

The Open Page

Inspire Learning

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inside

ANCIENT CITY OF DHOLAVIRA

Students often ask what is the point of studying history and things that happened in the past. To them history teachers reply that we should keep in mind that history repeats itself and there is much we can learn by studying the problems of the past which are also applicable to us today and the solutions which proved to be effective for the same.

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CHALO JEETE HAIN...



Childhood is the most precious, vibrant, energetic period of the life, full of wonder and curiosity.

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THE ART OF EDUCATION



Once like any other parent, I went to school to apply for extended leave (a few days in addition to the scheduled vacation) for my child. After waiting for my turn, when I put forward the request to the Principal, I was posed a few questions.

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ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

The entire nation mourned the passing away of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on August 16, 2018 following a prolonged illness at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He was 93, and was accorded a state funeral at Smriti Sthal, Delhi. The Central Government announced a seven-day national mourning as a mark of respect for the former Prime Minister.

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Let Reading Give You Wings



GARIMA BHATT is the Editor at The Open Page. She is an inspiring and passionate educationist with extensive media experience

On one hand the recent leaps in communication technology has literally brought all the world's information to the palm of our hand, on the other hand this easy access and instant gratification is in some ways impacting our ability to focus, absorb, imagine and retain. Books are fast being replaced by television, iPads, tablets and smartphones. The present generation's approach to getting knowledge as well as entertainment has becoming increasingly dependent on audio-visual media. While AV can be a great tool to understand things easily, it also makes the brain lazy and impatient. When the brain can easily access information passively, it starts losing its abilities of active focus, imagination and patience.

Needless to say, reading enhances the reader's knowledge. By developing an interest and passion for reading books, magazines, newspapers or periodicals, children can broaden and diversify their range of knowledge, which gives them an increased opportunity to participate in constructive discussions, express informed opinions and improve their own decision making process. This is why the habit of reading is as important to develop today, as it used to be in the past. However, the joy of reading is more than just getting information. Some say, reading is like time travelling and it can actually take you inside the life and times of distant places and ages. Reading satiates children's natural curiosity by giving them a wider range of perspectives to consider. For many, books are their greatest friends, who give them good company, enhance their knowledge and help them see the greater truths of life. A popular phrase "curling up with books" creates an image of a warm and close relationship with the book. Watching their child curled up with a book, gives great pleasure to all parents too.

Reading requires us to concentrate and stay focussed for extended periods. This provides exercise to the brain, the same way endurance exercises help us build physical stamina. For understanding a large piece of text or the whole story, one must be able to hold sustained attention; which in turn helps improve our ability to



"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only once."

—George R.R. Martin, *A Dance with Dragons*.

concentrate and focus.

To say that reading is a mental workout, is an understatement. The reading brain is more like a real-time collaborative effort of a symphony orchestra, with various parts of the brain working together, like sections of instruments, to maximise our ability to decode the written text in front of us:

- The temporal lobe is responsible for phonological awareness and decoding/discriminating sounds.
- The frontal lobe handles speech production, reading fluency, grammatical usage, and comprehension, making it possible to understand simple and complex grammar.
- The angular and supramarginal gyrus serve as a "reading integrator" a conductor of sorts, linking the different parts of the brain together to execute the action of reading. These areas of the brain connect the letters c, a, and t to the word 'cat' that we can then read aloud.

Emerging readers can build strong reading skills through focused, and repetitive practice. Various studies have indicated that regular reading creates physical changes in the brain as it builds new connections and strengthens the neural path-

ways, specifically in the areas that help in reading. This means that the very act of reading trains our brains to become even better at reading! In some studies, after just eight weeks of regular reading exercises, weak readers developed the brain activity patterns that resemble those of strong readers. And, as brain patterns changed, significant improvements in word reading, decoding, reading comprehension and language functions were also observed.

It is important to remember that one must not underestimate the importance of reading even now in the 21st century. Reading is a great habit that can change human lives dramatically. It can entertain us; amuse us and enrich us with knowledge. It has also been shown to be helpful in reducing stress and rejuvenating the mind. It can take us away from our worries as it carries us to the realm of dream and amusement – far away from the real complex world. Reading not only enriches our knowledge, but also sharpens our ability to analyse and evaluate ideas and concepts better. Moreover, regular reading increases the reader's vocabulary by introducing them to new and unfamiliar words and phrases regularly. An increased vocabulary not only helps us improve our comprehension but also equips us to better express ourselves. This is why children, I hope you will all make an effort to spend some time reading everyday and gradually embracing this wonderful habit to become a part of your daily life.



To feature your school event on this page, send the details and photographs to editor@theopenpage.co.in

Chaitanya School Gandhinagar celebrated Independence Day



As India steps into its 73rd year of Independence, Chaitanya School Gandhinagar too celebrated this momentous occasion with great enthusiasm and zeal. The tricolour was hoisted jointly by Mr Ravi Gopalan, President Argusoft & Treasurer SVNT and the senior most student of the school Ms Sugra Fatima. The event was graced by our trustees Ms Elizabeth Koshy and Ms Nalini Subbarao. A collaborated effort of Chief of Operations Mr Jain, Principal Mrs Swati Matta, all teachers, staff members and students made the celebrations look even grander.



72nd, Independence Day was celebrated at Rameshwar School, Nikol



TIS Celebrates 72nd Independence Day

TIS students celebrated the 72nd Independence Day of India with great enthusiasm. The performances included patriotic songs, dance, puppet show, speeches and drama. It was a wonderful event and the children came dressed in Independence themed costumes.



72nd, Independence Day was celebrated at BAPS-SVM, Raysan

The 72nd Indian Independence Day was celebrated at BAPS-SVM, Raysan by hostel students, with immense prestige and dignity. First the students sang our national song vande matram, and then the national flag was unfurled by the chief guests. This was followed by the memorable song vijaye vishva tiranga pyara and lastly, the Indian national anthem, Jana Gana Mana was sung by all students. Students honored the event in the jovial atmosphere by continuous glee, cheers and clapping.

TRIRANGA YATRA

TIS Students(Girls) performed a cultural dance on patriotic songs at Riverfront, Paldi during the TRIRANGA YATRA(Yaad Karo Kurbani).



CCIS green campus, celebrated the 72nd Independence Day

CCIS green campus, celebrated the 72nd Independence Day with great pomp and show. Mr. Suresh Agarwal (Trustee of CCIS) was the guest of honour. Mr. Hitesh Buch, Ms. Grishma Shah and Mr. Suketu Janani were the Chief guests. The celebration began with flag hoisting and national anthem by the guests. The students showcased their national fervour through brilliant patriotic dance performances by all age groups. They also enthralled the audience with memorable patriotic songs sung beautifully by children. The programme also included energetic inter-house dance and song competitions as well as impassioned speeches by the students. The programme culminated with deafening cheers by the students upon the announcement of the winners.



Lessons on Water-Management from the ANCIENT CITY OF DHOLAVIRA

Students often ask what is the point of studying history and things that happened in the past. To them history teachers reply that we should keep in mind that history repeats itself and there is much we can learn by studying the problems of the past which are also applicable to us today and the solutions which proved to be effective for the same. One such problem is the issue of increasing water scarcity that haunts us not only today, but also impacted the residents of Harappan Civilisation, who designed their cities in a way that allowed them to best manage their reducing water supply.

Looking at the Gujarat Government's initiative for a state wide water conservation drive - 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan', we as citizens also need to look back at our history and the impressively designed water harvesting and management system employed at Dholavira ruins. The excavation of huge reservoirs and wells at Dholavira reveals marvellous engineering and water management skills of the Harappan people in 3rd millennium BCE and offers a great lesson for the present generation.

Dholavira is situated in the Khadirbet island in the Kutch district of Gujarat. Known locally as kotada timba, it is the latest and one of the two largest Harappan settlements in India. (the other being the Rakhigarhi in Haryana). The ancient mounds of Dholavira were first discovered by Dr. J.P. Joshi, former Director General of Archeological Survey of India in 1967-1968. However, the excavation work at the site was conducted by ASI under the supervision of R.S. Bist and his team 1990 onwards. Spreading over 100 hectares of land, this quadrangular city represents an excellent example of ancient town planning with sophisticated drainage system and gateways, striking architecture and amazing water harvesting and management system. The excavation at the site by ASI give evidence of seven distinct periods of habitation dating from 2650 BCE to 1450 BCE. It has indeed added a new dimension to the legacy of Indus Valley Civilisation.

Excavators say that the scientific city planning of Harappan civilisation reached its peak at Dholavira. The architecture of Dholavira shows a large scale use of sand stone, combined in places with mud-bricks. The layout of this settlement is unlike that of any other Harappan site. It is surrounded by an outer fortification wall made of mud-brick with a veneer of stone blocks on the outer face, along with imposing bastions and two major gateways in the middle of the northern and southern walls. In the fortified Upper town, re-



mains of a large well, a well planned drainage system and several large buildings (made of well cut stone blocks) have been found. Dholavira can be compared to other major Harappan cities like Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Banwali. Globally, it can be compared to the cities of Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilisations.

Harappans were famous for their elaborate arrangement for water and drainage system as is evident from many Harappan sites like Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Lothal etc. But the most impressive water harvesting and management system is found at Dholavira. This region of Gujarat today receives less than 160 cm of rain annually and is prone to droughts. The main sources of water are two seasonal (rain-fed) streams- Mansar in the north and Manhar in the south, and some ground water. Given the area's long history of water scarcity, the ancient inhabitants of Dholavira made special arrangements for water supply. They built dams across the rivers to channelize their water into storage reservoirs. Remains of several large rock-cut reservoirs (at least 16) of varying size, have been found in the citadel and lower town of the city. Two of the reservoirs were extremely large. Reservoirs are cut through stone vertically, and are about on average 7m (23ft) deep and 79 m (259ft.) long. Prof. Vasant Shinde, Vice Chancellor of Deccan college of Archeology says, "Harappans dammed both the streams and they diverted all the water inside the settle-

ment. Excavations show that city was divided into three parts and in each part had underground water tanks, which are connected by an underground water channel. They made sure that water kept circulating inside the settlement even in the desert. That is how they could not only survive but also flourished in Dholavira."

Additionally, an effective rain water harvesting system was also developed by the inhabitants themselves. Several cisterns and wells have been found in different parts of the city, to preserve precious rain water and ground water. The most imposing well was located in the castle and is perhaps known as the earliest example of a rock cut well. A 2014 excavation revealed a rectangular step-well which measured 73.4m (241ft) long, 29.3m (96ft) wide, and 10m (33ft) deep, making it three times bigger than the Great Bath of Mahenjodaro.

