

ECHOES

EDITORIAL TEAM

CHIEF EDITORS: MANIZA ALI
TWINKLE HEMANI
SIMRAN TRIPATHY

DESIGNED BY: MANIZA ALI
TWINKLE HEMANI

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Every year Republic Day is celebrated in India on 26th January with zeal and enthusiasm. Spectacular parades at Janpath, New Delhi, consisting the Indian National Army and national flag hoisting in various parts of the country are common practices followed on this day. This year it will be marked India's 73rd Republic Day.

Republic Day marks the adoption of the constitution of India and the transition of the country to a republic on January 26, 1950. Every year, the celebrations marking the day feature spectacular military and cultural pageantry. In New Delhi, armed forces personnel march along the Rajpath, in an elaborate display of military might. The epic show on Rajpath eclipses everything else happening across the country on this auspicious day.

As flags fly and India's 2022 Republic Day Parade takes place, it's interesting to note that the iconic event has an interesting theme behind it – history.

The Indian Army's marching contingents are one of the annual parade's biggest highlights. Looking back at the nation's past, three marching contingents of the Indian Army wore uniforms and held standard-issue rifles from several older decades – a homage to India's rich and storied past.

~Isha Singh



REPUBLIC DAY FERVOUR

I feel blessed to be given the opportunity to be a part of the 73rd Republic Day celebration of our college. The programme started by speeches which were followed by a performance of different dance forms, mesmerizing art, patriotic songs and last but not the least, the National Anthem. I participated in content writing and was also one of the MCs of the event. It was an amazing experience. We learned the importance of team work. The most challenging task was to coordinate with so many participants virtually. It was only possible because of the team spirit that everyone showed.

~**Alisba Naushad, Sem1, Education Hons**



As I started singing *Bharat Humko Jaan Se Pyaara Hain*, I truly felt these lines already pinned within me. Being able to contribute a little portion of me to the 73rd Republic Day programme was a huge accomplishment for me. The enthusiasm that came out of me and my fellow team members didn't make me feel for a second that we are all amidst a pandemic, all away from one another and put into a virtual sphere. Getting a chance to pay a tribute to all our freedom fighters and their endless devotion towards our homeland through a patriotic song would always be an unforgettable experience for me.

~**Neha Banerjee, Sem 1, Chemistry Hons**



This year, Shri Shikshayatan College ensured that the fervour of patriotism lives on, and shifted their 73rd Republic Day celebrations online due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. As a participant of this celebration, it has been a wonderful experience for me. As I am passionate about arts and I love to draw, I actively participated in the arts event. I made a creative doodle of India Gate for the event. My artwork exhibited copious symbols of unity and harmony. Through my art I wanted to convey the message that “where there is unity, there is always victory”. While making art for this event, my heart was filled with patriotism and pride. For me it has been a great and joyous ride to be a part of this celebration. The entire function was recorded and edited under the guidance of the LTS Unit of Shri Shikshayatan College. “The synchronized display by students despite being in different homes was noteworthy”. With faith in our hearts and independence in our thoughts, lets salute the Nation! **Jai Hind!**

~**Janvi Singh, Sem 1, English Hons**



In these COVID circumstances, when we are not able to do anything physically, our college administration provided us an opportunity to celebrate the 73rd Republic Day virtually. This was the very first time I took part in such a cultural ceremony observing in our college. Students from different semesters took part in different types of events like dancing, singing, poetry, painting, photography, writing, hosting etc. For each of the events, a group was created to assemble the members so that we could interact with one another, after which everyone recorded their performances on patriotic theme and shared their videos with the editing team. The editing team built-up a short video by joining all videos. The main video was posted on the college official site by our principal ma'am on 26th January. I feel blessed to be able to be a part of this cultural event and have met some cooperative seniors and batchmates through the programme too.

