

The Open Page

Inspire Learning

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Battling With Procrastination

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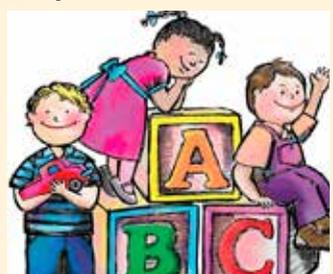
5th Educator's Award 2018-19...



The Open Page -5th Educator's Award held on 2nd February 2019 at Shanku's Divine Child School was great success. We honoured six Veterans & 12 awards were given in different categories.

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Dear Stress, Let's Part Ways!



School, Syllabus and Stress – these three topics are interlinked with each other. The kindergarten is about to begin with their new term. When a toddler goes to a play house or preschool or kindergarten, it is a transition in a toddler's life.

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Nata Preparation Guide



The National Aptitude Test in Architecture is a national level examination for admission to undergraduate courses in Architecture. The test measures the aptitude of applicants for a specific field of study.

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NEW ALTERNATIVES AGAINST COSTLY EDUCATION



JAYWANT PANDYA

is a senior journalist, columnist and tv-web political analysts. He has written this special report for 'The Open Page' on Yuva Kumbh from Lucknow.

If one big issue that harasses or makes pain to guardians and students all over the world, it is education getting costlier day by day. This issue may be even bigger than inflation. Only cost is not matter of worry but quality of education in return of fees paid is also big matter of worry. However, in Gujarat, we have FRC act which makes education affordable now. But we are talking from world point of view.

All over the world, governments are not reducing expenditure. Report of UK's well known newspaper 'The Guardian' says budget for state run school was reduced significantly last year. Secondary schools suffered a lot due to this. There was a time when education was highest priority, but gradually it is less important for governments which is sorry state of matter. If we talk about US, then, in US, 70 lac vacancies are there in education field.

However, it is said, necessity is mother of invention. That way, new methods are being discovered and developed in higher education field. From big government university like Arizona State University to leading private institutions, new discoveries are being found and they are given fund and they are getting recognition.

1. Online Education

Now a days, students are seeking online education courses more and more. If we talk about US, enrolment has increased four times in online course in last 15 years. In other countries, enrolment is not increased that much, but numbers are going up. Reason is cost of higher education is going up and on the other hand, there is lot of flexibility in online courses and cost is lower. MIT now offers a supply chain management degree with a portion of the curriculum online through edX before students enter the on-campus program.

Arizona State University allows students to take the first year online as part of the Global Freshman Academy. In both programs, students complete a portion of the degree online and then apply for the on-campus, full degree at a fraction of the price. Coursera offers a fully online master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in computer and information technology for one-third the cost of the on-campus version. There are other such courses too.

2. Income Sharing Agreements

In US, private sector is trying to do away confusion about loan in students by Income Sharing Agreements. In country like Australia, government does such ISA in which students don't need to repay loan until they found job and reach certain level of income. Presently, in US, private companies are offering this type of option. E.g. U.S. Vemo Education works with universities and skills-providers to establish these agreements. Institutes can also make direct proposal without any agent in which students have to repay 20 percent amount of their income for first five years after they get job and if they don't get the job, they are not responsible for repayment. In this way, they share risk with students.

3. Competency-based education (CBE)

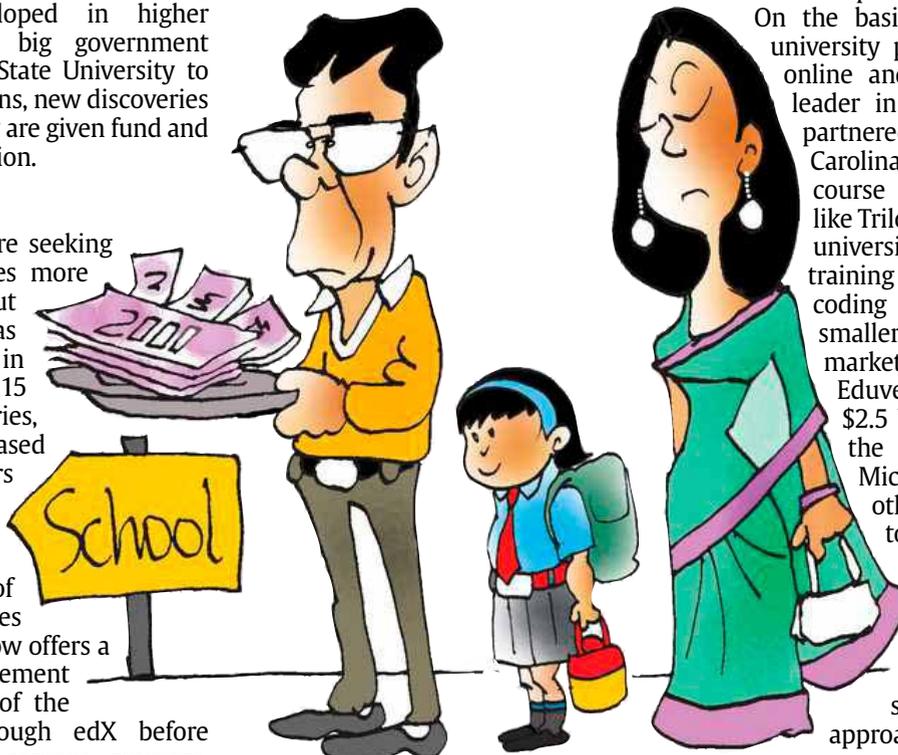
No. of students has increased in Competency based education too. Here, students are allowed to apply their work and life experience to their education. These degree courses are less expensive and more career oriented. Students which are having required competency and knowledge for any particular subject by work place training, external reading or purely life experience, can take the test and get credit without having to take a class. Title IV funding (financial aid) is available for some of these programs, which includes the University of Wisconsin and Southern New Hampshire University, a sign that the U.S. Department of Education recognizes their importance.

More than approx. 600 educational institutions are considering either CBE courses or they have already started these. Growth in such courses is estimated to reach double digit from year 2013 to 2020.

4. Online Programme Manager

Online Programme Manager (OPM) helps traditional universities in making and maintaining their online degree and programme proposals. This opens new and flexible option for non-traditional students. On the basis of income sharing model, university provide content. OPM puts it online and tries for marketing. 2U is leader in this type of market. It has partnered with University of North Carolina to deliver online masters course in Public Health. Companies like Trilogy Education partner with top universities to deliver in-person skills training on-campus in fields such as coding and cybersecurity. Another smaller but fast-growing player in this market is Coursera. It according to Eduventures, is expected to reach \$2.5 billion by 2020. It works with the University of Pennsylvania, Michigan, and HEC Paris, among others. ExecOnline partners with top business schools to deliver executive leadership courses online. Other companies like Orbis Education partner with universities to help bridge the healthcare provider shortage through a hybrid approach to pre-licensure healthcare programs.

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



An Opportunity for talented students to be on the stage



The overall development is possible by imparting knowledge along with co-related academic activities. Rameshwar School, Nikol has decided to carry out an endeavor for exposing the hidden talents of students to bring them on stage. Right from 'Freedom by breaking the shackles of slavery to the present country's progress' was the theme, nicely presented by our students on stage by action and toe-tapping dance. Their performance which was full of patriotism, held the audience spellbound. Their outstanding performance and the cooperation of teachers and parents are highly commended.



Rajmadhav Vidyavihar Black and White Day Celebration

Just like we cannot imagine life without colors, a world without black and white is unimaginable too. Based on this idea the students of Rajmadhav Vidhyavihar school celebrated its black and white day. The students were dressed in black and white attires. It indeed a fun filled learning day.



Sports day celebration at Cosmo Castle International School



The Sports day celebration was held in cosmo international school. Sports day provides a great platform to students to showcase their spirit of sportsmanship. The students participated in different sports activities and it was overall a fun filled event.

TRAFFIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



For the creation of the future citizens of the society, 94.3 My Fm team members together with traffic awareness campaign was organized at Diwan Ballubhai Secondary School, English Medium, Paldi. It provided information about various sign boards to students. Explained about management of road safety and accidental situations. RJ Love taught students about the functioning of radio station. With the help of Teachers & the Principal of the school the formation become stronger.

