

# Thinker's Leaf

An Initiative of Manava Bharati



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Nalanda House



## Editor's Desk

**Dear Readers,**

**Greetings to you all!**

"Life is like a notebook. Two pages are written by God. First page is birth and last page is death. Center pages are empty, Fill them with smile and love."

**-APJ Abdul Kalam**



Welcome to the 19th edition of our monthly magazine "Thinkers Leaf".

As we step into a new year, we promise to bring fresh, enhanced and riveting articles from our talented students. This month's magazine is a tribute to the Nation, its unsung heroes and to the Defence forces, who work day and night to safeguard our country. Through our articles, there is an attempt to make the younger generations aware of the Indian Armed Forces and stir within them the feeling of patriotism. We have for you, a range of stories, poems, cartoons and write ups on various interesting topics.

India is known for its culture and hereby, this issue of the magazine also touches upon the diverse and vibrant festivals such as Lohri and Sankranti along with the celebration of India's 73rd Republic Day.

This magazine is going to be an informative issue making it a means for students to express their thoughts and present inspirational stories.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my students and colleagues for their contribution and support.

As this is the first edition of 2022, we wish you all a very happy and optimistic New Year!

Happy Reading!

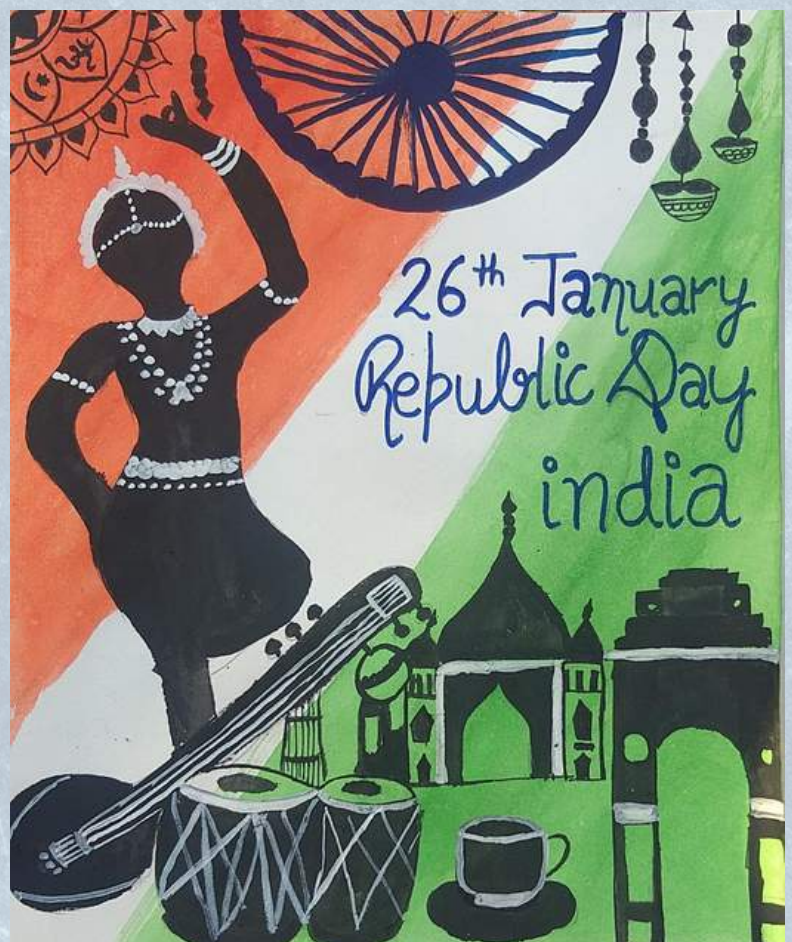
**Neerja Joshi (Faculty)**

## My Nation My Pride

Having this chance to write on such a wonderful topic my soul is filled with gratitude. I feel grateful to live in India and when I talk about my country, the best thing about it is its culture, we have various religions and traditions but still we all are united and believe in unity in diversity. Being united we acquire freedom and became a democratic nation. India is the largest democratic country in the world and one of the most liberal ones. Our country is rich in its heritage and diverse natural assets. It is the land of science, philosophy and spirituality. Rigveda is one of the most ancient books which has its origin in India. We all must continue the dedication and feeling of pride towards our country. I feel proud to say that I live in a country where we treat guests as God. A country where we respect the freedom of others. We all must start growing the crops of our culture in such a way that in future Indian culture, religion and tradition must arise.

