



Unit 5 Prose



Water – The Elixir of Life

Sir C.V. Raman

Warm up

- ▲ Do you think the living organisms in this planet can survive without water? Why?
- ▲ Where do you get your drinking water from?
- ▲ Is the drinking water you use in your home treated?
- ▲ If not, how do you purify it?



Now read the lesson "**Water–The Elixir of Life**", on the importance of water, an important natural resource.

Man has through the ages sought in vain for an imaginary **elixir** of life, the divine Amrita, a draught of which was thought to confer immortality. But the true elixir of life lies near our hands; for it is the commonest of all liquids, plain water! I remember one day standing on the line which separates the Libyan Desert from the Valley of the Nile in Egypt.



Edge of Libyan desert, west bank of Nile

On one side was visible a sea of **billowing** sand without a speck of green or a single living thing anywhere on it. On the other side lay one of the greatest, most fertile and densely populated areas



Pyramids at Giza, Egypt, along the Nile River.

to be found anywhere on the earth, **teeming** with life and vegetation. What made this wonderful difference? Why, it is the water of the river Nile flowing down to the Mediterranean from its sources a couple of thousands of miles away. Geologists tell us that the entire soil of the Nile valley is the creation of the river itself, brought down as the finest silt in