


# SCHOOL LIVE

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**BATTLE OF THE KINGS**

*Ding v/s Gukesh*



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**For enquiries:**

Ph: 91-9650544997, 0124-4936900

Email: [admissions@lotusvalleygurgaon.com](mailto:admissions@lotusvalleygurgaon.com)

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## ed-note



*In bouncing back with a win in the third round to equalise after the first round loss to Ding Liren, D. Gukesh, the youngest ever world title challenger, demonstrated immense resilience and made a statement.*

*Asia dominates the chess world, and India is steadily rising through the ranks. With at least a dozen Indian grandmasters showing potential to become world champions, the future of Indian chess looks bright. On the other hand, the rise and rise of Yashaswi Jaiswal on the cricket front is equally heartening.*

*School LIVE has consistently provided extensive coverage to chess and cricket in particular, recognizing the significant impact Indian players are making on the global stage. But then, we also take pride in identifying and showcasing talented young individuals who are making a mark in various other fields of endeavour.*

*After a busy festive season in October, November has been relatively quiet, with schools initially returning to their regular routines. However, the perennial smog and pollution issues in Delhi-NCR have forced schools to shut down, highlighting the need for concerted efforts to address this critical issue.*

*As we continue to bring you engaging and thought-provoking content, School LIVE remains committed to covering contemporary issues and fascinating topics from around the world. For our print enthusiasts, School LIVE remains a monthly treat. Read on to discover more!*

**Hariharan Balagopal**

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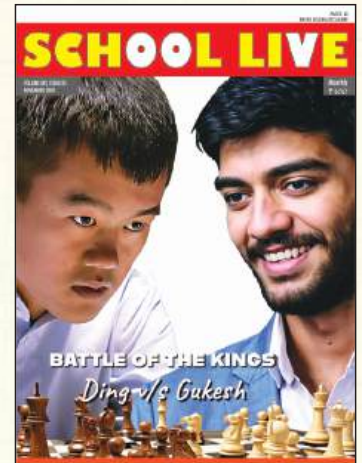
The elephant in the room: A timeless tale of perception and reality.

### Jewel Of The Maghreb

Visit the land of stunning natural beauty, vibrant culture, and rich history.

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### EDITOR

Hariharan Balagopal  
Studios: Crossroads Complex, NR-27,  
2nd Floor, Nathupur Road,  
DLF Phase 3, Sector 24,  
Gurugram, Haryana - 122002

www.school-live.com

Suggestions may be mailed to:

editor@school-live.com

**FOR QUERIES,  
CALL OR MESSAGE TO :**

Ph.: +91- 9818274147, 9625951969

in School LIVE x @schoolLIVE\_mag

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**Collaboration : Amrita Bharati**



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



**Mrs. Sandhya Awasthi, Principal  
Delhi Public School, Greater Noida**

**T**he Indian Administrative Service (IAS) is the backbone of Indian governance, and understanding the qualities that make an IAS officer tick is essential. For students aspiring to join the bureaucracy and become part of the IAS, aiming high from school levels itself can help. Building a strong foundation in academics, particularly in subjects like history, geography, and politics, can help create a solid base for future success. Moreover, participating in extracurricular activities like debates, quizzes, and leadership roles can help develop essential skills like critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork.

The importance of co-scholastic skills in today's competitive world cannot be overstated. These skills, which include communication, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving,

are vital for success in both academic and professional pursuits. By developing these skills, students can gain a competitive edge and set themselves up for long-term success. In this issue of the magazine these essentials have been well addressed.

The world of chess has witnessed continuous growth as a co-scholastic pursuit in schools. The ongoing World Chess Championship clash between India's Gukesh and China's Ding Liren is generating significant excitement. The two grandmasters are evenly matched, with Gukesh's aggressive playing style pitted against Ding's strategic brilliance. While Gukesh excels in complex positions, Ding's endgame skills are unparalleled.

The recent spate of school closures due to smog and pollution has highlighted the need for innovative solutions to mitigate the effects of environmental pollution on education. The viability of the hybrid system in addressing this issue is also worth considering.

Inventions have the power to transform our lives and shape our futures. From groundbreaking medical breakthroughs to innovative technologies, the world of inventions is constantly evolving. In each issue we tackle a subject or invention that has made a difference to humanity.

The concept of Reverse Osmosis is also worth examining, as it has the potential to provide clean drinking water for millions of people around the world.

For young readers, understanding the different approaches to learning is essential. These approaches include visual, kinaesthetic, auditory, reading, and writing, and each has its own unique benefits. We have a page dedicated to these strategies of learning.

The classic tale, 'The Magic Shop' by H.G. Wells, retold in this issue, is a treat for those who love classics.

The education ecosystem in India is a intricate tapestry of challenges and opportunities. While there is no single solution to address the complexities, a multifaceted approach can help pave the way for a brighter future. By prioritizing co-scholastic skills, tackling the obstacles that hinder seamless learning experiences, fostering innovation, and ensuring access to quality education, we can create a more equitable and effective education system. Ultimately, it is crucial for educators, policymakers, and stakeholders to come together and devise a comprehensive solution to the challenges faced by the education sector.

Stay tuned for more such interesting and insightful articles in these colourful pages.

**Sandhya Awasthi** 





# *The Psychology of Language*

## *Learning Foreign Languages*

RESEARCH has demonstrated many benefits of learning a foreign language. Apart from the obvious benefits of learning about a new culture and being able to communicate better with people from different countries, it also helps to develop several mental skills. When you learn a new language, you tend to pay more attention to grammar rules and sentence construction, and through this, you get a better understanding of the structure of language. Ultimately, this helps you to use your original language more effectively. Learning French will thus make you a better English speaker as well.

Individuals who speak more than one language have been found to have better attention spans. They may be better at multi-tasking and decision making.

Learning a language can also boost our memory. Some researchers have found that learning a new language helps to enhance the development of certain areas of the brain — you actually build grey matter, just as exercising helps to build muscles! Bilinguals, i.e., people who can speak two languages, have been found to develop Alzheimer's disease (a disorder in old age where people lose their memory) at a much later age than those who speak just one language.

### **How do children learn language?**

A researcher called Noam Chomsky believed that the ability to learn language is innate. Every child instinctively knows how to combine nouns and verbs to form the structure of sentences, and he will learn to do so regardless of whether he is taught to do so. The researcher had observed that children all over the world, no matter what language they speak, acquire language at around the same ages — they will learn their first words at the same time, speak two-word phrases at the same time and start speaking in sentences at the same age.

Another researcher B. F. Skinner disagreed. He believed that children learn language through experience and rewards and punishment. For instance, if there is a dog in the room and the child says 'dog,' his mother will reward him with a smile. The child thus learns that 'dog' is the correct term for the creature and will use it the next time. Similarly, teachers and parents will criticise incorrect grammatical constructions and reward correct ones, and that is how the child learns to speak correctly.

### **Is there a 'right age' to learn language?**

One can learn to speak a language at any time. However, there seems to be a 'critical period' for language development — about age 5, when we are most receptive to learning a language. It is easier to pick up a language at this age.

# Knowledge Hub!

## QUIZ TIME

**1.** What is the maximum number of eclipses that can occur in any given year?

- a. Five
- b. Six
- c. Seven

**2.** In which city would you be if landed at O'Hare International Airport?

- a. Toronto
- b. Chicago
- c. Dublin

**3.** Frankenstein was the \_\_\_\_\_ in Mary Shelley's novel.

- a. Scientist
- b. Monster
- c. Servant

**4.** What is the capital of Australia?

- a. Sydney
- b. Melbourne
- c. Canberra

**5.** Which of the following cells in the human body are not replaced when they die?

- a. Lung cells
- b. Skin cells
- c. Brain cells

**6.** What are the imaginary lines that circle the Earth from east to west called?

- a. Longitudes
- b. Latitudes
- c. Isobars

**7.** What is the official language of Brazil?

- a. Portuguese
- b. Spanish
- c. English

**8.** Which state is known as the 'sugar bowl of India' because it is the largest producer of sugarcane?

- a. Odisha
- b. Madhya Pradesh
- c. Uttar Pradesh

**9.** Name the only Arab country that doesn't have a desert.

- a. Lebanon
- b. Syria
- c. Jordan

**10.** Who invented logarithms?

- a. Fibonacci
- b. John Napier
- c. Blaise Pascal

**11.** What does the Roman numeral 'M' represent?

- a. 100
- b. 500
- c. 1000

**12.** Which planet is associated with the 'Great Red Spot'?

- a. Mars
- b. Jupiter
- c. Saturn

**13.** In the stock exchange, what animal is used to represent a market in which shares prices fall, encouraging selling?

- a. Bear
- b. Bull
- c. Lion

**14.** Who is the author of the well-known book *The Alchemist*?

- a. Paulo Coelho
- b. Dan Brown
- c. Jeffrey Deaver

**15.** Which bird's eyes are larger than its brain?

- a. Rhea
- b. Cassowary
- c. Ostrich

**Answers:** 1. c. Seven 2. b. Chicago 3. a. scientist 4. c. Canberra 5. c. Brain cells 6. b. Latitudes 7. a. Portuguese 8. c. Uttar Pradesh 9. a. Lebanon 10. b. John Napier 11. c. 1000 12. b. Jupiter 13. a. Bear 14. a. Paulo Coelho 15. c. Ostrich



# Children of War

*UNICEF estimates that about one in every five children in the world today are living in or fleeing war zones...*

CLOSE to 500 million children live in countries with violent conflicts. There are conflicts going on currently in Ukraine, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Sudan, Syria, Yemen and Myanmar. Recurring violence also endangers children in Afghanistan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Nigeria and some South American nations. Africa has the highest number of children living in conflict zones followed by Asia and the Middle East.

In war, children's access to the care and attention of adults who love them is often lacking. Separation from parents, death of their parents, or the emotional unavailability of depressed or distracted parents, affects children deeply. Many war-affected children lose all adult protection and become, in refugee parlance, 'unaccompanied children'.

One of the most damaging long-term effects of war is that it interrupts or puts paid to children's access to schooling. The mental and emotional state of students and teachers is

detrimentally altered. War creates obstacles to learning, such as difficulty focussing and school failure. Educational infrastructure, such as schools, are often damaged, ruined completely or occupied during conflict.

Over half of the world's refugees are children. Conflict often forces them to move into camps where they may live for long periods in extremely gruelling circumstances. A study done by the UNHCR testifies to the vulnerability of such children. Their key findings were that refugee children experience discrimination from members of different ethnic groups within the same camp. They are more likely to be subjected to violence and assault, particularly gender-based brutality directed at girls. Lack of adult protection also means bearing the brunt of the scarcity of food and hygienic facilities.

War destroys the local economy and disrupts the supply of basic necessities. The resulting malnutrition leads to higher childhood mortality rates. Children may also be forced to work instead of going to school, or they may even end up on the streets in cases of acute poverty. They may be pushed to desperate means, often turning to crime or even being recruited as soldiers in the conflict.

Hundreds of thousands of children die each year in warfare. Children account for the majority of civilian casualties in war. Bombs and bullets often kill, maim and disable children. Those who are recruited to become child soldiers are placed directly in the line of fire.

Even when immediate conflict has ebbed, landmines or unexploded can remain a threat for years. Many children also die due to the lack of medical infrastructure. Millions of children have died from treatable diseases like diarrhoea, malaria and cholera because they were deprived of timely medical aid. Children are particularly vulnerable to the deadly combination of malnutrition and infectious illness.

The psychological effects of war-related trauma can be severe. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of war in vulnerable and impressionable children can be worse than in adults. Many children are unable to understand the cause of the conflict. Severe losses and disruptions in their lives lead to high rates of depression and anxiety. These impacts may be prolonged by exposures to further privations and violence in refugee situations. Their experiences may make it difficult for them to form healthy relationships with adults or with their peers. Some cope by turning to alcohol or drugs.



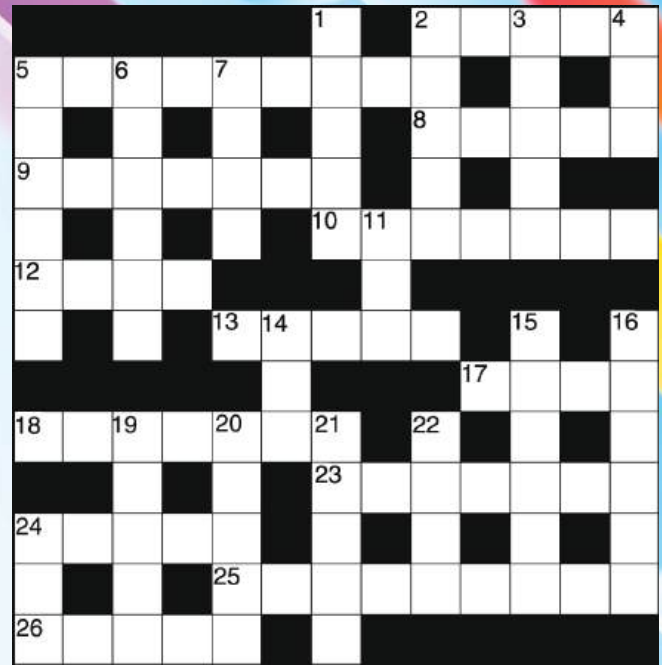
## Crossword

### Across:

2. Former French colony in West Africa (5)
5. Extort money by intimidation (9)
8. Bury with rites (5)
9. Lamp with handle (7)
10. Headache-relieving tablet (7)
12. Indonesian tie-and-dye (4)
13. Woman to be wed (5)
17. Type of southeast Asian sailing boat (4)
18. Hurly-burly of survival (3, 4)
23. One who falls behind (7)
24. Massive, like an elephant (5)
25. Significant day or event (3, 6)
26. Handbag (5)

### Down:

1. Steam bath (5)
2. Advertising balloon (5)
3. Another name for saltpetre (5)
4. Not either (3)
5. Lithuania is in this region (6)
6. Yearly (6)
7. Underside of ship (4)
11. Piece of turf (3)
14. Giant bird of Arabian myth (3)
15. Utter (nonsense) (6)
16. Split apart (6)
19. One who controls wild animals (5)
20. Love passionately (5)
21. Be just out of reach (5)
22. Fever or shivering fit (4)
24. Native of Tokyo: abbr. (3)



Answers: 1. Sauna 2. Blimp 3. Niter 4. Nor 5. Baltic 6. Annual 7. Keel 11. Sod 14. Roc race 23. Laggard 24. Jumbo 25. Red letter 26. Purse  
2. Benin 5. Blackmail 8. Inter 9. Lantern 10. Aspirin 12. Likat 13. Bride 17. Frau 18. Rat 15. Arrant 16. Sunder 19. Tamer 20. Adore 21. Elude 22. Aque 24. Jap

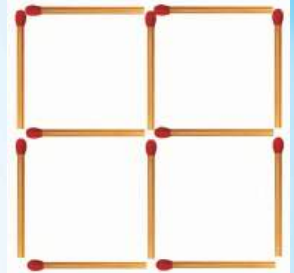
## A Quick Think

1. Three men are sitting under a banyan tree. One man cannot see, one is hard of hearing and the third is in a wheelchair. A mango falls from the tree. Who will pick it up first?
2. What sort of a can cannot be opened with a can opener?
3. How can a leopard change its spots?
4. Can you think of a two-digit number that is three times the sum of its digits?
5. If you drop me, I'm sure to crack. But give me a smile and I'll always smile back. What am I?



## C Square Up!

Move four matchsticks to form ten squares. All matchsticks must form a side of a square. (The squares may be of different sizes.)



## D Calculate

Six wolves can catch six lambs in six minutes. How many wolves will catch 60 lambs in 60 minutes?



## B Hat in a Box

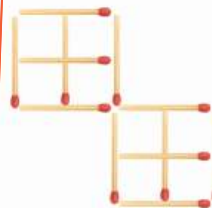
Johnny loses his favourite hat at a party. Someone has put it in one of four locked boxes numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4. The boxes have different keys, each of a different colour.



Using the clues given below, can you find out which box has Johnny's hat and which colour key he should use to open it?

- ◆ The green key opens the third or fourth box.
- ◆ The hat is in a box that is to the left of the fourth box.
- ◆ The hat is kept to the right of the first box.
- ◆ The yellow key opens the box that is to the left of the hat.
- ◆ The blue key belongs to the box kept to the right of the yellow key's box and to the left of the green key's box.
- ◆ The red key opens the first box.

Answers: 1. None. A mango does not fall from a banyan tree! 2. Pelican 3. It can move to another spot. 4. 27 (2+7=9, 9x3=27) 5. A mirror  
B. The hat is in the third box which is opened with the blue key.  
C. One wolf can catch one lamb in six minutes. In 60 minutes, each wolf can catch 10 lambs. So, six wolves can catch 60 lambs in 60 minutes.  
D. One wolf can catch one lamb in six minutes. In 60 minutes, each wolf can catch 10 lambs. So, six wolves can catch 60 lambs in 60 minutes.





