VANTAGE HALL · THE DIVERSITY CLUB

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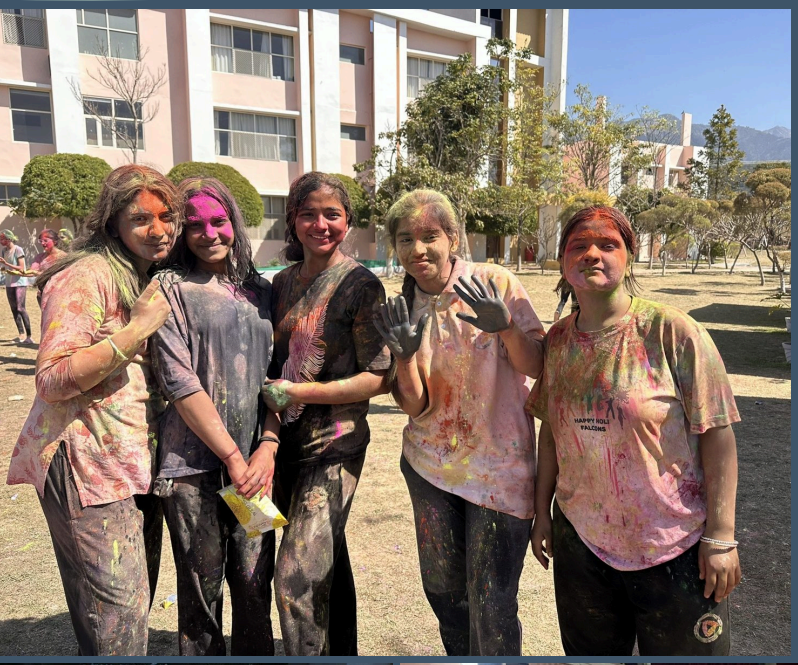
Sangam

संगम

n. the place where rivers meet

THE DIVERSITY CLUB MAGAZINE

CO-EDITED BY AAYAT QURISHI & GARGI ARYA















ESSAYS

Aayat Qurishi and Gargi Arya on what difference gives a society, and a school

CORRIDOR VOICES

Falcons on home, food and festivals, in their own words

VOICES ACROSS TIME

Vivekananda, Douglass, Kennedy and Tagore

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A field guide to a much-used word

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Falcons by the Yamuna at Paonta Sahib.

FROM THE CLUB

Where the rivers meet

At Prayagraj, the Ganga and the Yamuna meet at the Triveni Sangam. The river that flows on from that point is neither one nor the other. It carries both, and it is larger for it.

Our school is a sangam too. Girls from about twenty-two Indian states and from several countries share classrooms, dining tables, playing fields and dormitories. We bring different languages, festivals, foods and ways of seeing the world — and every day, whether we notice it or not, we are learning from one another.

This magazine is the Diversity Club's attempt to notice. Two of our seniors write about what difference gives a school and a society. We have gathered speeches that have shaped how the world thinks about living together, a short history, and a reading list for anyone who wants to go further.

Read it, argue with it, and then go and knock on a door down the corridor.

— ***The Diversity Club, Vantage Hall***

What Really Is *Diversity?*

Diversity is simply the presence of difference within a group — of background, identity, experience and thought. It is a fact about a room. What we do with that fact is a choice.

DIFFERENCES WE CAN SEE

- Language & accent
- Home state & region
- Faith & festivals
- Food & dress
- Physical ability
- Age

DIFFERENCES WE OFTEN CAN'T

- Family background
- Economic circumstances
- How we learn
- Beliefs & opinions
- Life experiences
- Neurodiversity

Diversity
Who is in the room.

Inclusion
Whether everyone in it has a voice.

Equity
Whether everyone has what they need to take part.

Belonging
Whether everyone feels they are meant to be there.

> ***"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance."***
>
> — VERNĀ MYERS, DIVERSITY EDUCATOR

THREE MYTHS

Myth: Diversity means everyone must agree.
Fact: Diversity is valuable precisely because people don't.

