

“There’s nothing like the sun as the year dies,
November has begun,
 Yet never shone the sun as fair as now.”

- Edward Thomas

We have reached the second last month of this year. The heat of October still lingers and winter has not yet arrived in its full form. November welcomed the Festival of Lights, and the festival was celebrated with fervour all over the country. Although it is a matter of pride for us at Vissanji that all of us have pledged ourselves to keep away from loud and noisy firecrackers, the worsening condition of air quality poses a looming danger which threatens to encompass the entire world. It is high time that we take a responsible step forward, to conserve and preserve this beautiful world that has been gifted to us.

Significant Days of the Month:

1st November – World Vegan Day - Vegans are people who refrain from consuming meat, eggs, dairy products, and any other animal-derived substances. World Vegan Day is celebrated on 1st November to raise awareness about the benefits of a vegan diet and veganism in general.

1st November - Rajyotsava Day (Karnataka Formation Day). Every year it is celebrated on 1st November and is also known as Karnataka Rajyotsava or Kannada Rajyotsava or Kannada Day or Karnataka Day.

1st November - Haryana Day - Haryana state was carved out of the former state of East Punjab on a linguistic basis on 1st November 1966.

4th November – Diwali - Diwali is a five-day festival that begins on Dhanteras and ends on Bhaiya Dooj. This year Diwali was celebrated on 4 November in India.

5th November - World Tsunami Awareness Day - World Tsunami Awareness Day is observed to highlight the dangers of tsunami and to focus on the importance of early warning systems to minimise the damage caused due to natural hazards.

6th November - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict - The UN General Assembly on 5th November 2001 declared 6th November as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.

7th November - National Cancer Awareness Day - National Cancer Awareness Day is observed to spread awareness about cancer and to make it a global health priority.

7th November - Chandrasekhara Venkata Ramans Birthday - Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman more famously known as C.V Raman was born on 7th November, 1888 in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. He became the first Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in 1930 in Physics.

9th November - Uttarakhand Foundation Day - Uttarakhand was established on 9th November 2000. This year 19th Uttarakhand Foundation Day was celebrated. When it was formed its name was Uttaranchal and in 2007, it was changed to Uttarakhand formally. It is famous as the Land of Gods or "Dev Bhumi".

11th November - Armistice Day (Remembrance Day) - Armistice Day is observed on 11th November in commemoration of the end of World War I.

11th November - National Education Day - It is observed annually to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He served as the first education minister of independent India from 1947 to 1958.

12th November - World Pneumonia Day - World Pneumonia Day is observed to raise awareness about Pneumonia and its prevention.



Artwork by Kritika Kedia 7A



Artwork by Omik Karani, 7C

13th November - World Kindness Day - World Kindness Day is celebrated on 13th of November and this day provides us an opportunity to reflect and follow the most important and one of the unique human principles. This day promotes small acts of kindness and brings people together.

14th November - World Diabetes Day - World Diabetes Day is observed to raise awareness about the impact of diabetes disease, its prevention, and education on diabetes.

14th November - Children's Day - Children's Day is celebrated on 14th November in India and is also known as Bal Divas. This day increases awareness in people about the rights, care, and education of children. Children are the future of the country. This day commemorates the birth anniversary of the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru.

15th November - Jharkhand Foundation Day - Jharkhand was established on 15th November 2000 by the Bihar Reorganisation Act as the 28th State of India.

16th November - International Day for Tolerance - International Day for Tolerance is observed to raise awareness about strengthening tolerance by encouraging mutual understanding among cultures and peoples.

17th November - National Epilepsy Day - National Epilepsy Day is observed on 17 November to focus on the epilepsy disease, its symptoms, and prevention. Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of the brain which is characterised by recurrent 'seizures' or 'fits'. It can affect people of any age and people in different age groups have unique concerns and problems.

17th November - World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day or World COPD Day - It is observed on 17 November and this year's theme will be "Healthy Lungs – Never More Important".

19th November - Guru Nanak Jayanti - Gurburab or Guru Nanak Jayanti is widely celebrated by the Sikh community residing in India and different parts of the world, as the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, one of the ten celebrated Sikh gurus who helped in shaping Sikhism, and the day is marked with joy, laughter and festivities.

19th November - International Men's Day - International Men's Day is celebrated on this day to highlight the issues faced by men on a global scale.

19th November - World Toilet Day - World Toilet Day is observed on 19th November annually to inspire people about tackling the issue of the global sanitation crisis.

20th November - Universal Children's Day - Universal Children's Day is observed on 20 November annually to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare.

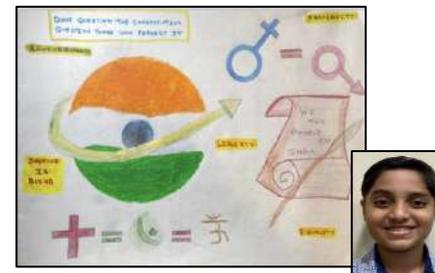
21st November - World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims - The day is observed to highlight that the number of annual road traffic deaths has increased.