# Strategies for Learning

**Academic knowledge is absorbed by every person in their own unique manner. Here are some learning strategies for different learning styles...**

It is a known fact that every individual is unique and is moulded by the information he or she is exposed to since birth. This information and the way the person absorbs the information, shapes them into the person they eventually become, as almost all behaviour is learned. In the same way, academic information is also learned by every person in their own unique manner. Therefore it is important to understand the different styles of learning and how a person can use their own preferred style to understand and retain information better. The four known predominant learning styles are: visual, auditory, read/write and kinaesthetic learning.

**Visual learning** is the kind of learning that relies on the sense of sight. Individuals who are predominantly visual learners are highly influenced by visual representation of information like charts, graphs, images, colours, maps, etc. They tend to have photographic memory and can often recall information by relating it to a connected image or colour. Such learners can improve in learning by organising information in a physical visual manner like using colour-coded notes, highlights, and making lists. When revising, they can go through images and videos, so that the information is connected to a visual input.

**Auditory learning** relies on the sense of hearing. Those whose learning is majorly auditory learn most efficiently when information is voiced aloud. They tend to prefer a lecture over video presentations, and conversations over reading a book. Details like volume,

tone, accent, etc. is what help this learner retain information. Such a student can learn better by having conversations with the teachers and fellow students, and taking part often in group discussions and debates. They tend to pay great attention to rhythm as well, so turning the information into a song or poem, helps them recall it better. When there is no possibility of conversation, the learner can still benefit from reading aloud, thus turning written information into auditory data that can be easily stored in the learner's memory.

**Read/Write learning** simply relies on the written mode of communication. Such learners tend to retain information that they have either read or have written themselves. They can recall quotes from books and articles better than from an oral speech. They tend to take notes during lectures as it helps transcribe auditory information to the written mode which they are much more comfortable with. Their constant habit of reading makes them excellent writers with a good grasp of language and grammar. As the reliance on the written word is high, such learners need to make sure to take notes that are concise and accurate, checking them soon after it is written. Marking keywords and adding comments and questions alongside, underlining

important parts, and writing down necessary context, helps in recalling the information better.

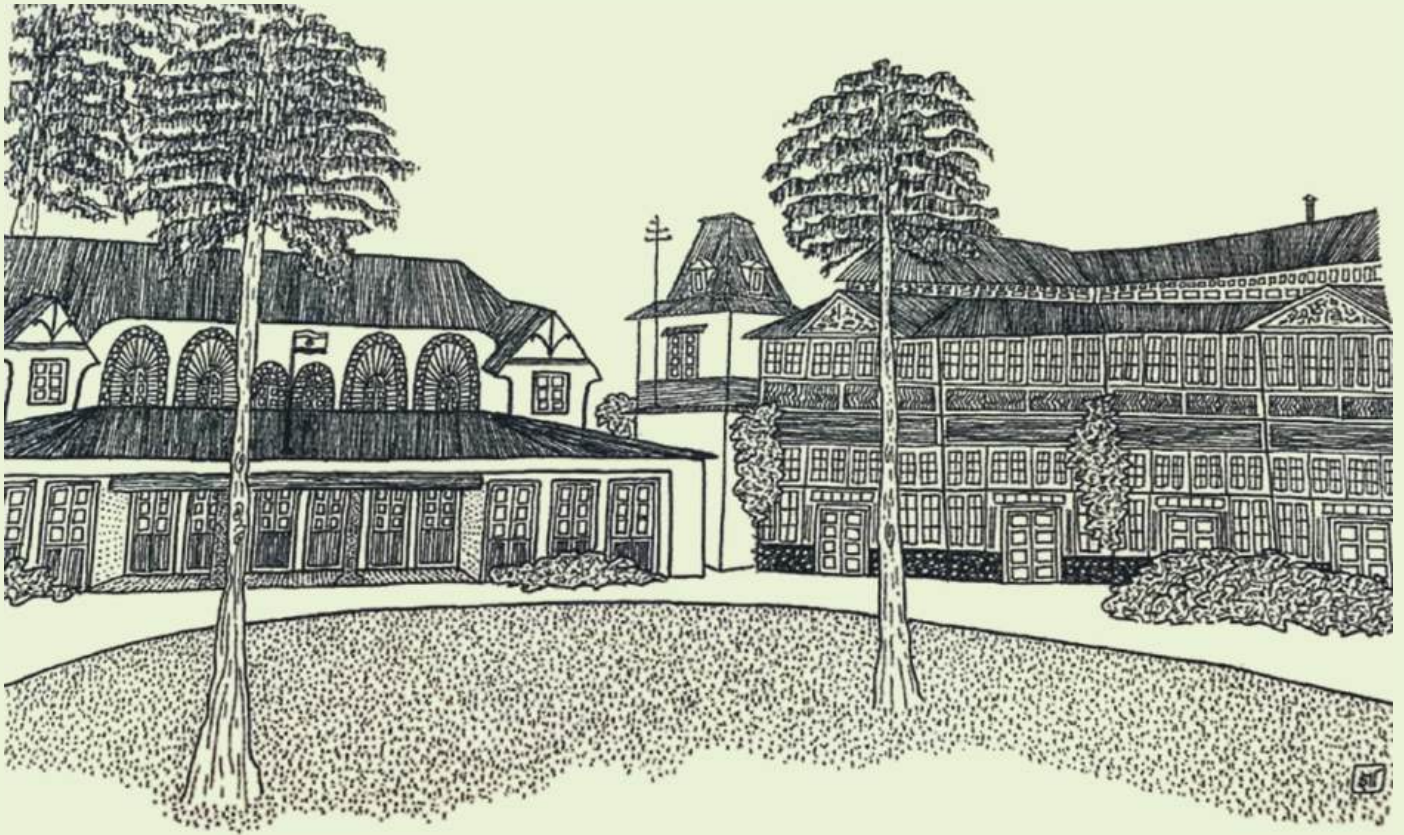
**Kinaesthetic learning** includes learning through physical exertion, so these learners need to physically move to learn something. They easily excel in skill-based activity such as playing an instrument, handling machinery, riding a vehicle or performing a surgery that requires constant practice and dedication. They tend to get easily bored in a classroom setting and would rather experience what they study about. Such learners can benefit from doing experiments themselves, going on class trips and doing group activities rather than learning from a textbook. A kinaesthetic learner can even enact stories, make models, or simply walk around to retain the given information.

Learning styles are not exclusive. People tend to use all learning styles for a particular information. Learning to ride a bicycle is kinaesthetic, whereas learning to speak a language is usually auditory in childhood. However, each person may have one or two dominant learning styles that they use for a major part of their learning.

Understanding these strategies and applying them can help one become a better learner and hone one's knowledge and skills.



# IAS – THE BACKBONE OF INDIAN GOVERNANCE



Becoming an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer is a dream shared by many, but achieved by few. It requires a combination of academic excellence, personal qualities, and a deep understanding of the complexities of governance. Let's explore the world of IAS aspirants, examining the requirements, the process, and the machinery that drives this privileged career choice.

To begin with, becoming an IAS officer requires a strong academic foundation. Aspirants must hold a graduate degree from a recognized university, with a minimum age limit of 21 years. However, it's not just about meeting the eligibility criteria; IAS aspirants must also demonstrate a deep understanding of various subjects, spanning General



knowledge, history, politics, economics, sociology and literature, to name a few.

The selection process for the IAS is rigorous and multi-tiered. It begins with the Civil Services Preliminary Examination, which is a multiple-choice test that assesses a candidate's knowledge of various subjects. Those who clear the preliminary exam are then invited to take the Civil Services Main Examination, which is a written test that evaluates a candidate's depth of knowledge and analytical skills.

The final stage of the selection process is the Personality Test, also known as the interview round. This is where candidates are assessed on their communication skills, leadership qualities, and overall personality. The interview panel, comprising experienced



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Aiming for the IAS from school levels can be a strategic move that pays off in the long run. By setting their sights on this esteemed profession early on, students can tailor their academic pursuits and extracurricular activities to align with the skills and knowledge required for the IAS. This focussed approach can help them develop a strong foundation in subjects like history, politics, economics, and sociology, which are crucial for the IAS exam. Moreover, cultivating qualities like leadership, communication, and problem-solving from a young age can also give them an edge in the competitive IAS selection process. By aiming for the IAS from school levels, students can stay motivated, focussed, and committed to their goal, ultimately increasing their chances of success.

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bureaucrats and experts, poses a series of questions designed to test a candidate's knowledge, wisdom, and character.

Once selected, IAS officers undergo a comprehensive training program at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie. This training equips them with the skills and knowledge required to navigate the complexities of governance. IAS officers are then assigned to various roles, including district administration, policy formulation, and project implementation.

The machinery that drives the IAS is complex and multifaceted. At its core is the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), which is responsible for

conducting the Civil Services Examination. The UPSC is an autonomous body that operates under the Constitution of India, with the President of India serving as its ex-officio Chairman.



Becoming an IAS officer requires a unique blend of academic excellence, personal qualities, and a deep understanding of governance. The selection process is rigorous and multi-tiered, with candidates undergoing

a series of tests designed to evaluate their knowledge, skills, and character. Once selected, IAS officers play a critical role in shaping the destiny of our nation, and it is this sense of purpose and responsibility that drives many to aim for this esteemed profession.

# D GUKESH VS DING LIREN

The chess world is abuzz with excitement as the 2024 FIDE World Chess Championship match between Ding Liren and Dommaraju Gukesh gets underway in the picturesque island of Sentosa, Singapore. This highly anticipated contest, supported by Google, will feature 14 classical games, with the ultimate goal of reaching 7.5 points to claim the coveted title. A staggering prize fund of \$2.5 million is at stake, adding to the tension and drama of the competition.

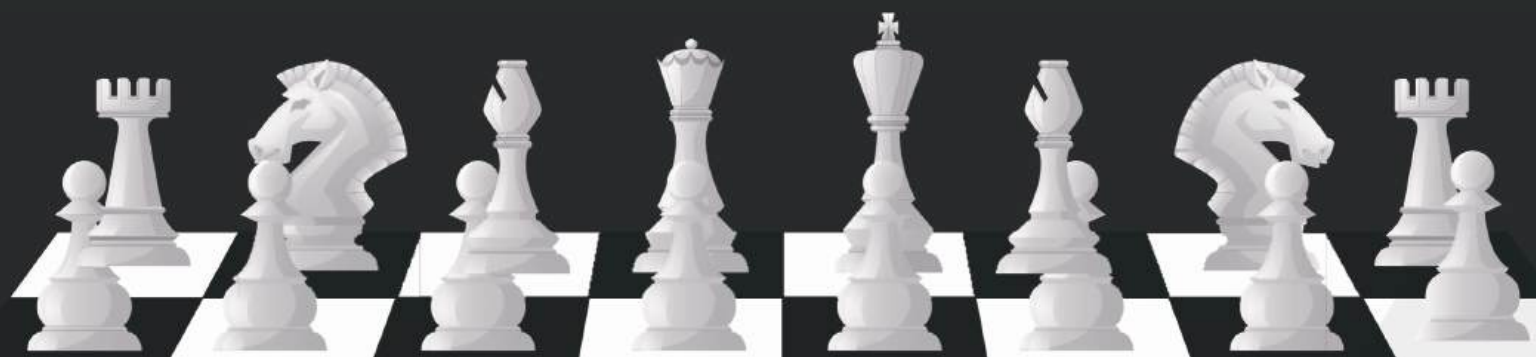
dynamic playing style, combined with his exceptional strategic understanding, makes him a force to be reckoned with. Meanwhile, Ding Liren's wealth of experience and mastery of positional play will be crucial in determining the outcome of the match.

As the battle for the championship unfolds, fans around the world can expect a closely contested and thrilling competition. Both players possess unique strengths and weaknesses,



Reigning champion Ding Liren, hailing from China, is facing a formidable challenge from 18 year-old sensation Dommaraju Gukesh. The young Indian prodigy made history by becoming the youngest-ever challenger after emerging victorious in the Candidates Tournament in April 2024. Gukesh's bold and

making it difficult to predict the outcome. The match commenced on November 25, 2024, and will conclude on December 13, 2024. Chess enthusiasts can follow the action live on various online platforms, including the official FIDE website and popular chess streaming channels.





**AFTER ROUND-1**

The highly anticipated World Chess Championship match between Ding Liren and D. Gukesh has finally begun, with the two players vying for the top spot in the chess world. Before the match, expectations were high for both players, with Ding Liren, considered the favourite to win due to his impressive track record and experience in top-level tournaments.

On the other hand, D. Gukesh, the Indian prodigy, was seen as a dark horse who could potentially upset Ding Liren with his aggressive and creative playing style. Gukesh's recent performances have been impressive, and he has been steadily rising through the chess rankings. His participation in the World Chess Championship match is a testament to his hard work and dedication to the sport.

The match was expected to be a closely contested affair, with both players having their strengths and weaknesses. Ding Liren's positional style, built on a deep understanding of pawn structures and piece placement, was expected to give him an edge in the endgame. On the other hand, Gukesh's aggressive playing style, characterized by creative and unconventional openings, was expected to allow him to take the initiative and put pressure on Ding Liren.

The first game of the match saw Ding Liren emerge victorious, thanks to a clever tactical maneuver in the endgame. Gukesh, playing with the white pieces, opted for an aggressive opening, which allowed Ding Liren to equalize quickly. As the game progressed, both players maneuvered carefully, trying to outmaneuver each other. However, in the endgame, Ding Liren's experience and skill told, as he cleverly exploited a weakness in Gukesh's position to win the game.

The loss in the first game may have come as a disappointment to Gukesh and his fans, but it is essential to remember that the match is far from over. Gukesh has the talent and the determination to bounce back from this setback, and it will be interesting to see how he adapts to Ding Liren's style in the remaining games.

One of the critical factors that could influence the outcome of the match is the psychological aspect. Both players will need to manage their nerves and emotions effectively, as the pressure of competing in a World Chess Championship match can be overwhelming. Ding Liren, with his experience in top-level tournaments, may have an edge in this department, but Gukesh has shown remarkable composure and maturity in his recent performances.

As the match progresses, it will be fascinating to see how both players adjust their strategies and tactics. Will Ding Liren continue to rely on his positional style, or will he try to mix things up and catch Gukesh off guard? On the other hand, will Gukesh persist with his aggressive playing style, or will he try to adopt a more cautious approach to counter Ding Liren's experience and skill?

The next few games will be crucial in determining the outcome of the match. Both players will need to be at the top of their game, both physically and mentally, to outmaneuver each other. The chess world will be watching with bated breath as these two talented players clash in the World Chess Championship match.

## Big FM 92.7 and Chinmaya Vidyalaya come together for a dialogue on traditional knowledge systems and the need for reclaiming their glory in the Indian education landscape



Archana Soni, Shibani Khorana and Khurafati Nitin

In a pioneering effort, Big Values Vidyalaya, *Yatha Drishti Tatha Srishti*, Chinmaya Vidyalaya and BIG FM have joined forces to present a captivating dialogue series on traditional knowledge systems and their increased contemporary relevance. This 15 minute program, airing every Wednesday and Saturday, delves into the treasures of Indian culture and scriptures, exploring their connections with the National Education Policy (NEP) and the innovative approach of Chinmaya Vision Programme.

The maiden episode, broadcast on November 6th, garnered widespread acclaim for its engaging content and insightful discussions. Hosted by popular Radio Jockey Khurafati Nitin,

**AS IS  
THE VISION  
SO IS  
THE WORLD**

alongside Shibani Khorana, Manager of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Vasant Vihar, and Principal Archana Soni, the show promises to enlighten audiences on the significance of traditional knowledge systems in modern times. Revitalizing traditional knowledge systems is being viewed as a timely initiative by many parents of the students studying at Chinmaya Vidyalaya and other schools all over the country. Preceding the Radio programme was the Geeta Chant competition held at Chinmaya Vidyalaya in which over a thousand students from more than 80 schools participated, which resonated with the concept. The Geeta chant event also served as a befitting prologue to the audio programme.





Through this Radio platform, the hosts delve into the vast expanse of Indian scriptures, highlighting remarkable parallels with modern scientific discoveries. The program showcases how ancient Indian texts promulgated and anticipated ground-breaking concepts, now being unravelled by contemporary science and technology. By emphasizing the importance of preserving our cultural heritage, the show underscores the crucial role of early education in shaping future generations.

As the world grapples with emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), the program tackles pressing challenges in education. The experts discuss the imperative of balancing cultural roots with progress, demonstrating how traditional knowledge systems can inform innovative solutions. By exploring the intersections between tradition and modernity, the show fosters a nuanced understanding of India's rich knowledge repertoire.

The Chinmaya Vision Programme takes center stage, showcasing its pioneering approach, which seamlessly integrates traditional knowledge systems with contemporary pedagogy. By harnessing the strengths of both, the program equips students with a

holistic understanding of the world, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to society.

The preservation of cultural heritage through education is a recurring theme throughout the series. By highlighting the relevance of traditional knowledge systems in modern times, the program encourages viewers to re-evaluate the significance of India's cultural

heritage. The interconnections between Indian scriptures and contemporary science are expertly woven throughout the narrative, illustrating the timeless wisdom of traditional knowledge systems.

As the dialogue series progresses, it will continue to delve deeper into the realms of traditional knowledge systems, NEP, and their applications in modern education. With its unique blend of tradition and innovation, this initiative is poised to inspire a renewed appreciation for India's knowledge repertoire.