~**Srijita Saha, Sem 1, JMC Hons**



I feel delighted to share the feedback of the Republic day event. I am borrowing words from my acquaintances to describe the process of the events and actions that took place. I was one of the participants of the art event The seniors worked closely with us by holding regular meetings for guidance. The team was consistent and every instruction was clearly delivered. Being a part of the event helped me in broadening my horizons and gave me an opportunity to present my artwork. It was my very first time with LTS and I loved the way I was guided regarding the event and my work. It helped me to overcome my fear of camera and also helped me in managing my time and studies. In fact, I was even more productive in these days than usual. Lastly, I would like to add that my experience with the art team was enchanting and I learned myriad.



~Ekta Shah, Sem 1, BBA Hons

There is always another dimension to the excitement when it comes to the first-ever college programme for a college-goer like me. Myriad of things haunt us in its casual flow but initially everything seems to be different. Without having a second thought a 'yes' has come out of my mouth when our seniors asked us if anyone wanted to take a part in the Republic Day event. A 40-minute long virtual meeting kept going, lots of excitement, lots of energy filled new voices. Amid all these, a rough structure of the programme came into existence. As an individual it often becomes difficult to be comfortable in a newly-formed group but here that feeling never came because of the chief coordinators who were always ready with their helping hands. Also Fatema ma'am and principal ma'am's guidance were there with us throughout the preparation. After hundreds of unsuccessful attempts, finally I got a satisfactory clip and sent it. Two days passed after that, on 26th January, the video came out. It made me feel so good to see how numerous attempts can create a successful Republic Day video. The fact that made us the happiest was the appreciation we received. I personally feel blessed to be a part of this.

~Pragya Chakraborty, Sem 1, JMC Hons





AMAR JAWAAN JYOTI WAS MORTAL AFTER ALL

BY VAISHNAVI DIXIT

With the Central Government removing the Amar Jawan Jyoti from India Gate, people are left questioning their take on the entire matter. It has been 50 years since the Jyoti remained lit, as an invincible symbol of our very significant historic struggle. So almost 50 years in retrospect, the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi ordered a full-scale invasion of Pakistan which officially commenced the Indo-Pak war of 1971. The war started with the forces of Pakistan attacking Indian airfields and ended with a surrender from the same forces and the liberation of East Pakistan as Bangladesh. Even if one wins, wars tend to leave us with a resentment of losing people. Amar Jawan Jyoti was a conscious attempt to turn that resentment into a celebratory belief of their presence. The flame was kept ablaze throughout the year, initially by liquified petroleum gas and then by piped natural gas, a more affordable choice. The question that arises here is – what made the Central Government perceive the Amar Jawan Jyoti as an expendable add-on. According to government sources, the flame has not been extinguished, instead it has been merged with the flame at The National War Memorial. On February 25 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the inaugural of The National War Memorial. The National War Memorial honors soldiers who died in the 1962 Indo-China War, the 1947, 1965, and 1971 Indo-Pak conflicts, the Indian Peace Keeping Force operations in Sri Lanka and the 1999 Kargil Conflict, as well as those serving in UN peacekeeping missions. The government's argument was that the Memorial serves an identical purpose, only with more nuances. However, there is a slight detail that got neglected. The Amar Jawan Jyoti was placed at the India Gate, also known as the All India War Memorial. Some could argue that need for another Memorial, worth 176 crores could have been escapable. But the government would instantly retaliate by calling the India Gate a symbol of our dark colonial past. But why should we succumb to erasure tactics instead of embracing the vehement struggle of our past? In our history books, the Amar Jawan Jyoti was defined as a remembrance of all lives lost while defending the country. Even if the pages of those history books get tore, this very definition is deeply ingrained in our consciousness. And this might be one of the reasons why the new war memorial did not get the attention it was aiming for. Now we have a memorial that honors every military life lost under a single roof with not much wandering to do but the price we paid for this convenience was pretty high. We will probably go down in history as a country who extinguished a flame after calling it immortal for years.



