopped at 'Haveli' for breakfast. I started feeling a little sleepy and dozed off and soon we were in Uttarakhand. Then we sat in the jeeps, to go to our camp, Jim Corbett! We went to our rooms the first thing. All my friends were with me in the room. Soon it was time for dinner. After which we went to bed. The next morning after breakfast, we went to a school to play with the children there and some of us taught the small kids how to draw and colour. I also liked the trek. When we had to go up-hill I came alive and when I reached the top I felt proud! On reaching the camp we saw a movie on Jim Corbett and went for dinner. The best part was the dessert after every meal. Day 3 we went for a long village walk. Our guide told us about the cold grass leaves and how tigers and elephants sit on it to keep themselves cool. We also saw snails, different kinds of rocks and banana trees. On our way back we couldn't believe our luck when we were allowed to play in the river. At the camp there were challenging games like Mission Impossible and even though I was disappointed that I didn't get a chance to do it, I moved on and was happy to eat another yummy meal. The next morning, I quickly got up and made sure I packed well for the return journey. We boarded the bus and stopped at Haveli for lunch. I was feeling excited to see my family. There was a lot that made this camp interesting for me. **Kyra Oberoi V- C**



On the 15th of March I went to see the **Lotus Temple**. First, I boarded my bus. I ate sandwiches and makhnas in the bus. Next, I entered the gate of the Lotus Temple. I saw colourful flowers and green gardens. After that I took my shoes off and held it till the Temple. I prayed for good wishes and to be good in school. Finally, I entered the movie hall and saw the movie, 'Maya went to School.' It was a lovely trip. **Ameir Sandhu II - C**

My class went to **Surjivan farm** on 7th March. We left school by 7:45 am. We went by bus and ate breakfast on the bus. We reached at 9:30 am. First, we met Mr. Srivastav and he told us about the farm. Then we ate some snacks. Next, we rolled the rotis and made chutney. We also made lassi, pounded bajra and ground wheat. After that, we saw a solar panel. Then, we saw some animals and also a herb garden. After that, we ate lunch and we got to play for a while. Finally, we sat in the bus and reached school at 5:45 pm. **Naintara Kapur II - A**



## WORLD TODAY

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

South Africa's ex-president Jacob Zuma is to be prosecuted for corruption.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has been reappointed with no limit on the number of terms he can serve.

As the Russian Election approaches, polls show that it's in favour of Vladimir Putin, that will take him to nearly a quarter century in power.

Student survivors of Florida's high school shooting deliver gun control message to an international audience in Dubai.

The CBSE has denied reports that the question paper for the Class 12 accountancy exam was leaked.

Bhawana Kanth becomes 2nd Indian woman to fly fighter aircraft solo.

**Kavyini Garodia**

## EXTINCTION IN ACTION

On the twentieth of March, Sudan- the last male Northern White Rhinoceros, died. His death came as a grave warning, and an important foresight into the future of global biodiversity.

The Northern White Rhinoceros is a distinct subspecies of the White Rhino, and Sudan's death reduces the global population of this species to just two females- his daughter and his granddaughter, rendering the species extinct.

While there will still be Rhinoceros for many years to come, the extinction of a species has reverberating effects on the environment. The environment is a complex and fragile system, and these ripples of extinction can heavily damage it. The loss of a large species is especially worrying, as they are indicators of a healthy and thriving ecosystem.

Last year, the world lost its first mammal to climate change, the Bramble Cay Melomys, a species of rodent living on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, caused by rising sea levels and the flooding of its natural habitat.

In rare cases, due to the extinction of one species, others have suffered as well. It will not be enough to plant a few trees and build a few parks for tigers. Every species forms a vital link in earth's dynamic ecosystems.

**Siddhant Nagrath**

## HISTORY OF THE OSCARS

The Academy Awards of Merit, better known as the 'Oscars' is arguably the most famous and awaited set of film related awards distributed in the year. Recently, the ceremony for awarding the 2018 Oscars was held. Movies like 'The Shape of Water', 'Dunkirk' and 'Coco' won many awards, and actors and actresses like Gary Oldman and Frances McDormand were awarded for their proficiency in acting. Have you ever wondered, though, where it all started from? Let's rewind back to 1927.



When the Academy was founded, it was busy dealing with film industry problems. It was only by May 1928 that it approved of the idea of an award ceremony. On the sixteenth of May, 1929, a ceremony took place at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for the distribution of the awards for 12 categories. Since then, the number

of awards distributed has fluctuated, from 7 awards in 1930, to the addition of best supporting actor and actress in 1936, to 24 awards this year.

Initially, the results would be given to the press in advance, but published only after the ceremony took place. This process stopped after 1939, when a newspaper published the results beforehand, destroying the suspense and importance of the ceremony. By the 1950s, the event was screened in USA, and by 1970, the event was being screened internationally.

Till now, nobody knows the true reason why the Academy Awards came to be known as the Oscars. A prominent theory, though, is that Margarette Harrick, the librarian of the academy, thought that the statue looked like her uncle Oscar. Even with such a long history, though, the excitement that the Academy Awards attract has never changed.