The initiative serves as a reminder that, even in the face of rapid technological advancements, our cultural roots remain essential to our identity and progress. By tuning in to this enlightening dialogue series, listeners can join the conversation and rediscover the enduring value of Indian culture and practical and phenomenal impact of the methods adopted for knowledge exchange in our traditional systems, and their time-tested legacy.







### Snowfall in Saudi

The Al-Jawf region in Saudi Arabia experienced an unusual weather event in the beginning of November. The desert nation experienced its first-ever snowfall! A rare low-pressure system that moved from the Arabian Sea to Oman triggered thunderstorms, hail and snow. This is the first time in its history that such an event has taken place. This has sparked discussions on climate change, drawing attention to shifting weather patterns.



### Celestial Fireworks

Late October brought the Orionid meteor shower, an annual celestial event that occurs when Earth passes through debris left by Halley's Comet. This is one of two meteor showers associated with the comet, where the tiny particles left in its wake burn up due to friction with Earth's atmosphere and leave streaks of light flashing through the sky. The radiant or point of origin of the meteors lies in the constellation of Orion; hence the name. The Orionids were visible to sky watchers in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

### Trump Triumphs

Donald Trump became the 47th President-elect of the United States of America, posting a landslide victory in all seven swing states. He grabbed 312 electoral votes and won 50.5 per cent of the popular vote. Democratic candidate Kamala Harris fell short with 47.92 per cent of the popular vote and 226 electoral votes. This makes Trump the first Republican candidate in 20 years to win the popular vote. He has pledged to 'heal' the nation and usher in a 'golden age' for America.



### A Choking Capital

Delhi NCR ordered schools to cease in-person classes for all students till Class 9 and shift to online classes until further notice. The air pollution crisis led Chief Minister Atishi to make the announcement on social media. The Air Quality Index or AQI was above 400 on consecutive days. The annual smog crisis shrouded the city in a thick blanket, causing delays and cancellations of flights and trains. Hospitals reported a surge in lung and stomach ailments linked to pollution. Delhi consistently tops world rankings for air pollution in winter. It is estimated to reduce the life expectancy of its 30 million residents by up to seven years.





## Robot Guardian

The US Secret Service (USSS) has beefed up security at president-elect Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago Resort in Palm Beach, Florida, by adding a new tool to their arsenal. Called Spot, this is no ordinary dog but a robot made by Boston Dynamics. The dog has been 'spotted' patrolling the perimeter of the property. The two alleged assassination attempts in the months leading up to the US presidential elections prompted the USSS to upgrade technology and enhance its ability to detect and deter. The agile robot dog can navigate stairs and even open doors. It has no weapons and can be controlled remotely or automatically.



## Pickleball Boom

The sport of pickleball started gaining popularity in India during the COVID pandemic but has quickly transformed into more than a pastime. The India leg of the World Pickleball Championships was hosted in Mumbai from November 12 to 17. The tournament was meant to set the platform for the launch of the World Pickleball League (WPL) in January 2025. The All-India Pickleball Association has been spreading awareness about the sport using social media. It is regarded as the fastest-growing racquet sport in the country.

## Meat from a Lab

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is formulating regulations for cultivated or lab-grown meat, eggs, dairy and seafood products. The scientific panel of the regulatory committee is evaluating rules from other countries like the US, Israel and Singapore that have approved lab-grown meat products, so as to ensure safe consumption of smart proteins. India is seeing growing interest from global firms for alternative proteins, with the market for cultivated meat estimated to be greater than \$10 million.



## SpaceX Boosts ISRO

The 4,700-kg GSAT-N2, an advanced communication satellite, was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida, USA, in November, by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. This is the first time the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has used the Elon Musk-owned rocket through New Space India Limited, its commercial arm. ISRO has traditionally used Ariane rockets for its GSAT launches, but factors like launch availability and the specific weight of the satellite made them opt for the Falcon 9. NSIL paid SpaceX ₹500 crore to launch the satellite into a geosynchronous transfer orbit. It is designed to enhance broadband services and boost data transmission capacity.

# The Bottle from Japan

"T'S true! Anyone who finds the bottle with a message inside it, will get a reward of Rs. 5000," said Ritesh to his attentive group of friends.

"Yes," reiterated Anand. "I too read about it in the newspapers. The unique bottle was thrown into the ocean in Japan. The note inside is said to contain the address which the finder has to contact to get the reward."

"Really!?" said Nirav. "I can't believe it!"

"Looks like some crazy person wants to find out if the bottle can be tracked," said Ritesh. "And guys, you'll never believe me when I tell you that I found the bottle on the beach this morning!"

"Impossible!" said Nirav. "Show us the bottle!"

Ritesh took out a quaint bottle from his bag. It had a note inside with something written in Japanese.

"My photograph will be published in the papers and I'll get five thousand rupees as well!" said Ritesh. "Just think of the publicity I'll get!"

The boys cheered. Only Nirav wore a pensive look.

"Look Ritesh," he said. "I know this is a wonderful piece of luck. But how can you be sure this is the right bottle? What if people don't believe you and make fun of you?"

Ritesh fell silent.

"Perhaps you are right Nirav. I will throw this back into the sea," he said, looking disappointed.







"Why do you want to throw away the bottle? Give it to me," said Nirav.

"Why do you want it?" asked Ritesh, surprised.

"My dad collects bottles. I could give it to him!" said Nirav.

"I think I'll keep it," said Ritesh. "Just for memories."

"You can have my favourite game CD in exchange for the bottle," said Nirav.

Seeing the hesitant look on Ritesh's face, Nirav added, "In fact, I could give you my entire CD collection!"

"All right," said Ritesh quickly. After school, Ritesh exchanged the bottle for the CD collection, and took his friends home.

Once inside Ritesh's room, the boys burst into laughter.

"What a way Nirav fell for our trick! Did you see his expression when he saw the bottle in your hand, Ritesh?" said Anand, amidst laughter.

"I didn't know it was so easy to fool him," said Ritesh grinning. "He's so crazy for publicity that he didn't even notice that I had agreed to give him the bottle so easily."

"Serves him right! I'm glad that we finally got back at him for all the mean tricks he has played on us. Why, just yesterday, he tripped me when I was passing by his desk," said Bhaskar.

"He hid my book in the Science period yesterday, and I had to copy down the whole lesson in the evening! And this was in addition to the homework!" said Anand.

"Anand, we were lucky that your sister knows Japanese and could write that note for us," said Ritesh, thrilled at the success of the prank.

Meanwhile, Nirav rushed to the local newspaper office as soon as he had got hold of the bottle. He went up to the receptionist and told her very pompously, "I am Nirav. I want to see the editor immediately."

The amused receptionist took him to the editor's office. Brandishing the bottle, Nirav proclaimed, "I've found the sensational bottle from Japan! I found it on the beach this morning. I thought I'd let your newspaper get a share of the publicity and that's why I'm here. You may check the note inside."

The editor took out the note and asked one of the subeditors, who knew Japanese, to read it out. The subeditor began,

'Hello, I am Nirav. I play pranks on my friends all the time. My friends are so exasperated with my ways, that they have played this prank on me, and I fell headlong for it...'

Nirav couldn't believe his ears. Without waiting to hear another word he charged out of the office. His face flushed as he heard the editor call out to him, "Wait Nirav! Don't you want a share of the publicity?"

— Kanchana Rao

# CO-SCHOLASTIC SKILLS- Hone Them For Sure Success !

**T**he Importance of Co-Scholastic Skill-Sets Along with Academics in Today's Career Ecosystem.

The modern career ecosystem is rapidly evolving, and the skills required to succeed are changing at an unprecedented pace. Gone are the days when academic excellence alone was enough to guarantee a successful career. Today, employers are looking for individuals who possess a unique blend of academic knowledge and co-scholastic skills.

Co-scholastic skills refer to the abilities and qualities that are developed outside of the traditional academic curriculum. These skills include communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, creativity, and time management, among others. While academics provide a foundation in subject-specific knowledge, co-scholastic skills enable individuals to apply that knowledge in real-world situations.



The significance of co-scholastic skill-sets cannot be overstated. In today's fast-paced and interconnected world, employers are looking for individuals who can think critically, solve complex problems, and communicate effectively. These skills are not typically developed in the classroom, but rather through extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, and volunteer work.

Furthermore, co-scholastic skills are essential for building strong relationships, networking, and collaborating with others. In the modern workplace, teamwork and collaboration



are essential for achieving common goals and driving innovation. Individuals who possess strong co-scholastic skills are better equipped to foster meaningful connections, build trust with colleagues and clients, and drive results-oriented teams.

In addition, co-scholastic skills play a critical role in developing emotional intelligence, resilience, and adaptability. These skills enable individuals to cope with uncertainty, ambiguity, and change, which are essential for success in today's fast-paced and rapidly evolving career ecosystem.





**So, how can students develop co-scholastic skill-sets alongside their academic pursuits? Here are a few strategies:**

- Participate in extracurricular activities, such as sports, clubs, cultural activities and volunteer work.
- Take on leadership roles in student organizations or community groups.
- Engage in internships, apprenticeships, or part-time jobs to gain practical work experience.
- Develop a hobby or passion project that allows you to express your creativity and develop new skills.
- Seek out mentorship opportunities with professionals in your desired field.



Today, educational institutions recognize the importance of co-scholastic skill-sets and provide opportunities for students to develop these skills. This is achieved by incorporating experiential learning, project-based learning, and community engagement into the curriculum.

To summarize, co-scholastic skill-sets are vital for success in today's career ecosystem. By developing these skills alongside academic pursuits, students can gain a competitive edge in the job market, build strong relationships, and drive innovation and results in their chosen careers.

As we move forward in this rapidly evolving career landscape, it's crucial for individuals, educational institutions, and employers to prioritize the development of co-scholastic skill-sets. By doing so, we can foster a workforce that is equipped to thrive in the modern world, drive innovation, and achieve success in their chosen careers.

In essence, the future of work demands a holistic approach to education and skill development. By embracing the importance of co-scholastic skill-sets, we can unlock the full potential of individuals and create a brighter future for all.



# THE ALARMING REALITY OF DISRUPTIONS IN EDUCATION DUE TO POLLUTION

The recent spate of school closures in Delhi-NCR due to severe air pollution has once again brought to the forefront a pressing concern that has been plaguing our cities for years. The hazardous levels of particulate matter in the air, coupled with the toxic fumes emanating from vehicles and industrial units, have made it impossible for schools to function normally.

This is not just a matter of inconvenience; the impact of such interruptions on the education system is enormous. The scramble for alternative means to continue with the teaching-learning process can never yield satisfactory results. Online classes, makeshift arrangements, and other stopgap measures can never replace the richness of a traditional classroom experience.

Moreover, the frequent closure of schools due to pollution sends a disturbing message to our children. It tells them that the air they breathe, the environment they live in, and the education they receive are all dispensable. It's a stark reminder that the adults in charge are unable or unwilling to provide them with a safe and healthy learning environment.





The normalization of school closures due to pollution in Delhi NCR is a particularly disturbing trend. Year after year, the city's residents are forced to endure hazardous air quality, and the authorities seem powerless to take effective action. The fact that schools are being forced to shut down repeatedly is a stark indictment of the civic sense and administrative machinery of our city.

It's not as if the problem is intractable. There are many measures that can be taken to mitigate the impact of pollution on schools. For instance, schools can be equipped with air purifiers, and students can be provided with masks to wear during outdoor activities. The government can also take steps to reduce pollution levels, such as enforcing stricter emission norms, increasing the use of public transport, and promoting cleaner fuels.

However, these measures require a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the government, civic authorities, schools, and parents. It's time for us to acknowledge that the problem of pollution is not just an environmental issue, but also a serious threat to the health, well-being, and education of our children.

We need to demand more from our elected representatives and civic authorities. We need to hold them accountable for providing our children with a safe and healthy learning environment. We need to recognize that the closure of schools due to pollution is not just a minor inconvenience, but a symptom of a much larger problem that requires immediate attention and action.

As parents, educators, and citizens, we owe it to ourselves and to future generations to take this issue seriously and demand change. We need to work together to create a city that is livable, breathable, and conducive to the growth and development of our children.

The closure of schools due to pollution is a wake-up call that we

can no longer ignore. It's time for us to take responsibility for our actions, to demand accountability from our leaders, and to work together to create a better future for ourselves and for our children.

Furthermore, it's essential to recognize that the impact of pollution on schools is not limited to just the students. Teachers, staff, and the entire school community are also affected by the poor air quality. The long-term effects of exposure to polluted air can be severe, leading to respiratory problems, cardiovascular disease, and even neurological damage.

In addition, the economic impact of school closures due to pollution should not be underestimated. Parents are forced to take time off work to care for their children, resulting in lost productivity and economic output. Businesses are also affected, as employees struggle to balance work and family responsibilities.

To address this issue, we need to adopt a multi-faceted approach that involves government, civic authorities, schools, and parents. We need to invest in clean energy, promote sustainable transportation, and implement effective waste management systems. We also need to educate our children about the importance of environmental conservation and involve them in efforts to reduce pollution.

Ultimately, the closure of schools due to pollution is a stark reminder of our collective failure to protect the environment and ensure the well-being of our children. It's time for us to take responsibility for our actions and work together to create a better future for ourselves and for our children.

By taking immediate action to address the issue of pollution, we can ensure that our children receive the education they deserve in a safe and healthy environment. We owe it to ourselves, our children, and future generations to take this issue seriously and demand change.



# The Magic Shop

*Remember the shop in Diagon Alley from which Harry Potter and his friends from Hogwarts buy all kinds of magical tricks and treats? Well, looks like renowned science fiction writer H.G.Wells got there before J.K.Rowling! In his Magic Shop, which resembles Rowling's Gambol and Japes Wizarding Joke Shop and the Weasley brothers' Wizard Wheezes, weird and wonderful things happen.....*

GIP held me firmly by the finger and dragged me to the window. I had seen the Magic Shop in Regent Street from afar a few times but not gone close enough to examine the interesting objects in its window. Now Gip pointed to the Disappearing Egg and said, in a loud whisper, "If I was rich, I would buy that and that," which was a Crying Baby, Very Human.

"And that, too." 'That' was a mystery box – 'Buy One and Astonish Your Friends'.

"Well, it is less than two months to your sixth birthday, Gip," I said, upon which he turned a radiantly happy face up to me.

The door opened with a jingle. Inside it was cool and dark. Crystal balls, playing cards, magic fishbowls and a faded magician's top hat were scattered in a higgledy fashion in a glass cabinet under the counter. On the floor stood trick mirrors that distorted our bodies, so that we seemed ridiculously elongated in one and squat and squashed in another. While Gip and I were chuckling at the sight, the shopkeeper came in silently.

He was thin and sallow, with one ear larger than the other and a pointed chin.

"I want to buy some magic tricks for my little boy," I said.

"Umm," said the shopkeeper. "Let me see," and drew a shiny glass ball from his head. "Something like this?"

He proceeded rapidly to produce three more, one from his elbow, the second from the back of his neck and the third out of his mouth.



Gip pocketed all and then held my finger again, more tightly, as if gathering up his courage for what was to come next.

"We get all our small tricks this way," continued the shopkeeper affably. "The larger tricks, provisions and so on, we get out of the hat."

Then he drew a business card from his cheek.

"I don't know if you noticed our inscription," he said. "'The Genuine Magic Shop'. There is absolutely no tomfoolery. All our tricks are genuine."

He turned to Gip with a friendly grin.

"And do you know, you are the Right Sort of Boy. Only the Right Sort of Boy gets through that door."

As if to prove his statement, the sound of a little boy whining and crying came faintly to our ears.

"Daddy, I want to go in there! Waaa...h!"

Then came the father's consoling voice, "Edward, it's locked."

I glanced at the shopkeeper. "But it's not."

"It always is, sir, for that sort of child," he replied. He looked at Gip.

"You wanted one of those mystery boxes, am I right?" he asked.

Gip nodded eagerly.

"There it is, in your pocket," said the shopman, leaning over the counter. His body was extraordinarily sinuous like a snake's.



He conjured up wrapping paper from the faded hat, and then pulled an endless amount of string from his mouth. After tying up the box, he lit a candle and stuck one of his fingers, which had become all red and melty like sealing wax, into the flame. He sealed the parcel and then wrapped up the Disappearing Egg and the Crying Baby, likewise.

Gip's eyes were shining as he clutched the parcels to his chest.

I started as I felt something moving under my hat. I snatched it off and a fat pigeon flew out and disappeared behind the counter. The shopkeeper took my hat, muttering, "Careless bird, and would you believe it, nesting!"

And he shook out two eggs, a marble, a watch and half a dozen crystal balls. Crumpled paper fluttered out of my hat.

"People neglect to clean inside their hats," he said. "All sorts of things collect in there..."

The mound of paper grew to a little hill and the shopkeeper disappeared behind it. Only his voice could be heard and then that stopped. There was silence.

Gip and I looked at each other.

"I think we will go now," I said loudly. "Could you tell me how much I have to pay?"

No answer.

"Let's look behind the counter," I told Gip. "He is playing the fool."

