



LIGHTHOUSE



BY BCGIANS, FOR BCGIANS

Embarking on 2024 with determination, the theme for the January Edition of the Newsletter is **India – Our Motherland: Unity, Diversity and the Role of Youth**. Seeking inspiration from our soldiers as we observe National Army Day (15th January), and celebrating India's diversity in culture be it religion/food/languages, we seamlessly integrate these sentiments with Republic Day (26th January) celebration.

Commemorating India's transformation into a sovereign democratic republic, we take pride in being the world's largest democracy. Citizens, encompassing diverse cultural and religious spectrums, contribute actively to our nation's vibrant mosaic.

As we address socio-economic gaps, political fragmentation, and communal tensions, our role as youth becomes paramount. On National Youth Day (12th January), we, as architects of a strong nation, emphasize our responsibility in shaping India's democratic success. In the tapestry of humanity, unity serves as the thread that weaves the diverse colors of culture, language, and faith into a harmonious masterpiece. This Republic Day, let's honor our democratic heritage and pledge to contribute to the continued success of our diverse and vibrant nation.

By the Editorial team



AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT TO THE TAJ MAHAL

Embarking on a journey to India's historical monument Taj Mahal was like stepping into a mesmerizing story from the past. The monument's grandeur, filled with intricate details and delicate carvings, I could almost sense the cultural and artistic brilliance of that era. It felt like a time machine echoing the tales of ancient times.

Climbing up the stairs was like a fun adventure, offering panoramic views that unveiled the clever design of the monument, and from the top, I could see everything around me. The gardens with flowers were like a quiet, pretty place to take a break. Talking to the local guides was exciting because they told interesting stories that made the place even more fascinating.

Watching the sunset emit a warm glow on the monument's weathered walls turned it into a magical scene. This visit wasn't just about seeing things; it was like going on a time-traveling adventure, leaving me with memories that felt like treasures from India's fascinating history.

**Submitted by Aymaan Palwalla
Grade 6, BCISW**

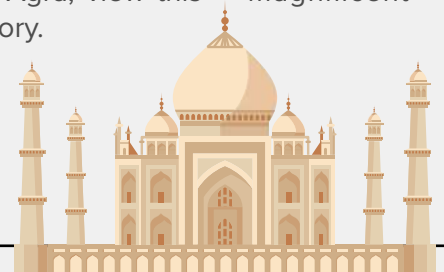
A FAVOURITE MONUMENT THAT I VISITED

During the last summer vacation, my family decided to go on a trip to see the Taj Mahal in Agra. The Taj Mahal is the most beautiful monument built in the Mughal Period. It is one of the wonders of the world. It was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It is said that crores of rupees were spent and numerous labourers were employed to construct this tombstone.

Almost all the foreign tourists visit this monumental structure. The sight of this magnificent marble edifice leaves one speechless. It is an extremely mesmerizing piece. I visited every section of this superb piece of sculpture and was deeply touched by the profound skill and art on display.

I like the Taj Mahal because the white dome marble is beautiful and looks like heaven on earth. I am eagerly waiting for another chance to visit Agra, view this magnificent work again, and bask in its glory.

**Submitted by Zoya Khan
Std. 6, VBSV**



THE ROLE OF YOUTH - DEFINING A GOOD CITIZEN

“That's where the future lies, in the youth of today”, was a quote once stated by Willie Stargell. Young people play many roles in public life. They are also, first and foremost, citizens of a nation. However, it takes more than just the usual efforts to be a 'good citizen'. Various qualities contribute to being a good citizen such as abiding by the laws, helping others, being educated and spreading awareness, being unbiased and non-judgmental, and working towards the welfare of one's nation.

The youth play an important role in our society. They can bring about a positive change in society, learn and adapt to the environment, work towards their goals, and bring social reform and improvement to the nation. Hence their voices must be heard.

The youth are the backbone of our nation. They are the future generation and leaders. Their contribution plays a crucial role in shaping our nation. We must strengthen the voice of our youth and bring out the good citizens in each of them as frank, clean-hearted, courageous, and aspiring youth, confident in developing and building a new future.

Submitted by Azalia D'Souza
Grade 8, DSRISM

YOUTH

LETTER TO THE INDIAN ARMY

Dear Soldiers,

We celebrate Indian Army Day on 15th January. It is a day of honor and immense pride as we celebrate the brave warriors who protect our nation from all the harm from external forces and don't hesitate to give up their lives for our safety.

You all are always prepared to fight for us and keep our country safe. Your job is so fierce. You work diligently in the coldest mountains and the hottest deserts to provide a peaceful shelter to us Indians.

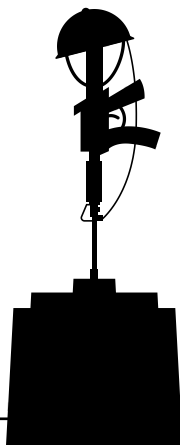
We live for our families, but you all live for our country. We all are proud of you. We are immensely grateful to each one of you. We bow before you and salute you for your dedication, diligence, sacrifice, and unflinching attitude towards our Motherland.

We truly pray for your safety and happiness.

With special regards and gratitude to you.

Yours truly,
An Indian Student

Submitted by Shantanu Mishra
Std. 6, VBSV



AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT TO A HISTORICAL MONUMENT OF OUR COUNTRY

“History is not a burden of the past, but a light that illuminates the present”

It is rightly stated that a nation that forgets its past has no future. Our country has preserved one of its most famous monuments in a wonderful way! I'm talking about none other than the famous Taj Mahal of Agra. The Taj Mahal is situated on the banks of the Yamuna river. It is said that it was constructed by the Shah Jahan in memory of his wife who died while giving birth to their 14th child. I had the privilege of visiting this exceptionally artistic monument on account of National Youth Day which is celebrated on the 12th of January every year. This is a day of great inspiration for every Indian youth. Some volunteer to be at such places of great importance and showcase the spirit of preserving our monuments. I had the chance to be one such volunteer. We took this opportunity to interact with various tourists who visited during the day and educated them about the importance of keeping our monuments clean and hygienic. We also organized a special drive where we included the children of the tourist group to help us collect all the trash and make the place spotlessly clean. We held a session for the small vendors and the public vehicle drivers. We explained the importance of having at least one dustbin in their shops or vicinity and stopping the usage of plastic bags. This was truly a productive and fulfilling day which raised my self-esteem. And this will always be an unforgettable and cherished memory for me.

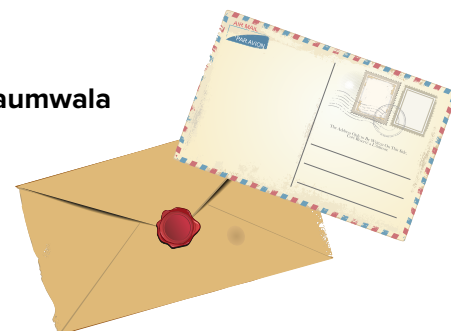
Submitted by Umika Kadam
Std. 9, DSRVB



LETTER TO THE ARMED FORCES - OUR HEROES!

Heroes – the greatest word to describe The Indian Armed Forces. Happy Indian Army Day! I thank you for protecting our country altruistically. You put your lives at risk to keep our Motherland out of harm's way. If India sleeps peacefully in the moonlight, you are the reason why! We stay safe in our homes because you are out at the border protecting India. There are no words to describe your patriotism towards our Motherland. The dedication and bravery you have in your heart is indescribable! Your selfless service is appreciated by millions of Indians. Your heroism and bravery are the greatest in the world. I thank you for defending India. The Indian Armed Forces are a blessing to India and Indians. I am beyond grateful for your spirit and your fearlessness. I am forever indebted to you!
Jai Hind!

Submitted by Ayra Belgaumwala
Grade 6, BCISW



FLAVORS OF INDIA: A CULINARY EXPEDITION THROUGH REGIONAL DELIGHTS CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Embarking on a flavourful adventure through India's diverse culinary landscape is a sensory journey that stimulates / inspires taste buds and embraces the essence of cultural richness.

From the aromatic biryanis of Hyderabad to the fiery curries of Punjab each region unfolds its gastronomic tale. In the bustling streets of Mumbai, street food becomes a culinary symphony. Pav bhaji and vada pav, like flavourful notes, compose a melody that echoes the liveliness of the city. Kolkata with its sweet enchantment presents a desert

narrative of Rasgulla and Sandesh - a sugary celebration. Heading south, dosa and idli emerge as culinary poetry, light and fulfilling, the blend of spices is similar to a well-crafted prose.

United in its love for food, every bite is a chapter in the tale of India's gastronomic brilliance.

**Submitted by Anshara Khan
Std. 7, BCSE**



ROLE OF YOUTH - DEFINING THE GOOD CITIZEN

It is said that when the youth progress only then can the society progress. The youth are those who are not only capable of moving forward but also capable of looking into the past from the present point of view. They observe what their country has achieved and appreciate the colorful experiences of those who were there before them. The youth do have an impressive energetic attitude, but for them to have a calm and patient mind is equally essential as they play a very important role in the development of the country. As a youngster, I think that a good citizen is someone who believes in the betterment of society and behaves in a socially responsible way. They never stop striving to improve the conditions in the surroundings and enjoy a sense of freedom that is entitled to every citizen. A good citizen is one who also knows how to strike a balance between their rights and responsibilities.

**Submitted by Kauser Khan
Std. 8, DSRVM**



GOOD CITIZEN AS A STUDENT

The progress and development of any country depend on the growth and the conduct of the citizens living in that country. A good citizen participates in the building of his/her family, society as well as the country.

To become a good citizen, we should study diligently, because when we start our own business or do a job after being well-educated, we contribute to the economy of the country. As a good citizen, we need to obey the law of the Constitution, respect the government, and love our country. A good citizen does not get into any communal conflict and strongly opposes it, working towards unity. We should all bring all these qualities within ourselves and try to become a good citizen.

**Submitted by Niya Shah
Std. 7, BCSE**



ON A TASTY ADVENTURE – TRYING YUMMY FOODS FROM DIFFERENT REGIONS IN INDIA CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Embark on a delectable journey across India's diverse culinary landscape, where each region unfolds a unique gastronomic tale. In New Delhi, relish the iconic Chole Bhature—a blend of spicy chickpeas and fluffy bhature. Journey to Punjab for the creamy indulgence of Dal Makhani, a North Indian staple. Down south in Karnataka, savor the delicate Appam, and in Kerala, tempt your taste buds with the classic Puttu crafted from rice flour. A peek into Tamil Nadu reveals the aromatic delights of Idlis, Vadas, and Dosas. Mumbai's bustling streets call for the renowned Pav Bhaji, the beloved Vada Pav, and the sweet-spicy Pani

Puri. Venture east to Bihar for the savory delight of Litti, and conclude in West Bengal with the sweet note of the iconic Rasgulla. This shows India's culinary diversity in a captivating symphony.

"In the end, food is holy in our tradition. It's not about nutrients but about identity."

**Submitted by Haqqani Kiyamudeen
Grade 6, BCISW**



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN INDIAN CUISINE

We proudly say that 'unity in diversity' is a feature of our country. One important dimension of this diversity is the type of food that is consumed across India. Significant variations in natural bounty throughout India have led to the development of food items suitable to that particular location. Thus, we have fish curries on the menu in the coastal region, rice preparations in southern India, an abundance of ghee and paneer in northern India, and so on. Even within a state, there is variation in food preparation from district to district. Take, for example, Maharashtrian cuisine. In the Konkan region, kitchens use a lot of coconut, rice, and fish, while in Khandesh and Vidarbha food is very spicy.

Bengali Sweets, Kashmiri Pulav, Punjabi Chhole, Delhi Chaat, Lucknowi kabab, Hyderabad Biryani, Gujarati Undiyo, Maharashtrian Modak, Kolhapuri Misal-Pav, Payasam from Kerala, Idli/Dosa in Bangalore, Mysore Pak from Chennai and the list can go on and on. I am sure one will get a mouthwatering feeling just by reading about these items.

Submitted by Yogita Joglekar
Std. 8, DSRVM



AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT TO A HISTORICAL MONUMENT OF OUR COUNTRY

Let me share with you a glimpse of my vacation which turned out to be adventurous. My family visited the Pratapgad fort during the winter break of 2022. It is located 24 kilometers from Mahabaleshwar hill station. The Pratapgad Fort was built by Shivaji Maharaj, one of the greatest rulers in 1656. The fort has a historical significance because of the Battle of Pratapgad that took place on 10 November 1659 between Shivaji Maharaj and Bijapur Sultanate General, Afzal Khan. It is a popular tourist destination.

We were accompanied by a local tourist guide who gave us complete information about the fort. Local stones and rocks were used to build this fort. Approximate 500 steps to climb the fort were not very steep. As we were climbing, we saw many monkeys. One of the monkeys approached a man and broke the earthen pot he was holding. I got scared and started walking cautiously. The walls of the fort were massive. After reaching the top of the fort, we could see the wonderful view of the valleys and hills in the surroundings. At the location, we saw swords, spears, cannons, and many weapons weighing 30 kgs. and more. I felt like a warrior and got goosebumps all over. This was my most unforgettable trip.

Submitted by Purva Aras
Std. 9, DSRVB



INTERESTING READ

Factoids On Indian Achievers

From groundbreaking innovations to inspiring leadership, this exploration showcases the unique contributions of some Indian achievers.

Field Of Science

- Dr. Ritu Karidhal Srivastava played an integral part in building India's space mission trajectory of Chandrayaan 3.
- Mihir Metkar was a primary contributor to Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine.

