



Dear Readers,

After seven gruelling years at Welham, we have come to accept the reality that we live in a bubble, an alternate universe with rules of its own. Adjusting to the chaos of school after two comfortably air-conditioned months at home is, to say the least, challenging. The month of July witnessed Welhamites scramble around campus, readapting to blue chunnis and bata shoes, braving the Dehradun rains and first term assessments.

Now, as we trudge through August, it too seems to offer no respite. With SCs begging for laptops (*again*) and college admissions looming overhead, the stress levels are truly unprecedented. To-do lists are stacked sky high with the flurry of sports events, MUNs and debates, and the fresh, unfortunate predicament with the sports department dragging us away from our beds (*literally*). The making of our second *N&V* issue was a hurried affair, being edited and compiled in 15 days despite half our ed-board being away on ~~vacation~~ work. Even under the watchful eye of a ticking clock, the Editing Gods chose to abandon us, with our issue being deleted (*once again*). But the thing about being a Welhamite is that we thrive in this storm of activity, wherein there is a calm that only we understand.

That is not to say our summer vacations were without excitement. Indian women made history at the Cannes Film Festival (*and no, we are not talking about Welhamites meeting Tajdar*). In the backdrop of Kamala Harris replacing President Biden and the chaotic NEET UG scandal, India sat with bated breath in front of its television screens. The ICC T20 Men’s World Cup had us fearing a repeat of the 2023 World Cup final match, and the 2024 Lok Sabha elections had us anxious about a repeat of the 2019 elections. But, not to worry—both the Indian cricket team and the Indian electorate persevered and triumphed.

As India celebrates 77 years of independence, we must realise that in order to truly honour those who laid down their lives for our nation, we must strive to become worthy of their sacrifice. Our role in a free India, cannot be confined solely to being students. Rather than adopting the anticipatory position as leaders of tomorrow, we must endeavour to become dutiful citizens of today.

The efforts of Welhamites to be conscientious citizens of an inclusive India are reflected in the inaugural edition of *Jazbaat*. As the No. 12 campus engulfs itself in a fit of activity in anticipation of hosting students from around India, it is heartening to see our faculty and student body spearhead discussions surrounding pressing issues, in a world where mental health is often inaccessible and stigmatised. That being said, we sincerely hope that you, dear readers, can find some respite within these diligently (*not so much*) prepared yellow pages, discovering a few moments of love and care between our hectic schedules.

In desperate need of assistance,
Aarisha Jain and Vanshi Agrawal
 Editors-in-Chief



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Sherlocks of the Internet

For the average internet user, it is undoubtedly the most intriguing part of their day when they encounter yet another article that stakes the confident claim that our world is a simulation. Conspiracy theories are the speculations of hidden agendas in phenomena that seem simple to an unconcerned mother. I prefer to think of them as the brainchildren of those with way too much free time on their hands.



"Please, Daddy, just one more conspiracy theory"

Nonetheless, let me allow myself to indulge in a few of these wild fantasies for the duration of this article. Conspiracy theories are often abundantly found on platforms (*beginning with R, ending with T, with "edit" in the middle*) where the suspicious and mistrustful gather to share eccentric ideas. For instance, the 'flat earthers' seem to be multiplying not only in their oblivious ignorance but also in their numbers.

One theory in particular, that completely broke the internet (*and my brain*), was the wild idea that our favourite Punjabi singer, Diljit Dosanjh, was a member of the Illuminati. This came after he unwittingly held up a triangle-hand sign in a concert. It turns out this was not him showcasing his faith in the Illuminati but was a simple attempt to elevate his spiritual energy. (*He was indeed born to shine, not to illuminate.*)

Let us now dive into the theory behind the Titanic being a ploy to kill all the rich people of the Western bloc in one go. This scandalous accusation somehow finds J.P. Morgan at the centre, with theorists claiming that he wanted to set up a US Federal Reserve Bank which was opposed by his rivals (*who just happened to be onboard on the Titanic*).

Flabbergasting theories of the moon landing being fake (*because photoshop was the real breakthrough*) and Taylor Swift actually being a clone, are the masterpieces of these modern day Sherlocks, racking their brains to come up with the next viral theory.