Archaeologists have also discovered huge stone-cut drains, which were used to direct storm water to the western and northern section of the lower town, separated by broad bunds. Thus water from seasonal streams, scanty precipitation and ground water was stored by the people in every possible manner to sustain their life in a hot, arid landscape. Such an elaborate water conservation methods of Dholavira is unique and is considered as one of the most efficient system of the ancient world. In the words of R.S. Bist, Joint Director General (Rtd.) of ASI, "The kind of efficient water management sys-

tem of Harappans of Dholavira, developed for conservation, harvesting and storage of water speaks eloquently about their hydraulic engineering, given the state of technology in the third millennium BCE."

This elaborate water management system of ancient Dholavira shows the perseverance of the people against challenging geo-climatic conditions. It also reveals that it was not only the regional authorities that applied their mind towards water conservation but also the common people, who played an active role in water management more than four thousand years ago. In contrast, we - the people in 21st century, with our far more advanced technology and experience in building big dams and reservoirs, are lacking the general awareness for saving water like the ancient people of Dholavira. We are already facing and are going to face more severe water crises in the near future. So, the need of the hour is that we as the educated and concerned citizens, should learn from the people of ancient Dholavira to save each drop of water that we can in our daily consumption. Our Government should widely implement rain water harvesting and water management systems in every village and city for our sustainable living.

DR. RASHMI PANDA

Visiting Asst. Professor of History, Calorx Teachers' University, Ahmedabadd

SAMIHA CHANDWANI

Under Graduate Student Lakehead University Canada

THE OPEN PAGE - EVENT FOR THE FORTNIGHT

Kids, You Can Protect Groundwater Too!



Handwriting is an essential skill for both children and adults. For younger children it activates the brain which involves more complex motor and cognitive skills. Handwriting contributes to reading fluency because it activates visual perception of letters. Handwriting is a predictor of success in other subjects, because good handwriting has a positive impact on grades. Good handwriting remains as a major form of assessment for many formal qualifications. Illegible handwriting can cause poor self-esteem. Poor self-esteem can trigger loss of confidence. Thus understanding the importance and creating awareness of having a good handwriting we at The Open Page organized a HANDWRITING COMPETITION in association with GYANJYOT PUBLIC SCHOOL – BOPAL on 14th August'18. Students of std – 3rd to 8th participated in this competition. More than 200 students participated in

this competition. Two students from each standard were selected as the winners.

Standard	1st Prize	2nd Prize
3rd	Daksh	Khushi Pithawa
4th	Ansh Patel	Prutha Patel
5th	Aastha Chavda	Harsh Bhavsar
6th	Nityaa Patel	Khushan Agarwal
7th	Tanvi Patel	Rutvik Dagli
8th	Unnati Maradia	Shivani Choudhary

Prizes and certificate to the winners of the competition were given by Dr. Palak Shah, the Principal of Gyanjyot Public School. She explained to the students importance of having good handwriting and also encouraged them. The students were highly thrilled by participating in the competition. They all were eager to read and participate in other activities that would be organized by THE OPEN PAGE.

Even with all of the contamination threats to groundwater, it CAN be protected by kids like you who educate the people in their homes and communities about the water they drink.

You can actually start protecting groundwater right at home! Investigate your home for products (paints, cleaners, etc.) that would contaminate the groundwater if they were poured down the drain or dumped on the ground outside. If you live in a house with a lawn, find out about all the chemicals (pesticides, fertilizers, etc.) that are used on the lawn.

Talk to your family members about how hazardous household or lawn products can contaminate the groundwater. Instead of pouring chemicals down the drain, they can be used up so there is only a container left. Purchase "environmentally safe" products over hazardous ones. Chemical use on lawns can be reduced to prevent large amounts of contaminants getting into the groundwater.

SPACING BETWEEN POINTS

- Pick up litter in your neighbourhood and on your school grounds.
- Encourage your friends and family to reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- You can go to your neighbourhood or community leaders and ask them to sponsor a "household hazardous waste collection day" where people can bring their old

paint, oil, or other chemicals to be disposed of properly.

- You and your friends or family members can go around to storm drains in your area to stencil a groundwater friendly message.
 - Design posters or flyers in your community that educate citizens on easy ways to conserve water.
 - Ride a bike or walk instead of taking the bus or riding in a car.
 - Encourage friends and family to purchase "green" household cleaning alternatives and to limit their use of harmful chemicals like pesticides and fertilizers.
 - Talk to your teacher at school about a groundwater class project or a school-wide groundwater education day.
 - Celebrate Earth Day, everyday.
 - Partner with your Boy Scout, Girl Scout, NCC or other organization to host a public "Test Your Well" event.
 - Consider forming a groundwater club that meets after school. As a club, you can work together to complete some simple groundwater protection service projects in your community.
- With all the contamination threats to groundwater, what difference can one person make? A lot! It just takes one person to begin positive change toward groundwater and that person can be you!!

LML school celebrates the 72nd Independence day showcasing India's rich culture and strength

On a bright and sunny morning as the nation woke up to its auspicious 72nd Independence Day, so did the students of Lalji Mehrotra Lions School – all poised to celebrate the occasion in their school premises. On this occasion, an inter-house dance and music competition was organised based on the themes- 'Folk dances of India' and 'Peace' respectively. The young patriots put their hearts and souls out and presented a show of a lifetime. Recalling the valorous and selfless freedom fighters as well as our dauntless soldiers, the resilience and the strength of our country was evoked by means of a march-past by all the houses: Jal, Agni, Vayu and Prithvi headed by their respective house captains. The Human pyramids were real show stealers and truly captured the audience's heart.

Mr. Natubhai Meghijibhai Patel, M.D of Meghmani Organic Limited was the Chief Guest for the event. The eminent guests and judges were visibly impressed by each performance, and were even left awestruck by a few. The nail biting moments before the results were announced finally ended with Vayu house being declared as the winner in the song competition, while Jal house bagged the first position in dance. The function couldn't have ended on a more nationalist note as the students rose for the national song sung by the teachers of the school themselves.



ORGAN DONATION DAY CELEBRATION

Our BAPS School, Raysan had organized a program on awareness of organ donation on 13th August, 2018. The program was arranged by the science teachers to motivate and encourage more people towards organ donation in their life. Students presented a skit giving information and importance of organ donation. It was explained to kids that one organ donor can save up to 8 lives. The donor of the organs plays a role of God in the life of organ transplanted person.



To feature your school event on this page, send the details and photographs to editor@theopenpage.co.in

CHALO JEETE HAIN....



Childhood is the most precious, vibrant, energetic period of the life, full of wonder and curiosity. It is fair to say that real change in society can only be brought by providing the right education and values to all our children. With this thought in mind and a goal to instil good values along with the wings of wonder in children, THE ART OF LIVING organisation organised a screening of the short film Chalo Jeete Hain in various schools of Ahmedabad this month.

Chalo Jeete Hain (Let's live life for others) is an uplifting short film, reportedly inspired by the early life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The thought provoking story is about a young boy named Naru, whose mind is constantly preoccupied with one question: "Who do you live for?" (Aap kiske liye jeete ho). He goes from person to person asking this question, including his parents. Finally, he got the answer from his schoolteacher, who evoked the story of the life and death of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev, and told him that people remember them because they died for the nation. The film tries to emphasise that the PM from his very childhood, knew he would live for others and for the nation. And, as they say, the rest is history.

Biopics are often notorious for over-playing the character. This film however steers clear of that; while also bringing out the sensitive, reflective and altruistic nature of the child Narendra Modi in his school days. The Producers Anand L Rai — maker of the film Tanu weds Manu — along with Mahavir Jain and National Award winning Director Mangesh Hadawale, haven't over-played Naru's poverty. He wears a neat school dress with a red sleeveless sweater. Here, they bring out a very well-known Modi trait. Though from a poor family, Narendra always wore neat clothes, even ironing his shirts with a hot water-filled metal bowl.

The film has received positive reviews from audiences and critics alike. It is a great film for all children to watch. They would surely be inspired by Naru's personality and the message of the film. Some young viewers were so touched by this story that they too resolved to make the most of their lives by living for others and positively contributing to building their nation.

BIRTHDAY CORNER



Dear,
DHUN
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Wishes from
Mokshaa,
Namasvi, Preesha
and Prutha

Wish your friends on his/her birthday by sending their photograph and message to
The Open Page: 4th Floor Vishwa Arcade, Opp. Kum-Kum Party Plot, Nr. Akhbarnagar, Nava Wadaj, Ahmedabad - 380013.
Email:- info@theopenpage.co.in

TIS, Poem Recitation competition



An Inter-school Poetry Recitation competition was held at TIS Campus on 4th August, 11 am onwards for Std. 1 to 5. It was an impressive show with a healthy competition, where these very young students learned and recited their poems in their own distinctive styles.

S.R.V, Bopal Remembers the Martyrs on 72nd Independence Day



This year too, Independence day was celebrated over two days at our school and all students and staff worked together dedicatedly to prepare for the much awaited event. After weeks of hard work, all students and staff enjoyed the show which included some heart touching vocal performances, mind blowing dance performances as well as an extremely engaging skit from the life of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. Apart from this, some inspiring speeches and poetry were also recited by talented, young SRVians.

The Director and Principal of the school were the Chief Guests of the function and gave moving speeches evoking the supreme sacrifice of the great martyrs who gave their lives for the sake of our freedom. They also reminded students that freedom is very precious and it is crucial to reserve and deserve it. At the end of the ceremony chocolates were distributed among the children and we all had a great time. On 15th morning, we came to school in our whites for the flag hoisting, where the National Anthem was sung by our school choir and the beloved tricolour was unfurled.

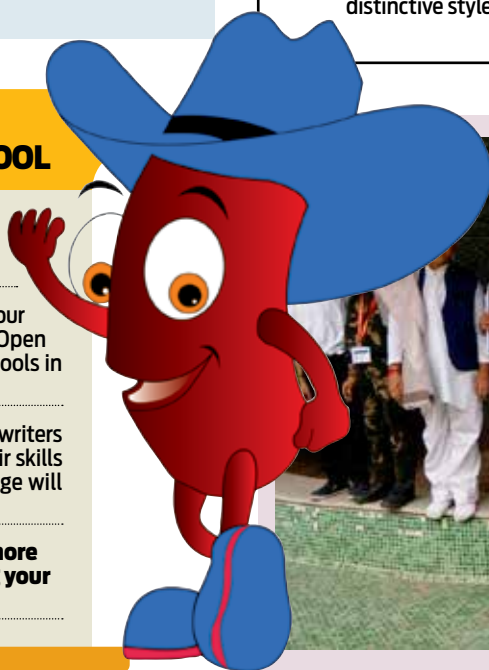
INVITATION TO FORM AN OP EDITORIAL CLUB IN YOUR OWN SCHOOL

Open Page invites all our partnering schools and students to form Editorial Clubs in their own school or connect your existing one with us.

