

SCHOOL LIVE

VOLUME 07 | ISSUE 03
SEPTEMBER 2023

Monthly
₹160



Siraj Wrecks Sri Lanka In Asia Cup

India Regains # 1 ICC Slots

Asian Games Kick Off !

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ed-note

inside



The season is a journalist's delight. Every medium has broken into a frenzy, reporting on G-20, Chandrayaan, Aditya-1, and ofcourse, Chess and Tennis. Cricket ODI is the proverbial icing on the cake.

It appears that the country is getting recognition on the global stage like never before. There is excitement in the air. A new found energy is all pervading. It is that part of the year when the festive season too, lifts up the spirits.

The raging debate on the country's name, to say the least, is entertaining ! Some of the remarks coming from people who have found fame somehow, make a perfect script for a comic book ! But then, it takes all kinds of people to make this world.

School LIVE is moving steadily ahead like the Chandrayaan on the prescribed course. As more and more schools from all over India get added to its school-pool, the responsibility also gets bigger.

And yes, we must acknowledge with gratitude, the appreciation we have garnered from students, parents and teachers alike. The credit goes equally to them in the making of this amazing medium that connects us.

What you have in hand is the 62nd issue of the School LIVE magazine.

Happy Reading !
Hariharan Balagopal

- **Highlight**
Mohammed Siraj rips through the Sri Lanka Batting lineup with his record haul.
- **Center Page**
New comic series full of adventure and excitement ! Not to be missed !
- **Mythology**
Lord Ganesha rules the season, and celebrations of his birth transcends regions.
- **India That Is Bharat...**
Against the backdrop of noise over the use of the term Bharat in G20 Official invite, we list out Bharat Ratna Awardees in this issue.
- **Pragyan's Moonwalk**
The Pragyan rover has started sharing data from the moon and is likely to wake up from its slumber to resume its job soon... one hopes...
- **Spot Light**
Asian Games in Hangzhou, China has gathered pace – the complete schedule at a glance.
- **Inventions**
Let's attempt to decipher how coding has always influenced the World.
- **Animal Cacaphony !**
The sounds these amazing creatures make will shock you out of your wits !
- **School In Focus**
Sapphire International School, Noida

**School Live has something for everyone.
Share with your friends and relatives !**

School Live publishes articles from different authors on its panel. The views and opinions expressed therein are the authors' own and School Live does not endorse any product, idea, opinion or service that may be an inherent part of any article.



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SCHOOL LIVE - THE ONLY COMPLETE EDUTAINMENT MONTHLY FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS



**Ms. Meenu Goswami, Principal
Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura**

Times are continuously changing. Knowledge and information have become two different aspects of academic thinking, delivery and implementation. While digital learning and artificial intelligence have taken roots for good, print too, is holding its ground firmly in knowledge transfer. The resurgent growth of books and journals in these post-covid times is heartening, and a peaceful co-existence, with digital media complementing other media is in sight. Right to Speech and Right to Expression, with exponential growth in opportunity and platforms, transcend barriers and limitations that existed in the previous decades. Content however, continues to rule, with increased choices for the consumer, to see, compare, analyse and select.

While on analysis; the academic, social and economic perspective on the success of Chandrayaan-3 in this issue of School Live is highly pertinent and thought-provoking.

While the world celebrates its first sight of the Lunar South Pole, does it hold the same meaning and implication for people from all walks of life, is a point to ponder over.

And Cheers for Chess! The cerebral sport that has always done India proud, even when it was known only as Bharat, has found its way to the Asian Games event in Hangzhou China, after a hiatus of 13 years. The world crown seems quite within reach now, with young Indian teenage grandmasters ready to carry forward the legacy of Viswanathan Anand.

Relevant is the pride of place accorded to September-born Bharat Ratna awardees in these leaves, as the month sees the celebration of Teacher's Day and Engineer's Day all over the country. That M.S. Subbulakshmi and Bhupen Hazarika too figure in, can only be music to the ears ! The round-up of recent headlines is also highly relevant information at a glance and a good feature to get added. If insight on Austria is any indication, we will get to see the world in the forthcoming issues.

This issue of School Live is loaded with content, for readers of all ages. The new comic series commencing with this issue is something to look forward to every month. G-20 and the Space Odysseys continue to make headlines. Festival season ushers in joy and hope for all ; and the warm weather and rains relenting, add to it.

The wonderful world of animals never fails to intrigue. Animal lovers have a treat in this issue too, like the ones before.

Like always, School Live lives up to its name, and brings lively topics to the fore, while keeping alive what is traditionally ours. The magazine lover is justified in revisiting and reading these pages again, again and again !

Meenu Goswami

TRANSFORMATION IN THE REALM OF EDUCATION

Billowed by the flattening winds of a technological revolution and the destructive advent of a deadly virus that have in their passing, imperiously cast aside the carefully structured edifice of schooling that has left education today in the throes of a struggle to re-invent itself. It is not in the field of education alone, but it has forced all and sundry relevant to this realm, to dig deep into their repository of wisdom to come up with a pragmatic model or standard or philosophy to not just overcome the immediate turmoil that has hit this segment, but to build up the fundamentals for the future, which will hopefully be proof against any turbulence that may just come visiting.

The school today is no longer the place where you go to garner only knowledge and in the fast changing dynamics of an increasingly demanding world, the child is now sought to be so trained that, she is not only well entrenched in the given scholarly pursuit, but is also empowered to meet the taxing requirements of the days ahead by getting her to be adept enough to meet the challenges of the new century. To get her equipped with what is rather interestingly called 21st century skills.

These skills, namely critical thinking, communication and technological proficiency, broadly following the new education policy, should be included in the

curriculum in a way that optimizes the academic and coping and survival skills of a student to withstand the uncertainties of the times and to prepare her for the future. In other words the holistic development of the child.

Easier said than done ?

True, it is a Herculean task. But is it not the responsibility of the government and the purveyors of private education to cater to the exacting demands of an ecosystem that requires constant monitoring and develop a level of preparedness to counter what might be termed, to put it very mildly, an unpredictable future ? To do not only just that, but to even imbibe in the student the mental wherewithal to revel in the challenges that the times may bring in. And to help bring out the best in her.

The bare minimum that may be essential to meet these ends is the setting up of digital infrastructure, re-drawing a syllabus that is more pragmatic and relevant to the times and the last but not the least is the continuous and periodic training of the teachers.

The training of teachers and empowering them with the relevant technology is a cardinal feature in preparing the grounds to meet the challenges that face the education sector. Technology that will also matter in remediation,



communication and data based decision making. The only objective - to provide quality and pertinent education.

Equity in education is indeed a value that is worthy aspiring for. It is a given that in 2019 that only 22% of schools had internet connectivity. Broad band penetration being abysmally low in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas. Not only is 100% required in both segments, the last mile connectivity has to be ensured in every school in villages and towns. Care being taken that the right equipment is made available and the speed, band width and reliability of internet connection is consistently good.

If education today is going to be a constant preparation for the future, it goes without saying that technology

will definitely play an epoch making role. And equity that should be the Holy Grail of education, especially in a country like ours, can be ushered in by 'digital democracy'. An expression that has to be the rage in the realm of education, digital democracy, will make its mark on the individual, society, and the country and the world at large. Digital democracy would mean digital access to the last child in the last line. If it fails to meet this obviously daunting task it would simply degenerate into yet another exercise in futility.

Change, they say is the only constant and this drastic change in education can, everything else being equal, only lead to a better and a more educated and enlightened world.

The Magical Ganesha

Mythology has it that this happened long, long ago when Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi set up abode in the cold climes of the Kailash Parvat.

This is the story of Lord Ganesha, the elephant headed God, primarily worshipped as the remover of obstacles, be it small or elephantine in nature.

One day when Shiva had gone out on some Godly purpose, Parvathi decided to take her ritual bath.

As she did not want to be disturbed by anyone, she asked Nandi, the bull to stand guard at the door and not to allow anyone inside. But it so happened that Shiva had done with his Godly duties a bit sooner than expected and reached home early. He was a bit surprised to see Nandi guarding the door. Well, Nandi the bull being more loyal to his master, allowed him inside.

On hearing this Parvathi flew into a rage and she immediately got down to creating a boy with the sandal and turmeric paste on her body and named him Ganesha.

As things would have it, the next day also Shiva was called upon to do work that was assigned to his divine office and he went off to attend to them. With time on her hands, Parvathi decided to take a bath and ordered the little boy Ganesha, to guard the door and not to let anyone, inside. Proving that even the fates of Gods are influenced by the unpredictable stars that rule the cosmic world, Shiva came

back early again and found little Ganesha guarding the door. On being asked to be let inside, Ganesha refused him entry and told Shiva that Parvathi had ordered him not to let anyone inside. On hearing this, an irritated Shiva asked his companions

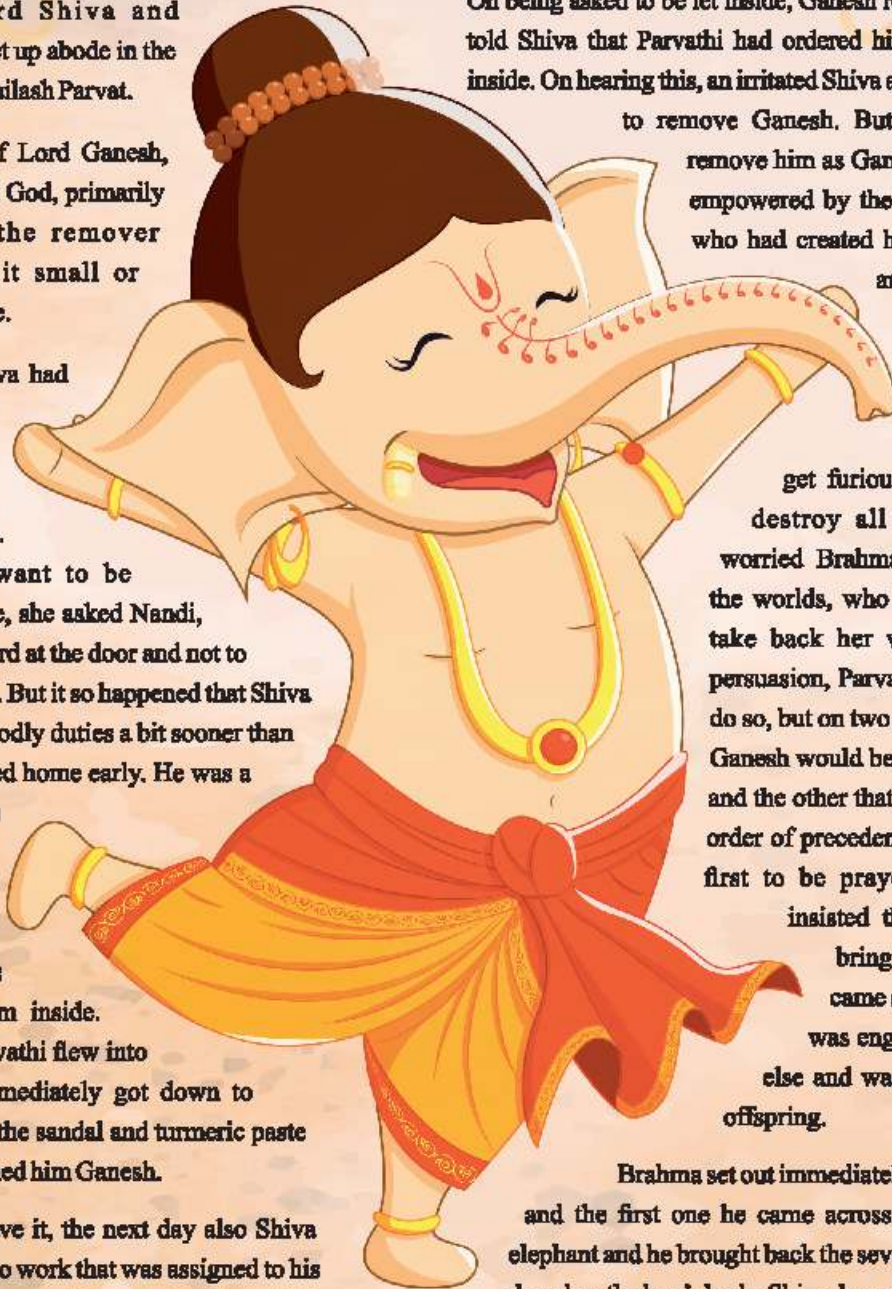
to remove Ganesha. But his men failed to remove him as Ganesha was blessed and empowered by the shakti of Parvathi who had created him. Shiva, quick to anger drew his sword

and cut off Ganesha's head. On hearing of this, it was now Parvathi's turn to

get furious and she swore to destroy all the worlds. This worried Brahma, who had created the worlds, who then begged her to take back her words. After much persuasion, Parvathi finally agreed to do so, but on two conditions. One that Ganesha would be brought back to life and the other that among Gods, in the order of precedence, he would be the first to be prayed to. She further insisted that Brahma was to bring her the first child he came across whose mother was engrossed in something else and was not looking at her offspring.

Brahma set out immediately in search of a child and the first one he came across was the calf of an elephant and he brought back the severed head which was placed on the boy's body. Shiva, by now truly repentant for his actions, breathed life into the body and Ganesha the elephant headed God was born.

Ganesha Chaturthi is a ten day celebration of the birth of Ganesha, the most beloved among Indian Gods.



SCHOOL LIVE Knowledge Hub!



1. To whom is the statement 'Give me the time and I shall conquer the world' attributed to ?
- Napoleon Bonaparte
 - Louis XIV
 - Adolf Hitler
 - Chandragupta Maurya

2. Which country is known as the land of the rising sun ?
- Finland
 - Denmark
 - Japan
 - Korea

3. Name the person who won the first individual Olympic Gold medal for India ?
- Saina Nehwal
 - Sania Mirza
 - Abhinav Bindra
 - P.T. Usha

4. Who invented the atom bomb ?
- Albert Einstein
 - Oppenheimer
 - Louis Pasteur
 - Copernicus

5. In which year was the U.N. established ?
- 1952
 - 1948
 - 1945
 - 1975

6. Which is the language that has the most number of native speakers ?
- Hindi
 - Urdu
 - Mandarin
 - English

7. Which country has won the most number of football world cups ?
- Argentina
 - Brazil
 - England
 - France

8. Who discovered that the Earth revolves around the sun ?
- Plato
 - Galileo Galilei
 - Nicholas Copernicus
 - Johannes Kepler

9. Name the person of Indian origin who became the president of Singapore ?
- Shanmukha Pillai
 - Tharman Shanmugaratnam
 - Kumara Velu
 - P. Chidambaram

10. Who wrote the story Romeo and Juliet ?
- G.B. Shaw
 - Shakespeare
 - Charles Dickens
 - Stephen King

11. What is a group of crows called ?
- Crowd
 - Gang
 - Company
 - Murder

12. When was the first battle of Plassey fought between Robert Clive and Sirajuddaulah ?
- 1846
 - 1757
 - 1737
 - 1784

Answers :
1. Napoleon Bonaparte, 2. Japan, 3. Abhinav Bindra, 4. Oppenheimer,
5. 1945, 6. Mandarin, 7. Brazil, 8. Nicholas Copernicus,
9. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, 10. Shakespeare, 11. A murder, 12. 1757

PRAGYAAN GOES ON A QUEST

CHANDRAYAAN-3's Vikram landed on August 23, the first spacecraft to make a soft landing in the crater-pocked South Pole. While the Apollo missions of the 1960s and 70s landed near the Moon's equator, Vikram successfully touched down about 600 km from the lunar South Pole, closer than any spacecraft has been at this location.

On August 24, the Pragyan rover slid down a ramp from the lander and began exploring the region around the Moon's South Pole. On August 27, Pragyan came across a 4-metre diameter crater when it had moved three metres from the lander. The rover was commanded to retrace its path which it did safely. This was the second crater Pragyan encountered. It successfully negotiated a small crater with a depth of approximately 100-mm earlier. Pragyan also snapped a picture of its mother ship six days later on August 30, which ISRO posted on its Twitter handle with the phrase, 'Smile, please!'

During its lunar sojourn so far, Pragyan has sent back intriguing information. Travelling at around 1cm/second across the dusty surface, the rover has moved several metres away from its mother ship.

The rover's sensors have revealed a sharp drop in temperature beneath the surface. At the surface it measured a temperature of around 50°C, but just 80 mm below this, it fell to -10°C – a temperature difference that has surprised scientists.

Chemical analysis of the lunar soil shows the presence of sulphur, aluminium, calcium, iron, titanium, manganese, chromium and oxygen.

The Moon's axis of rotation is 1.5 degrees compared to Earth's 23.5 degrees. This means some craters at its Poles never see sunlight. Coupled with the freezing temperatures, scientists believe there is an abundance of ice, much of it made of water that is either mixed into the soil or exposed on the surface. There are hopes that the ice could be used as both a resource for astronauts and for future scientific discoveries.

