

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PRINCIPAL:

"There is no stopping the energy or endeavour in children! Life goes on with as much gusto and enterprise, even through these uncertain times; and before we know it, they have conjured up the Deen-a-logue, the Deens newsletter, for us. Starting on their journalistic journey as young as in grade 7, it gives me immense pleasure to wish them happy 'reporting' times".

-Ms. Shanthi Menon, Senior Principal

## Heritage Sites of India

Enduring heritage of India,  
A true state of euphoria.

Hampi of Karnataka,  
Qutub Minar of Delhi,  
Artisanship and architecture,  
Delight of artistic culture.

Taj Mahal by Shahjahan,  
Sanchi Stupa by Ashoka,  
Metaphors of love and peace,  
Humanity Thy appease.

Konark of Lord Surya,  
Mahabodhi of Buddha,  
Worship and enlightenment,  
Invoke the contentment.

Sundarbans at Bay of Bengal,  
Kaziranga at River Brahmaputra,  
Colonizing fauna and verdure,  
Conserving the mother nature.

Enduring heritage of India,  
A true state of euphoria.

Rushin Mistry 5E

## Section 1: Heritage Sites

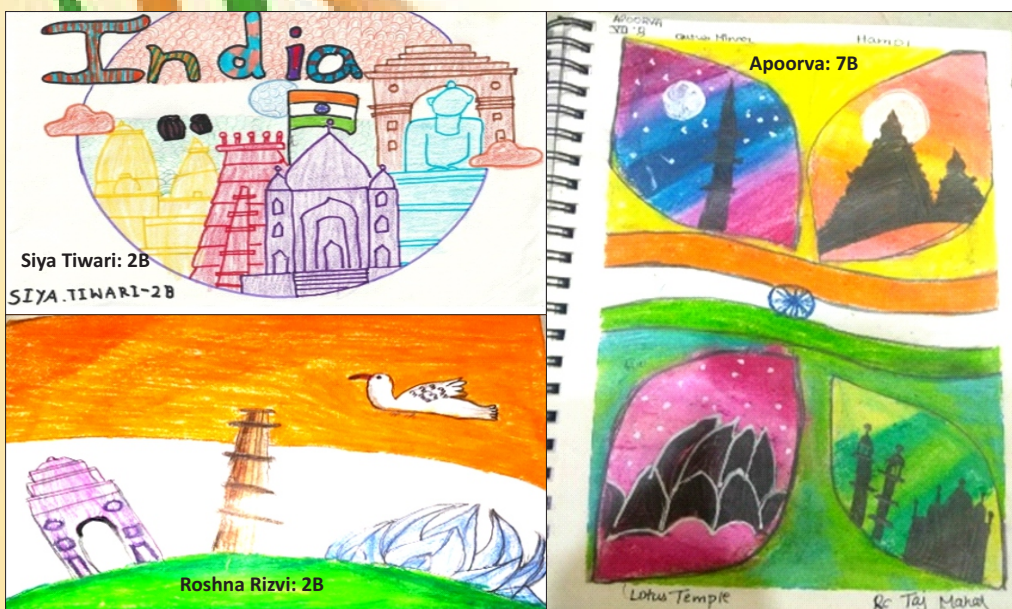
### 1.1. India's architectural legacy:

**Rishit Goyal: 7B**, shares - Every heritage site contributes to the kaleidoscope, the rich heritage of India. We see different shapes and different sizes, but they are in harmony with one another. Each one of them preserves our rich history and culture that makes India culturally one of the richest countries in the world.

Every architectural legacy adds to the hues of our beautiful country India. When all these colours amalgamate, they form the colour of peace that is white. This signifies that though India is the most diverse nation in the world, yet we all live in peace and unity. My friends and artists Siya and Roshna from 2B have done justice to my understanding of heritage sites.

**Mayank Darak: 7C**, shares – My friend Apoorva: 7B has depicted the rich heritage of India. In her work, we can see Qutub Minar in the top left, Birla mandir in the right top, lotus temple at bottom left and The Taj Mahal at bottom right. These 4 monuments display 'unity in diversity'; makes our country unique and appeals us citizens of India that we must protect our rich heritage.