Myth: Diversity is about the "different" people.
Fact: Everyone is different from someone. Diversity describes a group, never one person.

Myth: Diversity is about how people look.
Fact: Some of the deepest differences — how we think, what we have lived through — cannot be seen at all.



Dussehra night on campus, in festive dress from many homes.

WHY A DIVERSE SCHOOL MATTERS

Twenty-Two States, *One Corridor*



What living and learning alongside difference actually teaches — and why it may be the best preparation a school can give.

Gargi Arya · Grade 12 · Sports Captain and Co-President, Ummeed

In 2022 I walked into the Rashtriya Indian Military College as the only girl in my batch. Every room I entered for three years reminded me that I was different — and every one of those rooms taught me something because of it. I learned to be heard without raising my voice and to read a group before speaking to it. Most surprisingly, I learned that the boys around me were learning just as much from my being there. Difference, it turns out, is not a weight carried by the person who is different. It is a lesson the whole room takes.

At Vantage Hall I found the same lesson on a larger scale. Girls here come from about twenty-two Indian states and from other countries, and you can hear several languages in one corridor before breakfast. That mix is not decoration. It does real work, and it is worth being precise about what that work is.



Garba at the inter-house dance competition.

1 · FRICTION MAKES YOU THINK

When the psychologist Katherine Phillips and her colleagues asked groups to solve a murder mystery, groups that included a newcomer from outside their circle reached the right answer more often than groups of old friends — even though they felt less sure of themselves along the way.

The discomfort was the point. When we expect others to see things differently, we prepare harder, explain ourselves more clearly and stop assuming.

2 · BETTER ARGUMENTS, FEWER MISTAKES

In a 2006 study of mock juries, Samuel Sommers found that racially mixed juries deliberated longer, discussed more of the evidence and made fewer factual errors than all-white juries. The white jurors themselves performed better in the mixed groups. Nobody had to be "the diverse one" for everyone to sharpen up.

I see the same thing in our MUN Club. A draft resolution argued over by girls from the Northeast, the plains, the hills and the South has been tested from four directions before anyone outside the room reads it.



Bhangra at the inter-house dance competition.

3 · THE HOSTEL IS A TRAINING GROUND

No textbook teaches you to share a room with someone who sleeps at a different hour, prays in a different way and misses a different kind of food. Hostel life does. We learn to negotiate, to apologise, to celebrate one another's festivals and to ask questions without giving offence. These are adult skills, and we practise them at fifteen.

4 · THE END OF THE SINGLE STORY

As a history student I have learned that textbooks flatten people. Interviewing veterans for my Living Epics project, every account complicated what I thought I knew. Friends from other states do the same for places I have only read about: they replace a stereotype with a person.

> *"Diversity is the raw material. Inclusion is the craft."*

5 · READY FOR THE WORLD WE WILL ENTER

Universities, workplaces and the armed forces already bring very different people together. A student who has learned to work across difference at sixteen does not have to learn it at twenty-two.

On a squash court, the opponent I dread most is the one whose game looks nothing like mine. Playing only people who hit like you makes you comfortable; playing everyone makes you good.

A diverse school guarantees none of this on its own. Diversity is the raw material; inclusion is the craft. The advantage belongs to those of us who walk across the corridor and knock.

STUDIES CITED · Phillips, Liljenquist & Neale, *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* (2009) · Sommers, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (2006)

HOW DIVERSITY ENRICHES A SOCIETY

Many Threads, *Stronger Cloth*



Why societies that make room for difference are richer, wiser and more resilient.

Aayat Qurishi · Grade 12 · President, All Clubs & Community Services · Founder, The Diversity Club

Where I come from, older people still speak of *Kashmiriyat* — a way of life in which Sufi shrines, temples and the verses of the mystic poet Lal Ded belonged to everyone. I grew up hearing that word long before I understood it. Coming to a school with girls from across India, I finally did: a society is not weakened by holding many kinds of people. It is woven by them.



