



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

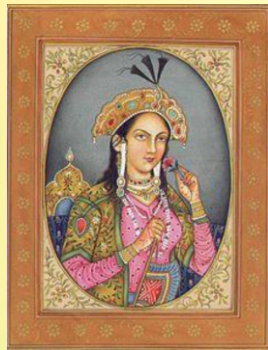
Gandhi Jayanti, Dussehra and other festivities of October inspired the pens of these young writers. Their zeal went beyond this topic and explored other areas. Do read and like .

TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the southern bank of the river Yamuna in the Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (reigned from 1628 to 1658) to house the tomb of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal; it also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself. The tomb is the centrepiece of a complex, which includes a mosque, and is set in formal gardens bounded on three sides by a crenelated wall.



Construction of the mausoleum was essentially completed in 1643, but work continued on other phases of the project for another 10 years. The Taj Mahal complex is believed to have been completed in its entirety in 1653 at a cost estimated at the time to be around 32 million rupees, which in 2020 would be approximately 70 billion rupees (about U.S. \$916 million). The construction project employed some 20,000 artisans under the guidance of a board of architects led by the court architect to the emperor, Ustad Ahmad Lahauri.



The Taj Mahal was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 for being "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage". It is regarded by many as the best example of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich the New 7 Wonders of the World (2000–2007) initiative.

Location of Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh

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SOME FACTS OF TAJ MAHAL

Location	Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India
Area	17 hectares
Height	73 m (240 ft)
Built	1632–53
Built for	Mumtaz Mahal
Architect	Ustad Ahmad Lahauri
Architectural style(s)	Mughal architecture
Visitors	7–8 million (in 2014)
Governing body	Government of India

