

Rajit Ranjan Pandey, AIS Gur 43, XII B

It's the year 2467. In the quiet wing of a long-forgotten library, tucked between Cold War chronicles and oil crisis dossiers, is a folder labelled 'G7'. That's me. No fanfare. Just a file that smells of old decisions and unresolved debates. Someone once sealed my story like a time capsule - a record of influence, ambition, and regret.

If you're reading this, maybe you're wondering who I was. Or if I still matter. So let me take you to the beginning: I was born in 1975, not from a grand treaty, but out of necessity and some panic. The world struggled with the oil crisis, and global economies were wobbling like toddlers just learning to walk. That's when six powerful economies: France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US brought me into existence. A year later, Canada joined our ranks, and I became the Group of Seven. I was not given any headquarters. But I let it slide, as I was built on dialogue, not bureaucracy. The Cold War was in full swing, so I quickly became a forum for everything from trade to security. As decades passed, I expanded to include climate change, disarmament, gender equality, AI ethics and more. Sure, I've been labelled Western-centric. But that didn't stop me from being decisive and influential.

Each year, one of my members hosted the summit and selected the agenda. The high-brow prime ministers and presidents huddled together, flanked by their entourage of ministers and sherpas - the behind-the-scenes negotiators who did the heavy lifting. There

The OG power club

G7 Speaks From The Dusty Depths Of History

was one more at the table - the European Union. A passive member, yes. It couldn't chair meetings, but was always there. And as for those who call me snobbish? Never have I kept my doors closed. I

have always hosted plenty of guests. India, for one, is sharp, curious and very determined. Coming to Russia... What a tale of hope

and heartbreak. Russia began attending summits in the mid-90s, and by 1997, I was officially reborn as the G8. Things looked promising. But good things do not last forever and cracks soon followed. By 2014, Russia had annexed Crimea, and we could

no longer bear to ignore it. So, Russia was suspended. From a friend to a geopolitical adversary, it was a very painful turn.

People still ask if I was ever truly relevant especially with the rise of the newcomer, BRICS, and the broader, more inclusive G20. But let me remind my dear readers - my influence may have faded over the time, but I wasn't some toothless entity. Back in 2023, I froze over \$300 billion in Russian assets and redirected the proceeds to support Ukraine. That wasn't just symbolism - that was strategy.

Yes, I've been called exclusive. Weak. Out of touch. I've lost allies, made enemies. But I also set global goals, championed crises, answered calls when the world needed action over applause. I wasn't perfect. But I mattered. I was the original VIP club of global politics, and my story will remain etched deep into its long, stubborn memory. **GT**



The Ladakh detour

A Change Of Plans, A Journey To Remember

Aadvik Garg

AIS Saket, IV A

Place: Leh & Ladakh**Top sights:** Pangong Lake, Khardung La Pass, Nubra Valley, Zaskar-Indus Sangam, Magnetic Hill, Diskit Monastery**Best time to visit:** May to September**Delicacies to try:** Thukpa, momos, Ladakhi butter tea, Khambir, Skyu**Things to carry:** Warm clothes, sunscreen, sunglasses, hat or cap, lip balm, water bottle, some medicines for dizziness, cameras**Souvenirs to buy:** Prayer flags, pashmina shawls, miniature stupas, Buddhist artefacts, fridge magnets**Languages to know before you visit:** Hindi, Ladakhi, English

My experience: This summer, I was really excited about my first international trip with my brand-new passport. We had planned to go to Dubai, but our booking got cancelled because of a visa issue. To make sure we didn't feel too disappointed, my dad planned a last-minute trip to Leh and Ladakh. And guess what, it turned

out to be the best adventure of my life! We reached Leh and took a full day to rest so we could adjust to the high altitude.

It was the first time I saw oxygen cylinders kept in hotel rooms! We were also told to stay hydrated and carry medicines for dizziness. The first place we visited was the Hall of Fame Museum, full of army artefacts and stories about the brave soldiers who fought in the Indo-China and Indo-Pak wars. After that, we went to Magnetic Hill and the Zaskar-Indus Sangam, one of the most beautiful



Aadvik on his Ladakhi adventures

natural sights I've ever seen. Next, we travelled to Nubra Valley via Khardung La Pass, one of the highest motorable roads in the world. We played in the snow, ate momos, went go-karting, and rode ATVs on the sand dunes. We also rode double-humped Bactrian camels and spent the night camping under the stars with a bonfire. At the peaceful Diskit Monastery, we got blessings from a Lama. Then we went to Pangong Lake, the same one from the movie '3

Idiot's'. It was amazing to see the lake change colours during the day. Back in Leh, we did some shopping and tried delicious thukpa. One of the biggest surprises of the trip was meeting Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at our hotel and taking a photo with her.

My favourite memory from the trip: At Chang La Pass, I saw a long convoy of army trucks passing by. I stood and saluted the soldiers. That simple moment stayed with me.