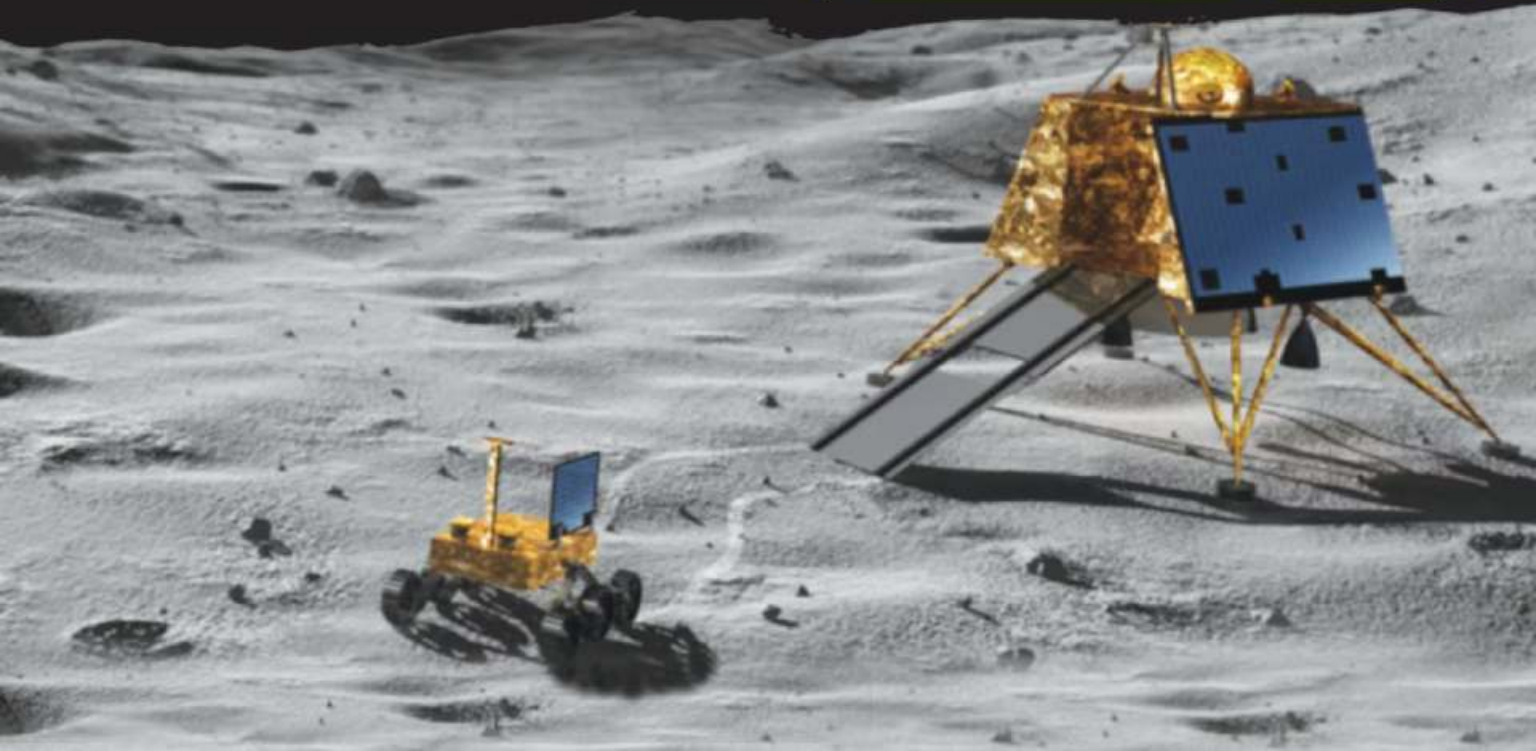
A NASA experiment in October 2009, when an empty rocket was deliberately slammed into a crater at the South Pole, also revealed water ice in the plumes of dust that rose up.

There is higher reflection of light and more hydrogen at the poles, maybe a result of water ice.

If there is plenty of water ice on the moon and it is accessible, it could facilitate human settlements and a chance to further explore the solar system.

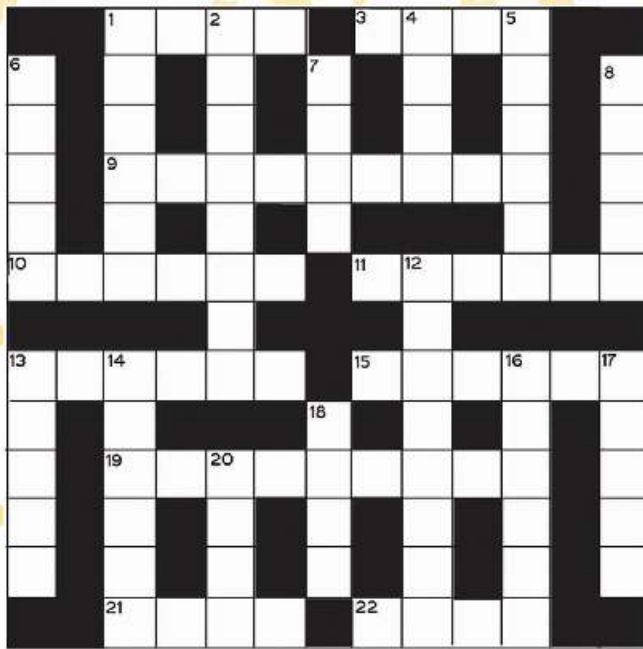
Chandrayaan-4, in collaboration with Japan, and lunar missions launched by other countries, are poised to make more discoveries in the near future.

On September 2, ISRO announced that the Pragyan rover had completed its assignments and been set into sleep mode with its scientific instruments turned off. However, the battery is fully charged. The solar panel is oriented to receive light at the next sunrise expected on September 22, 2023. The receiver has also been kept on.



MIND TICKLE

CROSSWORD



Across:

1. Animal fat used for cooking (4)
3. Heavily polluted mist (4)
9. Different (9)
10. Fold at end of trouser leg (4,2)
11. Nearer (6)
13. Put on more adipose tissue (6)
15. Tolerate (6)
19. Sent as cargo (9)
21. Reverberate (4)
22. A single occasion (4)

Down:

1. One ahead of the rest (6)
2. Console (8)
4. Common Indian bird (4)
5. Bids welcome (6)
6. Lovers' secret meeting (5)
7. Naughty child (4)
8. Disqualify (5)
12. Make longer (8)
13. Absurd event (5)
14. Sticky sweet (6)
16. Bring up to current trends (6)
17. Choose by vote (5)
18. Leer at (4)
20. Engrave (4)

Answers: Across: 1. Land 3. Smog 9. Disparate 10. Turn up 11. Closer 13. Fatten 15. Endure 19. Freight 21. Echo 22. Once Down: 1. Leader 2. Reassure 4. Myna 5. Greets 6. Tryst 7. Brat 8. Debar 12. Lengthen 13. Force 14. Toffee 16. Update 17. Elect 18. Ogle 20. Etch

Learning Through Puzzles

A Floor Index

Kate goes to visit her friends in an apartment building. She first takes the elevator to the 6th floor to Renu's flat. She meets Renu and together they walk down two floors to Sherry's flat. Then the trio take the elevator and pass two floors to meet Sonam. Sonam lives one floor below the top floor.

How many storeys does the building have?



C Quick Think

1. Can you write 4 and 5 together in such a way that 4 is neither to the left nor to the right of 5?
2. A football player scores a goal in the first half and then scores another goal in the second half. Yet, his team loses 4-1. Can you explain?
3. Complete the series:
A 1 E 4 F _____
4. A pilot has to make an emergency landing without using the wheels. The plane lands somehow and no one is injured. How is this possible?
5. The numbers 11, 69 and 88 have something in common. What is it?



B Family Trip

Supriya, Nikhil, Avnish, Nipun and Sunita are travelling to Colmbatore for a wedding.

Supriya is Avnish's mother. Avnish married Sunita two years ago. Nipun and Supriya grew up in Colmbatore where their father worked as a headmaster.

Nikhil is Supriya's husband.

From the above clues, can you figure out how Nikhil is related to Sunita?



- Answers:
- A. 8.
 - B. Nikhil is Sunita's father-in-law.
 - C. 1. FIVE
 2. He scored two own goals i.e. he scored for the opposing team.
 3. 7, H, 11. The alternating letters and numbers consist of only straight lines.
 4. The plane is a seaplane. It does not require wheels to land on water.
 5. They read the same right side up and upside down.



THE GRAND FINALE

The group of twenty, consisting of nineteen countries and the European Union, representing a big consequential chunk of the world economy and a major platform for economic cooperation, culminated in the grand finale of the G20 summit held on the 9th and 10th of September in New Delhi. The summit saw the heads of state of eighteen countries descend on the capital. The exceptions to this being the countries of Russia and China, whose heads of state stayed away, to put it very diplomatically, for Geopolitical reasons. They were represented by their nominees, who came in their stead.

Seen as the crowning glory of India's Presidency of the G20 which it had taken up in the December of 2022, the Summit was globally acclaimed as a resounding success, a very rare instance in the realm of international relations, and will in all probability find its way to the libraries of schools as a case study for students of diplomacy and Geopolitics in the future.

It definitely was a diplomatic triumph for India of no mean proportions.

It is true that India's Presidency of the G20 saw an unprecedented rise in the level and scale on which engagements of this order are held and has hitherto definitely not been seen in the relatively short history of this influential institution, ever since its inception in the year of 1999.

The past nine months or so, the G20 under India's Presidency has seen more than two hundred events across sixty cities. This, besides the highly debatable notion that it has taken the high seat of world economic decision making to the common man, has definitely seen an improvement in the infrastructure in these cities, if nothing else. These events and meetings attended by Sherpas, representing the heads of various countries wrestled with various issues that dealt with not only pure economics as is its mandate, but also matters of equity, health, technology and

climate change among a few others. Even the Russia-Ukraine war, which on the face of it, clearly does not lie in the purview of its ordained purpose, was dealt with a fair amount of success. This ofcourse is outside numerous meetings held by the finance ministers of the group to flesh out proposals relating to fiscal and other matters that lay within their domain.

The Delhi Declaration, its unanimous adoption creating history in itself, had more than a hundred issues on which consensus was reached by the member countries. The eye catching takeaways in the Delhi Declaration is recognition of LiFE- 'lifestyle for sustainable development' and its inclusion in the preamble, acceptance of digital public infrastructure in delivery of services, cooperation on artificial intelligence, launch of Global Biofuel Alliance to develop biofuels for energy transition and the trebling of renewable energy capacity and focus on health and education to ensure progress on sustainable development goals. Among a host of others.

The Delhi Declaration, applauded the world over, has been significant for another reason. It has announced the arrival of India at the high seat of global decision making. India which until now has been a rule follower has become a rule maker or at least one among a select few who help in making rules for the global order. With the African Union joining the G20, India has established itself as a voice or a leader of the Global South.

It is significant that Prime Minister Modi chose to welcome the heads of state and other world leaders who came to attend the G20 summit, in front of a replica of the Konark wheel, which is seen as an embodiment of time, space and continuity. In a way announcing to the world that India that is Bharat encompasses all this and is the future, and the future is now.



REACHING FOR THE SUN

INDIA'S first space-based solar observatory, Aditya-L1, is now in a significant phase of its mission. The spacecraft went through the Trans-Lagrangian Point 1 Insertion (TL1) on September 19.

The TL1 insertion was a send-off from Earth and the beginning of its nearly 110-day journey to the Sun-Earth Lagrange point 1 (L1), located approximately 15 lakh kilometres away from Earth.

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Aditya-L1, India's first space mission to study the Sun, began collecting data by deploying one of the seven instruments on board on September 18. The sensors of the Supra Thermal and Energetic Particle Spectrometer (STEPS) sub-system, part of the ASPEX (Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment) payload on the spacecraft, have begun measuring fast-moving charged particles generated in processes within the Sun.

After the resounding success of its Chandrayaan-3 mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has added yet another feather to its cap. The Aditya-L1 mission, an observatory in space to study the Sun, was launched on September 2 from Sriharikota.

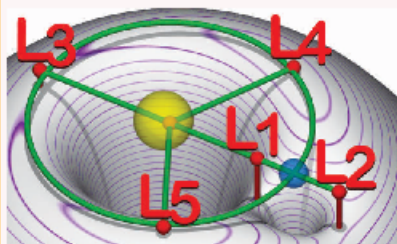
In 2019, the Centre sanctioned the equivalent of about \$46 million for the Aditya-L1 mission, named for the Hindu god of the sun.

Aditya-L1 will be placed in a halo orbit around L1 or the Sun-Earth Lagrangian point which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.

The spacecraft carries seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere, and the outermost layers of the Sun (the corona) using electromagnetic and particle detectors. Using the special vantage point of L1, four payloads will directly view the Sun and the remaining three payloads carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields.

What are Lagrangian Points?

The Lagrangian points are five points in a system connecting two bodies like the Earth and the Moon. The gravitational effects of the two bodies neutralise each other at these points. If an object were placed at any of these points, it would not experience any force trying to dislodge it. The Lagrangian points are called L-1, L-2, L-3, L-4 and L-5. L-1, L-2 and L-3 lie along the path connecting the Earth and the Moon. An object placed at any of these points would be in unstable equilibrium. L-4 and L-5 are located in the Moon's orbit around the Earth and are stable points. It has been suggested that either L-4 or L-5 could be a suitable site for a space colony.



They were calculated by 18th-century Italian mathematician and astronomer Joseph-Louis Lagrange.

Star Trek

On August 12, 2018, NASA launched a revolutionary spacecraft to travel through the Sun's atmosphere. The Parker Solar Probe will fly seven times closer to our star's surface than any spacecraft before it. (The Helios 2 spacecraft came within 43.4 million km in 1976.) It will be more than 10 times closer than Mercury, which is about 67.5 million km from the sun. It will be subjected to intense heat and radiation, but if it succeeds, it will provide us with the closest-ever observations of any star in the Universe.

The probe is named after Eugene Newman Parker (1927–2022), a physicist who proposed ground-breaking theories about how stars, including our Sun, give off so much energy.

The spacecraft will use Venus's gravitational pull in the course of seven flybys over seven years that will gradually bring it closer to the Sun. The spacecraft will approach to within a distance of about 6 million km to the solar surface on its final three orbits. Earth's average distance from the Sun is 149 million km! The probe will hurdle around the Sun at 700,000 kmph.

The spacecraft, which is the size of a small car, has four sets of instruments. They are protected by an 11.43 cm-thick carbon-composite shield that can withstand heat measuring nearly 1,777°C.

Where is the Parker Probe Now?

- ◆ In 2021, it became the first spacecraft to pass through the Sun's corona, or upper atmosphere.
- ◆ It completed its 16th orbit around the Sun, which included a close approach on June 22, 2023 to within 8.5 million kilometres of the Sun's surface.
- ◆ On August 21, 2023, the probe went past Venus for its sixth fly-by of the planet. The spacecraft uses Venus's gravity to tighten its orbit around the Sun. It is now preparing to get within around 7.2 million kilometres of the star's surface.

Other Missions

The oldest mission to the Sun is the Solar & Heliospheric Observatory mission (SOHO), a joint NASA-European Space Agency project, launched in 1995. It is in orbit near the same Lagrangian point as the one ISRO is targeting for Aditya-L1.

Launched in 2006, the Hinode mission is a collaboration between the space agencies of Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom and Europe.

Another joint US-European mission is the Solar Orbiter, launched in 2020.

Ten Fools!

It was one of those days that Akbar had got off on the wrong side of the bed.

Nothing seemed to be going right for him.

He bellowed, he screeched, he cursed and tore at his hair. The unfairness of it all!

Then he went and broke his favourite wine glass. That was like they say, the last straw on the camel's back. The glass as the story goes, was the finest of crystal ware that the bazars of Baghdad had

was the way things happened. Then as of now. And as things would so have it, his angry eyes in quest for a victim, fell upon the face of an unsuspecting Birbal. He ordered that Birbal be brought to him immediately.

He then tasked Birbal with what he thought was an impossible ask. He ordered Birbal to bring before him the ten biggest fools in the region and he gave him a month to do so. The emperor was quite pleased with himself, knowing that the wise, ancient land of Bharat, (or was it India? Spinners of yarns are so confused these days), would have no space for a fool, let alone ten of them.

Patting himself on the back for a job well done, our emperor worked his way to a mirror to repair the remains of his tresses that seemed to have been hit by a tsunami of sorts.

Birbal, the eternal optimist he was, and if truth be told, could give those who masquerade as motivational speakers today a run for their money, set off on his quest to find ten fools on his favourite Irish steed, Belfast. To those squeamish custodians of history who may question the veracity of the horse or the name itself, one can only sympathize with them and point out with all humility that we come from a world that has seen rivers and seas split wide open for worthies to pass through and....

Therefore the horse and the name stay.

Wise Birbal had not gone very far, before he came upon a strange sight. He saw a man on a horse carrying a bundle of sticks on his head, instead of placing it behind him or on the saddle. On being asked, the kind man said that his horse was old and feeble, and the weight of the wood would be too heavy for it and he was helping it out by carrying the bundle for him. Could

ever seen and had been gifted to him by the princess of Persia, for whom the emperor it was rumoured had a soft corner for. And somebody was going to pay for this. Somebody had to, for the emperor was angry. Don't ask why, but that was the lay of the land or that

Illustration : D. D. Pandey

there be a bigger fool than him, wondered Birbal?

Strike one to Birbal.

He took off on his Irish steed, Belfast and before long came upon yet another sight that surprised him.



He saw a man on the ground, lying flat on his back with his arms raised in the air. On being queried, he replied that his wife had asked him to buy a pot as big as the distance between his hands and he

said that if he moved his hands he would get the wrong size for which he would be scolded by his wife, a terrible shrew. Birbal could have been knocked down by a feather.

Strike two to Birbal.

Encouraged, Birbal turned to mount his Irish steed, Belfast, when something banged into him and he fell to the ground. On looking up from a position that did not add to his dignity nor was it the most advantageous of positions to speak from, to say the least, an angry Birbal, saw a mullah. When Birbal asked him if he was blind, the apologetic mullah said that he had just called the evening prayers from the mosque and he wanted to see how far his voice would carry and was running after it. Birbal couldn't believe his ears.

