

#NOSTALGIA

## 90s Kids vs Gen Z: The Great Debate on Cartoons, Snacks, and TV Shows

As two generations clash over what defines the 'ultimate childhood experience,' let's take a fun trip down memory lane and settle this debate once and for all!



Do you remember the thrill of adjusting your TV antenna just to catch the latest episode of *Shaktimaan*? Or the sheer joy of unwrapping an orange Phantom Sweet Cigarette like a Bollywood villain? If yes, congratulations, you're officially a 90s kid! But if your childhood revolved around Netflix, Instagram reels, and digital classrooms, then welcome to the Gen Z squad!

### Cartoons: When Studies Were Sacred

Let's get one thing straight, 90s cartoons were elite! Sunday mornings meant waking up at 8 AM (even though we couldn't wake up at 7 AM for school), just to watch *DuckTales*, *Tom & Jerry*, *Dexter's Laboratory*, and our desi superhero, *Shaktimaan*! And if you missed an episode? Tough luck! No rewinds, no

### School Lunchboxes: Maggi vs. Meal Prep

If your tiffin smelled like Maggi or Aloo Paratha, you were the king of recess! 90s kids didn't believe in 'healthy snacking,' our go-to treats were Uncle Chips, Center Fresh, Kismi Bar, and Frooti! And let's not forget the ultimate school currency, broom! Bubblegum tattoos! Gen Z

### TV Shows: The Golden Age of Drama

The 90s and early 2000s gave us pure television gold, from *Khichdi* and *Sarabhai vs Sarabhai* to *Shaka Laka Boom Boom*! And who could forget the intensity of *Kaun Banega Crorepati* when Amitabh Bachchan asked, "Computer ji, lock

### Games: Gully Cricket vs. Gaming Consoles

90s kids played real-life battle royales, from gully cricket to pittu (seven stones) and chupan chupai (hide and seek). We didn't need WiFi or a PS5, all we needed was a cheap plastic ball, a bunch of friends, and a solid excuse for being late

### It's All About Nostalgia!

At the end of the day, both generations had their own special experiences. The 90s may have been simpler, but Gen Z has endless possibilities. One had cassette tapes and walkmans, the other has Spotify and AirPods. One had Tazos in



# The Grand Illusion Watching vs Witnessing

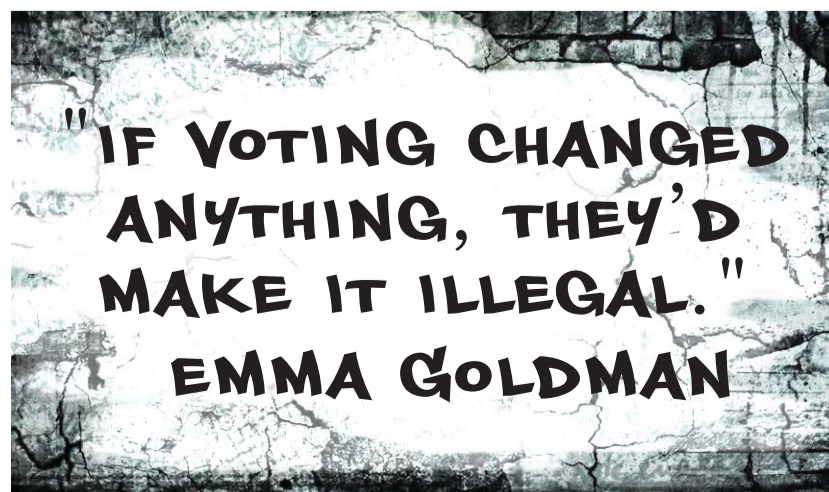


Have you ever watched an award show on TV and felt completely mesmerized by the grandeur? The dazzling lights, the seamless performances, the way the camera glides through the crowd, making everything look impossibly glamorous?

Now, imagine stepping into that very world, being there, seated amidst the energy of a live audience, watching the biggest stars walk past you, witnessing the magic unfold in real time. Sounds surreal, right? Well, let me tell you, after attending the IIFA Awards 2025 in Jaipur on March 8th and 9th and then watching the televised version on March 16th, I had a moment of revelation. The difference between what you see on TV and what actually happens on the ground is staggering. It's not just about camera angles or editing tricks, it's an entirely different experience, almost as if two separate events are taking place.



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



The transformation from the live event to the televised broadcast is where the true enchantment occurs. Cameras, with their ability to focus, zoom, and capture from various angles, play a pivotal role in amplifying the event's grandeur. During the live event, one could observe cameramen manoeuvring around the stage, capturing moments that, to the live audience, appeared routine. Yet, through the camera's lens, these moments were transformed into cinematic spectacles.

