

This year the onslaught of the century's worst pandemic dampened the essence of Diwali festival; it was thus not the dazzling Diwali as it used to be earlier.

We must be grateful to the Almighty and count our blessings that all of us celebrated this festival of lights. All of us anxiously await the exit of this Covid19 which came as an uninvited intruder and claimed many lives. The situation in our state has considerably improved. There is some light ahead, hence there is anticipation for a better tomorrow. Let's hope that we come out from this dungeon into broad light again soon and stay buoyant in stormy tides.

### Some Important days in November:

3rd November 1838: The largest selling newspaper The Times of India was published in India. It was then known as Bombay Times.



14th November: Children's Day

It is celebrated as a tribute to India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru whose birthday falls on 14th November. He had great affection for all young people and considered children as the real strength of our nation.

26th November is celebrated as Samvidhan Divas in India to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On 26th November 1949 the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India.



"Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers, we more than gain in fruits." - SAMUEL BUTLER



Art by Prisha Desai, IV C

## BURN YOUR EGO, NOT CRACKERS

Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, is one of the much awaited festivals and is celebrated with great fervour and delight. It paves the way to spread joy, love, enthusiasm and optimism, which in turn creates an atmosphere of happiness and bliss. It is celebrated to commemorate the victory of light over darkness and instills the feeling of jollity among us.

Diwali celebrations begin with the cleansing process, which involves an in-depth cleaning of the house. All the homes are lit with dazzling diyas, radiant lights and decorated with rangolis, festoons and flowers. Sweets form an integral part of the celebration.

This year's Diwali is very different. In this Corona pandemic, when nature almost healed during the lockdown. Any attempt now to pollute the environment would have a detrimental impact. Till last year, bursting of crackers was not banned. But during this unprecedented time, when millions of people are infected with Covid-19, bursting crackers will only aggravate their conditions.

Crackers do not have any positive impact on the environment. Burning crackers generates harmful smoke and adds to pollution and global warming apart from severe damage to the respiratory system of the Covid patients. This pandemic time has proven to be a boon to our flora and fauna and it is our duty to maintain this non polluted environment.

Diwali signifies the destruction of evil. Hence, we should burn the evil inside us that is our ego, hatred, jealousy and anger. Hence this Diwali we should burn all our negativities and celebrate it with great pomp in our homes, without the thought of burning crackers. This Diwali, let us pledge to crush our ego and show empathy, compassion and respect for everyone around us



**Vaishnavi Singh, 10 B**

### THIS DIWALI, BURN YOUR EGO

It is that glorious time of the year again when we light diyas, decorate our houses and buy new clothes for ourselves. Yes, it is Diwali! The festival of lights which was originally celebrated to welcome Lord Rama to Ayodhya after he defeated King Ravana, thus solidifying the belief of victory of good and righteousness over evil. In order to welcome Lord Rama along with his wife Sita and brother Laxman when they returned to Ayodhya after an exile of fourteen years. The people of Ayodhya lit "diyas - small earthen pots lit with oil or ghee to welcome them.

As the years went on, the festival was continued to be celebrated by people by worshipping the Gods and Goddesses, showing their gratefulness to them and sustaining the very fabric which binds our country, which is our culture. People claim to believe that burning crackers is the only way of celebrating the festival, but that only takes in account our personal view and opinion, and not being mindful about the dangers that firecrackers pose to our beloved planet Earth. It should be reinstated that firecrackers should not be burnt not only during Diwali but during other festivals also. Burning crackers only represents a granular act which is done during Diwali. Rather than focusing only on the material practices, let us all start to engage in humane activities such as helping out a person who is in need of our help, being more kind to the people around us. Diwali is also a festival of new beginnings, so we can do away with our prejudices, deep-rooted malice of any form, anger, frustrations, selfishness and ego.

So this Diwali express your gratitude towards your family, friends and other people who support you in times of need. Let go of the negative emotions and surround yourself with warmth, joy, brightness and love, the emotions that Diwali is all about.