By registering your club with us, you can easily publish your stories, achievements, news, events and photos in Open Page and reach thousands of students across all schools in Ahmedabad.

This is a great opportunity for budding journalists and writers to not only showcase their talent, but also polish their skills through various workshops by experts that Open Page will conduct at your school campus.

Write to us at editor@theopenpage.co.in for more information, to register your club, or to sending your articles with photographs



A Tribute to H H Pramukh Swami Maharaj

On 13th August H H Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the 'Ekantik Satpurush', the manifest form Aksharbrahm and a key for attaining liberation was remembered and was paid tributes. BAPS Raysan parivar, offered prayers and remembered 'Swamiji', while praising the greatness of this divine entity. The more one tries to describe his immensely noble character the more one feels that it is not enough.

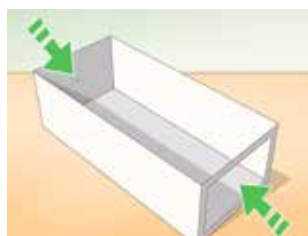
MAKE A "CAMERA"—AND LEARN HOW A REAL ONE WORKS!



Pinhole cameras were one of the earliest types of cameras. They use the principle of "camera obscura," in which light travels through a small hole in a dark box to form a picture. It's the same science that today's cameras use. Follow these instructions to make a pinhole "camera" and learn how real cameras work.

SUPPLY LIST

- a sharp pencil
- an empty shoe box with a lid
- a cutter (ask an adult for help)
- scissors
- a ruler
- wax paper
- tape
- a blanket

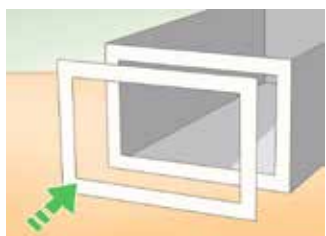


STEP 1

Use the point of a sharp pencil to punch a hole in one of the shorter ends of the shoe box.

STEP 2

Ask an adult to use a cutter to cut a square in the opposite end of the box, directly across from the hole. The square should measure 2 inches (5.08 centimeters) on each side.



STEP 3

Use scissors to cut a square of wax paper that measures 3 inches (7.62 centimeters) on each side.

STEP 4

Place the wax paper directly over the square you cut in the box. Tape the edges of the wax paper to the box.



STEP 5

Take the camera box to a dimly lit room and turn on a lamp. Stand about 5 feet (1.5 meters) from the lamp.

STEP 6

Cover your head and pinhole camera with a blanket. Be sure that the end with the wax paper is facing you and the end with the pinhole is facing the lamp.

STEP 7

Hold your pinhole camera at arms length from your face and aim it at the lamp. Keep it steady until you see an upside-down image of the lamp.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

In a real camera, the lens is like the tiny hole you made in the box and creates a backward, upsidedown image. Like the little hole, the lens lets in light. The wax paper is like film in a real camera, which has special chemicals on it. When the light hits the film, the chemicals start changing and turn the image into a photograph.

RAIN IN A JAR

It's already rainy season outside, now make it rain inside your house.

You'll need

- A plate
- A glass mason jar
- Ice cubes (about one or two cups)
- Very hot water
- Place the hot water into the glass jar, about a third of the way up. Put the plate on top of the jar. Place all the ice cubes carefully on the plate. Watch the inside of the jar start to exhibit rain!
- Hot steam from the water rises up and touches the cold plate, causing condensation. This is the same mechanism by which rain occurs.



Build a mini solar desalination plant

This Skill may one day save your life!

Desalination plants that obtain fresh water from ocean water are huge steel structures that consume vast amounts of electricity. This simple device is fun to make and it really works. It just needs some warm sunlight.

- You'll need**
- Flat-bottomed plastic dish 15-20 cm deep
 - Drinking glass
 - Saucer
 - Two cups of sea water or water with cooking salt dissolved in it
 - Sheet of clean transparent plastic to cover the dish (allow for a 6cm overlap)
 - Roll of masking tape
 - Stone

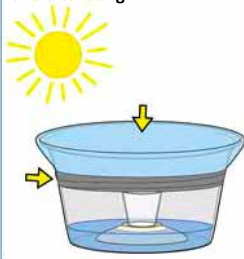
Step 1 Place the dish on a flat surface outside in the sun in the morning and tip in the salt water.



Step 2 Place the saucer upside down in the middle of the salty water then stand the glass on it.



Step 3 Cover the dish with the plastic then tape the plastic down around the edge so it is not stretched too tight.



Step 4 Place the stone in the middle of the plastic so that it weighs the plastic down towards the glass. Then look through the plastic to see what is happening, about once every half hour.



Step 5 When you can see some water in the glass, remove the plastic and take out the glass. Wipe the outside of the glass dry then taste the water. It should not taste salty.



Desalination facts: What's happening?

The plastic covering helps trap the heat from the sun, which warms up the salt water. As a result some of this water evaporates, leaving the salt behind. When the water vapour rises and comes in contact with the plastic telling some of it condenses on the plastic back into liquid water. You should see these droplets forming. The dip in the middle of the plastic makes these water droplets run down towards the centre and drip into the glass. This idea can be used to produce clean drinking water from dirty water or sea water. So it's always a good idea to take some plastic and a container with you if you are going out in the bush or desert or on a yacht—just in case!

PRINT PRETTY PATTERNS



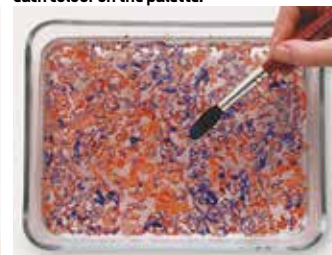
1. Put some poster paints on the palette.



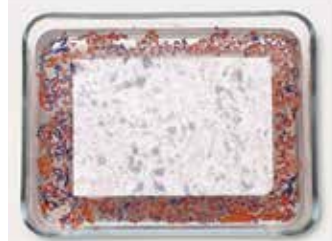
2. Mix a little white spirit or linseed oil with each colour on the palette.



3. Put one colour from the palette on the brush and gently add the paint to the water.



4. Add another colour. Swirl the colours with the brush to make a pattern.



5. Gently lay a sheet of the paper on the water, so that it lies on the surface.



6. Carefully peel the paper away from the water. Lift it out and lay it on a flat surface.

Print some colourful and pretty patterns on paper. The colours transfer to the paper in the same way that they do when colour pictures are printed in books.

YOU WILL NEED

- Paintbrush
- Palette
- Linseed oil (or white spirit)
- Thick Paper
- Poster paints
- Dish of water



7. Let the paper dry. Try printing more patterns with other colours.

At School, Children Learn Managing The Art of Education

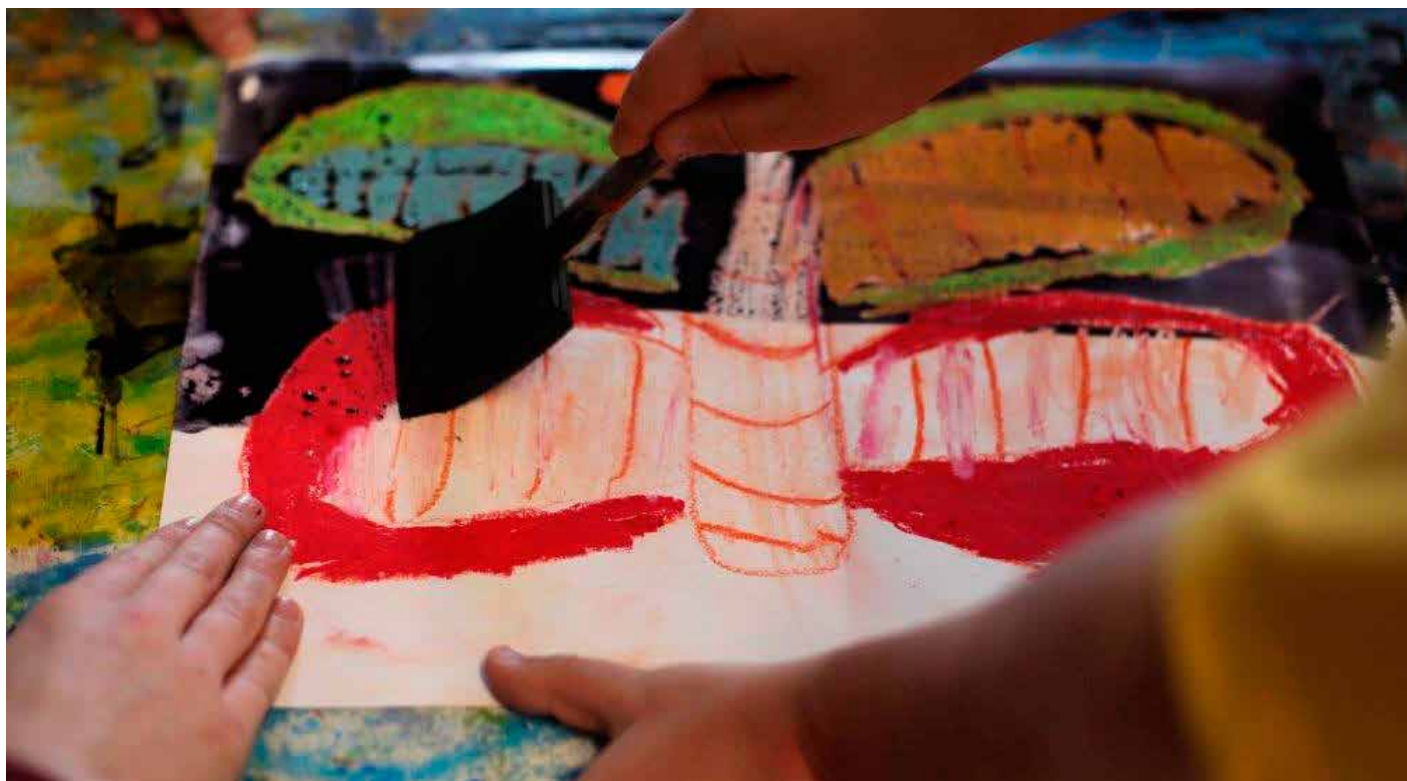
SALLA VIJAY KUMAR

He is a Parent with a Masters in Philosophy and is currently pursuing a Ph.d program in Management. He has received various national level-awards for his work in teaching, hospitality and writing.