But when I went behind the counter, there was no one. My hat lay on the floor and a large white rabbit sat beside it, blinking its pink eyes. Then it lolloped away. The rabbit squeezed through a door that had certainly not been there before. The door opened wider and there again was the man with the pointed chin. He beckoned to us.

"Step into our showroom," he said. "Do you see anything you fancy here?"

And before I could say anything, Gip had followed him in. It was a strange place, with galleries, archways and



doors apparently leading nowhere. Gip didn't notice because he was standing open mouthed near a train that ran without steam or clockwork. He goggled at a box of beautiful tin soldiers who came alive the minute the lid was opened. The shopkeeper shut the box and wrapped it with a flourish. There was Gip's name and address on the paper!

The man laughed at my astonishment and said, "This is genuine magic! The real thing!"

"Too real," I thought, but didn't say it aloud.

My attention wandered. Then I heard him shout, "Daddy, look! Hide and seek! You're 'It'!"

He was standing on a stool and the magic shopman was holding a big drum in his hands. I ran forward, but too late! He had placed the drum over Gip.

"No!" I cried. "Let him go!"

The fellow smiled oddly and removed the drum. "But there is no one here!" he said.

Gip had disappeared.

I let out a strangled cry and grabbed him by the collar. He managed to twist out of my grasp and slipped through a doorway.

"Stop!" I screamed and ran after him.

There was a THUD! I had collided with a man walking down Regent Street.

And there was Gip a few feet away, a bemused look on his face. And there were the four parcels under his arm.

When I turned to look for the shop, it wasn't there. No doorway, no shop window; just a blank wall. Somehow we stumbled home. We found that three of the boxes contained tin soldiers. In the fourth was a tiny white kitten. Though I examined them closely, there was nothing in the least magical about them. The soldiers never came alive and the kitten did nothing out of the ordinary.

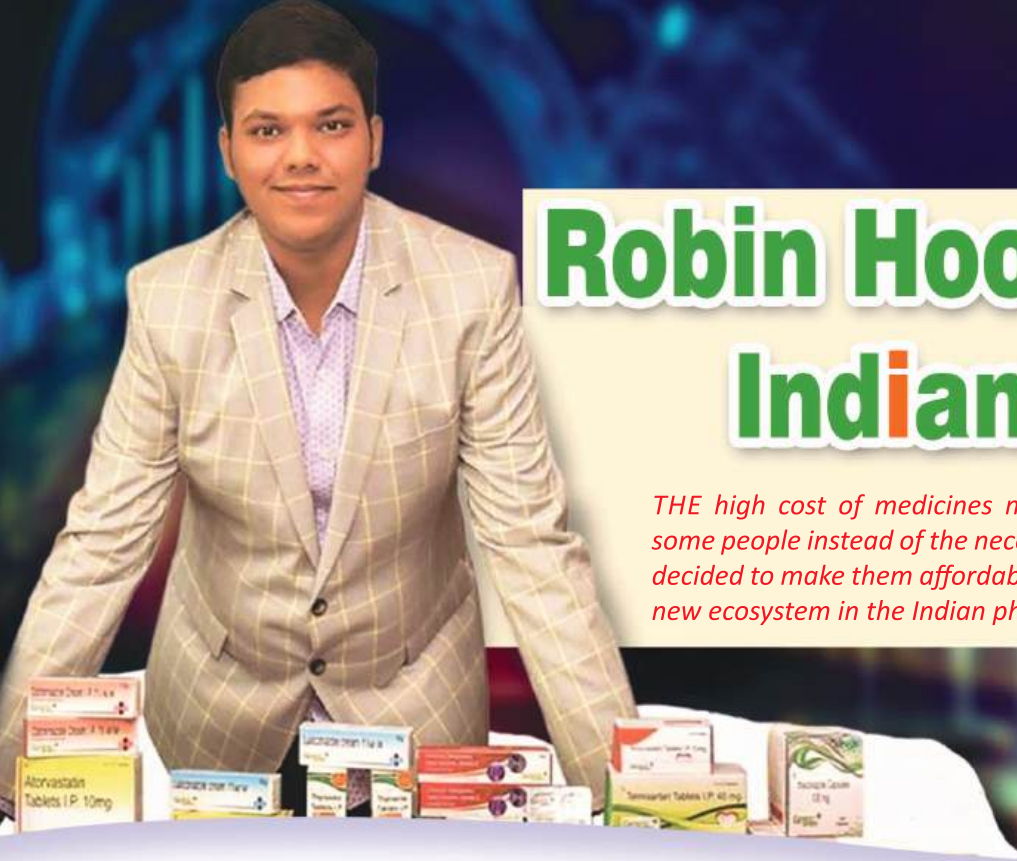
I did look for the shop a few times after that, feeling guilty that I hadn't paid. But then they did have Gip's name and address so I supposed they could always send me the bill whenever they wanted!

— Retold from a story by  
H.G. Wells written in 1903



# Robin Hood of Indian Pharma

*THE high cost of medicines makes them a luxurious expense for some people instead of the necessity that they are. Arjun Deshpande decided to make them affordable and accessible while establishing a new ecosystem in the Indian pharmaceutical market.*



BORN in 2002 and an alumnus of DAV Public School in Thane, Arjun learnt about the pharmaceutical industry at a young age as his mother worked in the field. The seed for starting his own business was planted when he witnessed an elderly man begging the owner of a pharmacy to give him credit on the expensive medicines he needed to buy for his cancer-ridden wife. Arjun's research showed him that generic non-brand versions of drugs only cost a fraction of what the consumer was paying. He was appalled to discover that though India is one of the manufacturing hubs of the global pharmaceutical industry, the common people are unable to afford medications.

Arjun created a huge disruption in the structure of the medication business by founding Generic Aadhaar at the age of 16 with his parents' support. His goal was to get medicines from the manufacturer to the consumer without the high costs added on by big brand pharmaceuticals. His Mumbai-based company bought medicines from the same manufacturers as giant MNC pharma companies, but added on minimal costs to them since they did no promotions or advertisements for them. This way, he was able to offer WHO-GMP approved pharmaceuticals to the end customer with an 80 per cent price reduction as compared to branded drugs.

Another issue Arjun also addressed was supporting small, standalone pharmacists who were having to compete with pharmacy chains and online pharmacies. Generic Aadhaar uses no stockists or distributors. They have no stores of their own but aggregate with small shop owners to make them retail franchisees, giving them a business platform and the opportunity to have an independent business. Arjun believes that small *dukandars* are the pillars of the Indian economy and that they need to be empowered at the ground level.

In the beginning, Arjun used health camps and social media to raise awareness about the fact that there is no difference between branded and generic medicines. It was challenging for him to get traction because a lot of people did not take the youth seriously. He states that even the 'drug mafias', who have been earning crores of rupees in profit from selling medicines at an exorbitant price, did not see him as a real threat because of his young age.

Arjun's media campaign caught the attention of Ratan Tata. His 20-minute meeting with the industrialist became a 3-hour long discussion where he urged Mr Tata to join his revolution and invest in the firm. The young man impressed him so much that he decided to not just invest in Arjun's business but also mentor

him. That led to Generic Aadhaar being able to rapidly expand.

Today, Arjun's startup is worth Rs. 500 crore. Generic Aadhaar is expanding its reach rapidly in urban and rural areas. It currently has a presence in more than 200 cities with over 1600 stores that have helped create micro entrepreneurs and given employment to around 10,000 people. His stated goal is to make India an "expensive medication *mukt* nation" by 2025. Neighbouring nations like Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and the UAE have reached out to open franchises in their countries as well.

Recognising Arjun's contribution to the nation, the now 22-year-old has been invited to various national and international platforms such as IITs in Mumbai and Delhi and CPHI which is the largest global pharma marketplace. He has been invited on TEDx multiple times and has received numerous awards.

Arjun is a huge motivation for millions of Indian youth and aspiring entrepreneurs. He would like to provide them with a sense of a larger purpose for their lives. His advice to them is to identify an issue and innovate and create a solution so they can make a difference.

"Don't 'find customers' for your products; instead 'find products' for your customers."



# Careers of Now

*Gone are the days when 'real' careers were restricted to being a doctor, engineer, architect or lawyer. Now, it's a brave new world with ever-expanding horizons. Here is a look at some of the fastest growing jobs in 2024.*



## Drone Pilot

A trained professional who operates a drone/unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). They are also known as remote pilots. They control a drone through all stages of its use including take-off, maintaining course, performing any required actions, and landing it safely. It is their responsibility to conduct safety tests as per regulations, oversee vehicle performance and maintenance, assess system capabilities, plan flight paths, analyse weather forecasts for flight safety and maintain flight logs. They may be required to operate cameras, to gather data or digital images, or other equipment. Familiarity with the specialised tools used is also important.

They must have the ability to withstand various environmental conditions and be physically fit. They must be able to multitask in a fast-paced environment, work well under pressure, have excellent mechanical skills, be detail oriented and have great problem-solving skills.

Drone pilots are employed in various industries such as real estate, photography, agriculture, electricity generation, wildlife conservation and law and order.

## Recruiter

They are required to develop and implement effective recruiting and staffing strategies to attract a diverse pool of qualified and capable talent for the organisation. They collaborate with department managers on a regular basis and proactively identify hiring needs.



Recruiters design and implement the overall recruiting strategy. They draft detailed and accurate job descriptions and hiring criteria. They prepare recruitment materials and post jobs to appropriate job boards, newspapers, colleges, etc. They use referrals, databases and social media to attract the optimal candidates.

They are responsible for screening resumes, conducting interviews alongside other stakeholders such as managers and assessing candidates to make sure they are a good fit for the institution. They help to onboard the new employees and assist them in becoming fully integrated. They provide analytical and well-documented recruiting reports and ensure compliance with employment regulations and company policies.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential as are negotiation abilities.

## Creative Strategist

They act as a bridge between the business goals of a brand and the creative solutions desired by it. They combine critical thinking and creative vision to generate an effective marketing approach that resonates with the target audience. They play a crucial role in driving media strategies by generating, developing, and communicating original and innovative ideas that align with the brand's objectives, values, and personality. They use storytelling and copywriting to craft and deliver compelling messages to convey the brand's identity.

Their duties include market research to identify trends, competitor analysis, analysing ad performance data as well as writing ad briefs. They need a strong understanding



of digital marketing and good knowledge of media buying. Key attributes include analytical thinking, market insight, communication prowess, adaptability, collaboration, data interpretation, trend awareness and design and visual skills. They often need to be able to manage multiple projects at the same time that may span various marketing initiatives and campaigns.

# Reverse Osmosis

WHEN reading about water purifiers, we come across the term Reverse Osmosis (RO). What does it mean?

Osmosis is the movement of a thinner liquid into a thicker liquid through a semipermeable partition or membrane when physical external pressure is applied. The thinner liquid dilutes the thicker solution.

Osmosis is a process that occurs in our bodies all the time. For example, after the food we eat is broken down in the stomach, it passes through the intestines. The intestines contract to force the nutrients, which are thinner, to pass through the walls of the intestines into the blood, which is a thicker solution.

In reverse osmosis, exactly the opposite happens. Water that has a high concentration of impurities is put under pressure and forced through a semipermeable partition leaving all the larger particles behind. This process renders the impure water as well as salty water (here the process is called desalination) potable enough to drink.

This is why RO is used in water purifiers. In a purifier, water passes through several stages — a sediment filter, activated carbon filter and ultraviolet light. RO is the final stage. The larger molecules cannot pass through these various filters and RO removes the harmful particles, metal ions and bacteria in the water that remains. This cleans the water thoroughly and prevents diseases caused by contaminated water.

Reverse osmosis is also used in the food industry to make concentrated juices. The traditional heat treatment reduces the quality of heat-sensitive fruits such as oranges. RO reduces the quantity of water in the juice, so it doesn't need to be thickened by heating. For instance, in the production of maple syrup, RO is used to remove the water from the sap before it is boiled into a syrup.

Dairy industries use RO to make concentrated milk and whey protein powders.

Since RO units are also manufactured in compact sizes, they can be installed easily, which is why a number of home water filters come equipped with it.

RO removes almost all the minerals in the water, which leaves it tasteless. Some RO systems come with a remineralization filter that adds minerals to the water and makes it more flavourful!



## Does copper really purify water?

THOUGH water filters and purifiers are easily available, not everyone has a reliable source of drinking water or running water in their homes or can afford to buy costly filters. For this reason, many people in India prefer to follow the age-old practice of storing water in copper vessels to purify it. They believe that the copper in the vessel kills micro-organisms, viruses, mould, fungi and bacteria and makes the water pure enough to drink. Drinking water out of (expensive) copper bottles has also become a fad with the well-to-do. But does storing water in containers made of copper really purify it?

Although earlier it was regarded as a method mainly advised in Ayurveda, recent scientific studies have shown that copper does help in purifying

water. In one study, contaminated water was stored in copper vessels for 16 hours. When the water was later tested, it was found that the copper had damaged the cell walls of the micro-organisms, killing them in the process. The water was visibly clear as well.

To make sure water is properly purified, it has to be kept in a copper vessel overnight or up to two days. This ensures that a sufficient amount of copper seeps into the water to kill the harmful germs present in it.

Is the copper harmful to our health? No, say researchers. The copper present in the water that was tested was well below the Recommended Daily Amount (RDA). Some scientists are also of the view that we get most of our requirement of copper, an essential mineral, from our food.

Moreover, since the water supplied in cities and towns is already filtered and cleaned, storing it in a copper container may not be necessary. However, where the water supply is known to be unsafe or contaminated, using copper containers for storage after boiling or filtering the water, will make it safer to drink.





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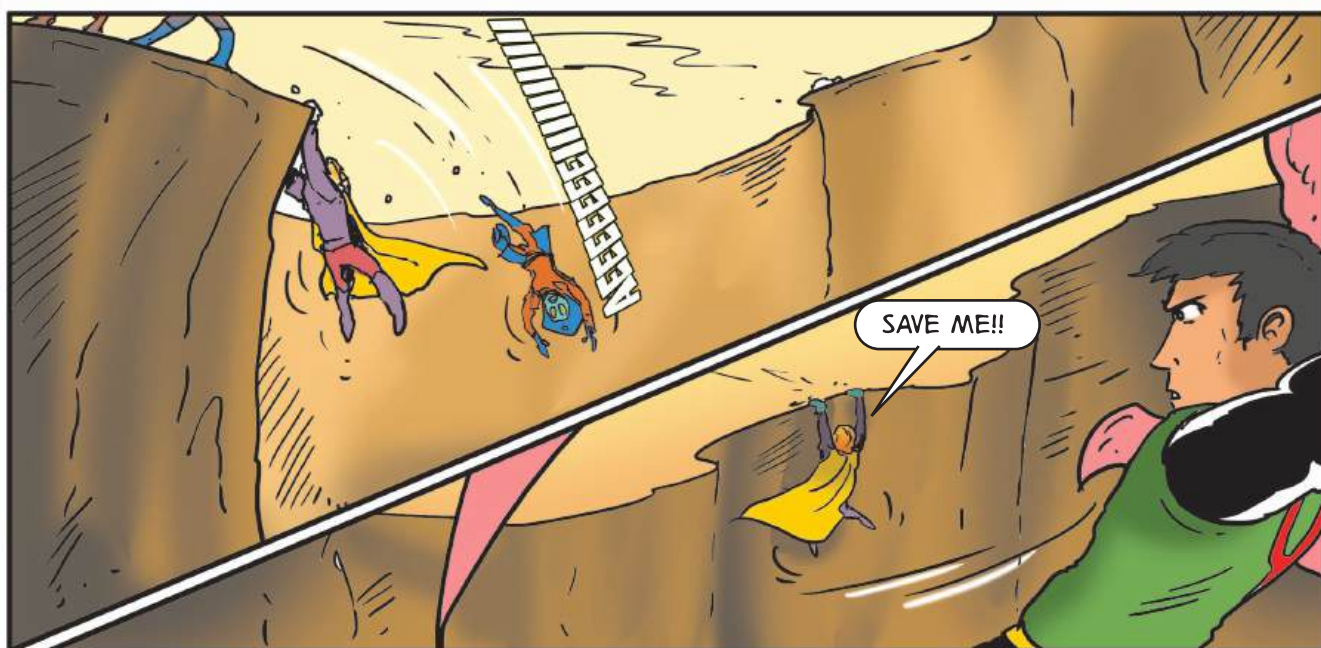
# Escape From Oryza

— A Captain Shiva Adventure

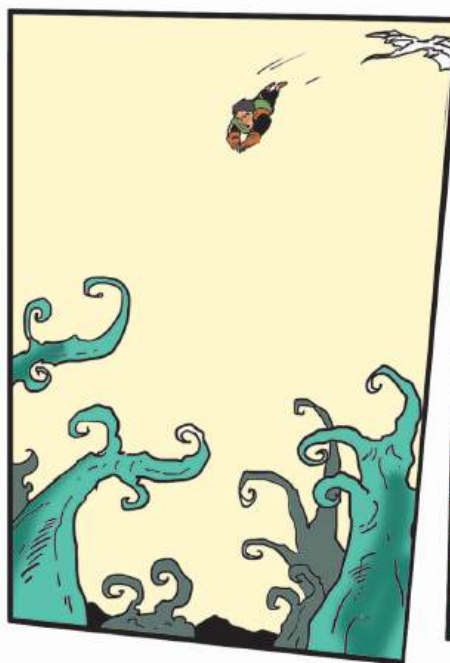
Story: Luis Fernandes

Artwork: Abhijeet Kini

**STORY SO FAR:** CAPTAIN SHIVA BATTLES THE ADOR WHO FALLS INTO A RAVINE.







TO BE CONTINUED



# The Chess Player

NOT until Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen of Vienna died in 1804, was the truth about his chess-playing automaton, revealed. The Baron built the Turk in 1769, a human-sized figure dressed in a turban and flowing robes. The Turk sat behind a chest that was 1.2 m (4 ft) long, 60 cm (2 ft) wide and 90 cm (3 ft) tall. On top of the chest was a large chess board.