Falcons on a temple visit.

CONTACT CHANGES MINDS

In 1954 the psychologist Gordon Allport proposed what became known as the contact hypothesis: prejudice shrinks when people from different groups meet as equals, work toward shared goals and are supported by those in charge.

Half a century later, Thomas Pettigrew and Linda Tropp reviewed more than five hundred studies and found that contact between groups usually does reduce prejudice. As a psychology student, I find that deeply hopeful. Fear of the unfamiliar is learned, and it can be unlearned — one shared meal, one shared project at a time.

IDEAS TRAVEL WITH PEOPLE

Look at an ordinary Indian plate. The chilli, the potato and the tomato all came from the Americas, carried by traders in the sixteenth century. Imagine a samosa without them.

Our numbers made the opposite journey. The digits the world uses today were developed in India and reached Europe through Arab scholars, which is why they are called Hindu-Arabic numerals. Even English carries our words: *shampoo*, *bungalow*, *pyjama*, *jungle*. Each is a small proof that societies grow when people and ideas cross borders.



Falcons at the farm.

VARIETY IS A FORM OF STRENGTH

Farmers know that a field planted with a single crop can be wiped out by a single disease. In the 1840s Ireland relied heavily on one variety of potato, and when blight arrived the result was famine.

Societies work in a similar way. A community with many traditions, languages and ways of thinking has more answers to draw on when something goes wrong.

> ***"A society is not weakened by holding many kinds of people. It is woven by them."***

BELONGING MAKES US BRAVE

Psychology also tells us that people take part more fully when they feel their identity is respected. When someone has to hide who they are, a society loses not just their comfort but their ideas, their effort and their voice. Inclusion is not charity; it is how a community gets the best out of everyone in it.

WHAT IT ASKS OF US

None of this happens automatically. Diversity can just as easily breed suspicion if people stay in separate rooms. It asks something of each of us: curiosity instead of assumption, questions instead of labels, and the patience to listen to a story that is not our own.

That is why we started the Diversity Club — not to celebrate difference once a year, but to practise living with it every day.

WORKS CITED · Allport, *The Nature of Prejudice* (1954) · Pettigrew & Tropp, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* (2006)

OUR STATES · 1 OF 3

Corridor Voices

Falcons on home, in their own words



















Corridor *Voices*

We asked Falcons from every grade a few simple questions about home, and about the home they have found here. These are their answers, in their own words.