Once like any other parent, I went to school to apply for extended leave (a few days in addition to the scheduled vacation) for my child. After waiting for my turn, when I put forward the request to the Principal, I was posed a few questions. Who are you? What brings you here? And finally which class does your ward study in? Easy one to answer, pretty confidently I replied Class I. A prompt - "M.B.B.S!" - was the reply I received in return.

I was left momentarily speechless, while the Principal continued to sign a few papers. I stood there bewildered (not able to relate MBBS to my child). "Don't see your child from your height," the Principal continued, "see him by putting yourself in his shoes. From where you are standing, Primary education may not seem like a big deal but to the child the pressure, stress and complexity is not less than what you might feel about your work. It is not just a question of copying the missed notes before resuming classes, but also about the fundamental understanding that takes place by being physically and mentally present in the classroom. At that point I was a little annoyed by what felt like criticism about my parenting style, but what he said hit home somewhere and I have tried never to extend the leave ever since, and have cultivated the approach that if the school is operational, my kids are present. (Today my kids are in Class IX and Class IV).

Many teachers describe the classroom as a battle field and the students as warriors, who are always ready to win the battle. Although school might seem like child's play to adults, we often forget how much hard work goes into the preparation, planning, execution, and experimentation during different phases of education. Children are constantly facing different challenges at school which undoubtedly impact their problem solving and self building skills. Families may think kindergarten or primary school absences are no big deal, but early education experts say the early education is a critical time when the foundation is set down for later academics. When children have too many absences, they can fall back and not fully



SOME FACTS ABOUT CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

- The evidence couldn't be clearer. Academic achievement from kindergarten onwards, upto high school graduation, and even college enrolment are all highly sensitive to absenteeism. Missing even a little school has negative effects. Missing a lot of school throws students off track to educational success.
- Chronic absenteeism can be seen from kindergarten onwards and is often a result of poor economic conditions, lax parental attitude, fear in the child, non-engaging classrooms or a non-welcoming school environment.
- Chronic absences in early education correlate with reading difficulties and poor attendance patterns in later years. One American study found that only 17 percent of students who were chronically absent in both kindergarten and first grade were reading proficiently in third grade, compared to 64 percent of those with good attendance.
- The effects of poor attendance are particularly pronounced among low-income children, who need more time in the classroom to master reading and are less likely to have access to resources outside of school to help them catch up. Unfortunately, low-income children are four times more likely to be chronically absent.
- Parents are often unaware of the corrosive effects of absenteeism and how quickly absences add up to academic trouble in the early grades.
- Students can begin to reverse their academic difficulties if they improve their attendance

catch up, opening the door to behavioural and academic problems down the road. A few researchers and studies have concluded that missing days in kindergarten predicts truancy in later grades, negatively impacting students' learning and jeopardising their academic outcomes.

School is not only the place where students learn facts but also an important social institution that builds character and identity among growing kids. There is a plethora of activities and learning that a child gains by being present in the classroom, ranging from basic understanding of concepts to the art of managing people and one's time well. Some of these things are even challeng-

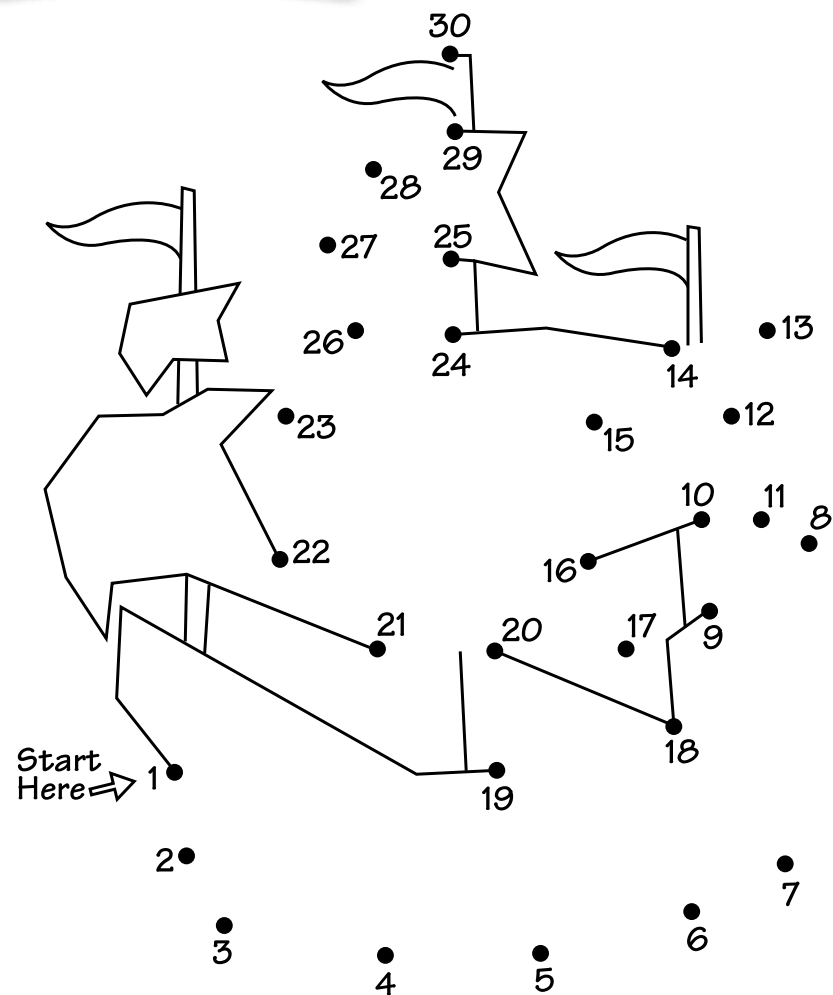
ing to adults, so think about how hard it must be for young, raw and innocent students with no experience of school, homework, tests, and managing peers, conflict, authority, time and much more. We the parent teachers and the teacher parents teach them every little thing because we have gone through the phase and know what is what. However, who really manages the show is the student, stationed at his work station, ready to perform. The student gradually learns to navigate the school environment. He does umpteen things for the first time and gains confidence with each positive outcome. With patience and effort, the student learns to strike a balance between learning, tasks, tests, rules, play

and friends. Gradually, he learns to plan and organise his time so as to give due importance to all aspects of school life.

As adults, we are constantly trying to find a balance between all our duties and responsibilities and know how hard it is to do so. These little warriors too have a new challenge everyday unplanned and unexpected. They try their bit to manage these challenges and learn the skills that they will need to apply in future too. We are sailing in the same boat like the Principal said to me. Everyone is fighting their own battle to overcome their weaknesses as well as to capitalise on their strengths and opportunities. The little ones are geared up to go, and what they need from us parents and teacher is our support and guidance in order to develop important life skills that will help them not only manage their classroom and school work but also their life, family and work as future adults.

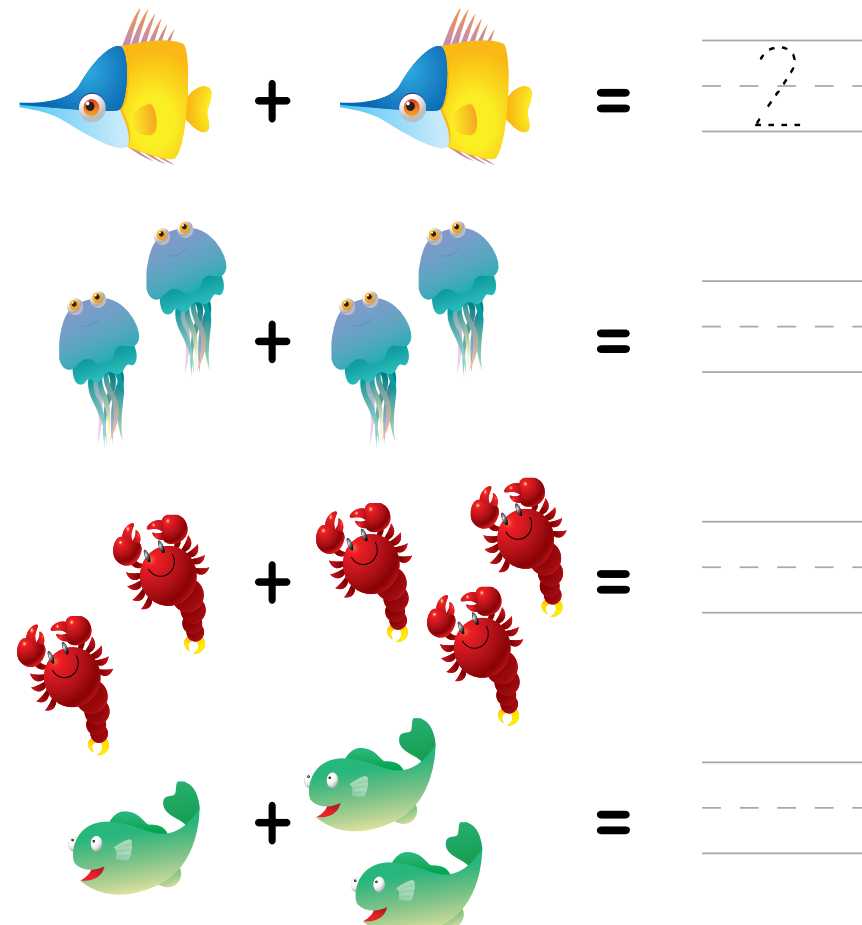
To conclude, I appeal to parents to not take absenteeism lightly and to ensure that your child attends school regularly no matter what grade they are in. To the teachers, I request to understand the holistic learning potential that their classrooms offer so to make their classes welcoming, engaging and informative. I also request Principals to develop a school environment where students feel welcome and safe. Lastly, I hope that the young readers will understand how missing even a few days of school can impact your academic outcomes and future success.

