

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Valentine's Day has become synonymous with the month of February. Love is exhibited in different ways and our students chose to depict it in their creative writings, paintings and photographs. This issue of Deen-a-Logue is a reciprocation to the unconditional love and support given by their parents and teachers. Hope you enjoy reading this collection!



- Japleen Kathoor 6C

ONCE T'WAS A VAMPIRE'S OWL

Once was an owl,
With a big beak, it would growl.
If you see into its eyes,
You'll fear it with your cries.

Freely it would fly,
It dreamt of reaching up the sky.
It would hoot with great joy,
Which it let no one else destroy.

It'd fly into your dreams,
And everyone would hear you scream.
When you are awake you think it's gone.
But in your mind, it does prolong.

A vampire's owl it was,
It was abandoned without a cause.
So, it no further cared for applause,
But decided to be its own boss.

- Diana John 8B



MOTHER EARTH IS GREEN-MY INSPIRATION

"Nature is not a place to visit. It is home."
-Gary Snyder

I remember being captivated by nature photography, exploring a macro photograph of a plant, and see intricate features that commonly went unnoticed. To see the tinier inclusions that made it look beautiful. I could view the world through my lens.

My biggest inspiration has always been Ian Plant, a world-renowned nature photographer. He always astounds me with his excellent photography skills. He always tells a story through his photographs and connects to his viewers emotionally and visually, and I look forward to doing the same. The initial aspects of photography were introduced to me by Praveen Pillay Sir in the photography club at school. He has always motivated me to explore and learn more.

My theme in the photographs I have clicked is nature. A drop of water falling from the tap represents that every drop counts. A sign quoting- 'Mother Earth is green' motivates us to maintain that. Lastly, a butterfly hanging from a branch symbolizes endurance, change, hope, and life.

- Tavishi – 7E



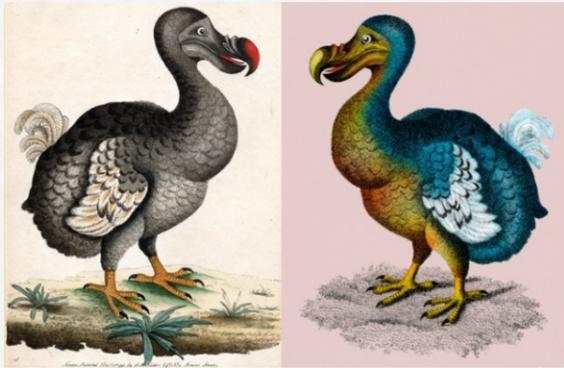
PADMANABHA SWAMY TEMPLE

The Padmanabha Swamy temple has boggled the minds of various humans over the years. It's scared villagers and priests alike. It has become common knowledge that this temple is the mother of supernatural sites. This temple was built in the early 16th century by the kings who ruled over the extinct kingdom of Travancore. There happened to be a chamber in the temple, which was discovered a few years after the kings died. The locals claim the Travancore kings had hidden extreme riches in three vaults inside the temple. Some believe the vaults hold an enormous snake which guards the riches, and there have been some passers-by claiming they heard a snake hissing in the night. There were six vaults, five of which were opened, due to suspicion. In the first vault, loads of riches were found. The head priest who opened the vault, however, died one month later. This made people even more reluctant to open the rest of the vaults. But it was proven that the head priest had died only due to old age and that it was a mere coincidence.

Hence, four more vaults were opened which revealed the rest of the riches, which added up to a staggering 1 Lakh crore! The main and final vault has not been opened yet. The royal family of Travancore claim that the vaults opened were anterooms and the main vault should not be opened. They claim it has a mystical curse within it that will drown the whole state of Kerala. Legend has it that when a gang of robbers planned to rob the temple in the 1930s, dangerous snakes came out of the vault and killed them. The main vault has been impenetrable, as it is believed that ages ago, the royal sages locked up the main vault and sealed it with magic to keep robbers away from the immense riches. It is also believed that humongous serpents guard the treasure. One of the persons who knew exactly what lies behind that secret door is the devout Uthradom Thirunal Marthanda Varma, the head of the erstwhile royal family of Travancore. He, however, has sealed his lips forever. But will we ever know the truth about this mysterious, mind-boggling temple? Well, no one knows...