THE FIRST THING I MISS FROM HOME

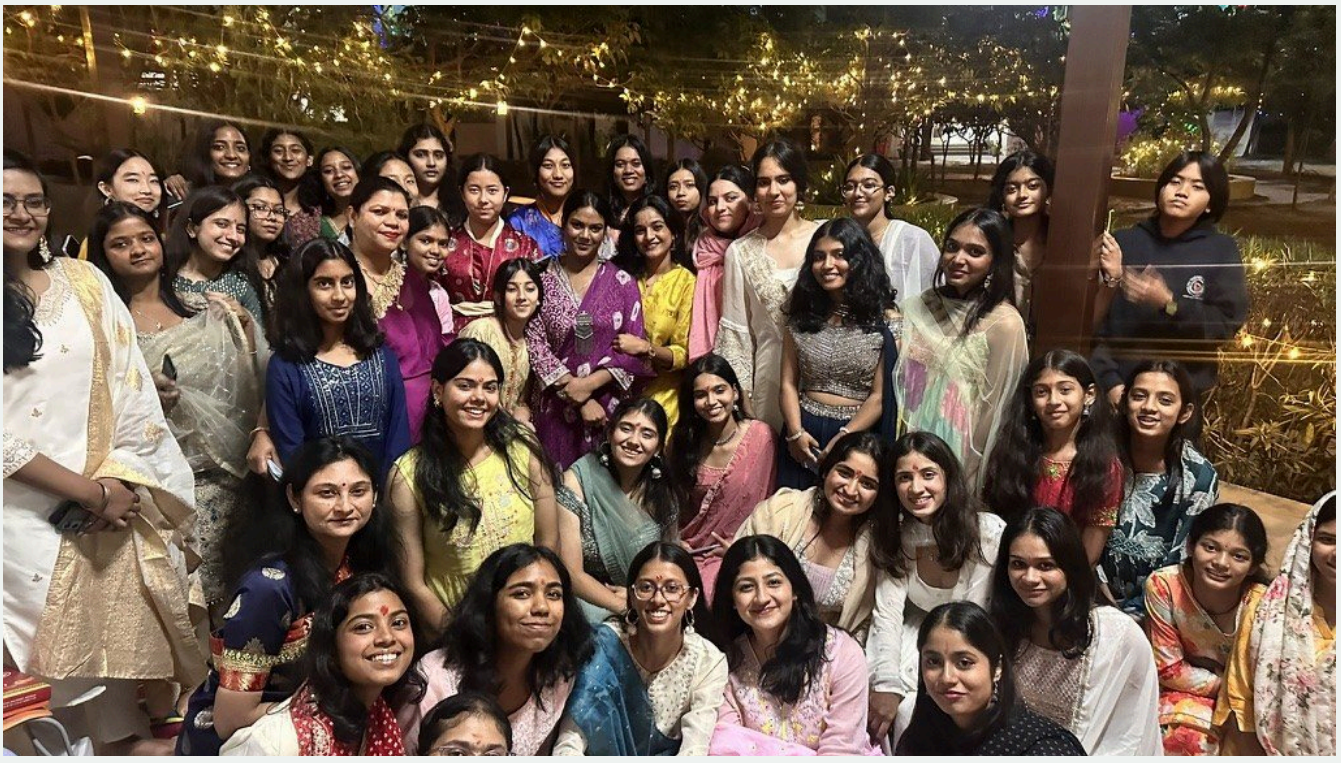
The Feeling of Belonging

The first thing I miss from home is the feeling of belonging. When I go back into my thoughts, I bring back memories of tenderness: my mother, who used to cherish me while she cooked, and my grandmother, who used to stop me from doing all sorts of unnecessary things.

I miss the idli sambhar my mother used to make, playing cards with my father and fighting with my elder brother. I miss the long drives my family and I used to take on Saturday nights to eat ice cream. I miss my friends, who used to support me all the time, and the all-nighters my cousin sister and I used to pull just to watch new movies.

In the end, I do miss my home, but I enjoy being here equally, and now I don't miss home as much.

Nandini Agarwal · Grade IX-A



A festive evening on campus.

A FESTIVAL I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE VANTAGE HALL

Nine Nights of Navratri

Before I came to Vantage Hall, I never knew what the Navratri festival was. When I came to this school, I got to know about many festivals, and one of the main ones was Navratri.

Navratri is a nine-day festival that tells us about the importance of girl power. Each day tells a different story about a form of the goddess, yet together they remain one single power.

Getting through those nine days was very difficult for me, because it meant not having non-veg for nine days!

Phanwarot Phinpho · Grade VIII

The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil and honours the divine feminine power, also known as Shakti. During these nine days, devotees worship the nine forms of Goddess Durga, together known as the Navdurga.

Navratri teaches us the values of faith, courage, strength, devotion and positivity. It reminds us that no matter how powerful evil may appear, truth and goodness will always win. It is a beautiful celebration of Indian culture and tradition.

"No matter how powerful evil may appear, truth and goodness will always win."





Dussehra night on campus. Right: two Falcons in their traditional dress, the same evening.

WHAT I HAVE TAUGHT MY FRIENDS ABOUT WHERE I COME FROM

Kuwait Is Not Just Sand

People often ask us where we come from, but rarely do they ask what that place has taught us. Being an NRI, coming from thousands of miles away and living in India, has taught me a lot and let me experience a lot. Kuwait has its own traditions, cultures and festivals, and India feels like having a festival every day.