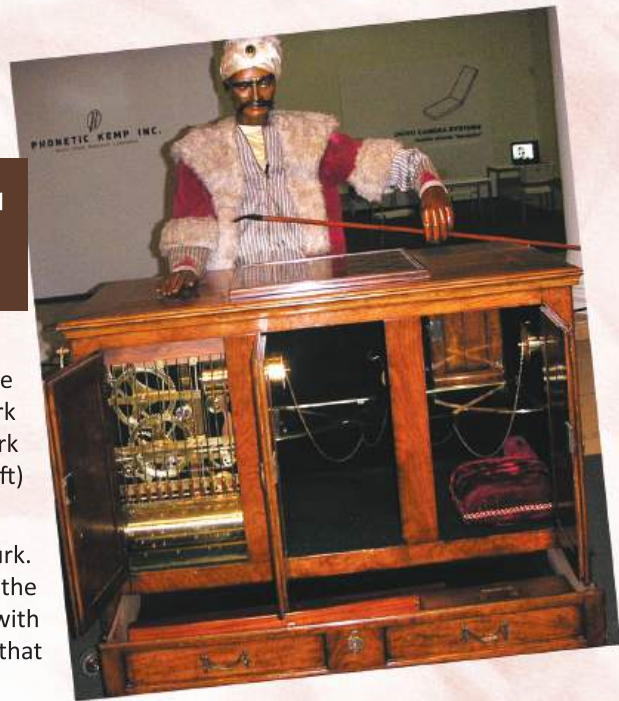
The Baron would challenge anyone to play a game of chess with the Turk. Before the game started, he would dramatically throw open the doors of the chest to show that it contained a complex clockwork mechanism complete with gears, drums and cylinders. It was of course, designed to convince people that there was no trickery involved.

The Turk could not only play chess, but won every game! The Austrian emperor was dazzled by the machine and sent the Baron on a tour of Europe's courts. The Turk defeated all its royal opponents, including Catherine the Great of Russia and Napoleon. There were rumours that the moves were made by midgets hiding inside the chest!

When the Baron died, the Turk was sold to Johann Malzel, a Bavarian musician. It was Malzel who uncovered the trick that von Kempelen had played with such success for decades. A man squeezed unseen into the chest, and operated the Turk with the help of magnets attached to the base of the pieces. Small iron balls hung below each piece inside the chest, on the roof, where an identical numbered

chessboard was laid out. When the chessmen were moved, the 'director' would know the positions because the balls would also move. He would then move the Turk's hand as required with the help of a set of levers.

The Turk eventually landed in the Chinese Museum in Philadelphia, USA, where it was destroyed in a fire in 1854.



MAN is dog's best friend — at least that is what the hundreds of dogs in the care of the Nawab of Junagadh, Muhammad Mahabat Khan III, must have thought! The Nawab loved animals — he reportedly had 800 pet dogs! Each had its own room, a



# Pet Passion

telephone and a butler. A British vet was appointed to look after their ailments. According to a historian, the Nawab spent about 11% of the state's income to maintain the royal kennels.

In 1922, he organized an extravagant three-day event to celebrate the marriage of his dog Roshanara to the golden retriever Bobby, who belonged to the Nawab of Mangrol. The guest list included the who's who of royalty and official dignitaries. Viceroy Lord Irwin had also been invited, but he declined to attend the grandiose affair.

A troop of 250 dogs attired in brocade accompanied by a military band and a guard of honour received the groom at the railway station. Bobby made a handsome groom, bedecked in gold bracelets and necklaces. Roshanara the

gorgeous bride was dressed in brocade and costly jewels and was carried in a silver palanquin to the Durbar Hall of the palace where the wedding took place.

The Nawab held similar lavish parties to celebrate his pets' birthdays. He would often have them dressed in evening jackets and driven around in rickshaws. He also mourned their deaths in equal measure. He played the Polish composer Frederic Chopin's classical composition *Funeral March* at their funerals and declared a period of mourning.

The Nawab's love of animals extended to wildlife, too. He helped in the conservation of the Asiatic lion in the Gir forest. He also bred Kathiawari stallions and Gir cows.



## ETIQUETTE

# Table Manners

*Here are some tips to follow while eating out.*

- WHEN you sit down at a table together to eat, don't start wolfing down your food as soon as it arrives. You must start with the rest.
- Don't keep your cellphone out on the table. Avoid looking at the phone, answering/making calls, or texting while at the table. If you must answer or make a call, excuse yourself and step outside while doing so.
- Eat slowly, and with your mouth closed.
- You should not have bits and pieces of food sticking to your chin or cheeks.
- If you are using napkins and cutlery, do not wave such items around to attract the attention of waiters.
- Once a piece of cutlery has been lifted, it does not go back on the table, but should be placed on the plate.
- Sit straight and always keep your elbows off the table.



- If you are dining at a guest's, don't ever say that the food is bad. If you don't like it, eat only a little.
- Always take only the quantity of food you can eat. Try and avoid wastage.
- Keep your plate as clean as possible when you eat. You can use a side plate for stowing aside unused food.
- If you happen to belch while eating, you must say, "Excuse me".
- If you are eating with cutlery you must cut your food up into bite sized portions before putting it in your mouth.
- Never place your belongings on the table while you eat.
- And last, but not least, learn how to use your fork, spoon and knife in the correct manner for each kind of food.

## Five Star Etiquette

EATING out can be a delightful experience but if you're going to a classy restaurant or a 5-star hotel, don't be caught on the wrong foot, or with the wrong fork!

- ❖ Dress appropriately. A formal meal at a 5-star hotel requires one to be attired in traditional or western clothes. No jeans please!
- ❖ When you enter the restaurant, wait for the maitre d'\*/hostess to escort you to your table.
- ❖ There'll be a napkin on the table. Never tuck it under your chin. That's only for babies! Large napkins/ serviettes can be half opened and placed neatly on the lap. Smaller ones can be opened fully and spread on the lap.
- ❖ It is always the host who places the order after finding out what everybody wants.
- ❖ Drinks should be sipped and never gulped. But if you have bitten something pungent go ahead and drink large quantities of water.



- ❖ If your drink has a stirrer with a cherry on top, eat the cherry, stir your drink and then place the stirrer on the side plate and not directly on the table.
- ❖ On the table, you will find the forks placed on the left, spoons and knives on the right and cutlery for the sweet dish above the plate. Start from the outermost cutlery to the innermost.
- ❖ Soup is eaten, never drunk. Fill the spoon with soup, moving the handle away from you and drink it from the side facing you. To get the last bit of soup into your spoon, tilt the bowl away from you.
- ❖ Place chappatis/bread/naans, etc on the side plate. You can use your fingers for eating these.
- ❖ Eat chicken and fish with a fork and knife. Hold the fork in your left hand and use it like a skewer to keep the food in place. Operate your knife in a sawing motion. Cut only the amount you can eat in one morsel at a time. Transfer the skewered meat to the mouth with the fork, with the tines facing downwards. Never keep the knife down and eat with the fork in the right hand.

In case of club sandwiches, use either a fork and knife or eat with your fingers.

To eat pastas, hold the fork in your right hand, roll the pasta around it and continuing the rolling action put it in your mouth. Hold the spoon underneath.

- ❖ When you have finished eating, place all cutlery close together either perpendicular to the edge of the table or at an angle towards the right. Face the fork and spoon upwards.

\*maitre d'hôtel is French for hotel manager or head waiter.

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# **UNICEF YuWaah, UNFPA, AND UNHCR LAUNCH TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGING THE MOST MARGINALIZED**

**The guidelines promote inclusive initiatives for underserved youth often missed by mainstream programs**

**New Delhi, 7 November 2024:** UNICEF YuWaah, in partnership with UNFPA and UNHCR, has launched the **Technical Guidelines for Engaging the Most Marginalized**, promoting inclusive advocacy and accessible programming for underserved youth. These guidelines aim to ensure that youth on the margins are prioritized in programming and decision-making.

The guidelines were unveiled at **Youth Central**, a public-private-youth convening hosted by UNICEF YuWaah to celebrate its fifth anniversary as it marks the milestone of enabling nearly 100 million young people in India. It was launched by Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF India Representative; Ms. Areti Sianni, Chief of Mission, UNHCR India; Ms. Lorna Rolls, Deputy Representative, UNFPA India ; and Ms. Dhuwarakha Sriram, Chief of YuWaah (Generation Unlimited India). Over 100 global



leaders and youth changemakers attended, focusing on critical youth issues in India.

The event featured roundtable discussions on career guidance, climate resilience, marginalized community engagement, entrepreneurship, mental health, 21st-century skills, and women's workforce participation.

**Shri Nitesh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** said, *"We have a long standing partnership with UNICEF YuWaah and together have empowered young people including volunteers from National Service Scheme (NSS) and MY Bharat, to develop skills and contribute to nation-building."*

*YuWaah's efforts have enabled young people across diverse communities to actively shape their futures through essential tools and skills. It has also played an important role as a knowledge partner for advancing youth-centric governance, helping shape the G20's Y20 agenda, and providing insights on the future of work.*

*Together, we are building a foundation that ensures every young person has the opportunity to drive India's progress towards a Viksit Bharat."*

Highlighting the guidelines' impact, **Ms. Cynthia McCaffrey, UNICEF Representative to India and Co-chair of UNICEF YuWaah Board** remarked, *"As we launch the Technical Guidelines for Engaging the Most Marginalized, UNICEF India reaffirms its commitment to an inclusive future for young people of India. These guidelines aim to foster conversations and actions that promote an equitable future for marginalized*

*youth, empowering them to unlock their potential and realize their aspirations. Placing gender and equity at the centre of our work is not just strategic; it's essential. We aim to dismantle the systemic obstacles that hold back girls and marginalized youth, providing them with fair opportunities to build successful livelihoods."*

The *Technical Guidelines* aim to strengthen programs for marginalized youth in India, supporting their transition from learning to livelihoods. With the RAISE-TM Framework—Relevance, Accessibility, Inclusivity, Safeguarding, Enabling, and Transformative Monitoring—these guidelines provide strategies for sustainable impact. Practitioners can use the framework's self-assessment tool to better meet the needs of marginalized young people.

#### **About UNICEF YuWaah:**

Launched in 2019, UNICEF YuWaah, the Indian chapter of Generation Unlimited, is a Public Private-Youth Partnerships platform that aims at addressing this gap by converging the strengths of cross-sectoral actors towards facilitating the holistic development of young people across India. As UNICEF YuWaah completes 5 years, it is the opportune time to strengthen its role as a partnership platform through the inaugural edition of *'Youth Central'*. This convening will bring together decision-makers from across sectors and foster in-depth discussions on themes relevant to youth-centred programming, especially for the most marginalized.

#### **Media Contact:**

Nishita Sharma, Communications Specialist, UNICEF (YuWaah)  
nishsharma@unicef.org

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## Fact File

Capital: Rabat

Population: 36.8 million

Currency: Moroccan Dirham

# Jewel of the Maghreb

THE Kingdom of Morocco lies in the region known as the Maghreb in northern Africa. The country is a rich mosaic of cultures — a warm blend of Arab, Berber, European and African influences. The landscape of the country varies from the dramatic coastline edging the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean to the rugged terrain of the Atlas Mountains and the vast sand dunes of the Sahara Desert.

Since ancient times, Morocco was ruled by several Islamic dynasties before becoming a French protectorate in 1912. Morocco regained its independence in 1956.

## Capital Diary

Founded in 789 CE, Fez was the capital of several ruling dynasties before the French chose Rabat as the capital. Like Marrakesh, it was an important trading centre and reached the heights of prosperity in the 13th–14th centuries.

The medina (old city) of Fez, Fes el Bali, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is one of the best-preserved historic towns of the Arab-Muslim world with its madrasas, palaces and

mosques. It is home to the oldest university in the world, Al-Qarawiyyin. The 14th-century Madrasa Bou Inania is a superb example of medieval Moroccan architecture characterised by decorative arches, honeycombed domes, latticed screens and exquisite *zellige* (Moroccan style of intricate geometric tile work).

Fez is famous for its leather products. The Chouara tannery here boasts of being one of the oldest leather tanneries in the world. It's indeed a sight to behold men standing waist-deep in massive stone vats filled with dyes of various hues.

## Atlantic Port

Casablanca is the largest city. Its strategic location on the Atlantic coast has made it an important port since ancient times. When the French took control of Casablanca, they redesigned the city with wide boulevards and colonial-style buildings, giving the city its distinctly European look.

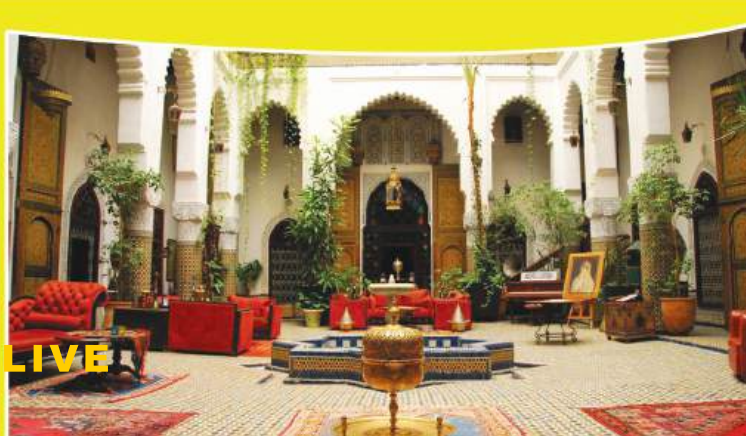
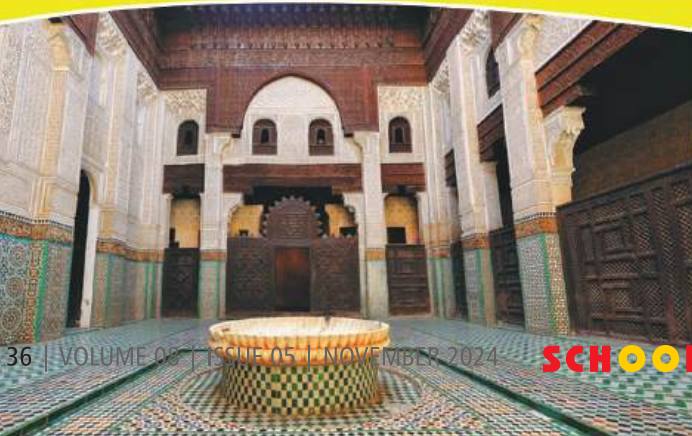
The most prominent landmark is the Hassan II Mosque that stands on a promontory overlooking the Atlantic

Ocean. Built to commemorate the 60th birthday of the former king, Hassan II, it is the largest and tallest mosque in Morocco with the capacity to accommodate 105,000 worshippers. Its 210m-tall square minaret is crowned by a laser that faces Mecca. Its interiors mark the pinnacle of Moroccan design.

## Moroccan Havelis

One of the hidden gems of Morocco is the architectural style of traditional houses. They are called *riad* after the Arab word *ryad* meaning 'garden'. One cannot gauge the beauty of these homes from the outside. They are characterized by a central open courtyard with a beautiful cooling fountain. The walls and floors are adorned with exquisite *zellige* tile work. The windows of the house usually open out to the courtyard and not to the outside.

This style of architecture aims at preserving the privacy of the family as well as providing shelter from the weather. The palatial *riads* of yore serve as hotels today, not unlike the havelis of Rajasthan.





## Red City

The city of Marrakesh exudes old world charm, transporting visitors to a different era. A medieval imperial city with a rich history, it was once the cultural, religious and trading hub of the Maghreb. It was given the nickname of Red City as many of its buildings were built out of red sandstone.

Its main square called Jemaa el-Fna is a melting pot of all things Moroccan, be it music, dance, theatre or food. Story-tellers, magicians, snake-charmers, medicine men and peddlers of souvenirs and all kinds of traditional ware — all work together to create a magical ambience that persuaded UNESCO to launch its project, Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Marrakesh is best known for its maze of souks or bazaars. Narrow winding alleys teem with shops where buyers haggle for rugs, jewellery, lanterns, silverware, leather craft,



*babouches* (Moroccan pointed slippers), perfumes, dried fruits and more.

The city also has its fair share of historical sights like the splendid Bahia Palace, the marble tombs of the Saadian rulers and the Dar Menebhi Palace which houses the Museum of Marrakech.