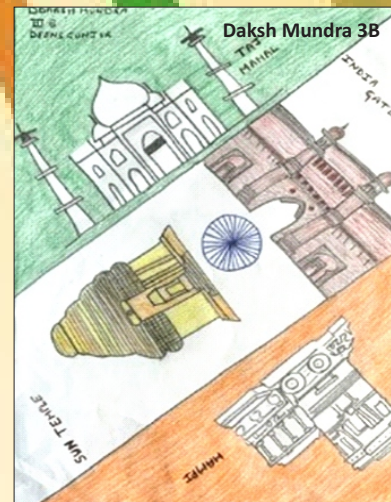
Reported by Rishit Goyal: 7B & Mayank Darak: 7C



### 1.2. Our Heritage sites:

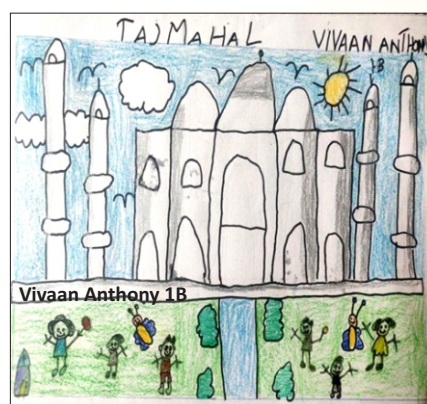
**Daksh Mundra: 3B** has very beautifully reflected four Indian monuments, which are heritage sites.

Indian heritage sites have fame all over the world. Monuments are the buildings or any infrastructural structures that were built-in history. They have archaeological and social importance. Monuments are the cultural heritage of a particular place or region. These heritage sites contain the monuments built by the ancient, medieval people and are built with love and to state importance of its existence. India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world, with a kaleidoscopic variety and rich cultural heritage with - The Taj Mahal in North, Gateway of India in West, Hampi in South and Sun Temple in the East.



The Taj Mahal also known as the 'Crown of the Palace' is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the southern bank of the river Yamuna in the Indian city of Agra. It was built on an external freestanding building constructed as a monument enclosing the interment (burial) space or of a deceased person or people. 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 as the best of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich history. The Taj mahal is one of the New 7 Wonders of the World initiative.

Gateway of India is the most popular tourist attraction. It is the unofficial icon of the city of Mumbai and is a reminder of its rich royal history as Bombay. The first structure to welcome visitors entering the city by sea, it is popularly called 'Taj Mahal of Mumbai'. The structure is basically a Triumphal Arch, built largely in an Indo-Saracenic architectural style with some Muslim elements fused. It was Designed by George Wittet, the arch of the gateway has a height of 26 metres with a central dome of 49 feet in diameter. The structure is built of yellow basalt and the reinforced concrete is used in the foundation. The pierced screens were taken from Gwalior while the stones used were locally made.



Hampi, also referred to as the Group of Monuments, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in east-central Karnataka, India. It became the pilgrimage centre of the Hindu religion. The Vittala Temple or Vitthala Temple in Hampi is an ancient monument that is well-known for its exceptional architecture and unmatched craftsmanship. It is considered to be one of the largest and the most famous structure in Hampi. The temple is located in the north eastern part of Hampi, near the banks of the Tungabhadra River. The Vittala temple is built in the Dravidian style of architecture. It has traits and features that are characteristic of typical south Indian temple architecture. It's elaborate and artistic carvings and magnificent architecture is unmatched by any other structure found in Hampi.

Sun temple, is a building used for religious or spiritual activities, such as prayer and sacrifice, dedicated to the sun. Such temples were built by number of different cultures and are distributed across the world including in India. Some of the temples are in ruins, which are undergoing excavation, preservation or restoration and a few are listed as World Heritage Sites individually, such as Konark.

Amrita: 7B shares – Vivaan Anthony/: 1B has very creatively depicted Taj Mahal in his image. The Taj Mahal is one of India's oldest and most attractive heritage sites. It is the best example of medieval architecture in India. It is located on the banks of river Yamuna at Agra in Delhi. The Taj Mahal was built in the year 1631 by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan in the memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal who died that year. This monument is made of white marble and a few precious and semi-precious stones. The scenery looks like heaven with a huge garden and river in front of the palace. This mind-blowing palace took about twenty years to build. Tourists from all over the world come to have a glance at this wonderful monument. Even now, the Taj Mahal continues to be the seventh Wonder of the World.