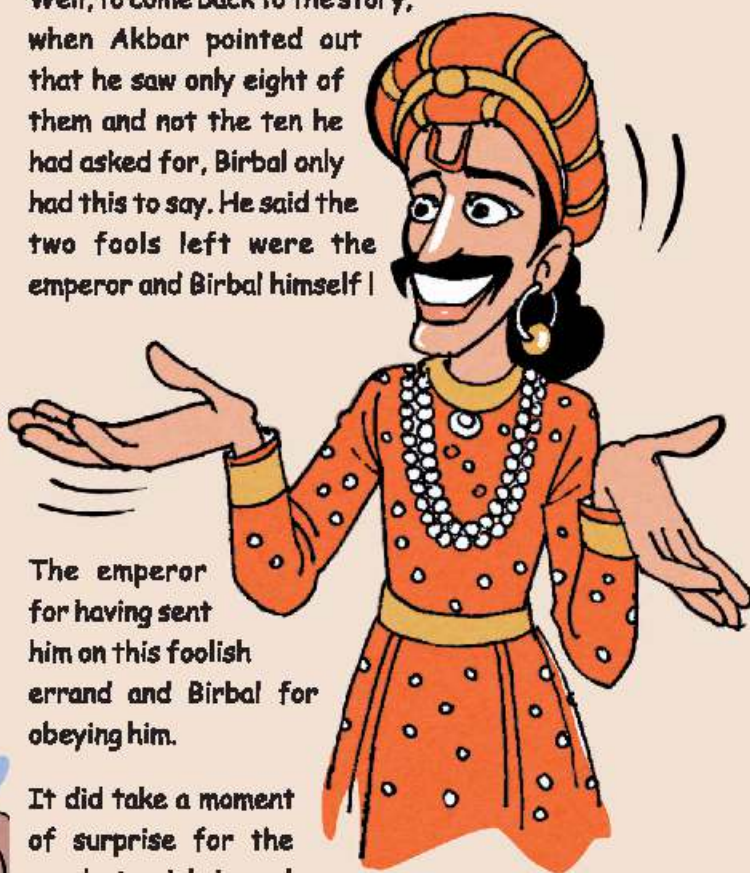


Strike three for Birbal.

It went on. In this wise land of Bharat, nay, India, Birbal seemed to be stumbling over fools of the first order, one after the other. He did collect eight of

them in his kitty and set off to the emperor's court to exhibit his 'trophies'. An astonished Akbar was taken aback. He hadn't expected this in a land where Solomon the wise would have had to take a back seat. Akbar, trying to find a way out, then thought he could catch Birbal on the wrong foot. Please note that the use of the phrase 'on the wrong foot' is not a slip of the author's hand, but deliberate. For it was a phrase reportedly in use during this period and for those doubting historians, Zero, plastic surgery, aircraft and even cricket (though by another name) had its origins in this wonderful land.

Well, to come back to the story, when Akbar pointed out that he saw only eight of them and not the ten he had asked for, Birbal only had this to say. He said the two fools left were the emperor and Birbal himself!



The emperor for having sent him on this foolish errand and Birbal for obeying him.

It did take a moment of surprise for the words to sink in and Akbar went from a blue in the face with anger, to a red in the face with laughter.

It is said that the roof nearly came down with Akbar's hearty laughter for he was renowned for his great sense of humour.

Humour, like they say in the land of the wise, begins with an ability to laugh at oneself.

EVENTS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES



House bids good bye to Lutyen and Baker's handiwork

The Prime Minister and other law makers paid tribute to the abode of India's democracy that had served as its custodian for over 70 years, as they move to a new building next door.

History @G20: The adoption of Delhi Declaration a success in diplomacy for India

The G20 Declaration during the summit under India's Presidency was globally acclaimed as a tremendous diplomatic achievement.

African Union joins G20 - A boost for Global South

The African union joining the G20 is a recognition of its importance in global affairs and is a result of India's initiative in making the body more inclusive.

PM pushes ASEAN unity on territorial disputes

Modi asks ASEAN bloc to work together to help strengthen sovereignty of all nations, days after the controversial China map roiled the region.

Super Siraj wrecker-in-chief ! India becomes Asian champs

Mohammed Siraj became the wrecker-in-chief at the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka to lead India to the championship.

The hottest summer ever recorded in the world !

In all probability a sign of things to come, the 2023 summer was burning, sweltering hot, an effect of climate change and a warning to the governments the world over to take immediate action on the climate front to avert further warming up of the planet.

The invite that sparked the Bharat / India row

Some opposition parties have objected to the government using the name 'Bharat' in an invite by the president to a G-20 dinner, instead of 'India' and have created what may be called a storm over something trivial and have asked the government for a clarification.

India picks K.L. Rahul, fills squad with all rounders

The Indian cricket team announced for the Asia Cup has seen



Rahul taking his place in the side and is one consisting of quite a few all rounders. Rohit Sharma's form in Asia Cup has been encouraging and K.L. Rahul has proved his mettle after sudden return from injury.

Vikram does a Lunar hop before entering sleep mode

Vikram successfully went through a hop experiment before being put to sleep. A hop test is a step to understand as to what it takes to start the lander's engine on the lunar surface and takes a hop towards the side.

Xi absence at summit amid push for G20 consensus

It had been announced by the Chinese authorities that President Xi would not be attending the G20 summit and it could be due to geo political reasons.

Low rainfall may lead to low yield in crucial states

Scanty rainfall in the country has set off fear among farmers of low yield and a worry of financial distress.

G20 - A beacon of hope for a new world order: Modi

With the call of the Global South to be included in the G20, Modi the Prime Minister of India is hopeful that one world will become a reality.

Gold again for Neeraj Chopra



In a historic moment for Indian athletics Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held at Budapest, Hungary on August 27, 2023.

Kovind heads panel for one nation, one election push

In a surprise move to bring in one nation one election in

the country, the government has appointed a panel headed by Ram Nath Kovind, former President of India, to study the issue.

INDIA to fight 2024 polls together, names coordinators

The Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance, an opposition party alliance in India has decided to put a collective front against the ruling BJP in all elections, including the 2024 general elections and have appointed co-ordinators to facilitate activities.

Growth at 7.8 - India bright spot in a gloomy scenario

In a global scenario of gloomy economic predictions, India seems to be the bright spot and it is predicted that it will grow at a rate of 7.8% GDP and will continue to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

India becomes number one team in all forms of Cricket

The second time in Cricketing history after South Africa, India has with its victory over Australia in the first ODI become the number one team across all formats of the game.

Djokovic reigns the courts with Slam 24

Djokovic's 24th Slam title, with a 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 win over Russia's Medvedev, in the US Open, puts him level with Margaret Court for the most number of majors.



India hopes to strike gold

Chess returns to the Asian Games after a 13 year gap. India with a bunch of gifted players hopes to confirm its status as an emerging power house in the board game.

A starry night in Hangzhou

The 19th edition of the Asian Games got off to a glittering start at Hangzhou on September 23rd.

Remembering Dev Anand

The tinsel world celebrates the centenary birth anniversary of the evergreen hero Dev Anand, which falls on 26th September.



Austria Calling...



Ishaan, do you remember mom and dad having the same frightening dream some days back?

"Yes, what about it?" asked Ishaan, not wanting to tell him that their parents didn't think it was a dream.

"Is it possible for two people to have the same dream?"

"Dreams are nothing but manifestations of what we have in our sub-conscious mind", Ishaan said with an air of someone who knew it all.

"Many people can get similar dreams at the same time, it may not exactly be the same", Vihaan stared at him blankly.

"If you keep thinking about something and if it stays in your sub-conscious mind, there are chances that you will dream about it in some form", explained Ishaan.

"No wonder I keep getting nightmares of failing in Maths" said Vihaan. The dream always bothered him. He was consistently the topper in maths in his school, scoring a perfect 100 everytime.

"That's because you are always afraid of losing your top-spot", said Ishaan. "once you let go of that fear, and accept that not scoring the highest marks everytime doesn't matter at all, your nightmares will stop", Ishaan advised like the elder brother that he was. "Darr ke aagey jeet hai", he added brightly.

"Wow! So beautiful!" exclaimed Vihaan pointing at nothing in particular.

"We are driving through one of the most beautiful countries in the world. And Vienna is this country's largest city", added Eesha.

"Roads are so clean, buildings are neatly arranged, and there's so much greenery around", said Ishaan. "It is also so not crowded like Delhi."

"Vienna is the most populous city in Austria", Eesha said looking out of the window for any signs that would corroborate the statement. "But really, it looks like lock-down time in Delhi, there are hardly any people to be seen."

"That's because we are heading out to Salzburg. The

city centre is always quite happening", said the Austrian guide accompanying them. "This is a land of music and fun." The pride in his tone was apparent.

"Austria shares borders with Germany, Italy, and Hungary. Austrian culture is known for its characteristic way of enjoying life (*Gemutlichkeit*), art, strong coffee, healthy lifestyles, and sports. Popular national pastimes include attending concerts, playing music, and just walks (*Spaziergänge*)", the Guide read out from the guide he had in his hand now.

"I loved the Museum of Natural History we visited yesterday", Eesha countered, wanting to make a point that there was a lot more to Vienna than music and fun. She often did not want to be treated like a kid, and engaged in serious topics.



"I particularly liked the meteor collection, the dinosaurs and the mineral collection."

"I loved the lángos! It was like our own Bhatura with cheese flavour", Vihaan screamed. He had not enjoyed the museum trip much, as he had understood the displays in parts only. lángos had been much more familiar. And tastier. Ishaan laughed out loud.

"Can you believe, the First World War actually started in this small beautiful country?", asked their father from the front seat.

"When Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in 1914, it escalated into a world war."

"What is assa... assassination?" Vihaan wanted to know.

"When someone holding high office, or someone of real importance is murdered, it is called an assassination", answered Ishaan quickly, not wanting



to give a chance to Eesha to explain. Eesha was clearly disappointed with the missed opportunity.

Silence prevailed for a while, as the mesmerising beauty enroute from Vienna to Salzburg captured everyone's attention. Ishaan sat scrolling through the excellent pictures he had captured of beautiful animals at the Vienna Zoo the previous day. The guide had explained that it is the world's oldest zoo still in operation. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, being a part of the Schönbrunn Palace garden. The Giant Pandas at the Zoo, were particularly endearing, and he earmarked the picture of the largest one to put up in his study.

"Salzburg actually means Salt Castle!", announced the guide. "Salt has played a very important role in the development of the city." It was clear that no one in the group knew this.

"Salzburg was also home to the world famous musician Mozart!" Everyone in the group seemed to know this.

"Wasn't Mozart blind?" Whispered Vihaan in Eesha's ears.

"Yes he was!" she whispered back, turning her attention back to what the Guide was announcing.

"Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was neither blind nor deaf!", announced the Guide dramatically. "Contrary to what many believe."

Vihaan looked at his cousin sister, frowning indignantly. Eesha pretended not to



notice and looked elsewhere. She hated being proven wrong, as she was mostly right.

"But Mozart died young at the age of 35", continued the Guide, "and by then he was already very famous, and had more than 800 musical compositions to his credit. Mozart is one of the greatest composers in the history of classical western music."

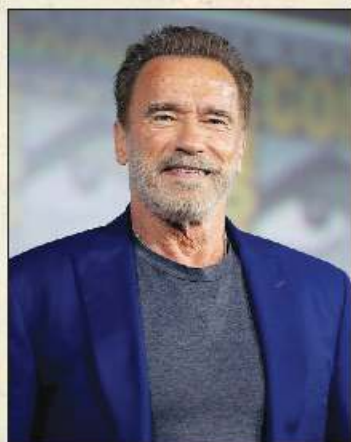
The guide passed "There are several Mozart museums in this city, and you can buy interesting Mozart souvenirs and memorabilia."

"Salzburg was also one of the most important locations, where the iconic movie, 'The Sound of Music' was shot. This is the place", the guide continued as all of them got off from the vehicle. The idyllic beauty of the surrounding hills and greenery prompted each one to pull out their cameras at once.

"The Austrian Alps, or the Central Eastern Alps, or just Central Alps, comprise the main chain of the Eastern Alps in Austria. They also extend to the adjacent regions of Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Italy, and Slovenia. The highest mountain in the Austrian Central Alps is Grossglockner, peaking at around 3800 meters."

The Guide continued to narrate as they moved ahead.

"Arnold Schwarzenegger is also from Austria", declared Ishaan. He was fond of action movies. The Terminator star was one of his all-time favourites.



"The primary mode of transport in Innsbruck, our next destination, is actually your own feet," said the Guide. "It is a relatively smaller city, but it vies with Salzburg for its place as the most scenic city in Austria."



"Whole of Austria is beautiful", declared Eesha, "and it has such a rich history and culture."

"But I want to eat some more lángos", yelled Vihaan. "lángos ! lángos !", he was still yelling when Ishaan shook him awake.

"Hey Vihaan ! Wake up ! Are you dreaming of Austria already ? We are going there next month, not now !"

Vihaan sat up on his bed rubbing eyes, with a dazed, confused expression.

"I dreamt we were all in Austria", he mumbled after a while.

"I told you ! Since mom and dad have been discussing our trip to Austria this entire week, it must have been in your subconscious mind ! That's why you had that dream !"

"Did you also get that dream ?" asked Vihaan, brightening up a little. He was fully awake now.

"Not me" replied Ishaan. "But I have been reading up and talking to Eesha a lot about giant Pandas, and yesterday Eesha had a dream about three giant Pandas occupying her room", he laughed.

"Austria will be fun !" exclaimed Vihaan gleefully, as they both jumped out of their bed to get ready for school.

SENSATIONAL SIRAJ

Mohammed Siraj Wrecks Sri Lanka To Help India Lift Asia Cup

For the lakhs of cricket aficionados, who had probably settled down to watch the much awaited Asia Cup final on their television sets, with their favourite beverage and snacks in their hands, the Asia Cup final must have turned out to be too short for comfort! For the Indian fans however, the consolation comes in the form of a resounding win. Ahead of the ODI World Cup, this morale boosting, record-extending, emphatic win over Sri Lanka, probably signals that the Indian contingent has found its right composition finally.

Bundling Sri Lanka out for a meagre 50 runs; the highlight of the match was Mohammed Siraj's record haul of an astounding 6 wickets for 21 runs. In fact he claimed his first 5 wickets over just 15 balls that left the Sri Lankan team in tatters, with Jasprit Bumrah having started it all, and Hardik Pandya pitching in later. Credit must be given to Ravindra Jadeja too, for pulling off an acrobatic, spectacular catch that scalped a wicket for Siraj. The innings saw some incredible display of pace bowling from Siraj and has been credited as his best performance till date. With the win in this edition of Asia Cup finals, India has extended its record to continue to be the most successful team in the Asia Cup

event with eight titles.

Siraj also won hearts by donating the Man of the Match prize money of \$ 5000 to the ground staff, and was clearly overwhelmed while announcing it. Since the BCCI had already earmarked a sum of \$ 50000 for the ground staff, who had toiled tirelessly to maintain good conditions amidst rains, the final also made their day. Among the other take-aways from the game was that the opening pair for the Indian team Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan made an effortless, short work of the target and remained not out. Kuldeep Yadav bagged the man of the series award for his bowling figures, while Shubman Gill remained ahead of others

with best batting figures. Ahead of the World Cup, the Indian line-up appears robust and formidable with quite a few all-rounders likely to figure in the playing eleven.

At the time of going to the press, the Indian Women's team led by Harmanpreet Kaur, has won the cricket gold in its maiden appearance at the Asian Games, emulating the men's team, by defeating Sri Lanka. The seam bowlers, as in the men's Asia Cup final, played a key role to register a win by 19 runs, in a low-scoring match.

Humour

1. My best mates and I played a game of hide and seek. It went on for hours... Well, good friends are hard to find.
2. You're not completely useless, you can always serve as a bad example.
3. I broke my finger last week. On the other hand, I'm okay.
4. Someone stole my Microsoft Office and they're gonna pay. You have my Word.
5. Don't spell part backwards. It's a trap.
6. And the Lord said unto John, "Come forth and you will receive eternal life." But John came fifth, and he got hell.

Fun With Pun!

7. What is the best thing about living in Switzerland? Well, the flag is a big plus.
8. Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda? He was lucky it was a soft drink.
9. How did I escape Iraq? Iran.
10. To the mathematician who thought of the idea of zero. Thanks for nothing!
11. Son: "Dad, can you tell me what a solar eclipse is?" Dad: "No sun."
12. My math teacher called me average. How mean!
13. Clinic Receptionist: "Doctor, there's a patient on line that says he's become invisible". Doctor: "Well, tell him I can't see him right now."

School LIVE reproduces interesting WhatsApp forwards for the purposes of entertainment only, and wherever authors are known, credits the same to them accordingly. School LIVE does not take responsibility for the veracity of any information and advises the readers to treat them as pieces for entertainment only.