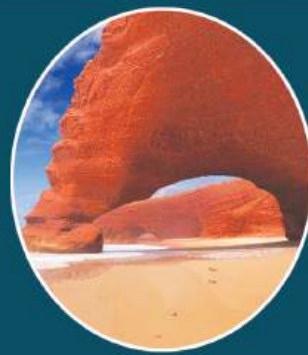
## Wedding Carnival

The town of Imilchil in the Atlas Mountains is home to a unique Berber festival in which grooms of local tribes seek brides in a public gathering. The festival honours the memory of two lovers who could not marry as they belonged to feuding families. Legend has it that the grief-stricken couple cried themselves to death, creating the lakes of Isli (his) and Tislit (hers) near Imilchil.

Every year, prospective brides and grooms gather in Imilchil, dressed in their traditional best. When a woman accepts a man's marriage proposal, she says, "You have captured my liver." (Moroccans believe that the liver, not the heart is the centre of love). The festival also features lively folk music and dance, and a fair.

## Fast Facts

- ◆ The four historical capital cities of Fez, Marrakesh, Meknes and Rabat are called the imperial cities of Morocco.
- ◆ Morocco's most popular beverage is mint tea, usually accompanied by heaps of sugar. It is fondly called Berber whiskey!
- ◆ Both men and women wear a traditional hooded flowing garment called *djelleba*.
- ◆ The King of Morocco is said to be the wealthiest monarch in Africa.
- ◆ Ibn Battuta, an explorer from Tangier, travelled to distant places including India in the 14th century. His writings are a rich source of information about the various lands.
- ◆ The population largely comprises Arabs and Berbers (ethnic group native to North Africa).



## Kaleidoscope

Nestled in the Rif Mountains in the northwest lies the picturesque town of Chefchaouen where the houses are painted in a distinct shade of blue.

Giant red-rock archways crafted by years of erosion soar majestically on the Legzira Beach in southwestern Morocco.

The fortified city of Aït-Ben-Haddou is the best-preserved *kasbah* (fortress) located at the foothills of the Atlas Mountains.

## Bathing Ritual

Moroccans follow a weekly ritual of visiting the hammam, a public bath, to cleanse themselves. Men and women bathe in separate quarters. The bathers not only wash and scrub themselves clean at the hammam, but also catch up on gossip with friends and socialise in the process!



# The Changing Face of Farming

*Agricultural technology ('AgriTech') is reshaping farming by offering innovative solutions to the problem of dwindling food production. It encompasses a range of disciplines and devices that improve agricultural output.*

### Hello Robot!

Robotic technology is useful for monotonous tasks, without sacrificing accuracy. Fruit picking robots, autonomous tractors/sprayers and sheep shearing robots are designed to replace human labour. They can also operate in difficult conditions.

Agricultural robots, or 'agrobots', are most required at the harvesting stage. Agrobots are employed in weed control, cloud seeding\*, planting seeds, environmental monitoring and soil analysis.

### Drone On!

Agricultural drones ('agri drones') are unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs that are outfitted with a range of sensors, cameras and other data collection tools to aid in agricultural tasks. They have completely transformed crop monitoring and crop mapping by providing aerial imagery that offers insights into plant health and field conditions. Farmers can quickly identify areas that need attention, which would may not be apparent in ground-level spot checks.

Drones are also used for spraying seeds and for spraying pesticides on large areas of crops quickly and evenly. This method allows farmers to access uneven terrain that tractors might struggle with.

### Altering DNA of Crops

With gene editing, producers can create seeds better suited to the specific conditions of climate and native soil. They can develop crops that are resilient

to pests, disease and environmental stresses. For example, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been developed to withstand drought conditions. However, the use of GMOs has raised concerns regarding safety, environmental impact and ethical considerations.

However, genome editing has enabled 'biofortification', a process that improves the nutritive content of crops, to tackle malnutrition, especially in children.

### 'Smart' Irrigation

An irrigation controller is a device to operate automatic irrigation systems like lawn sprinklers and drip irrigations systems. Controllers have a means of setting the start time and the duration of watering.

Drip irrigation (trickle irrigation) is a type of micro-irrigation system that lets water drip gradually to the roots of plants, from above the soil surface or buried below the surface. The whole idea is to place water directly into the root zone and reduce evaporation. The water is distributed through a network of pipes, valves and emitters. This method saves water compared to surface or sprinkler irrigation.

### Moisture Detector

A soil moisture sensor measures the amount of water in the soil, enabling a farmer to use only the exact required amount of water to grow a crop in that area. The information provided by this device also allows producers to improve

the management of soil moisture during critical plant growth stages.

Soil sensors can be stationary or portable like a handheld probe.

### Satellite Imagery

Satellites capture high resolution images of a field over a period of time, allowing farmers to identify problems early on, like pests, diseases, nutrient deficiencies, etc. Satellite imagery helps measure plant health by analysing the difference between near-infrared and visible light. Healthy vegetation reflects more near-infrared light; stressed plants reflect more visible light. Satellite imagery is a valuable tool in crop monitoring.

It also helps monitor water levels in reservoirs and track mountain snowpack levels. This information can be used to predict water availability, develop water management plans and protect farm areas from flooding.

The implementation of agricultural technology is advantageous for everyone in the agri-food chain. Farmers, agronomists and other agricultural workers can easily coordinate activities using mobile devices, apps and tech-based resources. Landowners can foresee possible problems on the farm. By estimating their overall crop yield, they can precisely budget for the next growing season and better prepare for emergencies.

◆ artificially generating rain by implanting clouds with silver iodide crystals

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# Rhino Refuge

MRS. R.UNICORNIS was like a portly dowager — an unhurried gait, a face etched by age lines and a pout to boot! She seemed annoyed by our intrusion into her world, and grunted her disapproval — we were, after all, mere visitors in Kaziranga, home to the largest surviving population of the Indian One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*). Milady was clearly in two minds — whether to charge our vehicle, or give it a glancing blow. She finally decided that we were unimportant in the larger scheme of things and trundled away into the elephant grass.

The next morning, we decided to hire the best vehicle available for spotting rhinos — an elephant. As our elephant stomped through the grassland, swamp deer watched our progress curiously.



## Fast Facts

- ◆ Kaziranga is best accessed from Guwahati, which is 217 km or 5 hrs away by road.
- ◆ Guwahati is also the most convenient airport, while Jorhat (97 km) is less serviced.
- ◆ The nearest railhead is at Furkating (75 km).
- ◆ The best season is November to May, but elephant rides to view the rhino stop on May 1.
- ◆ Panbari is a few minutes' drive from the park gates at Kohora.

We emerged into a clearing, and there was a female rhino introducing her calf to the nuances of fine dining.

Kaziranga has other attractions tucked away within its folds. One such jewel is the Panbari Reserve forest, a twenty-minute ride from our camp. Our guide Barun awaited us with his antiquated rifle. He was wearing funny leggings. He explained that the rhinos recognised his rifle and would steer clear of us. His tights he did not explain and we didn't ask. He led us up the slopes of the dense evergreen forest shrouding the Karbi-Anglong hills. A pair of Great Indian Hornbills glided past, their tell-tale wingbeats resonating through the tranquil air.

Barun suddenly launched into a shrill "hoo-koo, hoo-koo", a call that reverberated through the jungle. The call seemed to echo repeatedly from

one side, and we were wondering if we were at some 'echo-point', when Barun bade us to remain silent. The call was being returned by the only species of ape in India, the Hoolock Gibbon! Soon, the calls intensified, and we spied a black, fuzzy form moving with the fluid grace of a trapeze artist through the upper storeys. A male gibbon emerged through a clearing in the leaves, and we could see the white band on his forehead.

As he moved off, some of us went into a feverish dance. No, we were not trying to woo the gibbon. We had just realized the significance of Barun's tights: the forest floor was infested with leeches, which had clambered onto everybody's shoes, while Barun's 'leech socks' rendered him immune to their attentions!

— P.V. Subramaniam

## Did You Know?

- The rhino population of Kaziranga is estimated at around 3000.
- Flooding during the monsoon, habitat loss and poaching are major threats to the rhino.
- A quarry in Panbari is gnawing away at the forest.





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## MIND YOUR LANGUAGE!

### Amazing Adjectives

Some words have distinctive adjectives apart from the common ones. For example, cats are 'feline' and dogs are 'canine'.

Give the alternative adjective for these words.

1. Poison/venom - poisonous/venomous \_\_\_\_\_
2. Brain - brainy \_\_\_\_\_
3. Earth - earthy, earthlike and earthly \_\_\_\_\_
4. Horse - horse like/horsy \_\_\_\_\_
5. Hair - hairy \_\_\_\_\_



Answers: 1. toxic 2. cerebral 3. terrestrial 4. equine 5. hirsute

### Spell Check

A wooden bar or frame by which two oxen are joined together at the neck.

**yolk or yoke?**



Answer: Yoke. Yolk is the yellow part of an egg.

### What a Word!



TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT! I HAVE A **MONOPOLY** ON WATER HERE!!

#### MONOPOLY:

Pronounced: mon-o (as in 'not') poly  
Complete control, domination.



Answers: 1. teach, cheat 2. heads, shade 3. shale, leash 4. peach, cheap 5. marts, smart

### Two-in-One

A portmanteau word is formed by combining the sounds and meanings of two or more words into a new word.

- Eg. 1. fantastic + fabulous = fantabulous  
2. breakfast + lunch = brunch

Lewis Carroll is credited with first using portmanteau words. In his book Alice in Wonderland, he coined words like 'slithy' (slimy + lithe) and mimsy (flimsy + miserable).

Find the words that combine to form the following:

1. travelogue 2. staycation 3. motel



Answers: 1. travel + monologue 2. stay-at-home + vacation 3. motor car + hotel

### Anagrams

Can you find the anagrams in these sentences? Clue: the word and the meaning of the anagram you can make from it, is given in *italics*. The first is done for you!

1. That will *teach* him not to *deceive* people.

Here the anagram of the word 'teach' is 'cheat' which means 'to deceive'.

2. At least our *heads* will be cool if we take shelter there *out of the sun*.
3. The dog bounded over the *shale*, almost pulling the *leather cord* out of his master's hand.
4. There was only one *peach* left in the vendor's basket, so he sold it to Rajiv at a *very low price*.
5. Some of these shopping *marts* stock really *fashionable* clothes.

### Laugh & Learn

What did the ghost do when it was attacked?

It put up a *spirited* resistance! The word spirited means full of life, courageous or animated. A spirit is another word for a ghost or apparition!







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# Crowning Glory

*A constant barrage of ads in print and on digital media tell you that to achieve glorious, shining tresses, you need to use styling products and intensive 'hair spa' treatments!*



THE truth is that you can still have amazing hair without going through harsh treatments that can damage your hair.

Just like your skin, Your hair too needs to be cleansed, moisturised and protected.

### Cleanse

- ◆ Shampoo the scalp instead of the entire hair. When washing off, let the already applied shampoo rinse out the rest of the hair. This keeps the shampoo from drying your hair out.
- ◆ Wash hair only when scalp feels dirty, not every day.

### Condition

- ◆ Always follow with a conditioner and apply only on the hair length, excluding the roots. When done, rinse out with cool water. During dry winters, use a hydrating hair mask weekly for further nourishment.
- ◆ For dry hair, try reverse conditioning and sandwiching. Apply conditioner before shampoo, so hair is protected while shampooing. Follow with conditioner at the end again.
- ◆ If you have oily hair, use a lightweight hair serum on hair length when still wet. If hair is frizzy, dry and damaged, follow up with a leave in conditioner instead. It hydrates the hair further and protects it from damage.

### Treat

- ◆ The scalp is the living part of your hair and majorly determines its health. Apply a few drops of scalp tonic to address your particular concern.
- ◆ Dandruff prone scalp can be treated with a scalp tonic with salicylic acid, tea tree extract or zinc pyrithione. Those with persistent dandruff can apply a shampoo containing ketoconazole, and let it sit for a couple minutes before washing it off.
- ◆ If you are prone to hair fall, you can apply a tonic containing rosemary extract.

### Good Habits

- ◆ Cover your hair when going out to protect it from sun, wind and pollution. You can also apply a heat

protectant serum on the hair length before stepping out on sunny days.

- ◆ Avoid tight hairstyles like high ponytails that pull on the roots.
- ◆ Avoid frequent use of heat on hair, whether it be a curling iron or a blow dryer.
- ◆ Trim the ends of the hair regularly to maintain healthy tips.
- ◆ Do not scratch scalp if itchy. Instead soothe it with a calming scalp tonic or Aloe vera.
- ◆ Most importantly, eat a healthy protein-rich diet and increase your daily intake of vegetables.
- ◆ Check with a doctor to make sure any hair problem you may have is not due to health issues.

### Did You Know?

- ◆ Hair is made up of skin cells filled with a protein called keratin. This is the same stuff that is needed to make bird feathers, horse hooves, horns, claws, beaks and your fingernails. As the hair grows it pops out of the follicle and then through the skin where you can spot it. Once the hair reaches the skin surface, the cells within the strand of hair die. In other words, the hairs you see are made up of dead cells. That is why you don't feel pain when the barber trims your hair. We lose about 80 to 100 hair strands every single day. But then we have nearly 100,000 hair follicles and new hair constantly replaces those that fall out.
- ◆ Well-known temples in South India, such as in Tirupati and Palani, earn crores of rupees annually from selling pilgrims' tonsured hair to companies that export it to foreign countries. While long hair from women and grey hair are the most highly sought after and is sold for use in wigs and hair extensions, shorter hair goes to China where amino acids are extracted from a protein in the hair. All over the world, Indian hair is preferred for its strength, length and beauty.





# Meals

A healthy pet is a happy pet!

- ★ Chicken changezi
- ★ Buff bhurji
- ★ Quail
- ★ Mutton masala
- ★ Chikpea Salad
- ★ Paneer Meal

Get wholesome and fresh, AAFCO approved meals from 6 meal option  
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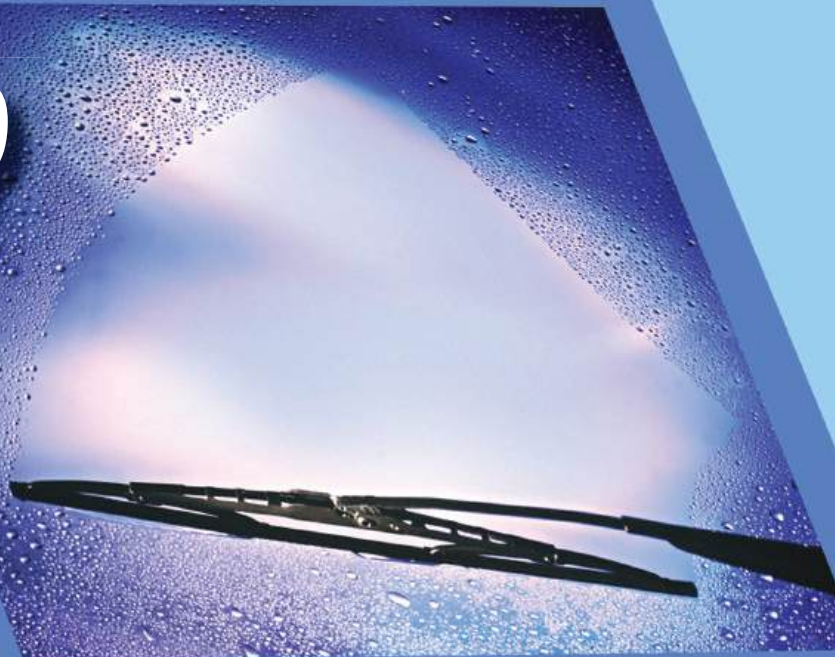


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*A series on the path-breaking inventions we take for granted today...*

# A Clean Sweep

IN the latter half of the 19th century, automobiles had been invented, but many of the accessories that we take for granted today were lacking. If it rained or snowed, motorists would have to get out of the car and wipe the windshield clean. In 1903, an American woman, Mary Anderson, saw how inconvenient that was on a long drive in a streetcar from New York to Alabama during winter.



# Zany Ideas

PEOPLE caught in a burning building in the USA of the 1870s did not need to panic. They just had to clip on Benjamin Oppenheimer's parachute to their head, slip on the heavily cushioned shoes provided with it and jump fearlessly out of the window to safety.



She invented a swinging arm with a rubber blade that could mechanically sweep rain or snow off the glass. All the driver had to do was move a lever located inside the car, manually. Anderson patented her version of the mechanical wiper in 1905, but was not successful in selling her idea. After Henry Ford came out with his cheap cars in 1913, mechanical wipers became standard equipment. In 1917 Charlotte Bridgewood invented the first automatic wiper powered by the car's engine. By 1930 the windshield wiper had become a necessity.

Later as motor cars became more complicated, so did the wipers and today they can be installed not only on the front windshield but on the back and also on headlights.

## Quiz

1. Wine and beer can be pasteurised like milk. True or false?
2. What was the profession of American Almon Strowger who invented the automatic telephone exchange in 1891?

Answers: \_\_\_\_\_

1. True.
2. He was an undertaker.



# Mindbender

## WORK IT OUT

From the clues given below, identify the tent occupied by each of the characters.

