

KLOUD9



National
**GIRL
CHILD
DAY**

**Let the
Possibilities bloom**

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 19 JANUARY 2024



National Girl Child Day



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EDITOR'S note

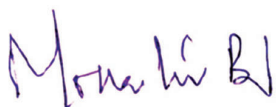
We just wrapped up a year and we start afresh. Last year is the story that has ended. 2024 is the year, the story which needs your time and attention. Promise yourself to make it an interesting story full of amazing experiences and things to learn.

The introspection is over. The decisions have been made. The time for leadership and action is now. Surely, all of you want a world that is better, more respectful and more inclusive fundamentally. You have given your best to the world so far, and have sown the seeds of change. It is time to see them germinate into a world that you wish to be part of, a world where both men and women feel an equal sense of belonging, whose voices are heard, whose lives are valued.

24th January is the National Girlchild Day. I would urge all of you to resolve to treat the women involved in your lives as equals, not special. That will be a great start to create a new way of thinking, of living, growing and evolving. Let Beti Bachao Beti Padhao no longer be a mere slogan, but the new truth for all of us to live and cherish.

Let us welcome this new year with new energies and new hopes, new experiences and new aspirations for all to not only bring out the best in each other, but to live with conviction and vision of a better today, so that tomorrow is the best.

Happy New Year to you all.



DR MONA LISA BAL
Editor **KLOUD9**




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COVER STORY

On The Cusp of Limitless Possibilities

"A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform." – Diane Mariechild

As you read this beautiful quote, you can't help but think that it is wishful thinking indeed. Women have always had a life of struggle against the odds, both familial and social. And the irony is even more obvious as we gear up to start the year with celebrations of National Girl Child Day on 24th January once again. What we need to ask is has anything changed? Is it any different for the girlchild now or are we simply paying lip service to something that has struck such deep roots that we can only be hapless victims of our own Frankenstein.

With India on the horizon of greatness, there is hope. There is optimism, there is perceptible change and the girlchild's aspirations are no longer flash in the pan moments. In the past decade, the world has changed irrevocably, and women as always have been at the forefront, not just as isolated instances of resolve and success, but as equal players in unprecedented roles and experiences. The movie, Vaccine Story brings out the stellar role of India's female scientists in bringing the much-needed Covaxin to save millions of people in India and globally, when the rest of the world thought the sheer numbers will spell doom for us.

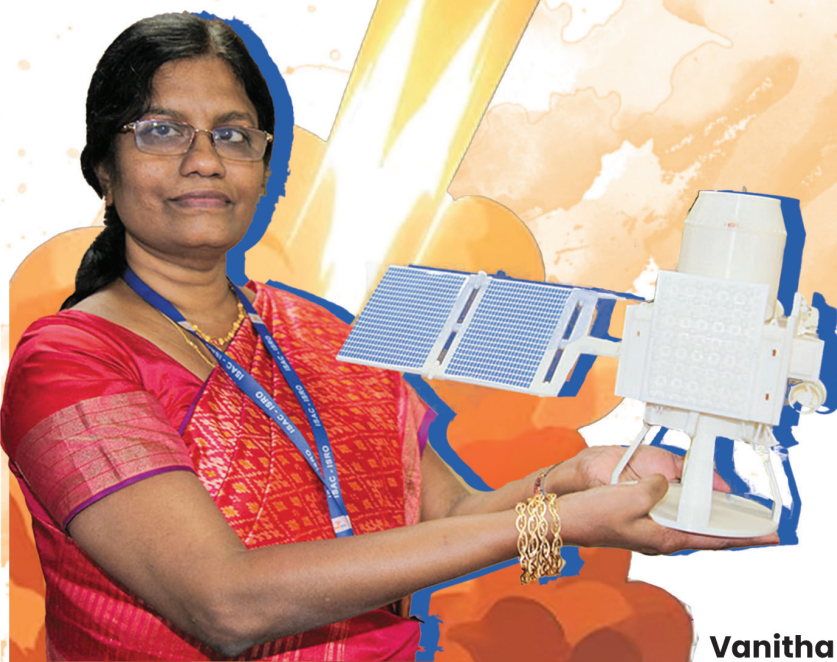

Ritu Karidhal

Women have been in the forefront in India's space program too. Space scientists who led Chandrayan 2 to its historic success, Ritu Karidhal and Vanitha Muthayya with their team of 100 top notch scientists have brought glory to the nation in space too. Commander Prerna Deosthalee, the first woman officer of the Indian Navy commanded the Indian Naval Warship. Also, Group Captain Shaliza Dharmi is the first female Air Force officer to take charge of a frontline combat unit. On April 20, Wing Commander Deepika Misra became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to be presented with a gallantry award for her leadership in the Madhya Pradesh floods in 2021 that saved 47 lives.

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."
-Winston Churchill

Change is transformative if the inspirational stories find resonance in everyday life. For India's girl child, that gentle breeze is now a gale wind of positive entrepreneurial initiatives by women, mostly young women. Aditi Gupta, co-founder of Menstrupedia - a comic book series that she started with her husband, Tuhin Patel has been listed in the Forbes 20 under 20 list for breaking taboos related to menstruation in India. Small but significant initiatives that will change the lives of women and the perception of the world about them makes it all the more significant.

Richa Kar, Co-Founder & CEO of Zivame started off in the retail market, where she worked with a certain international lingerie brand. It was then that she realised that shopping for one's own lingerie was awkward almost taboo even in the metropolitan cities of India. Thus, was born the brand Zivame, which addressed the lingerie needs of women and a hassle-free purchase experience.


Vanitha Muthayya


Perna Deosthalee

Tara Kapur's Vitamin Stree is a video-based platform that talks about important topics like menstruation, gender pay gap, beauty standards, relevant laws and policies and so much more. With her co-founder, Ankita Shetty, this content platform is one where the Indian woman find answers to several questions woven to their lives.

Vakula Sharma, the founder of PulpBrew wants people to research and investigate the ingredients of the "healthy" foods that people buy and consume. A mother and a businesswoman, Vakula wants her child to grow up in a world where fitness is a lifestyle. Her online store on



Instamojo sells healthy smoothies that follow a zero-waste policy, no sugar and zero preservatives. But the lives of Indian women aren't merely about successes any more. There is a tectonic shift that is happening to not simply share the spoils of their enterprise, but to recognize and give women equal space, respect, financial compensation and value for their contribution to this world. 2024 will be the year of opportunity for the girl child –


Captain Shaliza Dharmi


Richa Kar

a new era of dreams and aspirations meeting their culmination in a world that is no longer patriarchal. The acceptance of the inevitable may have been grudging so far, but now the admiration is real. For GenZ, new realms will mean that you step into a world where taboos have been broken and the glass ceiling has given way to a new and inclusive world. The day has come for the girl child to discover that you are fierce, and strong, and full of fire, and that not even you can hold yourself back because your irrational passion burns brighter than your deepest fears.

"The world needs strong women. Women who will lift and build others, who will love and be loved, women who live bravely, both tender and fierce, women of indomitable will." – Amy Tenney
It is you, the girlchild of today who will be the strong women of the world tomorrow. The gates have opened. It's about time to wake up to new hopes and challenges and make today better so that tomorrow will be the best.


Tara Kapur

Aditi Gupta

Vakula Sharma



Sanku Bose
Techno India Group & Dean
of Engineering at SNU



Nurturing Passions for Successful Careers : Lets begin from Schools

The middle school years play a pivotal role in shaping the aspirations and dreams of our youth. It is during this crucial phase of their lives that young minds are like sponges--absorbing knowledge and developing a strong sense of self. The time has come to reimagine the current middle school system in our country. . This transformative journey shall breathe life into the dreams of our students and pave the way for a future that is both rewarding and fulfilling.

Imagine a middle school system where students, say from class 8 onwards, are given the chance to explore a myriad of disciplines beyond the traditional academic subjects. Picture a classroom where budding fashion designers

sketch their visions, aspiring photographers capture the world through their lenses, and young filmmakers bring stories to life through short "reels". Envision a curriculum that includes short credit courses on journalism, the culinary arts, environmental studies, and entrepreneurship—to name but a few disciplines---giving wings to diverse passions. The recent changes brought about by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 have opened a window of opportunity for us to revolutionize the way we approach education---especially in the middle school system. The incremental changes in curriculum should be a thing of the past. We need transformative, systemic changes. The introduction of these diverse disciplines at the middle school level is a step towards breaking the shackles of conventional thinking. It encourages creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills -

qualities essential for success in the dynamic landscape of the 21st century. This holistic approach to education ensures that students not only excel academically but also develop a profound understanding of their own capabilities and inclinations. Too often, students find themselves on career paths that bear no resemblance to their true passions. The consequences are far-reaching--with college dropouts becoming an unfortunate norm. By allowing students to identify passions early in life, we create a generation committed to their chosen paths, reducing the risk of career mismatch and the subsequent life-long toll on mental well-being. As we nurture passions and encourage creativity from the school level, we sow the seeds for a society that values individuality, innovation, and dedication. The stories of success will not only be

measured in academic degrees--but in the joy that comes from pursuing one's true calling in life. The author strongly believes that any career can make a celebrity out of you---if you love what you do for a living. Let's envision a society where a future fashion mogul, a successful actor, a renowned environmentalist, an award-winning filmmaker, or an investigative journalist traces the roots of their success back to the exposure that they had in their formative years in middle school. Let us transform the formative years of adolescence into one of exploration, discovery, and empowerment. As we embrace the winds of change, let us empower our students to dance to the rhythm of their passions!



Credits : Times Now

NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

SCHOOL EDUCATION KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- UNIVERSALIZATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE EDUCATION(ECCE)
- NATIONAL MISSION ON FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY
- 5+3+3+4 CURRICULAR AND PEDAGOGICAL STRUCTURE
- CURRICULUM TO INTEGRATE 21ST CENTURY SKILLS, MATHEMATICAL THINKING AND SCIENTIFIC TEMPER
- NO RIGID SEPARATION BETWEEN ART & SCIENCE, BETWEEN CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, BETWEEN VOCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC STREAMS
- EDUCATION OF GIFTED CHILDREN
- GENDER INCLUSION FUND
- KGBV'S UP TO GRADE 12
- REDUCTION IN THE CURRICULUM TO CORE CONCEPTS
- VOCATIONAL INTEGRATION FROM CLASS 6 ONWARDS





Name - Bidisha Baidisobha
Class - X
School - D.A.V Public School,
Unit-8, Bhubaneswar

A WORLD OF ENDLESS SKY

Let the possibilities bloom
 In a world where dreams run
 wild,
 A girl stands tall, her spirit
 burning bright.
 She walks with grace, her head
 held high,
 Her voice a melody that fills the
 sky.