Location of Taj Mahal in Uttar Pradesh

BY: ANHAD.KATHOOR – 6 - E

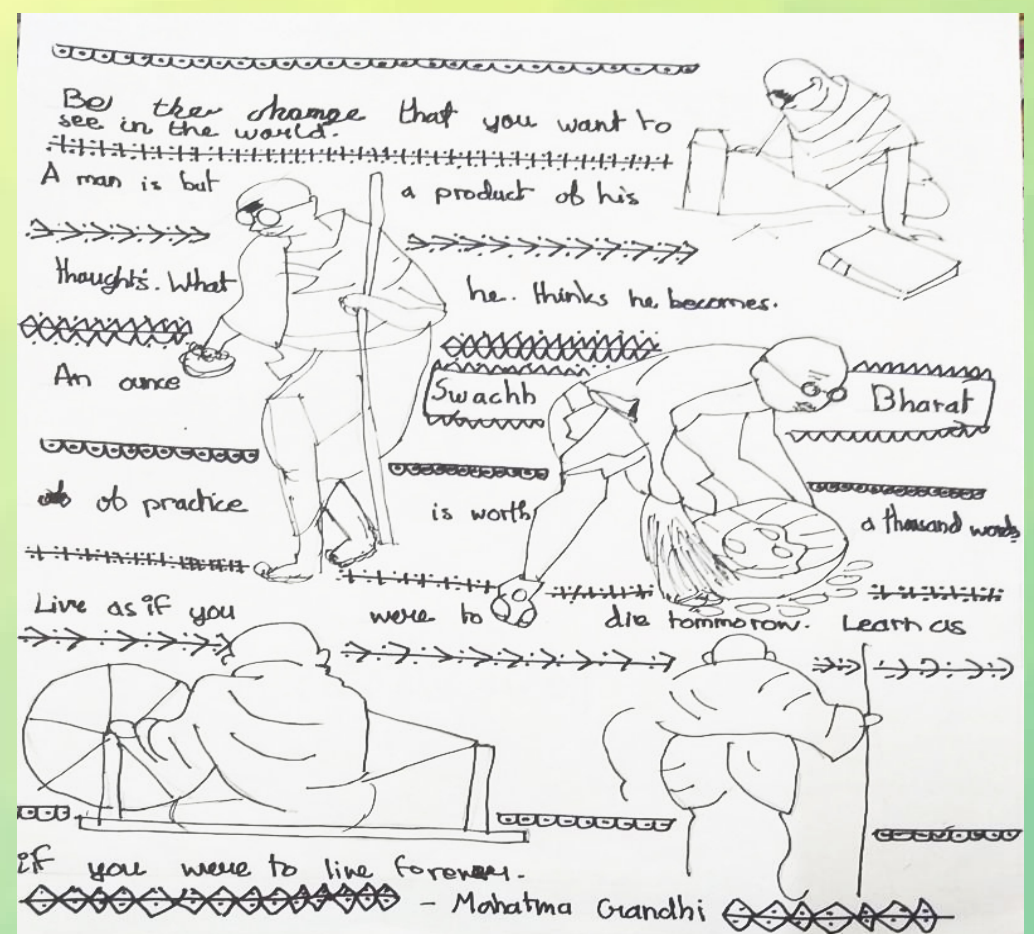


THE DIVINE NINE

A radiant baby girl, **Shailaputri**, is born in the picturesque union territory of Ladakh. Growing up as a little girl she had always been fascinated by the colourful maps of India. As she grows older, she has a strong desire to travel through 'Incredible India'. Her journey takes her first to Himachal Pradesh, where she eagerly masters the recipe to make apple pies. Soon, however, **Brahmacharini** faces the problem every child faces growing up- countless exams and competitions. Performing deep penance to ease the lives of children, she brings about the New Education Policy, and blesses them with willpower, emotional strength, and freedom from ego, selfishness, greed and laziness. Delighted with the happy change, she is off to the seven sister states in a festive mood. Here **Chandraghanta** has the time of her life dancing and singing to the catchy folk tunes. Her presence drains out the negativity from everyone and everything, spreading peace and prosperity everywhere and boosting both the people's spirits as well as the country's economy. Using all this positivity, **Kushmanda** creates a new world with her smile-one with all the good qualities, hard-working and content people. 'Ku' means 'a little', 'ushm' means 'warmth', and 'anda' here does not refer to just any egg- it refers to the cosmic egg, from which the universe was believed to have been born. Next stop: the plains of Punjab. Over here, the people gather around **Skandamata** while sipping lassi, eager to hear her enthralling stories. She is a favourite of all the children, especially little toddlers and babies. All acknowledge and worship the universal mother. But as she reaches the western part of India, she is enraged to find that a demon- Coronasura, has attacked the world. People can no longer step out to meet their friends, instead now everything has to be done virtually from shopping to school. **Katyayini** sets off to the Deccan Plateau, where Coronasura is believed to be hiding.

Assuming the ferocious form of **Kaalratri**, literally meaning 'the death of time', she dispels all darkness and ignorance in everyone and brings in light. With her blessings of good health and sanitation, the demon is eventually eradicated and normality is restored once more. The radiant goddess is gratefully worshipped by all for making the world happy and healthy again. She ensures that everyone is well aware and well-informed with no room for rumours and fake news. Knowledge is, after all, one of the most powerful weapons in the universe. We have something to learn from all our fellow human beings. This ensures that wisdom is passed on and forever remembered. **Mahagauri** is the essence of each of these people. As **Siddhidhatri**, the glorious ninth form, she completes her journey of Incredible India and reinvigorate our country until she visits again during Navaratri 2021.

By Dhrithi Mijar-8D



UDAIPUR AND KUMBHALGARH

You all might have heard about the lake city of Udaipur, and also about the Kumbhalgarh fort whose bordering walls are called as 'Great Wall of India' in Rajasthan. But do you know how they were built and used? You will find out soon. Many centuries ago, King Udai Singh II of Sisodia clan ruled the Rajput area. Unfortunately, at the same time Akbar, the third king of the Mughal Empire ruled. He had taken over almost the whole of the Indian sub-continent except for this Rajput area under King Udai Singh II. The Rajputs of Mewar as you know were great fighters and never gave away their territory without a tough fight. King Udai did not give the land to the Mughals (a peace pact). This made King Akbar angry. He attacked Chittorgarh, their capital and won it, but it was a tough fight. About 30,000 were killed and the rest including the king fled when defeat was sure. After this defeat, King Udai built a city (which had 4-5 lakes) and named it after himself, Udaipur. Years later, when King Udai's son the great Maharana Pratap was the king, he decided to make Kumhelmer (Kumbhalgarh) his capital because of many advantages. This was the main fort which Maharana Pratap used against Akbar in his whole lifetime and also during the battle of Haldighati. These places should be visited by one during his lifetime.

