

Vasant Valley TODAY

A CLEVERLY CRAFTED BALANCE OF POWER

Challenging social norms is in vogue in Indian politics. Hence, it is no surprise that a leader, born on 13th April, 125 years ago, in a family of 'untouchables' in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, is being reborn as a 21st century prophet. In the past one month, hardly any leader worth his salt failed to remind 'We, the People of India' about Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar's overwhelming contribution in restoring social equilibrium, through the longest, most detailed constitution in the world, in a caste-infected nation.

But back in the comfort of Lutyens Delhi, an institution is hard at work, destroying Ambedkar's constitution. Ironically, it is the same institution whose job is to act as the interpreter of the constitution, the Supreme Court. Our constitution divides the powers of the Indian State into three institutions. The legislature, which makes laws. The executive, which implements these laws and makes policy under such laws. Then there is the judiciary, which enforces these laws and decides whether the laws of the legislature and the policy of the executive are permissible under the constitution or not.

In recent years, in what is increasingly looking like the "tyranny of the unelected", the Supreme Court has been repeatedly foraying into executive and legislative terrain, directing action, making laws, supervising investigations, or generally directing governance. Consider this: The court directed the government to appoint a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to chase black money, and this team reports to the court. Is supervising investigations the job of the court, or of the police and other law enforcement agencies? It has banned the registration of higher end diesel cars in Delhi, and imposed levies on trucks entering the National Capital Region. Is it the job of the court to decide which vehicles will be sold or registered in any city, or the Government?

Ambedkar's genius truly reflects in another aspect of our constitution. To make sure no institution abuses its power, he made them responsible to each other. The executive is responsible to the legislature; the legislature is responsible to the people. The judiciary, in the eyes of Ambedkar, should be responsible to the legislative. Under Article 124(4) of the Constitution, the legislative can remove a judge from office due to "proved misbehavior or incapacity". Sounds perfect, doesn't it? Except no judge in the history of independent India has ever been removed by Parliament, because the charges of "proved misbehavior or incapacity" are too hard to prove. And the Supreme Court went one step further. In the 1990's, it decided that all judges would be appointed by a 'Collegium', which would consist of the Chief Justice of India, and 4 senior most judges which implies that the Supreme Court appoints its own judges. It isn't answerable to the legislative, executive or the people of India.

Seeing this perversion of the Constitution, the Parliament almost unanimously passed the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, a body which would consist of individuals from civil society, the legislative and the judiciary, who would in turn appoint judges, bringing in more transparency in the opaque Collegium system. It was the biggest judicial reform in Independent India, which would restore balance to the Constitution. The SC struck it down. It declared the law unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court today makes laws and tells bureaucrats and the police what to do. And if the people, through their elected Members of Parliament, decide that enough is enough, the Supreme Court simply says, "No." It was Louis XIV who said "I am the State". Today, the Supreme Court says, "I am the Law". Ambedkar's cleverly crafted balance of power, has been tilted too far.



SCHOOL WATCH

Hindi Kavita Lekhan Pratiyogita

Class 9:

1st-Nayana puri

2nd-Aashutosh Trivedi

3rd- Aditi singh, Ananya Mehta

Class 10:

1st-Aditi Singh

2nd-Rabiya Gupta, Saniya Sidhu

3rd- Kabeer Singh

Just A Minute - Class 5 (6th May)

1st-Girdhar Chandok, Sana Mehra

2nd-Aayana Kapur

3rd-Neel Mehta, Varenaya Shrikhande

Speed Math 4 - Class 6

Winner- Ruhan Chopra

Done well- Rohan Pahwa

THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC

The first half of our last year in school is coming to an all but familiar close. The house captains are jumping through hoops to get more practice, still fighting over songs and changing their minds constantly. Each house trying to outdo the other and win the famed Western Music Competition.

Having been in this school since 2004, it fills me with a sense of nostalgia knowing that no matter how many other changes have come



about, this event has remained a constant; The Western Music Competition, which is more formally known as the Mark D'Souza Memorial Inter-House Western Music Competition as has been made abundantly clear to me by Mrs. Krishnan and Mr Dutta on many occasions.

I'm sure the older batches will have a broad idea as to who, 'Mr. Mark D'Souza' was, and of course the first few batches of the school were privileged enough to interact with him. But for those who don't know of him, Mark D'Souza was one of the very first music teachers at our school.

