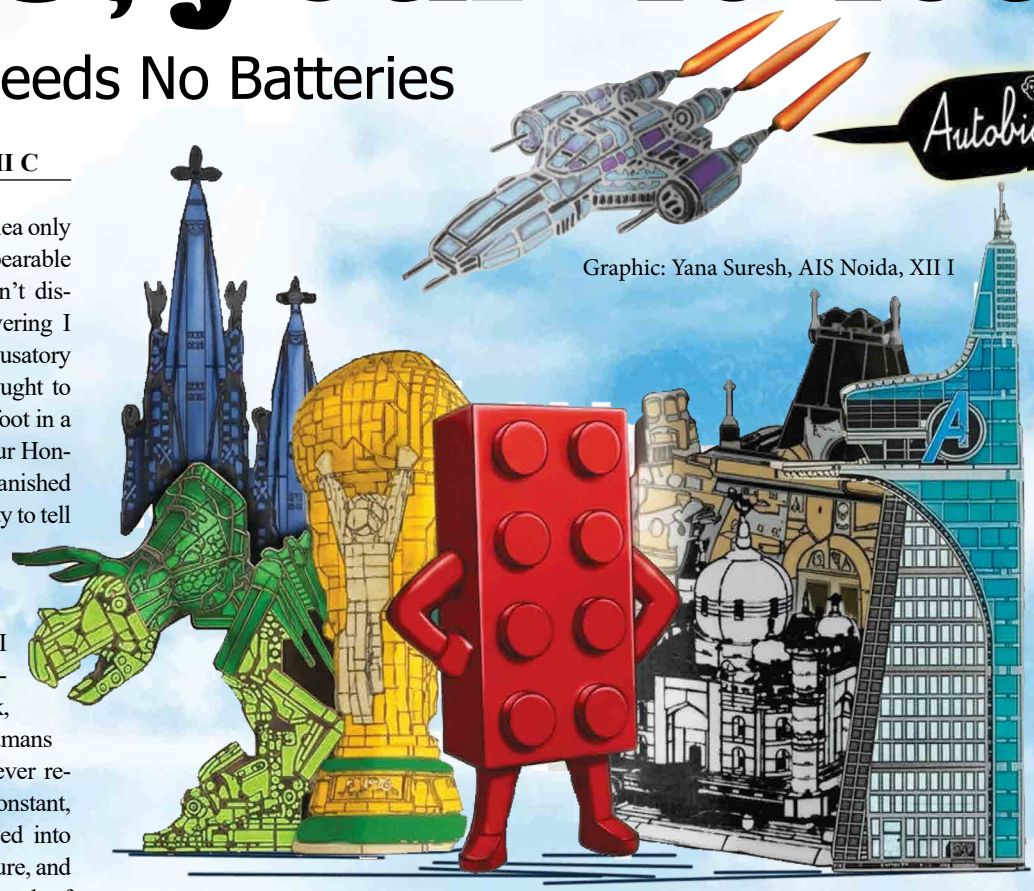
LEGO, your honour

Imagination Needs No Batteries

Autobiography

Grisha Gautam, AIS Noida, XII C



Graphic: Yana Suresh, AIS Noida, XII I

Your Honour, I offer a guilty plea only to the charge of causing unbearable foot pain at 2:00 AM. I don't dispute the shrieks of a mother discovering I have ended up in her *dal*, or the accusatory finger-pointing from relatives who ought to have known better than to stroll barefoot in a playroom. I am a brick of LEGO, Your Honour. However, before I am ordered banished forevermore, allow me one opportunity to tell you my story.

Exhibit A: The birth certificate

Take a turn to the good old days! I was born precisely at 1:58 PM of January 28, 1958, in Billund, Denmark, where my patent was filed. While humans were busy fixing things that were never really broken, I remained obstinately constant, marking a world record, being carved into the world's smallest handmade sculpture, and patching up crumbling ancient stonework of your dream destination, Rome. I'd say I'm a perfect fit for just about anything.

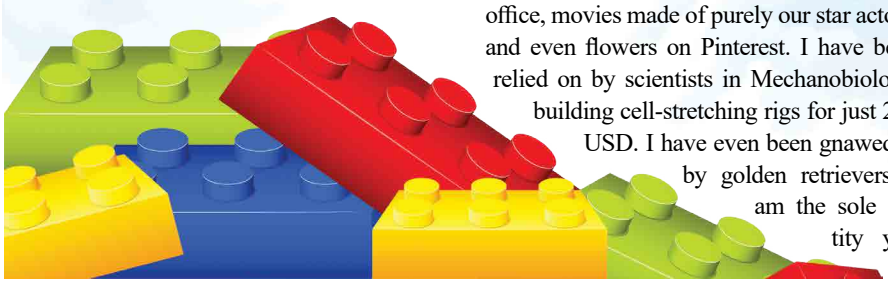


Exhibit B: Character witness

I have been the Hogwarts castle, the Avengers office, movies made of purely our star actors, and even flowers on Pinterest. I have been relied on by scientists in Mechanobiology, building cell-stretching rigs for just 200 USD. I have even been gnawed at by golden retrievers. I am the sole entity you possess that can be disassembled a million times yet remain flawlessly intact.