CONNECT THE DOTS

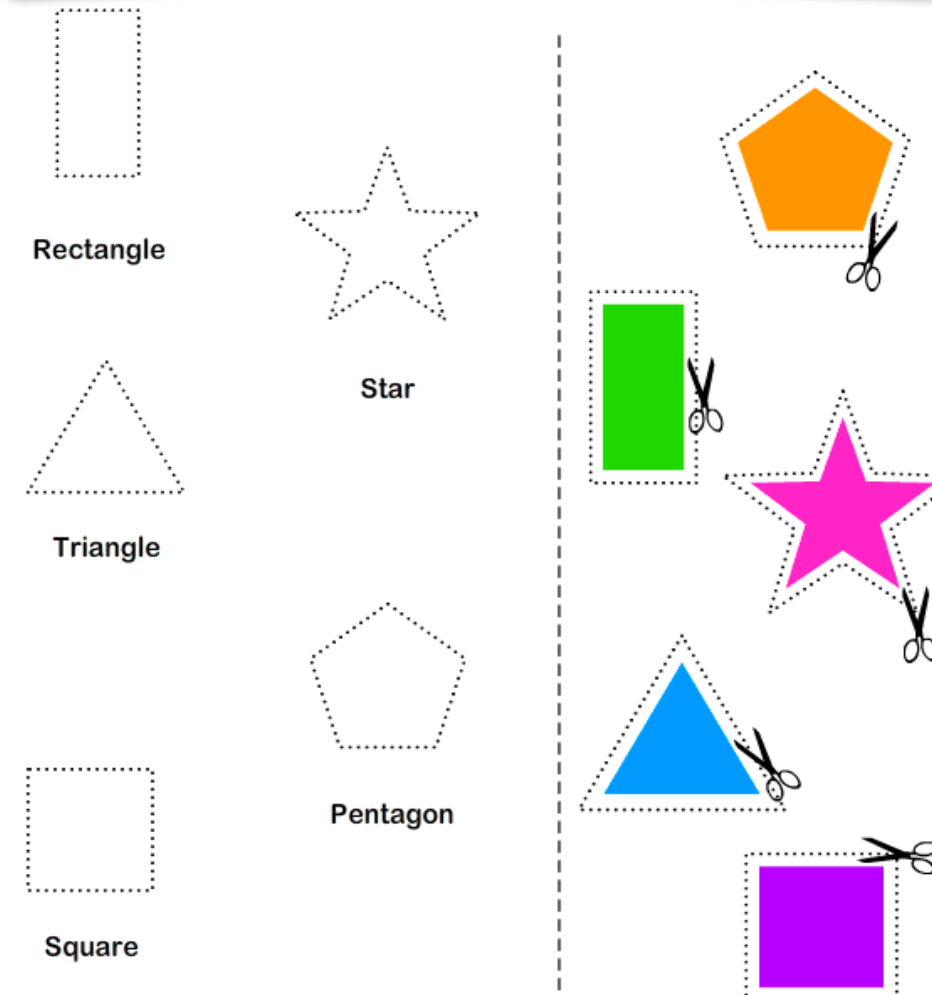


HOW MANY ARE THERE?

Add together the swimming animals and write down how many there are!

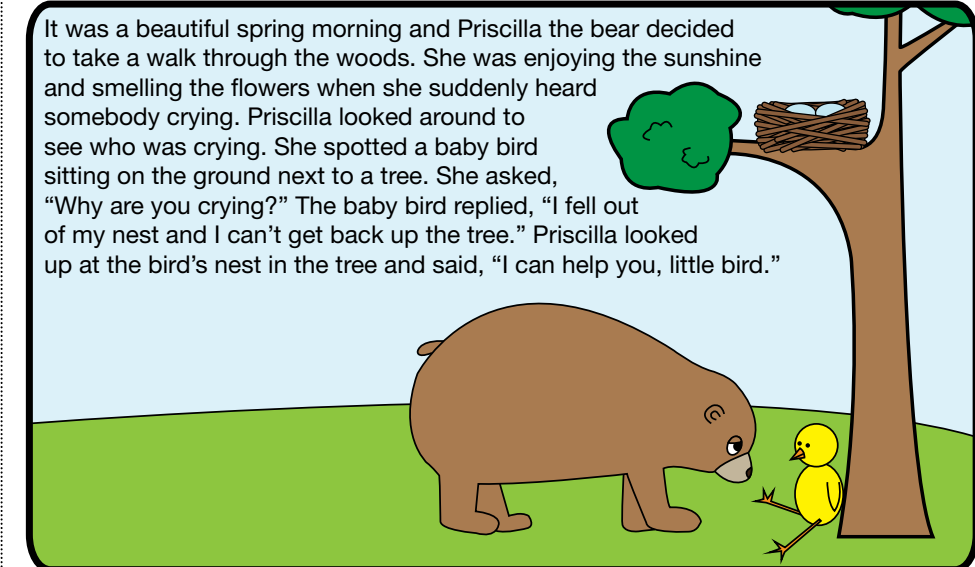


CUT AND PASTE THE SHAPES IN THE CORRECT PLACES



AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

Read the story and predict what happens next!

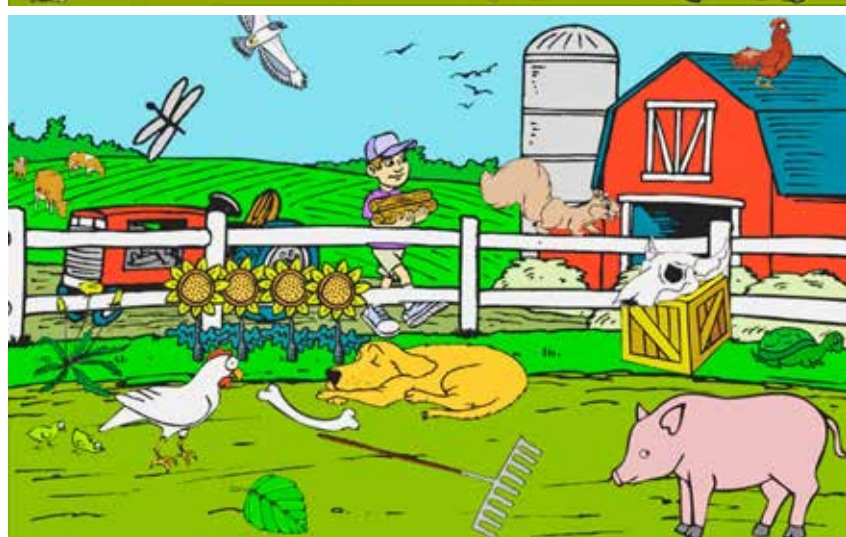
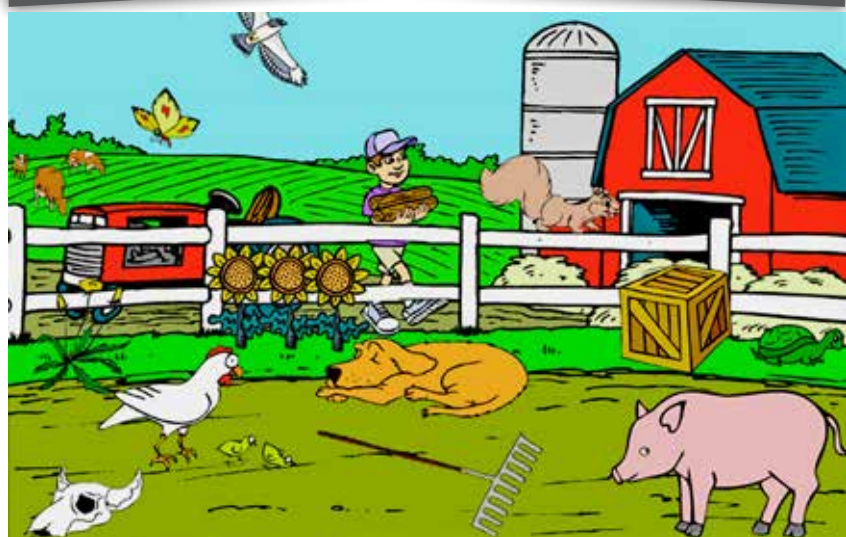


What do you think happened next? Write the end of the story here.

What do you think Priscilla was thinking when she heard the baby bird crying?

How do you think the baby bird felt when he fell out of the nest?

FIND AT LEAST EIGHT DIFFERENCES



PICTURE PUZZLE

Cut out the mixed up picture pieces below and arrange them to look like the correct picture.



HOW TO DRAW



SUDOKU

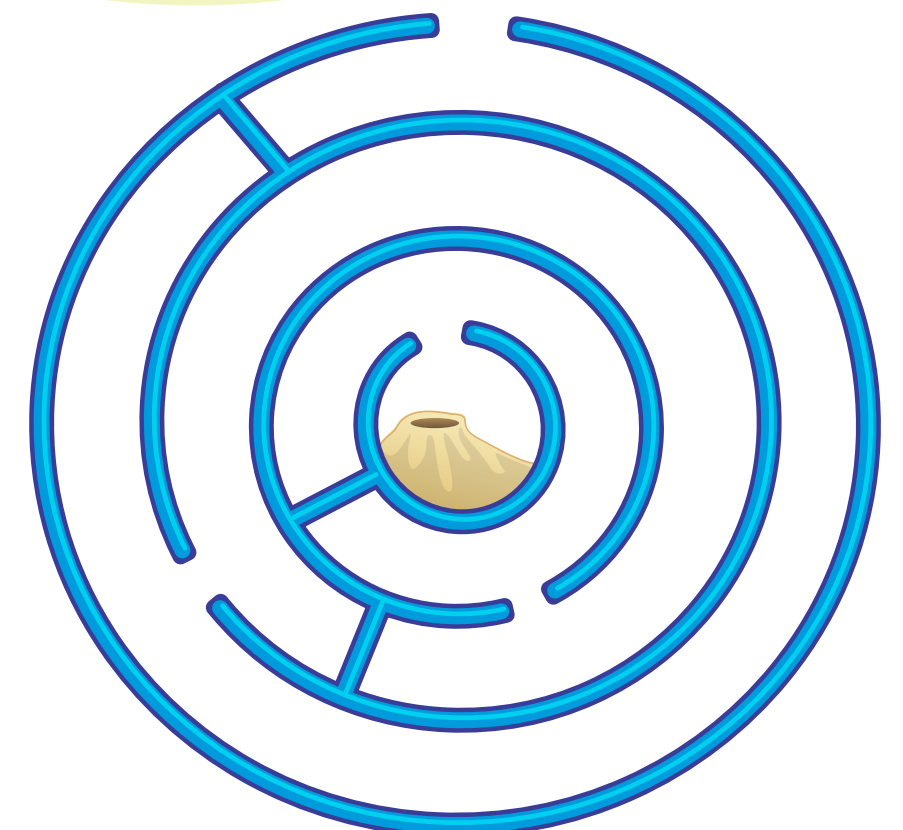
7	3	4				6		
		1	2		4		7	
					3	5	1	
8	9			1			2	5
4	1			5	8			9
					9			6
	2			3	5	8		
1	8	7						
		3						

How to Play: Fill each of the blank boxes with the number grid from 1-9, with no numbers repeating in vertical, horizontal rows or 3x3 grids. Do not repeat any letters in a line. Each puzzle has only one solution.

1	9	6	2	7	8	3	4	5
3	5	2	9	4	6	7	8	1
7	4	8	5	3	1	6	2	9
9	8	1	6	2	4	5	7	3
6	3	7	8	5	9	2	1	4
5	2	4	7	1	3	9	6	8
4	1	5	3	6	7	8	9	2
8	7	3	4	9	2	1	5	6
2	6	9	1	8	5	4	3	7

ANSWERS

Draw a path from the aardvark to the ant



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY INDIA!