25th November - International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - This day was established by the UN General Assembly in 1993. It defines violence against women as an act of gender-based violence.

26th November - Constitution Day of India Law day is also known as Constitution Day or Samvidhan Divas - It is observed on 26th November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. The Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India on 26th November, 1949 and it came into effect on 26th January, 1950.



Art work by Nishi Sampat, 7A



Artwork by Aaron Quadros, 8C

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is a well-known personality for Indians. This is one of the names in the golden texture in Indian history. He donned different hats- Children know him as Chacha Nehru and Indians know him as the first Prime Minister of Independent India.

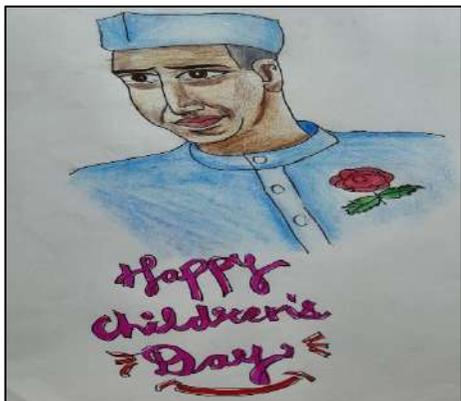
Furthermore, he is also counted on the list of freedom fighters of India. He helped India gain freedom from English rule and also served the country after freedom. Chacha Nehru used to wear a red rose in the lapel of his coat. He is also known as the architect of India because he envisioned India as an industrial powerhouse. Jawaharlal Nehru organized the first Kisan March (the march organized for the farmers) in Pratapgarh, in Uttar Pradesh, then known as the United Provinces. The existence of the Indian Institute of Technology is due to the vision of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who proposed establishing these institutions to provide trained technical personnel of international class to the nation who would act as leaders in technology for the newly born independent India. Most importantly Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave us the slogan 'Aaram Haram Hai'



Vihaan Wagle, 5A

CHILDREN'S DAY

Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. This day, 14th November is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the first Prime Minister of India. He used to love children very much and so he became children's favourite 'Chacha Nehru'.



Artwork by Roshni Vajifdar, 5A

This day is celebrated in all schools, colleges by remembering this great person of Indian history. Also cultural programs like speech, song-music, art, dance, poetry recitation, fancy dress competition etc. are organized by the teachers for the students.

The great reason behind the importance of this day is that children in our country are forced to work hard for long hours. The main aim of celebrating this festival is serving more and more people with the message that 'children of today will be the future of tomorrow.' Children's day celebration will succeed when our country will be free from child labour, child abuse and every child will get the same right to education.



'Every child is gifted; they need to just unwrap their packages at different times'

Roshni Vajifdar, 5A

CHACHA NEHRU

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, we all know, was the first Prime Minister of Independent India. He always wanted his country to prosper, have the best future and not be dependent on a foreign power. He played a significant role in the negotiations over Indian independence; he served as the country's Prime Minister for seventeen years. He held his post until his death in 1964. He committed India to a policy of industrialisation.

He had a special relationship with children and the youth of the country. He was fond of children. Chachaji always emphasized on educating children and seeing a bright future for them. He rightly said, "**The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way they are brought up will determine the future of the country**" He always thought of the future and quickly healed the scars of the past. He wanted to make India so strong and dominant, he encourage people to educate children in one of his speech saying, "**Children are like buds in a garden and should be carefully and lovingly nurtured, as they are the future of the nation and the citizens of tomorrow. Only through right education can a better order of society be built up.**"

After his death, to remember his birth anniversary, Children's Day is celebrated to remember his affection and deep love for children and the youth, and also to remind the government to make education accessible to all. This will make us stronger as a society and develop as a country. When we achieve this goal we will have a bright future for the country and we would attain Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's dream of being a strong and capable country.



Swara Mohandas, 8 C

HOLIDAYS OF PLEASURE

Don't you remember?
There is an entire week of holidays in November.
Don't you feel delighted?
When the red mark on the calendar is sighted?

The word "HOLIDAY" is like
Music to the ears,
It gives a feeling of relaxation and refreshment to all,
Whether you are a child, an adult or someone older.

Holidays instantly bring,
A smile to everyone's face,
And why not? It's the time to bond with our friends
And family.
Who all have been busy all year round, working hard
Like a bee.

Holidays can be fun,
Or boring for some,
So indulge yourself in different activities,
To enhance your skills and creativity.

People spend their holidays in different ways,
Some go to Egypt and some go to Spain,
While others go trekking and explore nature's trail,
But I like to stay in my cosy bed all day!