ASIAN GAMES SCHEDULE 2023

Opening Ceremony: September 23 Schedule in September	Bridge: September 27-October 6
Cricket: September 19-25 (women's)	Cricket: September 27-7 October (men's)
Volleyball: September 19-26 (men's)	Golf: September 28-October 1
Beach Volleyball: September 19-28	Triathlon: September 29-October 2
Football: September 19-October 7	Badminton: September 28-October 7
Rowing: September 20-25	Athletics: September 29-October 5
Sailing: September 21-27	Sprint: September 30-October 3
Table tennis: September 22-October 2	Diving: September 30-October 4
Rugby Sevens: September 24-26	Roller Skating: September 30-October 7
Judo: September 24-27	Volleyball: September 30-October 7 (women's)
Skateboarding: September 24-27	Weightlifting: September 30-October 7
Taekwondo: September 24-28	Schedule in October
Fencing: September 24-29	BMX Racing: October 1
Swimming: September 24-29	Archery: October 1-7
Artistic Gymnastics: September 24-29	Trampoline Gymnastics: October 2-3
Tennis: September 24-30	Kabbadi: October 2-7
Shooting: September 24-October 1	Cycling Road: October 3-5
Boxing: September 24-October 5	Soft Tennis: October 3-7
Handball: September 24-October 5	Sport Climbing: October 3-7
Hockey: September 24-October 7	Dragon Boat: October 4-6
Chess: September 24-October 7	Wrestling: October 4-7
Mountain Bike: September 25	Canoe Slalom: October 5-7
Basketball 3X3: September 25-October 1	Ju-Jitsu: October 5-7
Water Polo: September 25-October 7	Karate: October 5-8
Track: September 26-29	Rhythmic Gymnastics: October 6-7
Softball: September 26-October 2	Breaking: October 6-7
Squash: September 26-October 5	Marathon Swimming: October 6-7
Equestrian: September 26-October 6	Artistic Swimming: October 6-8
Basketball: September 26-October 6	Closing Ceremony: October 8
Baseball: September 26-October 7	



CHESS IN NEWS AGAIN !



Bharat Singh Chauhan- Chairman FIDE Advisory Board, felicitates Praggnanandhaa, and his mother

The cerebral sport features in the Asian Games after a gap of 13 years, while teenage GM Praggnanandhaa, Indian contender for the world title, returns home to a hero's welcome !

As after a gap of 13 years Chess returns to Asian Games, the trio of Indian Chess prodigies, D. Gukesh, Arjun Eraigasi and Praggnanandhaa again take the centre stage. With highly experienced Grand Masters P. Hari Krishna and Vidit Gujarati, as part of the Indian contingent, the Indian team looks more formidable than ever before, for any other Asian team to outclass.

Praggnanandhaa, returning to a hero's welcome as Runner-up from the FIDE World Cup Championship held at Baku, Azerbaijan, was recently felicitated in New Delhi, wherein Bharat Singh, the Secretary of AICF hosted a special dinner in his honour. The select invitees included bureaucrats, the editor of the School Live magazine, eminent jurists and some top-bracket medical professionals; all connected by the love for Chess. Praggnanandhaa has already qualified



Veteran Chess player Anantha Krishnan felicitates Praggnanandhaa for the Candidates Tournament and will look to wrest the world title next year from Ding Liren of China, who became the World Champion after Magnus Carlsen chose not to defend his title.

Photo Courtesy: AICF



A TEACHER BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE - DR. RADHAKRISHNAN

in 1904-1906 and his Master's degree in Philosophy in 1906-1908 from Madras Christian College, Madras, now re-named Chennai. As a matter of fact, his Bachelor thesis, "The ethics of Vedanta and its metaphysical presuppositions" was published when he was barely twenty years old.

It was his experience in school, run by American missionaries with zeal that is uniquely their own, most probably tinged with a certain level of disrespect for the local culture and religion, that the young Radhakrishnan's views on his own religion crystallised and a comparative study of religions helped him hone his own understanding of Hinduism. It was this, with his experience in Madras Christian College that saw him begin to write on his thoughts, his views and understanding of his beliefs.

And this was the beginning of the road for Radhakrishnan, the philosopher.

Maybe it was this innate bent of philosophy that saw Radhakrishnan take up teaching as a profession, a teacher of philosophy. For a philosopher and a teacher, are two sides of the same coin.

As a teacher, Dr. Radhakrishnan had taken up office at some of the most prestigious positions in the country and outside. He began as professor of Philosophy in Madras Presidency college and then was professor of Philosophy at Mysore and Calcutta Universities and then was vice chancellor of Andhra Pradesh University. From here he moved to the University of Oxford as professor of Eastern religions and ethics and then came back to become the vice chancellor of Delhi University.

An outstanding educator, it is said that when his students requested his permission to celebrate his birthday, he advised them against it and suggested that they celebrate that day as teacher's day. From then onwards September 5 has been celebrated as teacher's day. The Radhakrishnan Chevening Scholarship and the Radhakrishnan Memorial Award were established by Oxford University as respect and recognition of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's contribution in the realm of education and Philosophy.

He also had the distinction of heading the Indian delegation to

There was no clashing of cymbals. No divine positioning of the constellation in the heavens to foretell the birth of a star on earth. No declaration by the pundits predicting the arrival of a person marked for greatness.

None of this happened on 5th of September 1888.

On this day a baby boy was born to the poor Brahmin couple of Sarvepalli Veeraswami and Seethamma in the small, bustling temple town of Thiruttani, then in today's Andhra Pradesh and now in the state of Tamilnadu.

This baby boy whose birth had failed to excite the stars or the astrologers, grew up to be Radhakrishnan a great teacher, an acclaimed philosopher, a distinguished diplomat and a towering statesman.

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan- a name, which even today, commands awe and respect.

It is said that his father wanted him to become a priest, but the fates had a different plan in store for him. The sheer depth of his intellect saw his passage through school and academia mostly on the strength of scholarships that came his way in recognition of his talent. He finished his high school at Vellore's Voorhees College and earned his Bachelor's degree

UNESCO for a period of six years and was elected as the chairman of its executive board for a year. He also served as Indian ambassador to the then Soviet Union from 1948 to 1952. Though Dr. Radhakrishnan did not carry with him the usual graces and tact of a trained diplomat, it was said that he was the country's ideal representative: He represented the personality of India itself- Old and young, ancient and modern, secular and spiritual, conservative and revolutionary, and blending the nuclear era with the wisdom of the vedic age. It would certainly be no exaggeration to state that it was he who laid the foundation of the relationship with Russia which continues to this day.

In 1952 he came from Moscow and walked into the Indian Vice president's office. Though a bit reluctant, he was persuaded by Prime Minister Nehru to accept the post in the larger interests of the country. It was in 1953 that the University of Harvard conferred on him the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws during which the president of the University said, "You are today the world's most distinguished and inspiring example of the philosopher who has become a statesman and in your function of philosopher statesman, you have become a world-peace maker of the highest human significance." On May 11, 1962, he was elected president of India.

He was a recipient of several high awards including knighthood in 1931, the Bharat Ratna in 1954 and Honorary

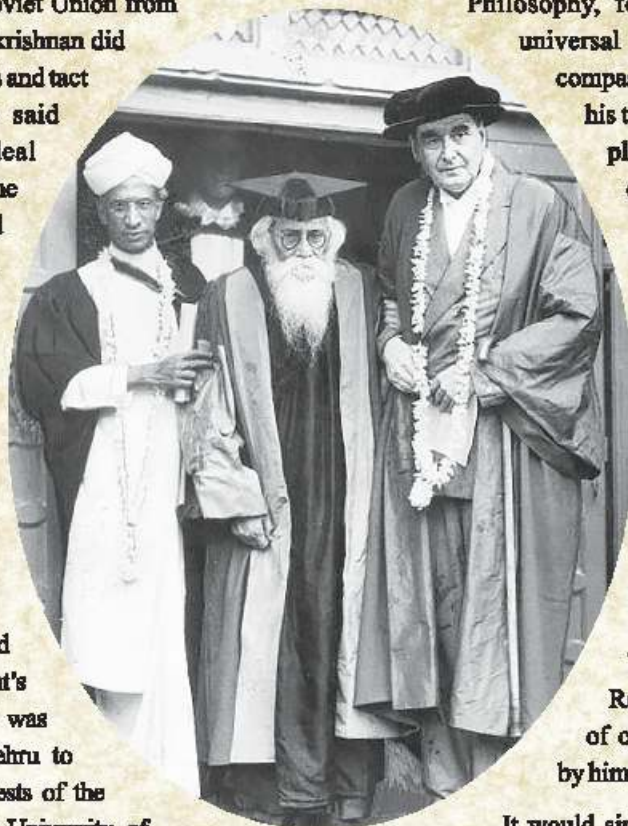
membership of the British 'Royal order of Merit' in 1963 and the first winner of the Templeton Prize, the Nobel Prize for Philosophy, for spreading the concept of "a universal truth of God that encompassed compassion and wisdom for all people." In his time, as has been said before, he had played a unique role as a kind of cultural bridge between the spiritualism of the East and the rationalism of the West.

He was nominated 16 times for the Nobel Prize in literature and nearly 11 times for the Nobel Peace Prize.

His written works include 'Indian Philosophy', 'The Philosophy of the Upanishads', 'An idealist view of life', 'Eastern Religions and Western Thought', 'East and West : Some Reflections', are a few among a host of other books that have been penned by him.

It would simply be stating the obvious, when one says that Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan has made an immense and invaluable contribution to the school of modern Indian Philosophy and education. If a man is to be judged by what he has left behind, then Dr. S. Radhakrishnan certainly deserves much more. A whole lot more.

In the words of a commentator, not since the 13th century has India seen an equal to this great philosopher in depth of insight, and profundity of scholarship and ease of enlightening expression.



M. Visvesvaraya
Born : 15 September 1861
Awarded Bharat Ratna 1955



M.S. Subbulakshmi
Born : 16 September 1916
Awarded Bharat Ratna 1998



Bhupen Hazarika
Born : 8 September 1926
Awarded Bharat Ratna 2019

He is known as the father of engineering in India and was a civil engineer, an administrator and a statesman. He was the Dewan of Mysuru and is known as the architect of modern Mysuru. His birthday, 15 September is celebrated every year as Engineer's Day in India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

A doyen of Carnatic music, M.S. Subbulakshmi is famously said to have been called the queen of music by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Her music was graced by humility and dignity and a touch of the sublime bordering on the spiritual. The first musician to be awarded the Bharat Ratna.

Bhupen Hazarika, with his roots in Assam, was called the 'Bard of the Brahmaputra' and the country was mesmerized by the baritone of this legend who strode like a colossus on the stage of music. A multifaceted artist, he was also a composer, a poet, a professor and a filmmaker.

LIST OF BHARAT RATNA AWARDEES

1954	C. Rajagopalachari Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan C.V. Raman	First Governor General of independent India, statesman, and lawyer India's first Vice-President and second President Physicist, mathematician, and scientist
1955	Bhagwan Das M. Visvesvaraya Jawaharlal Nehru	Activist, philosopher, and educationist Civil engineer, statesman, and Dewan of Mysore First Prime Minister of independent India
1957	Govind Ballabh Pant	Freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh
1958	Dhondo Keshav Karve	Social reformer and educator
1961	Bidhan Chandra Roy Purushottam Das Tandon	Physician, political leader, philanthropist, educationist, and social worker Freedom fighter and speaker of the United Provinces Legislative Assembly
1962	Rajendra Prasad	The first President of India
1963	Zakir Hussain Pandurang Vaman Kane	Freedom fighter, economist, and education philosopher Indologist and Sanskrit scholar, known for his five-volume literary work
1966	Lal Bahadur Shastri	Freedom fighter and served as the second Prime Minister of India
1971	Indira Gandhi	First woman Prime Minister of India
1975	V.V. Giri	Trade Unionist and President of India
1976	K. Kamaraj	Freedom fighter and statesman, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
1980	Mother Teresa	Catholic nun and the founder of the Missionaries of Charity.
1983	Vinoba Bhave	Activist, social reformer, and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi
1987	Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan	First non-citizen, Freedom fighter
1988	M.G. Ramachandran	Actor turned politician, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
1990	B.R. Ambedkar Nelson Mandela	Social reformer and leader of the dalits Leader of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in South Africa, President of South Africa
1991	Rajiv Gandhi Vallabhbhai Patel Morarji Desai	Gandhi was the ninth Prime Minister of India serving from 1984 to 1989 Freedom fighter and first Deputy Prime Minister of India Freedom fighter and Prime Minister of India
1992	Abul Kalam Azad J.R.D. Tata Satyajit Ray	Freedom fighter and first Minister of education Industrialist, philanthropist, and aviation pioneer Director, filmmaker, writer, novelist
1997	Gulzarilal Nanda Aruna Asaf Ali A.P.J Abdul Kalam	Freedom fighter and interim Prime Minister of India Freedom fighter Aerospace and defence scientist, President of India
1998	M.S. Subbulakshmi Chidambaram Subramaniam	Carnatic classical vocalist Freedom fighter and former Minister of Agriculture of India
1999	Jayaprakash Narayan Amartya Sen Gopinath Bordoloi Ravi Shankar	Freedom fighter and social reformer Economist Freedom fighter and first Chief Minister of Assam Musician, sitar player
2001	Lata Mangeshkar Bismillah Khan	Playback Singer Hindustani classical shehnai player
2009	Bhimsen Joshi	Hindustani classical vocalist
2014	C.N.R. Rao Sachin Tendulkar	Chemist and professor, author Cricketer
2015	Madan Mohan Malaviya Atal Bihari Bajpayee	Scholar and educational reformer. Elected nine times to the Lok Sabha, twice to the Rajya Sabha, and served as the Prime Minister of India for three terms
2019	Pranab Mukherjee Nanaji Deshmukh Bhupen Hazarika	Indian politician, and senior leader in the Indian National Congress A social activist from India, education, health, and rural self-reliance Indian playback singer, lyricist, musician, poet, and filmmaker from Assam

SUCCESS OF THE LUNAR MISSION

AN ACADEMIC, ECONOMIC & SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE

It was 5.45 p.m., August 23, 2023, when the “rough braking” phase started and Chandrayaan-3 was seen in its orbit, 30 km above the moon, while its horizontal distance from the launch site was 750 km. Afterwards, a 10-second “attitude hold phase” began. During this time, the lander was settling down by using its four legs and four thrusters to observe the lunar surface for a safe touchdown. The third phase was called “fine braking”, where the spacecraft descended up to 850 meters above the surface of the moon and started hovering. Hovering aimed to look for a suitable “parking spot”. In the last phase, “terminal descent”, Chandrayaan-3 came down approximately 150 meters above the lunar surface. At this point, it again started hovering for around 30 seconds to measure all the parameters for a safe landing. It was reported that the lander disfavoured the area right below, which led it to drift safely to an adjacent area. Upon touching the surface of the moon, the sensors attached to the four legs of the lander module initiated the shutdown process of the main engine. At this moment, Chandrayaan-3 is gloriously standing on the moon's south pole. This establishes the first human contact with the south pole of the moon.

For landing purposes, any polar region of a celestial body is more challenging than the equator region. Due to this reason, the south pole of the moon was unexplored for a significant period. As per the reporting in Time, it was predicted by scientists that the soil of the moon is somewhat like crystals of water ice, while the “shadowed craters” could be frozen lakes. Time reporting also mentioned that, in 2008, Chandrayaan-1 proved all these speculations correct. We all understand the meaning of the presence of water molecules on the moon. It doesn't only imply the possibility

of getting drinking water but also the extraction of breathable oxygen. The hydrogen in water ice can be a potential candidate for making rocket fuel. “Ancient water ice” can also help us to understand the geology of the moon. Due to these promising features, the south pole of the moon has become the bull's eye for many countries. India created history when it became the first country in the world to successfully land on the moon's south pole.

Astronomical studies in India actually started around 600 C.E. with Aryabhata and Varahamihir. Aryabhata proposed that sunlight gets reflected by the moon and that the earth is a rotating object, not the sky. Subsequently, Varahamihir

introduced the profound concept that, due to an attractive force, all celestial objects are bound in their locations. This shows that they were quite ahead of their time. Since then, to the present, when India probed the most desirable region of the moon, it can be inferred that, with respect to us, we have acquired more knowledge, we have become more enriched, we have become more skilled, we

have grown more than our ancestors, we have advanced their legacy, we have constructed our own path, and we have created history. The achievement deserves to be recognised.

It's beyond doubt that one of the key factors behind the success of mission Chandrayaan-3 is a rich amalgamation of expertise and skills from diverse educational backgrounds. Citing examples, Kalpana K, Associate Project Director, Chandrayaan-3, graduated with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering while Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, a Senior Scientist, Chandrayaan-3, graduated in Physics. Similarly, ISRO's Chairperson S Somanath has earned his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering while M Sankaran, the head of the U R Rao Satellite Centre, has received a Master's



degree in Physics and joined ISRO Satellite Centre (URSC). These diversified profiles of leaders convey an important message that appropriate collaboration may lead us to design and fulfil such a magnificent endeavour.

Looking up to the night sky may induce enough motivation for anyone to be curious about space. However, in the context of our country, consistent success stories of ISRO can create an additional thrust for our students to be more than just curious. The branches like Astrophysics, Astronomy, Cosmology, Aeronautical Engineering, Space Science etc., may gain more attention from the students in order to pursue specialised higher studies in the wake of the lunar success. It's worth mentioning here that the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO), India project has also been planned and the MoU is signed by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the US National Science Foundation (NSF). The purpose of this observatory is different from ISRO and will explore a different angle of Gravitational Physics, which is primarily based on Einstein's theory of General Relativity. From the successful construction and running of LIGO-India, multifaceted benefits may emerge in the field of Astrophysical research in India.

In regard to all these investments in observational science, a note of caution must be added that we must not neglect the theoretical research / studies as, largely, the purpose of these observations is to validate / invalidate the existing theoretical models. It's well known that in 2015, the discovery of the Gravitational Waves in LIGO validated one of the outcomes of Einstein's General Relativity. Can one imagine that it almost took 100 years for observational science to catch up with the pace of Einstein's mind? It suggests, that if not invalidated by the observations, scientific theories are quite alive. Thus, we need a proper balance of economic and structural investments in both observational and theoretical research.

