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THE GEN-Z MOVEMENT

- Akshit Upadhyay, XI

Nepal is witnessing a crisis born from entrenched corruption and social inequality. This fuelled widespread student and youth protests popularly known as a Gen-Z uprising. Social media bans triggered further unrest, leading to attacks on parliament, the homes of former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, and other political figures.

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli resigned after his residence was set ablaze. The uprising saw 19 students killed. These events mirror recent movements which were led by the youth in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, where Gen-Z activists mobilized against entrenched political patronage and economic mismanagement. In Bangladesh, protests erupted over an unfair government job quota system, leading to violent suppression before achieving political change. Similarly, Sri Lanka's Aragalaya movement ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2022, highlighting youth frustration with authoritarian governance.

In Nepal, as in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, social media has amplified discontent, providing a platform for coordinated youth action. From a geopolitical perspective, these regional upheavals attract global attention. China, with its growing strategic and economic interests in South Asia,

may view such unrest as an opportunity to counterbalance India's rise and influence. Historical tensions, including the Tibetan refugee issue and India's growing integration with global power networks, provide context for Beijing's cautious manoeuvres. Through soft power, investment, as well as diplomacy, China could exploit instability in Nepal and Bangladesh, effectively "fencing in" India in a strategic sense, a real-world parallel to the ancient Chinese game Go, which emphasizes territorial control.

Meanwhile, U.S. policies in South Asia, historically aimed at maintaining balance and stability, may inadvertently contribute to regional instability, creating a complex chessboard where India's neighbours are destabilised while global powers assert influence. For India, navigating this constantly-evolving scenario demands vigilance and strategic foresight. Supporting democratic reforms, youth engagement, and regional stability, while balancing relations with both the United States and China, will be essential. Missteps could transform South Asia into a Cold War 2.0 battleground. India must therefore act judiciously, ensuring that it can safeguard its borders, its economic growth, and its role as a stabilising force in a region that remains under increasing global scrutiny.

Gandhi Jayanti

-Khichu Kath, XII

The 2nd of October, Gandhi Jayanti is a day of quiet remembrance and hope, a day when the story of one humble man calls out across the world. Mahatma Gandhi walked the dusty roads of India; he carried nothing but faith in truth and love. Books by Tolstoy and Ruskin spoke to his soul, teaching him that those who have the most are often happiest when they give it all away. Becoming a lawyer gave Gandhi a glimpse of the world's riches and status, yet those luxuries never held sway over his heart.

Witnessing the suffering of Indians in South Africa and feeling the pain of injustice, Gandhi made a bold choice to re-locate the Indians. Gandhi's renunciation came not from force but from compassion; he believed that true strength was helping others and living in harmony with all, rather than chasing status or wealth. This self-sacrifice was his statement: that life dedicated to others is richer than gold, and lasting peace comes only when personal gain is left behind.

He taught Ahimsa, not just as an idea, but as a force stronger than any weapon.

His message was simple: "Truth is hard as rock and tender as a blossom." Each word he spoke was chosen with care, meant to reach the heart and move the spirit. Today, the world trembles under the shadow of violence. Bombs fall in Ukraine, and war rages in the Middle East, and neighbours glare across borders in South Asia, and tempers flare in Southeast Asia. It is easy to feel despair.

Yet Gandhi's dream was different. He believed that peace begins not in palaces or parliaments, but inside each person. He asked people to meet hatred with courage, to answer cruelty with kindness. In moments of hardship, his lessons challenge us to see every opponent as human, to choose dialogue over destruction, and to act with patience, even when anger seems easier. On his 156th birthday, may the world remember his practice of ahimsa and take it up as a clarion call to be sounded across the world

A SOUND APPROACH: INDIA'S POLICY OF STRATEGIC RESTRAINT

-Henba Nameirakpam, XII

India is a sovereign country, meaning the Government of India is independent to take any decisions regarding the nation without external interference. Over the years, we have seen a shift in India's foreign policy doctrines. Earlier, India pursued a policy of strategic restraint, though this has often been criticized as ineffective. A key example is Operation Parakram, launched in response to the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament on 13 December 2001, which India attributed to Pakistan-based groups Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). This operation led to a military

standoff between the two countries at the Line of Control (LoC) that lasted for 10 months.

Despite the massive deployment, India refrained from crossing the border. This restraint, while deliberate, was often criticized as a "costly stalemate," since it consumed vast resources, cost the lives of many soldiers, yet yielded no tangible military or political gains. In contrast, the more recent Operation Sindoor demonstrated a refined form of strategic restraint. India not only struck terror camps but, for the first time, also targeted military bases and potentially

nuclear hideouts across the border.

This showcased India's military capabilities and planning while carefully avoiding escalation into a full-fledged war. One must understand the asymmetry in stakes between India and Pakistan. Pakistan, with its stagnant to near non-existent economy, places little value on the lives of its people and therefore has comparatively less to lose. India, however, has much at stake from its fast-growing economy to a stock market striving to expand despite global and regional challenges. There is now a clear understanding in India's power corridors that any future war, if unavoidable, will likely

unfold on two fronts simultaneously: India-Pakistan and India-China. While the armed forces remain vigilant along our borders, India must also assert its presence on the chessboard of geopolitics and international trade.