## The Energy Disparity: Being There vs Watching at Home



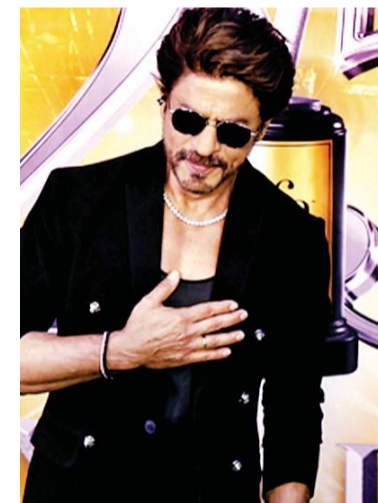
There's an undeniable energy when you're present at an event like IIFA. The roar of the crowd, the collective gasps when a surprise winner is announced, the thrill of seeing the favourite star up close, all of it adds to the experience. But here's the catch, in between these heightened moments, there are long pauses. Technical adjustments and awkward silences fill the gaps between the dazzling acts shown on TV.

At one point, while sitting in the audience, I noticed how disengaged some people were during less glamorous segments.

## The Televised Spectacle: An Enhanced Reality

Watching the IIFA Awards broadcast on television was an entirely different experience. The event, which felt straightforward in person, was presented as a seamless extravaganza on screen. The performances appeared more vibrant, the speeches more impactful, and the overall production exuded a polished sheen. The editing process smoothed out any live-event imperfections,

## A Dual Perspective: Appreciating Both Realities



People checked their phones, chatted amongst themselves, and some even stepped outside for a break, something you'd never see in the perfectly stitched television version, where the excitement seems never-ending.

Meanwhile, watching from home, the experience felt different. The energy never dimmed, and the pacing was smooth, keeping me glued to the screen. On TV, there was no waiting for the crew to set up the next act, no moments of silence, just an uninterrupted flow of spectacle, designed to keep audiences engaged from start to finish.

And that, my friends, is the magic of the camera, the ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. So, the next time, you find yourself mesmerized by an award show, just remember, behind every breathtaking frame is a team working tirelessly to make sure you see exactly what they want you to see. And while the live experience has its own charm, it's the televised version that turns reality into a dream.

## French Language Day



Monsieur! This is the day to celebrate the French language! Categorized as a musical language, French is often considered to be one of the most beautiful languages in the world. As part of the family of romance languages, French is related to other languages such as Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian. But anyone who has tried to read or speak it knows that it has its own special flair about it. French Language Day offers a perfect opportunity to show appreciation and love for this language, that is often as pleasing to the ear as it is to the heart.



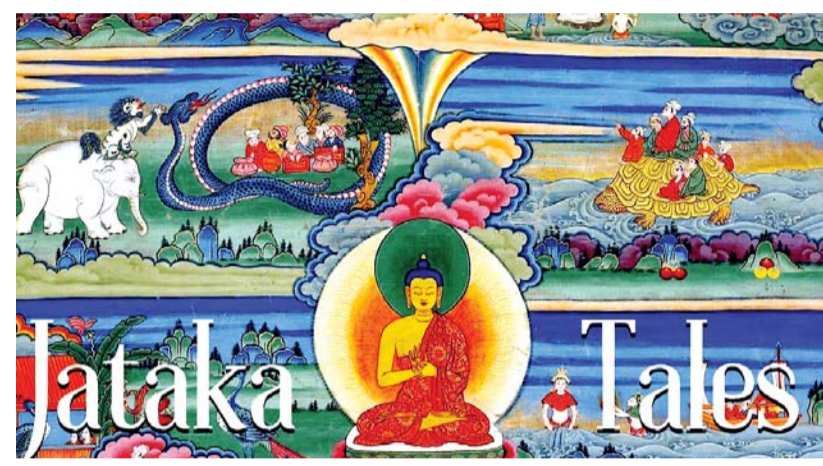
## #CULTURE

# Once Upon a Time...

Echoes of Eternity: Celebrating World Storytelling Day Through India's Timeless Tales.



Imagine sitting under an ancient banyan tree, the flickering glow of an oil lamp casting long shadows as an elder's voice fills the night air with tales of valor, wisdom, and wonder! The air is thick with anticipation, and the listeners, young and old, hang on to every word. Storytelling in India has always been more than entertainment; it is a sacred bridge between past and present, myth and reality.



## A TAPESTRY OF TALES: INDIA'S LEGENDARY STORYTELLING TRADITIONS

### 1. The Panchatantra: Fables of Wisdom

If wisdom had a voice, it would speak through the Panchatantra. Written over 2,000 years ago by Vishnu Sharma, this collection of animal fables was designed to educate young princes on the complexities of leadership, diplomacy, and

human nature. Who could forget the clever rabbit outwitting the mighty lion or the cunning jackal teaching us about greed? These tales transcend time, their morals as relevant in boardrooms today as they were in ancient palaces.



### 2. The Jataka Tales: Buddha's Eternal Lessons

Tales of compassion, patience, and virtue find their home in the Jataka Tales, a collection of stories that narrate the past lives of Gautama Buddha. Each tale is a lesson in dharma, highlighting

the power of kindness and wisdom. Imagine a world where a humble monkey teaches emperors about selflessness, these stories remind us that greatness often lies in simplicity.