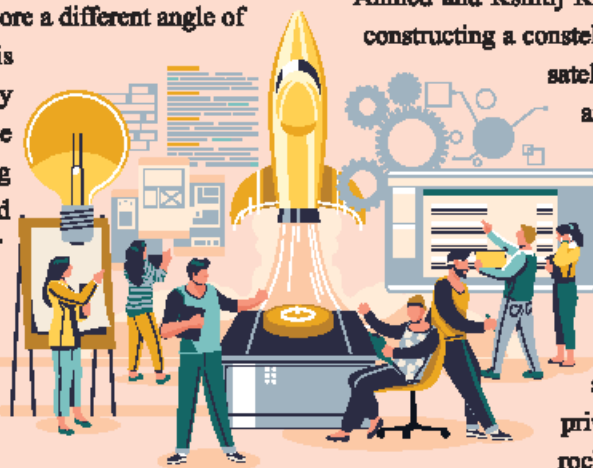
This section cannot be covered only with respect to the success of Chandrayaan 3. Rather, being motivated by the consistent success of ISRO's missions, space-oriented activities such as research or commercial pursuits have been

turned into one of the controlling players in our economy. ISRO was a principal organization that had permission to probe space by launching satellites, payloads, spacecraft, etc. Since 2020, when the Government of India announced that private companies would be given the authorization to explore the space sector, people have observed a spectacular change in space-based industries. This authorization earned loads of attention from private companies which were almost ready to deliver for space-based missions. Although some of the startups were initiated before the year 2020, the formal approval from the government provided a thrust to these startups in order to pursue their respective ventures. Some of the well-known names along this line are Skyroot Aerospace, SatSure, Pixxel, NewSpace Research & Technologies, Dhruva Space, Digantara, Bellatrix Aerospace, etc. For example, a startup like Pixxel was founded by two BITS Pilani alumni, Awais Ahmed and Kshitij Khandelwal in 2019. Pixxel focuses on constructing a constellation of hyperspectral earth imaging satellites and also developing analytical

aids to interpret the collected data from the satellites. Google declared \$36 million of investment in Pixxel, which can be considered a huge investment after the space privatisation policy. Another example is the Skyroot aerospace startup, which turned out to be the first private company in India to launch a rocket, named Vikram-S, into space in

2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. In the same year, it was disclosed that ISRO has signed MoUs with private companies to work in collaboration, aiming to explore the new age space technologies and "building processes from start to finish". Further, it was also mentioned that approximately 100 startups have been registered with ISRO.

An article published in India Today (digital), dated July 8, 2023, shows that these space-based startups are trying to address some real life issues such as, "satellite-based phone signals, broadband, OTT, and 5G to the operations of solar farms, etc." The same source captures comments by P Chandana, founder of Skyroot, which reflects that the success of Chandrayaan-3 and the involvement of the private sector will produce more businesses, employment and more startups.



Some spontaneous questions that arise : It was published in The Guardian, on January 5, 2023, that light pollution is heavily interrupting astronomical observations as more than 3,000 of the 5,000 active satellites are orbiting the earth. These satellites belong to Elon Musk's company SpaceX. Similarly, due to the massive involvement of private companies in India, the number of satellites will increase by leaps and bounds. In the rat race for "world satellite dominance", what will happen to space pollution? What about the space debris limit, which are human-created items in space? Do we know the economic impact of these missions at a local level? Do we have balanced economic planning so that a part of this economic growth will be diffused through to all the people of our country? It is hoped that parallel to exploration, India will also look for possible solutions to such queries.

ISRO's success in the Chandrayaan-3 mission has created an enormous impact on some parts of our society. In our country, we have witnessed that people are gradually developing some curiosity about space missions and closely following their progress. As a matter of fact, on August 23, in one instant of time, approximately 7 million people were watching the live streaming of the landing of Chandrayaan-3 on ISRO's YouTube page. This engagement was mutual as we have seen that throughout the travelling period of Chandrayaan-3, the social media handle of ISRO was consistently updating regarding the whereabouts of the lander module. In recent times, Mission Chandrayaan-1 to 3 and Mission Mangalyaan, have triggered inquisitiveness among the common people of our country. They have started taking an interest in knowing what will happen next. What are the upcoming ventures of ISRO? What are the outcomes of these projects? etc. Undoubtedly, this is a positive change for our society.

Then, what about the part of our country where people have no access to information such as television, smartphones, mobile networks, or perhaps even electricity? What about the people who are indifferent to these achievements as they are occupied with handling their hunger pangs or preparing to sleep under the open sky? These questions are easy and the answers are also known. One hopes in future, we will celebrate such achievements all together, and not in parts.



Dr Ashmita Das
Department of Physics,
SRM University,
Andhra Pradesh

Every day early morning this little girl would come to the church and stand before the Lord, close her eyes and with folded hands, murmur something for a couple of minutes.

Then open her eyes, bow down, smile at Christ's statue and go out running. This was a daily affair. The Priest was observing her and was curious about what she was doing. He thought, she is too small to know the deeper meanings of religion, she would hardly know any prayers.

But then what was she doing every morning in the Church? Fifteen days passed and Father now couldn't resist but try to find out more about her behaviour.

One morning, Father reached the church before the girl and was waiting for her to complete her ritual.

He placed his hand on her head and said, "My child, I have seen since the last fifteen days that you come here regularly. What do you do?"

"I pray, father." She said spontaneously.

"Do you know any prayers?" asked the father with some suspicion in his voice.

"No father." Replied the girl.

"Then what do you say closing your eyes, every day?" Father smiled.

Very innocently the girl said, "Father, I do not know any prayer, but I know a,b,c,d....up to z. I recite it five times and tell God that I don't know any prayer, but it cannot be outside of these alphabets. Please arrange the alphabets as you wish and that is my prayer."

And she ran, jumping her way out of the Church.

The priest stood there dumbstruck, staring at her for a long time as she disappeared running towards her home.

Do we have such unconditional belief in our prayers or in our pitches?

Escape From Oryzya –A Captain Shiva Adventure

Story: Luis Fernandes
Artwork: Abhijeet Kini

SPACE HERO Captain Shiva sets off on a rip-roaring adventure.

Oryzya is a desolate world, whose ruler, the ruthless and sadistic Ador is eyeing the mineral wealth of Earth. He is planning an invasion with the help of his ally, Maya, the Asuran, when Captain Shiva, hot on the heels of Venusian pirates, arrives on the scene.

CAPTAIN SHIVA, RETURNING FROM A MISSION IN DEEP OUTER SPACE, GETS AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM EARTH SECURITY HEADQUARTERS!

VENUSIAN PIRATES HAVE INTERCEPTED AN ANDROMEDEAN SPACESHIP, SIR...

THEY OVERWHELMED THE CREW AND ABDUCTED THE DAUGHTER OF THE ANDROMEDEAN AMBASSADOR...

WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN... AND WHERE?

HALF AN HOUR AGO, OUTSIDE MARS CARGO PORT. SECURITY ANDROIDS GAVE CHASE BUT WERE SHOT DOWN.

WHEN LAST SEEN, THE PIRATE SHIP WAS IN THE VICINITY OF ORYZYA.

ORYZYA! YES, PIRATES WOULD FEEL SAFE THERE!

CHANGE COURSE, JAMBOVAN. WE'RE GOING TO ORYZYA.

YES, SIR.

PLANET ORYZYA IS A VAST DESERT, ITS
ATMOSPHERE VERY SIMILAR TO EARTH'S.

ANYTHING ON
THE SCANNER?

NOTHING THAT
IS UNUSUAL TO
ORYZYA.

SAND DUNES AND
MUDHOUSES...
AND...

...SOMETHING
METALLIC...A
SPACESHIP...

SEEMS TO BE
OF VENUSIAN
DESIGN...

LET'S GO
DOWN.

ORYZYA WAS RUINED BY WAR
WITH EARTH CENTURIES AGO.
PERHAPS THAT IS WHY I'VE
ALWAYS FOUND THE PEOPLE
UNFRIENDLY...

WE'LL HAVE TO
BE CAREFUL NOT
TO GIVE THEM
OFFENCE OR...

ZLOTTI

WE'VE
BEEN HIT!

DAMAGE NOT
SERIOUS, SIR...BUT
LANDING WILL BE...

TO BE CONTINUED.

INVENTIONS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

HIDDEN MESSAGES

Secret codes have existed since ancient times. It is only in the last few decades that the practice has acquired the status of a science.

The earliest known instance of code usage dates back to 1500 BCE when a potter chose to conceal his unique recipe for pottery glaze by writing it in code.

Around 500 BCE the Spartans invented the scytale to send messages across to their soldiers during warfare. It comprised a belt and a wooden baton. The belt was wound around the baton before the message was written on it. It was then unwound and sent without the baton. To read the message, the belt had to be wound around a baton of the same size and shape.

Around 800 CE Arab mathematicians developed cryptanalysis, a technique of cracking codes based on frequency analysis i.e. studying the frequency of letters in a message.

The invention of the Morse code in 1838 popularised the usage of codes among the common people.

During World War I, codes were extensively used by the military. Towards the end of the war, a coded message popularly called the 'Zimmermann telegram', sent by the Germans to Mexico to wage war against the US, was decoded by US cryptographers, provoking the US to join the war.

During World War II, the Germans used a cipher machine called Enigma to encode secret messages.

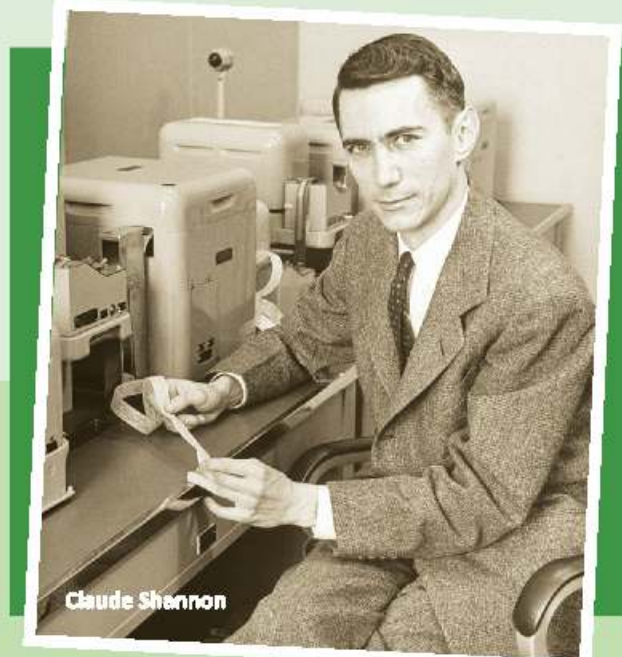
The barcode, the series of bars and lines seen on the back of books and on cartons and packaged goods, was developed in 1948 by Americans Norman Woodland and Bernard Silver. A popular code, it is scanned to identify the product, the manufacturer and the price.

In 1949, American mathematician Claude Shannon published two books that helped establish a sound theoretical base for cryptography as well as cryptanalysis.

A need was felt for a standard method of encryption for securing computer data in the mid 1970s. In 1977, the Data Encryption Standard (DES), created by IBM, was adopted by nations all over the world as a standard for computer security.

The secure cryptoprocessor made its appearance in 1979. It is a microchip that can be embedded into any device for carrying out cryptographic operations. Secure cryptoprocessors find use in ATMs, smart cards, T.V. set-top boxes, etc.

The year 1993 saw the release of the Clipper Chip in USA. This small chip, embedded in any telephone enabled the government to eavesdrop on any conversation it deemed 'suspicious'.



Claude Shannon

The first encryption system for Wi-Fi (transmission over wireless networks), called Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP), was introduced in 1997.

The year 2000 heralded the public introduction of RSA, a system that not only encrypts data but also allows implementation of a digital signature. It is like a written signature and provides authentication to the data thereby enhancing its credibility. RSA is named after its inventors — Rivest, Shamir and Adleman. Today, RSA is the most common security technique used to protect digital media and Internet communications.

The 21st century has witnessed the replacement of several encryption methods with newer and better ones. The advances in the science of cryptography makes one wonder what the future will be like. But that is yet to be deciphered!



Rivest, Shamir and Adleman



Harpagus with Persian ruler Cyrus the Great

Did You Know?

The ancient Greeks used various ingenious methods to ensure that their secret messages remained a secret.

Harpagus, a Greek general, is said to have concealed a confidential message in the carcass of a hare and instructed a hunter to deliver the carcass to his allies on the other side of the enemy territory. The unsuspecting enemy troops allowed the hunter to pass unchecked and the message was delivered safely.

Histaieus, a captive of the Persian king, Darius, wanted to instigate a revolt against the king. He decided to seek the help of Aristagoras, the ruler of Miletus. So, he shaved the head of his most trusted slave and tattooed the message on his bald scalp. After the hair had grown sufficiently to hide the message, Histaieus sent the slave to Aristagoras with instructions to shave the slave's head on arrival.

Cryptic Communication

Every large organisation has its own unique secret codes.

Take hospital emergency 'colour' codes. In a Canadian hospital, 'code red' announces a fire, 'code blue' a cardiac arrest and 'code black' a bomb threat. The morgue is euphemistically referred to as 'Rose Cottage' or 'Rainbow's End' to avoid upsetting the bereaved.

Cruise ships have a general emergency code, 'Mr Skylight' announced over the loudspeaker to alert the crew without causing panic among passengers.

Some are visual codes.

Banknotes feature a specific pattern of dots called the 'EURion constellation', placed there to prevent



counterfeiting. Imaging software detects the code and blocks the user from reproducing the note on a colour copier.

'Hoboglyphs' are signs chalked on a wall or pavement to direct homeless people to food, water or work, or away from danger.

And a sign of the times is 'Pebkac', an acronym used by IT specialists. It refers to certain individuals reporting a fault with their computer. It stands for: 'Problem Exists between Keyboard and Chair'!

The More the Merrier



DO we perform better or worse when we are working with others? A research psychologist called Norman Triplett conducted a study to find an answer to this question.

(It is regarded as the first study in the field that we know as Social Psychology — the study of how individuals function in social situations). He found that when a person was asked to cycle along with another person, he cycled much faster than he would when he cycled alone. This was later termed the Social Facilitation effect. The mere presence of another person around leads to an improvement in an individual's performance on a task. This holds true even if the individuals are just 'co-actors' and are doing the same thing next to each other and are not competing or working with each other. This would explain why some of us are better at group study, or may be more motivated to exercise in a jogger's park rather than in our individual compound. Another variation of this is Audience Effects — individuals do tasks better if they know that someone is watching them. This is possibly because of our concern about being evaluated by others, and because we want others to think well of us.

It is interesting to note that this phenomenon is not restricted to humans alone. In another classic study, a

researcher named Zajonc found that a cockroach finds its way around a simple straight maze faster when it is placed with another cockroach than when alone. A researcher called Chen found that ants dig sand three times faster when they are doing the task alongside other ants to build a nest rather than when alone.

However, there are exceptions to the rule. Zajonc found that the social facilitation effect held true when the maze was a simple one, but in the case of a complicated maze, the cockroaches took much longer to find their way out in the company of others. There is a law of social facilitation — Individuals perform much better in the presence of others at tasks at which they are skilled or which are well-practised tasks, but perform worse in the presence of others in other tasks. Thus, athletes may give their best performance when cheered by a crowd of people watching in a stadium, but an individual who hasn't rehearsed his speech or is not used to public speaking may perform more poorly in front of an audience.



Loafing Around

SOMETIMES, however, there is a Social Loafing Effect — when individuals work in a group, they put in less effort than they would when they work alone. Ringelmann who studied this effect found that when a group of people were asked to pull a rope together, the individuals in the group put in much less effort than when an individual was asked to pull the rope

alone. Why? It could be that in a group, an individual's contributions may not be easily identified. Hence, people may believe that there is no point in making an extra effort, or may believe that if they slack off, they won't be caught and there will be others who will work instead and get the job done. This phenomenon is a major cause for poor productivity in a group. However, this can be overcome if the group is small, everyone is given a fixed role and told that their role is crucial. A useful tip to avoid free-loading when we have to work on projects or assignments together.



***“You, O Books,
are the Golden
vessels of the
temple...”***

***Burning lamps
to be held ever in
the hand.”***



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IMMORTAL REMAINS

Did you know that the body parts of some famous people have been preserved for posterity?



THE Museum of the History of Science in Florence, Italy, acquired Galileo Galilei's thumb at an auction in 2010. The thumb joined three other exhibits: the famous astronomer's tooth, a vertebra and another of his fingers! When Galileo's corpse was transferred from one tomb to another in 1737, these gruesome relics were pilfered as talismans. Today, they rest beside the two telescopes he used.



THE Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, has (literally) been holding the breath of the world's most prolific inventor. The moment Thomas Edison breathed out for the last time, his doctor captured the exhalation in a test tube and sealed it with a cork. Edison's son, Charles, passed on the phial to car czar and Edison's business partner Henry Ford for safekeeping.



A SAFE deposit box in New York City holds a rather macabre pair of objects: Albert Einstein's eyes floating in a bottle of formalin! When Einstein died in 1955, his brain was removed because curious scientists wanted to see if it held any secrets to his genius. (It didn't.) His eyes were given to his ophthalmologist Henry Abrams as a keepsake. The doctor died in 2009, but did not leave any instructions as to his renowned patient's peepers.

Weird Wills



HARRY HOUDINI, the Hungarian-American magician and one of the greatest escape artists of his time, died in 1926 of a ruptured appendix.

In his will, Houdini left his wife a cryptic code! The code consisted of ten random words that he said he would use to contact her from the great beyond. His wife faithfully held séances on Halloween every year for ten years after his death. Houdini never made an appearance.