- MANAS PANDE VII B



BLUE LAKE

PANDEMIC

All through the night, It rains and pours. Don't listen to, Too many folklores.	The joy of taking A book in your hand Up, up away To Fantasy land.
For far before, You reach dark crested hills, A warm little lake Greets you in the chills.	That's all we can do now, Sit home and read Watching a knight take a princess Away on his glorious steed.
Swallowing water, As though mad with thirst, It shakes your hand warmly, And bows to you first.	Watching and waiting, For this quarantine to end, Coronavirus us, To madness it may send.
Welcoming birds, With little fish for a treat, Wondering when They will next meet.	From country to country, Coronavirus jumps, China, America, Nothing seems to be enough.
And even in the darkest of nights, The chilliest evening Or when the frostbite bites, The little lake is warming.	China says it's got it under control, But after a while, The virus spreads, Mile after mile.
For this curious little lake Stands warm as summer But plunge not to its depths Or you'll be the one to shiver.	So take up a book, And begin to read, For after a while, You won't be reading about a knight and his steed.

DUSSEHRA

Dussehra is celebrated all over India as a religious as well as a social festival. Nava means nine and rathri means night and so Navarathri means nine nights. Some call it as Navarathri, some as Vijaya Dashami, and some as Dussehra.

Dussehra in Northern India is celebrated as Lord Rama's victory over Ravana. Ramlila or depiction of the Ramayana is performed in many neighborhoods. On the last day, effigies of Ravana are burnt signifying the victory of good over evil.



In West Bengal Dussehra is celebrated as Durga Puja. Also called Durgotsava, it pays homage to the Hindu goddess, Durga. As per Hindu scriptures, the festival marks the victory of goddess Durga in her battle against the shape-shifting asura, Mahishasura.

Dussehra is celebrated as Navratra in Gujarat. Garba and Dandiya, the vibrant folk dances of the state are organized in large pandals and is the prime attraction of this festival. People dress in colourful traditional attire and enjoy Garba and Dandiya throughout the night after worshipping Goddess Ambe Maa.



Although the festival is celebrated across the length and breadth of India, the long-standing tradition of 'Golu' marks the celebrations in the southern states. Golu in Tamil refers to the display and decoration of dolls and figurines of human beings, and idols of gods and goddesses. It is an ideal time for families to display their creativity. The festival is a delightful reminder of the rich cultural heritage of India. The *Navaratri* preparations start by setting up the steps, decorating the homes and temples, and lighting the streets.

On the ninth day, *Saraswati Devi*, the Goddess of learning and knowledge, is worshipped. People place books and musical instruments next to the *Golu* arrangement. *Ayudai pooja* (worship and thanksgiving to tools, implements and vehicles) is performed. Gratitude is expressed for all kinds of vehicles (such as buses, cars, and trucks) and tools (such as water pumps, chisels, hammers, and the plough).



On the tenth and last day, *Vijayadasami*, the day of victory, is celebrated. This is considered the most auspicious day to start new ventures and journeys, and a day to start learning new skills. On this day, the *Golu* dolls are symbolically put to sleep, and then, packed the day after, ill they are brought out of their boxes the following year.

Wishing all a very happy Navarathri!

- PRAGATI RAJAN (6D)

THE WALK IN THE OPEN

*"Forget the thoughts of the place you used to be,
Let your soul take you to the world you longed to see,
Let it fly high in the skies and soar,
Then you'll live as you've never lived before."*

The Walk in the Open

I went to the park,
Saw a singing Lark.
Sitting on a tree,
Looking right at me.