Perhaps conspiracy theories momentarily blur the lines between reality and the unimaginable. However, they are a testament to the fact that the human mind can often give rise to unfathomable scenarios, even out of the most mundane of occurrences, providing internally consistent explanations in the face of uncertainty and contradiction. Conspiracy theories are a continuum between bizarre and paranoid. Somewhere along this continuum, scepticism turns into suspicion, and before you know it, that harmless meme about aliens is suddenly proof of a global cover-up.

Jiya Singh
Class 12

Books:

- 📖 The Argumentative Indian by Amartya Sen
- 📖 Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
- 📖 Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman by Murakami
- 📖 The Myth of Sisyphus by Albert Camus
- 📖 Nausea by Jean-Paul Sartre

Movies:

- 🎬 Schindler's List (1993)
- 🎬 Twisters (2024)
- 🎬 Inside Out 2 (2024)
- 🎬 Maharaj (2024)
- 🎬 Pirates of the Caribbean (2003)

TV Shows:

- 📺 House of the Dragon S2 (2024)
- 📺 The Boys S4 (2024)
- 📺 The Newsroom (2012)
- 📺 Mamlu Legal Hai (2024)
- 📺 White Collar (2009)



American Exceptionalism

American exceptionalism is a concept deeply rooted in the nation's identity, reflecting a belief that the United States holds a unique place in history and global affairs. This idea was first articulated by the French political scientist Alexis de Tocqueville, who observed the distinct characteristics of American society. However, the term has evolved, and contemporary America no longer adheres strictly to Tocqueville's interpretation.

The United States perceives and projects itself as *unique, special and different*. To Americans, being normal is overrated and contrary to their core values. This distinctiveness is evident in their language, culture and institutions. They have always had a way of doing things that often makes them seem simply absurd to an outsider. Yet, their success in almost all their ventures proves that their way works. For instance, when the rules of grammar and pronunciation seemed too demanding and restrictive, Americans created their own version of English. They replaced 'colour' with 'color,' rugby with football, switched their car's steering wheel to the left, and replaced the tin of biscuits in the living room with 'cookies.'



People have had a long time to accept and adapt to these instances of American exceptionalism. But, recently this sense of uniqueness manifested in a surprising turn of events in the field of sports, ensuring that its capricious nature is never forgotten. Facing a decline in the popularity of baseball, they shifted their focus onto cricket. In just 106 days, New York built a cricket stadium, featuring grass from Florida and stands from Las Vegas. However, the USA did not stop there or accept the label of an uncompetitive underdog. Defying expectations, their team (made predominantly of players of *desi* origins), defeated Pakistan and qualified for the Super 8 round of the 2024 T20 World Cup.

All this to say that the United States certainly follows a path different from other countries. Even though many believe its glory days of superiority and hegemony over other nations are over, its *can-do* attitude has helped it gain an extremely prominent position in world affairs, as well as armed it with an arsenal of soft power tools. So, don't be surprised to hear that one day in the not-so-distant future, these Americans are proved to be extraterrestrials in disguise roaming the earth.



Shanvi Agarwal
Class 10

INTO THE WELHAM VERSE



- ✦ Ananya Agarwal dancing on 'Tauba Tauba' while applying mehendi.
- ✦ SC Band actually getting permission to perform in one go.
- ✦ Gauri is really just 'Pammi' from Jalandhar.
- ✦ Doscocs making batch accounts in BIIs instead of SCs.
- ✦ The AVC being just the AVC. (*The real Batman*)
- ✦ The N&V Ed Board remembering what they had to put in the N&V.
- ✦ Privacy in junior school bathing stalls.
- ✦ Ju Jiping being a K-Pop idol. (*The Political Science Department has requested for an in-depth analysis of Riya's Jagwayan's brain*)
- ✦ Welham Girls' School being the Harvard of India.

A Letter to the Welham Weather Gods

Dear Esteemed God of Weather,

I hope this letter finds you well (*unlike how you have left us*). I am writing from the suffering grounds of the school where your influence on the weather is rarely in our favour.

Let me begin by commending your impeccable timing. It is truly astounding how you manage to stop the rain just before we wake up for morning sports. At 5:28 AM the gentle *pitter - patter* of rain lulls us to sleep with promises of one more hour of rest. However, as soon as the clock chimes 5:29 AM it halts abruptly and we are woken up by the enthusiastic chiming of the bells by the *didis*. Your ability to give hope and then snatch it away is unparalleled.

Any talk of mornings would be incomplete without the mention of your special touch during the old BBC assembly days. The sun transforms into a ball of fury just when we have to stand in the courts for assembly and for never-ending earthquake drills. But your true masterpieces are those unbearably harsh sunlit afternoons when the teachers insist on shutting off the fans so they can be heard (*#JusticeforSC-B*).

Your generosity in showering us with unforeseen rain has benefited the local economy, particularly the Welham umbrella sector. The demand for umbrellas has shot up, not due to an increase in rainfall, but because of the theft of umbrellas during your inconsistent downpours. Although, I must confess that dancing under the August rain in the senior garden is almost a rite of passage, a core memory for every Welhamite (*immediately followed by the matrons confiscating our speakers*). Your outstanding collaboration with our school's builders and their creativity in building dorms (*which double as ovens during the summer*) is exceptional. Sitting on the first floor truly feels like a clear invitation to have my brain cells eliminated by the constant heat.

However, the one thing I must give you credit for are those chilly winter mornings. That is the only time when I actually appreciate your existence. December is my favourite month—not because of my birthday or winter holidays, but because it is a temporary relief from morning sports on my schedule.

So, dear God of Weather, I must concede that your sense of humour is truly divine and unbeatable. We, your humble ~~servants~~ students, acknowledge your comedy with admiration. If it pleases you, maybe you should consider a week of perfect days, just to see what it feels like? No stopping rain before morning sports (*and why not let it go on till evening sports*), no solar meltdowns—just a mild, pleasant (*full of rain*) week. We promise to be eternally grateful—and maybe even stop wacking umbrellas.

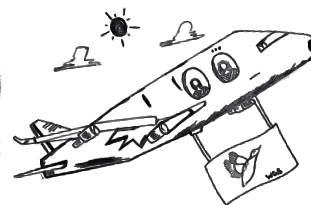
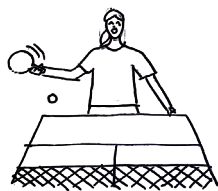


*Hanging on to a thread of hope (and a stolen umbrella),
Yours truly,
Boarding School Survivor*

What's In

What's Out

☔ Putki	👤 Putka
☔ BII's in 'Class 11'	👤 PreSCs in Class 11
☔ Constantly wet socks	👤 Bata floaters
☔ Dancing in the rain	👤 Running on the field
☔ News & Views	👤 Tusk & Feather



12th May - 22nd May: 10 Students from WGS attended the 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in France.

10th June - 18th June: 7 students from Grade 11 had an enriching experience at the Round Square Global conference titled ‘A mountain of Science’ held at Paradis International school, Romania.

10th June - 24th June: Deviishee Sodhi and Bhavya Agarwal went for the Downe House UK exchange programme. *A big thanks to these ambassadors of the school!*

20th June: Students from Welham Girls’ School won top positions in the CISCE regional shooting competition held at St. George’s College, Mussoorie. *Well done!*

22nd June - 3rd July: 13 students embarked on an unforgettable trip to CERN in Switzerland, immersing themselves in the cutting-edge world of particle physics and technological innovation.

29th June - 11th July: 9 students from Grade 10 and 12 attended a summer entrepreneurship programme in Montreux, Switzerland. Their trip was truly a most memorable one!

11th July - 18th July: Students from Grade 9 and 10 bagged several medals and trophies at the WSC Global Round held in Sweden, with a total 159 medals and 6 trophies. *Way to go!*

22nd July: WGS dramatics team won several individual and team accolades at the IPSC drama competition. *Congratulations!*

23rd July - 1st August: The RLSS programme was hosted in school with over a 100 students qualifying as first aiders, 10 as life savers and 7 as first-aiders. To all non-swimmers and summer lovers out there—*you are safe!*

2nd August - 3rd August: Students from Grade 12 participated in the Doon School Youth Entrepreneurship Conference and bagged multiple positions. *Good job!*

4th August - 7th August: 13 students from Welham Girls’ School participated in the Basketball CISCE Regionals held in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.






4th August - 8th August: 7 students from Welham Girls’ School participated in the Tennis CISCE Regionals held in Agra. The U-19 team secured the 1st position while the U-14 team came 2nd in their category. *Kudos!*






8th August - 10th August: The Welham Girls’ delegation participated in the 10th edition of WELMUN and received a verbal mention, an honorary mention, 5 outstanding delegates and one best delegate award. *Congratulations!*

10th August: Welham Girls’ School hosted an informative Breast Cancer Awareness Programme in collaboration with Forum for Breast Cancer Protection.

Roses

Raspberries

-  A single freshly hand-picked rose to all five newly appointed vice-captains. We wish them a very successful tenure!
-  A bouquet of fragrant red roses tied in ribbon to Ms. Lakshika Pandey and the entire dramatics team for their exemplary win. We are all proud of you!
-  Flowerbeds of dewy aromatic roses to all new members of the Welham family. We hope you have a long and fruitful journey with us!
-  Platters full of fresh roses to Ms. Vibha Kapoor and Ms. Neena Agarwal for organising the PreSC batch treat! *(Positive reinforcement at its best.)*
-  Roses of every colour with dew drops dripping with love to Ms. Chavi Gupta, Ms. Ritika Uniyal, Ms. Manjeet and the entire Welham faculty for their notable hard work for turning Jazbaat into a reality.

-  Raspberries on the verge of rotting to PreSCs for denying Hoopoes and Flycatchers their much anticipated house treat. *(With special regards, N&V Editor-In-Chief.)*
-  Garbage bags overflowing with raspberries stinking of sweat to the Sports Department for preventing SCs and PreSCs from having some much-needed rest study time.
-  Exasperatingly exhausted raspberries *(also victims of hustle culture)* to the month of August for being the most taxing month for a Welhamite. *(2 weeks in, take me out)*
-  Buckets of fungus-infested raspberries laced with complaints from each Welhamite to Mr. Siraj Anwar for completely blocking access to all social media *(even LinkedIn).*
-  Stinky infectious raspberries to the dengue mosquitoes for being the reason we have to wear socks even in knee-deep puddles. *(The supply of our white socks has taken a devastating hit.)*



First Term Assessment August 2024

Subject: Gossip
MM: 16

Class: News & Views Readership
Time: 1 Hour

Instructions:

- Answers to this paper must be submitted on the N&V issue after having stolen it from your class boards.
- The time allotted at the head of this paper is incorrect since we all will be very busy eating.
- Attempt all questions or don't. (what do we care?)
- The numbers written in brackets is the amount of chocolates we shall be receiving for every question marked correct.

1. Who is most likely to be found in the senior dorms at 6:00 in the morning? [2]
 - a. Matrons
 - b. Welhamites bunking sports
 - c. Welhamites caught by the Sports Department
2. Who is most likely to make an entire batch cry in a single exam? [2]
 - a. Mathematics Department
 - b. Mathematics Department
 - c. Mathematics Department
3. Which captain is most likely to be found in the hospital? [2]
 - a. Zoya Singh
 - b. Ritigya Agarwal
 - c. Tvisha Mahajan
4. Who is most likely to be the cult leader at the SC bench? [2]
 - a. Ms. Ritika Uniyal
 - b. Resident Therapist
 - c. Manjeet Ma'am's Bestie.
5. Who is most likely to be a regular feature of the News & Views? [2]
 - a. Vaanya Thapliyal
 - b. Sportless community
 - c. ELSOC
6. Who is most likely to be updated on all school gossip? [2]
 - a. N&V Ed Board
 - b. Maahi Johar
 - c. Matrons
7. Who is most likely to be the favourite person in school on Thursdays? [2]
 - a. Bearer ji serving Vada Pav
 - b. Messis serving aloos
 - c. Ms. Anu Gupta
8. Who is most likely to be the walking embodiment of a reality check? [2]
 - a. Dr. Kshitiza
 - b. Ms. Geetanjali Bhatia
 - c. Ms. Vibha Kapoor

The German Sadists

Did you catch yourself relishing juicy gossip in the last issue's 'Socials' article? Or secretly felt joy when the class topper scored a little lower than usual? That deep, twisted satisfaction and pleasure at the misfortune of others, dear readers, is referred to as schadenfreude. Derived from German origins, schadenfreude combines the words 'schaden' meaning damage, and 'freude' meaning joy.