Aashna Anjaria, 5B

HAPPY DIWALI

Diwali is here. Diwali is here.

The grand festival of lights and sound. Let the firecrackers burn your sorrows.

When crackers and sparklers light up the sky,

When delighted children jump with joy.

The beautiful festival of sweets and snacks.

When everyone enjoys a royal feast.

The candles light up your life and the Rangoli colours make your life bright.

The gifts and the sweets from dear ones and the getting of the love in this festive season of lights.

Paying respects to the Gods and decorating for them the thali.

This is what the occasion is all about. This is the spirit of Diwali.

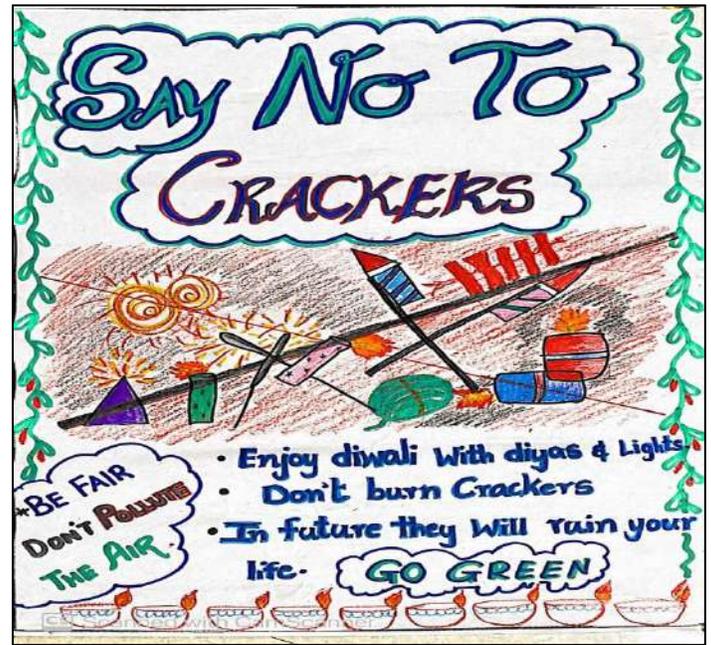
May your festival of lights celebration be fun, safe and spiritual.

Wishing you all a glowing and blessed Diwali.

The festival of Diwali not only celebrates the victory of good over evil but also brings people together strengthening their bonds.



Ditika Sasmal, 3 B



Artwork by the Art Teacher

THE LIGHT IN OUR LIVES – DIWALI

Diwali is a festival of lights and it is celebrated to welcome Lord Rama, his wife Sita and brother Laxmana from their 14-year exile to the forest. It is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (Avali) of clay lamps (Deepa) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects them from spiritual darkness.

Over the centuries, Diwali has become a celebration of national integration since it is also enjoyed by non-Hindu communities. For instance, in Jainism, Diwali marks the spiritual awakening of Lord Mahavira; in Sikhism, it honours the day that Guru Hargobind Ji, was freed from imprisonment. Buddhists in India celebrate Diwali as well.

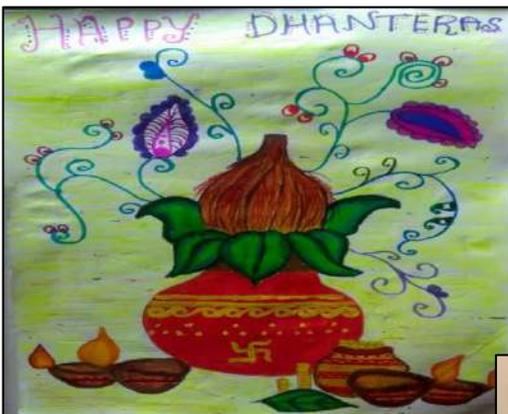
Diwali is celebrated for different reasons in different parts of India. Southern India celebrates it as the day that Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India, it marks the day that Lord Vishnu sent the demon King Bali to rule the nether world.

During Diwali, the households are filled with the delicious aroma of freshly cooked food. Scrumptious delicacies are cooked and consumed during the festival. Diwali has long been associated with bursting crackers, but is it necessary? Of course not! Diwali should be celebrated without bursting crackers as it releases harmful gases to the atmosphere that ultimately results in air pollution which harms plants, animals and humans alike. I strongly feel that Diwali can still be celebrated amazingly if we all stay at home and enjoy a hearty dinner with our friends and family. During these lockdown times, here is how we

celebrated the five days of Diwali:

DAY 1: Dhanteras: Everyone in my home cleaned our house.

DAY 2: Choti Diwali: I myself designed a Rangoli which was appreciated by everyone. We also arranged lighted lamps on our balcony.



Artwork by Lavanya Nair, 7A



Rangoli by Viraj Singhania, 8B

DAY 3: Diwali: I made paper lanterns with my sister and helped my mother to make laddoos. My grandmother also performed Lakshmi Puja.



