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!



o vou remember the thrill of adjusting just to catch the lat-Shaktimaan? Or the joy Phantom Sweet Cigarette like a Bollywood villain? If yes, congratulations, you're offi-

cially a 90s kid! But if your childhood revolved around Netflix, Instagram reels, and digital classrooms, then welcome to the Gen Z squad! As two generations clash

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Cartoons: When Sundays Were Sacred

et'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 And if you missed an episode?

streaming, just pray for a rerun next week. Gen Z. on the other hand, has everything on demand, from Pokémon to Doraemon, all available at the tap of a screen. While we fought over the TV remote. they have entire seasons of their favourite shows at their fingertips. But honestly,

School Lunchboxes: Maggi vs. Meal Prep

f your tiffin smelled like kids? They have chia seed Maggi or Aloo Paratha, you puddings and quinoa wraps in 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, boomer bubblegum tattoos! Gen Z

their lunchboxes! Gone are the days of secretly exchange ing Parle-G biscuits for a sin of Rasna. Today's kids are out here with protein shakes and meal-prepped salads. We, 90s kids, walked so that Gen Z could... eat healthy.

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 kiva jave." Meanwhile, Gen Z has reality TV. Korean dramas, and YouTube vloggers running the show. Sure, their content is engaging, but can anything ever replace the suspense of waiting an entire week for the next episode of *Son Pari*?

Games: Gully Cricket vs. Gaming Consoles

90s kids played real-life battle royales, from gully cricket to pitthu (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

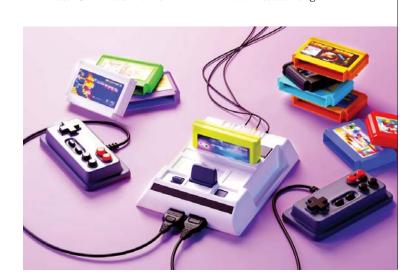
mastered the world of online gaming, from PUBG to Fortnite. While they build virtual empires, we built castles in the sand and conquered the streets on our Hero cycles. Both are fun, but ours didn't require a charging cable!

home! Gen Z, however, has

It's All About Nostalgia!

t the end of the day, both A 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

chips packets, the other has NFTs (still don't understand them, but okay!). But hey, if there's one thing both generations can agree on, it's that childhood was magical, no matter the era! Now tell us. are vou Team 90s or Team Gen Z? Let the debate begin!



The Grand Illusion Watching vs Witnessing



The On-Ground Reality:

A Behind-the-Scenes Glimpse

people were carefully orches-

trating how each moment

should look. I could see the

raw, unfiltered reality, the

pauses between segments

the last-minute stage adjust

ments, the stars whispering

Everything felt more real

small, unexpected moments

that didn't make it to TV.

The security personnel

blocking views, prompting

frustrated audience mem-

bers to repeatedly yell,

"Arev security waale bhaiya

baith jaao na vaar!" The

irritation of some attendees

who had paid a fortune for

their seats, only to find that

they couldn't see their

favourite stars up close. The

overpriced food and water,

where a tiny bottle cost as

much as a fancy coffee in a

five-star hotel. The awk-

wardness of sitting in a

prime location, only to end

up watching most of the

event on the giant screens

because the stage seemed

too far away to witness the

details with the naked eve.

And then, there were the

yet, surprisingly ordinary.

themselves

ttending the IIFA

Awards in person is

akin to peering behind the

curtain of a grand theatrical

production. The Jaipur

Exhibition and Convention

Centre buzzed with anticipa-

tion as celebrities graced the

green carpet, their ensem-

bles shimmering under the

venue's lights. However,

beyond the glamour, the

event unfolded much like any

called onto the stage, accept-

ed their accolades, posed for

photographs, and exited,

reminiscent of school cere-

monies where students

receive awards for their

achievements. The grandeur

often associated with such

events seemed subdued.

offering a more intimate and

The real eye-opener, how-

unembellished experience.

ever, was the constant move-

ment of cameramen around

the venue. They were every-

where, running, crouching,

angling their lenses to cap-

ture the best possible shots.

At times, it felt like a minia-

ture set where a group of

Award recipients were

organized function.

ave you ever watched

an award show on TV

and felt completely

mesmerized by the

grandeur? The daz-

zling lights, the

seamless perform-

ances, the way the

through the crowd,

camera

making everything look impossi

that very world, being there, seat-

ed amidst the energy of a live

audience, watching the biggest

stars walk past you, witnessing

the magic unfold in real time

Well, let me tell you, after

attending the IIFA Awards 2025 in

Jaipur on March 8th and 9th and

then watching the televised ver-

sion on March 16th, I had a

moment of revelation. The differ

ence 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 sepa-

rate events are taking place.