With every step, she paints the
 earth with purpose,
 Her footsteps leaving a trail of
 strength and grace.
 She is the ocean tide, ebbing and
 flowing,
 Yet never faltering in her
 unyielding resolve.

She is the bloom of a wildflower,
 unapologetically vibrant,
 Standing tall and proud in the
 face of adversity.
 She is the symphony of a
 thousand voices, rising in
 harmony,
 Unified in the pursuit of justice
 and equality.



She is the river flowing, carving
paths anew,
A symbol of strength, a
testament to what girls can do.
She speaks her truth with
unwavering voice,
Inspiring others to make their
own empowered choice.

She is the keeper of wisdom, a
beacon in the night,
A mentor and guide, her
knowledge shining bright.
She nurtures young souls,
helping them grow,
Empowering girls to rise, to
flourish, to show.

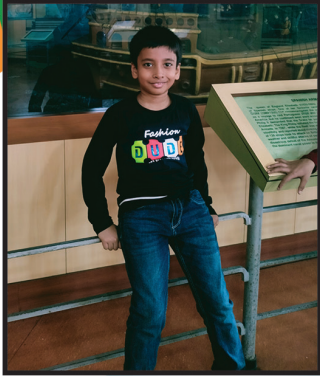
She is the untamed wildness, the
fierce and free,
A guardian of dreams, a warrior
filled with glee.
She leads the way with
confidence and grace,
Empowering girls in every time
and space.





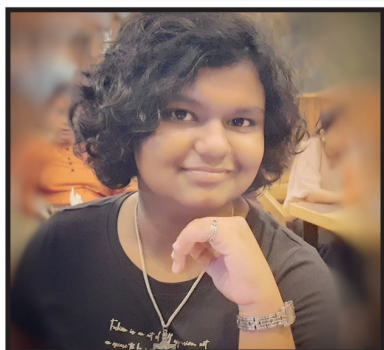
She is the keeper of wisdom, a
beacon in the night,
A mentor and guide, her
knowledge shining bright.
She nurtures young souls,
helping them grow,
Empowering girls to rise, to
flourish, to show.

In the tapestry of possibility, she
weaves her thread,
Empowering girls, igniting the
fire as she treads.
She is the embodiment of
strength and might,
Empowering girls to embrace
their own radiant light.
So, let the possibilities bloom,
In a world where dreams run
wild,
In a world where hope takes
flights.



Name - Rishav Sengupta
Class - III
**School - National Gems Higher
Secondary School**





Name - Ahona Chatterjee

Class - IX

School - Delhi Public

School, Newtown

Dreamboat to Spaceship

Princesses are fabulous and
grand; we know.
From Snow White to Mulan and
Aurora to Rose.

Their gowns are so pretty;
magical hairs are so alluring.
Their way of living is so homely.

They gaze at the moon and
balance their books on their
head;
Without magic, they think life is
in vain.

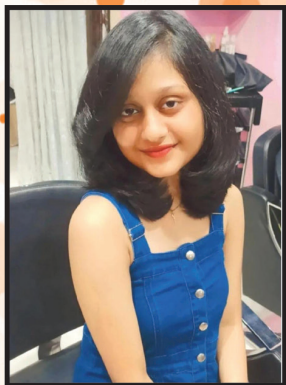
Pretty little wallflowers
Fancies living in the warmth of
their castles;
Daydreaming of a redeemer and
staying away from trouble.



Princesses are still now alive, in
each girl,
But in the 21st Century, their lives
have twirled a lot.
They do not just gaze at the
moon but bristle there in
spaceships.
They do not waste time
balancing books; they know
Success does not come for free.



Bold and daring evermore ready
to combat;
Think twice before you pick a
fight with her,
Cause she could be a black belt.
Always ready to take up
challenges;
Venturing takes the plunge.



Name – Purba Parul
Class – X
School – St. Xavier's High School, Bhubaneswar

She Is a Daughter

She is a Daughter
She is like a warm sunshine
On a winter morning,
She is like a cool breeze
On a summer evening,
The house isn't home without her
The home roars with her laughter
She is a daughter.

Papa's princess, Mama's little monster
Grandparents' lives lie in her
The house isn't home without her
The home roars with laughter
She is a daughter.





Name - Barnali Biswal
Class - V
School - Buxi Jagabandhu English
Medium School - 1



CHANDRAYAAN-3-A WONDERFUL ACHIEVEMENT IN 2023



Name - Prince Ghosh
Class - IX
School - Techno India
Group Public School,
Nabadwip



In the annals of human achievement, few milestones rival the awe-inspiring journey into the cosmos. As a proud ninth-grade student, I am thrilled to witness the remarkable progress of our country in the field of space exploration. This year marked an epochal moment as our nation successfully launched Chandrayaan-3 to the moon, elevating our status in the global space race and filling our hearts with an overwhelming sense of pride. The journey to the moon is a testament to the indomitable spirit of scientific inquiry and technological innovation that defines our era.

As we know Chandrayaan-3 was launched aboard an LVM3-M4 rocket on 14 July 2023, at 09:05 UTC from Satish Dhawan Space Centre Second Launch Pad in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, India. On 23 August 2023, as the lander approached the low point of its orbit, its four engines fired as a braking manoeuvre at 30 kilometers above the Moon's surface. After 11.5 minutes, the lander was 7.2 km above the surface; it maintained this altitude for about 10 seconds, then stabilized itself using eight smaller thrusters and rotated from a horizontal to a vertical position while continuing its

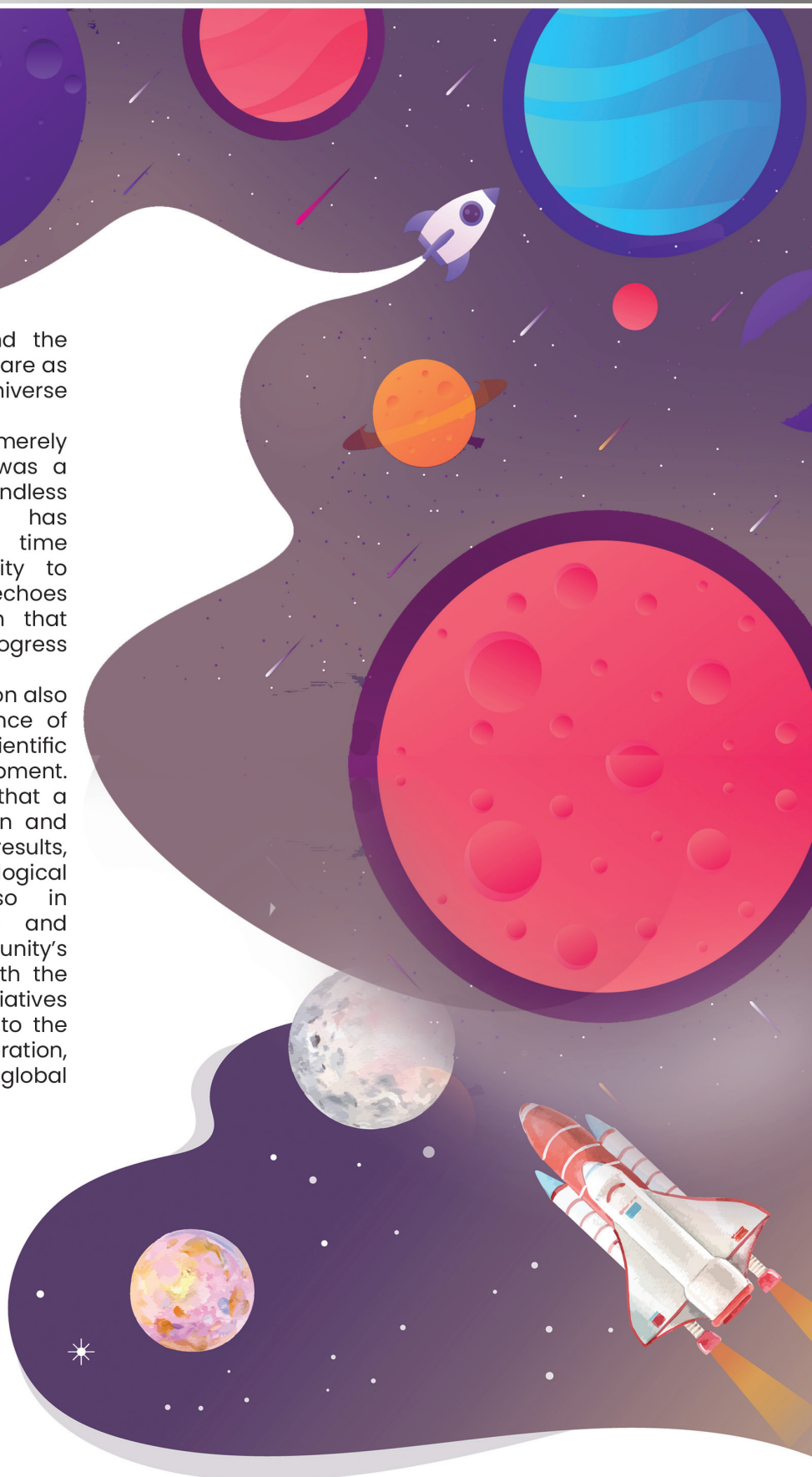
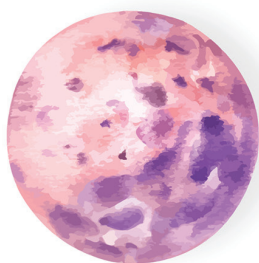
It then used two of its four engines to slow its descent to roughly 150 meters; it hovered there for about 30 seconds and located an optimal landing spot before continuing downward and touching down at 12:32 UTC.

The realization that our country has reached the moon is a culmination of years of dedicated efforts by our nation's brightest minds including scientists, engineers, and space experts of ISRO. It signifies a collective achievement that transcends individual contributions, highlighting the collaborative synergy that propels our nation toward the stars. into space

has only just begun, and the possibilities that lie ahead are as vast and limitless as the universe itself.

This mission was not merely a technological feat; it was a manifestation of the boundless human curiosity that has driven exploration since time immemorial. The audacity to reach for the moon echoes the ethos of exploration that has fueled human progress throughout history.