**Clue 1:** Genie was thrilled to be put up next to Harry Potter.

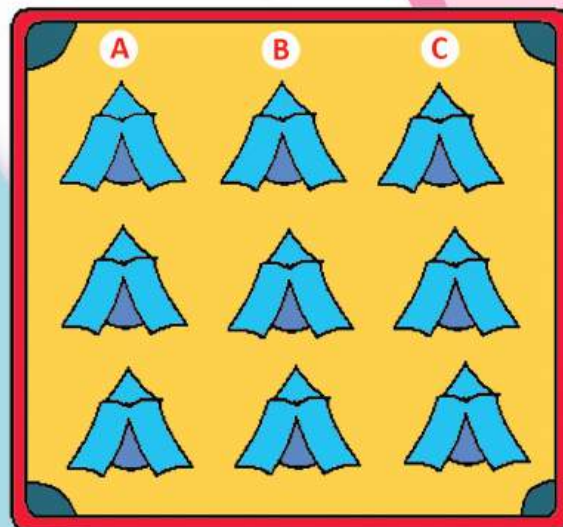
**Clue 2:** Alladin was next to Phantom.

**Clue 3:** Mandrake the magician was not put up next to Phantom or the web spinner.

**Clue 4:** He-man and Genie did not occupy the corner tents.

**Clue 5:** Alladin, He-man and Spiderman's tents were put up in a row.

**Clue 6:** Superman was in a tent next to Batman and Spiderman.



Answer:  
 Superman  
 Spiderman  
 Harry Potter  
 Batman  
 He-man  
 Genie  
 Phantom  
 Alladin  
 Mandrake

## SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, vertical column and 2x3 box has the digits from 1-6 without repeating them in the same row, column or box.

	5				3
2		4			
	6		5	1	
5		1		3	
					4
		2	6		

1	5	6	2	4	3
4	2	3	5	1	6
6	3	4	1	2	5
2	1	5	3	6	4
5	6	1	4	3	2
3	4	2	6	5	1

Answer:

## EASY DRAW

Follow the steps correctly and create a bird from alphabet 'P'.



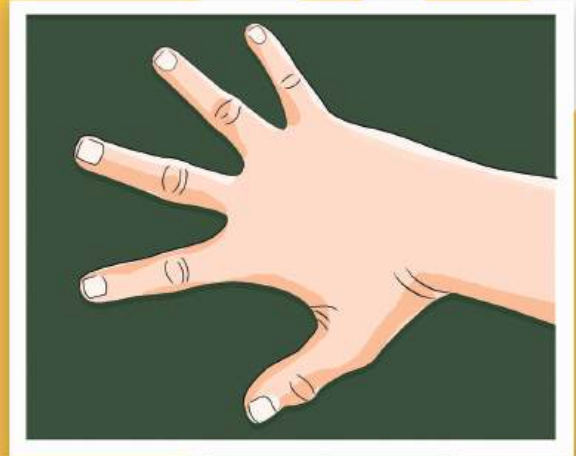
# Stuck like Glue

You need yourself.

## Method:

1. Press the palm of your hand firmly on a flat surface like a table.
2. Spread your fingers a little.
3. Then pull your middle finger under your hand such that the first two joints are pressed against the table.
4. With all the fingers pressed flat, try lifting up one finger at a time.
5. Can you lift your ring finger? Why not?

This is because the bone and tissue structure of the middle and ring finger are inter-related. So if the middle finger is immobilized, the ring finger cannot move either!



# The Spartan Scytale

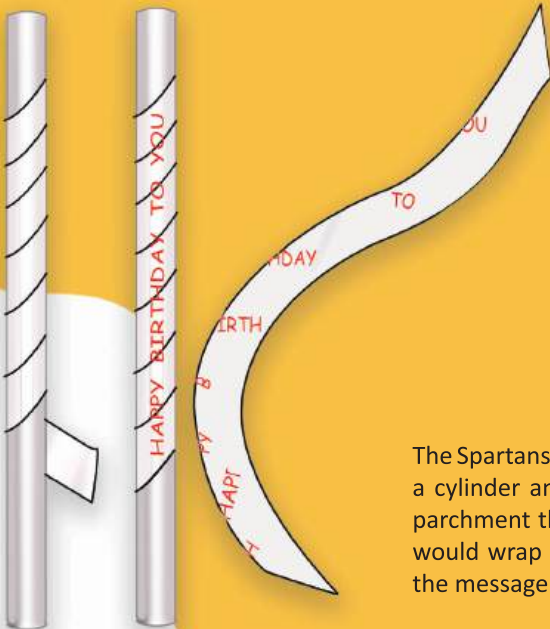
The Spartan scytale was a simple but ingenious way of hiding information. Let's build a scytale of our own!

**What you need:** A thick pencil, paper, ruler, sticking tape, felt pen and a pair of scissors

## What you do:

1. Use the ruler to draw a strip measuring 27.5 cm in length and 0.3 cm in width. Cut this strip out.
2. Stick one end of the strip to the pencil with tape at an angle. Wrap the paper around the pencil so that the edges meet.
3. When it is fully wound, write a message along the length of the pencil.
4. Unwind the paper. Can you read the message?
5. Wind the paper back around the pencil so that the letters line up. Now can you read the message?

The Spartans of ancient times would wrap a parchment around a cylinder and write a message on it. Then unwrapping the parchment they would send it by a messenger. The recipient would wrap the parchment around another cylinder to read the message.





# Call of the Jungle

**Title:** Iora and the Quest of Five (2022)

**Author:** Arefa Tehsin

**Publisher:** Crimson Dragon Publishing

**Price:** Rs 139 (Paperback)

**Genre:** Young Adult, Supernatural

EVERY morning we wake up to doom and gloom — the unseasonal rainfall, floods, droughts, disappearing mangroves, urban forests being mowed down, the sudden rise and dip in temperature and the illnesses that come with it. What is the world coming to? Can we put a stop to it? Perhaps, for the answer lies within us.

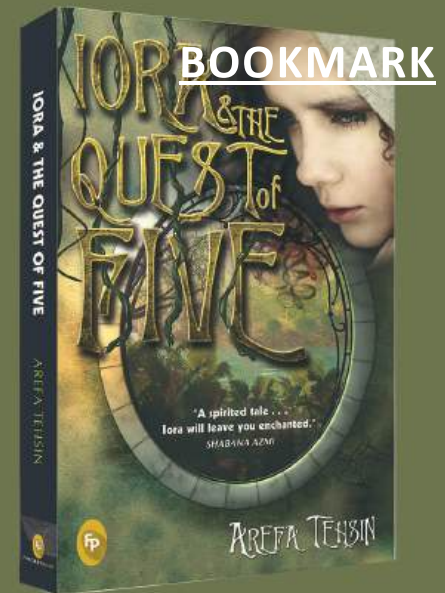
In contrast to our world, Iora's world seems radiant — the trees are tall, the woods are deep and so colourful with greens and blues, talking birds and animals. And why not? She lives in

Twitterland, a hidden rainforest, with hardly any communication with the outside world.

But you see the jungle is also doomed, as Iora discovers. The evil forces are dominant and her father's life is in danger. She has to quickly track down the Five Angels and the elusive Spirit of the Jungle and get them to meet at Scar-faced Lake on a moonless night.

For the first time in her 11 years, Iora steps out of Twitterland, but she is not alone. A dwarf Beetle and her friend-cum-rival, Owlus keep her company. A wise ape, Baba, tries to protect them from the dark forces; and then comes along Chinar, a young human boy lost in Twitterland.

In this utterly riveting and captivating journey, the travellers experience dangers, deception and thrilling



escapades and in the process, imbibe important lessons of trust, sacrifice, patience and unity. Some answers are always found within, as Iora learns.

**Excerpt:**

*"Whatever his motivation, Iora, we must thank Owlus for saving our lives. And since we are stuck together, it's better to carry on as friends." Without waiting for a response, Beetle went on, "We don't have a lot of time before the next moonless night and our task is yet to be completed."*

—Ambika Shaligram

## SILVER SCREEN

# A Fun-filled Adventure

*Dora and the Lost City of Gold* is a 2019 live-action movie based on the popular animated TV series 'Dora the Explorer'.

DORA MARQUEZ is a sunny-natured brainy girl who has grown up in the Amazonian rain forests of Peru, home-schooled by her zoologist mother Elena and archaeologist father Cole. Both Elena and Cole are explorers and have inculcated in Dora a love for the jungle. When Dora turns 16, they send her to live with her cousin Diego and his family in Los Angeles to attend high school while they embark on an expedition to discover Parapata, the lost ancient Incan city famed for its gold.

At high school, Dora's friendly but quirky ways embarrass Diego. As a result, he and his snobbish friends treat her as a nerd. Dora's concerns about her popularity, however, take a backseat when her parents mysteriously disappear. During a school trip to a museum, Dora is kidnapped by treasure hunters who want to use her to find her parents, and ultimately, Parapata.

Dora then swings into action and goes on a perilous mission to save

her parents along with Diego, a couple of classmates and her companion Boots—a monkey. The high schoolers have thrilling adventures as they navigate the jungle and outrun the treasure seekers while trying to unlock the mystery behind a lost Incan civilization.

*Dora and the Lost City of Gold* is a goofy, charming film that celebrates the spirit of adventure and family values. It has an entertaining plot, amusing characters and a wonderful music score, with a song for every occasion. The best part of the film is the gutsy and kind-hearted heroine Dora (delightfully played by Isabela Merced). The peer pressure she faces and her way of dealing with it make her a very relatable character. The film conveys the message that you should be yourself and not let others' opinions get you down.



# THE ELEPHANT In The Room

## A LESSON IN PERCEPTION

In a small village nestled in the heart of ancient India, there lived six blind men. They had heard of an elephant that had come to the village, and they were eager to learn more about it. The elephant was a majestic creature, with a shaggy coat and a long, curved tusk. It had been brought to the village by a group of travelling merchants, who had acquired it on one of their many journeys.

The first blind man, whose name was Kala, approached the elephant and touched its side. "Ah," he said, "the elephant is like a wall. It is big and sturdy, and it feels like it could support the weight of a thousand men."

The second blind man, whose name was Mara, touched the elephant's tusk. "No, no," he said, "the elephant is like a spear. It is sharp and pointed, and it feels like it could pierce the heart of a lion."

The third blind man, whose name was Soma, touched the elephant's trunk. "You are both wrong," he said, "the elephant is like a snake. It is long and slender, and it feels like it could slither through the grass like a serpent."

The fourth blind man, whose name was

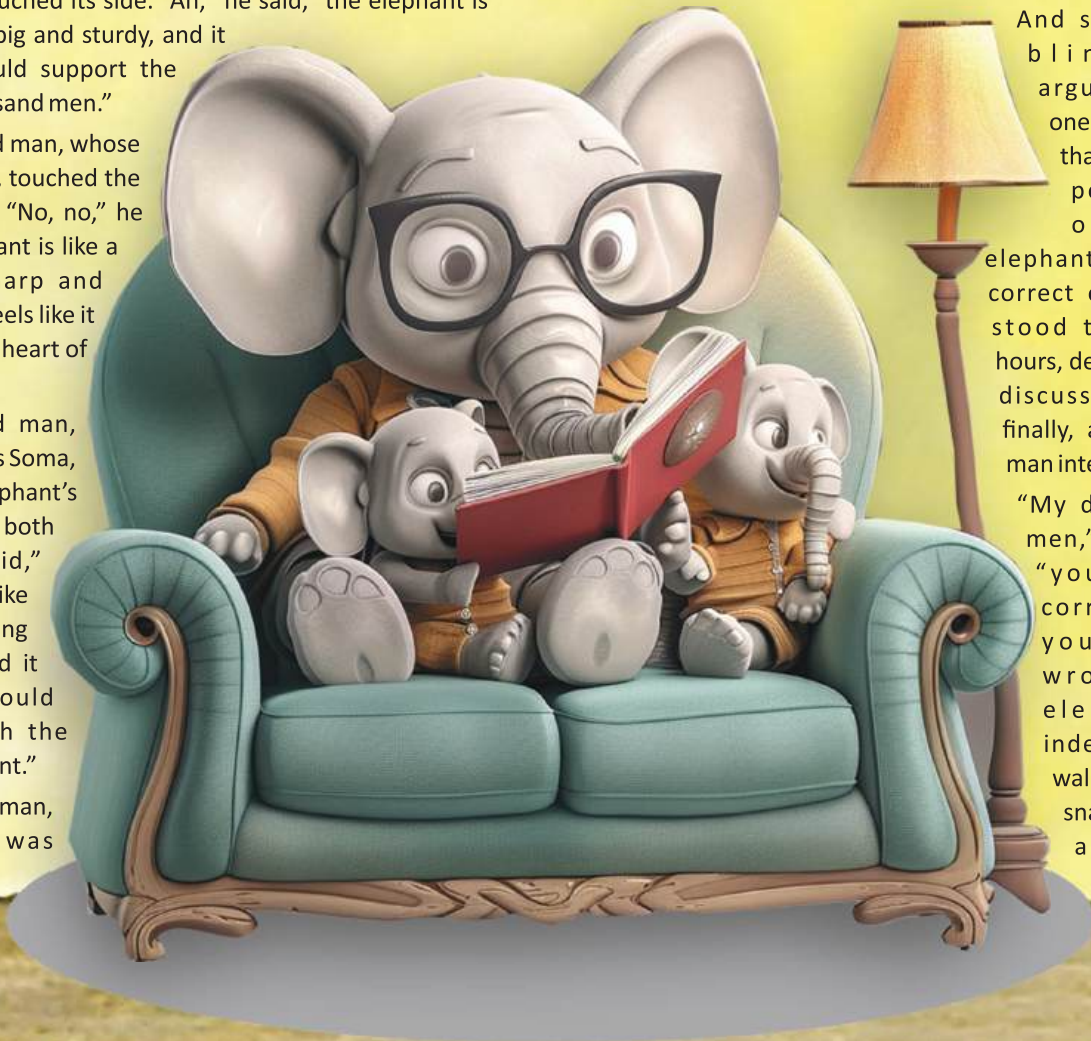
Dharma, touched the elephant's knee. "I think the elephant is like a tree," he said. "It is sturdy and strong, and it feels like it could support the weight of a thousand birds."

The fifth blind man, whose name was Karma, touched the elephant's ear. "No, the elephant is like a fan," he said. "It is light and airy, and it feels like it could cool the brow of a king."

The sixth blind man, whose name was Yoga, touched the elephant's tail. "You are all wrong," he said, "the elephant is like a rope. It is long and flexible, and it feels like it could bind the hands of a thief."

And so the six blind men argued, each one convinced that their own perception of the elephant was the correct one. They stood there for hours, debating and discussing, until finally, a wise old man intervened.

"My dear blind men," he said, "you are all correct, and you are all wrong. The elephant is indeed like a wall, a spear, a snake, a tree, a fan, and a

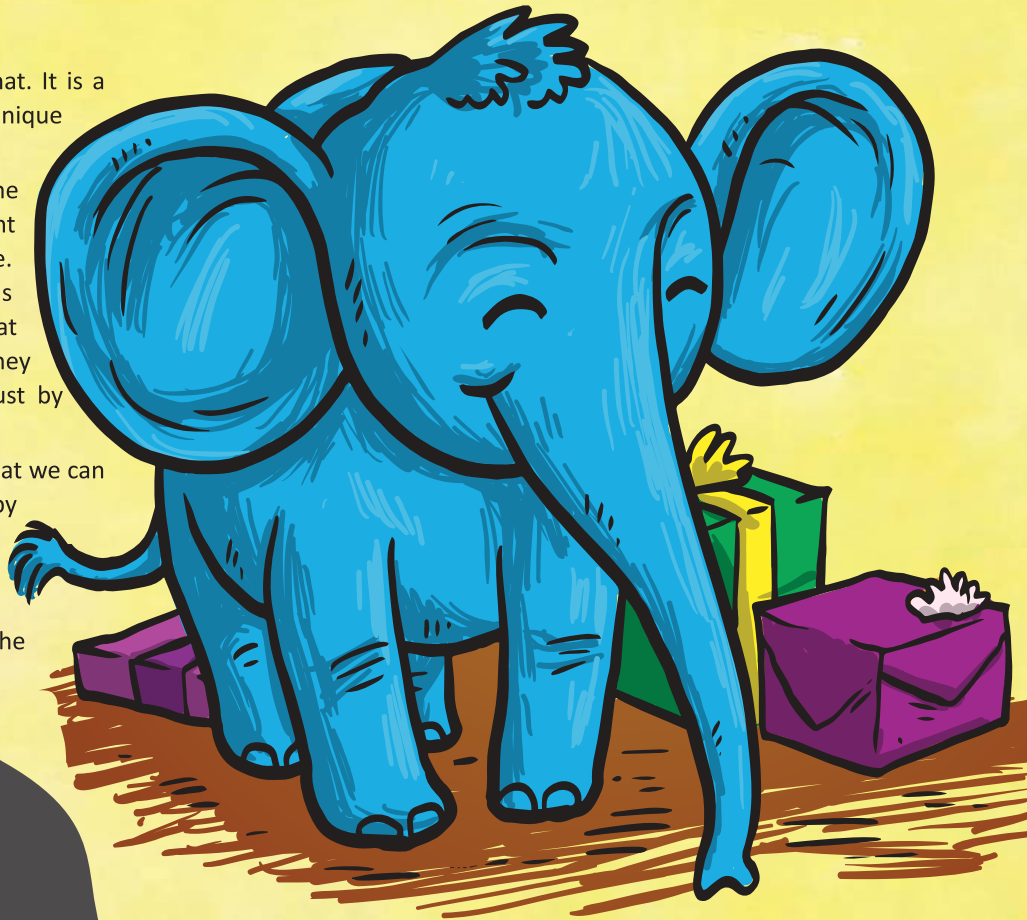




rope. But it is also much more than that. It is a living, breathing creature, with its own unique characteristics and qualities.”