Craft work by Aashna Anjaria, 5B

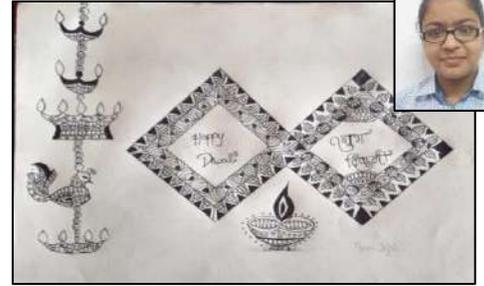
DAY 4: Padwa: This is the first day of the New Year, many businesses open new accounts on this day as it is considered auspicious and this day also celebrates the bond between husband and wife.

DAY 5: Bhai Dooj: Brothers visit their married sisters, who welcome them with love and a lavish meal (we enjoyed day 4 and 5 with family quality time!).



Indians interpret the Diwali story based upon where they live. But there's one common theme no matter where people celebrate: "The victory of good over evil".

Artwork by Tejal Sharma 8A



Srenika Prabin, 5 C



Artwork by Ashutosh Badiya, 7C

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Festivals are an integral part of India, and India also holds the title of 'A Nation of Festivals'. Some famous festivals are Holi, Diwali, Dussehra, Eid, etc. We celebrate different festivals and Diwali is celebrated between October and November because Hindus celebrate their festivals as per Vikram Samvat (a Hindu Calendar). It is celebrated every year on the Amavasya of Kartika Month.

Diwali represents the victory of good over evil, we celebrate this auspicious occasion on the arrival of Lord Rama. He went into exile, and after 14 years when he killed Ravana, the people of Ayodhya celebrated this occasion and decorated the entire city with diyas.



From that day every year, we celebrate Diwali. There are different beliefs in different religions to celebrate this occasion. Jains, Buddhists, also celebrate this occasion with their own belief.

Diwali is a five-day festival starting from Dhanteras, on this day people buy some precious metals like gold, silver, brass, etc. and they dedicate it to Goddess Lakshmi on Diwali. After Dhanteras the next day is celebrated as Choti Diwali and on another day we celebrate Diwali by offering prayers and having lots of sweets.

Markets get festive with different coloured lights and sweets and all shops look so fresh and clean. There is a mood of celebration everywhere and a variety of sweets and other delicious recipes are made. People decorate their houses and welcome Goddess Lakshmi. People also visit their near and dear ones and offer sweets and make their celebration more special.

Have a safe and Happy Diwali! Have a crackerless Diwali this year! We must make sure that we do not create noise pollution and air pollution this Diwali! Make sure to celebrate Diwali in small gatherings.



Prisha Desai, 5B

POLLUTION FREE DIWALI

Diwali is one of the most famous and the biggest festivals of India. This festival is celebrated in the memory of Lord Rama who returned to Ayodhya after fourteen years of exile. The people of Ayodhya lit oil lamps in every house, so Diwali is called the festival of lights. With time, on Diwali people started to burst crackers and this is harmful for the environment. Celebration of Diwali should include doing pujas and not bursting crackers. Noise pollution created by the crackers scares animals and old people. We can celebrate this festival by playing indoor and outdoor games, decorating our house with diyas, lanterns and colourful lights. Also we can share sweets with our neighbours, friends and family. We can also organise a get-together with our friends and family. So, instead of celebrating Diwali by bursting crackers and polluting the environment, we can celebrate Diwali with people close to us.



Pritvi Pillai, 4C

LIGHTS & WARMTH

Novembers happen to be cold & dark
Lonesome days without a chatter or a bark
Sleepy nights, no one dares to lurk
Sleepy nights, spent in reading Norah Burke

But how every flower belongs in a lawn,
We all know darkness breaks at dawn
But there's a festival that makes brightness multiply
And the sound of excitement amplifies.

It begins with the tale of Ramayan
Where the villagers of Ayodhya created a new horizon
A pathway of diyas lit while they all kept their calm
After all, they had all been waiting for the return of Lord Ram.
This was just a one-time creation
Then this became a cultural tradition.
From lighting up your homes to buying a pretty sari

And this is what we call the celebration of the festival of lights, Diwali.

From wrinkled hands to newborn faces,
From all the genders to all the races,
Through so many differences, we come together as one
As if we are different planets and Diwali is the sun.

The nights of Diwali are the brightest you will see
Be it west or east or south or north
Nothing can compare to the Diwali lights & warmth.