Happy Diwali to everyone!



**Sanskriti Malviya, 10 A**

## CRACKER – LESS DIWALI

Crackers, Crackers everywhere  
No place for infants care  
Nor can our grandparents sleep  
While watching the pollution our earth grieves.

Crackers are polluting our earth  
Creating more dirt  
Diwali is a festival of lights  
Let's make up our minds to do things right.

Polluting our earth is not our duty  
Let us be responsible and worthy  
Together let us save our earth  
By saying no to crackers.

- Mitisha Gandhi, 5C



Art by Manasvi Agarwal, 10A



## DIWALI

Diwali is a festival of lights and giving. So rather than lighting firecrackers this time, let's try out lighting some smiles. Let us start by giving some warm clothes and sweets to those who are struggling for these basic necessities in this pandemic time.

Instead of spending money on firecrackers let us spend this money wisely and cherish the pleasure of giving gifts to the poor and needy. Firecrackers create pollution so this time let us all be more disciplined by saying NO to firecrackers. Firecrackers can further damage the health of those who are unwell. This year is a year of learning and doing new things like learning online. So, let's celebrate Diwali in a new way by spreading happiness and not pollution.

Wish you all a noise free and cracker less Diwali.

Dhruv Bhoj, 5C



## POLLUTION FREE DIWALI

Diwali or Deepavali is a season of happiness and joy but with a sad heart this year we will have to limit our celebrations of Diwali because of the pollution levels which are increasing rapidly. The rise of toxins and pollution will soon destroy the ozone layer which protects us from the harmful rays of the sun. Most of the festivals including Diwali have these kinds of side effects: air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, thermal pollution, soil pollution and light pollution. We together can stop this from happening.

We can make the upcoming Diwali a special one by taking a vow not to burst crackers and go green. On account of the pandemic, small local shops have suffered huge losses, so this year we have decided to buy all our festive supplies from them. Within my family members, we have decided to give them a 'Go Green Ladoo', made out of soil and compost with a flowering seed inside them. They can plant and grow beautiful plants. Rather than buying Chinese products, we have decided to buy diyas from local shops, hand paint them and give them to the poor children with a little gift. In the pandemic, our local florists have suffered a lot so we have decided to make our rangoli out of flower petals and we will turn the waste into compost for our plants. We should go for the good old oil diyas which are biodegradable and cost effective. You can also use some innovative lighting alternatives by using wheat dough, orange peels, and coconut shells as 'DIY' diyas. This will reduce electricity consumption and wastage during the festive days. We can use our old decorations or make our own decorations with biodegradable items.

To sum it up, Diwali is one of the most enjoyable and fun festivals. We should not let pollution dampen it. So let's take a vow that we will never let pollution take over Diwali and go green this time. We should inform our friends to go green and not to burst crackers. Thus we will win over the evil pollution and live a long and healthy life

Divena Goswami, 6A



## LET'S FIND OUT WHAT OUR CHILDREN HAVE WRITTEN TO THEIR DEAR CHACHA NEHRU ON HIS BIRTHDAY.

Dear Chacha Nehru,

I am doing fine and hope you are fine too. I am writing this letter to thank you for your struggles to achieve independence for our country. Also, I would like you to convey this message to your fellow mates.

It is only because of you we are able to enjoy Children's day. Every child is thankful to you for your effort. I do not have a clue how I am going to pay back the debt but one thing I can assure you that I am going to make you proud one day.

Ending with the letter I just wanted to remind you to take care of yourself in heaven and stay healthy.

With love,

Yours affectionately,  
**Samveg Jain, 7B**



**Art by Viraj Singhania, 7A**



Dear Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,

I am writing this letter to thank you and your fellow freedom fighters who fought for us and gave us the privilege to call ourselves free citizens of a free India.

I can just imagine the pain, hardships, risks you must have faced during the process of making India free again. I salute your vision and mission. We all know nothing is possible without teamwork. I thank your fellow freedom fighters too for being in your mission like a team, of making India free again. You have given great inspiration to us.