His expertise lay in the guitar and Ms. Dutta was actually a very dear friend of his. I have heard countless stories about the love he received from everyone; the children and the faculty both. He was a great man who loved what he did. The Western Music competition was named after him, after his passing in 1997.

For most people singing on stage each year, it is a fight for the trophy, a quest to win for their house. But for me, I almost feel like I'm taking his legacy and name forward when I stand there. Not many people know of my relationship with him. Mark D'Souza was actually my uncle. For me, he has always been just 'Mark Mamu.'

Being his nephew has been an interesting experience for me. Many times I've had my friends walk up to my mom and ask her if she was in fact related to him. Also, the exciting stories that I've heard from teachers and family members have surely been memories I will cherish forever. Seeing as how he passed away before I was born, I never actually got to meet him, but I still feel like I know him, from all the things that I have heard of him.

My grandad often quotes many incidents with Mark Mamu when we have our time of reflection together and it really gives me insight to the personality of my uncle. For all that counts, I feel like my last performance in this competition is an ode to him.

-Arvaan Kumar, 12



THE MUSK OF A NEW CAR

We've seen the Indian anti-pollution "nuskas" and let's face it, the likes of the odd-even scheme and banning non-CNG taxis from Delhi is just the government's way of saying, "We're doing something!". But it seems a revolution is brewing on the greener side of the Indian automobile market, and this has caught the attention of the face who replaced Steve Jobs on the frontier of innovation; Elon Musk. The man behind the wheel of Tesla.

Musk, in a short and sweet tweet revealed that in 2017, Indians along with citizens of a few other developing nations will receive the privilege of owning a Tesla Model 3, the companies latest and most affordable car. Indians making the transition to the Tesla, a 100% electronic car, could ideally mean a huge difference in the air we breathe.

So is this it? Have we found our saving grace? Has India found the way out of this ecological conundrum? Nope. The car costs at least 4-5 times the cost of the average Indian consumers income. Add with the 100% import duty, the car is just not working for all Indians, just a few. It just looks like another piece of the puzzle.

The Tesla in India, it can be taken as a sign that India is regarded as a market for newer innovations, and that's a pat on the back. If Indians can accommodate the Tesla's not so flamboyant, extremely silent engine without complaining about the lack of 'Vroom Vroom' then we have for ourselves another pat on the back. But only when electronic cars rule our streets, and the banes that are our fossil fuel driven vehicles have been eliminated, can we be truly congratulating ourselves.

-Aditya Chopra, 11

RACISM: A REMINDER

Racism, prejudice and xenophobia are rampant in India. It's a strange mixture of prejudice, ignorance and centuries-old discriminatory practices. A few days ago, there was talk of a family friend who had returned from Australia after working there for two years. He was a doctor in the country and was recounting the racism he faced by the local people. They wanted a "real" doctor, someone with white skin. We, Indians, when facing racism get highly offended, yet we aren't reminded of those feelings when we behave the same way towards someone with darker skin or who looks different than us. Earlier this month, it was a young girl from Tanzania studying in Bengaluru who fell prey to a mob of locals, for no fault of hers. A car ahead of hers driven by another unrelated African, had fatally injured a local woman and the mob that gathered attacked her and her friends, in retaliation, even burning their car and tearing her clothes. Sadly racism is not just limited towards other countries, a "chinky" can never be from the North-East of our own country. So they too are treated as foreigners. The girl child is killed in the womb. A young woman is denied the same opportunities as her brother. It's "illegal" for someone to love another person of the same gender. Men can be killed for keeping beef in their refrigerators. To live up to what our forefathers had in mind when writing the constitution of India, it is we, the youth, who have to make a change in our thinking to make our country truly a place where each person is equal.

-Asmita Shah, 9



READING LIST: REVAMPED

For all my fellow book-lovers out there - if you happen to be on that last, irresistible chapter of book that you attempted to 'save' for the summer - fret not. You won't have to end up staring hopelessly at ceilings or resort to watching your sanity slowly deteriorate as you go on endless Amazon/bookstore sprees, picking out whichever copy which seems even slightly aesthetically pleasing and eventually groaning in frustration the minute your eyes skim over the blurb. And whether you're in for fast-paced murder mysteries or wild fantasies, I've got just the thing for you. Honestly.