**Avantika Bhandari, VIII B**

**Takshila House**



**Prachi Pandey, XII Sci.**

**Nalanda Huse**



## A Tribute to CDS General Bipin Rawat

“Apni senao pe hai hame garv,  
aao milke manaye vijay parv”  
**Jai Hind**

**- Bipin Rawat**



Today I want to pay tribute to India's first CDS General and a quintessential military leader Gen Bipin Rawat. The military commander had an extraordinary knowledge of global events. A tri-services military doctrine was designed to help

India face plenty of security issues, and is widely credited for reducing militancy in Jammu & Kashmir and in the Northeast.

As India's first Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Rawat was tasked to bring in theater command and unity among the three services, and in the last few years, he had been pressing it with a unique approach and specific timelines. Gen Bipin Rawat, India's first Chief of Defence Staff, his wife and 11 other armed forces personnel took their last breaths on 8 December, 2021 in an unforeseen circumstance after the military helicopter they were traveling in crashed near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. He was a highly decorated General who will really be missed. India has suffered irreparable loss as a result of the untimely death of Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu's Nilgiris area.

As the first CDS, he had challenged status quo measures and had pushed for wide-ranging reforms to bring about synergy between the three wings of our armed forces.

He was an army officer who always led from the front, a devoted son of Mother India. The nation had its first Chief of Defense Staff after 70 years of independence.

To provide our armed forces a competitive advantage, he presided over the deployment of modern weapon systems, next-generation jet fighters, warships, submarines, the newest assault weapons, and state-of-the-art equipment. Gen Rawat was not only the senior most officer of our armed forces, but also an active, widely experienced and outspoken officer who never minced words while speaking out facts. He had a vision to modernize our military forces, but destiny had willed otherwise. You can all imagine the loss India has suffered as a result of the demise of its Defense chief. In his condolence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described him as “an outstanding officer” and “a true patriot”. “His insights and perspectives on strategic matters were exceptional”, he said.

At the age of 63, Gen Bipin Rawat had a remarkable military career. He came from a lineage of army officers. We will really miss him but he will always live in our hearts and will continue to inspire us. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

**Sneha Sharma X A  
Takshashila House**



Our flag has three colours,  
This makes it some extra.  
Blooming in the centre,  
Our heritage Ashok Chakra.

Saffron is for bravery,  
Where prosperity is from green.  
White is for peace,  
These symbol have that mean.

I really love my flag,  
It is symbol of our growth.  
I will never bow it down,  
I have taken this oath.

### OUR FLAG

**Prerna Barthwal, VI B, Nalanda House**



Pranjal Gupta, IX, Takshashila House

## WHY I WANT TO BE A SOLDIER

I want to be a Soldier because it is a respectable profession, it gives you an opportunity to see different places. I want to serve this nation because I was born in this motherland. Thousands of soldiers have sacrificed their lives for us. We should be strong and brave, someone who is never scared of death. It is important for us to live a meaningful life, not necessarily a long one. Our fears will never let us do what we want, so I want to overcome those fears. I want to be a soldier and devote my life entirely to my nation by being fearless and dedicated. It feels proud to stand for your nation and I want to feel that pride. Being a soldier is like being a hero and I would like to be one.

**Shreya Singh, VIII B  
Nalanda House**

## REPUBLIC DAY

26th January, 1950, marks a significant event in our history as this was the day when India became a Republic. This year marks the 73rd Republic Day of India and my heart is filled with pride to see how far we have come as a nation.

As a child, I have always watched the republic day parades on television and there are few questions that I have always been curious about. Such as, why does the Prime minister of India hoist the flag on Independence Day and the President on Republic Day. As I grew up, I gathered answers to my queries.

### Significance of Republic Day

Republic Day marks the celebration of the empowerment of Indian citizens to select their own government. It is celebrated with flags and unfurling ceremonies and parades by armed forces.

The Indian Constitution's guiding concept is "of the people, for the people, and by the people," which means that power is vested in the citizens of India.