SKATING COMPETITION



Champions are not made on playing grounds. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them - a desire, a dream, a vision. Roller skating is a sport, an art form, a lifestyle, and a culture. It is a perfect way to combine fitness with fun. Khyati World School organized a skating competition for grade I to IX at our School campus. Students displayed a spectacular show and won with flying colors. Focus discipline, hard work, goal setting and of course the thrill of finally achieving your goals, these are the lesson of life that athletes have to learn first.

BATTLING WITH PROCRASTINATION

All students struggle with procrastination at one time or another. Procrastination literally means 'till the next day'. So, procrastination is putting off something until tomorrow, a tomorrow that is usually less defined. Every student at one time or another has been a victim of procrastination, that urges to postpone studying and writing those assignments for another day. It is the disease eating away at student productivity – and with exam season upon us, we are facing an epidemic. Whether it's putting off a project until the last minute or waiting to study for a big test until the night before, procrastination can lead to stress, frustration and poor grades.

Students who procrastinate until the last minute tend to do much worse on assignments than their peers who started earlier. They often experience frustration, guilt, and higher levels of anxiety. This can lead to low self-esteem and even depression, creating a fall-off point for grades. This can create a cycle of bad grades and low self confidence that can be difficult for students to overcome. At a time when student marks start to impact the post secondary opportunities for students; this can lead to a lot of extra stress and frustration.

What are some causes of procrastination in students?

- **Fear of the outcome:** The student is afraid of failure so he or she doesn't put the required planning or effort into assignments.
- **Feeling overwhelmed:** The student may be intimidated by what he or she sees as a complex task or assignment. He or she may also be struggling to handle a number of different tasks at once.
- **Too many distractions:** The student is distracted by all the other things that he or she would rather do, and has difficulty avoiding temptation.
- **Uncomfortable work environment:** the student doesn't have a suitable place to work on his or her assignments. The environment he or she works in is full of distractions or doesn't have the proper materials.
- **Perfectionism:** People think that perfectionists get a lot done, but often the truth is the opposite. Perfectionists tend to demand so much of themselves that they struggle to get started at all.
- **Lack of motivation:** the student is not motivated to work on assignments, either out of boredom or because he or she doesn't understand the material.

How to help your child avoid procrastinating:

If you are a parent, the likelihood is you have a child who procrastinates. It is



This can lead to low self-esteem and even depression, creating a fall-off point for grades. This can create a cycle of bad grades and low self confidence that can be difficult for students to overcome.

mainly because procrastination is a part of human experience. Most people procrastinate because they are not enthusiastic about a task, or because there's no shortage of more interesting, exciting, or pressing things to do. "Everybody procrastinates, but not everybody is a procrastinator." Perhaps parents can help their children by presenting tasks in concrete terms (For instance, picking up the balls versus cleaning the playroom). More importantly, though, parents can help by recognizing that parenting style is significant. Parents should reward their children for being early than punishing them for being late.

These five steps can help

Ask your child questions: Get to know how your child views their self, the expectations placed on them, and the reality of the situation. Ask questions like, "what standards do you set for your-

self?" "What do you think we expect of you?" "What will really happen if you don't accomplish the task based on the standards you've set for yourself?" Understanding how your child is currently interpreting the situation will help you develop appropriate parental responses.

Clarify your expectations: Kids tend to overestimate parental expectations, so make sure you are clear and realistic in what you expect from your child. For example, many parents may focus on the effort put forth on a school project or test, not the grade- but a child may think you expect them to earn straight- as in every subject. This may be realistic for kids who are consistently high-achievers, but for children who struggle with just turning in their homework, such expectations may be too much. In this case, lean towards setting specific, achievable expectations such as structured time to do homework, study, or do

chores. Also remember to be clear and direct when stating your expectations.

Teach problem solving skills: Kids who fear failure often spiral into a series of unrealistic, irrational and worst-case consequences. It's called catastrophic thinking. In addition to contributing to anxiety and procrastination, this type of thinking can lead to outbursts of bad behavior. You can help coach your child by teaching effective problem solving techniques. By helping your child understand how to develop a plan for tackling a problem, they may feel less overwhelmed by the amount of work involved with the task.

Point out positive qualities: Ask your child to identify the attributes they think lead to happiness and success in life, for instance-integrity, creativity, passion. Getting your child to focus on personality traits they already possess, or will likely develop, will boost their self esteem.

Use your experience to relate: Self-disclose some of your own fears and describe how you've managed them. By acknowledging your imperfections and struggles, you may prevent your child from feeling defective.

Help your child turn procrastination into productivity by helping them choose the right path for tackling the problems and finding their solutions.

5th Educator's Award: Honouring Selfless Service in Education Field

The Open Page -5th Educator's Award held on 2nd February 2019 at Shanku's Divine Child School was great success. We honoured six veterans & 12 awards were given in different categories. We also honoured 9 torch bearers of Educator's Award from different education fields.

During the journey of 18 years, excellent work carried out by educators in various aspects of the education came in light. These innovators who were working to improve the quality selflessly, were not being recognized and encouraged. This year the host of the award is Shanku's - Divine Child School, a well known education organization of Mehsana. Idea behind the rotation is to make the award popular and invite more and more educators to get nomination and show case their work. The Chief Guest for the event was Shri Gauri Shankar Gupta - Ex- High Commissioner of India & The International Guest of Honour was Mr. Bernard Ong, Director - Management Development Institute of Singapore, an NGO specializing in the continuous educational and professional development of young managers. We also had Special Guest - Mr. Raja Pathak- Chairman-SattvaVikas School, Mr. Hasmukh Hingu, Ex- Chairman of Secondary & Higher Secondary Board. Mrs. Anandiben Chaudhary, Founder Divine Child Group of Schools, Mr. K M Cherian, Director - Shanku's Divine Child School, Mr. Deepak Rajguru, Chairman Vibrant Academy Surat and President of All Gujarat Self-Finance Schools.

Mr. Archit Bhatt - Chief Editor of The Open Page, Children's Newspaper gave a brief details of the journey of The Open Page Educator's Award and also regarding the importance of honouring Educator's. We honour the veterans who have dedicatedly and selflessly served the society in the field education.



This year we had six veterans' awards.

We had received total of 218 new profiles of Educators of different categories who participated in the 5th Educator's Award. Till now in 5 years we have received total of 1437 profiles Educator's of different categories from 33 districts of Gujarat. A list of short listed candidates in each category is prepared. In the morning of the day of the award function, short listed candidates are called at the venue and

are required to give presentation. A panel of jury members; three per category; who are eminent and experienced educationist themselves; select the winner based on the presentation and interview. This year almost 95 shortlisted candidates participated in Jury round that was held in the morning on the day of event. After the Jury round winners were declared.

All the winners were given a cash prize of Rs. 11,000 as token of appreciation along with Trophy and certificate. The cash prize were donated by different educational institutes. The Chief Guest for the event Shri Gauri Shankar Gupta addressed the gathering and spoke about importance of education in current scenario and also showed his concern about losing our age old practise of gurukuls that gave overall development to Children. The International Guest of Honour was Mr.

Bernard Ong, appreciated the value of Education in India. He also gave inputs on education in Singapore. Shri. Raja Pathak, appreciated the hard work of The Open Page team in doing the noble work of honouring Educator's from different categories. Mr. K M Cherian, expressed his honour to be associated with good work of supporting Education. Mrs Niipa Shukla, CEO- The Open Page gave vote of thanks to all who had been instrumental in making this event a success.

The Open Page team offers heartfelt thanks to the Host school - Shanku's Divine Child School- its Management, Principal, Coordinators, Teachers, Students. Main Sponsor of the event Book Bazaar.com. The cash prize donors. The Tripada Parivar, Press & Media houses and representatives, management of different school who supported & attended the program.