If you're searching for something that's heart-wrenching yet exhilarating, with characters that stay with you months after the experience:

(I seriously recommend that you keep a box of tissues nearby, because this is going to hurt).

1. Thirteen Reasons Why - Jay Asher
2. Speak - Laure Halse Anderson
3. When I Was Five I Killed Myself - Howard Buten
4. All the Bright Places - Jennifer Niven
5. Eleanor & Park - Rainbow Rowell
6. Playlist for the Dead - Michelle Falkoff

If you're looking for something to keep you right at the edge of your seat and tries to pry your sleep-deprived eyes open at 12:00 AM because you simply just can't stop reading: (However tempting it may be, I suggest you refrain from flipping to the last page - because we all know that never ends well).

1. The Girl on the Train - Paula Hawkins
2. The Poet - Michael Connelly
3. Fall For Anything - Courtney Summers
4. Ocean at the End of the Lane - Neil Gaiman
5. The Rain - Virginia Bergin

If you've just finished reading The Hunger Games and the Divergent trilogy for the 10th time in a row and the only thing your brain is craving is more and more dystopia:

1. The Selection series - Kiera Cass
2. The Red Queen - Victoria Aveyard
3. The Legend trilogy - Marie Lu
4. Uglies series - Scott Westerfield

And if you're just looking something to make you smile like an idiot and ignite the little butterflies in your stomach, but also make you want to curl into a ball and sob into your pillow for days:

1. Carry On - Rainbow Rowell
2. Never Never - Colleen Hoover and Tarry Fisher
3. Before I Fall - Lauren Oliver
4. Fangirl - Rainbow Rowell

-Aishwarya Arya, 9

And if this doesn't sate your hunger, do check out the Reading List on the school website!

SUMMER IS HERE!



Ice slurpies, chilled drinks, flip-flops and lazy dreams! Oh, the blazing sun trying to ruin our fun, but we've got vacations and its time to bring out the summer celebrations!

Yes, the scorching summer is here and as the mercury rises steadily our excitement does too because there's no school for two months. There are no worries about waking up early in the morning or finishing homework for submission the next day. So just bring out your summer bucket lists and get busy with enjoying the vacations. Remember to unwind and enjoy your summer because some of the best memories are made in flip-flops.

Here's a list of some fun things you can do!

1. Learn a new language!
2. Climb the family tree by interacting with your grandparents!
3. Lounge by the pool, armed with a book from the reading list in one hand and the latest music playlist in the other.
4. Sit in a bucket of ice (but do your homework while you're at it!)

-Darinee Chandok, 9



ये न होता

अगर ये न होता
तो क्या भरोसा

मेरे भविष्य का क्या होता ?

हर क्षण, हर चुनौती, हर वास्ता

बताता है मेरे भाग्य का रास्ता

यह सारी चीजे बन जाती है मेरी पहचान

यह यादें बन गई है मेरी शान।

यदि सदियों पहले मैंने वह चुनौती नहीं ली होती

तो क्या मैं आज यही बैठी होती ?

यह निर्णय ने लिया है भाग

जिन लोगो पर मेरा है ऐहसान

जिन्होंने मेरी देखभाल की है सुबह शाम।

यदि यह छोटे-छोटे पल, भाव, और अनुभव

जो मेरी ज़िन्दगी के बन गए हैं ज़रूरी लफ़्ज़

न होते, तो क्या होता तब।

पानी में अपने प्रतिबिंब को देखती छू कभी-कभी

और आता है मेरे मन में एक डरावना ख्याल,

यदि मैंने सालो साल पहले

क्षणिक सोच से कुछ गलत कर दिया होता

तो क्या मेरा भाग्य यही होता।

तब मुझे समझ में आया मानव सत्य

ज़िन्दगी में मैंने गलतियां करी है हजार

परन्तु भाग्य में हमेशा होते रहते हैं बदलाव

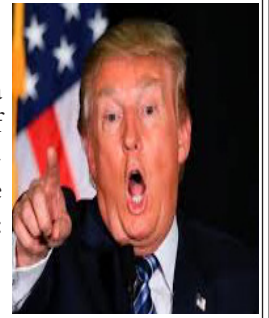
यदि हम कुछ करें या न

भाग्य है बदलता रहता लगातार।

नयना पुरी, 10

A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Donald Trump is a truly brilliant man. A master of International relations and by no standards, a racist and sexist bigot! And he claims to make America great again if he is elected as the President of the United states. America will be the epitome of perfection, just like many of Trump's business ventures. This is a phrase he often uses to sway crowds in his favour. Yet it is unknown to them that more often than not his businesses fail. For example Trump Airlines, Vodka, Casinos, Mortgage, Trump: the game etc. His other failures include his hair and marriages.