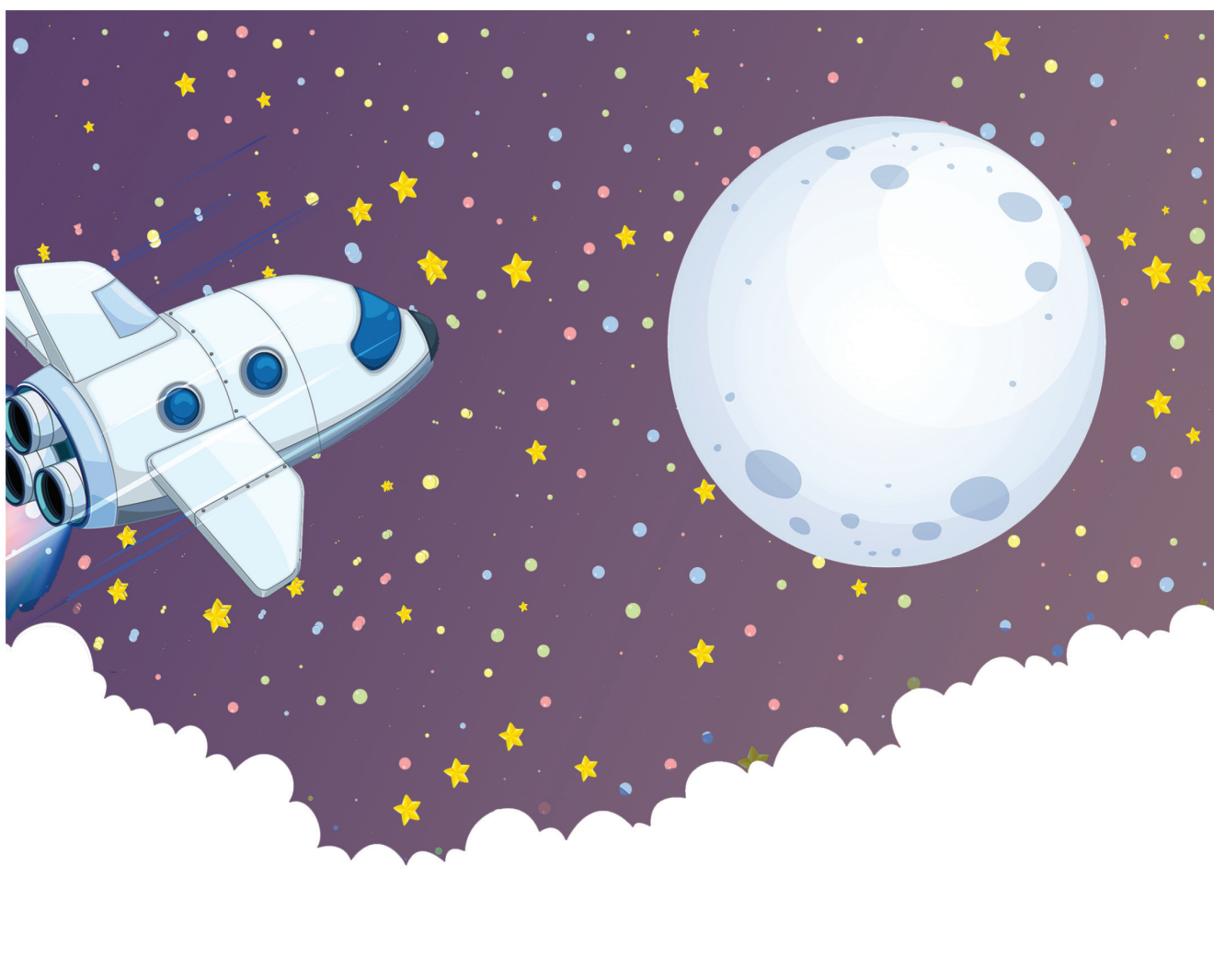
The successful lunar mission also underscores the importance of robust investment in scientific research and development. It serves as a reminder that a commitment to innovation and exploration yields tangible results, not only in terms of technological advancements but also in fostering national pride and unity. The scientific community's perseverance, coupled with the support of government initiatives has propelled our nation to the forefront of space exploration, solidifying our position as a global leader in the field.



Moreover, the positive impact of this moon mission extends to the economic and technological sectors. The development and execution of such a complex mission require cutting-edge technology and innovation, leading to advancements that have broader applications beyond space exploration.

The expertise gained from this endeavor can potentially lead to the development of new technologies, job creation, and economic growth, further solidifying our country's position as a leader in the global technological landscape. Furthermore, in this era when we are eventually running into an energy crisis, the moon might offer a way out.

In conclusion, the launch of a vehicle to the moon by our country stands as a testament to the limitless potential of human endeavor. It is a source of pride for our people, a source of inspiration for students, and a symbol of national achievement. As we celebrate this historic moment, let us look towards the future with optimism, knowing that our nation's journey into space has only just begun, and the possibilities that lie ahead are as vast and limitless as the universe itself.





Name - Sagnik Das
Class - VIII
School - St. Thomas Boys School

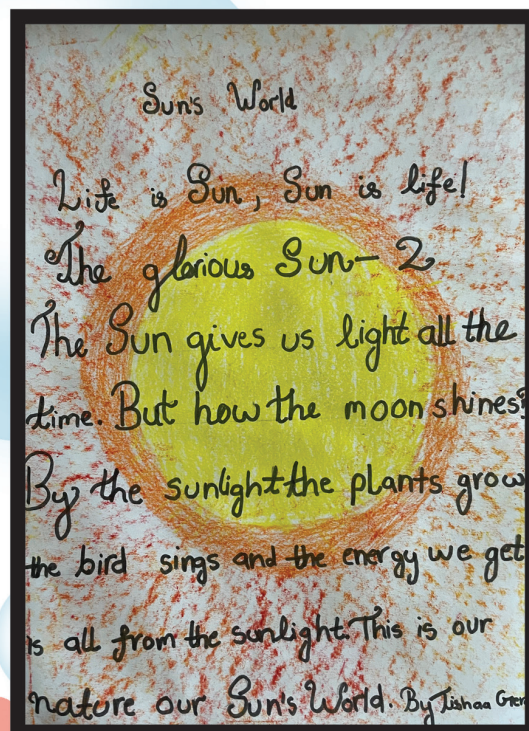
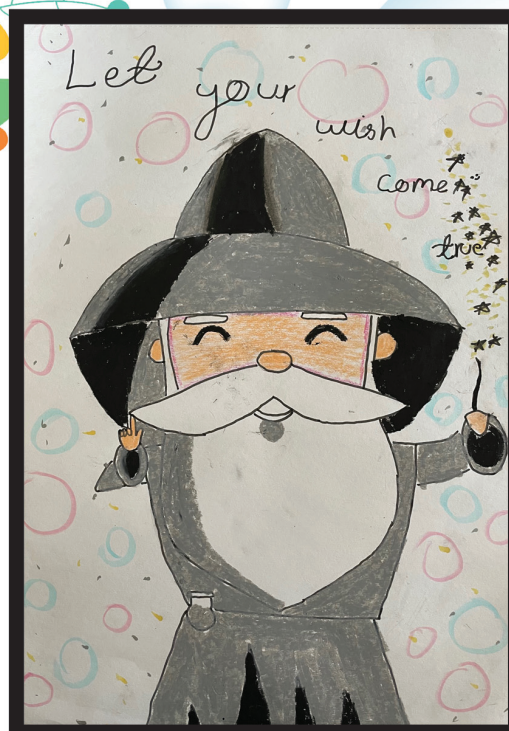




Name - Tishaa Gera

Class - IV

School - Elpro International School, Pune





Name – Sourin Kumar Maji
Class – V
School – Dav Public School
HCL RNP

A Girl Child

To the worldwide
 To the worldwide
 I want to walk, I want to run
 In the street, from street to street
 Without any fear of Girl Child Abuse
 In my feet, In my feet
 I am a Girl Child
 I must be your Pride
 God's beautiful creature
 To the worldwide
 To the worldwide
 I want to talk, I want to speak
 Loud and Loud, in the crowd
 To make this place, To make this world
 Safe and Proud, To a Girl Child
 I am a Girl Child, I am a Girl Child
 I must be your Pride, I must be your Pride
 God's beautiful creature, Beautiful Creature
 To the worldwide. To the worldwide.





Name - Diksha Sharma
Class - XII
School - Colonel's Central Academy,
Gurgaon, Haryana

Sufficient She

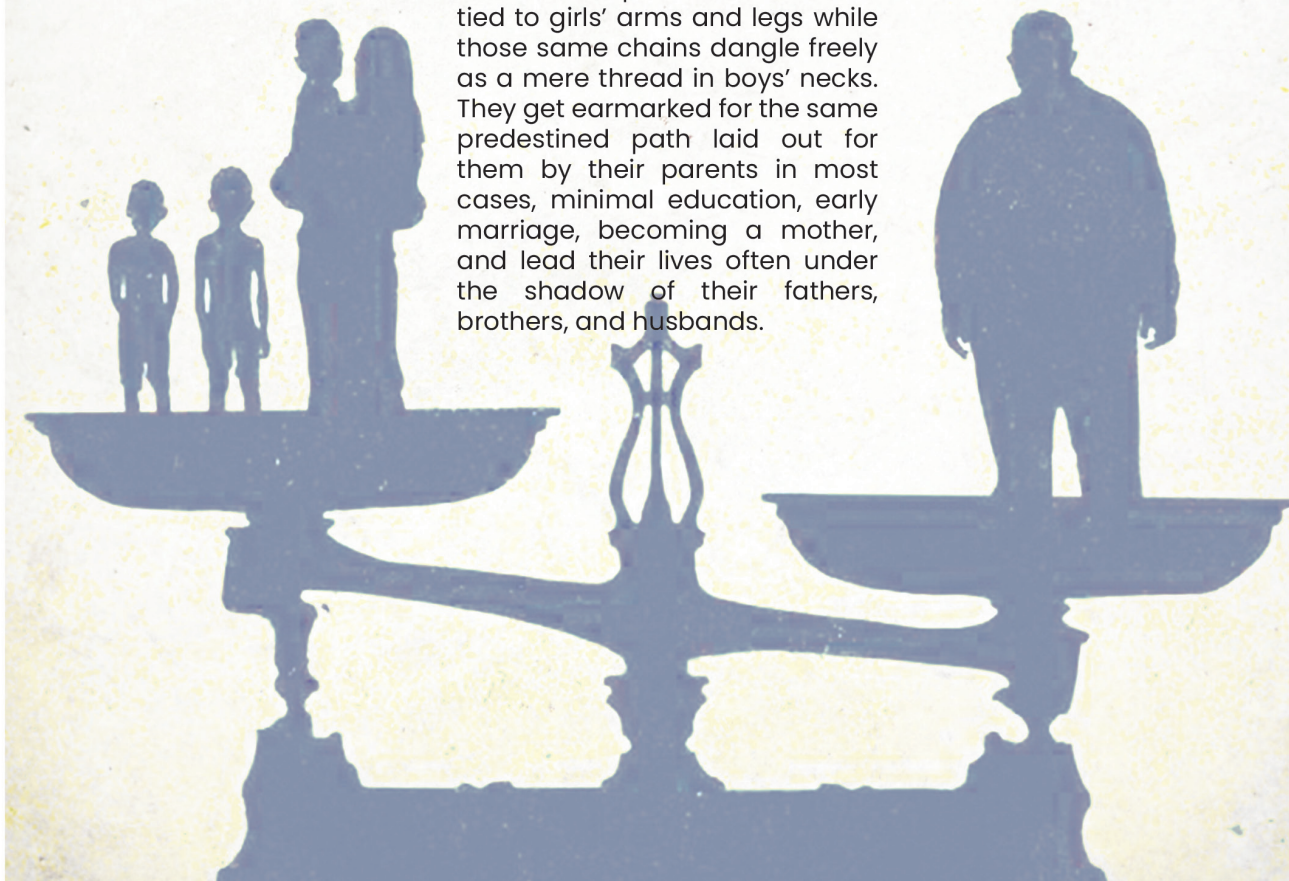
The indignities that the female sex faces in a patriarchal society start from birth itself. The birth of a daughter almost always signifies an unfulfilled ordeal and expectations, there's always a second chance, as they say. Only once a son is born, does the process of family completion come to a stop, many examples of this can be seen if we just look up and around. The health and wellness of an infant assume secondary status in the list of questions that relatives usually

ask when a child is born, the sex of the child seems to be the major concern. In some extreme but not uncommon circumstances, people mourn the birth of a daughter, sometimes even going as far as to take the life away from the delicate infant's body.

When a girl survives and grows, she's discriminated against in her own family. All the better resources and education are poured on the sons and the daughters are left to starve and to take the leftovers. All the metaphorical chains are tied to girls' arms and legs while those same chains dangle freely as a mere thread in boys' necks. They get earmarked for the same predestined path laid out for them by their parents in most cases, minimal education, early marriage, becoming a mother, and lead their lives often under the shadow of their fathers, brothers, and husbands.

We as a society fail to realise the power a woman, a girl holds. The resilience, patience, and endurance she contains, sustains and balances.

It's high time that we recognize the importance of these cheerful soft voices that go jumping around our houses' courtyards. It's pertinent to appreciate the girls and help them realise their potential. It's time to celebrate the girl child and develop the feeling that she's 'enough' and much more.





Name- Sonakshi Saha
Class-VII
School- Delhi Public School Joka
South Kolkata

'Har Har mahadev'





Name - Karthiyayani CK
Class - IX
School - Kendriya
Vidyalaya Hebbal,
Bangalore

ENIGMATIC TRAILS

In a dimly lit room, Narmada, the psychologist sat facing her patient, a blind man who wore a serious look on his face. She absorbed the weight of his words.

"I purposely stained my hands with the inner ink of another person. The very thought of this makes me repent and relish now and then." He confessed to his sin. Narmada couldn't make out what was the big issue with staining one's hands with ink. "What's so traumatic about that?" She asked. And he replied with a grin, that got on to her nerves, "That was red ink... an ink that made me relish."

It's an ink that a human can't live without. It's red ink madam."

Each sentence seemed to echo with haunting familiarity, reflecting a past she had long tried to bury. What did the confession have to do with a psychologist? It was something that had no connection to a well-respected profession. But Narmada looked anxious. Wasn't it normal for a psychiatrist to listen to her patient's woes, prescribe treatment, and let go of the matter in the air? Why was Narmada worried?

The patient, unaware of the silent turmoil within his therapist, continued pouring out his grave problems day after day. One day, he said, "I orchestrated gory symphonies in open forests. Nobody found me. I wrote the epilogues to the lives of three people, Madam."

What was even happening? Shouldn't Narmada inform any authority of what was happening? Yes, she must have. But she didn't. As the visits continued, the psychologist's composure began to unravel. Restlessness crept into her every movement, and her once steady hands trembled. The daily encounters with her patient mirrored a relentless journey into the corridors of her past. It became a haunting reflection of the scars she thought were healed.

One fateful day, the blind man left Narmada's room with a bag full of gory confessions. "I engineered somebody's final chapter." He had spilled out the beans. "I had extinguished three dim lamps. Soon, I will be dousing a fire too. A fire that had blood flowing in it." Three murders! And they were confessed openly!

Narmada succumbed to the mounting pressure. Her trauma erupted violently as an outburst, shattering a nearby lamp. The room bore witness to her destructive spiral. She tore the books around her. She burnt the receipt the man had left behind in the hearth. The mirrors lay as fragments on the floor. Her feet bled after they pierced them. The furniture was overturned. And the disorder was echoing.





Downstairs, a woman heard the chaos and rushed through the stairs, compelled to intervene. The door creaked open and Narmada was sitting with shabby hair. For a moment, time stood still as their gazes locked. Narmada, the survivor of her attack, looked at the newcomer as if seeing her for the first time. The woman who had rushed in, however, recognized her despair. Their eyes communicated a silent testimony – a revelation that not a single day had passed since the torment began. Narmada is not a psychologist but a witness to a series of hallucinations unfolding within hours. She had seen different violent episodes, each day altering the reality of the tormented young woman. The other woman, a motherly figure asked in her faint voice, "You okay?" Frozen on the ground, Narmada nodded, "No!" and began sobbing. "Poor girl..." The older woman uttered. Narmada watched as she left the door open and disappeared, leaving her with the shattered fragments of her own unravelling sanity. Was being alone the greatest whirlpool to drown in? The room, brightly lit with the afternoon sun began to darken in her vision. She got up with her bleeding feet and followed the other lady outside the room. She, on the other hand, was ready to dress yet other wounds of her daughter along with the past ones. As unspeakable horrors reverberated deep in Narmada's head, the motherly figure continued to keep calm, hoping that peace would pass on to her young girl.



Name - Sayani Basak
Class - X
School - Bagbazar Multi Purpose
Girls' School





Name - Sangna Chatterjee

Class - XI

**School - St. Teresa's
Secondary School**

A Catastrophic Night

She lay unnoticed, smudged in a pool of blood on the edge of the highway numbered one-one-four.

She tried reaching out for help, but she had hardly any soul left within her to do so.

The sound of her screams inundated the ambiance, the only companion she had was her distorted car, whose headlights were shattered entirely and scratches could be recognised all over the four-tiered vehicle, but there wasn't anyone nearby to lessen the agony she was bearing,

However, a certain someone was driving through the same highway which marked the catastrophe, it was you.

For you, she was simply a human being acquiring an unknown identity.

But perhaps an abhorrent monster had completely engulfed your soul and you claimed ignorance over her sufferings.

You were too indulged within yourself and hence, you decided to turn deaf and disregard her screams that echoed all over the place.

You drove past her pretending to be devoid of all the senses that brought her to your notice, you drove past swiftly, without paying any heed to the girl whose injuries blemished throughout her entire frame.

Well, what can one even expect from a successful entrepreneur who was on her way back home from a triumphant business venture?



You were excessively occupied with yourself to even know, who that particular girl was, and hence, you left the spot without even making an effort to enquire anything regarding that individual's identity.

You reached home safe and sound.

(As she still lay on the same spot with a tinge of hope and expectancy, that a passer-by would come to her rescue),

however, your conscience-stricken self did not allow you to build up a peaceful slumber, the horrid image of the blood-smeared girl vividly floated up to your consciousness, and the clock struck symbolizing that it was half past one, you lay wide awake as tranquillity deserted your existence the moment you reached home.

The black telephone in your hallway rang abruptly at the unusual hour, you picked up the telephone; and at that exact moment, you were far off from realizing that from this very while, your existence would be caulked with havoc throughout.

It was your mother at the other end of the telephone sobbing uncontrollably while trying her best to articulate, it took her a minute or perhaps more to deliver the information that your beloved younger sister has departed from the dreadful clutches of earth and that, it was yet another hit-and-run occurrence of a drunkard driver who was ignorant of the road ethics, but what left you distressed for the rest of your life was that her lifeless body was found coated with her own blood, on the highway numbered one-one-four.

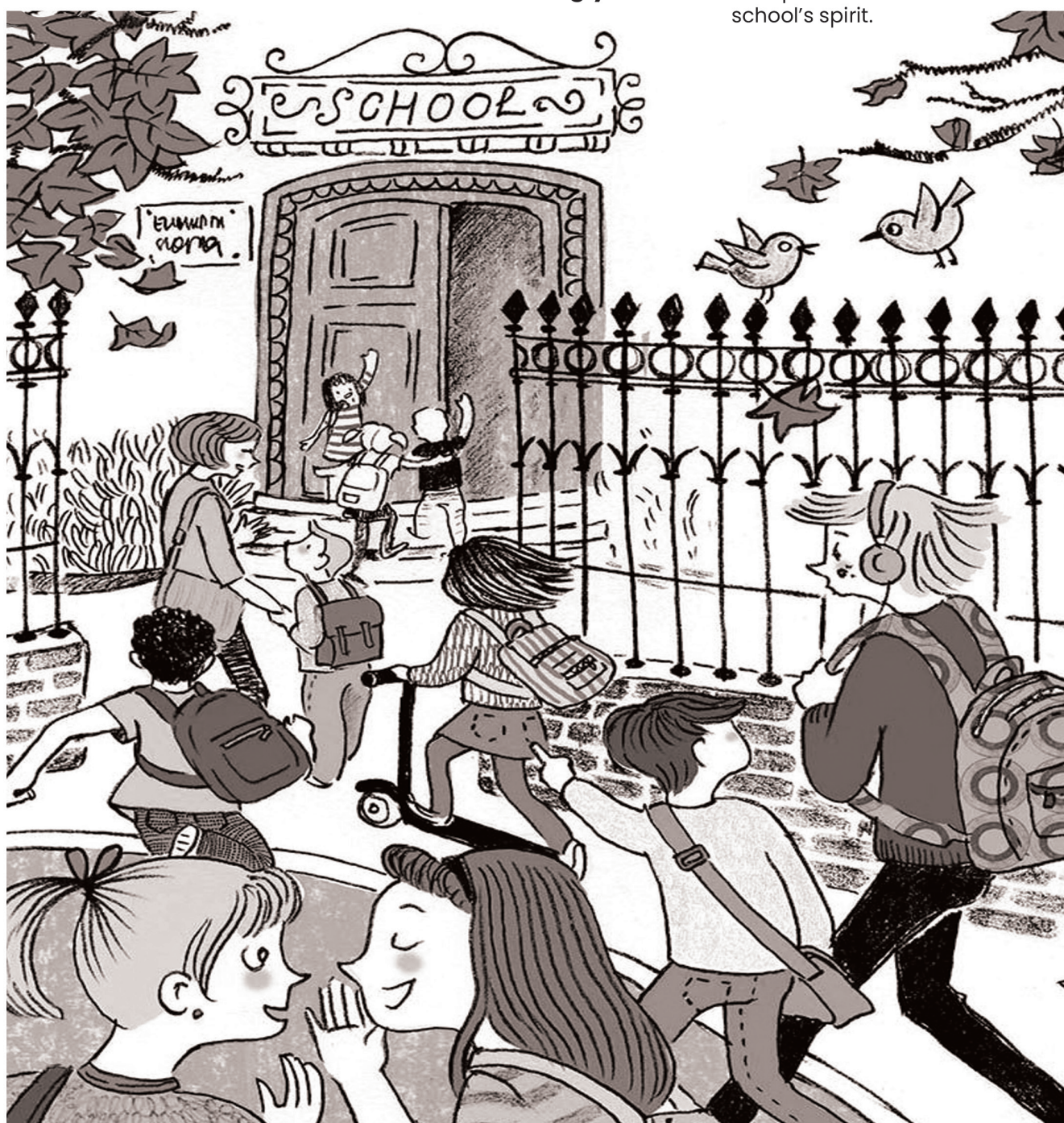


A School's Wrapped-Up Tales of 2023



Name – Sayandeep Sarkar
Class – XI
School – Techno India Group
Public School, Hoogly

Introduction of the School: – As the pages of another academic year unfold, a school embraces the memories, achievements, and vibrant moments that defined the academic session of 2023. From the excitement of a freshers' welcome to the triumph in the Annual Sports, each event contributed to a colourful tapestry of experiences that enriched the school's spirit.