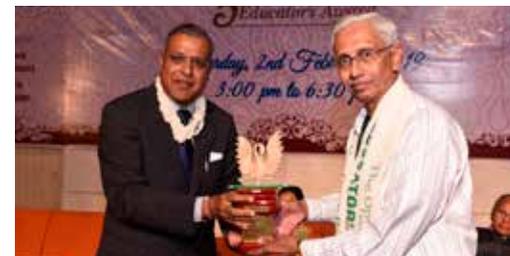
In the Memory of Shri Labhubhai Bhatt (Dadaji) - VETERAN AWARDS



Smt. Anandiben Chaudhary



Dr. Somabhai Patel



Shri. Meghraj J. Bhatt



Mrs. Perin F. Lalkaka



Shri. Manubhai Patel



Shri. Gordhanbhai C. Patel



WINNERS IN DIFFERENT AWARD CATEGORIES	
1. Pre-School Educator Award	Mrs. Bhavna Pandit, Ahmedabad
2. Elementary-School Educator Award	Mr. Gopalkrishna Patel, Godhra Mr. Bhaveshkumar Mehta, Somnath
3. Secondary-School Educator Award	Mr. Arvindkumar Patel, Mahisagar
4. Diploma / Senior-School Educator Award	Mr. G. B. Makwana, Botad
5. Principal of the year Award (Elementary)	Mr. Pravinbhai Rethaliya, Surendranagar
6. Principal of the year Award (Sec. & Higher Sec.)	Smt. Varshaben Khakhkhar, Amreli
7. Teacher's Educator Award	Dr. Hiral Barot, Vadodara
8. Social Service (Educational) Award	Mr. Bibhuti Biswal, Navsari
9. Educator (Special Education) Award	Ms. Dina Bhatt, Rajkot
10. Parent of the year Award	Mrs. Pooja Patel, Bhavnagar
11. School Management Educator Award	Mr. Laljibhai Nakum, Surat
12. Sanskrit Pathshala Educator Award	Mr. Jagdishbhai Dabhi, Junagadh



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5. Enterprise Training Companies

On one hand, companies are hardly finding required skilled persons, while on the other hand, people that have good skills, don't get job. Such situation is not only in Bharat, but all over the world. For this, some companies working together with Corporations ensures that there is right skill in employees. As said above, Triology education is partnering with universities, but it also looks after leverages its network of partners and its platform to help com-

panies bridge their own tech-talent gaps in both hiring and training. One successful model is also of Pluralsight. It is online platform for IT and Software developer training. Secret of its success lies in matter that its content is ultra modern, industry oriented and has close relations with employers. To address this mismatch Revature's platform is unique model. It utilizes university partnerships and close collaboration with employers to deliver a program where students pay their tuition over a two-year period after they are employed.

6. Pathway programs

Brilliant students of world which have good amount of money, generally tend to take flight of US, UK or Australia. This way, in the year 2015, number of international mobile students was 45 lac. This number may be 70 lac in year 2030. 50 percent students are from China, Bharat, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. However, there is decrease in international students because of strict immigration policy. Pathway programs, which are a small but fast-growing segment of the transnational education

market, help foreign students get admission into U.S. institutions through bridging academic entry standards. Most of these programs are in countries that have been traditional draws for higher education like the U.S., but some are now also in countries like China that traditionally send many students overseas.

Thus, new solutions are being sought after as education scenario is changing day by day. Students or guardians don't need to get confused, only thing they need is taking right direction and getting proper guidance.



Paper Craft Lamp

1. Take a A4 sheet as base and start cutting the extra part to make a perfect square
2. Base
3. Fold the base in the center to make a half fold
4. Mark a straight line with pencil one inches from the edges
5. Start making straight lines horizontally as shown in the example
6. Now, Start cutting the horizontal lines with the help of a pair of scissors
7. Open the paper and vertically add tape on both the edges to make the lamp
8. Take a square paper round fold it in a cylindrical shape and paste the edges with tape. Insert the cylindrical shape in the center of the lamp
9. Make a handle using making a strip and adding both the sides at the top of the lamp with the help of tape
10. Press downwards to make pointy edges and your paper craft lamp is ready



D.I.Y Flower Vase Paper Craft

Instructions-

1. Start cutting out this layers carefully from the base as shown in the example
2. Place the flower cutout layers and the yellow part, place the pencil in the center and move in a circular direction as shown
3. Start making the base by tracing the layer and by cutting it carefully as shown in the example
4. Place all the flowers and the leaves carefully and add with glue

MYSTERY MARKERS



- ### Materials
- Bowl of water
 - Paper towels, cut into strips
 - 3 or more different markers, including black (non-primary colors work best)

The Method: Draw a wavy line an inch from the bottom of each towel strip, using a different color pen on each. (Older kids should note which color is on which strip.) Dip each strip into the water so that the bottom edge of the paper towel is submerged, but not the line of ink; hold in place as the water creeps up the towel. The ink marks will spread, revealing the different dyes that make up each color.

Learning

Most colors are actually made up of several different dyes. As the paper towel draws the liquid out of the bowl, the water molecules bond with the different ink molecules and spread them. The process of separating these dyes (or the components of any mixture) is known as chromatography. You'll likely find that purple leaves a line of blue and a smear of red, and that green breaks up into blue and yellow. As for the black marker, don't be surprised if it's made of different blues and even red. To take the exploration further, have your kid cover her eyes while you draw a line on a fresh strip. Dip it into the water; once the ink has spread, have her open her eyes and try to guess which marker you used.

HOVER BALLOON

- ### Materials
- Smooth surface (like a table)
 - 1 balloon (uninflated)
 - 1 water bottle sport-top
 - 1 old CD or DVD
 - Glue
 - Duct tape

The Method: Glue the bottom of the sport-top over the hole in the CD; let dry. Seal the bottle top's base with duct tape, covering the glued area so air can't escape. Stretch the balloon over the spout. With the sport-top open, inflate the balloon by blowing into it through the hole in the CD. Then click the top shut so the balloon stays inflated. Set your creation on a table and gently pull the sport-top open. The air coming out of the balloon will lift your craft; give it a push to send it zipping across the room. Next try pushing the hovercraft while it's deflated. Notice that it moves more slowly.

Learning

The inflated balloon wants to shrink back to its natural shape; since it isn't sealed, it pushes air out of the hole in the CD. The force of air escaping lifts the CD, so it hovers above the table, says David Epley, aka Doktor Kaboom!, star and creator of the science DVD Try This at Home. It's a simple lesson about friction. Why does the craft move faster when the balloon is inflated? "Putting the air between the CD and the table keeps them from rubbing against each other, which slows things down."



Dear Stress, Let's Part Ways!

School, Syllabus and Stress – these three topics are interlinked with each other. The kindergarten is about to begin with their new term. When a toddler goes to a play house or preschool or kindergarten, it is a transition in a toddler's life. As parents we prepare our children, step by step, for these transitions to make the journey smooth, comfortable and acceptable. But, here I feel, we as parents, also go through a transition.

We need to also prepare ourselves step by step for the transition that happens in our life. This preparation will help the journey for us and our children very easy.

A few points Kindergarten parents should know

1. Make proper and regular routine for your child. Mainly include meal time, play time and bed time in these routines.
2. Make a habit of early bed time, so that the child is fresh when he goes to school.
3. The child should know his complete name and if possible parent's name and phone number.
4. The kindergarten clothing should be easy to put on and take off if they need to be changed at school.
5. Do not stuff them with uncomfortable clothing.
6. Label all the belongings of the child properly.
7. Meet the teacher in advance.
8. Attend the open house or the orientation of the school. This will help you to know the school better.
9. Include your child in all the shopping and preparations you do related to the school.
10. Try to make school opening a fun and exciting event.
11. Try small separation periods before the child starts kindergarten. This will make quick and swift transition.
12. Give children time to adjust and get comfortable in a new environment.
13. Always say a goodbye before you leave your child. Never sneak out.