SOLOMON SANBORN was an American hat maker and a diehard patriot. When he died in 1871, he left his body to science, particularly his friend Oliver Wendell Holmes, but his will stipulated that two drums be made from tanning his skin! The drums were to be presented to a friend, a local drummer, on one condition. The friend had to go to

Bunker Hill* every year on June 17 at dawn and drum out the Yankee Doodle tune!

*Bunker Hill was the scene of a battle during the American Revolutionary War on June 17, 1775.

ELEANOR E. RITCHEY, heiress to the Quaker State Refining Corporation in the US, owned 150 dogs. After her death in 1968, her millions passed on to her pets. Her relatives contested the will and the dogs received \$9 million after five years. By the time the estate was settled, its value had increased to \$14 million and only 73 dogs were still living. The last dog died in 1984 and the remainder of the money went to an institute for research into animal diseases.





9/11

A BLOT ON HUMANITY

The 9/11, a crime so heinous, that mere words of condemnation will miserably fail to communicate the shock, the disgust, the nausea and the feeling of helpless anger that swept across the minds of ordinary citizens the world over, as television screens repeatedly played an unbelievable act of horrifying proportions.

The mind simply unable to comprehend the monstrosity of such an act.

What kept reverberating in the mind was the unfairness of it all. The nearly 3000 people who lost their lives were ordinary, law abiding citizens who had gone to their offices to attend to their daily chores, their source of livelihood. They had done nothing wrong. They were all innocent!

As every single one of them who were killed in that attack died for no fault of theirs. They were all innocents who died before their time, their lives cut short by the machinations of a terribly sick mind hiding in a safe place in the mountains more than half way across the world.

One can only simply wonder at the utter bankruptcy of a value system that could think up a plot as devious, as inhuman as this. No reason can be good enough to justify an act of this sort. The human tragedy that unfolded in front of disbelieving eyes on the television screens was mind numbing. The scenes that must have followed in the aftermath of the incident must have been equally traumatic.

Who would have informed the little girl who was waiting for her father to come back from the office, that he will never do so because somebody sitting somewhere had decided otherwise?

Will someone have pacified the old mother sorrowing for her loving daughter that her child's only fault was that she was at the wrong place at the wrong time?

Will someone have told the broken hearted father that his son who had promised to come back early had gone back on his word for no fault of his, but the fault lay in his stars?

They died because an insane mind somewhere had decided to play satan.

And did the perpetrators of this crime attain their objective? The answer would be an emphatic NO!

They thought they could bring a country to its knees. Turn a people into a nervous wreck. They failed miserably on both counts.

As a country, they rose as one against those who indulged in this crime. As a people they refused to bow down to the cowards.

Nearly four hundred brave police and fire brigade personnel lost their lives in trying to rescue survivors from the rubble, leaving no stone unturned to get at the people buried under the debris. It is said that these people would write their names and phone numbers on their arms in case anything untoward happened to them.

In place of the twin towers and a few other adjacent buildings that were lost, the 'One World Trade Center' has come up along with a 'National 11 memorial' and museum in New York City.

In what might be seen as a fitting reply to the inhuman minds, the museum has 2983 blue tiles, representing each one of those who lost their lives, with a quote from Virgil's Aeneid written on it, that says, "No day shall erase you from the memory of time."

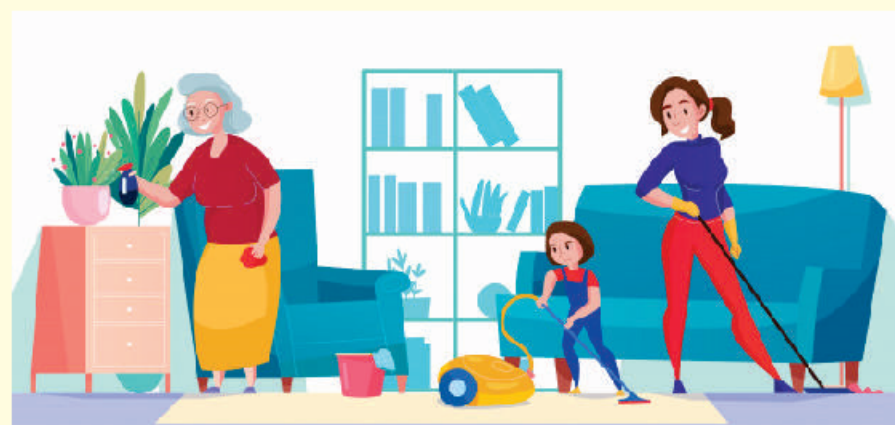
A clear and loud message to those who use violence to achieve their ends; they might break buildings and terminate lives but one thing they will never be able to break, come hell or high water, is the spirit of man.

With Power Comes Great Responsibility!

Teaching kids to do their own chores plays an important role in building their character and makes them responsible, self-sufficient individuals in the long run. Our expert guides you on how you can motivate your kids to become more involved with your household chores too, through fun and simple ways.

Last week, Varuna assigned her son the most basic weekend task. To water the plants. So, he came back and asked, "But, mumma, how do I know which plants need water?"

He is a 6-year old, not-so-tiny-little boy who would know how to water every known and unknown person during Holi, but when it comes to watering the plants? Well, let's just say that it's trickier than an Engima and even Alan Turing would have not been able to decode it.



That evening, the same 6-year-old announced that he had to finish his Hindi assignment soon, so he turned to his mother with an innocent look, and asked, yet again: "Will you please help me, mumma?" At first, Varuna melted. But then, she took one look at the dry pots and directed him towards them first. That day, she taught her son an extremely valuable lesson. The lesson on how life isn't all about free lunches and ever-ready assignments and co-dependence. And that help should be offered just as much as it's sought. Had she not directed him to the dry pots which were withering or had she watered the plants on his behalf instead, her son would have never valued the efforts that she was willing to put in helping him finish his Hindi assignment.

The point that we're trying to elucidate here is that as parents, we want to dress our children for every weather in life (metaphorically) and then protect them from the same too. But sometimes, we must let them make the decision to choose their own clothes - for their own good.

What Should A Parent Do?

First and foremost, as a parent, you must be a firm believer in inculcating a sense of responsibility and independence among your children. And how does that happen?

The best way to do that is by involving your kids in little household chores (those which could be less time-consuming than others) right from an early age. Let them get accustomed to the simplest of tasks first, help them learn the basics and then gradually let them become responsible enough to undertake tougher tasks as they grow older. Involving kids in age-appropriate chores is also mandatory, or else they are bound to find chores daunting and tend to lose interest in the later stages of their life.

Another thing that you should always remember is that children are smart and brilliant problem-solvers. But only once they are given a chance to prove themselves well. So, while you may be hesitant while assigning responsibilities, make sure that your kids know that you're confident of them without underestimating their capabilities.

Involving children in helping and supporting you in your daily or weekly chores can be super beneficial in shaping their future too. After all, this is how children learn to hone their healthy decision-making skills, are able to measure the impact of a problem or a challenge, develop a sense of gratitude and become self-sufficient.



How To Get Your Kids Involved?

You could always develop a simple mechanism at home to ensure that your kids perform their tasks on time or help you with your household chores on a regular basis. For instance, you could





take a bulletin board and call it 'The Help Wanted Bulletin Board'.

- Throughout the week, make sure that you and your family members take a piece of paper, jot down a chore they anticipate may require assistance, and pin it to the board.

- The activities could be generic and shouldn't involve age-appropriateness at all times. Right from cleaning out the toy chests or arranging books in the shelves to changing sheets and other linen, all requests should be posted on the bulletin board.

- Then, every other day, all family members could gather around the board with their favourite snacks and pick 2 tasks each for themselves.
- All tasks should be time-bound so that they're taken seriously. This would further help your kids learn to work quickly and efficiently and get used to dealing with deadlines.
- When a job is done, the posting can be crossed out with heaps of pride.
- At the end of each week, take some time out to reflect on the weekly tasks accomplished by everyone in your family. Irrespective of how small a task may be, ensure that your child is given enough appreciation for his efforts in an attempt to build his confidence.

Some Appropriate Chores For Kids:

1. Taking care of pets i.e. taking the pet out for a walk, feeding them, etc.
2. Changing bed-sheets and other linen at home.
3. Measuring detergents for washing clothes and filling the

water bucket.

4. Taking out the necessary ingredients from the kitchen shelves for cooking.
5. Taking care of grandparents i.e. assisting them to the doctor's, etc.
6. Creating a grocery list for all that's needed and running errands.
7. Picking up the newspapers from the doorstep.
8. Taking out the dishes and setting the table before meals.
9. Making and serving chilled lemonade during hot afternoons.
10. Greeting and attending to guests i.e. serving them water as they come in, etc.
11. Tidying up rooms and making sure that everything is in their rightful places.
12. Creating DIY greeting cards and writing Thank You notes for the family.
13. Filling up water bottles or jugs whenever one sees them empty.
14. Packing one's own or a sibling's tiffin box neatly.



Founder of a blog called *The Champa Tree* (www.thechampatree.in), **Vatsal Sharda** is a mother (and on-the-job-learner), a communication consultant and super-juggler. Her blog is mostly about motherhood, parenting, baby and child care. You can tickle your funny bone with some parenting humour or read emotional pieces which most of the parents (at some point) would relate to. All in all, it's a safe place for all mothers and fathers to find answers to the questions they think are too "silly" to ask out loud.

Contronyms

Can A Word Be Its Own Opposite?

Yes! They are called **Contronyms**—words that are their own antonyms, depending on usage. Here are a few examples.

Dust : Can mean 'to add fine particles' or 'to remove fine particles'.

Left : Can mean both 'remaining' and 'departed'.

Off : Can mean both 'activated' and 'deactivated'. Eg:-
"Set off" - Activated "Switch off" - Deactivated

Oversight : Means both 'watchful care' and 'an inadvertent error'.

Screen : Can mean both 'to show' and 'to hide'.

Sanction : Can mean both 'a penalty for disobeying a law' and 'official permission or approval for an action'.

Funny Takes!

- When you say "a, e, i, o, u" your mouth gets smaller with each vowel you say.
- When you say 'Forward' or 'Backward', your lips move in those directions. (yes, just like that!)
- The word 'Australia' has three A's, all of which look the same, but are pronounced differently.
- The sentence "All the faith he had had had had no effect on the outcome of his life." is actually correct.
- "Dammit I'm Mad" backwards is still "Dammit I'm Mad".
- Most of the time the people who tell you to calm down are the same people that made you angry in the first place!
- Things are not normally on fire, fire is on things.

You Too Can Write...

School Live firmly believes that creativity dwells in everyone !

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Don't forget to mention your school, class and section on the email.

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It's all Greek!

Greek mythology is fascinating with its myriad gods and fantastic creatures. Its influence is evident in many contemporary books for children and general readers, such as the Harry Potter series and the Percy Jackson series as well as movies like The Matrix series.

Since the Romans included many Greek gods in their pantheon, Roman mythology has many similarities with Greek mythology. The names given in brackets are the Roman equivalents.



OLYMPIANS

They are the twelve principal Greek gods. They reside on Mount Olympus, and Zeus is their king.



DEMETER (CERES)

The goddess of plants and food grains. The Greeks believed that people learned farming through her. She is said to have given Triptolemus, a Greek hero, a bag of seeds and sent him throughout the world in a magic chariot to teach people how to farm.

MUSES

They are nine sister goddesses who give artists and philosophers the inspiration to create their works. They are the children of Zeus and Mnemosyne, the goddess of memory.



ORACLE

A priest or priestess who gives advice or a prophecy to people. The gods speak through him or her. The most famous oracle was Pythia, the oracle of Delphi who spoke for the god, Apollo.



URANUS

The supreme sky god. He and Gaia, the earth mother, are the parents of the Titans. Uranus is defeated by Cronus, who then establishes his rule.

TITAN

Titans were the older gods who preceded the Olympians. Cronus (Saturn) is the king of the Titans. His son Zeus rebels against him, leads the other Olympian gods in a battle and defeats the Titans, thus establishing his supremacy.



FATES

The Moirai or the Fates are three female deities who are present at the birth of every child to determine what his or her future life will be like, especially how long he will live. They have power even over the gods.

They are the children of Zeus and Themis, the goddess of justice, though other versions describe them as daughters of Nyx, the personification of the night.



TAMANA - SCHOOL OF HOPE

Tamana, an NGO founded in 1984 and dedicated to the cause of providing rehabilitative services to differently abled children falling between the ages of 6-18 years of age, celebrated its 40th anniversary recently by holding a fashion show at Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.

The fashion show, symbolizing the inclusion of the differently abled in society, was an initiative to normalize such pageants for children who find themselves on the margins of society. To tell the children and the world that they too can walk the ramp. That the world of the ramp as any other stage was theirs for the asking. It was theirs as anybody else's. That they belonged.

And they walked the ramp with aplomb and gay abandon.



Indeed, the show witnessed 80 multiple disabled individuals and those on the autism spectrum walking hand in hand with dignitaries.

A key highlight of course, was the exhibition of artwork and merchandise exclusively adapted from the abstract art of Tamana Chona, whose name is eponymous with that of the organization. Tamana Chona, crusader and a symbol of hope for the differently abled, is a testimony to the fact that given the right care and intervention every child can attain her true potential.

Dr. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, graced the occasion as the chief guest and pledged his whole hearted support to the cause of Tamana.

Sunil Sethi, Chairman of the Fashion Design Council of India (FDCI) said the show was a celebration of the spirit and the fortitude of the children of Tamana in the face of adversity and a tribute to the path breaking work of an organization that has had the courage to set out on a path less travelled. The FDCI



has been Tamana's partner for years in their venture and as Sunil Sethi put it, this time, "we let design express joy in hues of ruby red."

It was again a wonderful coincidence that the Hyatt Regency, New Delhi, the hospitality partner for Tamana, where this great show was held, was also celebrating its 40th anniversary.

According to Dr. Shyama Chona, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee, Tamana has for the last 40 years been standing for the cause and today has three centers of excellence that provide services which are world class. The two centers namely, Tamana Skill Development, NIOS center and hostel which is a vocational center catering to adults and the Autism Center for those on the spectrum. As a matter of record, its first center, 'Tamana Special Education Center' was inaugurated by the Late Lady Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1992. The Autism Center was inaugurated by the former President of India, Late Dr. A.P.J. Kalam in 2003.



It is to Tamana's credit that it was accredited and granted a special consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2005 for their contribution in the field of disabilities.

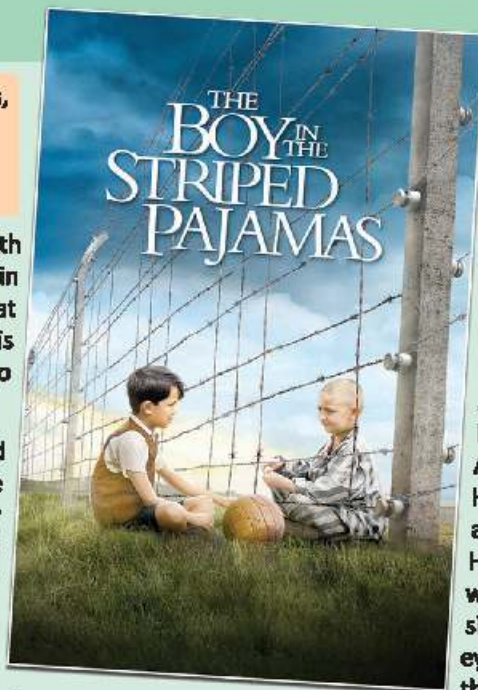
BOOKMARK

Title: The Boy in the Striped Pajamas, A Fable (2006)
Author: John Boyne
Publisher: David Fickling

BRUNO, a 9-year-old boy, lives with his parents and older sister Gretel in Berlin, Germany. Bruno realizes that his dad doesn't have an ordinary job like his friends' fathers. He works for a man Bruno calls the 'Fury'.

One day, Bruno's dad is promoted and transferred. They travel by train to a place with a name that Bruno and Gretel refer to it as 'Out-With' because they can't pronounce the name. The house in Out-With stands in a bleak landscape with nothing for miles around. Out of his bedroom window Bruno sees a very tall fence topped with spirals of barbed wire that seems to run forever. Low huts and square buildings, some with smoking chimneys, dot the space on the other side. Strangest of all are the people standing around in front of the huts — boys and men of all ages — identically dressed in grey striped pajamas and striped cloth cap.

Bruno decides to walk along the fence to see where it goes. After a long time, he sees a lone boy wearing striped pajamas, cap and an armband with a star on it, sitting on the other side. He is smaller than Bruno, thin and pale, with enormous sad brown eyes. Bruno sits down opposite him and begins talking.



The boy's name is Shmuel and weirdly, his birthdate is April 15, 1934, the same as Bruno's!

Bruno returns to the spot every day to talk to Shmuel and bring him food. This goes on for weeks, till the day Shmuel tearfully tells Bruno that his father is missing. Bruno offers to crawl under the fence to help Shmuel find his father...

John Boyne's story is set during the Holocaust. 'Out-With' is of course Auschwitz and the 'Fury' is the 'Fuehrer' or Hitler. Since it is not a historically accurate account, Boyne qualifies it as a 'fable'. However, he handles the traumatic subject with great sensitivity. It acquires special significance because it is seen through the eyes of an innocent child. A film based on the book was released in 2008.

Excerpt:

One day Bruno asked why Shmuel and all the other people on that side of the fence wore the same striped pajamas and cloth caps.

'That's what they gave us when we got here,' explained Shmuel. 'They took away our other clothes.'

