

This special edition has been brought to you by AIS Pushp Vihar as a part of the GT Making A Newspaper Contest. The inter-Amity newspaper making competition witnesses each branch of Amity across Delhi/NCR chum out its own 'Contest Edition' which are then pitted against one another at the end of the year which decides the winner at GT Awards. So, here's presenting the fourth edition of 'GT Making A Newspaper Contest 2019-20'.

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AMITEpoll

Do you think tensions between Iran and US will lead to World War III?

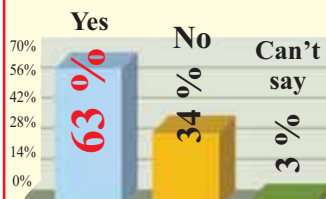
a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT

For GT Edition December 16, 2019

Do you think Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) is a fair move?



Results as on January 11, 2020

Coming Next

AIS Gur 46 Contest Edition

THE GLOBAL TIMES

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020

www.theglobaltimes.in

A 'novel' existence

A Spine-Chilling Fiction That Became The Reality Of 21st Century

Deeksha Puri, AIS Pushp Vihar, XII F

Reading the aggravating headlines in the newspaper, reporting riots, agitations and unrest upon the Citizenship Amendment Act, I left the newspaper in my hands to find some peace and quiet within the pages of one of my favourite novels-Fahrenheit 451. However, the uncanny resemblance between the eruption of flames and violence to curb student protests, to the burning of books to curb political unrest in the novel's dystopian society caused me to wonder about similarities between what I escaped from, and what I escaped to.

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."

The fiction: Winston Smith, the protagonist of '1984', George Orwell's scathing commentary on totalitarianism, finds himself trapped in the land of Oceania, where the Big Brother watches him everywhere he goes. The ruling party destroys historical records and prevents political rebellion by formulating a language called 'Newspeak', devoid of words that can lead to political uprising.

The facts: Fleeing the clutches of a totalitarian rule,

Hong Kong found a similar crowd of Winston Smiths engaged in protests sparked due to the Extradition Bill passed in March that would have limited the autonomy of the state of Hong Kong and brought it under the strict control of communist China. Opponents to the bill believe that its introduction would cement Chinese government's efforts to curb political activism in the region. Much like the ending to 1984, these efforts to curb political dissent were met with opposition at the end. With 5,947 people arrested (as of December 8, 2019) the anti-government protests show no signs of stopping until their "Five Demands,

No Less" are accepted.

"Because to influence a person is to give one's own soul."

The fiction: 'A Picture of Dorian Gray' penned by Oscar Wilde follows the story of a young, impressionable and handsome man, Dorian Gray, who in order to escape the transient nature of beauty and youth, pledges his soul to preserve a portrait of him so as to save it from age and infamy.

Tragedy ensues as Dorian is expelled into a life of hedonism and malevolence, all while his picture remains immortal.

The facts: Amidst the recent wave of panic surrounding India's aviation sector, huge airlines are running into losses and Air India is no exception (with operating losses worth 4,600 crore INR). The cyclic nature of India's economic slowdown has unleashed a frenzy to in-

crease investment causing the Indian government to put up the soul of Indian Aviation- Air India for auction, divesting a complete 100%. Among the transient ups and downs of the business cycle posing a deflation, is this soulless sale going to push the economy into the tragic end of Dorian's fate?

"Confusion now hath made his masterpiece."

The fiction: One of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies, 'Macbeth' illustrates the harm political ambition can cause. In this story, a Scottish general named Macbeth learns of a prophecy ascribing him as the future King of Scotland. In a fit to prove the prophecy, he murders King Duncan, the then king. The story ends with a civil war and Macbeth's death.

The facts: Much like Macbeth, political aspirations, overthrowing the ruler and a desire to rule gave way to conflict and violence, at the behest of the masses in South Sudan. With 1.9 million people internally displaced, the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan is among the gravest crises, emanating from a civil war. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (the party that led the independence struggle for Sudan) is now divided and involved in a large power struggle.

As I pondered over the similarities and parallels that exist between the literary world and our current reality, I felt mixed emotions. While literature is almost always influenced by social contexts, should I be frightened at the semblance of our reality with dystopian novels, or glad at the rate of consistency we have achieved as a society, such that we mirror them? 🇮🇳



Illustration: Vanshika Chaudhary, AIS PV, XI C

The saga of Akshara Theatre

Jalabala Vaidya: The Legend Who Transformed The World Of Drama

Saanvi Vaish, XI C & Tanya Talwar, XI G, AIS PV

Meet Jalabala Vaidya, India's living legend, a playwright and theatre artist. Co-founder of The Akshara Theatre, a non-profit arts institution, she is the walking history of Indian theatre. Her one-woman Ramayana play remains the only Indian play to have been staged at Broadway, New York and has 2200 shows to its credit. With several awards like Sangeet Natak Akademi's Tagore Award, Delhi Natya Sangh Award and many more to her credit, her contribution to theatre is exemplary. GT reporters interacted with her about the same. Here are the excerpts:

Act I: The beginning

My journey didn't really have a beginning per se. But I think it started when Dr S Radhakrishnan, the second President of India, was visiting my husband post his cataract surgery. He wanted someone to read his work to him since he couldn't. My husband suggested that I should read aloud for the President since my oratory skills were good. Turned out, he liked my presentation so much that he suggested that we mustn't keep it away from public. He introduced us to a few of his guests who invited us for a performance in Europe. Things took off from then on and eventually The Royal Shakespeare Company invited us for a performance. We wanted to perform Ramayana, but we needed a space to practice. Late Morarji Desai, the former Prime Minister of India, gave us a place and thus Akshara Theatre came into being.

Act II: The dedication

We didn't just pick the building and call it a day, no; Gopal and I wanted everything about Akshara Theatre to be beautiful. When we were handed the place, it was rundown, but we had to make the best of what we were given and we were grateful for it. So, right

Pic: Kunal Ahuja, AIS PV, XI D



Jalabala Vaidya with GT reporters

tion to such as the gender and age of the character, and modulating the voice to suit the same. I had to gesticulate differently when I was portraying Dasharatha from when I was playing Kaikeyi. As an actor, you can't be static; you have to use body movement, voice control, etc. to show the best of every character you portray.

Act IV: The challenges

Though it turned out to be very successful, we didn't start with the idea of a one-woman show. Initially, we hired other actors too, but they turned out to be hindrances to the process, which is when my husband suggested that I do the entire show. I remember saying that I couldn't because it seemed impossible, but my daughter, my husband and I became one troop who managed everything and put on a fabulous show. For, if you are true to what you are doing and are moving people with your work, nothing else matters.

Act V: The message

Be focused. It's very easy to get distracted but you need to train your mind to achieve your goals. Whether you want to be a teacher, a doctor, or anything else, you need to learn how to be focused. 🇮🇳



Jalabala Vaidya, legendary co-founder, Akshara Theatre