The six blind men were taken aback by the old man’s words. They had never thought about the elephant in that way before. They realized that their own perceptions of the elephant were limited, and that they had been foolish to think that they could fully understand the creature just by touching one part of its body.

The old man continued, “The truth is that we can never fully understand anything just by looking at it from one perspective. We must be willing to consider multiple perspectives, to listen to different opinions, and to think critically about the world around us.”



The six blind men nodded in agreement, grateful for the old man’s wisdom. From that day on, they made a point to consider multiple perspectives, to listen to different opinions, and to think critically about the world around them. And they lived happily ever after, with a newfound appreciation for the complexity and beauty of the world.



# ATTACK & DEFENCE

*Most of the important information about our lives is stored as digital data. This data is the focus of cyber-attackers and hackers, who want to exploit it, as well as security agencies that seek to protect it.*

# What is Malware?

Malware is a catch-all term for any type of harmful or intrusive software designed to damage or exploit a programmable device or its network. Cybercriminals typically use such software to extract data that they can use for financial gain. The information can range from personal data and financial data, to emails and passwords.

Methods of attack usually come in the form of email attachments, ads on websites, fake software, phishing emails or text messages, as well as infected USB drives. Clicking on such attachments or links usually allows the malware access to your device.

## Types of Malware

Viruses, worms, and Trojans are the usual types of malware. They usually come as an attachment in an email that, once opened, infects the device. They are designed to disrupt a system's ability to operate. As a result, such malware can cause significant operational issues and data loss.

Other forms of malware are used to gain access to sensitive information within a system. Ransomware can encrypt your information so that you cannot access it and then demand money for the data to be

released. Spyware reports back to a remote user with your personal data, which can then be used for nefarious purposes such as identity theft.







## What is Antivirus Software?

It is a security program designed to prevent, detect and remove malware from devices and networks. It is configured to automatically scan the system as well as allows users to run manual scans.

Antivirus software typically runs as a background process, scanning devices to detect and restrict the spread of malware. This includes real-time threat detection and protection. Any malicious software detected is removed automatically or users are notified of infections and prompted to clean the files. Because so many activities are now conducted online and new threats emerge continuously, it is more important than ever to install a protective antivirus program and keep it up-to-date.

Free versions generally offer basic antivirus and spyware protection, but more advanced features and protections are usually available only on paid versions. Popular providers of antivirus products include AVG Technologies, Kaspersky and McAfee.

## Ethical Hacking

In the constantly evolving digital environment, the field of cybersecurity involves various roles. One of the most intriguing includes hackers, who use their technical mastery to uncover flaws in computer systems and networks. Based on their activities and the ethics involved in their actions, there are several types of hackers:

**Black Hat:** They create malicious software, take advantage of weaknesses in networks to break in and carry out cybercrimes.

**White Hat:** They are certified professionals working within legal boundaries as ethical counterparts to criminal hackers. They are employed by organisations to test, protect and defend systems by strengthening digital security.

**Grey Hat:** They possess similar skillsets, but do not bother with the limitations of the law. Though their intent is usually not malicious, they may hack a system to expose vulnerabilities but without express permission to do so.

## Common Signs of Malware

- ◆ Slow computer performance.
- ◆ Problems shutting down or starting up the computer.
- ◆ Web browsers opening up unintended sites.
- ◆ Frequent pop-up ads.

## How to Protect Yourself

- ◆ Keep the operating system and applications updated.
- ◆ Never click on any unknown link.
- ◆ Only install apps that are used regularly.
- ◆ Only use known and trusted websites.
- ◆ Beware of emails asking for personal information. Always use independent methods to ascertain the genuineness of the request.
- ◆ Check bank accounts and credit reports regularly to keep track of any unusual activity.
- ◆ Do not lend out your phone or leave your devices unattended.
- ◆ Regularly check settings and apps. Any change in the settings or a new app that mysteriously appears might be a sign that spyware has been installed.
- ◆ Use an antivirus security solution and regularly run scans.



# Basketball A to Z

**Air ball:** A shot that fails to hit anything — the net, rim or the backboard.

**Ball hog:** A derisive term for a player who does not pass the ball to his teammates.

**Chucker:** A player who takes frequent and unwise shots, showing no concern for consequences.

**Dunk:** To slam the ball in the basket downwards by jumping high in the air and with hands above the rim of the basket.

**End line:** The line behind each basket.

**Free throw:** It is an unopposed attempt to score a basket from the free throw line. It is awarded when the opposing team commits a foul. The free throw line is located within the three-point arc.

**Guard:** Players who possess exceptional ball handling, passing and shooting skills. 'Guard' is one of the three standard player positions.

**Hesitation dribble:** A type of dribble in which the dribbler momentarily slows his pace and keeps on changing it to confuse or freeze the defenders.

**In-n-out:** A shot that appears to be going in, but instead goes back out.

**Jump ball:** Every game of basketball begins with this procedure. The official tosses the ball in the air between the two opponents positioned at the centre-court circle. The two players will jump and try to tap the ball to his teammate.

**Kick:** If a player intentionally kicks the ball or touches it with his foot/leg then it is a foul.

**Lay-up:** A shot taken with one hand very close to the basket and with the help of the backboard.

**Man-to-man defense:** A defensive tactic in which each player of the team guards a single opposite team member.

**NBA:** The National Basketball Association is the largest professional basketball league in USA.

**Overtime:** When the score is tied after the stipulated game time, the teams play a five-minute overtime period.

**Penetrating pass:** A pass that goes through the defense.

**Rebound:** When a player gains control of the ball after a shot is missed.

**Shot clock:** A move by various basketball organisers to increase the pace of the game. A shot must be

taken within 24 seconds, or in some leagues, 30 seconds; if the ball does not touch the rim or enter the basket the shooting team loses possession and the opposite team gets the ball. This goes on till the end of the game.

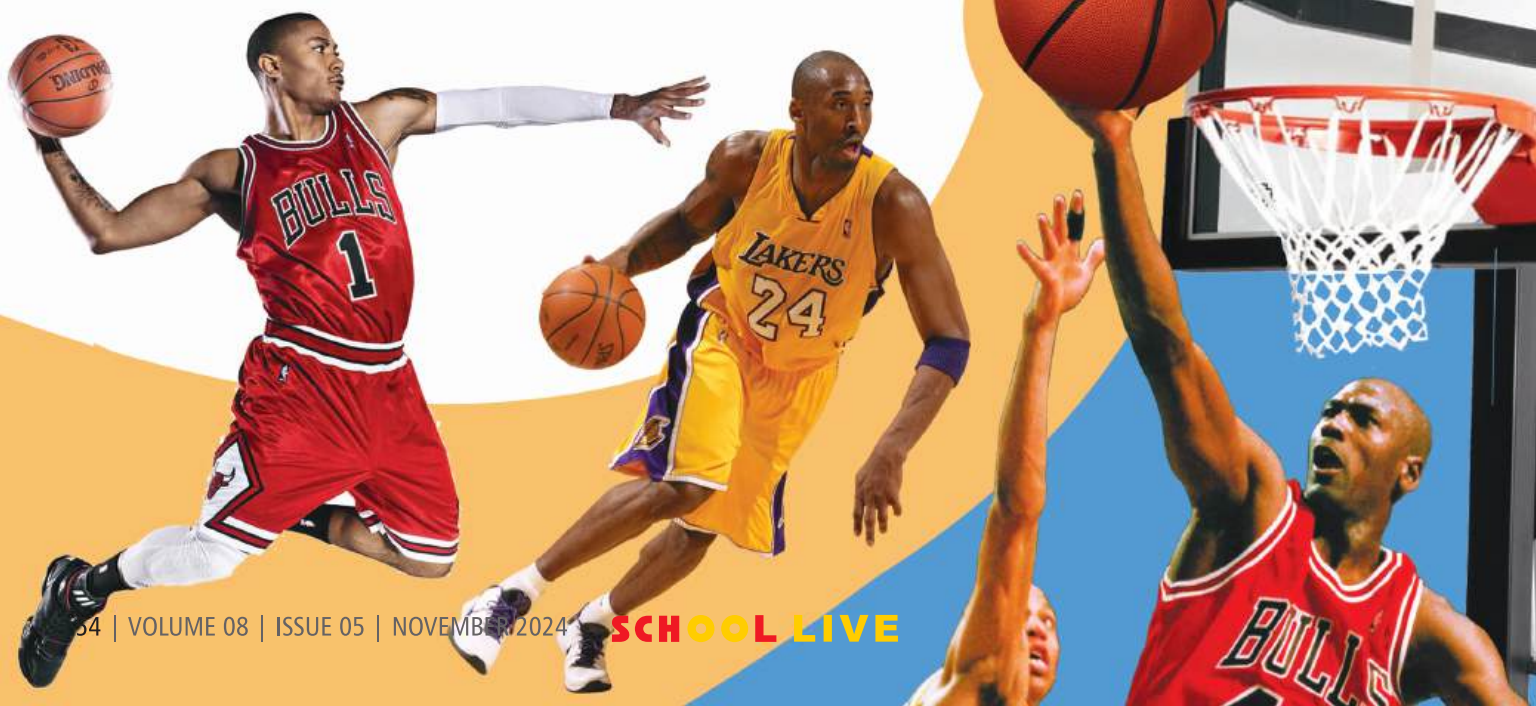
**Three-pointer:** A shot worth three points which is taken from behind the three point line. Every team has a three-pointer specialist as it fetches 3 points instead of the usual 2 points.

**Up and down:** A foul in which the ball holder jumps in the air but before landing doesn't get rid of the ball.

**V-cut:** A move where a player moves to the player defending him/her, then quickly turns and receives the ball. This move is meant to fool the defender.

**Wedgie:** When the ball gets stuck between the rim and backboard.

**Zone defense:** In this tactic a player has to guard a particular zone and not guard a particular man (as seen in man-to-man defense).



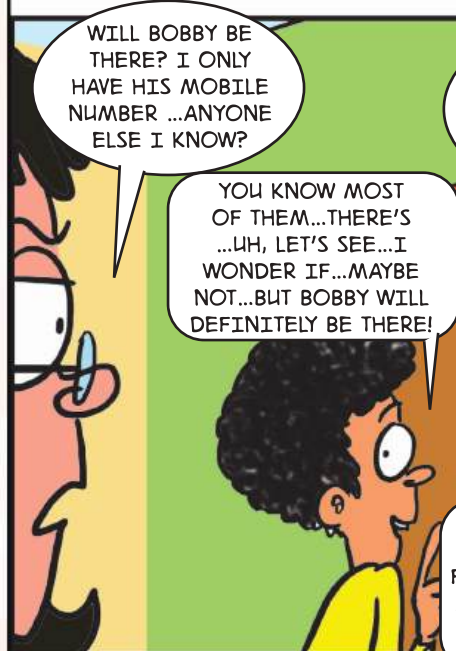


## HADDIRAJ



## THE GREAT MUMBLER

Ashwin &amp; Abhijeet



# Pop goes the Corn!

A VISIT to the cinema is never really complete unless you have a packet of warm buttered popcorn close at hand. Few know that this movie-time snack was around long before the first film was ever made!

While the exact history of popcorn is a bit muddled, most people agree that corn was probably first popped in Mexico. There is also some archaeological evidence indicating that that wild corn grew in Mexico 7,000 years ago.

In the late 1940s, two Harvard graduate students exploring a cave in New Mexico (believed to have been

inhabited by a primitive tribe) discovered unpopped kernels that were 5,600 years old. The conditions within the cave had preserved the kernels so well that they could still pop — the researchers checked that out!

More recently researchers uncovered 1,000 year old popped corn in a cave in western USA (Utah). The popcorn looked so fresh; the team said that only after carbon dating could they believe the popcorn was that old.

From about 1428 to 1521 the Native Americans, known as the Aztecs, ruled over much of what is today Mexico.

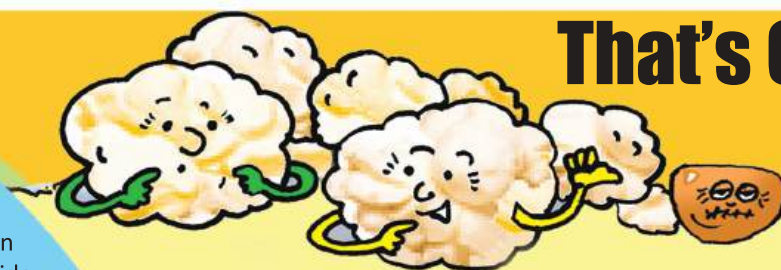


Popcorn formed an important part of an Aztec Indian's diet. It was also used as offerings to their gods and to make necklaces and ceremonial headdresses. A 1,700-year-old painted jar has been discovered that depicts an Aztec god wearing popcorn garlands while crude popcorn poppers have been found in Peru.

## The Myth

According to certain Native American Indian tribes, peaceful spirits live inside every popcorn kernel. As their house gets heated, they become angry and start whizzing around, shaking the kernels. When the heat gets too intense the angry spirit bursts out of its home in a puff of steam!

It all makes sense if you realise popcorn is the short form of Popped Corn. A popcorn kernel contains soft starchy material in which is stored a teeny drop of water — the water taking up just 14 per cent of the entire volume. When the kernel is heated, the water turns into steam causing a build-up of pressure. This pressure causes the kernel to explode with a loud pop and the starch immediately bursts out creating soft fluffy munchable popcorn.



## That's Corny!

**Popcorn Movie:** A popular and highly entertaining movie.

**Corny:** Something that is dull and totally unoriginal (This probably originates from the fact that corn is associated with unsophisticated farmers).

**Cornball:** One who behaves in a mushy manner. (From 'corn ball' — a snack made of popcorn and caramel).

**Old maids:** Popcorn kernels should be kept in an air tight jar. If they dry out, they do not pop! This is why, sometimes, you get 'Old Maids'. This is a term for kernels that fail to pop! Just put the unpopped used kernels in an airtight jar, add a drop of water to it and shake it up. Let it sit for three days and then try again!

### Fact File

- ◆ Popcorn is a whole grain food that is not only low in calories, but a good source of fibre as well. One cup of unbuttered popcorn contains only 31–55 calories. Compare that with one small packet of French fries that contains 210 calories!
- ◆ Special varieties of corn are grown to yield popcorn. These ears of corn are smaller than usual and the kernels are really, really hard.
- ◆ During World War II, sugar was sent overseas for U.S. troops, and there wasn't enough to make candy so Americans switched over to popcorn instead of candy bars and began eating more popcorn than ever!

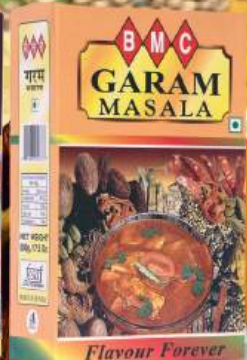






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### What's in a Name?

TWO old men, who had been neighbours and friends for several years, met daily for a game of cards. One fine day, one of them suddenly looked up from his cards and said, "I think we've known each other for many years, but I simply can't remember, no matter how hard I try....what is your name?"

There was an uncomfortable silence for a couple of minutes during which the man was beginning to wonder if he had offended his friend, when the other man spoke, "Okay...how soon do you need to know?"

### Office Oddities

ONE hot summer day, the air-conditioning system in an office conked out. There were about fifteen people sitting in cubicles in one room and everyone was sweating despite the running fan.

Suddenly, all of them started wrinkling their noses as they became aware of an awful odour wafting about them.

One lady popped her head out of her cubicle and said plaintively, "Heavens! As if the heat wasn't bad enough, now someone's deodorant isn't functioning properly." To which a man in the corner said, "It can't be me. I'm not wearing any."



A young man, fresh out of business school, joined a big multinational company as a trainee. On his first day on the job, he picked up the phone, dialled the kitchen and shouted pompously into the phone, "Get me a cup of coffee, quickly!"

The voice on the other end responded, "What?! How dare you! Do you know who you're speaking to?"

"No" replied the trainee, hesitantly.

"You've clearly dialled the wrong extension! It's the Managing Director of the company, you blunderbuss!"

The trainee yelled back, "And do you know who YOU are talking to, you FOOL?"

"No!" replied the Managing Director angrily.

"Thank God!" exclaimed the trainee and hurriedly kept the phone down.

### Parent Trap

TWO kids were talking to each other. One said, "I'm really worried. My dad works twelve hours a day to give me a nice home and good food. My mom spends the whole day cleaning and cooking for me. I'm worried sick!"

The other kid said, "What have you got to worry about? Sounds to me like you've got it made!"

The first kid said, "What if they try to escape?!"





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