The History and Significance of this Special Day

15th of August is perhaps one of the most important dates in the history of our nation India. It is the day, when India gained its independence after centuries of colonial rule.

For India, 15 August is a day that is symbolic of her re-birth, a new start. At the midnight of 15 August 1947, the British imperialists handed the country back to its people, thus ending a remarkable struggle that had lasted for over a century. It was on 15 August 1947, the historic date, on which sovereign India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru unfolded the tricolour flag of the nation at the glorious Red Fort. The day is significant in the history of India and every Indian, as this was the day we reclaimed the power and right to be the masters of our own destiny. Not only did the long and arduous revolution for Indian independence achieve its goal of 'poorna swrajya', but it also inspired several significant freedom and human right movements across the world including the one headed by Martin Luther King Jr. against racial segregation in the US as well as Nelson Mandela's struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

History of 15th August

In 1757, after the British victory in the Battle of Plassey, the rule of East India Company started in India and by 1858 the British Crown had assumed control. The situation after World War I was marked with suppressive and exploitative laws against Indians, which led to revolutionary calls for independence. The Indian freedom revolution is seen as unique in world history as the first successful non-violent revolution at such a grand scale and against such a formidable enemy. It was previously perhaps unthinkable that such a long and massive revolution could be fought without guns or bloodshed, relying chiefly on non-cooperation and civil disobedience. Mahatma Gandhi- the Father of the Nation was undoubtedly the enduring leader and a national symbol for India's independence movement. The next few decades marked with constant struggles between Indians and the British for freedom. In order to achieve the dream of independence, many movements were carried out and many sacrifices were made by freedom fighters and the people of India.



15th August Celebrations in India

Every year, India's Independence Day is celebrated by all proud Indians. The day is observed as a national holiday for the country. Although local governments all over India conduct local flag hoisting ceremonies, the venue of main celebration is the glorious Red Fort in our national capital, New Delhi. The celebration starts every year with the unfurling of the tricoloured national flag by the Prime Minister of the nation, followed by a televised speech. The speech generally reflects the present condition of the nation along with the achievements in the previous year and future plans. A tribute is also paid by the Prime Minister to our heroes and freedom fighters, to whom we owe our independence. After the flag-hoisting ceremony, patriotic programs by children from schools of different states is one of the main attractions.

This year, on India's 72nd Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation and listed the many advances that India has made in the past few years, along with the government's achievements in the past four years. In his speech, PM Modi said that India is no longer in a fragile-nation group but has made significant strides in sectors like technology, agriculture and science. Prime

Minister also highlighted how MUDRA yojana has enabled crores of fellow Indians in getting employment. Prime Minister also listed out how the country has worked to remove middlemen used to exploit farmers but now things have seen a sea change. Forgery has been made impossible now and thousands have benefitted from this.

Apart from state celebrations, in many northern and central cities of India, kite flying is also associated with the Independence Day. Moreover, many people symbolise their patriotism by incorporating colours and replicas of the national flag in their attire, car decoration, rangoli, lighting, etc. Indians across the world also celebrate this day with parades and pageants. Several cities in the United States have declared 15 August as 'India Day'. Almost every school, college, university and government organisation hoists the national flag on but nowadays, many housing complexes, clubs, societies, group of friends, etc. also observe the flag-hoisting ceremony within their premises with utmost enthusiasm.

In a land of so many religions and cultures, Independence Day is truly the day that brings all Indians together to celebrate our common victory against tyranny and exploitation.

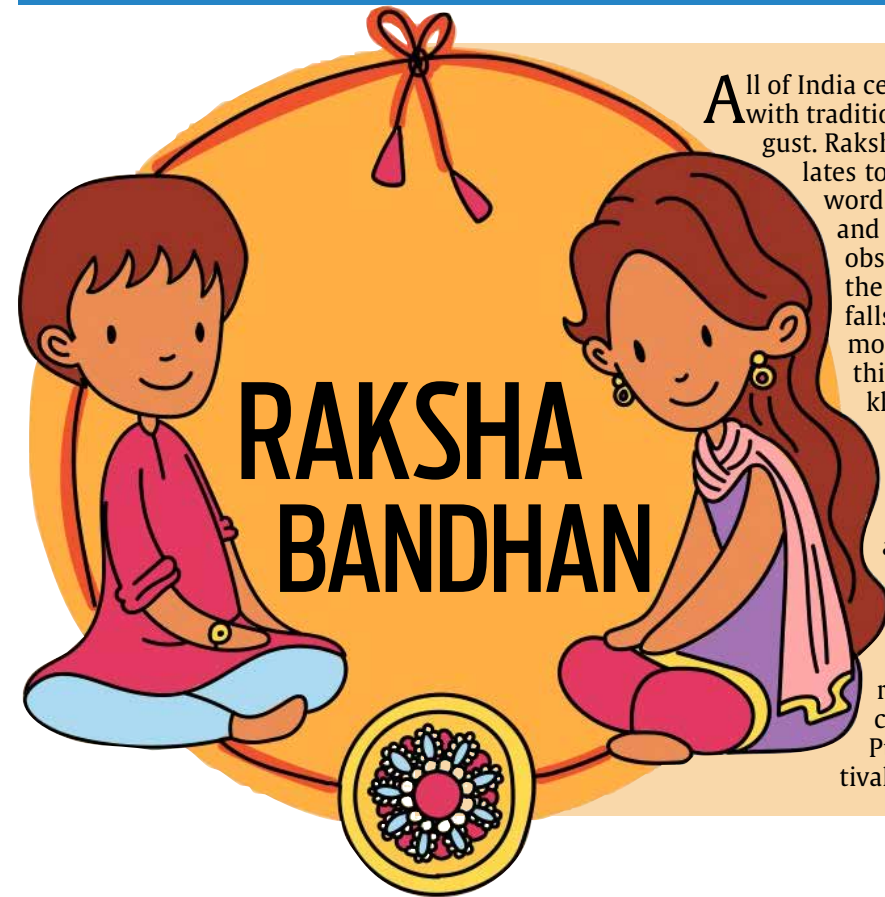
The conclusion of this long and hard struggle finally seemed in sight, when for many reasons The British government announced, during the early 1947, that they intend to transfer power to the Indians by the month of June 1948. With independence in sight, certain popular leaders like Mohammed Ali Jinnah of the Muslim League made calls for a partition along religious lines, and demanded carving out a new country called Pakistan. The country was predictably polarised at such a proposition, which led to increased communal tensions and friction, especially in the states of Bengal and Punjab. Many suspect that this was a deliberate polarising strategy by the retreating British.

Looking at the situation, Louis Mountbatten, the then Viceroy of India scheduled the handover to hap-

pen earlier than planned, thus admitting that the unprepared British army was unable to cope with the increased violence in the country. In the month of June in 1947, the prominent Indian leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Abul Kalam Azad, Master Tara Singh and B. R. Ambedkar agreed for the partition of India along religious outline. The Sikh and Hindu majority areas were marked as India, while Muslim area as Pakistan.

Millions of people belonging to different religious groups tramped across the newly drawn border to find places to reside. This process took away around 250,000 to 500,000 lives. Thus the happy occasion was also marked with unimaginable tragedy and sowed deep rooted seeds of enmity between

the two newly created, neighbouring nations. Finally, at midnight of 15 August 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru proclaimed India's independence by reading out his famous speech known as "Tryst with destiny". During this speech, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said "Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we will redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. We end today a period of ill fortune, and India discovers herself again."



All of India celebrated this beloved festival with traditional gaiety on the 26th of August. Raksha Bandhan in Sanskrit translates to 'the bond of protection', the word Raksha means 'Protection' and 'Bandhan' means 'Knot'. It is observed on the full moon day of the Hindu month Shravan, that falls in the Gregorian calendar month of August-September. On this day, every sister ties a 'rakhi' on her brother's wrist and prays for his happiness and prosperity. The brother in return gives her a gift and a promise to protect her. There are many interesting traditions associated with Raksha Bandhan and some go beyond tying a rakhi around the brother's wrist. In Maharashtra, Raksha Bandhan is celebrated along with 'Narali Purnima', the coconut day festival. Kolis, the fishermen com-

munity, offer prayers to Lord Varuna and seek blessings. There is a tradition to throw coconuts into the sea as an offering to the Lord.

There are numerous interesting stories associated with the festival of Rakshabandhan.. According to Bhavishya Purana, during the war between gods and demons, Lord Indra, the deity of the sky, rains and thunderbolts, defeated demon king Bali after his wife Sachi tied a thread around his wrist.

The holy thread was blessed with prayers and was given to Sachi by Lord Vishnu. Since then the power of sacred thread became popular and women started tying it on men's wrist to protect them from evil or harm.

In the epic Mahabharata, Draupadi tied a holy thread on Krishna's wrist and Kunti on her grandson Abhimanyu before the war.

References of this festival can even be found in history. As per legend, When Alexander the great invaded India, his wife Roxana sent the king of Kaikeya Kingdom Porus a sacred thread requesting him to not harm her husband in the battle. Porus tied the thread around his wrist. During the battle of Hydaspes, when Porus saw the rakhi on his wrist he restrained himself from attacking Alexander.

Pateti- The Parsi New Year



Centuries ago, when parsis arrived in India to preserve their culture and way of life, they brought along with them the shehensha-hi calendar which celebrates the New Year somewhere in the month of August. This day is called 'Pateti' or the Parsi New Year and it was celebrated on the 17th of August this year.

Pateti is actually the last day of the old year and day for reflection, repentance, and the renewal of one's resolve to stay true to the fundamental tenets of Zoroastrianism, which are right thoughts, right words and right action. In addition, Parsis visit the Agiari (fire temple) and offer prayers. They also decorate their houses with beautiful rangolis and burn sandalwood in their houses for purification.

The day after Pateti is considered the first

day of the new year and is called 'Jamshedi Navroz' after the legendary King of Persia, Jamshed who started the Parsi Calendar and navroz meaning 'new day'. This is a day for feasting and celebrating with loved ones. People visit their friends and family to convey new year wishes, and scrumptious delicacies are cooked for family and guests alike. Typical dishes include 'ravo' (suji prepared with milk and sugar) or sev (vermicelli cooked with sugar syrup and served with almonds and raisins) for breakfast, while for lunch there's usually pulav, salt boti (mutton gravy), pathra-nimachchi (fish prepared in banana leaves) or dhansak (rice cooked with lentils, vegetables and meat). Finally, there's always satarfeni or jalebis to finish the meal on a sweet note.

EID MUBARAK!