Freshers' Welcome: - (Greetings from Juniors & Seniors)

A new academic year in the school was started with infectious enthusiasm, organizing a warm Freshers' Welcome for the students of Class 11. It served as an induction into the school's dynamic culture, fostering camaraderie and providing a platform for new friendships to blossom.

Investiture Ceremony: - (The Wise Decision)

A pivotal moment in the school calendar was the Investiture Ceremony, where the school cabinet, including the Head Boy, Captains, and Vice Captains of the four houses, were carefully chosen.

This ceremony not only bestowed responsibilities but also instilled a sense of leadership and commitment among the chosen students.

Cultural Programmes: (A Vibrant band of the magnificent colours of India)

Diversity and cultural richness took centre stage as the school celebrated Indian culture through vibrant cultural programs. Students showcased their talents through dance, music, and drama, creating a melting pot of artistic expression that resonated with the school's ethos.

Visit from Manchester City Football School: (The Real Meaning of Success)

Adding an international flair to the year, the school hosted a delegation from Manchester City Football School. This exchange not only provided students with insights into global perspectives on sports but also fostered a sense of cultural exchange and understanding.

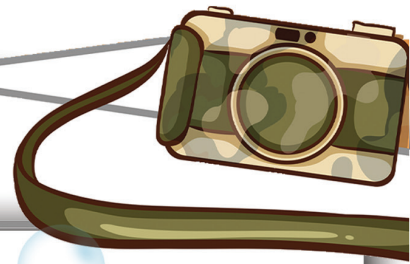


Exams:

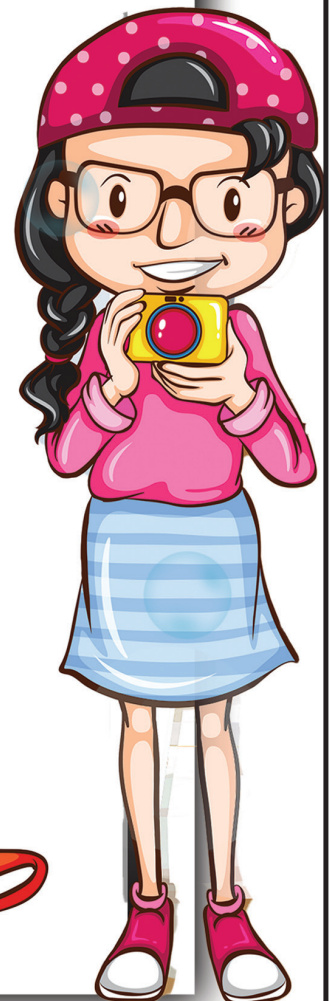
Navigating the academic journey, students faced the challenges of pre-mid, half-yearly, and post-mid exams. These assessments not only tested their academic mettle but also served as stepping stones for personal growth and development.

As the academic year drew to its end, the school reflected on a tapestry woven with the threads of achievements, challenges, and shared moments. The positive energy radiating from the successes of the students, coupled with the resilience displayed during exams marked a fulfilling conclusion to the year. The echoes of laughter, the lessons learned, and the friendships forged created a lasting imprint, making 2023 a chapter to be fondly remembered in the annals of the school's history.





Name: Sagnik Tarafdar
Class: 11
School: Vivekananda Mission School,
Joka, Kolkata





Name - Suhani Ghosh
Class - IV
School - Barisha Uchcha Valika
Vidya Mandir





Name - Archita Ghosh
Class - XI
School - Shaw Public School

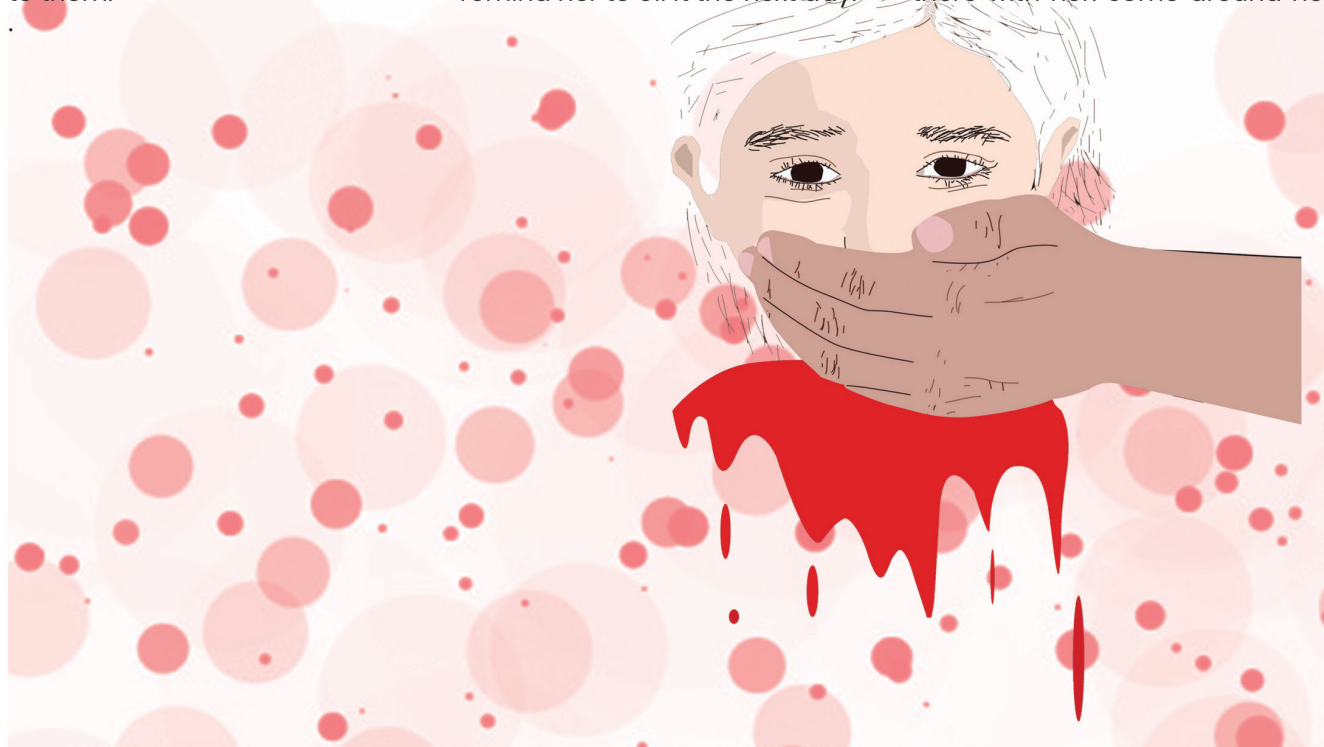
National Girl Child Day – Let The Possibilities Bloom

The vehicle gave a jolt and her head banged against the rod behind her. She pressed her lips together. Her eyes burned but she would not make a sound. The bad men did not like it when they made sounds. Her lip still bled from the slap they gave her the other day when she had asked for water. Her throat had felt like a desert, but it had not mattered to them.

Her mind took her back to the warm spring days, spent playing in her garden, while happily sipping cool lemonade. How she would see her mother's occasional smiles from the kitchen window. How her mother would, on some days, take her in her lap and feed her the prawn curry she so loved. How she would run a comb through her hair and remind her to oil it the next day.

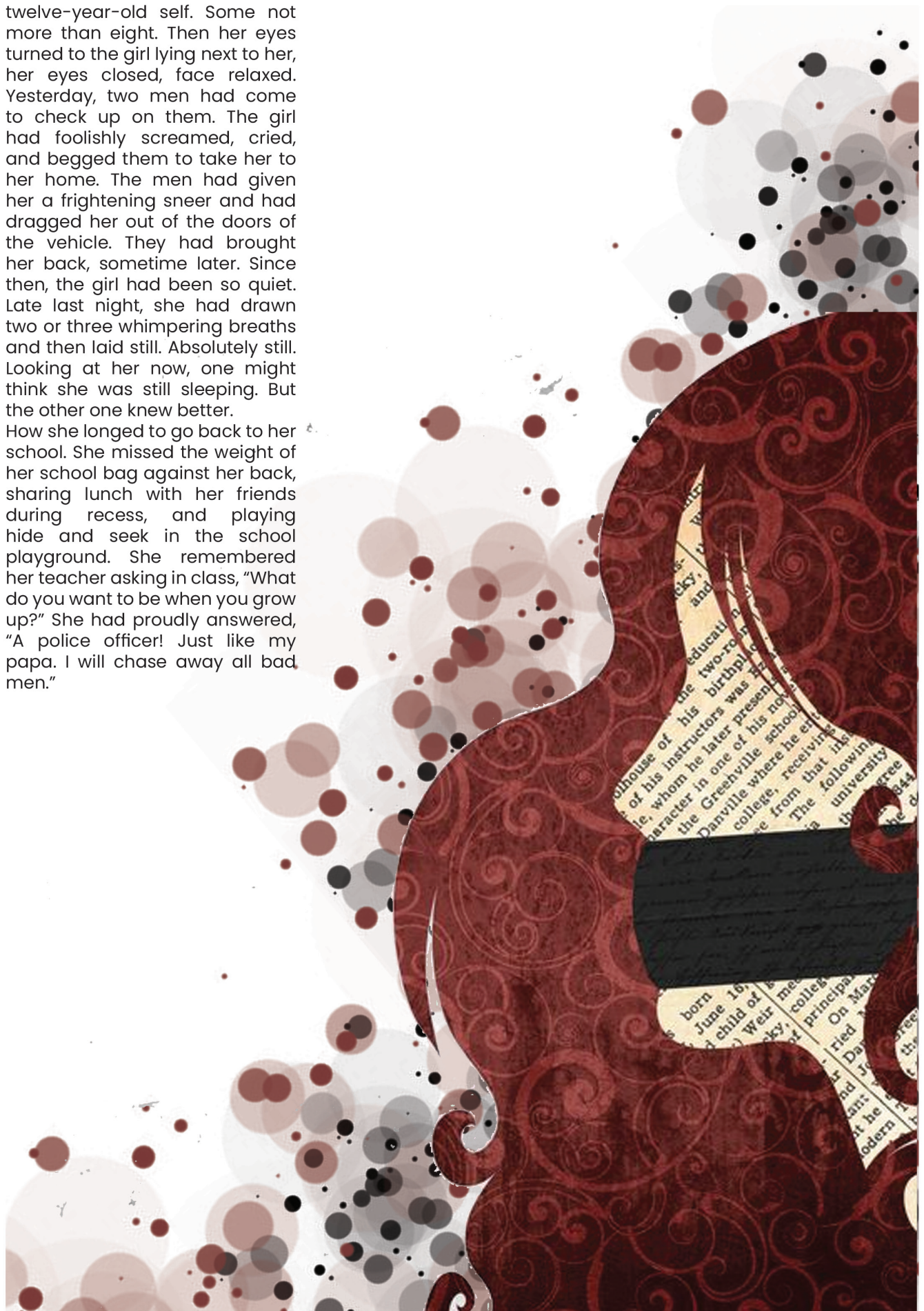
How she would hold her close when bad dreams troubled her.