What I have taught my friends about where I come from is that Kuwait is not mostly sand and deserts. It has a diverse culture, many kinds of food and, most importantly, its historic attractions.

I have also taught them that even though we are from different places, that doesn't divide us. In fact, we learn more about different countries, explore more and understand other people's perspectives, which makes us rich in diversity.

Since my friends are from different places, we talk about all sorts of things. I tell them how different schooling is in Kuwait, the kinds of sports we play, and how differently Kuwait is governed, since it is a monarchy. I also tell them that you are not allowed to buy a house there if you are of a different nationality, which is quite shocking if you think about it.

I hope we get to share more about different places, learn about cultures and, most importantly, respect them and their languages.

Nanditha Raju · Grade IX-A

A FRIENDSHIP I WOULD NEVER HAVE HAD AT HOME

Vani

Sometimes life gives us people we never knew we needed, and for me that person is Vani. What began as an ordinary friendship in Grade 7 slowly became one of the most precious parts of my life. Little did I know that a clueless girl I met in the school's admin office would become my partner in laughter, keeper of my secrets, her unpaid therapist and a constant source of joy!

Over the years, we have collected countless memories: endless conversations, ridiculous arguments, uncontrollable laughter and moments that would probably make no sense to anyone else. Somewhere along the way she became more than a friend. She became a home away from home, offering the kind of warmth, understanding and companionship I never knew I was missing.

Now, in Grade 11, she has moved to a different school, but apparently changing schools hasn't spared her from my endless updates. Distance has changed our daily routines, not our bond.

Sometimes I wonder: had I never joined Vantage Hall, would I ever have met her? Perhaps not. And that is what makes me grateful. Of all the things Vantage Hall has given me, meeting Vani is undoubtedly my favourite.

Anokhi · Grade XI, Humanities

Hello, and *Thank You*

Two words in the languages of our corridors, each in its own script. Learn one a week, and try it at dinner. India's Constitution lists 22 languages, and the 2011 Census recorded more than 19,500 mother tongues.

नमस्ते Namaste धन्यवाद Dhanyavaad HINDI	নমস্কার Nomoshkar ধন্যবাদ Dhonnobad BENGALI	வணக்கம் Vanakkam நன்றி Nandri TAMIL	నమస్కారం Namaskaram ధన్యవాదాలు Dhanyavaadaalu TELUGU
ನಮಸ್ಕಾರ Namaskaara ಧನ್ಯವಾದಗಳು Dhanyavaadagalu KANNADA	നമസ്കാരം Namaskaram നന്ദി Nanni MALAYALAM	નમસ્તે Namaste આભાર Aabhaar GUJARATI	नमस्कार Namaskaar धन्यवाद Dhanyavaad MARATHI
ਸਤ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ Sat Sri Akal ਧੰਨਵਾਦ Dhannvaad PUNJABI	آداب Aadaab شکریہ Shukriya URDU	ନମସ୍କାର Namaskaar ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ Dhanyabaad ODIA	নমস্কাৰ Nomoskar ধন্যবাদ Dhonyobad ASSAMESE
नमस्ते Namaste धन्यवाद Dhanyabaad NEPALI	सेमन्या Semanya धन्बाद Dhanbaad GARHWALI	السلام علیکم Assalam-o-alaikum مہربانی Meharbaeni KASHMIRI	ꯈꯨꯔꯨꯃꯖꯤ Khurumjari ꯊꯥꯒꯠꯆꯔꯤ Thagatchari MANIPURI

OUR STATES · 2 OF 3

Voices Across Time

Three speeches and a poem on living together



VOICES ACROSS TIME · 1 OF 4

“Sisters and Brothers of America”

Swami Vivekananda
World's Parliament of Religions, Chicago
11 September 1893

THE MOMENT

A thirty-year-old monk from India, little known outside it, rose to address delegates of the world's faiths in Chicago. His opening words drew a standing ovation that went on for minutes.