Bakrid (Eid-ul-Zuha), one of the two prominent Eids of the Muslim community, was celebrated on Wednesday, 22 August 2018.

Bakrid, also known as Eid al-Adha, is celebrated on the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah in the Islamic calendar. It is celebrated with much enthusiasm by the Muslim community around the globe. The day usually begins with a visit to the mosque where prayers are offered. This is followed by the sacrifice and feasting with near and dear ones. People meet dear ones, exchange good wishes and gifts.

Of course, no festival is complete without good food and Bakra Eid or Eid-ul-Adha lives up to the reputation. You will find people cooking delicious Biryani, Korma, Kababs, Hal-eem and Kheer and Sevaian.

It is believed that Prophet Ibrahim, in his dreams, was asked by God to sacrifice his son Ismail. However, on the day of the sacrifice, God asked Ibrahim not to kill his son and a sheep was slaughtered in his place. Bakrid commemorates Ibrahim's intended sacrifice of his son Ismail to God.

The sacrificial animal, on Bakra Eid, is divided into three parts to be distributed with relatives, friends and neighbours, poor and needy and the third part is kept for themselves.

India Achieves Its Highest Ever Medal Tally At Asian Games 2018

India concluded their Asian Games 2018 campaign at the eighth spot with 69 medals, including 15 gold, 24 silver and 30 bronze at the mega sporting event in Jakarta. This was India's best ever Asian Games performance, surpassing their previous best of 65 medals at Guangzhou in China in 2010. India had won 14 gold, 17 silver and 34 bronze medals 8 years ago.

With 15 golds, India also equalled their best ever tally of gold medals which was during the 1951 Asian Game held at New Delhi. Interestingly this was also India's best in terms of silver medals won - 24.

This has been a memorable performance by India, having achieved not only a record medals tally but also success in little known sports such as rowing, wushu, sepaktakraw, kurash, equestrian and bridge as well as a few unexpected setbacks in wrestling, boxing and kabaddi.

India ended their Asian Games 2018 campaign on a high note as Amit won the gold medal in boxing while Indian men's hockey team clinched the bronze medal, beating Pakistan 2-1.

SPORTS	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Athletics	7	10	2	19
Shooting	2	4	3	9
Wrestling	2	0	1	3
Bridge	1	0	2	3
Rowing	1	0	2	3
Tennis	1	0	2	3
Boxing	1	0	1	2
Archery	0	2	0	2
Equestrian	0	2	0	2
Squash	0	1	4	5
Sailing	0	1	2	3
Badminton	0	1	1	2
Hockey	0	1	1	2
Kabaddi	0	1	1	2
Kurash	0	1	1	2
Wushu	0	0	4	4
Table Tennis	0	0	2	2
Sepaktakraw	0	0	1	1
INDIA	15	24	30	69



ASIAN GAMES 2018

Grand return for table tennis players Harmeet Desai, Manav Thakkar

As everyone rejoiced in the festival of Adahi-handi, the Surti-paddlers added some enjoyment on returning to their city. Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar returned home with bronze medal at the Asian Games 2018 that was held in Jakarta.

Harmeet and Manav were part of India team that put its best foot forward to win maiden medal in the sport at Asian Games. It is among 30 bronze medals India won at the Asiad. Besides Sarita Gayakwad's gold in 4x400m women's relay, it was second bronze for Gujarat as Ankita Raina had won in individual tennis event.

Harmeet, who was part of Indian team that won gold at Commonwealth Games 2018, termed the podium finish in Jakarta different and special. "This is a special feeling. It's different from Commonwealth TT gold. Asian Games are at par with world championship, where world power houses like China, Japan, Korea are in fray," an elated Harmeet said.

India went down to Republic of Korea in semifinals, but had assured themselves a medal when the team led by seasoned Sharath Kamal overcame Japan in the quarterfinals.

"We defeated Japan on the way to podium, and it is a big achievement. This medal, now, has certainly encouraged us to dream of winning an Olympic medal. We have skills and ability. Continuous support of the authorities and our hard work should fetch us an Olympic medal," said Harmeet, while acknowledging the support of state and central governments.

Meanwhile, Manav was the youngest in the five-member team, which also had G Sathyan and A Amalraj. And it was couple of firsts for him. It was not only his first Asian Games, but also it was the first time the junior paddler made it to the Men's team. The teenager described the Jakarta sojourn as an ideal preparation ahead of his Youth Olympics in Argentina next month.

"It was a great moment as two Gujaratis were part of the bronze medal winning team. I am sure it will come handy when I will compete in Youth Olympics," said Manav, who became first Indian to be ranked World Junior No.1 earlier this year.



source: Internet

- Here's a complete list of India's gold medal winners in Jakarta
- Amit Panghal clinched gold in the men's (49kg) boxing competition
- Pranab-Shibhnath pair won gold in bridge
- Jinson Johnson won gold medal in men's 1500m event.
- 4x400m women's relay team clinched fifth consecutive gold medal.
- Swapna Barman won gold in women's Heptathlon event.
- Arpinder Singh claimed gold in Men's Triple Jump.
- In Men's 800m, Manjit Singh clinched gold.
- Neeraj Chopra won gold in men's javelin throw in Asian Games.
- In men's shot put, Tejinderpal Singh Toor won gold.
- Indian rowing team won the gold in men's quadruple sculls at Asian

Games. Sawarn Singh, Dattu Bhoknal, Om Prakash and Sukhmeet Singh finished top of podium in the quadruple scull.

- Indian men's tennis doubles team comprising Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan won the gold medal at the 18th Asian Games defeating Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik and Denis Yevseyev 6-3, 6-4.
- Shooter Rahi Sarnobat won gold in women's 25m pistol.
- Sixteen-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary grabbed the gold in men's 10m air pistol
- Vinesh Phogat created history by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to win a gold medal at the Asian Games, brushing aside her rivals with remarkable ease in the 50kg category.
- Wrestler Bajrang Punia clinched India's first gold medal in the 18th Asian Games after defeating Takatani Daichi of Japan in the men's 65 kg freestyle title bout in Jakarta on Sunday.

STATE RANKING TT



source: Internet

Kausha wins women's title

Kausha Bhairapure saved three match points in the sixth game before recording a 4-2 win over Filzahfatema Kadri in the women's final of the 4th Gujarat state ranking table tennis tournament in Anand on Monday.

Kausha registered 11-7, 5-11, 8-11, 11-8, 8-11, 14-12, 11-7 victory and in the process she lifted her maiden women's trophy. Highlight of Kausha's victory was her short service.

Down 2-3 and facing match points thrice at 9-10, 10-11 and 11-12, in the sixth game Kausha stood her ground.

Under pressure she produced one down the line winner, once she made Filzah play a shot into the net and then a forehand winner at 11-12 to make 12-12.

Kausha then produced one of the finest points, backhand placements to stay alive in the match by winning sixth game at 14-12.

With match tied at 3-3, the game was all about pressure. Filzah, who had won her first women's title last year at the same venue was guilty of unforced errors. "Though, down by a match point, I didn't give up. That is what I am taught, to fight hard," said Kausha after winning the title.

Kausha had made it to the final at Baroda but lost to Frenaz Chiplia, who had to withdraw from the ongoing tournament due to injury.



VIRAT KOHLI

“ Whatever you want to do, do with full passion and work really hard towards it. Don't look anywhere else. There will be a few distractions, but if you can be true to yourself, you will be successful for sure”

—Virat Kohli

Remembering Atal Bihari Vajpayee

A Legacy that Transformed India

have a look at his legacy and achievements that he'll always be remembered for.

BRINGING BHARAT TO THE FAST-LANE

Perhaps Vajpayee's most significant legacy are his ambitious roads projects - the Golden Quadrilateral and the Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna. The Golden Quadrilateral connected the four metros- Chennai, Kolkata,

Delhi and Mumbai through a network of highways while the Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojna was planned as a network of all-weather roads for unconnected villages across India.

Both the projects proved to be extremely successful and became a significant driver of India's economic growth.

GOVERNMENT HAS NO BUSINESS TO BE IN BUSINESS

Vajpayee's resolve to reducing the government role in running businesses and industry was reflected in the formation of a separate disinvestment ministry, as many public sector companies were badly managed, incurring huge losses year after year and proving to be a massive drain on the fiscal spending.

Some of the most notable disinvestments during his term included Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO), Hindustan Zinc, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited and VSNL.

HIT THE BREAKS ON FISCAL EXTRAVAGANCE

Vajpayee government made another beginning by introducing the Fiscal Responsibility Act that aimed to regulate government spending and to institutionalise financial discipline, reduce India's fiscal deficit, improve macroeconomic management and the overall management of the public funds by moving towards a balanced budget and strengthening fiscal prudence. This boosted public-sector savings which rose from -0.8% of GDP in FY 2000, to 2.3% in FY 2005.

UNLEASHED THE TELECOM REVOLUTION

Hailed as the father of modern telecommunication in India, he introduced the National Telecom Policy in 1999. This policy allowed companies to provide mobile services on a revenue share basis instead of the fixed fees they were paying. He paved the way for India's mobile revolution through structural reforms and by drastically slashing call rates, leading to an unprecedented growth of mobile subscribers, and set off fierce competition in the mobile telephony sector.

SARVA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

Launched by Vajpayee's government in 2001, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), was started with the motto of providing education to all and aimed to provide free elementary education to children aged 6-14 years. New schools were opened and existing ones were renovated. Within four years of its launch, the number of out-of-school children dropped by 60 per cent. The literacy rate of India also increased

from 64.8 per cent in 2001 to 74.04 per cent in 2011. Moreover, the SSA also became the tool for the implementation of the Right to Education Act, which has helped push elementary education in India.

INDIA JOINS ELITE NUCLEAR CLUB

The story of Pokhran is the story of Vajpayee's courage. India conducted a series of nuclear bomb explosions at Pokhran in May 1998. It consisted of five detonations- one fusion bomb and four fission bombs. Post this, India became a full fledged nuclear power. Only eight sovereign nations in the world have successfully conducted nuclear detonations so far. Despite immense economic pressure and surveillance from the USA, India succeeded in showing its strength and sovereignty to the world.

PEACE EFFORTS

Admired for his statesmanship by friendly and opposition leaders alike, Vajpayee initiated the process of 'a purposeful dialogue' with Pakistan in which he didn't lose faith. Many felt then that the Kashmir problem was close to being solved. He even introduced a special train and bus service between India and Pakistan to bring both countries closer. But the troubles back home for the then Pakistan president Pervez Musharraf cast a shadow on the whole process. Vajpayee's vision for resolving the problems in Kashmir within the framework of 'Insaaniyat (humanity), Kashmiriyat (inclusive Kashmir) and Jhamooriyat (democracy)' remains his abiding legacy in Kashmir.