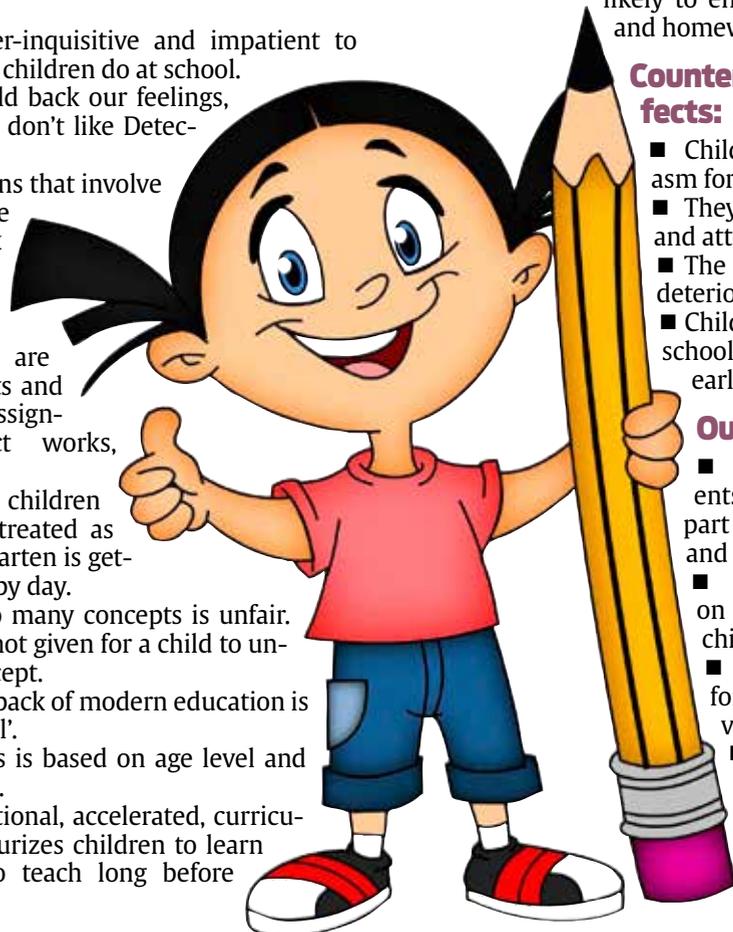


No Shooting questions to children

1. As soon as the child back from school, it is very important for us to make the child feel comfortable first.
2. Our questions to children about the school actually matters.
3. Do not be over-inquisitive and impatient to know what our children do at school.
4. We need to hold back our feelings, as our children don't like Detective Mommies.
5. Ask the questions that involve and interest the children to talk about in detail.

Syllabus

1. Children today are loaded with lots and lots of books, assignments, project works, homework etc.
2. Five-year-old children are no longer treated as babies. Kindergarten is getting tough day by day.
3. Introducing too many concepts is unfair. Proper time is not given for a child to understand a concept.
4. The main drawback of modern education is 'one sizes fits all'.
5. Modern syllabus is based on age level and not ability level.
6. Increasing, irrational, accelerated, curriculum only pressurizes children to learn and parents to teach long before



children's developing minds are ready to learn. Pushing children to learn at early age is counterproductive, it dilutes the foundation and steals childhood.

8. Today's syllabus is more likely to encounter skills, drills and homework.

Counter Productive Effects:

- Children loose enthusiasm for lifelong learning.
- They lack concentration and attention spans.
- The performance starts deteriorating.
- Children are burnt out on schools and education very early.

Our Approach:

- Our role as parents plays an integral part in defining pressure and comfort.
- We should focus on the ability level of a child.
- We should wait for the child to be developmentally ready.
- We should be calm and positive.
- We should treat schools and education as a normal course of event.

- We should serve our children according to their interest, readiness and capability.

Conclusion:

- Stop over scheduling
- We expect our children to concentrate for long hours at the cost of play.

Give free time

- We should give free time to ourselves and our children.
- In this time nothing should be pressurized not even play.
- There should be no learning, no goal, no competition expected out of this free time.

Don't be study obsessed

- Avoid discussions about education, school, assignments and projects all the time.

Cut down on expectations

- Don't over expect, understand that every child is an individual.
- Armed with these insider tips, I am sure your child and you will sail through the transition as smoothly as possible.
- What are your tried and tested tips? Share with us!



HARSHA GIRISH RAMAIYA
Founder & Director
Small Wonders,
Bhavnagar

ADDITION COLOR BY NUMBER

Solve the addition problems. Then color the fish using the color that matches the answer.

$6 + 4 =$ _____ Yellow
 $8 + 8 =$ _____ Pink
 $6 + 3 =$ _____ Green
 $7 + 1 =$ _____ Green
 $5 + 2 =$ _____ Black
 $10 + 4 =$ _____ Blue
 $9 + 2 =$ _____ Orange
 $13 + 5 =$ _____ Brown

GONE FISHING

Say the name of each picture to find out the beginning sound. Then choose from one of the two missing letters, and write the missing letter to complete the word.

c h l j

___ at ___ og

r s v n

___ un ___ et

WINTER SUDOKU

Solve the Sudoku puzzle below by filling in the blank spaces with numbers between 1 and 9. Make sure no numbers appear twice in the same row, column or 3x3 square.

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

DISCOVERING SEASONS

Seasons are always changing. The sun provides light and heat, warming the ground and water. As the year goes by, the sun shines less during the day, making it colder and changing the weather.

Write *spring, summer, fall, or winter* next to the picture that matches.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

FIND THE PAIRS

Can you find the pairs in the picture? I just found a pair of eggs. Find the other pairs.

DRAW A PIG

Practice in Symmetry: Use the grid below to draw a mirror-image of the pig's left side on the blank side of the axis.

MATH CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fill in the blanks of the crossword puzzle to make the mathematical equations true.

12	+		=	36					
		÷		÷					+
	-		=	4					23
x		=		=		÷			=
		6			x	5	=		
=						=			
56		20	-		=	11			3
		+		x					x
84	÷		=						13
		=		=					=
				63	-		=		

GOING TO SCHOOL MAZE

Help Hank get to school! Trace the fastest route to get to school.

“Rann Utsav”



interesting wildlife species to see including flamingoes, Indian wild asses and foxes. The wildlife sanctuaries of Kutch are most famous for the many species of birds that visit the marshlands. Even if you don't make it a wildlife sanctuary, you can hear the melodious chirping of birds at dusk. With organized tours to some of the local sightseeing spots including religious sites in Kutch such as Narayan Sarovar or the Kera Shiv Temple that is over a thousand years old, you can explore a lot more of the region.

The Kalo Dungar is the highest peak in the Kutch area, and the perfect spot to see the whole Rann with a panoramic view.

The Dungar is also popular because of the famous Dattatreya Temple, which is of immense significance because of the folklore attached to it. It is said when Lord Dattatreya walked the earth, he stopped at Kalo dungar and met with a band of hungry jackals. Seeing their plight, he offered his body for them to feast on.

There on, his body regenerated and fed the jackals daily. For four centuries now, the temple officials leave food out for the jackals, which is prepared with a lot of reverence, and the tradition is kept alive. Tourists can spot the jackals with the help of a guide by visiting the temple during noon or at 7 in the evening.

An ultimate cultural extravaganza at one of the most unique landscapes, Rann Utsav is an experience to cherish.

involves around the tradition, local art, craft and history. The tent city at Rann Utsav is the ideal gateway to escape the routine urban lifestyle. It's a mixture of old custom blended with present-day ways of life that makes it an extraordinary experience. The city offers conveniences such as clubhouse, table tennis, carom, and much more. The 'haat' enables you to purchase the crafts from local public. The tents are the mixture of traditional art with modern furnishing.

One aspect of the Rann Utsav that travelers love and vouch for is shopping here. Ranging from authentic embroidery to traditional handicrafts

and paintings, people get a wide range of goodies to choose from. Another specialty from Bhuj that makes its way to Rann Utsav is the seashell toys carved in different shapes and forms. Influenced by Sufi and folk songs, the performances at the events section of the festival have renowned dancers and performers from around the state gracing the occasion of the festival. You will find people from local Gujarati tribes too, performing to the tunes of folk music. A dance style, especially enjoyed by people is the Kutchi ghodi dance and children enjoy puppetry, a common feature at the event area.

For nature lovers, there is plenty of



The only line that pops up in our head when we hear the name “Kutch” is “Kutch nahi dekha to Kutch nahi dekha”. Well if you deep dive and go for a firsthand experience of Kutch especially during their flagship event ‘Rann Utsav’ you will agree with this. One of the biggest salt deserts in the world, the Great Rann of Kutch is not only known for its natural splendor but also for its cultural festival-‘Rann Utsav’. Culture of Kutch is a symbol of Gujarati culture, famous for its traditional and cultural values mostly for its creative art.