- Avantika Mishra, 10A

LIGHTS, INSIDE AND OUT

Diwali, A festival of light,
Which makes families reunite.
Diwali lamps emit light,
Making a room of darkness seem so bright.
All the houses are decorated inside and outside,
Candles, Rangoli and Sweets are picked up just like the loots.
We celebrate this occasion like
Victory over Defeat, Light over Darkness
And Awareness over Ignorance.
Wearing all our grandest clothes,
Diwali must come twice a year.
The festival mood is in the air,
Let's burst those crackers but do take care.
Let's share love and delight,
On this festival of light.
Celebrating Diwali, me and you
Happy Diwali to you!



Saachi and Divyanshi, 7B

DIWALI

Diwali is the festival of lights,
It gives people delight.
The clear blue sky.
The sweet smell of flowers,
The arrays of colors.
The aroma of the sweets,
And the Diwali tweets.
The glittery streets,
The colorful lanterns,
The feel of cheer in the air.
Meeting the loved ones,
The shower of affection and blessings.
The sharing of sweets and love,
So much to feel and enjoy.
Diwali is about lighting diyas and feeling happy,
Bursting crackers makes Mother Nature soppy.
Ensure eco-friendly Diwali for the sake of all,
Do not let the noise and smoke harm us all.



Saanvi Moodbidri, 7B

THE JOY OF DIWALI

When you smell the sweet scent of flowers in the air,
And see the diya and lanterns
You know Diwali is here.
On Diwali new clothes are bought,
And sweets are made along with souvenirs,
Sadness and loneliness we all forget,

This is when you know Diwali is here.
We must not burst crackers,
For the environment it matters,
Diwali is the festival of light,
It always makes the right path bright.



- Achitya Bhalerao, 7B

DO WE NEED CRACKERS THIS DIWALI?

Whenever the topic of Diwali is brought up, the very first picture that comes to our mind is people burning firecrackers. Although Diwali is a festival of lights yet it is on the verge of becoming a festival of pollution. Most of us who are accustomed to burning crackers during Diwali are completely oblivious of the hazardous impacts it has. Though many of us may be aware of the deleterious effects of firecrackers yet we tend to ignore them. What is the reason? The answer is 'entertainment'. Firecrackers are loaded with chemicals like potassium nitrate and sulphur that upon burning release a great deal of smoke. This causes various chronic respiratory diseases like bronchitis, asthma, and so on especially in children and senior citizens. Many people tend to travel to hill stations or places with lower pollution for this reason. If a firecracker inadvertently goes away then it can be quite dangerous for any organism. Due to the evolution of large amounts of smoke and the noise pollution there is disorientation caused in birds. Therefore a large-scale migration of birds can be seen during this time. Dogs tend to hear at the range of about 67-45000 Hz which is quite more than us humans. The ear-piercing and soul-rending noises make the poor creatures' blood run cold. They are always found sitting under a table or bed because of these sounds. Nowadays, these crackers have become a major cause of global warming too. To sum it all up, a single cracker has grave consequences.

If just by burning a single firecracker for our own fun and entertainment puts others in a vulnerable state then we better avoid it. When Diwali can be celebrated in many other wonderful ways then why waste energy and large sums of money on these fireworks. Rather, spend your time with family and friends.



Aleina Saigal, 8A | Craft work by Nicole Andrades, 5C

MY PASSION, MY LIFE

'Basketball' is the only word which can manage to bring a smile to my face even in the darkest of times in my life. Though I am not a professional basketball player, my coach deserves the credit for wherever I stand today. He taught me that just like life has its trials and tribulations, basketball does too. Basketball is my happiness. The road to my happiness was rough. I fell. I broke. I cried. I suffered. I lost myself. There were new scars set over the old ones. Despite all of that, I overcame everything. I practised. Maybe in the future, I might face another obstacle, but with the right people by my side I can face anything. Winning matches inspires and motivates me, but losing a match has a greater impact on me as it helps me learn from my mistakes. It teaches me to be better than I was yesterday yet be the best tomorrow. My mother has been my greatest supporter and never missed a single match of mine. Of course, without my teammates I would be nowhere close to where I am today. Basketball means everything to me. It is the sun to my moon without which I cannot shine. It disguises as the stars

in my dark nights. If I give up basketball it would be as if I were giving up myself. It has played a major role in my life and will continue to do the same. Basketball is not just my hobby, it's my PASSION.



Kaniesha Vaidya-9C

भ्रष्टाचार

देखो सभी आ गया है भ्रष्टाचार का जमाना ।
दो हजार से नीचे नहीं मिलता है कुछ खाना।

भ्रष्टाचार है बेकार।
परेशान करता है हमें बार-बार।

यह भ्रष्टाचार गरीब से गरीब इंसान चो ही खाता है।
और सामाज में बुराई फैलाता है।

वाहा युद्ध में हमारे जवान अपनी जान दे रहे है।
और हम यह भ्रष्टाचार में अपना सम्मान दे रहे है।

सरकारी दफ्तरो मे नही होता कोइ काम आसानी से।
रिश्वत देनी पड़ती है कर्मचारी परेशानी से।