- Ashwath 7E

OH, IF DODOS EXISTED TODAY!



Oh if dodos existed today;
What fun it would be!
I would play with it all day;
And not allow it to eat maggi!
It would feast on tasty nuts;
And I would build their cozy huts!
When it would eat its food, I would make it wear an apron dress;
To avoid creating a mess!
It would have fun with its relative pigeons and doves!
Oh my dodos would be such cuties;
And there children would be absolute beauties!
If the people ancient;
Would not have feasted on them;
Then maybe they would have been alive at present!

- Japleen Kathoor, 6C

PUNCTUALITY

We have always heard the word, "Punctuality", it has been there throughout our lives. Each one of us has been repeatedly told to be punctual by everyone around us. But, what does punctuality mean? Punctuality refers to an individual's habit of completing their tasks on time. Punctuality, we may agree, is indeed a great practice that results in success. Someone punctual will always know how to respect their time as well as learn how to respect others. It makes us a better person, and we can even gain trust from others. If we're sluggish and don't do anything on time, we're likely to fall behind and end up in anguish and defeat. Time management is the key to victory, and from the day we begin to become introduced to this society, one must maintain punctuality. For our education and career, it is of extreme significance and students who remain punctual often have greater potential for success in life.

- Diya Rajesh (7E)

HAMPI - WHERE HISTORY COMES TO LIFE!



Hampi, a small town located on the banks of the Tungabhadra river is a beautiful city with ruins of the Vijayanagar empire in every nook and corner. This city has many famous temples and ruins. The key monuments include the Ugra Narasimha, Queens's bath, Royal palace complex, Elephant stables, Kadlekalu and Sasivekalu Ganesha temples. The Vittala temple and the Virupaksha temple are two most prominent places that have exquisite and highly detailed architecture. This empire mainly flourished during the rule of Raja Krishna Devaraya. The Vittala temple is a Vishnu temple where a glorious chariot is carved in stone. This chariot has two elephants present in front of it. This type of an immovable stone chariot is present in only 3 places in India: the Konark sun temple, Hampi Vittala temple and Pancha rathas in Mahabalipuram. The temple also has a rangamantapa with musical pillars that make a musical sound when tapped. Another famous attraction is a living tree that is more than 150 years old!

The Virupaksha temple is another temple found in the centre of Hampi. This temple is very well known for its Shiva deity. This is the only active temple in Hampi where pujas are done every-day. Thousands of people gather every day up to seek blessings. The huge temple building was built by Lakkana Dandesha, a chieftain under the ruler Deva Raya II of the Vijayanagar Empire in the 7th century. The Mughals conquered and destroyed and burnt most of the city. They also stole all the gems and gold. Furthermore, all the palaces that were built with sandalwood were razed and only the stone base of many buildings remain. Even though only ruins remain, they really spell out the grandeur of a royal flourishing empire. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) takes care and protects these beautiful historic monuments. Let us all pledge to support and conserve these historic sites that depict our glorious past.

- Pragati 6D

IT'S A BALANCE

Those who wonder why sadness weighs upon their shoulders
Have you ever wondered why happiness rolls across like a boulder?
Those mountains you have climbed, those rivers you have crossed
They were made from delightful joy and sorrowful loss.

For the sun to rise, it first must set.
For pleasure to grow, misery must nest.
Questioning it wouldn't change it at all
Face it and you will go further from all.

Times have changed they have started learning
But they still wonder why sadness is crawling.
Tell them O people, sadness and joy are meant to be
Like day and night, they are parts of life.

- Kushi Jathanna 8D

MY PAINTINGS by Manasvi Mishra 7E



The animals who roam the land today are nothing compared to the ones that walked the continent of Australia 60 million years ago in the Pleistocene period. These animals were huge in size compared to the animals that we have today. Take for example the modern armadillo which has a body length of about 30 inches on average. But did you know that there lived a giant version of the modern armadillo called glyptodon which was a whopping 132 inches, this is only slightly lesser than the length of a 1966 Volkswagen Beetle.