**Prithvi Oak**

## PARALYMPICS

Have you ever feared being disabled because then you wouldn't be able to experience to joy of running or of physical exertion? Don't be, the concept of Paralympics will lay any such fears to rest. The Paralympic Games is a major multi-sport event involving differently abled athletes. It is held at the same time as the Olympics. For the Winter Paralympics, athletes compete in six sports: Alpine and cross-country skiing, biathlon, para ice hockey, snowboarding and wheelchair curling.

With more than 560 athletes competing for 80 medals, this year's Winter Paralympic Games is the largest ever in its 58 year long history. It will be held in Pyeong Chang, Korea. Lets cheer the competitors on and hope this encourages other disabled people to feel the joy of moving their bodies.

**Tara Jing Gopinath**



## Which Adventure Sport are you meant for?

### 1. Are you afraid of heights?

- Yes! The sight of a ladder makes me shiver!
- Not really, but I'd rather not try to climb anything
- Heights are my best friend. I climb every third tree that I see!
- Depends on what I'm climbing

### 2. Are you a swimmer?

- Yes! I'm willing to swim anywhere, anytime! I would readily dive into the sea at a moment's notice
- No way! I have aquaphobia and I cannot stand water.
- I swim occasionally and don't mind it
- I'm a novice...I know how to swim in a pool, but I'm pretty sure I'd drown in the sea.



### 3. Do you trust gear?

- I trust it mostly
- I'm pretty sure it will malfunction
- Yes! with all my heart. It can definitely save me in tough situations
- Not really, but I'll use it if I have to

### 4. Which of the following best describes your attitude towards sports?



- As long as it involves water, count me in!
- I don't really enjoy being outdoors...

- If it is anything extremely challenging, tiring and requires guts, or if it's risky, then it's just my type of sport.
- I don't mind anything provided it isn't dangerous.

### 5. Which of the sounds most fun to you?

- Seeing a huge rapid in front of you
- Sleeping
- Feeling your arms shiver as you reach the top of the cliff
- Being able glide through a city with ease

### If You Got... Mostly A's

You love swimming, and can dive into water anytime, anywhere. You definitely belong to the rafting category.



### If You Got... Mostly B's

You are extremely lazy, and barely any adventure sport is of interest to you. You should start stepping outdoors and exercising a little everyday.



### If You Got... Mostly C's

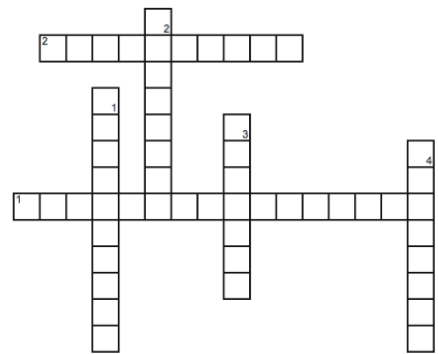
You trust gear, and love heights. Rock Climbing is definitely the sport which is meant for you

### If You Got... Mostly D's

You are an all rounder and you can tackle any sport that comes your way. However, you are extremely cautious and don't trust equipment very easily. You should try Mountain Biking.

## भारतीय लेखकों पर क्रॉसवर्ड

अक्षर  
४. खाली  
३. पंक्ति  
२. पंक्ति  
१. पंक्ति  
Down  
२. अक्षर  
१. खाली



### Across:

- इस लेखक ने भारत का राष्ट्रीय गान लिखा है।
- इस लेखिका को 'साहित्य अकादमी अवार्ड' और 'पद्मभूषण' मिल चुका है।

### Down:

- यह लेखक 'मालगुडी की दुनिया' के सज्जक हैं।
- यह लेखिका 'नो गैस ऐट माय संस फ्यूनरल' के पुस्तक के लिए प्रसिद्ध है।
- इस लेखक की दो किताबों पर भारतीय सिनेमा में 'कायपोचे' और 'टू स्टेट्स' बनाई गयी है।
- इनको हिंदी साहित्य में 'नवाब' के नाम से भी जाना जाता है।

## In Memoriam



On March 14th, the world lost an idol who everyone held close to their heart, Dr. Stephen Hawking. Dr. Hawking specialised in studies on Black Holes, applied physics, and mathematics. He wrote many extremely informative novels and was the creme de la creme of the astrophysical society.

His contributions have been unmatched, and unforgettable. We can take a look at his story from various movies, documentaries, and shows tracing his life. Eddie Redmayne received the academy award for Best Actor for none other than his portrayal of this brilliant man in The Theory Of Everything. Dr. Hawking was also famed for his pristine sense of humour. He proved everyone wrong by exceeding his life expectancies by over 50 years. He received a Ph.D. and a fellowship from Cambridge University, and his many lectures were unforgettable. Today, I am writing this article in memory of the man who has hundreds of theories and has inspired billions. Dr. Hawking, may your soul rest in peace.

Udhay Aman Chopra

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