चाहे तुम्हारा जो काम हो।
तुम्हारा जो काम हो।

जब हम लोगो को इस मामले में डरा पाएंगे।
भ्रष्टाचार को जड़ से हरा पाएंगे।

धन्यवाद

नाम : दर्श शाह

कक्षा: ९ अ



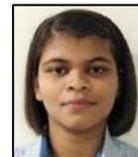
RAMAN EFFECT: THE DISCOVERY THAT INDIA CELEBRATES WITH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

In 1921, Sir C.V. Raman was on a trip to Europe when he noticed the striking blue colour of some icebergs and the Mediterranean Sea. He was inspired to want to understand the reason behind the phenomenon. He conducted several experiments and at last found the Raman Effect that caused this phenomenon.

Everything around us is made up of small particles. Similarly, light is made up of small particles known as photons. Photons are electrically neutral and have no mass. They possess energy which is equal to the frequency in which they travel. Light can travel through all mediums but its speed differs in different mediums. The light ray gets refracted or changes its direction as it moves from one medium to another. When the light strikes a medium containing particles moving with high speed, it bounces back and scatters in different directions depending upon the angle with which it strikes the surface. Sometimes, the particles of the medium light pass through, absorb or give energy to the photons that strike them.

The light particle then bounces back with decreased or increased energy. Since the energy the photons possess is equal to their frequency, then any decrease or increase in the energy of the photons will have a similar effect on the frequency of the light. Since frequency and wavelength are inversely proportional to each other. This means that the wave with the greatest frequency has the shortest wavelength. Due to the change in the frequency, there is a change in the wavelength as well. Thus, the light refracted from a body, like the Mediterranean Sea or an iceberg, can appear to be of a different colour. And, this is what Sir Raman observed.

He also explained that the blue colour of the ocean was as a result of the scattering of sunlight by the molecules of the water. Sir Raman's life was a testimony to hard work, patience and perseverance for achieving one's goals. One should also be level headed and not go overboard on attaining success. He showed the light for others to follow. He once said, "The essence of science is independent thinking, hard work, and not equipment. When I got my Nobel Prize, I had spent hardly 200 rupees on my equipment." From Mr. Raman's life I have learnt that success will come to me by courageous devotion to the task lying in front of me. It is not easy to discover something, but at the same time it is not that difficult either. We just need to ask the right questions; the doors of answers will be opened by themselves. I have learnt that if I don't fail then how will the actual joy of success be felt? Failing is just the first step to success.



Yashika Singh, IX B

MOCK PARLIAMENT

"Winning is something, but participation is everything." This quote holds a lot of power in my opinion. Winning is the final stepping stone. But the first stepping stone is courage. If we do not have the courage to take the first step and participate, we will never be able to win. To achieve something, we have to try first. Nothing in life is ever easy. I learnt that lesson by participating.

The opportunity first came as a pleasant surprise to me one day. My History teacher announced that we will be receiving a consent form to participate in the Mock Parliament which made me excited. My elder sister had participated last year, and I remember watching the event in awe, wondering when it would be my turn. It was finally my turn! At first, I was really nervous as I did not have any idea about how a Mock Parliament was supposed to function. But when I attended the first meeting, most of my nervousness just flew away. It was probably because the teachers in charge were so friendly and explained everything to us with great care and precision so that we could understand everything with ease.

We were assigned our roles and we were also assigned the teachers who would guide us over the next few days. I was assigned the role of the ruling minister for State- Science And Technology. I was very excited since I have always been very interested in technology and science. Later, we got invites to join our specific teachers' classrooms. A few days later, my teacher in charge arranged a meeting for all of us. She helped us so much just to gather information on our specific departments. I was very excited and could not sit still at all. Regular sessions with the teacher in-charge helped me to understand my research better and helped me organize my points in a clear way.

Time flew by and before I knew it, it was the day of the Mock Parliament. I was nervous but managed to speak with confidence while my heart was beating so fast that it could pop out of my chest at any second. Once I was done, I breathed a deep sigh of relief. Finally, all my hard work had paid off. The event and the overall experience were exhilarating. I loved the experiences that I went through during this time.

I am grateful to all the teachers who helped us and also to the school for giving me such an opportunity.



Moynaa Kothari-9C

MY TRIP TO EGYPT

I woke up in the morning to see that my family members had woken up before me. I was surprised as it was usually the other way round. But not today, as today we were going to Egypt!

