

# The Comet – I Class 8 Important Questions and Answers

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## 1. What importance did the telescope have in the life of Duttada?

**Answer:** The telescope marked the fulfillment of the ambition of a lifetime for Duttada?

## 2. Which paper carried out the news of Duttada's discovery?

**Answer:** "Anand Bazaar Patrika" came out with the news of Duttada's discovery of a new comet.

## 3. How did Johnson reached Whitehall so soon?

**Answer:** Johnson's Ford Cortina brought them to Whitehall in less than 90 minutes.

## 4. What did Duttada call his telescope?

**Answer:** Dutta called his telescope Dibya Chakshu.

## 5. What did Indrani called Duttada's telescope and why?

**Answer:** Indrani called telescope Dibya because she thought that telescope was like a designing woman who had ensnared her husband.

## 6. Describe a comet as explained in the story.

**Answer:** Comets are heavenly bodies that orbit round the sun. They have longish tail brilliantly lit by sunlight.

## 7. Why do professionals miss to discover new comets according to Duttada?

**Answer:** Professionals miss to discover new comets because they have pre-assigned programmes of looking at faint star and nebulous galaxies. They miss such insignificant things as comets.

## 8. What did Duttada do to confirm his discovery?

**Answer:** Duttada re-examined his charts, checked his Dibya for any smudges on optics, did some calculation etc. to confirm his discovery.

## 9. Why was the comet called 'Comet Dutta'?

**Answer:** The comet was called 'Comet Dutta' according to the accepted practice. The new comet was named after its discoverer.

## 10. What is the important point discussed in James' paper?

**Answer:** Important point discussed in James' paper was that the new comet would collide with the Earth. It was inevitable.

**11. How did Sir John get hold of James's original manuscript?**

**Answer:** Sir John got hold of the original manuscript of James as he obtained it from Taylor, the Editor of "Nature" who was his friend. James had given the manuscript to "Nature" to publish it without delay being important.

**12. What is the important point the paper makes?**

**Answer:** The important point which the paper made was the possibility of comet Dutta colliding with the Earth or with some asteroid before reaching down.

**13. Why does Sir John say that James's paper should not be published?**

**Answer:** Sir John was not in favour of James's paper to be published because it might raise controversies and panic among masses.

**14. What the two men finally decide to do?**

**Answer:** The two men finally decided to plan an important secret conference of international experts.

**15. What did Indrani Debi think about Duttada's telescope?**

**Answer:** Indrani Debi thought that Duttada's telescope was like a designing woman who had ensnared her husband. She used to call it Dibya.

**16. What news was published in the Ananda Bazaar Patrika two days later?**

**Answer:** The news was Calcutta Man Discovers New Comet Shri Manoj Dutta, a resident on the northern outskirts of Calcutta has claimed to have discovered a new comet. He has seen the comet on the last two nights and has informed the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) at Bangalore of its whereabouts.

**17. What did the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) do after getting the information about the discovery of the new comet?**

**Answer:** The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) confirmed the findings and communicated it worldwide. It named the new comet after its discoverer.

**18. How did Duttada take his publicity?**

**Answer:** Duttada was not happy with his publicity. Being an introvert, he didn't like attending numerous receptions and functions organised in his honour. He got so fed up that he began to think that he had not discovered the comet.

**19. How can you say that Indrani Debi was a superstitious lady?**

**Answer:** Indrani Debi was an educated woman but at the same time she was superstitious also. She didn't welcome the discovery of the new comet. She thought that it would bring calamities on her family as well as on the entire earth.

### **Long Answer Type Questions**

#### **1. What was Duttada's hobby and secret ambition? How did he succeed in his adventure?**

**Answer:** Duttada was an amateur astronomer. Star gazing was his hobby. But he had a scientific attitude. His secret ambition in life was to discover a comet or a shooting star. After his retirement he got the funds to buy a telescope and leisure enough to watch the stars. He named his eight-inch telescope Dibya-chakshu. He was successful in search. He discovered a comet heading towards the earth. It was called Dutta comet.

The news spread world over. James Forsyth predicted that the comet would collide with the earth and destroy it. Dutta's wife, Indrani Debi, was afraid that the comet would cause ruin. She arranged a Yajna to pacify the evil spirit behind the comet. But the world scientists prepared a plan to make a nuclear explosion and deflect the comet from its path. The operation was named Project Light Brigade. It was successful. The world was saved. But Indrani Debi gave all credit to the holy yajna she got performed.

#### **2. How does the new comet create a commotion in the world? How was the disaster averted at last?**

**Answer:** Duttada took up star gazing as a hobby. His secret ambition was to discover a new comet. He used a small telescope and discovered a comet heading towards the earth. James Forsyth calculated that the comet would hit the earth in ten months. Comet Dutta created a commotion and panic among the scientists. Sir John Macpherson prepared a secret plan to give a push to the deadly comet. It was called Project Light Brigade. The operation was successful and the disaster was averted. But Duttada's wife attributed the safety of the earth to the yajna she had performed.

#### **3. Bring out the difference in outlook of Duttada and his wife in respect of the new comet. Who do you think deserves the crown of victory?**

**Answer:** Duttada was an amateur scientist. Star gazing was his hobby. His secret ambition was to discover a new comet. He pursued his hobby firmly. He discovered a comet, heading towards the earth. He knew it could hit and destroy the earth. But the crisis could be averted by exploding a nuclear payload near the comet. This was a sensible and scientific approach. But his wife, Indrani Debi, was a superstitious woman. She went by what the priests said. To avert the ill-effect of the discovery, she organised a yajna. In the end she gave all credit for the safety of the earth to the yajna.

#### **4. What were James Forsyth's predictions? What did he mean by rare circumstances?**

**Answer:** James Forsyth predicted that the effect of the collision between the comet and the earth would be terrific. Their assessment was based on the calculations. The collision was unavoidable unless the comet split up near the sun and disappeared. Or it might collide with some other comet before reaching the earth. Otherwise, the comet would take ten months to hit the earth. These were the two rare circumstances.

**5. Explain the point which Duttada gave in favour of the arrival/sight of comets?**

**Answer:** Duttada cited some points in favour of the arrival of comets such as:

- There is no co-relation whatsoever with the arrival of a comet and the calamities on the earth.
- Comets have nothing harmful about them. They can pass harmlessly by causing no anxiety to anybody.