Exhibit C: Forensic engineering report

Now, I'll let you in on a few design secrets that keep us locked in. I was crafted using Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene, subjected to 150 tonnes of pressure and engineered with tolerances smaller than 0.002 millimetres. Over time, I have become an engineering marvel. I range from the jaw-dropping 50,000-brick model of Dulles International Airport to my favourite, the FIFA World Cup 2026 statue in New York. We are an international army of 60 billion. That's about 80 bricks per person in world population! Out of curiosity, Your Honour, which FIFA team do you support? ***[Objection, irrelevant]***

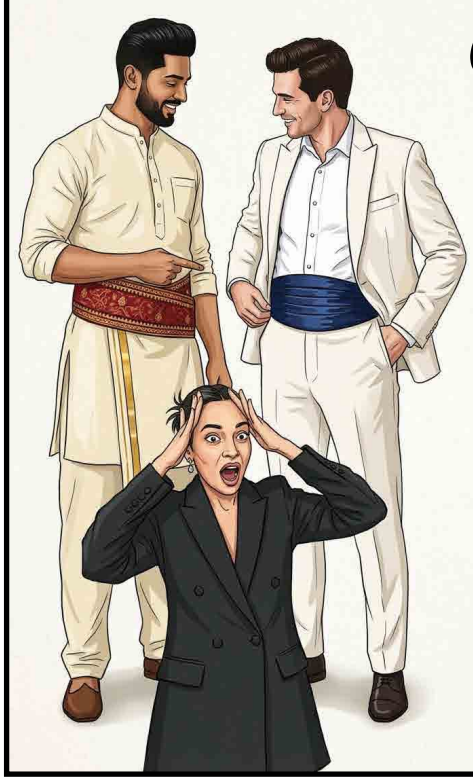
Exhibit D: Evidence

Alas! My world turned dark as the screens became intense and the graphics became vivid, hypnotising the kids. People would soon learn that imagination knows no batteries. Our box famously says the age criteria is '4 to 99+', ridiculously supported by the massive global community of AFOLs (Adult Fans of LEGO). And perhaps, the most unusual alibi of all! When Sir David Attenborough turned 100, we changed our familiar label to '4 to 100+'. In the annals of corporate lore, few moments compare to when an infamous scammer replaced $30,000 worth of us with uncooked pasta for refunds. I'm on the brim of an identity crisis!

Now, Your Honour, I accept the harm caused to innumerable toes. But I request you to please take into consideration the lives I have constructed. I am the link between the child you once were, and the inventor you eventually become. Should you decide to reprimand me, I shall probably continue to lie there, subdued underneath your couch, awaiting discovery once more by another hand.

Who wore the style first?

Tracing the Eastern Roots of Westward Wardrobes



Naima Oberoi
AIS Saket, XII F

Fashion has always been good at travelling. Less good, perhaps, at leaving a forwarding address. Some familiar names in Western fashion have crossed continents and languages before arriving in our wardrobes. So, let's trace a few things back to where they began… on our side of the world.

Cummerbund: The cummerbund, synonymous with Western black-tie dressing, traces its roots to the Indian *kamarbandh*, a sash worn around the waist. The colonial British officers adapted it as a cooler alternative to waistcoats in the scorching summers of India. It could also hold small essentials. Today, it completes the tuxedo look, although its Indian ancestry rarely gets an invitation to the party.

Seersucker: This lightweight, puckered fabric has an Asian connection that predates its popularity in New Orleans. Its name is traced to the Persian *shir-o-shakkar* (milk and sugar), describing its contrasting smooth and textured surfaces. Trade carried the fabric and its name westwards. Its airy weave and low-maintenance appeal made it ideal for summer dressing. Clearly, staying cool has always been a global fashion priority.

Paisley: The curved, teardrop-shaped paisley motif has a rich history in Persian and South Asian textiles, particularly Kashmiri shawls. When these luxurious shawls captivated Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries, demand prompted their designs to be reproduced in the Scottish town of Paisley. Over time, the town's name stuck, while the original buta motif became better known by its Scottish identity. Talk about identity theft!

Khaki, pajamas, bandanas, palazzo pants… the list of India-inspired wear is endless. These familiar wardrobe staples reveal how fashion is rarely a one-way street. Cultures borrow, adapt, and rename what they encounter, sometimes leaving the original story behind.

Page editor: Shreya Wahi, AIS Noida, XI E