Our red suitcase was bulging with clothes and was like a ticking time bomb. We hurriedly put all the luggage in the car and left when we reached the airport. It was extremely crowded and easy for one to get lost, so our mother told us to hold each other's hands. We finally managed to get out of this maze and into the plane. The view from the airplane was breathtaking. The clouds looked like popcorns floating in the sky. I told my parents that I had learned about these clouds in school. When we landed, the air outside was humid and dry, and sand particles were flying into our eyes. On the first day, we went to visit a Pyramid. It was dark and pitch-black inside. My father, who was holding the flashlight, was at the start leading us, and I was at the end of the line. As we were moving from one exhibit to another, I stopped to look at a coffin. When I looked back, I could see no one. I could only hear sounds similar to the hissing of a snake. The coffin I stopped to look at seemed to be staring at me. When things couldn't get any worse, I saw two white eyes glowing in the dark. But as they came closer to me, I could hear human voices. That's when I realized that they were the guards who had come to save me.



On that day, I learned that one should not panic when scared and should always call for help.

Kushagra Singh, 7C

LOCKDOWN EFFECTS

During the pandemic some kids changed
And some remained surprisingly unchanged.
Some kids who were the human Wikipedia,
These days spend all time on silly social media.
Kids like me who liked to eat candies and toffee
Nowadays, drink cappuccino and other kinds of coffee.
As we know everyone was at home during lockdown
A few kids broke their house furniture top to down.
Brothers and sisters who used to fight normally
During the lockdown they started aping WWE.
Kids who used to score a zero-
Out of the blue, in academics they became heroes.

In Biology when teacher was teaching about rabbits and dogs
Naughty boys minimized the window and started playing Roblox.
We all were waiting for the school to start soon
But this time it passed March, April, May and June.
We all realized how lockdown impacted life
I felt like stabbing Corona with a sharp knife.
Soon life will be normal and fine,
But it was definitely fun online.



Param Purohit, 6B

MY SURFING JOURNEY

Aquaphobia is the fear of water, the fear of touching it as well. Some people who have aquaphobia are missing out on the excitement of playing with water. They should try water activities instead. This reminds me of my surfing experience.

A couple of years ago, I went to Karnataka during my summer vacation which was near the coast. My family thought it was the ideal time for me to enjoy the ocean waves. The surfing club lasted five days. To begin with, I had to learn swimming, but I already knew it since I had learnt it as a child. The following day, I attended the camp. For the first time, I was as excited as a small child. We had to cross a river by boat to reach the beach. The first step was to bring the surfing board onboard. Then a person tied the surfing board to the boat, and we reached the seashore in a jiffy. I carried my board to the shore. Our tutors were standing far away from the sand in the sea. So we had to go all the way to them, and when they got a good wave for us to surf on, they left our surfboard on which we would lie, and when we were ready, we stood on the surfboard and surfed the wave. I was so excited and confident as I knew how to swim, and I loved getting wet.

I took my board and went to my tutor and lay on the boat. My tutor got the best wave for me, and on my first try, I clashed with another girl who was learning. But I tried, but I did not get how to surf on the waves. Soon it was time to go home, so we went home. I was so tired that I ate food and slept. We were asked to report at five am the next morning. While I was there, I saw two girls join the surfing club. So I became friends with them, they were sisters. We three enjoyed surfing a lot. This time while surfing I crashed with them, but after that, we learned to surf together. We tried and tried till we succeeded. By the fourth day, I was able to surf all on my own. On the fifth day we played in the water, it was an amazing experience playing with huge waves.

It was an amusing camp for me as I love water, and those were the best days of my life. I am thankful that my family made me join the surfing club in Karnataka.



Mehek Kotian, 7B

THE RIVER GOING NORTH

Originating from the locally called Stara Planina,
In the Eastern part of the Balkan Peninsula.
Is the longest river of Bulgaria,
Namely the Iskar.

With a length of 368 kilometers,
It flows towards the north.
Until it meets river Danube,
Going forth and forth.

The Iskar tumbles onwards to the Iskar George,
And rushes, racing over rocks and stones.
Going under the railway tracks,
In whispering notes and thunderous roaring tones.
This famous river; which,
Forms a divide to its west and east
Enters the capital city Sofia
Gushing under it, like a beast.

Year by year, the rainfall is decreasing
The rivers and lakes are drying.
With no place to live,
The fishes are crying.

So, if you ask, 'How to help the fish?'"
How to pull them out of a hole?
Instead of making their dish'
Keep them in a bowl.



Arjun Iyer, 8A

LAKE SAIMAA - PUREST FINLAND

Lake Saimaa is,
The largest lake in Finland,
The shore of the lake,
Is covered in soft sand.

'The Land of a Thousand Lakes' is Finland,
But it doesn't have much land.
The largest lake is Saimaa,
Home to the Saimaa ringed seal,
Endangered due to being caught while catching a meal.

It's a haven for endangered animals,
From eels to Ivory gulls.
It has one of the largest coast lines,
You can watch the aurora borealis shine.
Welcome to Finland.