His theme was not one religion's superiority but the acceptance of all — a message rooted in India's long experience of many faiths living side by side.

WHY IT STILL MATTERS

The day he spoke, 11 September, would later take on a very different meaning. His answer to fanaticism remains the same answer we need now.

FROM THE ADDRESS

I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth.

As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea, so, O Lord, the different paths which men take through different tendencies, various though they appear, crooked or straight, all lead to Thee.

Sectarianism, bigotry, and its horrible descendant, fanaticism, have long possessed this beautiful earth. … But their time is come; and I fervently hope that the bell that tolled this morning in honour of this convention may be the death-knell of all fanaticism, of all persecutions with the sword or with the pen, and of all uncharitable feelings between persons wending their way to the same goal.

“Our Composite Nationality”

Frederick Douglass
Boston, Massachusetts
December 1869

THE MOMENT

Born into slavery, Douglass escaped and became the most famous abolitionist and orator of his age. Four years after the Civil War, America was arguing over whether to welcome immigrants from China.

Douglass, who had every reason to speak only for his own people, chose to speak for everyone — arguing that a nation built from many peoples was not a problem to be managed but a promise to be kept.

WHY IT STILL MATTERS

His case was moral and practical at once: welcoming others was right, and it made the whole nation stronger.

FROM THE LECTURE

Our geographical position, our relation to the outside world, our fundamental principles of Government, world embracing in their scope and character, our vast resources, requiring all manner of labor to develop them, and our already existing composition of population, all conspire to one grand end, and that is to make us the most perfect national illustration of the unity and dignity of the human family that the world has ever seen.

I want a home here not only for the negro, the mulatto and the Latin races; but I want the Asiatic to find a home here in the United States, and feel at home here, both for his sake and for ours.

Douglass used the vocabulary of his century; we print his words as he spoke them.

VOICES ACROSS TIME · 3 OF 4

“Safe for Diversity”

John F. Kennedy
Commencement address, American University, Washington, D.C.
10 June 1963

Eight months after the Cuban Missile Crisis brought the world close to nuclear war, the US President asked Americans to rethink their view of the Soviet Union. Within weeks, talks began that led to the Partial Test Ban Treaty.

So, let us not be blind to our differences—but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.

VOICES ACROSS TIME · 4 OF 4

Where the Mind Is Without Fear

Rabindranath Tagore · *Gitanjali*, poem 35 · English edition, 1912

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action—
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

LISTEN FURTHER

Three more speeches worth finding and hearing in full — recordings are freely available to listen to.

Martin Luther King Jr., “I Have a Dream” · Washington, D.C., 1963. A dream of children judged by character, not colour.

Nelson Mandela, Inaugural address · Pretoria, 1994. A new South Africa promised as a nation at peace with itself.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Danger of a Single Story” · TED, 2009. How one story about a people becomes the only story.

OUR STATES · 3 OF 3

Living Together

A short history, the world's celebrations and our year of festivals



A Short History of *Living Together*

Humanity has always been diverse. What has changed, slowly and unevenly, is how deliberately we have chosen to honour it.

c. 250 BCE — **Ashoka's Rock Edict XII**
The emperor urges his subjects to honour other sects, warning that those who praise their own faith by disparaging others only harm their own.

1100s–1200s — **The translators of Toledo**
In Spain, scholars working across Arabic, Hebrew and Latin translated works of science and philosophy that helped feed Europe's later revival of learning.

1575 — **Akbar's Ibadat Khana**
At Fatehpur Sikri the Mughal emperor builds a hall for debate; by 1580 it hosts Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Zoroastrian and Christian scholars, shaping his policy of *sulh-i-kul*, peace with all.

1782 — **E pluribus unum**
“Out of many, one” is placed on the Great Seal of the young United States.

1948 — **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**
Article 2 declares that rights belong to everyone, without distinction of race, colour, sex, language, religion or origin.