There were more of these marvelous animals too, here are only a few of the mega animals that roamed the land 60 million years ago-

1. **The diprotodon**- The largest marsupial today is the red kangaroo which weighs 90 kg and stands 1.8m tall, but it is nothing as big compared to the largest marsupial of all time, the diprotodon, this massive marsupial was about the same height as the red kangaroo but much more massive and bulkier, with the largest specimens going to a mammoth weight of 2800 kg. This massive animal was an early ancestor of today's wombats and was similar to a hippo. It was vegetarian and grazed on grasses.



2. **The giant short faced kangaroo**- We have already talked about the largest kangaroo or rather the largest marsupial alive today, the red kangaroo, but the giant short faced kangaroo far outmatches this one. The giant short faced kangaroo weighted about 200-240 kg and stood at a height of 2m but the smaller red kangaroo was only 90kg and had a height of 1.5 m. The giant short faced kangaroo probably browsed on high leaves on tall shrubs and short trees. But, unlike the kangaroos today, it probably could not hop, its legs were more adapted to walking.



3. **Megalania**- We have talked about marsupials, native to Australia, but let us take a look at some other giant species that dominated the landscape at that time, the giant lizard Megalania. This huge reptile crawled the outback, eating the eggs of birds, other reptiles, and occasionally even marsupials like the giant diprotodon. It is a close relative of the Komodo Dragon that we all know but was much bigger when their sizes are put to the test. The Komodo Dragon is the biggest land lizard known to dwell the Earth today and measures at a huge 2.6m from head to tail tip for the very largest of specimen. But the Megalania was almost 3 times of this size, with scientists reconstructing the largest of the fossils to form animals of up to 7m.



4. **Stirton's Thunderbird**- Now, let us come to our feathered friends, the birds on that island. Stirton's thunderbird was very similar to the 'terror birds' that ruled South America at that time, and for a good reason. This bird was very similar to the terror birds in many aspects, it was flightless, probably carnivorous and was very large. This bird was the second largest bird to have ever lived after the elephant bird which lived in Madagascar. This bird weighed up to 500 kg and could stand 3m tall.



These animals were organisms of mind-boggling size and dominated the landscape long, long ago. Due to the unique, isolated nature of Australia, the animals found there are unlike those found anywhere else in the world and have evolved to become natural spectacles. Though it was rather unfortunate that these amazing beasts had to go, and this was probably because of our early ancestors who arrived there 40,000 years ago. Another remarkable fact is that resemblances to these animals have been found among many myths and cave paintings of the native Aboriginal people of Australia. So, let's take a pledge today to be environmentally friendly and stop using products like leather which involve the killing of animals and, who knows, in another 50-150 years, with the rapid advancements in the field of genetic replication and cloning, they might actually come back. So, until then, we will only have to be satisfied by speculating what they looked like.

- Shrey Gupta 8B

Ladakh, famously known as the "Land Of Passes", is no less than paradise. It's a land known for its monasteries, mountain peaks, adventures and thrills. It calls out to the inquisitive seeker within us. My visit to this majestic land will always be unforgettable. Below are a few pictures clicked by me along with some captions from our trip to Ladakh.

After a tough climb, there's always beautiful scenery



A lake is more than an amenity. It's a treasure!!



Water cuts the rocks not because of its power, but because of its persistence .



Climb your way to bigger and better things!



Sometimes you need to change your altitude .