‘Rann Utsav’ is celebrated between the months of November and February every year in Kutch, Gujarat. The three months long festival is a carnival of music and dance and provides the visitors a glimpse into the culture and heritage of Gujarat. The Utsav this year began on November 1, 2018 and will culminate on February 20, 2019. The event is organized by the tourism department of Gujarat to promote tourism in the state. The celebratory festival begins in the Bhuj city and goes around the district with a grand finale again being held at the preliminary destination. An indulgence for all, it is the festival that gives a chance to all the foodies to enjoy authentic food varieties, all music lovers to enjoy soulful folk music and explore various places of the Kutch. It leaves you overwhelmed at everything you witness.

The Rann Utsav festival, which has been organized since 2006, was the vision of the honorable prime minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The idea behind it was to provide the state of Gujarat with a distinct identity on the global tourism map, something to talk about. Besides increasing foreign tourism in the state, the purpose of this festival was also to showcase the culture and traditions of Gujarat to the world. Rann Utsav is marked by several events which display the vibrant culture of the region.

The whole theme of the event re-

REPUBLIC DAY

26

JANUARY



HAPPY
REPUBLIC DAY

वन्दे मातरम

constitutional monarchy with King George VI as the head and Louis Mountbatten as the Governor General. The country did not have its own constitution.

The drafting committee with Dr B R Ambedkar as a chairman was appointed with the objective to draft a permanent constitution. Dr Ambedkar, who had once said that "If I find the constitution being misused, I shall be the first to burn it," was not only a great leader but also an inspiration for everyone. The committee then worked tirelessly for months and on 4th November 1947, they submitted the first draft of the constitution to the assembly, which took over two years to finally adopt the constitution.

“The sanctity of law can be maintained only as long as it is the expression of the will of the people”.

If you have ever wondered why January 26 was chosen day to bring the constitution into force, there is an interesting reason behind it. During the Lahore Session of the INC (Indian National Congress) in 1929, it was for the first time in the history of the Indian Struggle of Independence that the demand for complete independence was made.

Following this, 26th January 1930 was declared as Purna Swaraj Diwas (meaning Independence Day). So when the assembly was finalizing the day on which the constitution should come into effect, 26th January was the preferred choice to honor the wish of the freedom fighters who were the first to demand complete independence.

Republic day, 2019

The fifth and current president of South Africa, "Matamela Cyril Ramaphose", will be the chief guest on 70th republic day of India 2019. 2019 celebration will be special as this year will mark the 150th birth anniversary of 'Father of the Nation'. The year long celebration will get started from Republic Day by paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

This year there will be around 17 tableaux from states/Union Territories and 6 from various ministers. The tableaux this year will be based on 'Gandhi' theme.

A nation is what its people want it to be. We should be grateful that our forefathers struggled hard and sacrificed their lives to earn independence. Today India is counted as one of the biggest republic countries, and this has been made possible because many decades back our leaders spent sleepless nights to draft and adopt a constitution. It is now our duty to take it forward and work towards making India a bigger and better country.



our own representatives to run the democracy.

We were free from the British rule. While we celebrate Republic day with grandeur, we should also remember the struggle of the freedom fighters that made this day possible. Like Lal Bahadur Shastri had once said, "We believe in peace and peaceful development, not only for ourselves but for people all over the world."

“We believe in peace and peaceful development, not only for ourselves but for people all over the world.”

Republic day history

India gained independence through the historic Indian Independence Act of 1947, an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that divided British India into two dominions. On 15th August 1947, India became independent but it was still a

'freedom in real sense as people could express their will and enjoyed equal law. In the words of Bhagat Singh, "The sanctity of law can be maintained only as long as it is the expression of the will of the people".

This day plays a very important role in the lives of every Indian citizen. This day gave us the power to elect

The democratic nation of India unites to mark its 70th Republic day- a day of pride for all countrymen. Republic day in India is celebrated on 26th January every year. This was the day when constitution of India came into force and India called itself "Republic" on the same day. Republic means a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives, and which has elected or nominated president. The constitution was adopted by the Indian constituent assembly on 26th November, 1949 and came into effect on 26th January, 1950.

Why is it celebrated?

On 26th January 1950, India was declared a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and the constitution assured the citizens of India- justice, equality and liberty.

Sovereign means 'a supreme ruler'. Socialists 'a person who advocates or practices socialism. i.e a political and economic theory of social organization which advocates that the means of production, distribution and exchange are owned and regulated by the community as a whole. Secularism indicates the principle of separation of the state from religious institutions. Constitution is the set of political principals by which a state or organization is governed It is the day when monarchy was demolished from the country.

Monarchy signifies a form of government with a sovereign head of the state, especially a king, queen or emperor. Democratic indicates that it supports the policy of democracy whereas the word democracy literally means 'rule by the people'.

When the constitution came into force from 26th January 1950, people were assured that could enjoy their 'Fundamental Rights' and had freedom of speech; it was the

Local kids star in tennis tourney

Hridaan Ostwal grabbed a double win in the singles U-10 and U-12 age categories while other city kids claimed their respective titles at the AISA GSTA state ranking tennis tournament that commenced in the city recently.

Hridaan edged out Vyom Shah 6-1, 5-3 in the final match of boys' U-12 singles to be crowned champion. In the penultimate round, he brushed aside Jain-in Vegda 8-0. Whereas, Vyom defeated Aarush Bhalla in a sublime 8-0 win.

In boys' U-10 singles, Hridaan romped out Dev Patel 5-4 (3), 4-1 before beating Devesh Gupta 7-1 in the semis. In boys' U-16 singles final match, Vraj Gohil routed Dhyey Patel 6-1, 7-5(3). In the semi-final, he edged past Krishang 8-2 and Dhyey defeated Anshul Patel 8-7(2). Ishani triumphs Meanwhile in U-16 girls' singles final game, Ishani Pandey brushed aside Suhani Parekh 6-3, 6-1 before beating Priyanshi Baraiya 8-3 in the semis while Suhani defeated khushi Ramchandani 8-4.



In girls' U-12 singles, Krishna Dalal beat Pal Upadhyay 6-1, 6-2 in the final match. In the penultimate round, Krishna romped out Pia Mistri 8-2 and Pal routed Siya Patel 8-6.

Meanwhile, Hiya Kugasia defeated Avisha Rathod 4-0, 4-2 in the final match of girls' U-10 singles. In semis, Hiya beat Arusha Sarabhai 7-6 (5) while Avisha edged past Pia Mistri 7-5. A.M.

SPORTS BRIEF

Guni shines in Gujarat karate meet



City girl Guni Mishra shone in the 1st invitational Gujarat state karate championship that was held in Gandhinagar. In the 12-13 years brown-black belt category, the youngest from the city picked a gold medal in the kata event. Whereas in the kumite event, the 12-year-old added a bronze medal.

Chess titles for city kids



Naitik Mehta and Riddhi Patel won the under-15 categories while Swayam Das and Hiya Panchal took the podium in the under-11 division of the Gujarat state under-11 and under-15 inter-school selection tournament for 2019 nationals that were held at the Rifle club.

Vidhi wins CS crown



Vidhi Jani came out with an impressive display as the youngster from the city won the girls' under-18 AITA Championship Series tournament. In the final, the class 9 student of HB Kapadia New High School edged out Sanika Kambli of Maharashtra 6-4, 6-2 to win the crown. At Ahmedabad

International Sports Academy courts, Vidhi blanked Saily Thakkar 8-0 in the pre-quarters before the 15-year-old registered a 9-6 win over Asmi Wadhwa in the quarters. Third seed Vidhi's biggest win came in the semis when she shocked top seed Divya Bhardwaj 9-4 to seal the final berth.