1950 — **The Constitution of India**
Equality before the law, freedom of religion, and protection for the languages and cultures of minorities become part of the founding law of the world's most diverse democracy.

1971 — **Canada chooses multiculturalism**
Canada becomes the first country to adopt multiculturalism as official policy, later written into law in 1988.

1996 — **South Africa's new constitution**
After apartheid, the “Rainbow Nation” recognises eleven official languages and forbids discrimination on a long list of grounds.

2001 — **UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity**
Adopted after the September 11 attacks, it holds that cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature.

How the World *Celebrates*

Many countries set aside time to honour the mix of peoples that makes them who they are. A few traditions worth knowing — and borrowing.

INDIA

Unity in Diversity

Diwali, Eid, Christmas, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Onam and Bihu are celebrated far beyond the communities they began in. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, 31 October, marks Sardar Patel's birth anniversary and the work of uniting the nation.

SINGAPORE

Racial Harmony Day

Every 21 July since 1997, schools mark the anniversary of the 1964 race riots. Students wear the traditional dress of other communities and share their food and games.

CANADA

Multiculturalism Day

27 June celebrates a country where roughly one in four people was born somewhere else, and where multiculturalism is written into law.

SOUTH AFRICA

Heritage Day

On 24 September South Africans celebrate the cultures, languages and traditions of every community in the “Rainbow Nation” — often around a shared barbecue, or braai.

AUSTRALIA

Harmony Week

Held around 21 March, it celebrates belonging for everyone. Its colour is orange, the colour of social communication and meaningful conversation.

NEW ZEALAND

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Māori Language Week, held since 1975, invites every New Zealander to use and value the country's first language.

A CALENDAR OF TOGETHERNESS

21 MARCH	21 MAY	27 JUNE	21 JULY	31 OCTOBER
UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	UN World Day for Cultural Diversity	Canadian Multiculturalism Day	Racial Harmony Day, Singapore	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, India

A Year of *Festivals*

Somewhere in India, someone is celebrating every month of the year. A few of the festivals that fill our calendar; the photos show how we marked some of them at Vantage Hall.

January



Lohri
Punjab

Pongal · Makar Sankranti
Tamil Nadu · across India

Magh Bihu
Assam

February

Basant Panchami
North and East India

Losar
Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal · Feb–Mar

March



Holi
Across India

Navroz
Parsi community · 21 March

Ugadi · Gudi Padwa
The Deccan · Mar–Apr

April

Baisakhi
Punjab

Bohag Bihu · Vishu · Puthandu
Assam · Kerala · Tamil Nadu

Easter · Mahavir Jayanti
Mar–Apr

May

Buddha Purnima
Across India

June

Rath Yatra
Odisha · Jun–Jul

Hemis Festival
Ladakh · Jun–Jul

July

Behdienkhlam
Meghalaya

Teej
Rajasthan and the North · Jul–Aug

August

Raksha Bandhan
Across India

Janmashtami
Across India · Aug–Sep

September

Onam
Kerala · Aug–Sep

Ganesh Chaturthi
Maharashtra and beyond

Paryushana · Nuakhai
Jain community · Odisha

October



Navratri · Durga Puja
Gujarat · Bengal

Bathukamma · Dussehra
Telangana · across India

November



Diwali
Across India · Oct–Nov

Chhath · Guru Nanak Jayanti
Bihar · Sikh community

Wangala
Meghalaya

December



Hornbill Festival
Nagaland · 1–10 Dec

Christmas
Across India

Losoong
Sikkim

Moving through the year

Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha and Muharram follow the Islamic lunar calendar and arrive about eleven days earlier each year. Many Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and Jain festivals follow lunar calendars too, so their months shift.

The Dining Hall *Atlas*

Every boarder knows the taste of a dish she can't get here. Two Falcons, from opposite corners of the country, share the one they miss most.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Junnu



WHY I MISS IT

Junnu is a sweet dish from Andhra Pradesh, and it is rarely found in North India. I have to wait five months straight just to go back to my hometown and have it.