FROM VEDAS TO METAVERSE

BY ADRITA KARMARKAR

The education ministry's tableau at the 73rd Republic Day parade displayed India's rich education history and different viewpoints encompassing the topic 'Vedas to Metaverse: National Education Policy 2020'. The tableau had both an exhibit of metaverse, which was concluded with a biennale dedicated to Meditation and the Vedas.

The tableau of the Ministry of Education and Skill Development portrayed the previous types of education in India beginning from the Vedas and the gurukul arrangement of education and the primeval colleges like Nalanda where understudies came to study from across the world. The occiput of the tableau showed the revolutionary aspects through a sparkling bulb formed like a cerebrum. Students of various age groups executed a parade and models of youngsters portrayed expertise, advancement, logical learning, most recent advances like expanded and virtual reality, and upbeat learning. Metaverse can be simply understood as the idea to create more immersive internet, in which we can use technology such as AR and VR to spend our time engaged in the virtual spaces rather than in the physical world. The term may likewise depict gaming universes where individuals in the form of 'avatars' can converse with others. Metaverse is utilized to portray an idea of what the web might look like later on. In December 2021, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg had said that India will assume a significant part in the improvement of the metaverse, which he called "the following form of the web".

Because of the Covid-19 limitations, just 12 states and UTs were permitted to show their tableaux at the Republic Day parade. A portion of these states were Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir and a few more.



SHIVANGI SINGH: THE DAUGHTER WHO MADE INDIA PROUD

BY YAMINEE SINHA

It was on 27th July 2021, a day that will be etched in golden letters in India's history, when the Rafale fighter jets landed on the Indian soil making its citizens proud. Among all the ecstatic faces, there was one face smiling away in full bloom. She was none other than Shivangi Singh, a young girl of twenty-five from Varanasi who flew the Rafale fighter plane, a French twin engine, canard delta winged, multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation.

India's first Rafale pilot again made headlines when she became a part of the 73rd Republic Day parade. Singh is the second women fighter jet pilot to be the part of the Indian Air Force tableaux after Bhawna Kanth who participated last year. She joined the IAF back in 2017 and was appointed in the second batch of women fighter pilots. The flight lieutenant is a part of IAF's Golden Squadron team situated in the Ambala district of Punjab. Leading the IAF cadre, Shivangi Singh marched straight with pride in her navy-blue air force uniform drawing the attention of all.

At Wednesday's parade, the IAF tableau was based on the theme, Indian Air Force Transforming for the Future. It exhibited scaled down models of the Rafale jet, an indigenously developed light combat helicopter and a 3D surveillance radar. It also featured a scaled down model of MiG-21 aircraft that played a major role in the 1971 war in which India defeated Pakistan, leading to the creation of Bangladesh, as well as a model of India's first indigenously built aircraft Gnat.

The 73rd Republic Day was extraordinary in its own ways. The celebrations began with President Ram Nath Kovind addressing the nation and hoisting the Tricolour flag. From this year onwards, the Prime Minister announced that the Republic Day celebrations will start from 23rd January itself, which is celebrated as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary.

Shivangi Singh has proved to be a true daughter of Mother India by serving the nation. India is proud of Shivangi Singh and her achievements.

DISCUSSION FORUM: THE CRUX OF INDIA

The Preamble continues to be the cornerstone of our democracy and nation, upholding and reminding citizens of the values and spirit that India as a Republic desires to possess. Yet it would not be wrong to say that even seven decades after the Constitution came to power, we are nowhere close to achieving the dream of India that our Founding Fathers saw. As said by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, “Indians today are governed by two different ideologies. Their political ideal, set out in the Preamble to the Constitution, affirms a life of liberty, equality and fraternity. Their social ideal, embodied in their religion, denies them”.

In recent times, the core principles of the nation have faced constant and severe blows. Keeping this in mind, on the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day, it is imperative to remind ourselves of the ideals that this country was built on.