Sounds surreal, right?

Now, imagine stepping into

bly glamorous?

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.

#IIFA

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Close-ups of emotional

expressions, slow-motion

replays of dance perform-

ances, and strategic cuts to

audience reactions, all edit-

ed meticulously, created a

narrative that felt larger

than life. Even the simplest

stage movements, which

seemed routine in real-time.

appeared perfectly choreo-

graphed and grand on-

al conversation between two

stars during commercial

breaks was later stitched into

the main show as a pre-

planned, effortless interac-

tion. The host's seemingly

off-the-cuff jokes were not

always as spontaneous as

they appeared on screen. And

those standing ovations? Not

always organic, sometimes,

audience members were sub-

tly prompted to stand and

cheer at just the right

of unfiltered excitement.

moment to create the illusion

What seemed like a casu-

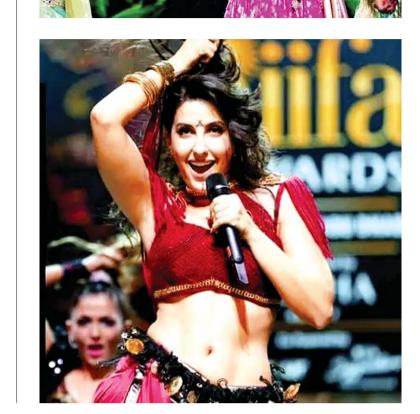
cameramen

observe

Alchemy:

Simplicity

Crafting



A Dual The Energy Disparity: **Being There vs Watching at Home**



here's an undeniable ener-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.

An Enhanced Reality W atching 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,

ensuring that viewers at home were treated to a flawless show. The inclusion of back ground scores, audience applause tracks, and visual effects further elevated the viewing experience, making it easy to become mesmerized by the spectacle. It was fascinating to see how an ordinary, structured event was transformed into a night of pure magic, carefully curated for television.

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

home, the experience felt differ-

ent. The energy never dipped

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.

Meanwhile, watching from

never-ending.

The Televised Spectacle:

Perspective: Appreciating Both Realities



xperiencing the IIFA Awards, both live and on television, underscores the profound influence of media production techniques. While the live event offers authenticity and a behind-thescenes feel, the televised version provides an enhanced, curated spectacle designed to captivate viewers. This dual perspective fosters a deeper appreciation for the artistry involved in event production and the power of media to shape our perceptions.

Yes, seeing it in person made it feel more like an organized school function with bigger names and grander lighting, but on TV? It was a cinematic masterpiece.

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.

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#CULTURE

Once Upon a Time...

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



magine sitting under an ancient banvan 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. On March 20th, the world comes

together to celebrate World Storytelling Day, a tribute to the art that has shaped civilizations, preserved histories, and carried legacies forward. But in India, storytelling is not bound by a single day, it is woven into the very fabric of our heritage. From royal courts to village chaupals, from temple frescoes to bedtime tales, India's storytelling tradition is as vast as its history





A TAPESTRY OF TALES: INDIA'S LEGENDARY STORYTELLING TRADITIONS

1. The Panchatantra: Fables of Wisdom

f wisdom had a voice, it would L speak through 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 eadership, diplomacy, and

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 2. The Jataka Tales: Buddha's Eternal Lessons

human nature. Who could forget

the clever rabbit outwitting the

ales of compassion, patience, the power of kindness and wisdom. Imagine a world where a

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

remind us that greatness often 3. Vikram and Betal: The King and the Ghost's Riddles

humble monkey teaches emperors

about selflessness, these stories

TAT hat is a great story without a story ending in a paradox, one

V 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

he imperial Mughal court of

that forces him to think, analyze, and answer. These narratives. found in the Kathasaritsagara are not just eerie folklore but deen philosophical discourses wrapped in thrilling storytelling.

4. Akbar and Birbal: The Wit That Defied Power

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 To 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

• The *Ramayana*, an ode to duty and honour, teaches us about 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 Ariuna remains one of the greatest spiritual discourses in history.

s World Storytelling Day

tions, our beliefs, and our you sit by a fire, sip *chai* with as stories live, so shall we.

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL

NEXA

AWARDS



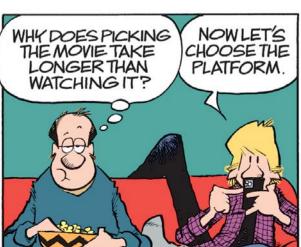
BABY BLUES



ZITS







An Unbroken Legacy: The Story Lives On

B ut wait, do you think story-telling 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.

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

A 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 tradi imagination. So, the next time an elder, or flip through the pages of an old book, remem ber 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