From global competitions to gossip magazines, schadenfreude is a hidden part of many of our cherished communal rituals. A 2015 study in Würzburg, Germany found that football fans smiled more quickly and broadly when their rival team missed a penalty, than when their own team scored. The Japanese have a saying for this: "The misfortune of others tastes like honey." People often feel good about their own failures when they find out that others have failed the same way. It is validation to them, as they measure their goodness by comparing themselves to other people, rather than measuring their actions against their own values and principles.

While schadenfreude does sound like a questionable human trait, it is actually the consequence of several deeply-ingrained psychological processes that have evolved in our brains over millions of years. It emerges from three primary concerns: self-evaluation or self-esteem (feeling better about oneself by lowering another), social identity (identifying with a group with exclusion of others), and justice (feeling that somebody received the consequences of their action). When people tend to make mockery a habit, the logical and reasoning part of the prefrontal cortex gets suppressed, leading us to act on our most primitive emotions. Due to this, dopamine delivery from our limbic system can eventually corrode one's ability to empathise, thus causing the feeling of pleasure at someone else's gaffes.

The author of 'When Bad Things Happen To Other People' John Portmann says that although schadenfreude might be a morally grey feeling, it is a very common human experience. Moreover, all our emotions that psychologists call 'cognitive' are not simply reflex reactions to external triggers, but complex processes requiring us to appraise and judge our relationship with the world around us and tailor our responses accordingly. Borrowing from a message from Pixar's *Inside Out 2* (because pop culture is the only way Welhamites can relate to things), emotions like schadenfreude are meant to be felt, not 'bottled'.

Riya Mohata
Class 12

SPOTTED

- ☞ Welhamites going viral on random instagram feeds (@instantbollywood).
- ☞ Mayna Johar getting favoured as an SC.
- ☞ Mrs. Vandana Kapoor and Shreem bonding over *Splitsvilla*.
- ☞ Priyanshi Kanodia 'cutting off' her finger during Doon YEC.
- ☞ School captain going for sports.
- ☞ Navya Verma looking for laps to ~~drool on~~ sleep in during Economics.
- ☞ Mr. Kainthola and Mr. Kandpal twinning.
- ☞ Vibha ma'am (*allegedly*) at Ambani wedding.
- ☞ Dr. Achin Jain and Ms. Chhavi Jain abandoned during the PreSC batch treat. (#bad newz)
- ☞ Welhamites investigating a certain 'pact' during WELMUN. (*if only WGSYS had happened.*)

☞ **Sports Teachers:** Wear your summer tracksuits because of the Dengue mosquitoes.

Vanshi: Even the mosquitoes won't be able to find out where we play TT.

The hidden (quite literally) truth.

☞ **Anonymous SC after seeing her report card:**

At this point, I am just going to migrate to Sri Lanka for college. (*This is the avatar of a modern day Hanuman.*)

☞ **Aaruni:** Why can't you make sense of my meaning?

☞ **Ms. Gitanjali:** What did the 42nd Amendment add to the preamble? The word starts from S.

Naija: Sorry?
(*The Socialist, Sovereign, Secular, Sorry State of Political Science Class*)



**BIRD
BRAIN**

JUNIOR Samboree

The Messy Life of a Junior Messi

For the longest time, it has been the ambition of the 'Junior Messi Gang' to inform the world of their severe circumstances. Their life as Mess Officials, fondly called 'Messis' (*we wonder why?*), has been nothing short of disturbing.

Their story begins when they are naive, eager, freshly turned A3s with an ambition to save the day, setting their eyes on the supreme title of 'Junior Messi.' Rumor has it that if you are picked to receive the prestigious title of Messi by your HM, she sees leadership potential in you (*the only validation a young Welhamite needs*). What the rumor does not tell you is that signing up for this role is signing your own stress warrant.

It is almost as if you wake up one day and suddenly, your top priority is keeping track of the people who have successfully finished the arduous task of having a bath or ensuring that every tiny B2 has filled their stomach.

In our limited interactions with the Messis (*since they don't have time for more than that*), they have expressed their eternal longing to have an adequate amount of time to finish a meal. They wish to enjoy a fruit break rather than wistfully watching their fellow batchmates stroll aimlessly in the BBC, only to be dragged back into their reality where hopeful B2s pester them for their biscuit extras. While other A3s are hard at work, burning the midnight oil for their math exams, the Messis are engaged in a different math of counting, dividing and distributing extra shares.

On Thai Curry Thursdays, they are often led to a point where they reconsider taking up this responsibility when they find nothing but broccoli and zucchini waiting for them in an empty bowl, and the only way to refill the empty jugs of iced tea is by crying into them. We are certain that our Messis could be international-level weightlifting champions, as they have clearly mastered the art of carrying the weight of the house on their shoulders.

To all the dear junior messis, if you regret taking up this job and curse your old self for agreeing to this excruciating life of misery, let us provide you with a valuable insight: there is no point in crying over spilled milk (*quite literally in your case*).

Aanya Jindal and Nidhi Kedia
Grade 8



YELLOW GUMBOOTS



The Wedding of the Century (Which Probably Lasted a Century)

Let's face it: you probably know more about the Ambani wedding than you do about your own parents'. For those of you who live under a rock (*that is, a Jamnagar sized rock*), on July 12, 2024, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's son Anant Ambani married pharmaceutical mogul Viren Merchant's daughter Radhika Merchant. The wedding festivities spanned over four months, including two pre-weddings, the actual wedding, and, as rumours suggest, possibly a post-wedding. To put that into perspective, dear Welhamites, it was twice the duration of your summer holidays.

It was the wedding of the century (*or perhaps the wedding bill of the century*). Quickly gaining the title of the most expensive wedding of all time, the expenses surpassed those of Prince Charles and Princess Diana exponentially, at a whopping cost of 5000 crore INR. Instagram feeds across the world were flooded with paparazzi videos featuring everyone from Mamata Banerjee to Justin Bieber (*the crossover you didn't know you needed*). The wedding proved that money doesn't just talk; it screams, shouts and dances with Orry while in a vest. If extraterrestrial life does indeed exist, they have probably discovered Earth thanks to this wedding.

The Ambani wedding truly epitomises what it takes to become a global spectacle, being both severely criticised and marvelled at by people across the globe. The wedding proved to be a display of power and superiority, or as critics called it, 'a statement of status.' At the same time, one cannot help but wonder what would make someone feel the need to publicise their wedding on such a humongous scale. Many also speculate that this extravagant affair is more than a mere display of wealth. The wedding (*in its own big-fat-Indian way*) has led to strategic brand building and cultural diplomacy for India. This ostentatious display of crony capitalism has truly grabbed everyone's attention, except probably that of the Income Tax Department.



Furthermore, considering that India's richest 1% own about 40% of the country's wealth, it becomes imperative to think about whether the responsibility for the country's well-being falls on such people. Well, in the end, we think it is safe to say that the Ambani wedding could do (*almost*) everything. Well, except for putting a smile on Jaya Bachchan's face.

Tvisha Mahajan and Tvisha Choudhary
Class 12

The News & Views Ed-Board tasked itself with the exercise of conducting a survey to better understand the political intellect of junior school. Our sincere condolences lie with the Social Science department.

WHO? AMI

Who is Xi Jinping?

Ans. Isn't he that one K-Pop idol? (*So I'ma light it up like dynamite!*)

Who is the first popular person that comes to mind when you hear the word, 'terrorism'?

Ans. Donald Trump. (*Sounds about right.*)

Who is the first person that comes to mind when you hear the word, 'super-hero'?

Ans. Elon Musk (*Saving the world, one tweet at a time.*)

Who is Greta Thunberg?