Researched and reported Aafreen: 7B and Amrita: 7B



### 1.3. My country is diverse and a unique country: by K. Nishita 7B

India has many alluring, architectural and natural wonders. There are 38 heritage sites in India [<http://natureconservation.in/list-of-unesco-world-her>]. They can be natural or artificial. Each and every heritage site has weaved in history of its own. Today, I'm going to share one of the awe-inspiring heritages; I like the most.

Formed from a single block of excavated stone, **Kailasa temple** is considered one of the most impressive cave temples in India. The enormous structure is one of 34 cave temples and monasteries that are collectively known as the Ellora Caves. Located in the western region of Maharashtra, the caves are declared to be one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites. These caves include monuments dating between 600 and 1000 CE. While there are many impressive structures on-site, it's the megalithic Kailasa temple that is the most well-known. This was constructed by the Rashtrakuta King Krishna 1. This is known as the most elaborate rock cut temple in the world.

We can find many other architectural sites and natural sites in this way and should try to create awareness in people to make them practically understand the significance of India other than just reading them in books or articles. We should make people aware of our country's uniqueness to make India an even richer country in the people's point of view.

*Researched and reported by K. Nishita:7B*



### 1.4. My country is diverse and a unique country:

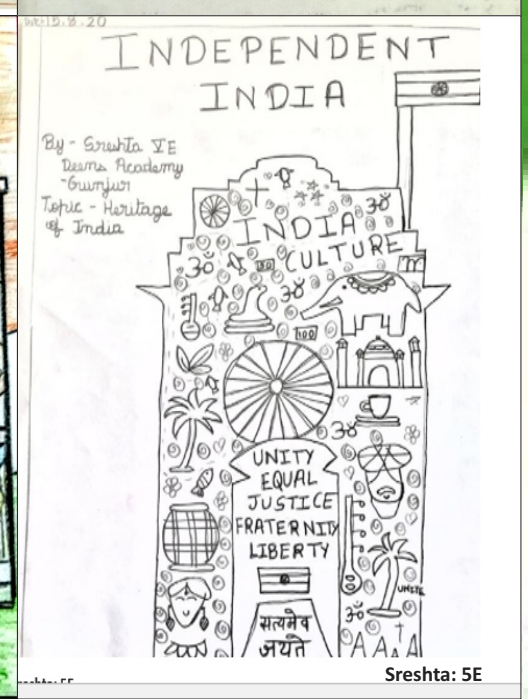
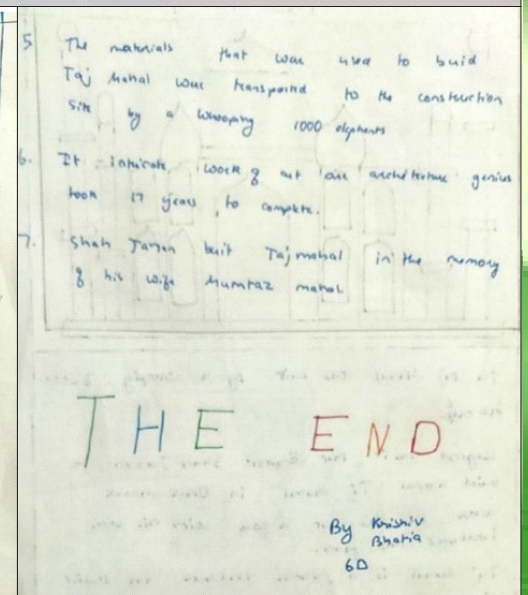
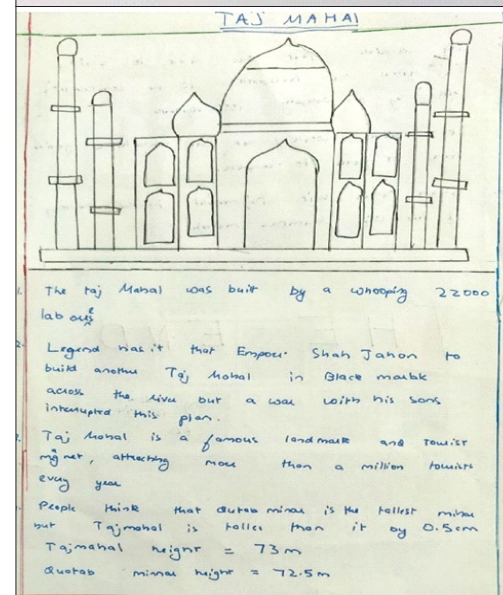