WHAT IT IS

A traditional milk pudding, known as Kharvas in Maharashtra. It is made from colostrum, the first milk of a cow or buffalo after giving birth, and sweetened with jaggery. It is soft and jelly-like, with a sweet, milky taste.

HOW IT IS MADE

1. Prepare the milk and jaggery mixture.
2. Add flavouring to bring out the taste.
3. Steam the mixture until it sets.
4. Let it cool, then serve.

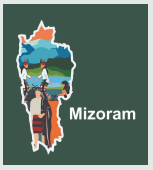
Colostrum is valued for its nutrition, but it must always be properly heat-treated before eating.

Junnu is more than a sweet dish. Its texture, natural richness and simple preparation make it a delicacy many families love.

Bhimavarapu Jaasvi · Grade VIII

MIZORAM

Bai



WHY I MISS IT

Bai is one of the traditional dishes of Mizoram, simple yet full of flavour. It is more than an ordinary meal to me: it reminds me of home, family and the flavours I grew up with. Different foods are available everywhere, but the taste of traditional Mizo food is hard to replace. I love it with steamed rice.

YOU WILL NEED

- Mustard leaves or other leafy greens
- Fresh beans, potatoes, pumpkin
- Green chillies, garlic, ginger
- Salt and a small pinch of baking soda

METHOD

1. Wash all the vegetables well and cut them into small pieces.
2. Put them in a pot with some water.
3. Add chopped ginger, garlic and green chillies.
4. Add a little salt and a small pinch of baking soda.
5. Boil until the vegetables are soft, stirring so they cook evenly.

Kimi · Grade X

How Well Do You *Know India?*

Ten questions. Try them with your roommate, then turn the page upside down.



HALLOWEEN NIGHT · CAN YOU TELL WHO'S WHO?

1 How many languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?

a) 14 · b) 18 · c) 22 · d) 28

2 Which was the first state formed on linguistic lines, in 1953?

a) Andhra · b) Gujarat · c) Kerala · d) Punjab

3 The Hornbill Festival is celebrated in which state?

a) Mizoram · b) Nagaland · c) Sikkim · d) Tripura

4 Konkani is an official language of which state?

a) Goa · b) Karnataka · c) Kerala · d) Odisha

5 What does "Navroz", the Parsi new year, mean?

a) Bright fire · b) New day · c) First rain · d) Spring flower

6 The language panel on an Indian banknote shows the value in how many languages?

a) 5 · b) 10 · c) 15 · d) 22

7 Which classical dance form shares its name with a state?

a) Kathak · b) Manipuri · c) Bharatanatyam · d) Kuchipudi

8 Losar marks the new year for which communities?

a) Tibetan Buddhist · b) Parsi · c) Jain · d) Syrian Christian

9 Chilli, potato and tomato reached India from which part of the world?

a) Africa · b) The Americas · c) China · d) Persia

10 The Triveni Sangam, where the Ganga and Yamuna meet, is in which city?

a) Haridwar · b) Prayagraj · c) Rishikesh · d) Varanasi

ANSWERS

1 c — 22 languages · 2 a — Andhra State, 1953 · 3 b — Nagaland, every December · 4 a — Goa · 5 b — "new day" in Persian · 6 c — 15 on the panel, plus Hindi and English on the front · 7 b — Manipuri · 8 a — Tibetan Buddhist communities of Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal and beyond · 9 b — the Americas, through sixteenth-century traders · 10 b — Prayagraj

Read, Watch, *Think*

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Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie · TED, 2009
Under twenty minutes, and every student should watch it once.

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UNESCO · 2001
The world's statement of why cultures matter — free to read online.

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FALCONS AROUND THE BONFIRE

"As the different streams having their sources in different places all mingle their water in the sea…"

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA · CHICAGO, 1893

Sangam संगम

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