Ans. Greta Thunder is Thor's wife. (*The conviction is truly astounding.*)



The 18th Lok Sabha: 2024 Election Analysis

In a year defined by elections, the citizens of India joined the democratic circus as they went to the polls for the 2024 elections in a compelling display of power and democratic engagement. In a masterclass of political strategy and manipulation—the very hallmark of every democracy—what emerged was an excellent demonstration of the theatrical and constantly evolving nature of Indian politics. This election was unlike any before, featuring everything from dancing caricatures of politicians to the rise of new godly avatars and even audacious claims of stopping an international war.



Whether it be clashes over BJP's '400 par' hustle or narratives of the apparent death of the constitution, the will of the people prevailed. Even as every household in India contemplated the potential fundamental threat these elections posed to the democratic fabric of our country during the buildup, the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections revealed the true bearing of what had come upon them, and what we believe was for the best.

India has over 986 million registered voters, who were eligible to exercise their right to franchise to determine the composition of their government during the six-week long elections. Out of these, 640 million Indians cast their votes, with the BJP, together with its National Democratic Alliance winning a majority. Though the NDA did manage to secure its victory, it was a partial one, securing a mere 293 seats, 107 seats short of their massive goal.

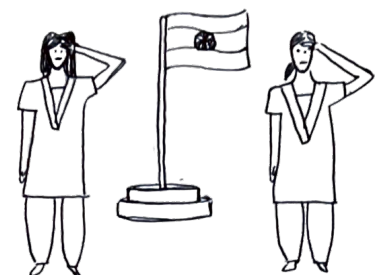
This unexpected upset did come as a surprise to the numerous pundits who believed in the problematic exit polls. There are multiple reasons as to why many underestimated the INDIA bloc. But some explanations provided for their own partial victory, is that they used the right strategy in emphasising social justice and the caste census, stitching up more astute coalitions and making sharper candidate choices in terms of caste.

There is no doubt that the recognition of the need for social justice as well as the fears about the survival of the Constitution were significant factors. Political manipulation seemed to reach its peak, with the Election Commission issuing warning to adhere to the Moral Code of Conduct. One example of this is reflected in the ideological defeat for the ruling party with their loss in Faizabad. It was assumed that Ayodhya would be a guaranteed win for the NDA after the inauguration of the Ram Mandir; however, that ended up not being the case. The results led to speculations around the visibly diluted role of previously prominent leaders such as UP Chief Minister Yogi. Political analysts and multiple surveys credited the loss of BJP's majority to unemployment. The youth came out in protest of the lack of job opportunities and funding that has been provided. This prominent lack of youth engagement was recognised in the special attention given to increasing employment and skill development in the 2024 Union Budget. With the echoes of unemployment, inflation, land acquisition and talk of 'changes in the Constitution,' the real question became the reason why the presumption of 'guaranteed wins' were made to begin with?

Local factors in different states also played an important role in the result of the elections, as the BJP, on its own, stopped short of a majority mark with 240 wins. This resulted in Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar becoming kingmakers—propping up PM Modi in his third term.

Further, the election results unleashed a mass wave of emotional and financial agitation among the masses, with the elections coming as a negative surprise for the Indian stock market, with the frontline indices, Sensex and Nifty 50, crashing over 6% each when the votes were being counted.

The 2024 Verdict is as much about the INDIA bloc story. Defying all predictions, the Opposition put up a power fight and claimed 233 seats.



The Congress party almost doubled its 2019 tally, grabbing 99 seats. Somehow this meant that the entire country was celebrating as both the I.N.D.I.A and the NDA coalitions found themselves at the doorstep of victory (even if one was self-proclaimed).

Many minds were put at ease as India voted in a worthy Lok Sabha opposition for the first time in five years. It was in these five years our nation realised the utter significance a strong opposition holds. Be it the Citizenship Amendment Act Bill of 2019 or the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, somewhere along the way, Indians realised that the very idea of Indian democracy faced an impending threat. If there is one thing the 2024 term can promise us, it is that no bills that challenge the very principles India was created on will be passed without adequate questioning. The beginning of this new term brings to the country what we can call a fair government, a truly democratic one—with an opposition ready to question each step the ruling party decides to take.