The strategy, therefore, is two fold: maintain credible military deterrence while continuing to grow as a market, implementing reforms that ensure financial progress remains unhampered. Strategic restraint, when balanced with decisive and calibrated responses, remains a sound doctrine for India protecting national interests without sacrificing long term stability and growth.

TALES FROM THE EPICS

-V

Nal and Neel

-Devansh Agarwal, XII

Nal and Neel were two legendary vanara (monkey) warriors in the Ramayana, celebrated for their key role in constructing the Ram Setu, a bridge that enabled Lord Rama's army to reach Lanka and rescue Sita. Nal, the son of Vishwakarma, the architect of the gods, possessed unparalleled engineering skills, while Neel, the son of Agni, was known for his strength and resilience.

When Ram sought to cross the ocean, Varuna guided him to Nal and Neel, revealing that their divine lineage granted them the unique ability to make stones float on water. This miraculous trait stemmed from a childhood incident in which sages had cursed them so that any object they threw into water would never sink, in response to their mischievous acts. The construction process combined extraordinary teamwork and ingenious strategy.

Nal designed and supervised the building, while Neel organised the vanara troops to gather

massive stones, trees, and logs from the forests. As stones were laid into the ocean, the team discovered that writing Ram's name on each stone made them stick together, solving the initial problem of drifting rocks and forming a stable pathway. Through efficient task division and continuous leadership, the vanara army, under Nal and Neel, completed the 48-kilometre bridge in just five days, a feat immortalised as one of the great engineering achievements in ancient epic literature.

The Ram Sethu remains clearly visible today, stretching across the pristine waters of the Indian Ocean and linking Rameshwaram in India to Mannar Island in Sri Lanka. Nal and Neel's strategy exemplified innovative problem-solving, divine blessing, and unwavering collaboration, turning an impossible challenge into a triumph that changed the course of the Ramayana.

বৈশাখ

- Deepshikha Nath, XI

Durga Puja in Bengal is not merely a festival; it is a grand celebration of life itself. When autumn arrives, the air fills with the fragrance of shiuli flowers, incense, and dhunuchi smoke, while the rhythmic beat of the dhak echoes through every street. Pandal, transformed into dazzling palaces of art and imagination, welcome devotees and visitors alike. Each idol of Maa Durga becomes a masterpiece, radiating both creativity and devotion.

Recognized by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Durga Puja is the soul of Bengal. It is where faith, art, music, food, and togetherness unite in a celebration that transcends religion to become a shared cultural identity. From small towns to bustling cities, pandal-hopping becomes a nightly ritual, while mornings begin with

anjali and bhog, and evenings end in laughter, dance, and devotion.

On Ashtami, hands fold in prayer; on Dashami, tears mingle with joy as sindoor and drums bid farewell to Maa. The festival is as much about food as it is about faith. Pandal kitchens brim with steaming khichuri, crispy beguni, labra, and payesh, feeding thousands in a spirit of community. Afternoons glow with luchi and cholar dal, while evenings burst with the flavors of Kolkata's beloved street food, phuchka, ghugni, rolls, and cutlets. And of course, no Puja is complete without the sweetness of rosogolla, sandesh, and mishtidoi, shared with friends and strangers alike. But beyond rituals and feasts, Durga Puja is about unity. Families gather, friendships deepen, strangers smile at each other, all bound by the same spirit. The sound of conch shells and the sight of vermilion-streaked faces carry the timeless message of good triumphing over evil. As the festival ends and Maa Durga departs, the promise lingers in every heart, "Asche bochor abar hobe!" (Next year, she will come again).

2025 Asia Cup Final

-Soba Tadar, XI

The 2025 Asia Cup final was never just about runs and wickets, it turned into a theatre of politics, outrage, and symbolism. From the start, public resentment had been simmering against the BCCI for insisting India play Pakistan, even while the government insisted it had severed ties after Operation Sindoor. Officials were quick to claim distance politically, but sport became the battleground where that claim was tested. The narrative pivoted when Indian captain Suryakumar Yadav refused to shake hands with Pakistan's skipper Salman Ali Agha, turning a moment of traditional sportsmanship into a flashpoint

of national sentiment. On the field, Pakistani players stoked controversy further. Some appeared to pantomime gun-gestures or references to the Pahalgam attacks and their claim of having downed six Indian jets, which were deeply provocative amid ongoing tensions. In response, many in India saw anger and defiance boiling over, not mere theatrics. But the grand act of defiance came in the trophy ceremony.