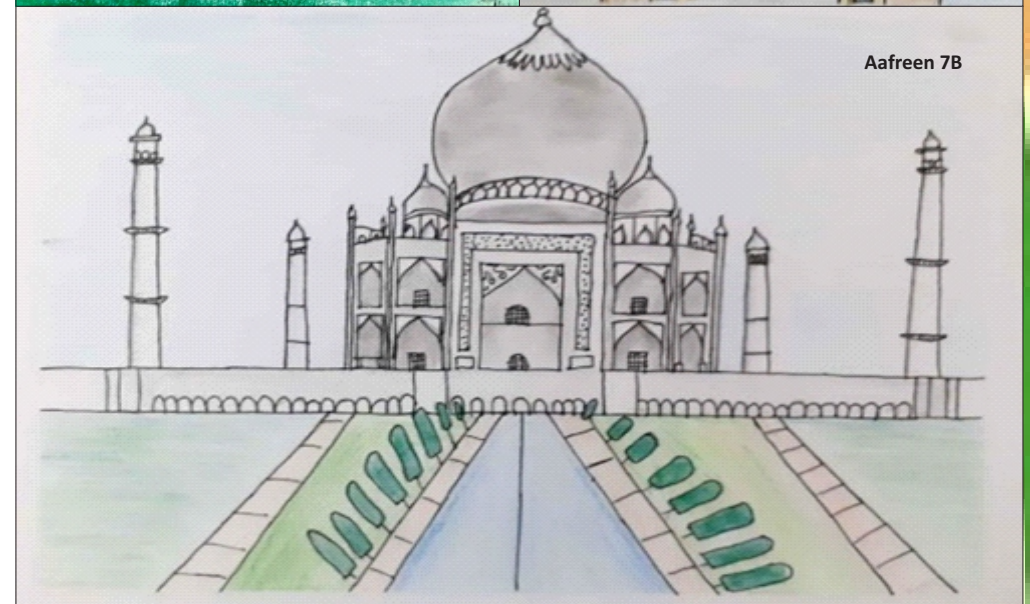
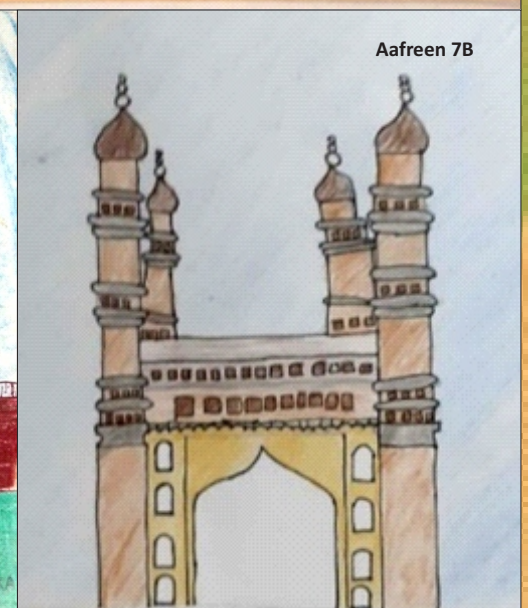
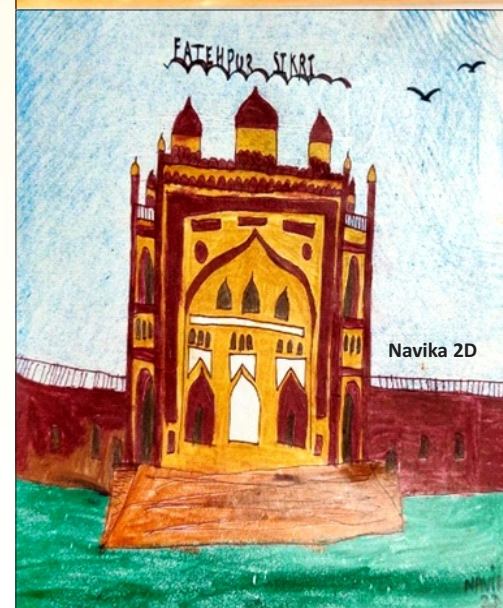
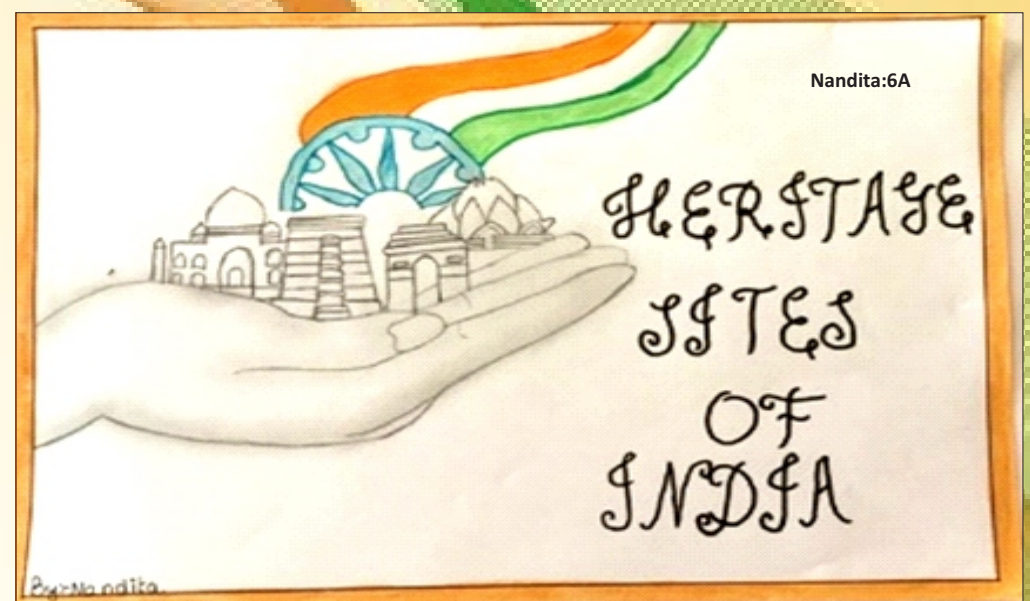
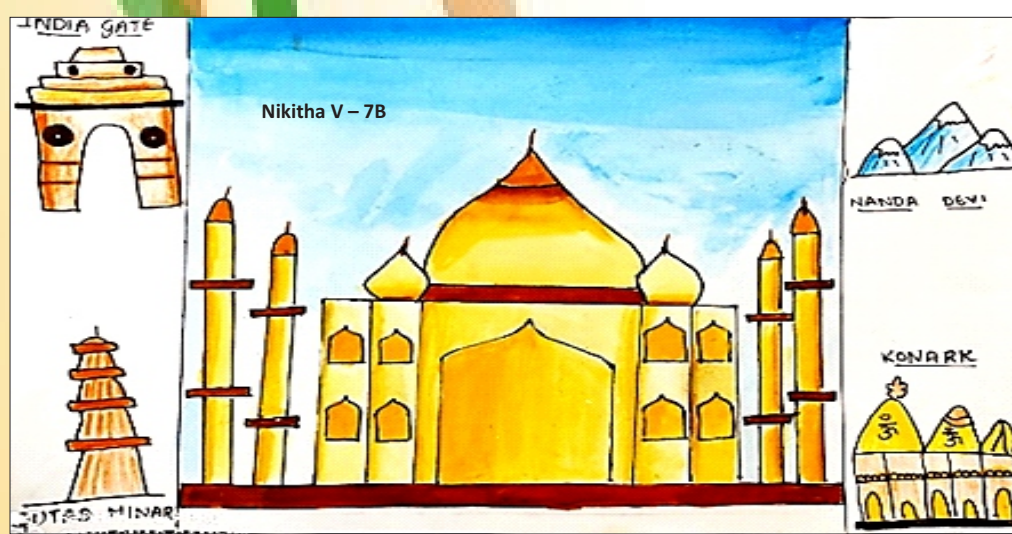
India being a very diverse country, has a variegated set of cultures. From the north to the south, east to west; every region has its own culture and heritage. Behind every culture, comes a history. Heritage sites are an official location where pieces of political, military, cultural, or social history have been preserved. They could be of any structure or landmark. A tall erection or building, a natural landmark or different structures or sites. Heritage sites often have a local, regional or even a national significance. There are 38 heritage sites in India. Some of the pre-eminent heritage sites in India are- Taj Mahal, Hampi, Agra fort etc.