Few birds flying by,
Up, up they went until they touched the sky.
The sun set was a beautiful sight,
Soon, all 'round me was only night.

The cold then engulfed me,
Until I could see no more.
It was time to walk home,
The dew settled on the grass like foam.

I thought, I'd stay up all night,
So, I went to bed, with my eyes all bright.
The window showed me the moon's enchanting light,
It was open throughout the night.

And then I remember no more,
For I was drenched as it had begun to pour!

- Saloni Gupta (8-C)



MY MUN EXPERIENCE

MUN or Model United Nations is a simulation of the UN or United Nations where students play the role of delegates from different countries and attempt to solve real world issues with the policies and perspectives of their assigned country. It helps them get an experience of the working of the real United Nations.

JMUN or Junior Model United Nations was a MUN conducted by Oakridge International School for students of grade 6 to 8 and the theme of the same was “Advancing Human Rights During a Pandemic”. Shri. Arif Mohammad Khan – Governor of Kerala opened the JMUN with his inaugural address. It was a two-day affair incorporating different sessions namely :-

- Formal Formal – All delegates gave the speech representing their countries
- Formal Informal – Delegates debated on selected topics
- Informal Informal – Used for planning and open discussions
- Draft Resolution – Delegates pass a resolution

There were 4 committees in JMUN: **ECOSOC** – Economic and Social Council, **WHO** – World Health organization, **UNHRC** – United Nations Human Rights Council and **UNSC** – United Nations Security Council.

I was a part of the ECOSOC committee and my Portfolio country was Portugal . The agenda for my committee was – *“The economic impact of COVID on income disparity”*. It was undoubtedly the best committee. It taught me a lot about economics and social welfare during times like COVID – 19. I did a lot of research on the topic and gained insights about the country I was allocated i.e. Portugal and also about the economic and social structure of the world. Along with this I learnt more about terms like GDP which I didn't really know about in depth prior to this session.

The committee lasted for 2 consecutive days. At the end of day 2, the delegates of various countries came to a consensus and formed a BLOC or an alliance. The delegates then noted down all the points of each delegate which were then used to make a solution (draft) known as the draft resolution or DR.

One of the best parts of a MUN is debate and my committee (ECOSOC) had a lot of debates which made it challenging and fun. Another great thing about the JMUN 2020 was that the executive board was extremely inclusive and encouraged all of us to express our viewpoints.

They also assured us that we were doing well when we became nervous and gave us constructive feedback to improve ourselves for the upcoming MUNs. In the end all the countries made a draft resolution and the committee passed it successfully.

I personally liked this MUN as despite lockdown it was organized quite well and topped with crisp communication . Also, JMUN helped improve my public speaking skills, teamwork skills, research and analytical ability and much more. Overall, it was a great learning experience and I look forward to more MUNs in future.

GHOSTLY NIGHT - POEM

“Trick or treat”, we all say,
On the Halloween day,
With our faces bright black,
like the scary starred night.

“We prefer only and only treat,
But if you want, we can throw you off your feet”,
Say the little kids dressed up as ghosts,
Skeleton body and witch's hat.

The baskets of treasure in their green hand,
Blood trickling down on the land,
This just gives a man goosebumps,
Although the little ones have a daring smile.

On the 31st, this isn't too spooky,
Not as the haunted house like you see in the movie.
The pumpkin carvings do give you a bit of shock,
You may find them a little fidgety.

We often involve J. K. Rowling's creations,
They are the bestseller in the bookstore of the nation.
The lightning scar, and the wands,
A normal part of the tradition.

The witch is usually my kind of thing,
With the fake nails that I bring,
Pimples and broomstick with long dirty teeth,
I sometimes wear a mask through which one can barely see.

Halloween's day is second to none,
With a scare, its Fools' day with fun!
The spider webs can get you in a trap,
Get ready and stay alert is all I'll say!

- Sanika Agrawal 7B

- Arunima Singh 8D

MY EXPERIENCE OF ATTENDING A MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) CONFERENCE

The Bangalore JMUN Conference was organised by Oakridge International School on 9-10 October, 2020. The agenda of the committee was: *Sanitization and the Equitable Distribution of the Covid-19 Vaccine*. I was allotted the country of Bangladesh to represent at World Health Organisation (WHO).