Business And Entrepreneurship

- A doctor, entrepreneur, and investor, Ritesh Malik has quite a knack for multitasking. At just 26 years old, he has invested in and is mentoring more than 25 startups to foster the entrepreneurial scenario in India.
- Alumni of IIT Kanpur, Abhiraj, and his partner, Varun, the founders of UrbanClap have made their mark on the market by simplifying urban India's most basic needs: Local services.



Marketing And Advertising

- Anuja Chauhan, at the age of 23 was the mind behind one of the catchiest slogans in the country "Yeh Dil Mange More", and "Tedha Hai Par Mera Hai".
- Anuradha Aggarwal is the Chief Marketing Officer at Marico Limited, a leading consumer goods company in India. She has played a key role in developing and executing successful marketing campaigns for Marico's brands.

Sports

- Mary Kom is the only female to have bagged a medal in each of the world's six major boxing championships.
- Neeraj Chopra is the first Asian athlete to win an Olympic Gold medal in Javelin and the first Asian to win Gold in his event at the World Championships.
- Sakshi Malik recently became the first female wrestler to win a medal at the 2016 RIO Olympics.



ACTIVITY 1 : UNSCRAMBLE

1. TEGLUU
2. RDUU
3. JNAIPUB
4. JRTUGIA
5. NIIHD
6. MAMLLYAA
7. RHIMTAA
8. KAAANDN



1. TELUGU
2. URDU
3. PUNJABI
4. GUJARATI
5. HINDI
6. MALAYALAM
7. MARATHI
8. KANNADA



ACTIVITY 2 : GUESS WHAT

Guess what language is the greetings from?

Hi : _____

Nomoskar (नमस्कार) _____

Ōhē (ଓହେ) _____

Wai or Oye _____

(ଓଇ) Hāya _____

(नमस्ते)namaste _____

Answer key
English
Assamese
Bangla
Bodo
Gujarati
Hindi

SURPRISING FACTS

What is the hardest language in India?

- Some of the hardest languages in India are Malayalam, Telugu, Tamil, Sanskrit. Urdu. Beyond these languages Indian languages are not that much hard to learn.

Facts on Malayalam

- Did you know that Malayalam, the language spoken in the southern Indian state of Kerala, is the longest palindrome (a word that reads the same backwards and forwards) in the English language?

Facts on Hindi

- Hindi was known by different names at different stages of its evolution in different eras. It was known as Apabhramsa at its earliest stage.

FACTS ON INDIAN LANGUAGES

Sanskrit is the official language of which Indian State?

-> **Uttarakhand**

Which 2 Indian Languages are the oldest in the World?

-> **Tamil & Sanskrit**

Which is the most spoken Indian Language in the world?

-> **Hindi**

ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Submitted by Gargi Dalvi
Std. 8, VBS

CELEBRATING THE ILLUSTRIOUS BCG ALUMNI

Dream Big – Set Goals – Take Action



Vaibhav Arora
Batch of 2010

Associate Director at Standard Chartered

SCHOOL CORNER

The Student Council set up a fun activity for the students. They asked students to share one word which they associated with our great Motherland. Some of the words students thought of were - vibrant, diverse, ancient, majestic, grand, colorful, resilient, spiritual, inclusive, progressive, and captivating. Numerous words were shared, and we used them to describe our country on this Republic Day as follows -

Our Pride: India

The land of traditions and heritage, one that has become a global leader in today's times, India is quite the country; wouldn't you agree? It is a tapestry woven with multifarious groups of vibrant threads. Each one is unique in its way, but they come together to form the most mesmerizing of designs. An exemplary example of unity in diversity, India has surpassed all expectations despite its multi-ethnic society, making its mark as a global leader and superpower. Additionally, the beautiful art of language, a symphony of hearts, is skillfully expressed in the linguistic diversity of this marvel. Furthermore, with fiery spices and cozy sweets galore, India has revolutionized the world of cuisine. Moreover, the historical grandeur of the dreamy cities of India paints the spirituality developed since ancient times. The glittering, golden dunes of the Thar desert whisper the untold stories of the heroes who made this country self-reliant and powerful.

Brotherhood runs in the blood of Indians. Like ancient oaks standing side by side, brothers stand resilient, their roots intertwined beneath the soil of shared memories. As our spirits connect through the boundless realms of existence, we celebrate the country we have forged with blood, sweat, and tears into the ethereal realm it is today: our India.

Submitted by Sai Shirke
Grade 9, VBSIS



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Be a part of the movement to build a positive and a harmonious society.
Write to us at lighthouse.bcg@gmail.com