But what really sets him apart is the wall he wants to build across the south of America to stop the influx of Mexican immigrants. Now this brilliant idea stemmed from his love (ehm ehm) for immigrants. We see this love in the form of casual racial slurs that he manages to slip into his speeches and the foreign policies he plans to implement. Although there is no need to worry, it's not that he only targets members of the African-American and Hispanic community. He also displays this same affection towards all women stating "they're only useful as long as they are young and beautiful, beyond that nobody cares" truly highlighting his 'you cannot spell development without men' attitude.

Coming back to the wall he plans to build, the measurements and cost of the wall announced by have greatly varied. The height would be between 35 to 55 feet and the cost between 4 to 17 billion dollars (he does pride himself in his accuracy). Now when John Oliver, the host of the HBO show Last Week Tonight did some digging he found that the cost for a 35-foot wall at the bare minimum would cost 25 billion dollars and it's maintenance cost would exceed he amount required to build it within seven years. Not to mention building a 35-foot wall would only promote the sales of 36-foot ladders. On a more serious note if Donald Trump does ascend to power, there will be powerful backlashes. The world will be a worse place to live. And we will be powerless as we watch Trump remove all Mexican immigrants from America. Juan by Juan.



Here are some of his best moments:

"I've said if Ivanka weren't my daughter, perhaps I'd be dating her."

"I was down there, and I watched our police and our firemen, down on 7-Eleven, down at the World Trade Center, right after it came down."

"An 'extremely credible source' has called my office and told me that Barack Obama's birth certificate is a fraud."

Aryan Sadh, 10

A DAY IN MY LIFE

*At seven thirty sharp,
my fellow friends and I,
are surrounded by boys and girls
not like the ones who beat the drums or play the harp.*

*These ingrates are the ones
who hit and bash me up,
not realizing how much I do for them,
while sitting on my back and saying what's up.*

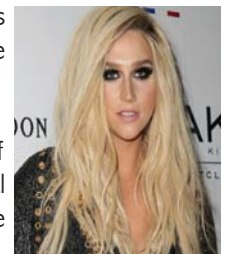
*I sit there everyday
while these hooligans spill ink on me.
I support their books and their arms,
and sit there without any pay.*

*I wish they would just realize how evil they are
they think of me as a trifle,
I wish I had a pair of wings
so I could fly away very far.*

-Taanvir Sood,7

#FREEKESHA

"I got offered my freedom if I were to lie." This is what Kesha said after the court denied her a preliminary injunction against her producer Dr.Luke. She had filed a complaint and alleged that he had "sexually, physically, verbally and emotionally abused" her. Though Dr.Luke denies all allegations, Kesha is still bound by the contract wherein she is forced to create music under her alleged abuser who she doesn't feel safe enough to work around. This is just one of the several examples of misogyny in the music industry.



Zedd who Kesha describes as a person with "a heart of gold" has produced a song with Kesha amid her legal battle and help her launch a song after a hiatus of three years.

Misogyny has now become so common now that people don't seem to see the underlying sexism anymore. There's no point sugarcoating how rampant the issue of sexism is in the music industry. It has almost become a trend to objectify women performers and call them out for the way they act or behave.

As Lauren Mayberry rightly said "Is the casual objectification of women so commonplace that we should all just suck it up, roll over and accept defeat? I hope not." I think it's time that we ditch the double standards we impose on women.

Asees Kaur, 11

A letter to the chief minister..

Respected Chief Minister of Delhi,

Sir, I am Qasim Trumboo from Jammu and Kashmir but I study in Vasant Valley School in Delhi . Sir, I request you that there is so much pollution in Delhi that I cannot breath properly . I cannot see the stars in the sky in Delhi like I see in my Kashmir. I request you Sir, can you please take a fine of Rs. 6000 from people who throw waste on the road and allow children to burn crackers for fun. I also request you keep a 'Plant Day' in Delhi for all the schools to grow plants so that Delhi becomes green like my Kashmir and will have clean air to breathe. Thank you very much for keeping odd and even in Delhi. Now I can reach home early from school and play. Will you write me a letter back ?