### Significance of Tableau

A tableau is a set of models or stationary figures that depict a scene from a tale or history. During Republic Day, states and different departments and ministries showcase their achievements through their respective tableaux in forms of instruments, costumes and cutting-edge technology. These tableaux are showcased during the Republic Day parade.

### Difference between Republic and Independence day : Why do we hoist the flag on independence day and 'unfurling' it on republic day ?

On independence day, the national flag is tied at bottom and pulled up.

Where as, on republic day, the flag is tied up on top and unfurled without pulling up.

This shows that the country is already independent.

**Difference between the hoisters :** The Prime Minister hoists the flag on Independence Day, as the head of the Central government. At the time of Independence, the Constitution of India did not come into force and the President who is the constitutional head did not take office. On Republic Day, however, the President, who is the country's first citizen, attends the ceremony and unfurls the flag.

**Sauhardi uniyal, Xth  
Vikramashila House**

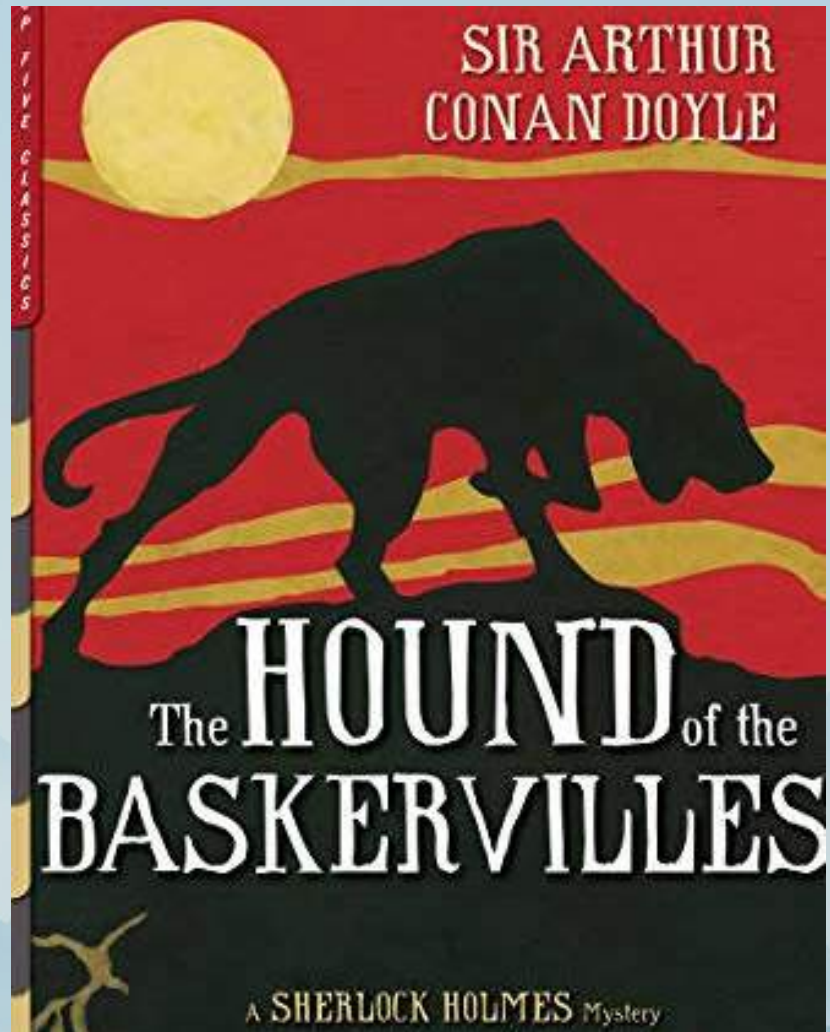


## Book Review

# THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

– Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Hound of the Baskervilles is one of the most popular crime novels featuring detective Sherlock Holmes and his companion Dr. Watson. The story is set in Dartmoor in Devon in the countryside of England of the Victorian era. The story is based on the curse looming over the Baskervilles of Dartmoor which leads to the premature death of many of their heirs. It is assumed that a legendary, supernatural hound has been seeking revenge on the Baskervilles. It is feared that the life of the present heir, the young and dynamic Sir Henry Baskerville is in peril.