Krish leads from the front

Skipper Krish Sharma's all-round show helped St Kabir School (SKS) defeat St Xavier's School, Loyola on the basis of their first innings lead in the under-16 multi-day Dhirubhai Ambani School Tournament at Vivekniketan cricket ground. Asked to bat first, SKS posted 401 with Krish leading the charge with 153-ball 143. Shivam Magiawala (212-ball 77), Pranshu Badheka (154-ball 60) and Salman Khokhar (92-ball 55) also made important contributions to the total. For Loyola boys, Devdutt Chavda picked four wickets while Shrey Goyal added three more. Krish and Shivam then returned to haunt their rivals with the ball as they picked three wickets each to bowl out Loyola for 129 runs. Yuvraj Billa was the topscorer for St Xavier's with 131-ball 60. With a cushion of 272-run first innings lead, SKS' declared their second innings with 65 runs on board for the loss of four wickets. With 338 to win the match and the fate of the match virtually sealed, Loyola batted out the remaining time to post 140 runs for the loss of two wickets. Devdutt (212-ball 51) and Yuvraj Billa (108-ball 50) scored unbeaten half centuries.

Maharath, Sushani win district meet



Maharath Godhani and Sushani Samdani won the Ahmedabad District U-11 boys' and girls' selection for state championship that commenced at the Orient Club. Maharath (5pt) beat Manan Yagnik (4.5pt), Veerbhadrasingh Gadhi (4.5pt), Mukund Agrawal (4pt) and Aadish Shah to take the top place in boys' category. Meanwhile, Sushani (4pt) edged out Krivya Parmar (3.5pt), Nakshi Vasawala (3.5pt), Mehar Chaudhary (3pt) and Krishna Doshi (3pt) for the top spot.

First two winners from each group will represent Ahmedabad at State tournament that will be held in the city itself. U-13 selections from Feb 2 Gujarat State U-13 open and girls' selection for National Chess championship will be held at Rifle club, Khanpur in the city on Feb 2-3 at 10am.

Top five best players will be awarded a trophy while first two players (in each category) will participate in national tournament which will be held at Vizag, Andhra Pradesh.



Batsmen guide NTCC to win

Chirag Tejura and Devarsh Gajjar shone with the bat as New Thakore CC (NTCC) defeated Shakuntal CC (SCC) by six wickets in the Ganesh Cup Minor Tournament at Sardar Patel Stadium, Navrangpura.

Electing to bat first, SCC scored 176 in 40 overs for the loss of nine wickets. Wicketkeeper Gaurav Vyas was the top-scorer with a run-a-ball

37. Pragnesh Panchal also chipped in with 29 from 31 balls.

Akshay Parekh, Kunal Shah and Nisarg Vyas all picked two wickets each for NTCC.

Chirag (74-ball 53) and Devarsh (58*, 53balls) then scored half centuries as NTCC chased down the total in 32.4 overs for the loss of four wickets.

For the losing side, Pragnesh scalped two wickets while Rushik Patel added one more.

Ashish, Sharad shine with bat

In another tie, a strong batting performance led by Ashish Raval and Sharad Gandhi helped Spandan CC (SCC) record



five-wicket win over Shilp XI CC (SX-ICC). Asked to bat first, SXICC posted 214 for the loss of nine wickets in 40 overs. Jay Patel top-scored with 108-ball 78 while Meet Patel chipped in with a 52-ball 53.

For SCC, Nirav Patel picked three wickets while Saurabh Modi added two more. Ashish (85-ball 76) and Sharad Gandhi (60-ball 51) then scored half tons as SCC chased down the total in 35.2 overs, losing five wickets in the process. For the losing side, Jay scalped three wickets.

YEAR OF THE EMPEROR

SPORTS BRIEF

Brendon McCullum to retire from Big Bash T20



Former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum has decided to retire from Big Bash League to start the transition into a coaching career. The 37-year-old explosive batsman and wicketkeeper, who retired from international cricket in 2016, will play his last BBL match for out-of-title contention Brisbane Heat in their season-ending game against Melbourne Stars at the Gabba.

IPL: RCB's five-day conditioning camp begins

As part of their preparation for Season 12 of the IPL, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) has announced a five-day conditioning camp under the guidance of coaches Gary Kirsten and Ashish Nehra at the National Cricket Academy at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. Among those attending the camp, which began on Sunday, are all-rounder Washington Sundar, along with Akshdeep Nath, Devdutt Padikkal, Gurkeerat Singh Mann, Himmat Singh, Kulwant Khejroliya, Milind Kumar and Prayas Ray Barman.

India women beat Ireland 3-0



Indian women's hockey team dished out a spirited performance to notch up a stunning 3-0 victory against World cup silver medalists Ireland in their second and final friendly of the tour. Navjot Kaur found the first breakthrough for India when she converted a splendid field goal in the 13th minute to help India take a 1-0 lead. In the 26th minute, Reena Khokar doubles India's lead to 2-0. Gurjit Kaur made it 3-0 for India via a penalty corner in the final quarter India had drawn the first match.

Haryana women pick 7 gold in Jr Nationals

Haryana picked up seven freestyle gold to completely dominate the second day of competitions in the Junior National Wrestling Championship in Surat yesterday. Out of the 10 weight categories in action on Sunday, Haryana wrestlers finished on top of the podium in seven categories. Anju (53kg), Priyanka (57kg), Anjali (59kg), Tina (65kg), Sonika Hooda (68kg), Nisha (72kg) and Karuna (76kg) won gold in their respective categories. In the team championship, Haryana stood first.



The 3 ICC awards - Cricketer, Test and ODI player of 2018 - only confirm what we know: Kohli is the best

Awards, generally, have to be taken with a pinch of salt. At times they can be a reflection of nothing. The annual International Cricket Council (ICC) awards are no different.

The nature of scheduling of international cricket is such that the players don't have an opportunity of playing equal number of games to call the process absolutely fair.

But recently when the ICC announced its list of awards for the year 2018, no one could raise an eyebrow. Virat Kohli was named the cricketer, Test and one-day international player of the year. He was also named the captain of the ICC's Test and ODI teams of the year.

His stats in the calendar year 2018 are unreal. A total of 1,322 runs in 13 Tests at an average of 55.08, and 1,202 runs in 14 ODIs at an average of 133.55. He scored an astonishing 11 international tons in the year.

What makes his Test year more special is the fact that only two of the 13 Tests came at home. The rest 11 came in the alien conditions of South Africa, England and Australia. In England and South Africa, he was more or less the lone warrior before finding a reliable ally in Australia in form of Cheteshwar Pujara, who is a notable omission from the Test team of the year.

Kohli started the year on the spicy wickets of South Africa. After two low scores in Cape Town, he came back at Centurion with 153 in the first innings when the rest of the Indian batting just collapsed. India lost the match by 135 runs but Kohli stood out in the ruins. When India won the dead rubber at Johannesburg, Kohli

got 54 and 41. No Indian batsman got more runs in the Test, although Pujara got a crucial 50 in the first innings and Ajinkya Rahane made 48 in the second.

Kohli carried his form to the ODI leg of the series with three tons, one better than the other as India won the series 5-1. Kohli top-scored both in the Test and the ODI series with 286 and 558 runs respectively.

When Kohli landed in England for the Test series in the middle of 2018, he was under tremendous pressure. He had a disastrous tour in 2014 when he couldn't get past a score of 50 in any of the Tests and repeatedly fell to James Anderson behind the stumps. In 2016 when Kohli was making runs for fun at home against England, Anderson had said that he would be tested when he came to England in 2018.

Kohli was ready for the Test. Anderson couldn't get him out even once as Kohli piled on 593 runs with two tons and an average of 59.30. He had not only made the technical adjustments but taken his mental discipline to a monk-like level. Anderson was able to induce few edges but it was the middle of Kohli's bat that won more battles. India once again lost the series and once again Kohli took a giant step towards greatness. In the ODI series that preceded the Test series, Kohli was the top-scorer for India with 191 runs.

When he and the team reached Australia in the latter part of 2018, he was under a different sort of pressure. He not only had to get runs but had to ensure that the team was able to walk the talk after claiming to be the best travelling India side in the last 10-15 years.

Crucial runs

Here Kohli didn't get truckloads of runs but as former Australia coach Darren Lehmann told Mirror, he got crucial runs. In the first Test at Adelaide, his 34 in the second innings was part of the 71-run third-wicket partnership with Pujara. With Pujara getting a 71 and Rahane scoring 70, India were able to set Australia a target of 323. India won by 31 runs.