Thank you.

Qasim Trumboo, 3B.



Splash Taal Party- Nursery

VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL SONG

(Taking inspiration from
'Moin And The Monster')

Students of VVS strive to do their best
We always look smart and well dressed.
We give our best in study and games,
We do not bother about fame.
To strive for excellence is our goal,
We do everything with our heart and soul.

-Class 3B

नानी

यह तो है नानी की कहानी,
जिसमे थी दो लड़कियाँ अंजानी,
एक थी वानी और दूजी थी शिरानी,
दोनों करती थी अपनी मनमानी,
उनसे तंग आ जाती थीं नानी,
पर नानी थी बड़ी सयानी,
और पीती थी 'ठंडा-ठंडा' पानी।

-विनीता मौर्य, ४-स

ग्रीष्म ऋतु

भारत में मई और जून के महीनों में भीषण गर्मी पड़ती है । गर्मियों में दिन बड़े और रात छोटी होती है । सूरज की रौशनी असहनीय लगती है । दिन भर धूल भरी तेज गर्म हवाएं चलती है । आँधी और 'लू' की थपेड़ों के कारण लोग वातानुकूलित स्थानों पर रहना ज्यादा पसंद करते हैं । लोग पतले और हलके रंग के कपड़े पहनते हैं । ठण्डे पेयजल जैसे निम्बू पानी, आम पन्ना, शर्बत आदि पीते हैं और ठंडी चीजे जैसे आइसक्रीम, कुल्फी आदि खाते हैं । इस मौसम में बहुत से रसीले फल जैसे फलों का राजा आम, खरबूजा, तरबूज, चैरी, लीची, आड़ू आदि मिलते हैं, जिन्हे हम सब बड़े चाव से खाते हैं । पानी में रहना बहुत भाता है । लोग घर से बाहर जाते समय, गर्मी से बचने के लिए छाते, चश्मे और टोपी का प्रयोग करते हैं । मछरो की भरमार के कारण बहुत सी बीमारियाँ फैल जाती है । हमें 'लू' से बचकर रहना चाहिए ।

-कायरा धर, ४-स

MRS. COCKLE TAKES FLIGHT

One windy morning, Mrs. Cockle, took her biggest umbrella and went through the trapdoor onto her roof. The wind was blowing very fast. Suddenly Mrs. Cockle realized she was flying! She looked around and giggled to herself as she could see Mr. Tom's favorite Sunday hat and Miss Mary's cat flying with her. She thought, "Wow! Lucky me, a free London tour!" She saw the Big Ben and the clock was showing 2 p.m. Then she saw the changing of the guards at the Buckingham Palace. The London Bridge, the London Eye, the fountains at Piccadilly Circus and the pigeons at Trafalgar Square looked like ants. She flew over Hyde Park where the children in the swings looked like aliens. Suddenly the wind stopped blowing. Mrs. Cockle closed her eyes; she knew it was landing time. A bit scared, she prayed that when she landed, she would be safe. She felt something soft and wobbly; she had landed on a bright red bouncy at some birthday party. She quickly got up, settled herself, looked for a taxi and headed back home. She sighed, "Lord, what an unbelievable day!"

-Nirvaan Manaktala, 3A

MAKING SENSE OF SHAPES

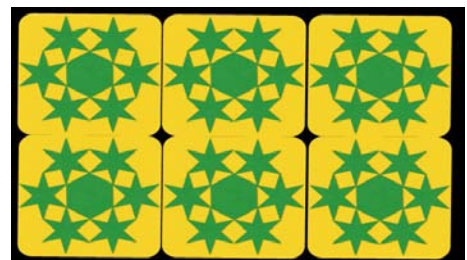


-Bikram Singh Laali, Foundation

SHAPES MAKE PATTERNS- TESSELLATIONS



-Ronit Raj Singh, VB



-Ansh Patwal, VC

आप **F.R.I.E.N.D.S** के कौन से पात्र हैं?

1) आप इन में से क्या खाना पसंद करेंगे?