Sir Henry resides in Canada but has come down to England to take possession of their manor, Baskerville Hall. Ever since he arrives in London he receives a warning letter and is being followed wherever he goes. His friend, Dr. James Mortimer seeks help from Sherlock Holmes to help Sir Henry come out of this sinister ordeal. Through its detailed narrative the story gives a glimpse of the gloomy Grimpen Mire and the moor, of Dartmoor so desolate that both humans and animals fear to tread there at night. The howl of the hound at night brings chills in the spine. The author describes every moment and every character so beautifully that readers are bound to be glued to the novel till the end. While the characters Jack and Beryl Stapleton (the Baskerville's neighbours) who pose as brother and sister stand apart in their demeanor, the butler Barrymore and his wife's secret conversations every night at the terrace of the Baskerville manor is overly suspicious. The climax of the story is quite intriguing. It shows how Sherlock Holmes decides to use Sir Henry as bait to catch the criminal red-handed. Sir Henry is asked to accept a dinner invitation from the Stapletons and walk down to his manor post dinner all alone across the deserted moor. He is attacked by the glowing hound and is rescued in the nick of the moment. The mystery is unraveled. In an attempt to take away the Baskerville property, the Stapletons had used phosphorus on the pet greyhound to scare away people at night. Most of the time people died of cardiac arrest viewing the glowing hound at night. Children above 12 years will enjoy reading this detective fiction to witness the logical reasoning and deductive approach used by Sherlock Holmes. I have read this novel several times but its freshness never seems to fade.

Sumana Sarkar Ghosh (Faculty)



## An Inspiring Story of Major Priya Semwal

While dedicating this month's magazine to the Indian Armed Forces, I was struck with the memory of Priya Semwal, an inspiration to myself and many. Her life story can inspire us to believe in ourselves and never lose hope even in the worst phase of life.

Let me first introduce you to Priya Semwal.

Priya was born and brought up in a middle class family. She completed her schooling and graduation from Dehradun. She was a good student and was also good at sports. Priya got married at a very young age of 20, but she pursued her studies even after marriage. Her husband worked for the Indian Army as a Non Commissioned Officer. Priya's life as a house wife was going smoothly and the couple was blessed with a daughter whom they named Khwahish.

I have known Priya personally as she used to give tuition to my daughter. She was always a fun loving person. I got to witness her sports abilities during a cricket match in our society. Everything was going fine for her until 20 June, 2012 when she woke up to the most heartbreaking news. Her husband Naik Amit Sharma got Martyred in an accident in Arunachal Pradesh . Life came to a halt for Priya. She was devastated and her life shattered. It was the most difficult phase of her life. Like any other human being , Priya too lost faith in "God". But as it is said " For every dark night there's a brighter day".Priya didn't want to live her entire life in pity. She wanted to live life with dignity. This was the time when Col. Agarwal encouraged her to join the Indian Army as an officer.She got a purpose for her life. She wanted to fulfill the dreams of her husband and give a beautiful life to her daughter. There were many challenges on her way. She had to prepare herself both physically and emotionally. But Priya was determined and was focused towards her goal. She fought and she conquered. On 5 April, 2013 ,she joined OTA, Chennai and on 15 March, 2014 with almost one year of rigorous training she was commissioned as Lieutenant.



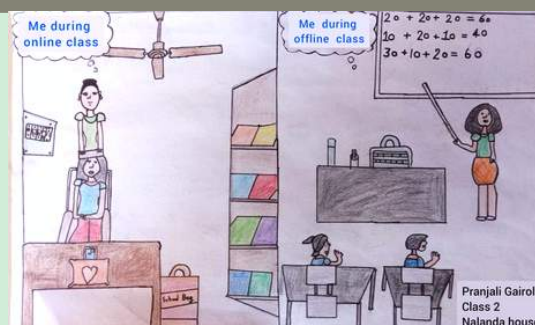
Priya Semwal. It was indeed a proud moment for not only her but for the entire country. Major Priya Semwal created history by becoming the first Veer Nari of a non commissioned officer.

Currently posted in Guwahati , Major Semwal is successfully managing the role of a doting mother and a capable Defence personal. Her only aim is to keep serving her mother land.