The heritage sites of India are divided into two, 30 cultural sites and 7 natural sites. One heritage site is a mixed- criteria, natural and cultural. Given below is a small brief about both the types of heritage sites in India. The Taj Mahal is a white, marble mausoleum situated on the banks of Yamuna river. Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The Sundarbans is a mangrove forest located on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna River. The Sundarbans is one of the seven natural heritage sites of India. It provides an opportunity to appreciate the pristine beauty of nature.

Heritage sites provide us with the knowledge of our inherited traditions and different customs we draw from our history or past. History helps define our present. It allows us to make more sense of our today. Heritage sites provide the understanding of the history. It is important to know and appreciate our past.

Pictures made by Nikhita V: 7B, Nandita: 6A, Navika: 2D, Aafreen: 7B, Pranavi Srivathava: 3C, Sreshtha:5E - have very creatively presented some of our heritage sites. Krishiv Bhatia:6D has written details about Taj Mahal. Do refer to the images to join me in appreciating their work

*Reported by Jyotsana 7B*





### 1.5. Heritage Sites of India: by Tanisha Bose: 5D

**Heritage** is something we get from our past or from our ancestors. There are almost 38 World heritage sites in India. I would like to share details on some of them.

The Ajanta Caves, are Buddhists caves situated in Maharashtra. These caves were built in two phases. One was when Ashoka was an emperor and the second was in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries during the Gupta period. These caves are richly decorated with sculptures from Sri Lanka and Sigiriya paintings. There are about 31 rock cut caves which represents the art of Buddhism.



The Khangchendzonga National Park, is located at the heart of the Himalayan range in Sikkim. It is a unique range of plains, lakes, valleys etc and is covered with ancient forests. It also includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest peak of the world. The Western Ghats, is a mountain range along the western side of India and is one of the world's 10 "hottest biodiversity hotspots". There are almost thirty-nine properties including reserve forests, national parks etc. There are 10 of them in Karnataka, 20 in Kerala, 4 in Maharashtra and 5 in Tamil Nadu.

*Researched and Reported by Aadya: 7C*

### 1.6. Have We Overlooked Our Heritage? - by Divit Kaushik 6C

A few days ago, I was reading an article about a temple in Varanasi, India, called The Ratneshwar Mahadev Mandir. I thought that the article was amazing and it made me think about how ignorant we are to our own Indian heritage. Let me amaze you too, with these fascinating facts about Ratneshwar Mahadev Mandir.

Ratneshwar Mahadev Mandir is one of the most photographed temples in the holy city of Varanasi In Uttar Pradesh, India. The temple, while apparently well-reserved, leans significantly towards the back side, and its garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) is generally below the water most of the year, except for a few months during the summer. Legend says that a son built this temple to pay debt to his mother for all the care. But the mother cursed the temple so that no one could pay debt to their mother. Therefore, it is called the Cursed Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple.



Now, let me compare it with one of the Seven Wonders of the World – The Leaning Tower of Pisa. Ratneshwar Mahadev Mandir is tilted by 9 degrees while the Leaning Tower of Pisa is tilted by 4 degrees. Height of this temple is 74 meters while Pisa is 57 m high. In spite of having a much better architectural structure, not even one-tenth of the Indians know about this temple. Everyone wants to go and click pictures and praise the Leaning Tower of Pisa, unaware of the fact that a wonder is standing in our own backyard. And this is just one example of India's numerous fascinating places.



So, how can we advertise the Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple? We need to write articles, share and publicise our own heritage, monuments and culture through social media. As a matter of fact, more than 350 million Indians use social media just for entertainment and other purposes. So, let us use this platform, to make some of our own monuments more popular. Who knows? Ratneshwar Mahadev Mandir, and many other uncelebrated Indian monuments like this, just might be the eighth wonder of the world.

There are many beautiful and fascinating heritage sites all across India, that barely anybody knows about. We need to appreciate these breathtaking places and bring recognition to our country's picturesque surroundings.

*Reported by Navya: 7A*

## Section 2: Classroom Activities

### 2.1. Spell Competition for Grades 5 to 8:

English Subject Supervisors - Ms. Moumita S. for Grades 5& 6 and Ms. Mumtaz B. for Grade 7, share - The Spell Bee Competition of Grades 5 to 8 was conducted on Saturday, 8th August, 2020. It gave us teachers an absolute pleasure, to see students participating enthusiastically. This activity had students 'engaged' and 'excited'; spellings leave a learner spellbound and intellectually stimulating. The first round was a written round for all the students. Five finalists from each section qualified for the finals. The final round, a rapid-fire round was the most interesting part of the competition. Each student gave the other a close fight. Kudos to all the young champs!

