

## Students of JSS PS gain understanding about Van Mahotsav through their participation at IHS

JSS PS was unusually silent when we arrived. Everything was set for us to leave. We students had come in our best attire and were rather excited to see the much-appreciated school.

When all four of us had arrived, we were rushed into a school van along with the escorting teacher Mrs. Shanthi. And so, we set out on our little trip to Indian High School. On arriving, the sights we saw left us spell-bound. 'Chhatris' of the type that were used by the rajas of olden times were held up by staff and students dressed in the colourful traditional wear. It was a splendid way to begin Van Mahotsav.

An escort met us at the gate and led us further into the school where we witnessed the music band and a group of Bharatanatyam dancers. Once we reached this point, two of us were invited to take part in the planting of the trees while our teacher and the other students made their way to the auditorium.

The two of us were each positioned next to a sapling. Each of us was also accompanied by two representatives of the school. There were also ambassadors from other schools. The students from IHS were extremely friendly and helped us gain a deep understanding about the significance of Van Mahotsav. As one, the row of students started to plant the saplings. The chief guests arrived to the sound of trumpets and drums and the sight of spectacular dancing.



Post this, we guests were escorted into the auditorium, where our respective schools were seated. We took our places in comfy seats in the enormous amphitheatre. The chief guests then entered, and were welcomed with a round of smattering applause. We stood straight as the UAE national anthem played, and then we were seated again.

A student-anchor began the assembly by introducing the chief guests on stage. First, His Excellency Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyouidi, the Minister of Climate Change and Environment was honoured in the traditional Indian way with a shawl. They were also gifted with 'Sansevieria Trifasciata Zeylanica', an air-purifying plant that produces oxygen twenty-four hours a day. The Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the KHDA, Dr. Abdulla Al Karam and the Consul General of India in Dubai, Mr. Vipul were also honored in a similar way.



The anchor then requested each of the members on stage including the officials of IHS to speak a few words. We were all enlightened on the contributions of both India and UAE towards the environment as well as the growing friendship between the two countries. 'Urban Foresting' was the main topic discussed. The dignitaries then went on to capture the moment with the entire auditorium in photographs. The school thanked them for taking time to attend the meeting, and the assembly dispersed. We were taken for a short tour around the area of the school where urban paving was taking place, before we had to say our goodbyes.



All of us were grateful to have been a part of this programme and returned their effort with heart-felt thank-yous. It was a wonderful experience and some day, I hope that our school too, will be the host of such an event.

- Madhumitha Balamurugan  
9D