- अ. सब्जियां आ. घर में बना हुआ आलिशान भोजन
 इ. पिज्जा ई. मीटबॉल सैंडविच
 उ. केक ऊ. कॉफी

2) आप कौनसा व्यवसाय पसंद करेंगे?

- अ. पता नहीं आ. खान पान से सम्बंधित
 इ. इंजीनियर ई. अभिनेता
 उ. वैज्ञानिक ऊ. फैशन से संबंधित

3) आपके कितने भाई/बहन हैं?

- अ. एक जुड़वां भाई/बहन आ. एक बड़ा या छोटा भाई/बहन
 इ. कोई नहीं ई. 2 से अधिक
 उ. 2 बड़े भाई/बहन ऊ. 1 बड़ा व 1 छोटा भाई/बहन

4) आप कहाँ जाना पसंद करेंगे?

- अ. सिनेमा घर आ. केवल मेरा घर
 इ. जलपान गृह (restaurant) ई. खेलकूद का आयोजन
 उ. संग्रहालय (museum) ऊ. काफी की दूकान

5) आपको इन में से क्या सबसे अधिक पसंद है?

- अ. साइकिल चलाना आ. सफाई
 इ. आरामदायक सोफा ई. भोजन
 उ. विज्ञान ऊ. खरीदारी

6) आपके लिए सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण क्या है?

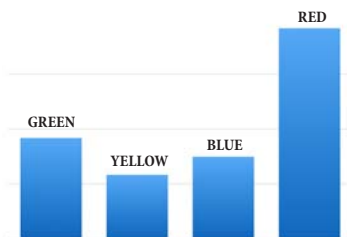
- अ. जीवन में कई चीजें करना आ. अच्छे दोस्त होना
 इ. एक स्थिर नौकरी होना ई. हास्यजनक होना
 उ. बड़ा व अच्छा परिवार होना ऊ. अच्छा दिखना

यदि आपके सबसे अधिक संख्या में उत्तर 'अ' था तो आप फीवी हैं, 'आ' तो मोनिका, 'इ' तो चांडलर, 'ई' तो जोई, 'उ' तो रॉस और 'ऊ' तो रेचल।



श्रेय वैद 11

POLL: WHICH HOUSE WILL WIN MARK D' SOUZA INTER-HOUSE WESTERN MUSIC COMPETITION?



GREEN- 22%
 YELLOW- 14%
 BLUE- 18%
 RED- 46%

CAGED

Wrecked, inside out, a shadow of what I used to be
 Smiling in delirium, laughing hysterically
 Ground into the pebbly road, cobbled with dark stones
 Ash from my skin, dust rising from what's left of my bones.

Noose on my neck, formed by the strands of what's left of my stringy silvery hair
 Unraveling themselves from my scalp and forming bars that dance here and there
 Strengthening themselves with the concrete that is my wild scream
 Solidifying with lost hopes, slaughtered aspirations, murdered dream

Defiance has died on the rough thin skin of my fingers
 The same way the smoke dies upon the flame after it lingers
 And my black eyes are hollows in the sunken island that has become my face
 Bandages that kept the fragments of my soul together, ripped and floated to the surface

Scars dug far into the skin, bruises purpling upon my body
 Drawn with anesthesia, laced with sweet honey
 And I smile in delirium, let myself laugh hysterically
 Wheezing lungs will giggle as madness through slowly creeps

For when I have already lain and died for the thousandth time
 One thousand and one is just another moment in which I shall live
 In a cage constructed from my remains, as I begin to shrivel into revival.

-Zoya Hassan, 11



KOHINOOR: A COMPLEX HISTORY

Kohinoor originated in India's Golconda mines. It was passed to Persians through Nadir Shah. In between, diamond was with Afghans of the Durrani empire for two to three generations. It was snatched by Ranjit Singh and reached the British in mid 19th century through him. It was during the regency of his son Duleep Singh that the diamond was taken away to Britain. It was part of the peace treaty of British with the Sikhs and was taken forcefully. The Solicitor General claim in Supreme Court that the Kohinoor was a gift to British is thus not sustainable. Another shocking revelation is that the claim that it belongs to India is also not supported by history. Afghans and Iranians had the Kohinoor for longer duration before the Britishers took it. History of this diamond is exceptionally complex and even today, no one can say for a fact that the Kohinoor belongs to them.

-Aditi Singh, 10

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