His lone ton in the series came in a lost cause during the second Test at Perth but without a doubt was the best innings in the game. On a pacy wicket he survived some good spells especially from Pat Cummins.

While the third Test will be better remembered for the 48-minute epic by Pujara, Kohli's 82 was no less valuable. Not for a moment during the 305-minute innings did Kohli let his ego come in the way of his ability to adapt. This was an innings where the leader became bigger than the individual. He was ready to adopt a Pujara-like cautious approach. He was ready to play the boring way. India won by 137 runs.

So 2018 was the year when Kohli was the loner in South Africa and England where despite his individual brilliance he came under criticism for losing Test series; 2018 was a year when Kohli took his place among the legends. Having conquered Australia, Kohli moves to New Zealand, where India takes on the hosts in the first of a five-match ODI series (stats preview, right) in Napier today.

The ICC awards are just a confirmation of what we all knew: He is the best.

source: Internet

NATION

Budget: Relief for Middle Class and Poors



Modi Govt has reached to middle class first time by raising tax exemption up to Rs. 5 lac income in interim budget. It has declared reliefs for poor and farmers also. Small and marginal Farmers will get Rs 6,000 per year assured income support. New Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana for unorganised sector workers with income up to Rs 15,000 per month. Beneficiaries will get Rs 3,000 per month pension with a contribution of Rs 100 per month after retirement.

SC order tight slap for Mamata Govt



The Supreme Court on 5th February directed Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajeev Kumar to make himself available before the CBI and 'faithfully' cooperate with the agency in investigation of cases arising out of the Saradha chit fund scam probe. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had sat on Dharna in support to Rajeev Kumar but now order is seen as set back to her. BJP is now demanding her resignation.

Former MP DGP Rishi Kumar Shukla appointed as new CBI Director



Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led panel has appointed former Madhya Pradesh director general of police (DGP) Rishi Kumar Shukla as the new CBI Director for a period of two years. Shukla is a 1983- batch Madhya Pradesh Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. He replaces Alok Verma, who was removed as CBI chief by a PM Modi-led panel on January 10.

13000 killed in Maha road accidents in 2018; highest in 3 years



As many as 13,059 people were killed in road accidents in Maharashtra in 2018, the highest in last three years, state Transport Minister Diwakar Raote said. Of

these, 80% or around 11,000 deaths were caused due to human error, he added. Pedestrians, two-wheeler riders and cyclists together comprised 66% of the fatalities, raote further said.

INTERNATIONAL

Tulsi Gabbard, 1st Hindu in US Congress, launches prez campaign



Tulsi Gabbard, the first-ever Hindu elected to the US Congress, officially launched her 2020 presidential campaign on 2nd February. The 37 year old launched her candidacy in the US state of Hawaii, where she has served as a congresswoman since 2013. A Samoan-American, Gabbard is an Iraq war veteran and a member of the Democratic Party.

Iran unveils long-range cruise missile on revolution anniversary



Iran has unveiled a surface-to-surface missile with a range of more than 1,350 kilometers during celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution. The missile named Hoveizeh is from the soumar family of cruise missiles, which were unveiled, which were unveiled in 2015, Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami said during the unveiling ceremony.

300 missing in Brazil dam collapse



Rescuers worked overnight searching for around 300 people missing after a dam collapse at a mine in southeast Brazil killed at least nine people, but the local governor said "odds are minimal" that they would be found alive. The official death toll had risen to nine, with "nearly 300 people missing," the local firefighters said, doubling the number presumed missing from the previous toll.

Facebook to set up institute for ethics in AI



Facebook said that it will create an independent Institute for Ethics in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with an initial grant of \$7.5 million. In collaboration with the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in Germany, the institute will help advance the growing field of ethical research on new technology and will explore fundamental issues affecting the use and impact of AI.

SPORTS



India 3rd team to beat NZ in 4+ ODIs in a bilateral series in NZ

India became only the third team to defeat New Zealand in four or more ODIs in a bilateral series in New Zealand. India managed their only second bilateral ODI series win in New Zealand after the MS Dhoni-led Indian side had registered a 3-1 series win in 2009. India will now play a three-match T20 series against New Zealand.

Talks flop, US to pull out of Russia N-pact



The US will stop complying with a landmark nuclear pact with Russia as soon as this weekend after last-ditch talks with oscow to save it fell flat, a senior US arms control official said. Washington has long accused Russia of flouting the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), alleging that a new Russian missile, the Novator 9M729, called the SSC-8 by NATO, violates the pact, which bans either side from stationing short- and intermediate-range, land-based missiles in Europe.

BIRTHDAY WISHES



GURPREET SINGH SADHU
03 FEBRUARY 1992



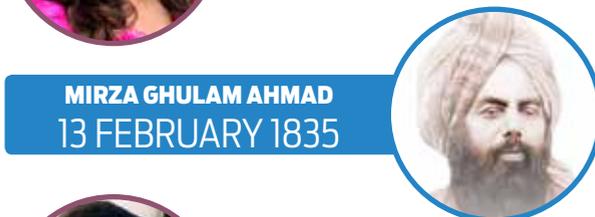
TINA MUNIM
11 FEBRUARY 1957



SHIVAJI
19 FEBRUARY 1627



ABHISHEK BACHCHAN
05 FEBRUARY 1976



MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD
13 FEBRUARY 1835



PRAKASH JHA
27 FEBRUARY 1952



MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN
08 FEBRUARY 1963



RANDHIR KAPOOR
15 FEBRUARY 1947



MORARJI DESAI
29 FEBRUARY 1896

NATA PREPARATION GUIDE

The National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA), is conducted by National Institute of Advanced Studies in Architecture (NIASA) which is a body of Council of Architecture, New Delhi in India. The National Aptitude Test in Architecture is a national level examination for admission to undergraduate courses in Architecture. The test measures the aptitude of applicants for a specific field of study, i.e. Architecture, in areas like drawing and observation skills, sense of proportion, aesthetic sensitivity and critical thinking, qualities that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are related to Architecture. NATA or the AIEEE B.Arch. exam are prescribed by the Council of Architecture as a compulsory criterion for taking admission to any Architectural College or course in India.



The test measures the aptitude of applicants for a specific field of study, i.e. Architecture, in areas like drawing and observation skills, sense of proportion, aesthetic sensitivity and critical thinking, qualities that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are related to Architecture.

NATA 2019

NATA Syllabus 2019 - Council of Architecture (COA) has released the detailed information brochure for NATA 2019 containing all the information for candidates. NATA 2019 syllabus includes the section-wise topics that will be covered in each part of the national-level exam. Questions will be asked only from inside the syllabus, except for rare cases. So, it is recommended that the NATA applicant goes through the syllabus carefully when preparing for the exam. Once the candidate checks out the syllabus, it will be that much easier to decide which topic to tackle first and which to leave for later. Also, along with NATA syllabus 2019, the exam pattern of is another thing that can help the candidate plan for the exam.

NATA 2019 will be conducted twice from 2019. The first session will be conducted on April 4 while the second session will be held on July 7, 2019. The exam is conducted for admission to B.Arch. courses offered by some 450 participating colleges in the country. Admission is based on NATA scores, provided the candidate qualifies in the exam.

NATA 2019 will be conducted for total time duration of 3 hours (180 minutes). The exam will be conducted in one day only, across different parts of India. The exam will hold on April 14, 2019. NATA 2019 will be conducted in two phases for all the candidates and the paper pattern for the exam remains the same in both the phases of the examination. The test will include two papers i.e. Mathematics & General Aptitude Test and Drawing Test.

NATA Syllabus 2019

Mathematics: Algebra, logarithms, matrices, trigonometry, co-ordinate geometry, dimensional co-ordinate geometry, Theory of calculus, application of calculus, permutation and combination, statistics and probability.