The Indian team refused to accept the trophy from Mohsin Naqvi, Pakistan's Interior Minister, Pakistan Cricket Board chairman, and Asian Cricket Council president. Naqvi was seen rushing out of the field with the trophy in tow, leaving the Indian team to celebrate without a trophy, which they did to great aplomb, their celebrations becoming viral on social media. Criticism fell heavily on Jay Shah, BCCI secretary and son of Home Minister Amit Shah, for allowing the fixture to go ahead despite the political peril. But after that no-handshake moment, public opinion

shifted sharply in India. What once was seen as a misstep became in many eyes brave refusal to legitimize protocols with a regime perceived as hostile. In 2025, cricket

was not an escape from politics, it became a mirror. And won that stage, India chose silence, gesture, and withdrawal as their loudest statements.

Tales from the Hills: XVI

Ita Thaoumei

-Aastha Potsangbam, IX

Once upon a time, there lived an old woman in a small hut built of mud and straw. She worked hard all day on her own, and with her earnings bought the food she needed. Everyone in the village knew her. Though old and hunched with age, she was considered rich and prosperous.

She was also very neat and tidy because every morning she bathed and washed her clothes before beginning her work. One night, a thief, his eyes wide and glinting, crept toward her house. Moving slowly, he peered over the fence and then tiptoed to the front door. He tugged at the latch. "Locked," he muttered. "I'll check the back." But the back door, too, was fastened. Disappointed, he pressed his ear against the wall, listening for any sound.

From inside, he heard the faint hum of a spinning wheel. "She's still awake?" he thought, frustrated. He decided to come back another day. A few nights later, the thief returned. This time

he arrived earlier and, finding the house empty, slipped inside and hid under the bed. Soon the old woman came home. Seizing the chance, he crawled behind a dimly lit thaoumei (oil lamp).

The old woman stepped inside. Her sharp eyes instantly noticed something was wrong. She suspected the thief's presence but, instead of panicking, she quickly devised a plan. Looking toward the lamp, she called out: "Ita thaoumei, Ita thaoumei!" (Friend lamp, friend lamp!) The thief, startled, stared in disbelief. Again she called: "Ita thaoumei, Ita thaoumei! Why are you not replying today?" Confused, the thief hesitated, then nervously answered, "Yes?" The old woman raised her voice: "Let me tell you a story. Once a thief entered a house, and the old woman inside cried out, "A thief has broken into my house!" With that, she shouted the last words so loudly that all her neighbours rushed in. Thanks to her presence of mind, the thief was caught.

Campus Caricature

IN A RUSH!

-Mashunsing Keishing, XI



INTER HOUSE TENNIS

Inter-House Lawn Tennis Competition was held from 17th to 19th September, 2025 where Lower School and Upper School students mesmerized the audience with their serves and forehand movements.

Results of the competition are as follows:

Best Player (Boys)- Lakshyaveer Das Barman

Best Player (Girls)- Joyshika Sharma

Most Promising Player- Chandraneel Chowdhury

First Position- Jinari-Manas

Second Position- Bhoroli-Lohit



Photography by Photographic Society

INTER HOUSE EQUESTRIAN

Inter-House Equestrian competition was held at The Assam Valley School from 5th to 7th September, 2025. Three students from each house participated and showcased their riding skills, chivalry and prowess on the ground.

Results of the competition are as follows:

Best Rider Trophy: Astarebeni Choudhury

First Position- Kopili-Dhansiri

Second Position- Bhoroli-Lohit



INTER HOUSE WATER POLO

Inter-House Water Polo Competition was held on 13th and 14th September, 2025 for Lower School and Upper School students which inspired the students to take interest in this water sport.

Results are as follows:

First Position- Kopili-Dhansiri

Second Position- Subansiri-Namdang & Jinari-Manas



UICO

Students of class 5 and 8 participated in the UICO which not only helped the students improve problem-solving skills but also provided opportunities for academic growth. UICO also fosters critical thinking, builds confidence, and prepares the students for competitive future academics and careers by exposing them to advanced topics and national or international platforms.



ROUND SQUARE

A Round Square conference was held at Jamnagar in Gujarat from 10th to 13th September, 2025 hosted by Dhirubhai Ambani International School which focussed on EKTA-Encouraging Knowledge, Tolerance and Acceptance. Students were educated about sustainable practices and how agro-waste is converted to CBG, an alternative to CNG on their visit to Reliance refinery. Baraza groups were also made aware about human-animal conflict and were shown Vantara, an animal rescue and rehabilitation centre.



Ripple #259

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, XII

*Beneath Sicily's blood-red
sun, the Corleone name
stirred,
Olive trees whispered secrets
that none dared to word.
Stone courtyards held
shadows, and candles burned
with care,
For even truth itself bowed
before the Godfather's stare.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "She is putting mouths in my words."- Vibe Zhimomi, XII (You need your English fed to you with a spoon.)
2. "I am psychologying a doctor."- Tanveer Ahmed, XII (Are you sure you're the one who needs a check-up?)
3. "I can stretch it small."- N. Chingkheinganbi, XI (Maybe you should "stretch" your vocabulary first.)
4. "It's just is"- Erik Angie Riba, XII (It's just what? Incorrect English?)
5. "Oversmartism is increasing."- Mr. Manas Mukhoti (Well, Clearly.)



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