'But don't you ever wake up in the morning and feel like wearing something different? There must be something else in your wardrobe.'

SILVER SCREEN

Na'vi Magnum Opus

THE movie picks up 16 years after Jake Sully and the Na'vi drove out the human invaders of Pandora. He now has a family with Neytiri—sons Neteyam and Lo'ak and daughter Tuk. They also have an adopted daughter Kiri (born of the Na'vi form of Grace) and Spider, the villainous Colonel Miles Quaritch's son who was born on Pandora.

The deceased Quaritch returns in a Na'vi avatar refurbished with his old memories. He abducts Spider in an attempt to draw out his nemesis Sully. To protect his clan, Sully flees his home and seeks refuge with the reef people, the Metkayina. He and his family learn the ways of the Metkayina. While Kiri bonds with the spirit of the sea, Lo'ak befriends Payakan, a Tulkun—an intelligent species of whale-like creatures hunted by humans for an anti-aging serum called amrita.

In his quest to wreak vengeance on Sully, Quaritch brings the battle to the realm of the Metkayina. What ensues is the proverbial battle of good versus evil.

In 2009, Hollywood director James Cameron stunned us with a sci-fi saga, Avatar. This year, Cameron returned to wow audiences with the sequel Avatar: The Way of Water.

The movie is a towering achievement in live-action and motion capture cinematography. Like in the first movie, Cameron conjures a hypnotically beautiful world. Despite the simple, predictable storyline, the film's astounding visual effects offer an unparalleled immersive experience. Be it the riveting underwater sequences, unusual wildlife, or rousing action scenes, *Avatar 2* guarantees a great cinematic experience.



RACKETEERS!

If you thought humans are terribly noisy creatures, think again!

INSECT ORCHESTRA

One of the most common forest sounds is the synchronized chirping of cicadas that is clearly audible even 2 km away. The insects have hollow abdomens with muscles called tymbals. The cicada contracts and expands the muscle emitting a 'click' measuring about 120 dB each time. Since the abdomen is hollow it amplifies the sound.

Mole and bush crickets, and a tiny fellow called the water boatman, use a technique called 'stridulation', rubbing one part of the body against the other. The crickets rub their wings together to produce the characteristic chirp. It measures 92 dB and can be heard 600 metres away. Mole crickets also dig megaphone-shaped burrows to amplify their chirps.

The water boatman, no bigger than a grain of rice, produces his sound by rubbing his penis against his abdomen! The sound, at 105 dB, is the loudest by any living thing relative to size. Fortunately for people, the sound diminishes in volume as it enters the air, otherwise it can be as deafening as a pneumatic drill.

MONKEY MAYHEM

The dubious honour of being the loudest mammal on earth goes to the howler monkey of Central and South America, the biggest monkey in the world. When howler monkeys call in chorus at dawn or dusk, they can be heard over a distance of 5 km. The monkey has a large throat and a specialized vocal sac that acts as a resonating chamber. Its call measures around 128 dB on the sound scale.



ECHO POINT



Bats navigate using echolocation, bouncing sounds off objects in their path. The high-pitched squeaks of bats are ultrasonic (the opposite of whale sounds), that is, they are above the human hearing range. Nevertheless, they are loud enough to help the bats hone in on their prey. The greater bulldog bat, the loudest among these strange flying mammals, makes a sound that tops 140 decibels to track fish moving underwater.

CROAKING CONTEST

Native to Puerto Rico, coqui frogs are top of the vocal pops among amphibians. They live in a limited space in a few areas, so their populations can number in the hundreds or even thousands. During the mating season each male vies to out-croak the others. A single frog can generate sounds between 90-100 dB, as noisy as a lawnmower.



CAVE CACOPHONY

Cave-dwelling oilbirds are the loudest-known and their calls can be deafening when they are in a flock. Oilbirds use echolocation like bats to fly around the pitch-dark caves but their calls are audible to people unlike those of bats. An oilbird's squawking and clicking can be around 100 dB, pretty painful to human ears.



MIGHTY SHRIMP



It's less than an inch long, but the aptly-named pistol shrimp can blast its prey, usually a small crab or fish, with a sound that is louder than a rocket launching (over 218 decibels or dB). It has two claws, one larger than the other. When it snaps these specialized claws together, it shoots a jet of water that travels at 100 km an hour. The jet creates a low-pressure bubble of very hot air. The bubble explodes with a deafening bang and flash, stunning the shrimp's dinner or even killing it. The whole thing happens in a fraction of a second.

The noise from a colony of these shrimps can give sailors sleepless nights.

WHALE OF A SOUND



Blue whales are the largest mammals on earth and the loud whistling call they produce is equally impressive. It can go up to 188 decibels, louder than a jet engine. However, many whale sounds are below the hearing range of humans (infrasound). Blue whale communication is also not as complex and varied as the 'song' of the humpback whale, but the sound is audible to the other blue whales even from 800 km away.

HISTORY MYSTERY

THE RIDDLE OF THE PILLARS

EMPEROR ASHOKA in a bid to reach out to his people and inform them of his policies had his proclamations inscribed on rocks and cliff faces all over his vast empire. In some places the proclamations were written and displayed on tall stone pillars.

Ashoka ruled from 268 B.C.E to 232 B.C.E. and most of the inscriptions were in the Brahmi script in use at the time. As the centuries rolled by, this script fell into disuse and finally there came a time when no one could read the inscriptions or knew who had set up the stone pillars and for what purpose.

In the 14th century, Sultan Feroze Shah Tughlaq saw two of the pillars, one at Ambala and the other near Meerut, and fascinated by their appearance and mysterious inscriptions, had them brought to Delhi. Great care was taken to see that they were not damaged in transit. They were covered with reeds and animal hides from top to bottom and transported in a 42-wheel carriage made especially for the purpose.

When they were installed in Delhi, the Sultan invited scholars to study the inscriptions and work out their meanings. Many tried but none succeeded, though one pretended that he had, and claimed that the inscription read: "No one will be able to move this pillar from its place till there should arise a king named Sultan Feroze."

The sycophant, however, was not given much credence and the general opinion was that the pillars were the discarded walking sticks of the mighty warrior, Bhima, of the Mahabharata.

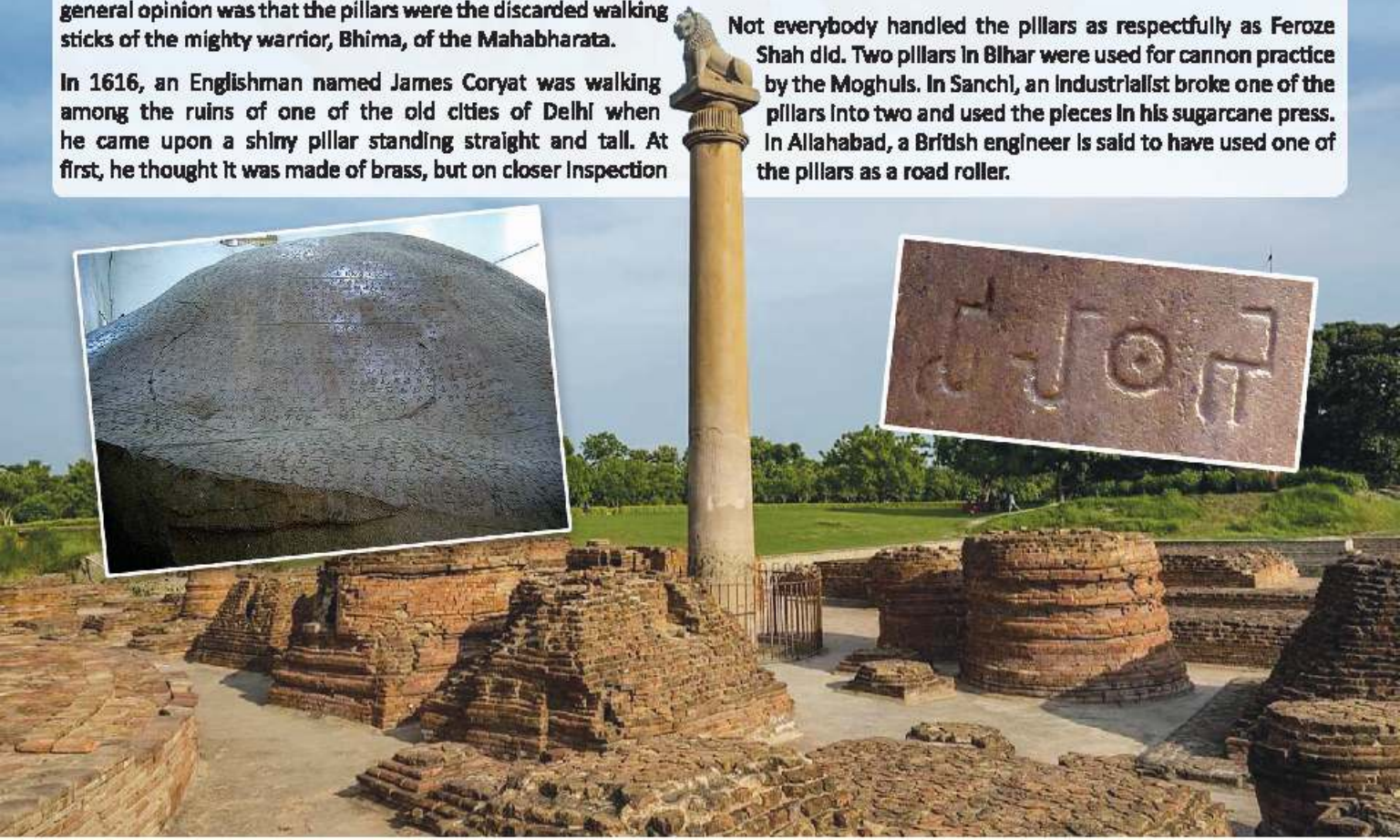
In 1616, an Englishman named James Coryat was walking among the ruins of one of the old cities of Delhi when he came upon a shiny pillar standing straight and tall. At first, he thought it was made of brass, but on closer inspection

he realised that it was highly polished sandstone. It was one of the pillars Feroze Shah had brought to Delhi. Coryat thought the inscriptions were of Greek origin and came to the conclusion that the pillar had been erected by Alexander the Great to commemorate his victory over King Porus. This theory persisted for two hundred years and was discarded only when more pillars were found in Bihar and further afield in places which Alexander could never have reached.

The inscription on the Delhi pillar was finally deciphered by James Prinsep in 1837. Prinsep was an official of the Calcutta Mint and Secretary of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He became interested in inscriptions while cataloguing ancient coins found in Punjab and Rajasthan. When he turned his attention to the inscriptions on the pillars and rocks, deciphering the script became an obsession with him. He drove himself so hard that soon after his success in the work his health broke down and he became mentally deranged. He was taken back to England but died, at the age of 40, without recovering his sanity.

But by unlocking the mystery of the script, Prinsep opened a new chapter in the history of India. Till then people knew only the Ashoka of the legends and some of the legends portrayed him as half-monster, half-idiot. Now that his messages to his people could be read, he was established as a historical figure and stood revealed as an enlightened monarch of a vast and powerful empire.

Not everybody handled the pillars as respectfully as Feroze Shah did. Two pillars in Bihar were used for cannon practice by the Moghuls. In Sanchi, an industrialist broke one of the pillars into two and used the pieces in his sugarcane press. In Allahabad, a British engineer is said to have used one of the pillars as a road roller.





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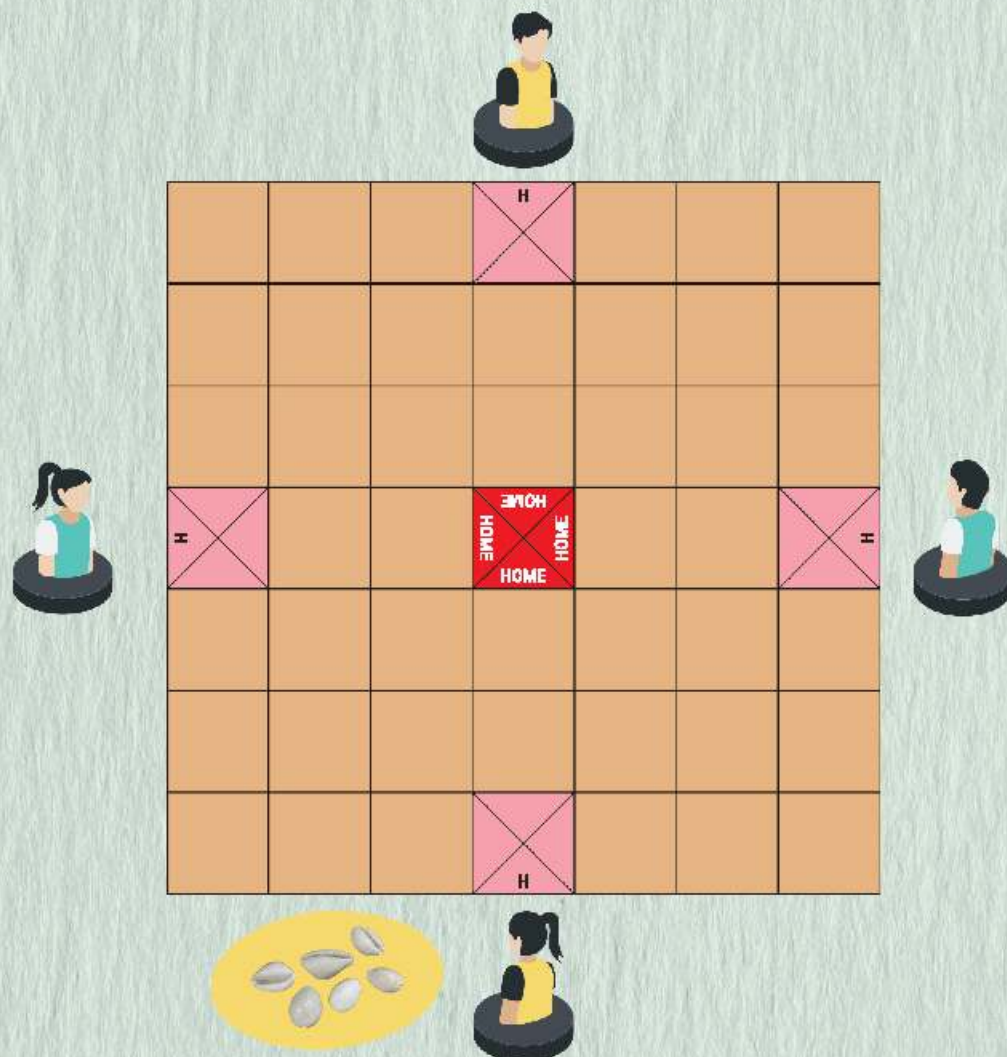
Elevate Your School's Health with Expert Infirmary Setup and Nurse Management."



Schools, are you ready to transform your school into a hub of Health and Vitality?

EN-DICING ENGAGEMENT

Taayakkattam / Taayakkattai



"Taayam" in Tamil means the dice. As a cognate of the Sanskrit term daaya, it also conveys the senses of "to serve", "to hinder", and "to inherit". "Kattam" or "kattai" refer to the square shape. All these meanings apply to Taayakkattam (or kattai), a board-game which involves moving of coins (or pieces) as per the numbers shown upon serving the dice, in a set manner through a board of squares, impeding, whenever possible, the progress of the opponent's pieces. Each player has six pieces in all, and the aim of the game is to reach all the six pieces to the destination point - which is the middle square on the board. The first player (or the team) that gets all the pieces into this square, emerges as the winner.

While anything from pulses and legumes to Ludo coins can serve as the pieces of a player, it is important that all six pieces belonging to a player look alike and are different from those of the other players.

The board for this game comprises 49 (7x7) squares, the middle squares on all four sides are called "home", and each home is the home-square or "boarding point" to the player seated on that particular side. However, all the homes are safe zones for all players and prevent the opponents from attacking one's pieces. The central square on the board is the final home or destination. All these special squares are marked with a cross — X, in order to distinguish them from the other normal squares. While the minimum number of participants required for this game is two, up to four players can participate at a time.

Like the much loved Ludo, this game also employs dice, except that the dice for this game is the Chozhi or the small sea-shells — also six in number.

The open side of each shell — the face — represents the number one, so when the six shells are shaken within one's palm and served on the floor (or table, depending on where the board is laid), one open-side or face up represents one, two faces up mean two and so on.