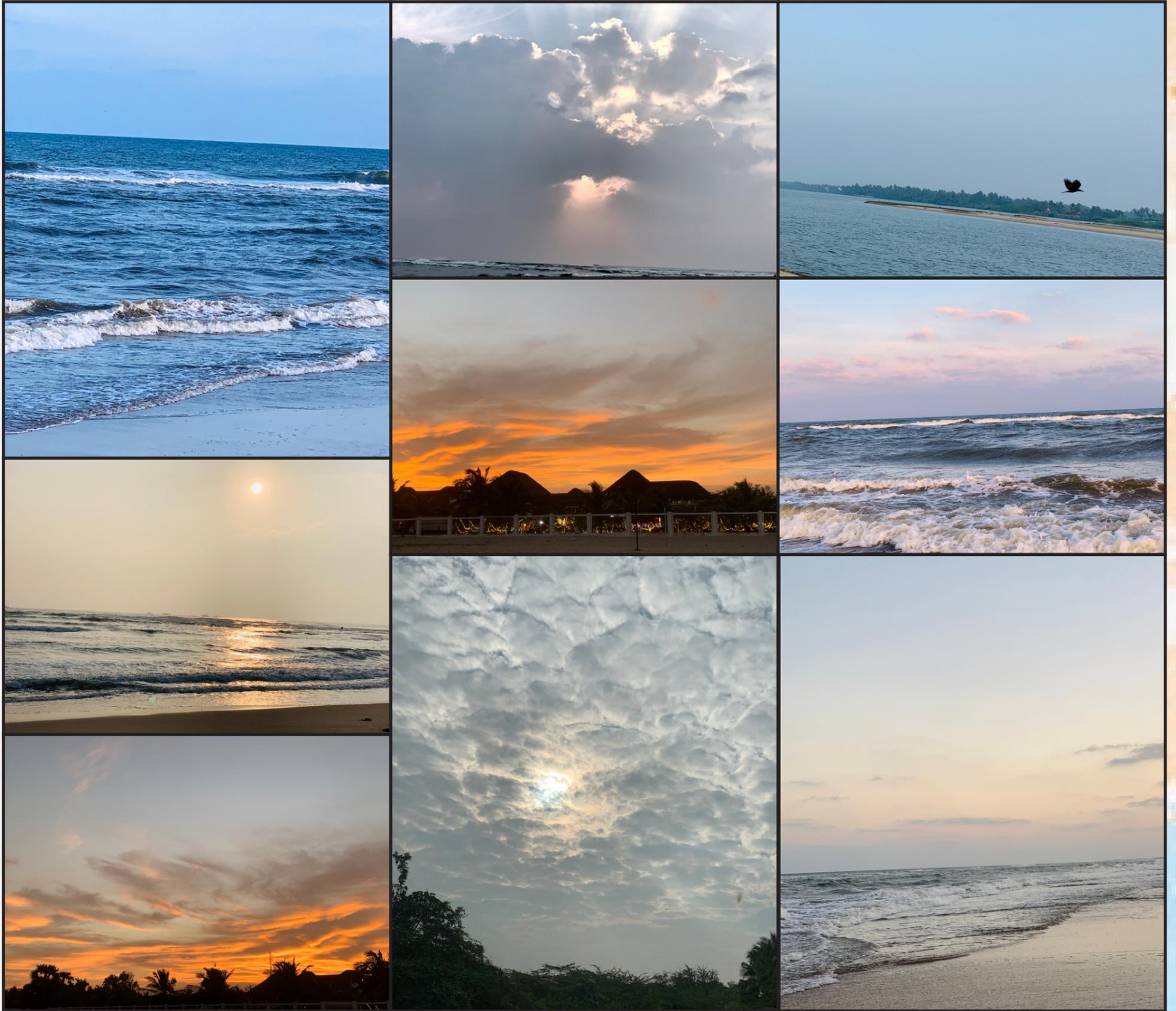
- Manasvi Mishra, 7E

Photography- "Don't shoot what it looks like. Shoot what it feels like!"

Photography is a way of expressing yourselves by the pictures you take and lot of it comes from your inspiration. My inspiration is, Nature and the beauty of it. Nature being my inspiration, motivates me to take pictures of it. Photography is my hobby and I love it. It also helps me see the beauty of nature and why we should also conserve it.

"Don't shoot what it looks like. Shoot what it feels like!" these are some words by David Alan Harvey and I think each and every photographer knows this or is in the process of knowing this.

- Shreya.D 7E.



SANJANA C - 5C