I thank you once again from the bottom of my heart for your invaluable, dedicated service to the motherland. You have given all Indians the rights they deserve. These words are coming from my heart. Jai Hind.

Yours affectionately,  
**Tanishi Mishra, 7C**



Dear Chacha Jawaharlal Nehruji,

I firmly admire you after I learn all about every freedom fighter and the Journey of India's fight against the British. I was fascinated to learn about your selfless sacrifice for our country. I am inspired by you and wanted to participate in the freedom fight but at least I can write a letter of gratitude for your hard work in life.

I would like to thank you for your introspective, endless struggle till 1947 to get sovereignty from the British. You boldly and considerably eradicated the British rule from India. Now because of you, we have the most successful countries of our own and we have equal rights and opportunities even for voting a worthy representative capable of the post of governance. You are India's idol and every single Indian would like to follow your footsteps. We are the only Nation which showed the world a new way of war, from bloodshed to non-violence, mutual understanding and non-cooperation. You were the ones who worked day and night in the Constituent Assembly, went to jail, got whipped and propagated the true Karma of giving us peace.

I will valiantly try to be a true patriot and make India proud and show them the Nehru principle of selflessness. We will surely succeed in making your dream of making Mother India a peaceful, developed and poverty-free country come true.

Jai Hind!

Yours faithfully,  
**Viraj Singhania, 7A**



## THE FUTURE OF INDIA IS IN THE HANDS OF OUR YOUTH

We all know the very famous saying “The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow”. But how much do we believe and understand the importance of this quote?

Every generation gets better than the previous one because a new generation is aware of the pros and cons of the problems already faced by the current world and how they solved it. It develops inquisitiveness and curiosity in the minds of the younger generation which helps in the betterment of the future of a nation.

From protecting the environment, to fighting for the rights of women and girls, to demanding economic justice, young people are at the forefront for a change. To make all the above mentioned possible, it is important to teach the youth to stand up for their rights. The youth must prioritize their roles and duties as young and fresh, positive minds of the country and then work as a team to erase all the wrongs in the nation. This not only teaches values of teamwork, but also develops problem solving skills and reasoning in one’s mind. No segment in the society can match with the power, idealism, enthusiasm and courage of the young people.

The youth is not just a part of the population but is a voice with strong opinions, without which they are no less different than the rest of the human race. This voice and opinion empowers them to bring about a good change not only in the society or in the country but also in the world. We can rely on the youth of the country, who will strive to change everything that is inappropriate in the society and make the world a better place to live.

**Advitha Dinesh, 9B**



## INDIA’S FUTURE LIES IN HER YOUNGER GENERATION

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam believed that our younger generation is the future of our country and he never failed to appreciate and try to meet children and the youth of India, in order to interact with them. Nelson Mandela said, “The youth is like a rock on which the world’s future will be built.” No one can deny this statement. The younger generation will be the leaders of our country. Even the mighty oak was once an acorn. Given the right foundation, a child can grow up to be a strong member of the society.

A nation is shaped by the ideas of its citizens. For our nation to be a strong, independent and progressive country, our children should have a strong value system as well as sound education. The younger generation of India has a lot of potential and creativity which will help turn India into a developed nation. The world is advancing technologically at a rapid pace. As children we need to be abreast of the latest technology. Only a sound education can help us in this.

Our country is vast and our population is also increasing alarmingly. We have to make sure that each and every child has access to this basic education. Young minds are fresh and innovative. They have a dream; a goal and they are willing to make a change! No segment of the society can match the power, idealism, enthusiasm and courage of today’s youth.

**Anoushka Biradar, 9B**



## OBITUARY



We are indeed very sad at the untimely demise of our dear student  
**Darsh Sanghrajka of 10B.**

A wonderful student, he will be missed by his classmates and teachers.

May God give strength to his family to bear this loss.

Rest in Peace dear Darsh.