A tear slipped from her eye. It had been so long since she had something to eat. Her hair had turned into a rat's nest. She had not closed her eyes for so long, in fear of the nightmares. In the dim light of the small bulb, she looked over at the faces of the other girls there with her. Some around her



twelve-year-old self. Some not more than eight. Then her eyes turned to the girl lying next to her, her eyes closed, face relaxed. Yesterday, two men had come to check up on them. The girl had foolishly screamed, cried, and begged them to take her to her home. The men had given her a frightening sneer and had dragged her out of the doors of the vehicle. They had brought her back, sometime later. Since then, the girl had been so quiet. Late last night, she had drawn two or three whimpering breaths and then laid still. Absolutely still. Looking at her now, one might think she was still sleeping. But the other one knew better.

How she longed to go back to her school. She missed the weight of her school bag against her back, sharing lunch with her friends during recess, and playing hide and seek in the school playground. She remembered her teacher asking in class, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" She had proudly answered, "A police officer! Just like my papa. I will chase away all bad men."

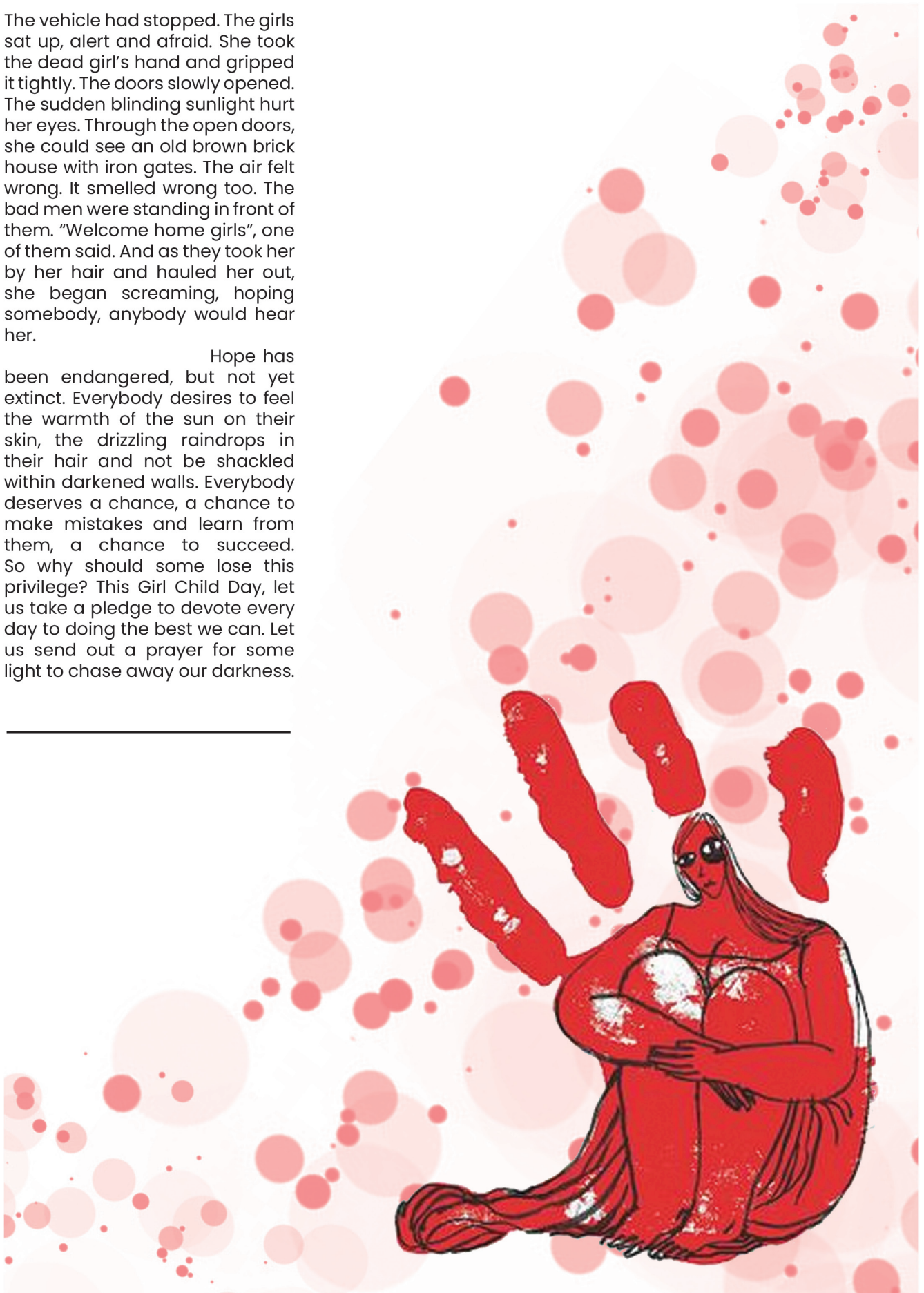




She thought about her brave father. He who had always taught her to keep her head up. He, who had always taught her to fly high but keep her feet on the ground. Will she listen to his wise words again? She remembered her father telling her how happy he was when she was first put in his arms. He used to always tell her, "You are my little girl today. A tiny bud. But you are to bloom into a bunch of possibilities tomorrow. A possibility of success. A possibility of motherhood. You will teach your children the noble task of humanity. They will, in their time, pass on the good teachings. Tears rolled down her face. She wanted to go home, go home, go home."

The vehicle had stopped. The girls sat up, alert and afraid. She took the dead girl's hand and gripped it tightly. The doors slowly opened. The sudden blinding sunlight hurt her eyes. Through the open doors, she could see an old brown brick house with iron gates. The air felt wrong. It smelled wrong too. The bad men were standing in front of them. "Welcome home girls", one of them said. And as they took her by her hair and hauled her out, she began screaming, hoping somebody, anybody would hear her.

Hope has been endangered, but not yet extinct. Everybody desires to feel the warmth of the sun on their skin, the drizzling raindrops in their hair and not be shackled within darkened walls. Everybody deserves a chance, a chance to make mistakes and learn from them, a chance to succeed. So why should some lose this privilege? This Girl Child Day, let us take a pledge to devote every day to doing the best we can. Let us send out a prayer for some light to chase away our darkness.





Name - Srijeeta Dutta

Class - XII

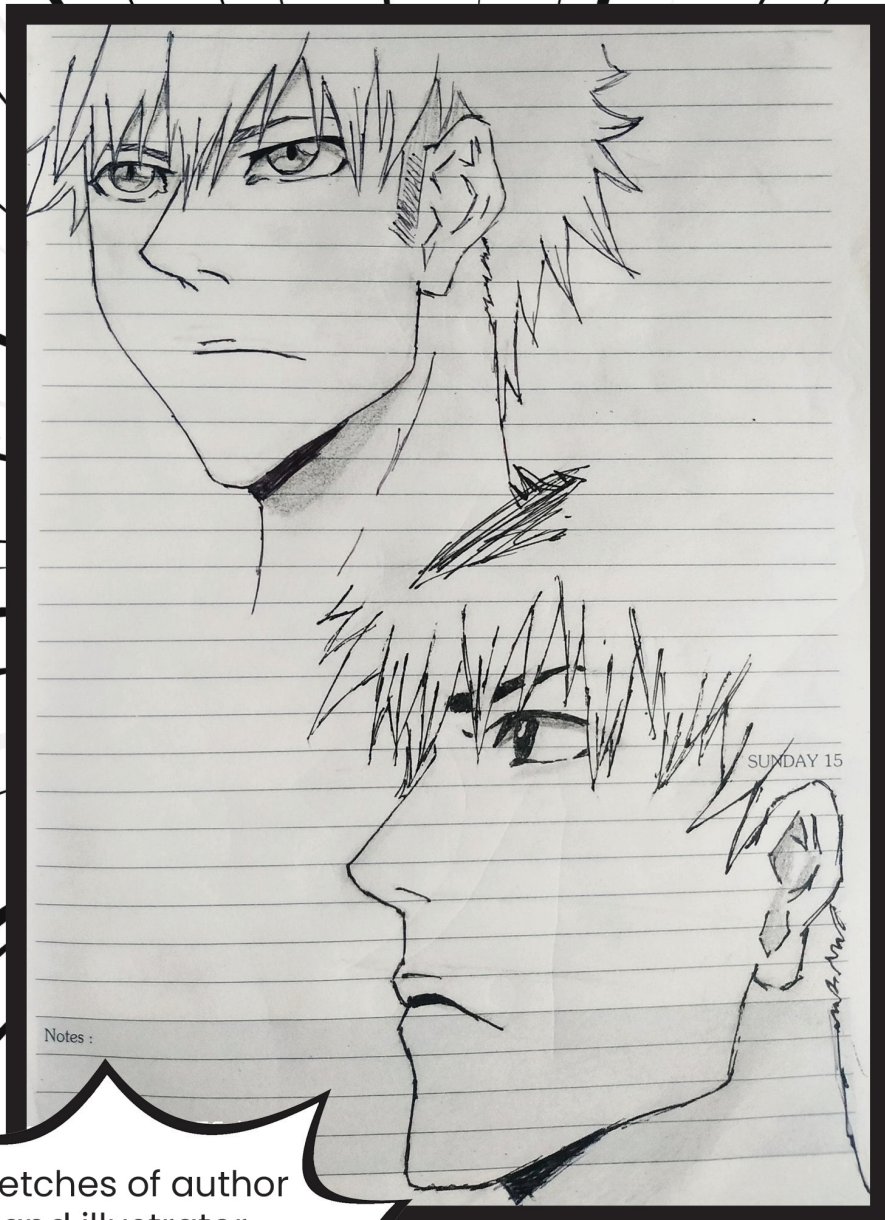
School - Baranagar Mohan Girl's High School



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



Name - Sayari Saha
Class - X
School - Lycee School,
Kolkata



Sketches of author
and illustrator
Tite Kubo's character
Ichigo Kurosaki from
his graphic novel
Bleach

Like a rolling stone



Name- Rehan Sheikh
Class - X
School - South Point High School

Sing your song to the sea if you have no one to sing to; it may not care about your puny tune over its garrulous waves, but keep singing if you want to live life. Once the song fades away, your rock will be weathered, sedimented, and melded with earth. At times, I feel I am the rolling pebble on the seashore. That's why I like seashores. Last year when I was at the beach, I picked up a pebble. So perfect. So beautiful. So pure. So unique. Spectacular!