What we learnt from the Spell Bee competition?

Daksh Deelip: 7B, shares – I learnt that it is not about luck, it is about our knowledge and how good our vocabulary is. We learnt many new words and improved our vocabulary. We also learnt spellings of words, we probably didn't know correctly, but in the end it was fun.

*Reported by Daksh: 7B*



### 2.2. Ordering of Number- the Number Magic, an activity for Grade 1 by Teacher Ms. Sravanthi:

The objective of the activity was to make the students understand the ascending and descending order in a relatable way. Though the concept was known to them from Kindergarten, Grade 1 has a slightly higher level of work. The students were absolutely ballistic, when they heard about the activity. The activity was conducted in a very simple way and learner oriented.

Their first task was to pick up the objects and arrange them in a particular order. They were shown Matryoshka dolls (Russian dolls) and how some of them were bigger than the others. By connecting to that example, the students arranged the objects which were readily available with them like pencils, crayons and other stationery items. Some even went to the extent of arranging syrup bottles in order thus displaying their understanding. This was a spontaneous activity by the teacher to enhance the understanding of her students. This class proved even more effective than a regular one due to whole hearted involvement of the kids and the cooperation of their parents.

We conducted an interview with the teacher and had first hand experience to hear from her. Refer to the link: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/e96ce983-8dc9-4cf9-8c0d-d3c695dd5f2c>. We could connect to the students of grade 1A and 1B, who had fun moments during the topic Ordering of Numbers in their Math class. They thoroughly enjoyed Ascending and Descending order. They could quickly relate it with some real-life objects. Students used pencils, sketch pens, playdoh pops, glasses, blocks and coins and arranged them in ascending and descending order of size.

*Reported by Nirmay N. & Kate: 7A*





### 2.3. Blended Learning, as tool to study and understand language in a Literature text

#### A different but thrilling learning experience for all of us students of Grade 7!

Just as all our fingers are of different sizes and shapes, not all children perceive things in the same manner but the language of music is recognized and understood by everyone. Learning Literature with the goodness of music. The idea itself sounds so appealing, as both literature and music connect to our heart, mind and senses and this can ensure learning at its best. This form of interdisciplinary learning is also known as Blended Learning. Our English Teacher, Mumtaz Ma'am took it up with all her creativity and enthusiasm, planned to teach our literature poem, 'The Brook' through Music. With the support of our Music teacher, Salome Ma'am, we had this class on July, 28<sup>th</sup>.

The teacher told us that blended learning is going to be the future learning. Music is appealing to all students and incorporating music into our lessons makes it more interesting and fun. The objective of blending music with English, is to appreciate the literature as a whole. When music is integrated with English literature, the rhyme scheme and the refrain is understood better and the pronunciations improve. We started the class by understanding what is a ballad, what are syllables and how refrain and chorus are connected. Then Salome ma'am played a tune on the keyboard and told us to sing along. When we could sing the refrain properly, she told us to make our own tune and to sing the first stanza. We got so involved in the rendition of the poem that, by the end of the class we could actually feel the brook flowing in front of us.

We students wanted to know more about this initiative and requested for an interview session with Mumtaz Ma'am and Salome ma'am. Our teachers explained us that the main objective of such a class, is to appreciate literature and understand the rhythmic patterns of the poem, which is so close to the chorus of a song. So, here literature by itself blends with music. She was extremely happy when we asked her about a 'Wow' moment in the class. She said that some students who faced a difficulty in understanding the context of the poem, were found to be actively engaged when music was included, creating their own tunes for singing and in the process and effortlessly learning the poem, diction, stanza and phrases. These students could later write their answers in a better way. In fact, involvement and excitement in the class was very high. As part of her planning and preparation for the class, our teacher had done research on the learning impact and the learning outputs of such a blended approach. To our question on how the observations were different from a normal class, she said that she felt amazed as the learning outcomes came so naturally when students said they felt and experienced each line, as they sang and students had a natural pathway to reflect. The class was planned with minimum resources, but lot of smart work.