1. Sovereignty- The Preamble of the Indian Constitution proclaims harmony and integrity throughout the nation. It embodies one of the key objectives to play in itself- Sovereignty, which implies that India is an independent state which can freely regulate its own external as well as internal affairs and there is no authoritarian body as such to dictate over it. Being an advocate of sovereignty, India can neither acquire a foreign territory nor can surrender any of it for the sake of any nation. In the country, the legislature holds the supreme power to make laws, although with certain limitations which protects the citizens from any kind of tyranny.

-Sampriti Roy

2. Socialism- By the 42nd Amendment of 1976, India was pronounced as a ‘socialist’ state. One of the main objectives of socialism is to eliminate inequality in income, status, and improve the standards of living. In a country like ours which is steeped in destitution, socialism is important as it paves way for a more egalitarian society. The Socialist concept should be exemplified and implemented to uphold the true spirit of the Constitution.

-Sonali Mishra

3. Secularism- The term 'secular' in the Preamble was added by the 42nd Amendment of 1976. It signifies that all religions should be given equal recognition and respect by the Government and hence giving freedom to all the religions, without having any biases. Thus, all citizens are free to profess the religion of their choice until it disrupts the harmony and integrity of the country. Thus, the term 'secular' holds a great importance since social peace and security of the country depends upon it.

-Simran Tripathy

4. **Justice**- Justice, in a broad sense, can be referred to the ideal of being fair, especially in regard to punishments or wrong doings. The Preamble states that the Constitution of India guarantees justice in all matters social, economic and political. It is both a praiseworthy feat and a colossal challenge in itself, as a country with over 1.3 billion population, where so much happens everyday, is bound to present obstacles or delay in matters regarding justice. But that is more the reason why we need it; why it is certainly important that anyone who seeks justice in court, gets it. It is our right to seek it and if denied, demand it. As Martin Luther King Jr said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And it is also our responsibility to curb injustices as our Constitution also aims to do so.

-Semanti Das

5. **Liberty**- According to the Preamble of the Constitution of India, Liberty is the absolute absence of assertion or dominance on an individual's actions. Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship is the democratic security every citizen deserves. In a democracy, the Liberty of its people should not succumb to any amount of power and might.

-Vaishnavi Dixit

6. **Equality**- The 'equality' clause in the Preamble to the Constitution of India today reads exactly as it did on 26 January 1950, and indeed exactly as it did when drafted in February 1948. Equality means the absence of privileges or discrimination against any section of the society. The Preamble provides for equality of status and opportunity to all the people of the country. It is also the belief that no one should have poorer life chances because of the way they were born, where they come from, what they believe, or whether they have a disability. "Equality may be a fiction but nonetheless one must accept it as a governing principle" said B.R. Ambedkar who proposed the preamble.

-Isha Singh

7. **Fraternity**- Derived from French, the word fraternity means brotherhood, friendship, community and cooperation. It is in all these senses that, while drafting India's Constitution, Ambedkar laid great stress on fraternity saying that "the need for fraternal concord and goodwill in India was never greater than now." Keeping in mind that India is more divided than it has ever been, it is necessary to remember Ambedkar and his ideals of camaraderie, unity and solidarity.

-Maniza Ali

CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF



MANIZA ALI
SEM 4
ENGLISH HONS



SIMRAN TRIPATHY
SEM 4
JMC HONS



TWINKLE HEMANI
SEM 4
JMC HONS

WRITERS



ISHA SINGH
SEM 4
JMC HONS



SONALI MISHRA
SEM 4
JMC HONS



YAMINEE SINHA
SEM 4
GEOGRAPHY HONS



SEMANTI DAS
SEM 4
JMC HONS



VAISHNAVI DIXIT
SEM 4
JMC HONS



ADRITA KARMAKAR
SEM 4
JMC HONS



SAMPRETI ROY
SEM 4
JMC HONS