Once, for only once we must live like a rolling stone. A time shall come in life when you must surrender to the sea and go with it wherever it takes you. A time must come in your life when you shall be ready to care of everything you once vetoed. A rolling stone- that's what you have to be if you want to live your life to the fullest. Sing a song, which shall take no one else's song.

Who cares about these pebbles rolling on the shoreline, travelling miles and miles from one continent to the other?

At least they have someone like me to care. We must become like them. Unique on our own. Ready to travel without any coordinates, without anyone beside them. We must brave the sea if we want to see the world- you must conquer your fear if you want to see the world. You do not need mere eyes to see the world, dear reader, but the stamina to jump over any impediments that may come.



The little rolling stone is the most ignored thing on Earth. Occasionally it has some little boy or girl running up to it and picking it up. Sometimes it gets kicked over to the other end of the long coastline by some man. Very few times, a young man like me picking it up and appreciating its beauty and journey. For once or twice in our lives too, we shall have a person- a confidante, you may say- who

will appreciate our good and bad and still keep us beside.

On the sea beach, I assembled the stones, one on top of the other (just like a child, you know!). I succeeded in placing four of them on top of one another, but then came a huge wave and took them with it all. I don't think the pebbles got sad just because they couldn't reach the sky. At least they could reach their best. The pebbles could not have stopped the wave from coming. It is beyond their control. Yes, even if we cannot reach the sky, we shall just be an arm away.

When I took the pebble close to my ears, I could hear a faint tune. Were they living? Having found a friend in me, perhaps it was complaining to me about all those little boys and girls and men and women who kicked it or threw it far away.

Or perhaps, it was recounting its journey of thousands of miles. Or perhaps, it was pleading to me to let it go back to its friends.

All the while the garrulous, mighty sea roared and sang a song beyond any beings' comprehension. Perhaps, it sang: How does it feel, ah how does it feel?

To be on your own, with no direction home

Like a complete unknown, like a rolling stone

What's home, if not the world itself?





Name - Resam Fiza

Class - XI

**School - Techno India group Public
school, Raiganj, West Bengal**

Tears

Pain that hides behind a
smile is tears,
Scars that coincide with
the rhythm
of the heart is tears.

It is that weaves a
relationship when
comes in touch,
Until the pathos gobbles inside
more and much.

Beneath the moonbeam,
it clutches one's fingers,
To witness us sob and whimper.

It awaits till the dither of our soul,
Shutting down every keen hope
that approaches the goal.

Burning in the spark of sorrow,
it enters deliberate,
While pays off to exeunt even in
gradual liberate.

The freakish smile is not
always the
cheer but the
fathomless will to rise
above it's dare!

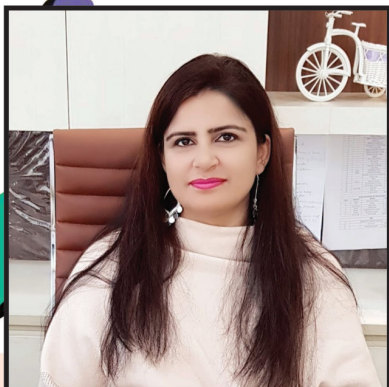
For, life bespeaks of the vividity
of grey and gold,
Which needs tears to define a
gaiety world.





Name - Ancheeta Barua
Class - VIII
School - Bidya Bharati Girls High school, New Alipore, Kolkata





Principal Speaks

Name – Richa Puri
Principal, Prime Scholars International School

1. How do you encourage celebrating National Girl Child Day?

Girl Child Day is celebrated to spread awareness of the rights and opportunities available for girls in our country. Therefore, seminars, talks, and camps should be organized to achieve the purpose. Definitely, a cultural blend will make the day and celebration more interesting and attractive.

2. How do you believe India can utilise 'Girl Power' for better nation-building?

A woman has the power to give birth, nurture, and take care of each and every requirement of all family members. She alone can be the world for her family which clearly states that she has the power to build the nation.

If a woman in each family of our country moves forward then no one can stop our country from ruling the world.

3. According to you what is the best aspect of NEP 2020 and how will it benefit the student community?

In our country of 1.42 billion people with different backgrounds, I believe that the multidisciplinary nature of our curriculum not only provides a wide range of subjects to students but also leads to the all-round development of the student's personality.

4. Given the rising shift to digital learning, Do you think technology is a boon or bane for school students?

Everything in this world has its pros and cons. It depends on you, and how you use it. The student needs to understand the pros and cons of the usage. If used wisely, technology is a boon. E-learning is a benefit for today's generation that too right at their fingertips again if used correctly.

5. What according to you should be the basic requirement for cultivating critical thinking in children?

Sowing the seed in growing minds at the initial stage and nurturing gradually will benefit the most. Teachers should teach the right way to work and then learners should find their way as every single individual has his unique way of dealing with the situation. This will not only develop critical thinking but also prepare them for the future.

6. A few tips for students to increase their habit of book reading?

Best friends cannot be made forcefully but routine companions generally turn out to be best friends. Creating a routine of reading becomes a habit gradually. Leave unanswered questions, the solution of which

Principal Speaks

could be sorted from the books available and answers to these questions could be a key to their greed would intentionally drag them towards the books.

7. Your suggestion for students who are willing to pursue unusual professions as a career in future.

No profession is unusual. It depends on you; and how interesting and adventurous you make it. Merely a cobbler, can be a millionaire. Examples are endless Reebok, Nike, Woodland, etc.

8. What according to you are the must-learn life skills for every student and the reasons.

In my opinion, everyone should be confident, ready to learn, accept their weakness and work on it, take initiative, and keep trying till they hit because acceptance, learning, taking initiative, and repeated trials lead to perfection. And, Perfectionists are the leaders of the world.

9. What is your suggestion on balancing sports and studies simultaneously for school students?

A balance between academics and sports leads to the holistic development of an individual as sports lead to fitness, team spirit, sportsmanship, sharing, and emotional stability.

On the other hand, academics is a bank of knowledge that leads to cognitive and intellectual skill building. So, both together groom the overall personality of an individual.

10. Please share some suggestions/insights for the students/readers of Kloud9 as a mentor.

Today, we are technology-driven. AI is part of our day-to-day life. In this world of advancement, digital transformation plays a pivotal role. Being digitally smart is the need of the hour. Therefore, using available aids is a shortcut to rule the world.

Puzzle Time

1. On a Sunday afternoon, a woman spotted a bear in the distance. Rather than be afraid, she ran toward it excitedly. Why wasn't she afraid?
2. Six pieces of coal, a carrot, and a scarf are lying on the lawn. Nobody put them on the lawn but there is a perfectly logical reason why they should be there. What is it?
3. A woman had two sons. They were born at the same hour on the same day of the same month in the same year. However, they were not twins. How could this be?
4. There are a dozen eggs in a carton. Twelve people each take a single egg, but there is one egg left in the carton. How?
5. A boat has a ladder that's 10 feet long, and hangs off the side of the boat, with its last three feet submerged in water. If the ocean tide rises five feet, how much of the ladder will be underwater?
6. You are driving a bus. The bus is empty when you begin your route. At the first stop, three people get on. At the second stop, nine people get on and two get off. At the third stop, four people get off and two get on. What color are the bus driver's eyes?
7. If you were alone in a dark room, with only one match and an oil lamp, a fireplace, and a candle to choose from, which would you light first?
8. A man is in a grocery store and fills a shopping cart. He walks out of the store without paying but no one stops him and no one calls the police. Why?

Puzzle Credit – Reader's Digest



KLOUD9
AT KOLKATA
INTERNATIONAL
BOOK FAIR 2024

THE COVER CANVAS QUEST:

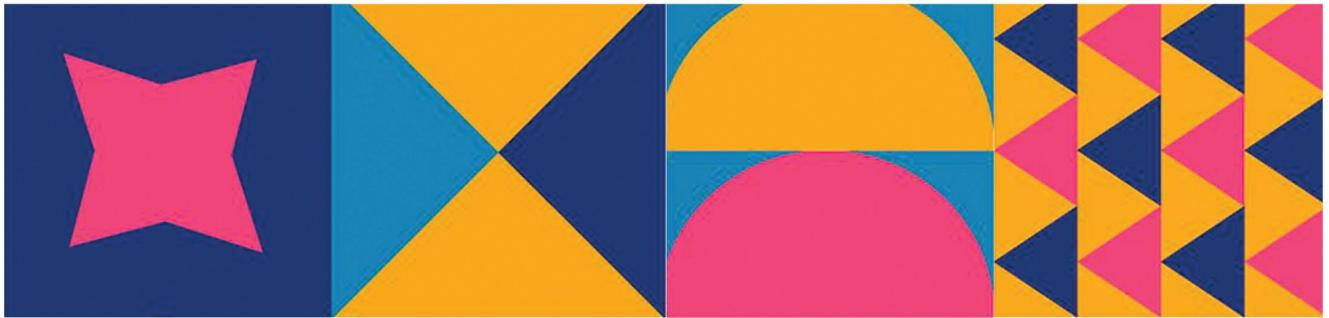
Sketch Your Imagination

&

SOULSPEAK SHOWCASE:

Mic to Mag Brilliance





KLOUD9 AT KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2024

Kloud9 Magazine's Illustration and Open Mic Competition were scheduled on **24th January 2024** at the **International Kolkata Book Fair**.

The event took place at Mukta Mancha in the rainy afternoon and saw participation from renowned schools in Kolkata. Around 30-35 students participated in the competitions on behalf of their respective schools.

Our eminent judges selected two winners from two categories and two runner ups respectively. The children's magazine is dedicated to supporting and showing local talent. The team aspire to take the humble initiative to greater heights in the years to come.