I am proud and feel honored to have known such a strong personality. Major Priya Semwal always believes that there are no shortcuts for success and encourages others to "Never give up in life".

**Neerja Joshi**  
(Faculty)

### CARTOON CORNER





## Makar Sankranti :The Harvesting Festival

Makar Sankranti, the all India festival, known by various names, is celebrated on 14th January every year. It is one of my favorite festivals as it is celebrated all over India and proves to be a true example of united India. We in Uttarakhand know it as 'Khichdi Sankranti', in Assam it is called 'Bhogali Bihu', in Tamil Nadu it is known as 'Pongal', 'Uttarayan' in Gujarat and so on. According to the Hindu calendar, Makar Sankranti falls in the solar month of Makara and the lunar month of Magha.

People fly kites in the sun to celebrate this festival. People take holy baths in rivers for forgiveness of sins on the day of the festival. Every twelve years, Kumbh Mela is organized and on the day of Makar Sankranti billions of people pray to the Sun God.

On the occasion of Makar Sankranti, we exchange sweets made up of jaggery and 'til' and also eat "Khichdi", which is the main dish of this festival.

Sky filled with colourful kites is a great sight to see on this day. This day symbolizes the end of the winter season, which is known for infections and sickness. It is said that early morning sun on the day of the festival helps people get rid of the harmful bacteria. There might be different names for Makar Sankranti, but the enthusiasm and the feelings that it brings with it remains the same across India.

**Anirudh Ramola, VII-B  
Nalanda House**



**Adwit, Nursery, Panchshila House**



**Parinay Aswal, XII - Arts, Panchshila House**

## LOHRI

Punjab is India's glory,  
Land that celebrates Lohri;  
Fest has a long story,  
That is famous in history.  
The festival of harvest,  
Goodbye to days that are darkest.  
Reward of working hardest  
Farmer's happiness is grandest,  
Worries and sorrows are gone forever  
Hoping for a future that is brightest.

**Abhyudaya Singh Dutta, V  
Takshashila House**



**Shivangi Kanojiya, Class - I  
Takshashila House**



**Atharv Joshi, Class - I  
Takshashila House**



## New Year, New me!

**New Year, New me!**

**Hi myself,**

It was a great 2021 with some speed breakers along the road. New Year is the time for people to leave all their bad experiences behind and take a step into the future with positive energy. It brings new hopes and fresh possibilities. It is like a beginning point to a fresh start.



New year doesn't mean everything will change. The only thing that can change is your mindset and the date of course!

We should welcome every new year with new energy and enthusiasm so that our life becomes even better. Why don't we put the motivation into some work or workout at least that way we'll stay healthy.

Last year, I learnt a lot about myself as one should. Self discovery became more clear in quarantine. As an example, I learnt that studying in bed is a bad habit and I changed it. I also learnt some good things about myself, like I can play cricket well! I can even draw! That's a big milestone for me.

One thing I learnt last year and would try to imply my whole life is "You can do anything. Doesn't matter if it's big or small". Now let's learn from the mistakes of the previous year, and move forward with a new resolution.

New year brings new beginnings, so it's a good time for us to be working towards our goal.

I believe in penning down my resolutions to achieve my goals for the upcoming year. It's a highly positive thing to focus on moving forward and reaching your full potential.

Some resolutions I am trying and would like you to try are :-

Gratitude exercises: Thanking everyone! It's good practice. Before going to bed, I make it a point to count my blessings and it makes me feel thankful and loved.

Being more focused on academics: This one is important for us students, but I agree that it can be boring as well. There are a lot of fun ways to study or focus. Use sticky notes, colour pens and all that fancy stuff.

Reward yourself after every one topic you learn.

Self love: This practice is the most important one and comes above all. I'll just try to love myself more this upcoming year. Remember! you-yourself come first. Celebrate all your achievements big or small! Look at the mirror and tell yourself that you're beautiful inside out, because you are!

This new year, let's laugh more, smile more, sing more, dance more, play more, study more and be more kind. I'll try to bring a whole new happy healthy version of myself this year. And I really hope for the best!

**Sneha Pawar, X A  
Vikramashila House**



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