My experience at the MUN was very exciting, to say the least. While researching the topic, I learnt a lot about how various nations and WHO are handling the Covid-19 pandemic. This MUN was a fine opportunity for me to hone my oratory and extempore speaking skills. Initially I was very nervous, but slowly I got the hang of it and also found out that most of the participants were first time MUN attendees who were just as nervous as I was. My experiences in previous MUNs gave me the knowledge I needed to steer the committee in the right direction for coming up with a final resolution to the problem that was put before the delegates.

It was exhilarating to put forth my speaking points and helping the committee come to a consensus. The best part of every MUN is the formation of a resolution. This process is complicated and I'm glad I was able to help all the delegates put forward their opinions and their country's standpoints on the agenda.

My participating in the MUN broadened my knowledge about the various steps being taken to contain the Corona virus, improved my public speaking skills and allowed me the opportunity to meet other people like me from various other schools. The cherry on the cake was winning the Outstanding Delegate Award. This was a great experience that I was fortunate enough to be a part of and I look forward to participating in many more MUNs and hopefully winning more awards.

- Aditya S. Rao 8-C

MY J-MUN EXPERIENCE - 9th and 10th October , 2020

On a warm Friday morning, the Bangalore Junior Model United Nations (JMUN) was declared open, and so began a memorable experience.

The JMUN, organised by Oakridge International School (Bangalore), is one of the only Junior MUNs in the city. With the theme, "Advancing Human Rights during a Pandemic", it encouraged students from Grades 7 to 9 to think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions to problems faced during these uncertain times.

I was a part of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which seeks to ensure that human rights are not violated. Our agenda was 'Re-imagining migration in the times of Covid' and as I put forward my points as the delegate of the republic of Philippines, I threw away all apprehensions and contributed to every issue.

Through the course of 2 days, we discussed the hardships faced by migrant labourers. After hours of engrossing debates and co operation, we reached consensus and found ways to curb the denial of human rights, while ensuring it did not affect the country's fight against COVID - 19.

This was my second MUN, and I believe that the positive and amiable environment really helped bring out my best. The Heads of committee provided constant encouragement and guided us on each and every step, which helped us refine our arguments and added to my confidence level.

Though I was hesitant to participate, I am glad I did and was pleasantly surprised with my demeanour at the conference. This new found enthusiasm will surely lead to more exciting endeavours where I learn to hone my public speaking skills.

- Vishnu Joshi (8-D)

DUSSEHRA

We all know that the history of Rajasthan was build by the brave Rajputs and their courageous acts has made Rajsthan an important state of India. From 2007 till now the Folks celebrate the Marwar festival to celebrate the Rajput hero's princely past. Originally known as "Maand" Festival, the colourful festival takes place during the full moon of Sharad Poornima in the Hindu month of Ashwin. On 12th October - 14th October, this year this festival will be celebrated in the blue city of Jodhpur.

Marwar is an Annual festival with folk dances like Dandi Gair and Music but the main attraction for this festival is - "The Camel Tattoo shows" and "Polo matches" which have the most audiences.



Dance and Music



Camel Tattoo Show

Men wear Dhoti and Kurta along with bright and colourful turbans on their head. Women wear colourful Ghagara choli and lots of jewelry. This popular festival takes place in few famous venues that include Umaid Bhawan Palace, Mehrangarh Fort and Mandore. Shops sell authentic and handmade traditional Rajasthani crafts, traditional jewellery, tie and dye dupattas, Bhandhej suits and saris.



Umaid Bhavan Palace

A Festival without food? The Marwar festival cannot be one! Crispy "Bhaati" topped with delicious "Yellow Dal" and loads of Ghee made for the start to the main course. Followed up with this are traditional curries of Marwar served with a side of Bajra Roti's and Bedmi Puris.



The festival enhances the beauty of these forts and it is a sight worth witnessing!

- Tanvi Deshmukh (5A)