**UNITED WE PREVAIL
DIVIDED WE GO TO...**



The prominent 2.3% decrease in the voter turnout for 2024 elections as compared to the 2019 elections was another cause for debate and speculation. The majority of researchers and analysts have come up with two plausible explanations for this disappointing voter turnout. Many believe it to be a manifestation of the electorate's utter loss of faith in the institution of democracy in the nation. When the Indian masses feel that not participating in democratic exercise is a better option than facing an objectively unsatisfactory result, it does indeed become a cause for worry. On the flip side of the coin, mere complacency or overconfidence of the majority voter base could also have played a major role in the unravelling of the events. The glaring sun under which people rushed to the polls was another reason many stayed behind.

With the rapid shifts in the political landscape of our country, readers might wonder about the various possibilities of PM Modi's historic third and final term (his third avatar). As the Indian identity evolves in the 21st century, our nation's economy, culture and international standing have reached unprecedented heights. We, like many of you, look forward to what we hope lies ahead: an India where the four pillars of democracy are upheld with unwavering commitment, and where we the people continue to drive the progress of a proud and prosperous nation.

Gauri Nanda and Aahana Gupta
Grade 11

GLOBETROTTER

- 🌐 Kamala Harris replaces Joe Biden as the Democratic nominee for US President. (*Breaking the internet, repairing America. #BratVSMaga*)
- 🌐 The Supreme Court of India announced a confirmed paper leak in the NEET UG controversy, sparking student protests nationwide. (*New Mission: One Nation, One Election Exam*)
- 🌐 Narayana Murthy advises the youth to work 70 hours a week, while his son-in-law is fired by the entire UK. (*Hypocrisy at its best.*)
- 🌐 Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal for the javelin throw at the Paris Olympics with Pakistan's Arsham Nadeem securing the gold medal. (*At least ek war toh jeet gaye.*)
- 🌐 Sheikh Hasina resigned as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh after 15 years following mass protests surrounding modified reservation laws. (*Bachna Ae Haseena 2.0*)
- 🌐 US ex-President Donald Trump was recently shot at his presidential rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. (*Makes you wonder if they might reconsider their stance on gun control now.*)
- 🌐 Locals in Barcelona took to throwing water on tourists in protest of overcrowding in the city. (*When we say shower your guests with love, we do not mean this.*)



Q. Has the News & Views broken its anti-sports stance this term?

*Dear sleep-deprived Welhamite,
My years of expertise and wisdom urge me to believe that your motive behind asking this question is to discreetly find a way to avoid sports, given the latest initiatives undertaken by the relentless Sports department. Considering the current situation, I believe that sleeping until after 6 A.M. is a distant dream that is running further away from you with each passing moment (and since you never bothered to show up for sports, you are struggling to catch up). However, dear Welhamite, if you are a regular reader of the News & Views, you would know that for our Editorial board, the anti-sports stance isn't just a stance—it is a way of life. No threat of bad marks or laptop-less Sundays can undermine their steadfast ideologies. Your revolutionaries are merely facing a few momentary hiccups in their years-long struggle, but have faith in your auntie—they will rise like warriors and bring you the morsels of sleep you know you deserve.*

Q. Is it possible for me to melt during assembly?

*Dear Welhamite,
It has become clear to me that you are not someone who appreciates the natural sauna our school provides every morning. The light of the world steps down from the darkness just to grace you with its splendour, and yet you insist on fanning yourself with your geet pustika. It may be time to consider the possibility that it is not just the heat of the auditorium but also the anger of the captain, who caught you giggling one too many times, that is emanating towards you. Did you ever think it was the power of your love that was warming you up? However, I digress. Let it be known that there is a whispering hope that there shall be showers of blessings (hopefully during morning games). Till then, feel free to experience the heat of sub-Saharan Africa with your feet grounded in the auditorium (saath saath chaleinge saathi).*

**Signing Off,
Always forever (never) yours,
Aunt Agatha**

CREDITS

Editors-in-chief: Anisha Jain & Vanshi Agrawal
Teacher-in-charge: Ms. Bela Pandey

Senior Editors:

Twisha
Twisha
Gauri
Aahana

Technical Editor:
Riya

Senior Correspondents:
Pravthana
Gayatri
Rudransh

Junior Correspondents:
Rashika
Krishnangi

Art Editors:
Samaira
Navya
Soha
Vea

Special Thanks:
Vaanya
Kashika