Ibrahim Ahmed, 8A



THE ZENITH EXPERIENCE

There is no dearth of talent in Vissanji when it comes to academic or non-academic competitions. The Vissanji flag was proudly upheld by our talented group of students in the Zenith Podar 2021 event. Many of our students won prizes in various competitions and won laurels for the school. However, the immense experience that our students gained from taking part in the multiple events is much more. A special word of mention for Ms. Sonia Deval and Mst. Aarav Daga, for the commendable way in which they led the school contingent throughout.

Such platforms are chances to groom the leadership qualities and management abilities of our students. [Sonia and Aarav share with you their learning experiences here.]

ZENITH 2021: MY EXPERIENCE AS A CONTINGENT LEADER

It was challenging; but whenever I would feel the load and immense responsibility of being the Contingent Leader of our school, I would always think about how packed and intense the schedules of the management team of Podar would be, and I would instantly feel grateful.

It began in our mid-term break when I was told about this responsibility that had been given to me, along with Aarav, a classmate of mine. At first, I felt like it would be easy but it definitely was not even close to easy.

We attended meetings, cross-communicated with the teachers and participants of our school and the management team assigned to our school, attended to phone calls and helped the participants at each stage in their participation. We would keep reminding ourselves, "The Zen Code assigned to our school is Zen 35. Do not reveal the school name."

Firstly, we went through the brochure, understood the rules and then jotted down our doubts. Then, we chose appropriate candidates for each event, with the help of Mariam Miss and Bhagwati Miss; mind you, there were forty-seven events. Next, we clarified our doubts, met with the management team, online and then the preparations began. We completed the registration, finalised the list of participants, cleared their doubts, communicated for a month with multiple people, made

sure submissions were done on time, managed the information, became the tech-experts, chart data readers, supporters, photographers and much more.

The actual dates of the event were gone in a flash. 29th October, day one, passed, 30th October, day two, passed. Every time I would get a call or message from the participants saying that they qualified for the next round, I would immediately message the teachers-in-charge and Aarav. We did not participate but the feeling of advancing in such a huge event, on an international level really made us proud. The prize distributions happened and We ranked first in three events!! Our school even received the 'Fair Play Award', which was given to the school which adhered to the rules the best and gave timely submissions. Every time a winner from our school was announced I would take a screenshot to send to the participants, to congratulate them. I happily hopped around in my house whenever I heard 'Lady Ratanbai and Sir Mathuradas Vissanji Academy'. The pride and sense of accomplishment, the feeling of the efforts paying off made me smile fondly.

It was a great experience and learning lesson for me. Now that I look back at that one and a half month journey, it makes me smile proudly and reminisce about the times of saying, "This is the Contingent Leader of Zen 35." I hold my head high.



"Responsibilities are not given to everyone, they are given to the ones most entrusted in. Be thankful that you have responsibilities. It is a sign that people trust and believe in you."

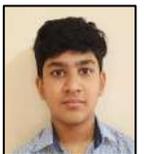
Sonia Deval, 9B

MY EXPERIENCE OF BECOMING THE CONTINGENT LEADER FOR MY SCHOOL

I was highly anxious and thrilled when I heard that I was getting an opportunity to become the Contingent Leader for my school for a Competition called 'Zenith' (I'm pretty sure that we are all familiar with this name now). Though I had no experience of becoming a leader specifically, at a level this high, but then as time flew by, I became more comfortable because of the support of my teachers and my colleague Sonia Deval.

This experience which I had, I would like to share with all of you. At first, it was to understand how all of this would work out because this Competition was an Inter-School one. Secondly, there were so many events with separate rules and regulations. After understanding them, we had to find students, who would take part in the event and motivate them to perform their level best. Further, we had to explain the rules to the participants and simultaneously were in contact with the Zenith organizers for clarifications of certain rules and events. Most of my day, I was busy planning and coordinating with the participants, making sure that they don't find themselves in any doubt during their event. In the last few days, there were a few hiccups which caused some panic but then we gathered ourselves to ensure that everything was perfectly up and running. Many of our students won prizes but the crowning glory was that we won the Fair Play award which brought out the manner in which our school participated.

When I look back at this eventful Competition, I'm reminded of the best moments that I had when I was in the midst of planning. This surely counts amongst one of the best school-life moments that I have had and hope to be given such responsibilities in the future. I also felt very proud when my colleague and I were praised by our teachers and our Principal. Lastly, I would like to say that such times help you to take care of your responsibilities, help you to deal with pressure and make you a leader for life. Cheers!



Aarav Daga, 9B

WINNERS OF ZENITH 2021

SABSE BADA JAADUGAR

1ST PLACE



Caydn Louzado, 9A

RADIO REBEL

1ST PLACE



Aakanksha Narne, 9C



Mehek Ahuja, 9A

DIRECTOR'S CUT

1ST PLACE



Kriti Sharma, 9A



Aminah Syed, 9B

*The school won the prestigious **Fair Play Award** for full participation, timely submissions and adherence to the rules and regulations.*