<p>MODE The exam will be conducted through online mode.</p> <p>SECTIONS It will be comprised of two sections. Part A comprises of MCQ to be answered online and Part B is paper based drawing test.</p> <p>MAXIMUM MARKS Total of 200 marks questions will be asked in the exam. 120 marks of Part-A and 90 marks of Part-B.</p>	<p>DURATION The complete exam will be of 3 hours. 90 minutes for Part-A and 90 minutes for Part-B.</p> <p>LANGUAGE All instructions will be given in English language only.</p> <p>MARKING SCHEME 2 marks will be allotted for each correct answer.</p> <p>NEGATIVE MARKING No negative marking in the exam.</p> <p>QUALIFYING MARKS Secure minimum 25% marks in MCQ portion (30 out of 120) & 25% marks in drawing portion (20 out of 80).</p>	
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NATA 2019 will be conducted twice from 2019. The first session will be conducted on April 4 while the second session will be held on July 7, 2019.

General Aptitude: General, mathematical reasoning, sets and relations.

Drawing: Understanding of scale and proportion of objects, geometric composition, shape, building forms and elements, aesthetics, color texture, harmony and contrast. Conceptualization and visualization through structuring objects in memory. Drawing of patterns - both geometrical and abstract. Form transformations in 2D and 3D like union, subtraction, rotation, surfaces and volumes. Generating plan, elevation and 3D views of objects. Creating 2D and 3D compositions using given shape and forms. Perspective drawing, Sketching of urban cape and landscape, Common day-to-day life objects like furniture, equipment etc., from memory.

NATA Exam Preparation Tips

Tip No 1: The most common misconception among NATA aspirants is that if you draw well, then its half the battle won, which is totally false. Though good sketching is essential, the questions are framed on topics

like effects of light & shadow, sense of perspective drawing, understanding scale & proportions, memory drawing, composing 3 - Dimensional elements etc. So, developing these skills are equally important.

Tip No 2: Be Creative - Creativity is a mysterious trait. Many people have tried to define creativity in their own ways but there is no single universally accepted definition. It is difficult to summarize in a few lines but we can say that creativity is the ability to come up with new, original ideas which are not conventional. It is the breaking away from the stereotype, routine, accepted set of thoughts and possessing a deeper insight to problem solving. In short, a creative person experiences rebirth everyday with his or her ideas.

Tip No 3: Understand that your drawing & creative skills are useless if you are not able to present your thoughts in the exam in the limited amount of time. You stand to lose marks for the questions you fail to answer or which

are left incomplete, it doesn't matter how good you are at your work. So speed is equally important.

Tip No 4: Go through all previous papers of NATA. Solve at least 10 - 20 past papers within the time limit. Find out a comfortable sequence of answering the paper. If you are faced with a mental block, breathe deeply, relax and then try to answer the question.

Tip No 5: Don't practice in A3 size sketch books. Work in A4 size as that is normally the standard size of answer sheets in the examinations.

Tip No 6: Don't mug up G.K. books but be more aware of the construction work happening around you - Read the newspapers regularly. Increase your observation power. Try to find out about famous architects & their works & how they have contributed to the field of architecture. Read books / magazines & develop a genuine passion for your field.

Tip No 7: Find your own deep and compelling reason to successfully clear NATA. Motivate yourself. Work with enthusiasm & you will be amazed at your ideas & creations.

Tip No 8: In questions requiring drawing, always draw with a light hand first, doing mainly the outlining without the details. When you are satisfied with the proportions & the rough outline, you may finalize. You will save a lot of time that students normally waste in erasing & re-drawing.

Tip No 9: Practice more with dry mediums (colors), as they are convenient to use and take less time in exams.

Tip No 10: For XII class students: Plan your time well for NATA preparation if you are also preparing for other entrance exams along with NATA. Use your time effectively with a time table. Don't start your preparations after you finish your XII boards - The earlier you start, better for you.

Will "Saving a year" BENEFIT or HARM your child?



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Veteran Educator Award in
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This is being written bearing in mind specifically those parents whose children are falling short of the "minimum age-at-entry" criteria by a few days, weeks or months. When a school (unethically) agrees to admit their "under-aged" child into a higher grade or class, the (false) sense of relief and happiness of having "saved a year" is so intense, that parents fail to realize having themselves set up their child for failure. So, if ensuring a happy childhood and setting the stage for a bright academic career happens to be your GOAL, then it is "developmentally" inappropriate or in other words, "ahead of its time" just as it is to expect a new-born baby to digest solid food or for a six-month old baby to start walking and talking or for a 3-year old to start writing or for a 4-5 year old to be able to write sentences or add/subtract numbers.

It is not that the child never WILL but it simply CAN'T!

Unless children are introduced to a curriculum that is developmentally age-appropriate, they find it extremely difficult to learn and grasp basic concepts. Between birth to age six, as children go through tremendous spurts of growth, significant differences in their abilities and understanding are observed even amongst children who are just 2 to 3 months apart. There is a growing body of research evidence which has proven that "under-aged" admissions are the root-cause responsible for children experiencing immense stress and poor learning outcomes. Their inability to keep pace with others only makes them feel like losers resulting in poor grades and a dislike to attend school thus setting them up for failure. Distressed parents are then left with no choice but to send their children for private tuitions. And this only aggravates matters even further, as it hardly leaves such children with any time for building life experiences through play and other activities that are crucial for ensuring all-round development.

Respecting and appreciating such research evidence and feedback from renowned educators and child psychology experts, the RTE Act, 2009 thought it prudent to raise the "minimum age-at-entry" norms for Class-1 from 5+ to 6+ years of age. The law also acknowledged the importance of imparting Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to children between the ages of 3 to 6. As a result, the "minimum age-at-entry" norms for the Preschool sections of Nursery, Jr. KG and Sr. KG too, have also been raised to 3+, 4+ and 5+ years of age



respectively as on 31st May (from the earlier 2+, 3+ and 4+ years of age as on 31st August).

Despite such amendments in law having been made in the interest of children, simply to not lose out on enrolments (purely for commercial reasons), many Preschools/Schools even today, show a willingness to admit an "under-aged" child into a higher grade or class. Rather than shunning such schools, out of pure ignorance, parents feel happy and relieved at the prospect of having "saved a year" - only to realize much later, after the damage is done that it was the worst decision. Life won't give your child a 2nd chance and your child, is counting on YOU. Giving a rightstart to ones child academic journey is the most important decision that a parent would have to take.

The rightstart campaign started by Dr. Swati Popat- Vats, President of Early Childhood Association recommends that parents evaluate a Preschool on the following 10 points

Right Start 1 The correct age for enrolling a child to Nursery is 3 years and for 1st is 6 years. This age appropriate beginning will not stress the child.

Right Start 2 Never select a board but school. Selecting a child centric and parent centric school is much more important than selecting the board.

Right Start 3 Do not have 'fee' as criteria of selection.

It's not about high or low fees

If fees are high, check how they will give you that money's worth. If fees are low, are they cutting corners to give you low fees?

Right Start 4 Qualified and trained

teachers are backbone of school. Parents should inquire about the teachers at time of school selection. Teacher with ECE course are most preferable for pre-school section.

Right Start 5 Support staff also plays an important role in development of the child. Parents should know whether all support staff have been verified by police. Parents can ask for respective documents to assure that the requirement is met.

Right Start 6 Discipline policy of a school helps a child develop desirable

behaviour in acceptable & appreciable ways. A school should have clear & laid down policy. Members should have signed the zero tolerance policy.

Right Start 7 Do not let your child to be interviewed. Each child has a right to be admitted in school of his choice. Children cannot take the stress of interviews at that young age and a school that does not know that is not child centric.

Right Start 8 Avoid selecting a school which is very far from school. The run from school to home should not be more than 30 minutes. Consider this distance and time while selecting the school for your dear child.

Right Start 9 Give school a five senses test.

- Ears should hear cheerful child voices.
- Eyes should see displays prepared by children.
- Nose should be able to smell the fragrance in toilets & water area.
- Touch and check if any sharp edges improper for Childs are found.

Talk about staff qualification

Right Start 10 Check if the school has CCTV cameras and the system for monitoring them. The recording for 3 to 6 months should be available. If these cameras and recording are found in place, parents can be ensured that school system are transparent. Live streaming should not be allowed.

Select a school which follows most of the above criteria and give your child the best gift of good and child friendly school.

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