The entire nation mourned the passing away of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on August 16, 2018 following a prolonged illness at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He was 93, and was accorded a state funeral at Smriti Sthal, Delhi. The Central Government announced a seven-day national mourning as a mark of respect for the former Prime Minister. During this period, the national flag was flown at half-mast throughout India.

A highly respected veteran politician, who had served as the Prime Minister of India for three non-consecutive terms; Vajpayee had served as an active parliamentarian for almost five decades. He was a multifaceted personality and a poet by heart with several published poems. He was the first person to deliver a speech in Hindi at the U.N. General assembly and was very famous for his oratory skills.

He held several prestigious positions in Indian politics before being elected the Prime minister. Let us

BIRTHDAY WISHES



RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY
AUGUST 14, 1774



KISHORE KUMAR
AUGUST 4, 1929



SRI AUROBINDO
AUGUST 15, 1872



VIKRAM AMBALAL SARABHAI
AUGUST 12, 1919



RAJIV RATNA GANDHI
AUGUST 20, 1944



DALIP SINGH RANA (KHALI)
AUGUST 27, 1972



BLESSED MOTHER TERESA
AUGUST 27, 1910



Sampooran Singh Kalra (Gulzar)
AUGUST 18, 1936



KAJOL DEVGN
AUGUST 5, 1974

Engineering After Class 12th

The term "Engineering" has originated from the Latin word *Ingenium* means 'Cleverness and *Ingeniare* means 'to create'.

"Engineering is an application that involves scientific and practical knowledge in order to invent, maintain, improve, build, design, system, devices, material, machine and process."

Engineering is one of the most demanding and sought after courses among students after class 12, and one of the most popular career fields today. There are many entrance exams organised in India for admissions into engineering programmes. Engineering is one of the fastest growing study disciplines and there are lots of job opportunities in the market waiting for you when you have completed your programme. Engineering has various sub-fields which you can choose from according to your interest and aptitude. Some of the most common sub disciplines include- civil, IT, CSE, mechanical, mining, automobile, petroleum, etc.

COURSES & ELIGIBILITY

Engineering courses are available at diploma level, undergraduate level, postgraduate and doctoral levels.

Diploma Course leading to Diploma in Engineering

It is a 3-year course which students can pursue after class 10. Diploma holders are eligible for lateral entry into the third semester Engineering Courses. Diploma in Engineering is offered in various disciplines.

Undergraduate Course leading to B.Tech Degree

Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) is the 4-year full-time undergraduate course in engineering. This course can be done with one of the many engineering disciplines. Prerequisites for pursuing B.Tech is 10+2 passed with PCM group from the recognised educational board.

Postgraduate Course leading to M.Tech Degree

Postgraduate course in engineering resulting in the award of a Master of Engineering (M.E.) or Master of Technology (M.Tech) degree. It is a 2-years course that one can pursue after completing a 4-year undergraduate program in engineering (B.Tech).

Doctoral Course in Engineering

Doctoral of Philosophy in Engineering



TOP RECRUITERS

■ Accenture	■ Hero
■ TCS	■ DRDO
■ Infosys	■ Indian Airlines
■ Cognizant	■ Air India
■ SAIL	■ Hindustan Lever Ltd
■ BHEL	■ NCL
■ Tata motors	■ Tata Engineering Research Institute
■ Bajaj	

(Ph.D) is the advanced research course in engineering that has the duration of 3 years. Course duration varies from college to college. Students admitted to the Ph.D. program should have a masters degree in the respective discipline.

Admission

Admissions in the UG and PG engineering courses is done through entrance examination. The admission to undergraduate programs of all the NITs and other reputed engineering colleges is done through Joint Entrance Examination Main (JEE Main 2019). For admission to IITs (Indian Institute of Technology), students have to appear the JEE Advanced 2019.

Some states also organise their own entrance test for providing admission to B.Tech programme. Some state level entrance exams are BCECE 2019 conducted by Bihar state, JCECE 2019 con-

TOP DISCIPLINES

The best disciplines of engineering are listed as below:

■ Civil Engineering	■ Petroleum Engineering
■ Mechanical Engineering	■ Food Technology
■ Electrical Engineering	■ Textile Engineering
■ Electrical & Electronics Engineering	■ Chemical Engineering
■ Electronics & Communication Engineering	■ Biochemical Engineering
■ Computer Science and Engineering	■ Aerospace Engineering
■ Biotechnology	■ Industrial Engineering
■ Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering	■ Manufacturing Engineering
■ Information Technology	■ Material Engineering
■ Automobile Engineering	■ Mechatronics Engineering
■ Aeronautical Engineering	■ Genetic Engineering
■ Architectural Engineering or Architecture	■ Ocean and Marine Engineering
■ Agricultural Engineering	■ Mining Engineering

ducted by Jharkhand state, TS EAMCET 2019 by Telangana state, AP EAMCET 2019 of Andhra Pradesh state.

Career Options After Engineering

Engineering is one of the best job oriented educational programme globally. In the current, technologically driven world, there are many available opportunities to get a reputed and lucrative job after engineering.

- After B.Tech, you can go for a job. Some colleges provide campus placement to their students. If you

don't get a campus placement, then you can apply to companies on your own. If you have a dream to run your own company then you can also become an entrepreneur.

- Many career options in private as well as in government sector are also available. Students can further apply for Indian Engineering Services (IES) examination conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- After B.Tech, students can also go for higher studies and pursue M.Tech or MBA.

F.R.C - REALITY OR FANTASY?

The Gujarat Self Financed Schools (Regulation of Fees) Act, 2017, came into force after Gujarat Governor O P Kohli gave his consent to the said Bill on The Gujarat Self Financed Schools (Regulation of Fees) Act, 2017, came into force after Gujarat Governor O P Kohli gave his consent to the said Bill on April 12 2018. The Bill was introduced by the state government with an aim to control the "exorbitant fees" charged by the private schools "in absence of a clear law" regarding it. As per the rules issued by the state education minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, all private schools, who want to charge fees more than what has been prescribed in the Act, need to submit their proposal with the Fee Regulatory Committee before imposing any hike.

Let us understand what this Act is about and how it can impact the education system in Gujarat.

First of all it is important to bear in mind that not only Gujarat, but many other states also have certain acts aimed at regulating the fees of non-aided schools, which have been implemented without much fuss or problems. On the other hand, in Gujarat the passing of this Act created much controversy and implementation has not been as smooth as expected. Why is this the case? The voices opposed to the Act claim that it encroaches upon the autonomy and independence of school management, some even go so far as to call it a termite that will eat away the quality of education. The jury is still out on whether this will be a sustainable administrative decision by the Gujarat Education department or will it prove to be shortsighted like the Semester System which had to be eventually rolled back. Many critics also feel that like RTE, this Act too will prove to be yet another avenue for government officials applying their discretion and could lead to harassment and, even, corruption. Many more questions also arise in the mind regarding the goals and implementation of this Act. However, Let us try to understand the scope of this Act and try to analyse these questions from a neutral perspective—

To summarize the provisions under this new Act- it places a fees cap of Rs.15,000 for Primary Section Rs.25,000 in Secondary Section and Rs.27,000 and Rs.30,000 respectively for the Higher Secondary General and Science Streams. It is aimed at reducing the burden of F.R.C (Fee Regulation Committee) which is responsible for monitoring approximately 16,000 schools across Gujarat. The Act further says that all schools who wish to increase

their fees will have to go through the process of approval.

But the million dollar question still lies about the process and rationale employed by the committee while determining these fee caps, which directly put about



90 percent of all non-aided schools under the category that will have to seek approval since their pre-existing fees are higher than what the fees caps dictate. Moreover, as a response to one RTI it was revealed that the average cost per student is Rs. 32,000 (urban) and Rs. 13,500 (rural) respectively. So obviously the question arises how urban private schools are expected to operate at costs which do not even cover their basic expenses? On the other hand, cost incurred per student is even higher in Corporation run schools which although do not charge fee directly from students, pay for their expenses through public revenues collected by the state government. If the government thinks it is feasible for private schools to function within the prescribed fee caps, then is it not only fair that Corporation run schools should also be help under scrutiny to function within the same budgets? This discrepancy of information and voices coming from different government departments further highlights the blindspots of this new Act.

Another substantial problem in the implementation is the lack of a well defined process for determining fee caps and missing parameters like fees caps for higher education (colleges). The 4 zone members (Ahmedabad/Surat/Rajkot/Vadodara) function independently and hence there is a huge discrepancy between the different zones in how fee regulation is implemented. There is also the question of social unrest caused by the misunderstanding among parents regarding the traditional practice among self-financed schools where Primary section often

cross-subsidises the extremely high costs incurred in Higher and Higher secondary sections.

ification based on which these appointments would be made.

In addition, Gujarat Act is the only fee regulation Act wherein schools accredited with all boards, national or international are considered at par and the fee cap is the same irrespective of demographic or socio-economic parameters. Unfortunately Gujarat has always been lagging behind in academics and with the glaring gaps in this new Act, it is likely to suffer further and it might even backfire if not properly implemented. No doubt that such an Act shows some merit in potentially curbing the blind profiteering by some private schools, but it also has a huge potential for hurting the quality and scope of education in our state. The Act seems a bit shortsighted and doesn't take into consideration the importance and increasing costs of conducting co-curricular activities that form the cornerstone of modern education and schooling methodology. By taking only curricular expenses into consideration, the Act potentially jeopardises the understanding of the word "school" which goes beyond the mere transaction of prescribed syllabus. Moreover, in the current scenario where private schools are required under RTE to enrol 25 percent studentship from the weakest economic sections, the important question arises whether there is still the need to further regulate profiteering in schools?

We would like to hold a small survey through this platform on the burning issue of FRC Act 2017 and what our readers think about the same. Do write us your thoughts and suggestions at editor@theopenpage.co.in

ABHINAM CHESS ACADEMY & THE OPEN PAGE

PRESENTS

INTER SCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT

₹500/-
ENTRY FEE

DATE 8/9th & 15/16th SEPTEMBER

2018
14/09/2018
LAST DATE TO PAY THE FEES

Group	Grade (Standard)	Date	Reporting Time
A	K.G. - 3rd	8th Sep.	12pm
B	4th Std. - 5th Std.	9th Sep.	12pm
C	8th Std. - 12th Std.	15th Sep.	2:00pm
D	6th Std. - 7th Std.	16th Sep.	12pm

:- VENUE :-

TRIPADA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
K.K Nagar Road, Near Madhuvrund Water Tank,
Madhuvrund Society, Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad,
Gujarat 380061. Phone: 079- 27477632

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