GLIMPSES OF THE COMPETITIONS AT IKBF 2024

Winner - Debangshu Saha
- Sri Aurobindo Institute
of Education (Illustration
Competition)

Runner up - Ishita Mondal
- Sri Aurobindo Institute
of Education (Illustration
Competition)

Winner - Pramiti
Chakraborty - - Aditiya
Academy (Open Mic)

Runners up - Deboleena
Chakraborty - Delhi Public
School Newton (Open Mic)



NCLF

2023



NCLF 2023

The much-awaited ninth edition of the **National Children Literary Fest (NCLF)** presented by **Kloud9** and hosted by **Kiit International School (Kiit-IS), Bhubaneswar** was organized on the 25th and 26th of November 2023. The literary fest, the first and only of its kind in India for school students, was attended by more than 1000 students from 75 schools across the country.

Writer Anand Neelakantan was felicitated for his contributions to literature during the event. Along with him, spoken word poet Priya Malik was felicitated as well. The event also witnessed the presence of former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif, Indian reality star Prince Narula, storyteller Geeta Ramanujam, and Indian novelist and writer Sudeep Nagarkar among other dignitaries.

As a prelude to the event, the School had organized 'Lit-o-Fest' to celebrate the creative talents of the little ones. The fest, open for children from the age group 3 – 10 years, witnessed enthusiastic participation from Kinder Orland students of Kiit-IS. The events included puppet making, clay modeling, face painting, human library, storytelling, word search, etc.

The National Children Literary Fest is the brainchild of the eminent educationist, philanthropist, and Founder of Kiit & KISS, **Dr. Achyuta Samanta**. Dr. Samanta, also the Founder of Kiit International School, facilitates the National Children Literary Fest; but it is designed and maintained by the Chairperson of Kiit International School, **Dr. Mona Lisa Bal**, since its inaugural edition in 2013.



PRESENTING DIGNITARIES AT NCLF 2023

NCLF 2023

Achyuta Samanta is an educationist and philanthropist. He has been conferred with more than 50 International and National awards and over 200 state awards besides two highest Civilian Awards from Royal Kingdom of Bahrain and Mongolia called ISA Award for Service to Humanity and Best Worker Award respectively. He has been conferred with 55 Honorary Doctorate awards from universities in India and abroad.



Dr. MonaLisa Bal is the Chairperson, KiIT International School, an author and a Philanthropist. A prolific researcher and someone who has actively participated in the empowerment and promotion of inclusive and quality education for disabled children as well.



NCLF 2023

Anand Neelakantan is one of India's top selling authors with more than 14 books to his credit. Anand is also a columnist, screenwriter, and public speaker. He is known for writing mythological fiction and has authored Thirteen books in English and one in Malayalam.



Sudeep Nagarkar is an Indian novelist and writer of fiction. His first novel, *Few Things Left Unsaid*, was published in 2011. Till 2020, twelve novels authored by him have been published. He is the recipient of the 2013 Youth Achievers' Award for writing for being one of India's highest-selling writers in the romance genre.



NCLF 2023

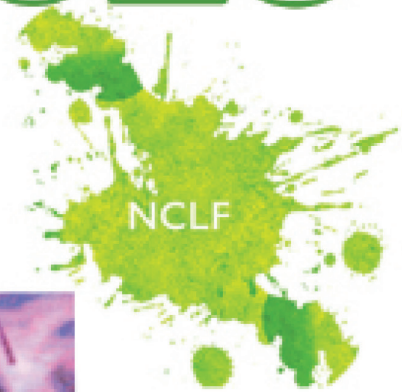
Mohammad Kaif is a former Indian cricketer, who played Tests and ODIs. He made it to the national team on the strength of his performances at the Under-19 level, where he captained the India national under-19 cricket team to victory in the Under-19 World Cup in 2000.



Priya Malik is a TEDx speaker, an actress, a columnist, a TV personality (Big Brother Australia, Big Boss India), a teacher, a spoken word poet, a storyteller, a comic and most importantly a writer/performer. She writes and performs both in Hindi and English. Her work has been featured on some of India's biggest spoken word platforms such as Kommune, UnErase Poetry, Spill Poetry, Amazon Prime and Tape A Tale.



NCLF 2023



Geeta Ramanujam is a master storyteller. She is also an academician and administrator with twenty-three years of experience in storytelling. A pioneer of the storytelling movement in India, Geeta has defined and evolved the ancient art of storytelling through workshops and certified courses, covering over 93,491 adults and 5,00,000 children so far. Geeta has travelled to forty-three countries and twenty-seven states in India to groom professional tellers, all the while sowing seeds of storytelling around the world for the last forty years.

FROM THE PRESS BOX

 **THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS**

National Children's Literary Festival concludes at KiiT-IS in Bhubaneswar

Indo-Asian News Service

IANS | India's Largest Independent Newswire

KiiT International School National Children Literary Fest to Kick-off from Nov 25

 **KALINGA**
TV

9th KiiT International School national children literary fest begins

 **rissadiary • com**
Fueled Brand Odisha Since 20 Years

KiiT International School National Children Literary Fest To Kick-Off From Nov 25

 **edugraph**

9th National Children's Literary Festival kicks off at the KiiT International School

NCLF 2023

NCLF has grown in stature during the last nine years, hosting popular writers, poets, and artists who have contributed immensely to the field of humanities and literature in various capacities. Student participation has increased over the years turning NCLF into a literary extravaganza for children throughout India



NCLF 2023

NCLF 2023 witnessed renowned Indian playback singer, live performer, music director, and composer Ankit Tiwari interacting with participants. He was also felicitated by the organisers at the venue.



NCLF 2023



GLIMPSES OF NCLF 2023

CALL FOR STUDENT AMBASSADORS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH KLOUD9

•A CHANCE TO BE A STUDENT AMBASSADOR IN YOUR SCHOOL AND YOU CAN EMAIL ARTICLES/ POEMS/ ART WORKS ON BEHALF OF YOUR SCHOOL AND REPRESENT KLOUD9.

•INTERVIEW YOUR PRINCIPAL YOUR PRINCIPAL AND PUBLISH IT IN KLOUD9 AS A YOUNG JOURNALIST.

•INTERESTED STUDENTS CAN SEND THEIR PORTFOLIO MENTIONING LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, A KNACK FOR CREATIVITY AND WHY SHOULD WE SELECT YOU AS AN AMBASSADOR OF YOUR SCHOOL ON OUR OFFICIAL EMAIL ID SOON.

•AN OPPORTUNITY TO FEATURE YOURSELF ON KLOUD9 MAGAZINE ----- HURRY UP!!!!!!

•AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A STUDENT CREATOR COMMUNITY ACROSS SCHOOLS IN INDIA

Email Id - editorkloud9@kiitis.ac.in

Answer:-

1. Answer: She was at the zoo.
2. Answer: A snowman was built in the yard, and the snow has since melted, leaving the eyes, nose, mouth, and scarf on the ground.
3. Answer: They're triplets—there is a third child.
4. Answer: The 12th person takes the egg and the carton, leaving the egg inside.
5. Answer: Still three feet. When the tide rises, the boat will rise with it, bringing the ladder along. No matter what, there will still be three feet submerged.
6. Answer: You are the bus driver —what color are your eyes?
7. Answer: The match. You can't light any of the rest of the objects without first lighting the match.
8. Answer: The man is an employee of the store and was filling the cart with trash to take out to the Dumpster.

Puzzle Credit – Reader's Digest

CONTRIBUTE TO KLOUD9

As a youth driven platform, our primary aim is to provide you with an inclusive platform that plays host to your pioneering and ingenious insights and opinions.

Writings should be original and in English.

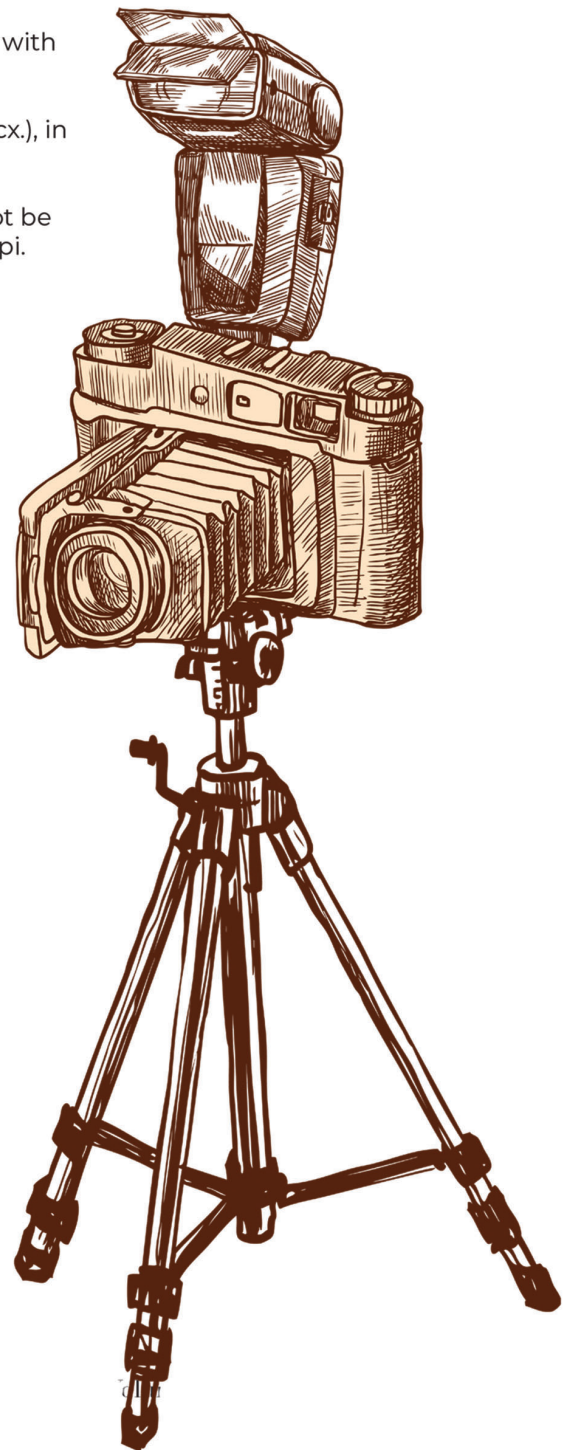
Your submissions may take the shape of a short story, opinion, photograph or just your take on any general topic of your choice. Ideally your pieces should be in the span of 600-2000 words.

All submissions should have the writer's name in full, job/workplace designations or educational qualifications and educational institution with city, e-mail ID and contact number.

If you send by e-mail, your work should be in Word Format (doc. or docx.), in blank, 12-point Times New Roman.

Pictures and photographs should be sent in jpg. format and should not be those downloaded from the Internet. Scan resolution should be 300 dpi.

The decision of the Editorial Board will be final.
Reach out to us: editorkloud9@kiitis.ac.in





National
**GIRL
CHILD
DAY**