We were told that both the teachers were completely satisfied with how the class progressed and as learners, we can adopt our own learning tools like, music, theatre etc, based on our individual learning styles. She said that the class was a success, also because of the magic created by Salome Ma'am's music, with her soothing voice and her expertise on the keyboard. This is completely proved by the very many words of appreciation and a tonnes of praise cards for both the teachers, in the chat box [which was opened for 10 minutes after the class was over]. Before signing out of the interview session, Ma'am encouraged us to write more articles and create a good reading collection for all the students, as part of the newsletter. She said that learning never stops and that there are different ways in which every student's mind functions. Learning through blending subjects/platforms, thus, is a very crucial input in the education field. We students of Grade 7 are fortunate to experience such kind of learning processes. We not only learnt the poem but we also experienced it; so wonderfully; we are waiting for more as you rightly heard our teacher say, LEARNING NEVER STOPS.....!

Interview can be viewed at: <https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/1e907560-0380-4d06-b365-273da20e07af>

**Experienced, Interviewed and Reported by Debanjali: 7C & Nirmay:7A**



## Section 3: Fitness goals as a Deenite – Students' voices on the annual theme

### 3.1. Fitness goals as a Deenite, by Shriya Suresh: 3E

**Wake up early and sleep early** - A way to stay healthy is sleep early and wake up early. It's better to sleep at 8:30 PM and wake up at 7:30 AM. If you do this, you will be healthy and have 11h of sleep.

**Eat healthy** - The healthiest kinds of food to eat is vegetables and fruits. rice, vegetables, fruits, oatmeal...etc. are also very healthy.

**Exercise** - is also very important because when you exercise more blood will be pumped into your body. Here is a list of exercising ideas: Running, Jumping, Sit ups, Push ups, Walking, Tag, Football, Cricket, Basketball there are many more ways to exercise like for example skipping.

**Being Mindful** - is being in the moment/now.

Because if you think of the past you can't do anything about it except cry which will make you sadder and never happy. Or if you think about the future you don't know if it's going to happen or not and also you are going to worry about it until it really happens. So, it's better to just be in the present and be happy. You can also be mindful when you eat, walk, speak, learn, read..... anything you do.

**Tips and Tricks:** Usually when something happens you react. Instead when something happens you do mindfulness and then respond. First someone says, "What is the time" and you say "The time is NOW!" Hope you had fun reading !!! Thank you!!

**Nirmay:** 7B shares, Vivaan Anthony:1B has inspired me to write this note. Many of us might have a second thought that being fit is not important, but being fit is one of the key things for a healthy life. Why? Doing exercises after our online classes is not only beneficial, but also freshening and energizing. We need to be fit mentally and physically. Hence, Deens Academy has launched an initiative to focus on instilling in Deenites a habit of having a healthy mind and body. It is our annual theme. Exercising regularly will build our immune system and keep our mind energized. Our school has given the students a chance to join either physical education or dance to keep their mind and body healthy. The teachers of Deens Academy have been working tirelessly to achieve this. My warmest thanks to the teachers. Given below is a 1<sup>st</sup> grader's view on this topic.

**Reported by Aadya 7C and Nirmay Nambiar 7A**

### 3.2. Emotional well-being - getting ready for 'The New Normal'

As we get into the fifth month of lockdown or quarantine it is evident that things have changed. People have started remote meetings and online schooling with the help of apps like Zoom, Skype etc. Working from home has started to become a norm following the shutdown of offices. International travel has been moderated greatly. The travel and hospitality industry has changed greatly due to the new social distancing rules and regulations. People have started to become more self-reliant because of less domestic help. Streaming apps such as Netflix and Amazon Prime have become the main source of digital entertainment following the closing of theatres. Even though these changes make the world different, invention of a vaccine to defeat this deadly disease will give us hope that our old world will be back again. Emotional fitness is a state where the mind is capable of staying away from negativities focusing on being creative and constructive. This is all the more important during the current pandemic situation. We are scared for our family and friends, worried about when school will reopen and frustrated about lockdown. Frustration is an emotion which is very hard to control. People all over the world are having temper tantrums every day because of being shut inside the house. We should move away from these thoughts and engage ourselves in new hobbies like crafts, playing instruments, dancing, coding, etc. Before the pandemic, 'I don't have time for this' was a standard dialogue for many of us. But now we can no more use that since we have a lot of time. So, let's move on with our lives and stay positive during these challenged times.

**Drisha:1C and Sujay:1A** – have expressed through their sketch work. Their work depicts how important it is to work towards our well-being as well to adapt to the current situation; staying healthy. Do refer to the images and join us in appreciating their work.

**Reported by Dhruva S. & Innila G.: 7A**