The interesting part, distinguishing Taayakkattam from other dice-board games, is that while only the open end of the shells are reckoned for counting the

score — with six open sides up denoting six — all the shells falling face down gives a jackpot of 12 (called Parah — meaning Barah or "twelve", the double of Six). In this game, the much coveted scores are 1, 5, 6 and 12 for, these numbers are not only crucial for the players' pieces to get on board but they also each give a bonus turn at the throw. The score One is named the "taayam" as it is perhaps the most difficult throw. Just imagine the situation of a player who has the last piece right at the doorstep of the final destination, and requires just a taayam for a win but keeps throwing paara instead — which is of no

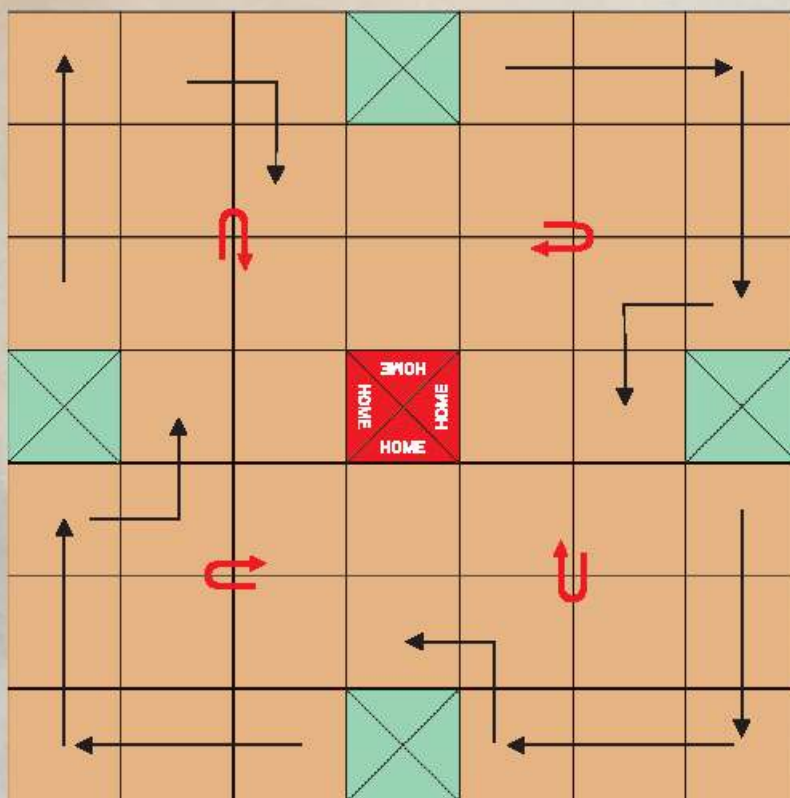
use at this point, and the opponent's piece makes steady progress all this while, reaches this piece and "cuts" it!!! Certainly a disappointment case for the potential winner and jubilant mode for the said aggressor!

Each player takes turns alternately at throwing the shell-dice. Now, the game itself actually starts for a player only when any of the above-mentioned numbers are thrown.

Whoever boards

first, of course, gets a headstart. With a 1, only one piece is boarded whereas with a six all the pieces can be boarded. A 5 enables the player to place on the home square, a minimum of one piece and a maximum of five pieces, and with a 12 one can not only board up to all six of one's pieces, but one can also start advancing one's pieces with the extra six points. For each point thrown, a piece moves one step forward in the clockwise direction.

Thus, for example, with One, one piece can move only



one step while with a Six, it can move six steps. A paara can be divided into two Sixes and the pieces can be moved accordingly. Whenever a player's piece reaches a square already occupied by any of the opponent's piece, the prior tenant piece is attacked (or "cut" — from the game, so to say, albeit temporarily) by the new entrant and sent out of the board — to start all over again with the throw of the right number. A piece occupying any of the "homes" is safe from such attacks or "cuts".

In the absence of the sea-shells, this game can be played with the conventional Dice Cube also, but then the most interesting aspect of paara will then have to be sacrificed. Enterprising children however, create their own shell-substitutes by rubbing a side of seeds such as those of tamarind — six in number — against a hard, frictional surface and creating an "open-side" simulating the face of a sea-shell. With these DIY dice, the game can be played in full throttle just as with sea-shells.

One of the most interesting features of this board game is that a player can couple two pieces on a home square and create a pair which means that two pieces can strategically be moved together with a throw of even numbers. However, the two pieces together can cross only half the distance. Thus, with a throw of Two, the pair moves one square forward, with a Four, it moves two steps, with a Six, it moves three steps, and with a Paara, it moves six squares forward. The advantage of this strategy is that a "pair-piece" cannot be attacked by a single piece of the opponents, while the disadvantage is that the pair can be moved only with the throw of even numbers. It can be most frustrating to a player, and exhilarating to the opponents, when the player has only pair-pieces on board and keeps throwing successive odd numbers!

Just as two pieces can be paired only from any of the home squares, even so, they can also be separated

upon reaching any of the home squares — all at the players' discretion.

Taayakkattam is not entirely a game of luck, as there is strategy involved in making a pair at the right time, as also in moving the single pieces out of the possible six, strategically. The strategy adopted can determine the course of the game. While a single piece cannot cut a pair, it can share the same square, even with the opponent's pair; and while thus sharing a square with a pair, the single piece stays safe from the attacks by single pieces of the opponents. However it is to be noted that a pair belonging to a player can cut a pair as also the single pieces of the opponents. Except for the pair-pieces involved, the cutting norms are much like the ones in games such as Snakes and Ladder and Ludo.

The Board, like the Dice-shells, can be created with a simple DIY project. Anyone — even a three-year old toddler — can simply make it on any surface, even draw out one on the floor with a piece of chalk! It can also be drawn on mud-floor in your garden or playground with a little piece of stick — or even with fingers, if your mother is not the finicky type — as and when you want to pretend that it's an outdoor game. So as you see, this game can be played anywhere, anytime, and the tools required are next to nil !!!

Choose anything six in number, to make your pieces. It adds to the fun element as players choose different things for their coins, and seeing them moving forward can be hilarious!

This game can be quite addictive, particularly for those who master the art of moving their pieces intelligently.

When four players play together you may play individually, or can forge strategic partnerships too.

Enjoy the game, and like in any other board game, you can add your own variations and rules!



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"Together we walk an extra mile, we have an enriched child....."

Nestled serenely in the heart of Crossings Republik, an illustrious beacon of education and enlightenment emerges Sapphire International School. Guided by the sagacious leadership of Principal Vandana Midhaa, this institution radiates a lofty vision-to nurture future-ready global citizens, deeply anchored in values, poised to explore & enhance the happiness quotient of learners, savour and actualize their limitless potential. The institution's mission, a sacred tapestry, weaves together a research-driven curriculum, a haven of safety and nurturance, an assembly of dedicated mentors and the forging of collaborative partnerships with parents-a synthesis that underpins Sapphire International School's unwavering commitment to educational eminence.

At the core of Sapphire International School's ethos resonates a mantra of profound significance: "Every Child is a Leader". This resounding proclamation underscores the institution's steadfast dedication to practice values and inculcating leadership qualities in each student-a commitment to fostering not merely academic brilliance but also the ethical compass and skills.

Principal Midhaa, a visionary steward of education, recognizes the imperative of synchronizing education with the ever-undulating currents of the contemporary world. She fervently champions the cause of personalized pedagogy, passionately urging each student to embark on voyages of exploration and innovation, ensuring their perpetual resonance in a world characterized by ceaseless transformation. Her unwavering commitment extends holistically, encapsulated within the all-encompassing 360-degree spectrum of education.

Principal Midhaa ardently professes that the essence of



life eludes mere assimilation through the printed word; it beckons to be experienced. This guiding ethos has birthed the 'Human Library,' a portal enabling learners to glean profound insights from real-life odysseys through interactions with living legends like the venerable President of India, Menaka Gandhi, legal luminary Prashant Bhushan, the inspirational Shiv Khara and many others who, like diamonds in the rough, were meticulously polished through hard work, determination and unwavering grit.

Recognizing the paramount significance of holistic development, the institution instituted the "Morning Sports" initiative, a ritual for every student. Beyond fostering physical well-being, this endeavor instills the virtues of discipline, teamwork and sportsmanship in the impressionable minds of Sapphirians, equipping them not merely for the scholastic challenges but also for life's trials beyond the classroom.

In an epoch steered by the relentless march of technology, Sapphire International School has taken monumental strides to equip its students with the skills and knowledge



needed to thrive. Programs such as “Chrysalis” and “Mindbox” have been seamlessly woven into the curriculum, ensuring that students metamorphose from technology consumers into adept creators and innovators within the digital realm. This visionary paradigm crystallizes the realization that leaders are not moulded



“Education is not just about filling minds with knowledge; it’s about lighting the spark of curiosity, fostering creativity, and nurturing the leaders and innovators of tomorrow. The National Education Policy guides us on this transformative journey, shaping a brighter future for our students.”

Vandana Midha, Principal

overnight; they are meticulously nurtured and becoming design thinkers and glocal citizens.

Embedded within this philosophy is the transformative “SEWA” Project, an initiative that fomenters seismic shifts within young minds, rippling outward to impact the broader world. These initiatives expand horizons, kindling empathy within youthful learners, empowering them to become catalysts of transformative change, actively engaged within their communities rather than passive observers.

Sapphire International School remains steadfast in its

commitment to instill core values, including gratitude and empathy within its students. These values, far from being mere adornments, coalesce to form a more compassionate and considerate school community.

Furthermore, the institution orchestrates a diverse array of workshops and seminars catering to both students and educators. The integration of Professional Development Programs (PDPs) and Continuing Education Programs (CBPs) into the school's calendar underscores its dedication to enhancing the pedagogical prowess of educators, thereby elevating the quality of education imparted to students through art-integration, experiential learning.

A defining hallmark of Sapphire International School is its distinctive celebration of failures. Principal Midha fervently believes that true success often emerges from the crucible of failures, a philosophy that underpins an environment where missteps are perceived as stepping stones to growth.

In summation, Sapphire International School transcends the conventional paradigm of being a mere educational

institution; it embodies a crucible of innovation, inspiration and empowerment. Sapphire International School is sculpting the leaders and global citizens of tomorrow, unwaveringly adhering to its creed that “Every Child is a Leader.”



POORAN POLI

Cooking Time : 20 minutes

Prep Time : 5 minutes

Serve : 4-6



PREPARATION

Step 1

For the 'puran', start by washing the chana dal in water. Add to the pressure cooker and cook for 6-7 whistles. After this, drain out the excess water.

Step 2

Add ghee to a non-stick pan. Once hot, add Ginger Powder, nutmeg powder, cardamom powder and Fennel Powder. Stir until the spices are roasted. Add jaggery and chana dal.

Step 3

Cook the mixture on low flame until all the water has evaporated and the mixture is completely dry. Stir continuously. Once the mixture is thick, turn off the heat, cool the mixture and blend for smoothness.

Step 4

Move onto the poli dough. Add the wheat flour and salt to a bowl, and mix well. Add water, ghee and knead to a smooth dough. Keep the dough aside and let it sit for 15-20 minutes.

Step 5

Divide the dough into medium sized, roughly equal balls. Roll each to 2-3 inches in circumference, with a dusted rolling pin.

Step 6

Place the puran mixture in the centre of the rolled dough, and bring the edges to the centre to join and close.

Step 7

Add ghee to a hot tawa. Place the rolled up poli on the tawa. Cook evenly on each side, until brown. Serve hot, with an extra dollop of ghee.

Ingredients

Powdered Jaggery (gur)	1 cup
Split Bengal Gram (chana dal)	1 cup
Water	3 cups
Ghee	4 teaspoons
Fennel (Badian) Powder	1 teaspoon
Ginger Powder	tsps ¾ to 1
Cardamom powdered	4-5
Nutmeg Powder	¼ teaspoon

Ingredients (Contd.)

Whole Wheat Flour	1.5 cups
Salt	To Taste
Turmeric (Haldi) Powder	¼ teaspoon



Taste

That continues to LINGER ...





ONMARK FOOTBALL ACADEMY

VISION

The academy's vision is to enable young players capable of competing at regional, national, and international levels of football in all aspects of the game - physically, mentally, technically, and tactically.

CURRICULUM

Our training curriculum revolves around the ball. All activities are designed and planned so that players are always with the ball which eventually improves their touch, ball control & skills with the ball. Our Academy has detailed training curriculum for different age groups & skill levels. We follow AIFF's guidelines on age groups.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To have students from your school playing at the national level in coming years, representing the state in various age groups.
- (2) To have the top professional clubs in the state scout regularly for their young talent from your school on a regular basis.
- (3) To host the best football youth tournament in the country, recognised by the All-India Football Federation (AIFF), inviting the top professional academies and clubs to take part.
- (4) To produce international players who would represent India in various age groups and play for clubs overseas.
- (5) To have the top professional clubs in India working exclusively with your school, scouting talent directly from your school on a regular basis.

Director - Karan

Karan.onmark@gmail.com

8802664234

Name

B

**Bal Gangadhar Tilak**

An Indian nationalist, a freedom fighter and a teacher. He gave the slogan 'Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it'. Was conferred the title 'Lokmanya'. One of the strongest advocates of Swaraj (self rule), he formed a strong alliance with the Indian National Congress leaders. He was a radical and encouraged the 'Swadeshi' and the boycott movement. He also brought out the newspaper 'Kesari' which in Sanskrit means lion.

Place

**Borneo**

A large island, covering an area of roughly 2.8 lakh square miles, is the third largest in the world. It is a part of three countries, namely, Malaysia and Brunei in the north and Indonesia in the south. Home to an astonishing range of flora and fauna and the oldest forests in the world, it is home to more than 200 mammals, 400 birds and 1500 species of flowers. It is inhabited by many ethnic tribes and boasts of mind blowing landscapes.

Thing

**Brick**

Oldest known building material going as far back as 7000BC. The first were mud bricks dried in the sun for hardening. Bricks in ancient Egypt were made of clay and straw. The heat of the sun was required to make them. In 3500BC fired bricks were made and the sun was no longer needed to make them. It was the Romans who popularized its usage throughout Europe. It continues to remain an important building block to this day.

Animal

**Beaver**

A semi-aquatic rodent seen mostly in the northern hemisphere. Found largely in North America and Eurasia, they are the second largest rodents in the world. One of the few animals that modify their habitat. They build water tight dams made of woven sticks, reeds, saplings and branches put together with mud and rocks. It reduces stream erosion and provides a new habitat for small fish and other aquatic wild life. Its diet consists of leaves, aquatic plants and woody stems.

Y

**Yves Saint Laurent**

Pronounced as 'eev san law-rawn', he was considered the leading fashion designer of the 20th century. He founded his own label using his name, Saint Laurent. A celebrated designer, his styles represented the changes in fashion of the period. In the 1960s the brand is said to have popularized the beatnik look and the safari jackets for men and women. He takes the pride of place for making acceptable the wearing of pants by women. The label popularised ready mades.

**Ypres**

Pronounced as 'EE Pruh' is an ancient Belgian city and municipality in the Flemish province of west Flanders. It is known for its beautiful architecture, a historic cloth hall, and a medieval market square. It was the site of 3 major battles in the first world war and numerous others. It still commemorates these events daily. Every night the last post sounds in tribute to the soldiers who had laid down their lives, to ensure that the terrible losses are not ever forgotten.

**Yeast**

Is a fungus. It derives its name from Greek meaning 'Sugar Fungus' and is so called because during the fermentation process it converts sugar into alcohol and starch into carbon dioxide. It is used in baking, making of beer and wine and in the making of a host of other food items. The earliest record of yeast being used goes back to ancient Egypt of 1300-1500 BC and originated in China in 500- 300 BC. It carries the scientific name of 'saccharomyces cerevisiae'.

**Yak**

It is a species of long, haired cattle found in Tibet, Tajikistan and in the Himalayan region among a few others. It is also called the Tartary Ox and the Grunting Ox. Heavily built animals with bulky frames, sturdy legs and long fur that are generally black to brown in colour. They are kept for their milk, wool and meat. They are also used as beasts of burden and help in transporting goods across mountains. This breed's only diet is grass.

SPORTING SPIRIT

GYMNASTICS

History

Gymnastics is a sport in which contestants (gymnasts) perform acrobatic exercises on various types of gymnastic equipment. It has its roots in ancient Greek methods of exercise and physical development. All Greek cities had a gymnasium or a courtyard where men trained. The sport was revived in the 19th century and was included in the 1896 Olympic Games.

Greats

L'I MISS PERFECT—that was the name they gave her because she went through her routines with an unsmiling, ice-cold precision. The Romanian gymnast, Nadia Comaneci, all of 150 cm tall and just over 14 years old, scored seven perfect 10's for the first time in Olympic history, at Montreal in 1976. Nadia won two gold medals and the overall gold.

Over the next two years, rumours flew thick and fast about the gymnast's troubled life, including a suicide attempt. She made a comeback in the 1978 World Gymnastics Championship in France, winning the individual beam competition. In the Moscow Olympics, Nadia won two golds and a silver taking her tally of Olympic golds to five. She retired in 1981.

In 1989, in the wake of the anti-Communist uprising in eastern Europe, she sought asylum in the United States, where she later married Bart Conner, an American medal-winning gymnast.

ABC Television even set her performance to music, using a theme from a popular American soap opera, and the song was eventually renamed 'Nadia's Theme'!

Comaneci was honoured with the Olympic Order, the highest award given by the Olympic committee twice, in 1984 and 2004. She was the first to receive the award twice and also the youngest recipient. She has pride of place in the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

American gymnast Simone Biles, who has won a total of 25 World Gymnastic Championship medals and 7 Olympic medals, so far, is considered one of the greatest gymnasts of all time.

Rules

- ◆ There are six events: the pommel horse, the rings, the horse vault, the parallel bars, the beam balance and floor exercises.
- ◆ There are compulsory and optional events. In the compulsory round, all participants perform the same routine. The gymnast choreographs the optional round.
- ◆ The lower age limit for international meets is 16 years.
- ◆ Only instrumental music is allowed.
- ◆ A ten point system is used for judging. Each event is given a difficulty level and the point system varies accordingly. Minor errors result in the loss of 0.1 of a point; more serious errors cost the gymnast 0.2, 0.3 or 0.4 of a point.



Did You Know?

MALLAKHAMB is the traditional Indian form of gymnastics. The gymnast performs his feats while hanging from a wooden pole or a rope. The pole may either be fixed to the ground or hung from the ceiling by a hook or chain.

DIPA KARMAKAR created history by becoming the first Indian female gymnast to qualify for the Olympic Games. She is one of only five gymnasts in the world to have performed the most difficult and dangerous move in gymnastics – the Produnova vault. It involves a front handspring and two front somersaults and then the all-important frontal landing, which may result in a broken neck or paralysis if not performed with utmost precision.



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