### An Unbroken Legacy: The Story Lives On

But wait, do you think storytelling belongs only to the past? Look around! Whether it is Bollywood weaving cinematic tales, Instagram reels narrating poetry, or graphic novels bringing mythology to Gen Z, the art of storytelling is alive and thriving. The only difference is the medium, our stories have leaped from parchment scrolls to pixelated screens, from temple carvings to podcasts.

### 3. Vikram and Betal: The King and the Ghost's Riddles

What is a great story without a challenge? Enter King Vikramaditya and the enigmatic ghost Betal, whose riddles are both a test of intellect and morality. Every time the king attempts to carry Betal, he is confronted with

a story ending in a paradox, one that forces him to think, analyze, and answer. These narratives, found in the *Kathasaritsagara*, are not just eerie folklores but deep philosophical discourses wrapped in thrilling storytelling.

### 4. Akbar and Birbal: The Wit That Defied Power

The imperial Mughal court of Emperor Akbar was not only a hub of politics and strategy but also of quick wit and humour, thanks to Birbal. His stories remain unparalleled in their cleverness, whether it was proving that a pot of khichdi could not cook at a distance or solving disputes with sheer intelligence. Birbal's tales teach us that wisdom often triumphs over brute power.



### 5. The Ramayana and Mahabharata: Epics Beyond Time

No storytelling tradition in India is complete without the grand epics, The Ramayana and The Mahabharata. These are not just stories but sacred scriptures, political commentaries, and philosophical texts all rolled into one.

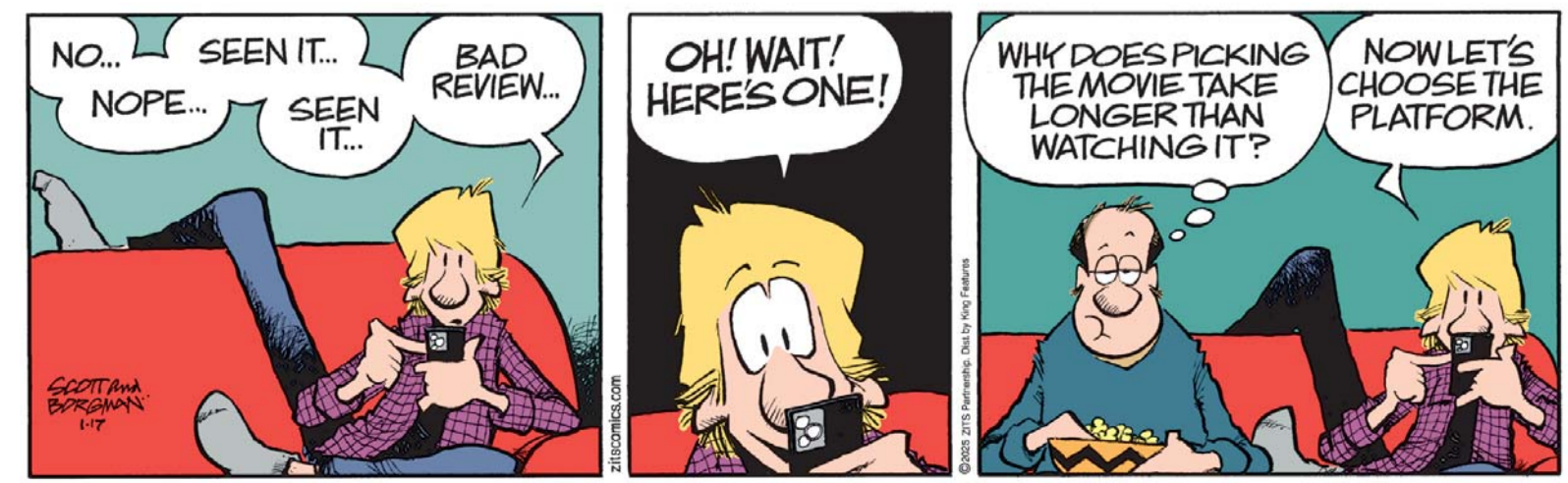
devotion and the sacrifices of Lord Rama. The *Mahabharata*, the longest epic ever written, gives us war, betrayal, and wisdom in the form of the *Bhagavad Gita*, where Krishna's divine counsel to Arjuna remains one of the greatest spiritual discourses in history.

### The Royal Curtain Falls: A Kingdom of Stories

A World Storytelling Day reminds us, stories are immortal whispers of time, carrying voices of our ancestors and dreams of our future. The regal courts may have faded, and the wise sages may have moved on, but their words still echo through our traditions, our beliefs, and our imagination. So, the next time you sit by a fire, sip *chai* with an elder, or flip through the pages of an old book, remember that you are part of an empire of stories, a kingdom where words are wealth, and imagination is the throne. Let the tale never end. For as long as stories live, so shall we.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman