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Important Days Celebrations in Schools

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY – 5th JUNE

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY (WED) was established by the UN General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Commemorated on **5 June** each year, WED is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

The agenda for WED is to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

WED, established under the premise of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), whose headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya, and is celebrated in more than 100 countries around the world. As a day that stimulates awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and public action, the first World Environment Day was celebrated in 1973. The Day is hosted every year by a different city with a different theme and is commemorated with an international exposition on the week that 5 June is on.



The theme for WED 2009 was 'Your Planet Needs You–Unite to Combat Climate Change'. It reflected the urgency for nations to agree on a new deal to combat climate change, and the links with overcoming poverty and improved management of forests. The hosting of WED 2009 by Mexico reflected the growing role of the Latin American country in the fight against climate change, including its growing participation in the carbon markets.

The past events included themes such as Only one Earth, Human Settlements, Water: Vital Resource for Life, Ozone Layer, Development Without Destruction, Only one Future for Our Children–Development Without Destruction, Managing and Disposing Hazardous Waste: Acid Rain and Energy, Desertification, Youth: Population and the Environment, A Tree for Peace, Environment and Shelter: More than a Roof, Global Warming, Climate Change, Poverty and the Environment, One Earth One Family, For Life on Earth, etc.

World Environment Day is celebrated in India with programmes of tree plantation, cultural activities by school students, drawing and elocution competitions, lectures on topics related to environment protection. Few companies conduct training for Management and labor regarding general practice and minor points where they can save the natural resources. Workshops are also organized to sensitize the youth to environment and climate change issues and empower them to act as proactive change agents for sustainable development and a safe future. Besides, various activities like quiz and movie screening on topics like domestic and industrial pollution and energy conservation, and presentation on global warming and carbon footprint calculation are also organized.

India was selected as the host of World Environment Day 2011 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Environment Day 2011 slogan was 'Forest: Nature at your service'. Forests cover 1/3 of the earth's land mass and play a key role in our battle against climate change, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere while storing carbon dioxide – this is what the theme aims to reinforce. The theme for World Environment Day 2012 was Green Economy: Does it include you? The first part of the theme focuses to deal with the subject of the Green Economy because for many the concept is yet a little too complex to understand. Whereas, the second part tries to define the essence of Green Economy in our lives and environment.

With blogs becoming an effective means of communication, on World Environment Day, the UNEP has started organizing blogging competitions to encourage people to protect the

environment. Thousands of entries were received this year from different parts of the world. After reviewing all entries, budding engineer, Ximena Prugue of Florida, USA, was declared the winner for her blog on the effects of deforestation in rural India.

The UNEP also confers international awards - The 'Champions of the Earth', 'UNEP Sasakawa Prize', 'The Seeds Awards', among others - to individuals or organizations on World Environment Day based on their innovation, vision and performance in protecting or benefiting the environment.

INDEPENDENCE DAY – 15th AUGUST

India is enlightened for its famous traditional culture and knowledge since a decade, that shows us a brighten path every time. Knowledge is based in our tradition, which flows ultimately, rectifying us to a progressive course. But, it is very sad to express that this knowledge was narrowed and wedged to a limit, just like a frog in the well. As per the



Indian history, many raja maharajas ruled; some did well and some tortured to our past generation. Then Britons ruled us for more than 100years giving so many pain and sting; which generated **a huge gap between slavery and knowledge**. It can be stated as, without knowledge there is no existence; only slavery deserves. And where knowledge found, there is the existence, the reality of life, which is freedom or independence. This is why Britons kept us far from knowledge, in the darkness. They blocked all the processes and paths of beliefs and judgments; only trained to follow the orders and preserve their entity and authority. This impacts Indians to join as clerks, police, and army personnel; and at last people thought these are the utmost and bright jobs for them. However, in real life they were fully suppressed with the power of slavery.

Slavery became a tendency among Indians. The Consciousness or tenor of slavery became a scale of consonance or adjustment among people. At that time, in **1789 French revolution** created and matured some of the Indians to fight against Britishers to get their freedom. People get aware, tied up the belt for freedom, equality and fraternity. In 1833, Briton government set a law to stop the system of slavery, but it could not make pleasing as the economical, social and political stress was too much vulgar in India and other countries.

In year 1857, people replied with various mechanisms, but the democratic tenor was not matured in their mind. They simply just wants Britons back off from our country. Indian fighters started the battle against Britons; but in counter they got only economical, social and political breakdowns. However, the decision taken by British and 1857 battle keyed-up the people without any sleep and rest. Same time, in 1859, British Bureaucrat, philosopher and economist **John Stuwart Mill's book "On Liberty"** did a fame and debate; where he expressed the rights of personal and economical freedom of any person in a state. He also told, every person has the rights over his body and mind.

In this rivalry, few Indians get to know about the spread-up of knowledge and science in other parts of world, and got alerted. Few went to European countries to gain the knowledge and few by staying at India get associated with European popularities. These people later enlighten the path of spirituality and consciousness among people. Such prominent personnel are **Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and Sri Aurobindo**. Swami Vivekananda awakened the people with religious thoughts and knowledge based speeches. He travelled around the world by giving religious speeches and at last escorted the Indians to rise against their freedom and independence.

It was the time, when Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and Sri Aurobindo as prominent people try to uplift and raise the people from the slavery of Britons; but people

were mostly affected by the changes occurred in western societies. Meanwhile, some became scholars in this facet and succeed to sustain the self-respect, and existence in creating a nation. The most prominent faces were **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose and Bhagat Singh**. Bal Gangadhar Tilak served his total life towards independent and swaraj (self-rule). He always said as, "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it". He also believe in work and encourages to every person participating with him as, a country shall be independent when everyone become punctilious and independent.

With this matching convention, Mahatma Gandhi move ahead to kill slavery and gauntness, with the help of his two weapons- truth and non-violence. Truth, the self-sufficient and clean-natured helps to protect ones' independent. In a vital time, if a person depends upon others, then s/he could not be called as an independent. Gandhi has shown with his work, what he says to others. Spinning wheel with him is the symbol of self-dependent.

Whole total, a number of self-dependent and self-sufficient leaders were born in this country, who eleutheros the people from the British control. India got its independent on 1947; afterwards tour begins towards re-formation of country. However, lack of wisdom tradition has been seen. Society could not come out of seigniorial oppilations and circumvolved in consumer civilization. This is the reason; India could not become absolute country even after a long struggle and political independence. Corruption is now playing a vital role; morality is just in books and stories. People are at fear and terror everywhere; there is no peace and serene in this country.

If we really need and want to create a newly re-formed country, we must arouse the dipped ancient knowledge and tradition in every citizen; which can generate and create a truthful social independent society; and stimulate our conception, behavior and a democratic tenor.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY- 28th FEBRUARY

Every year we celebrate **National Science Day** on **28th February** to honour our Nobel laureate Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman for his invention of the Raman effect through his experiments on the scattering of light.



In an effort to popularise the benefits of scientific knowledge and practical appropriation, 28th February is celebrated as National Science Day (NSD). Under the initiative of Rashtriya Vigyan Evam Prodyogiki Sanchar Parishad (RVSP) (National Council for Science & Technology Communication) of the Ministry of Science and Technology various programmes ranging from a day to a full month either beginning or culminating on February 28 are implemented. The activities include debates, quiz competitions, exhibitions, lectures, etc., involving college and school students and teachers. All programmes and activities revolve round a theme selected for focus every year.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Day is observed to mark the novel discovery of Raman Effect by the great Indian Physicist Sir C. V. Raman on 28th February, 1928. Raman Effect is a phenomenon in spectroscopy discovered by the eminent physicist while working in the laboratory of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of science, Kolkata. After two years of this discovery, Sir C. V. Raman brought the first Nobel Award for the country in 1930. Hence the National Science Day is a great day for Indian Science and scientific community.

Besides, National Science Day offers an opportunity to bring issues of science on to centre stage. The activities organized on the occasion provide public with an occasion to personally attend various programmes and be aware of the emerging issues of immediate concern. Organizing activities with the involvement of large number of people results into

purposeful interaction between the science fraternity and the common people for mutual benefit.

BASIC OBJECTIVES.

The basic objective of observation of National Science Day is to spread the message of importance of science and its application among the people. This is essential to accelerate the pace of development. Even in the 21st century and despite many significant achievements certain sections of our society are still guided by blind faith and beliefs, which is reflected in the quality of decision making on developmental issues.

Observation of NSD attempts at generating scientific minded citizens. Science has contributed a great deal to human welfare. Through the gospel of reason and experimental observation, by which it works, it has enabled man to acquire intellectual and mental excellence. From the materialistic point of view, ranging from environmental issues, disease eradication, space exploration, energy production, information highway to name a few, science and technology has broken barriers to bring peace and prosperity with a cleaner environment with sustainable use of resource for the benefit of mankind. Biotechnology is making a major impact on agriculture, health, environment, industry and pharmaceuticals. Communication at lower costs, with greater accessibility, is another product of technology.

It helps inculcate scientific temper among school children. Health and hygiene issues are prime concerns for the common people. The daily application of science like the use of clean drinking water, knowledge to eradicate contagious disease, the know how of various agricultural practices to increase crop production, the usefulness of biodiversity conservation, etc., should be disseminated to the future generation.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY

In 1986, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) asked the Government of India to designate February 28 as National Science Day. The event is now celebrated all over the country in schools, colleges, universities and other academic, scientific, technical, medical and research institutions. On the occasion of the first NSD (National Science Day) on 30 May 2000, the NCSTC announced institution of the National Science Popularization awards for recognizing outstanding efforts in the area of science communication and popularization. Sir C. V. Raman worked at Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, West Bengal, India during 1907 to 1933 on various topics

of Physics making discovery of the celebrated effect on scattering of light in 1928, which bears his name and that brought many accolades including the Nobel Prize in 1930. The American Chemical Society designated the 'Raman Effect' as an International Historic Chemical Landmark in 2013. by Mukil Antony

SIR C.V RAMAN

Nation pays tribute and expresses gratitude to Sir CV Raman and to all the scientists on this



day for their genius and dedication. It is a day, which attracts many young minds to take up science as their career and a day to see novel scientific achievements. The celebrations of this day include showcasing the country's competence in the field of science. The day has become significant as it reminds us the importance of science in societal transformation. Series of science-related events are also held on this day in the country to inspire people of all ages to work in the field of science, engineering and technology.

Sir CV Raman was born into a Hindu Brahmin family in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. Fortunately, he proved his academic excellence at a very young age. Raman passed his secondary school education at a tender age of eleven and entered Mrs. AVN College, where his father served as a professor in mathematics.

Two years later, he went to the prestigious Presidency College in Madras, and completed his B.Sc at the age of fifteen, topping the class with a gold medal in Physics. Barely at seventeen, he had finished his M.Sc obtaining the highest distinctions. Then, he joined the Indian Finance Department as Assistant Accountant General. But, he resigned from government service in 1917 and became professor in Physics at the University of Calcutta.

On February 28th, 1928, he announced the discovery of the Raman effect at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, and was awarded the 1930 Noble Prize in physics for his work. Raman was the first Asian and first non-White to get any Nobel Prize in science. He was elected to the Royal Society of London in 1924 and knighted by the British Empire in 1929.

In 1954, Raman was awarded the Bharat Ratna and honoured with the Lenin Peace Prize in 1957. He became the director of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1934 where he served as a professor in physics two years later. In 1947, Government appointed him as the first National Professor. He left the Indian Institute of Science in 1948 and set up the Raman Research Institute in Bangalore, serving as its director and remained active there until his death in 1970 at the age of 82

Science in contemporary India

Life is unimaginable without the application of science. Science has transported civilization from the era of cave dwellers to the time of robots.

Our scientists have achieved brilliant feats in recent years. The launching of Chandrayaan I, India's first mission to the moon by the Indian Space Research Organization on 22nd October 2008 from Satish Dhawan Space centre, Sriharikota, is an achievement to be proud of. Besides, the ISRO is confident of landing a motorized rover on the moon in 2012, as part of its second moon mission named Chandrayaan-II.

Science in the global economy

In wake of the current global economic downturn there are chances that science and technology may suffer a setback. As a lot of fund is needed in research and experiments, it is but natural that the poor condition of global economy may dry up funds going to this field. But the government should ensure that lack of opportunity and provisions should not discourage our scientists because the solution to most of the world's woes lies in their hands

REPUBLIC DAY – 26th JANUARY

Respected Dignitaries on the stage and my dear friends,

On the eve of India's ___rd Republic Day, let me wish all happy Republic Day.

Today is a very special day for all of us,



as the whole country celebrates India's Republic Day with pride remembering our great freedom fighters who have laid their life for our freedom. 26th January, being a very significant date makes us recall the memories of millions of individuals who stood united laying foundation for the growth and development of our nation. The freedom that we enjoy today is the restless effort of millions of men and women who stood strong for a general cause, making India free from foreign domination.

Looking back, our country had been laid upon on one of the world's oldest civilization with a large treasure of experience, knowledge and thoughts contributing a lot for building up this nation. The inspiring words given by our great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru and others has not only motivated the people during the colonial period but also motivate the young generation of India to hold the head high and move forward. It is the day on which the Indian constitution came in to being which is considered to the real building block of our country. B.R Ambedkar and Sardar Vallabhai Patel have worked at their best to construct the laws which stays firm uniting us under one flag.

During the past years our country had to confront with many obstacles and challenges which have been managed properly in due time. But still there are long lists of problems which have to be handled with care. India had become the home of millions living together with peace and harmony.

There are many Indian who have made us proud gaining much recognition listed on top spots and high ranks in various fields. Our country has achieved a prominent position tagging as one of the most active developing country. We have made our presence strong in technology, space exploration and various other fields. During the past the wise decision and well planning by our leaders have brought down the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

We still have to confront with crimes, corruption, external and internal terrorism which brings our head down before other countries. Let us strive forward and stand united for the good cause of the development of our nation.

BRIEF REPORT ON CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

The **CONSTITUTION OF INDIA** is the supreme law of India. It lays down the framework defining fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers, and duties of government institutions, and sets out fundamental rights, directive principles, and the duties of citizens. It is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world, containing 448 articles in 22 parts, 12 schedules and 118 amendments. Besides the Hindi version, there is an official English translation. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar is widely known as the father of the Indian Constitution.

The Constitution follows parliamentary system of government and the executive is directly accountable to legislature. Article 74 provides that there shall be a Prime Minister of India as the head of government. It also states that there shall be a President of India and a Vice-President of India under Articles 52 and 63. Unlike the Prime Minister, the President largely performs ceremonial roles.

The Constitution is federal in nature. Each State and each Union territory of India have their own government. Analogues to President and Prime Minister, is the Governor in case of States, Lieutenant Governor for Union territories and the Chief Minister. The 73rd and 74th Amendment Act also introduced the system of Panchayati raj in villages and municipalities. Also, Article 370 of the Constitution gives special status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, and came into effect on 26 January 1950. The date 26 January was chosen to commemorate the Purna Swaraj declaration of independence of 1930. With its adoption, the Union of India officially became the modern and contemporary Republic of India and it replaced the Government of India Act 1935 as the country's fundamental governing document. To ensure constitutional autochthony, the framers of constitution inserted Article 395 in the constitution and by this Article the Indian Independence Act, 1947 was repealed. The Constitution declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic, assuring its citizens of justice, equality, and liberty, and endeavors to promote fraternity among them. The words "socialist" and "secular" were added to the definition in 1976 by constitutional amendment (mini constitution). India celebrates the adoption of the constitution on 26 January each year as Republic Day.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

The Constitution was drafted by the Constituent Assembly, which was elected by the elected members of the provincial assemblies. Dr B.R. Ambedkar, Sanjay Phakey, Jawaharlal Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, Rajendra Prasad, Sardar



Vallabhbhai Patel, Kanaiyalal Munshi, Purushottam Mavalankar, Sandipkumar Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Nalini Ranjan Ghosh, and Balwantrai Mehta were some important figures in the Assembly. There were more than 30 members of the scheduled classes. Frank Anthony represented the Anglo-Indian community, and the Parsis were represented by H. P. Modi. The Chairman of the Minorities Committee was Harendra Coomar Mookerjee, a distinguished Christian who represented all Christians other than Anglo-Indians. Ari Bahadur Gururung represented the Gorkha Community. Prominent jurists like Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, Benegal Narsing Rau and K. M. Munshi, Ganesh Mavlankar were also members of the Assembly. Sarojini Naidu, Hansa Mehta, Durgabai Deshmukh, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur and Vijayalakshmi Pandit were important women members.

DR. BHIMRAO RAMJI AMBEDKAR is hailed as the prime architect of the Indian Constitution

The first temporary 2-day president of the Constituent Assembly was Dr Sachidanand Sinha. Later, Rajendra Prasad was elected president of the Constituent Assembly. The members of the Constituent Assembly met for the first time on 9 December 1946.

STRUCTURE

The Constitution, in its current form (September 2012), consists of a preamble, 22 parts containing 444 articles, 12 schedules, 2 appendices and 98 amendments to date.^[11]

PARTS

The individual Articles of the Constitution are grouped together into the following Parts:

- ✍ Preamble
- ✍ Part I – Union and its Territory
- ✍ **Part II** – Citizenship.
- ✍ Part III – Fundamental Rights.
- ✍ **Part IV**– Directive Principles of State Policy.
- ✍ **Part IVA** – Fundamental Duties.
- ✍ **Part** – The Union.
- ✍ **Part VI**– The States.
- ✍ **Part VI** – States in the B part of the First schedule (*Repealed*).
- ✍ **Part VIII** – The Union Territories
- ✍ Part XII – Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits
- ✍ Part XIII – Trade and Commerce within the territory of India
- ✍ Part XIV – Services Under the Union, the States.
- ✍ **Part XIVA** – Tribunals.
- ✍ Part XV – Elections
- ✍ Part XVI – Special Provisions Relating to certain Classes.
- ✍ Part XVII – Languages
- ✍ Part XVIII – Emergency Provisions
- ✍ Part XIX – Miscellaneous
- ✍ Part XX – Amendment of the Constitution

- ✍ IX – The Panchayats.
- ✍ Part IXA – The Municipalities.
- ✍ Part X – The scheduled and Tribal Areas
- ✍ Part XI – Relations between the Union and the States.
- ✍ Part XXI – Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions
- ✍ Part XXII – Short title, date of commencement, Authoritative text in Hindi and Repeals

SCHEDULES

Schedules are lists in the Constitution that categorize and tabulate bureaucratic activity and policy of the Government.

- ✍ **First Schedule** (Articles 1 and 4)– This lists the states and territories of India, lists any changes to their borders and the laws used to make that change.
- ✍ **Second Schedule** (Articles 59(3), 65(3), 75(6), 97, 125, 148(3), 158(3), 164(5), 186 and 221)– – This lists the salaries of officials holding public office, judges, and Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- ✍ **Third Schedule** (Articles 75(4), 99, 124(6), 148(2), 164(3), 188 and 219)—Forms of Oaths – This lists the oaths of offices for elected officials and judges.
- ✍ **Fourth Schedule** (Articles 4(1) and 80(2)) – This details the allocation of seats in the *Rajya Sabha* (the upper house of Parliament) per State or Union Territory.
- ✍ **Fifth Schedule** (Article 244(1)) – This provides for the administration and control of Scheduled Areas^[Note 2] and Scheduled Tribes^[Note 3] (areas and tribes needing special protection due to disadvantageous conditions).
- ✍ **Sixth Schedule** (Articles 244(2) and 275(1))— Provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- ✍ **Seventh Schedule** (Article 246)—The union (central government), state, and concurrent lists of responsibilities.
- ✍ **Eighth Schedule** (Articles 344(1) and 351)—The official languages.
- ✍ **Ninth Schedule** (Article 31-B) – Originally Articles mentioned here were immune from judicial review on the ground that they violated fundamental rights.
- ✍ **Tenth Schedule** (Articles 102(2) and 191(2))—"Anti-defection" provisions for Members of Parliament and Members of the State Legislatures.
- ✍ **Eleventh Schedule** (Article 243-D)—*Panchayat Raj* (rural local government).
- ✍ **Twelfth Schedule** (Article 243-W)—Municipalities (urban local government).

WORLD AIDS DAY – 1st DECEMBER

Started on **1st December** 1988, **World AIDS Day** is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. World AIDS Day is important for reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

According to UNAIDS estimates, there are now 34 million people living with HIV. During 2010 some 2.7 million people became newly infected with the virus, including an estimated 390,000 children. Despite a significant decline in the estimated number of AIDS-related deaths over the last five years, there were still an estimated 1.8 million AIDS-related deaths in 2010.

The vast majority of people with HIV and AIDS live in low- and middle-income countries. But HIV today is a threat to men, women and children on all continents around the world.

**HISTORY**

World AIDS Day was first conceived in August 1987 by James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter, two public information officers for the Global Programme on AIDS at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Bunn and Netter took their idea to Dr. Jonathan Mann, Director of the Global Programme on AIDS (now known as UNAIDS). Dr. Mann liked the concept, approved it, and agreed with the recommendation that the first observance of World AIDS Day should be 1 December 1988.

Bunn, a broadcast journalist on a leave-of-absence from his reporting duties at KPIX-TV in San Francisco, recommended the date of 1 December believing it would maximize coverage by western news media. Since 1988 was an election year in the U.S., Bunn suggested that media outlets would be weary of their post-election coverage and eager to find a fresh story to cover. Bunn and Netter determined that 1 December was long enough after the election and soon enough before the Christmas holidays that it was, in effect, a dead spot in the news calendar and thus perfect timing for World AIDS Day.

On 18 June 1986 KPIX'S "AIDS Lifeline" (a community education project initiated by Bunn and KPIX Special Projects Producer Nancy Saslow) was honored with a Presidential Citation for Private Sector Initiatives presented by President Ronald Reagan. Because of his role in "AIDS Lifeline" Bunn was asked by Dr. Mann, on behalf of the U.S. government, to take a

two-year leave-of-absence to join Dr. Mann, an epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control, and assist in the creation of the Global Programme on AIDS for the United Nations' World Health Organization. Mr. Bunn accepted and was named the first Public Information Officer for the Global Programme on AIDS. Bunn and Netter conceived, designed, and implemented the inaugural World AIDS Day observance – now the longest-running disease awareness and prevention initiative of its kind in the history of public health.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) became operational in 1996, and it took over the planning and promotion of World AIDS Day. Rather than focus on a single day, UNAIDS created the World AIDS Campaign in 1997 to focus on year-round communications, prevention and education.

In its first two years, the theme of World AIDS Day focused on children and young people. These themes were strongly criticized at the time for ignoring the fact that people of all ages may become infected with HIV and suffer from AIDS. But the themes drew attention to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, helped alleviate some of the stigma surrounding the disease, and helped boost recognition of the problem as a family disease.

In 2004, the World AIDS Campaign became an independent organization.

Each year, Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI have released a greeting message for patients and doctors on World AIDS Day.

In 2007, the White House began marking World AIDS Day with the iconic display of a 28-foot AIDS Ribbon on the building's North Portico. The display, now an annual tradition, quickly garnered attention, as it was the first banner, sign or symbol to prominently hang from the White House since the Abraham Lincoln administration.

AWARENESS

There are many people who throw caution to the winds and end up being affected with HIV/AIDS. This disease is transmitted from an infected person to others during unprotected sex, use of infected needles and from a mother to her newborn child. These facts are sometimes not known to all individuals and this is the reason why many innocent people are unknowingly affected with this disease.

By starting an awareness program one can hope to bring together masses of people and enlighten them on the ill effects of this disease. By bringing together individuals from all walks of life one can give them information on how the disease is contracted by individuals and the ways one can enlist to save themselves from contracting the disease. This knowledge given to the masses will prevent social stigma from becoming rampant and will

allow those affected with the disease to live a normal life. When you are choosing to enlighten people about this disease you don't have to be a relative or friend of a victim who has been affected with this disease. AIDS is a disease that doesn't choose its victims. It affects each and every individual that comes its way. Victims include babies, teen and old people. Their race, sex and age doesn't count when they are affected with the disease. Sometime people are infected even if it was no fault of theirs; this is in cases of newborn babies.

Community based programs are the best way to spread awareness about this disease. One can enlist help of local faith organization and NGO to help with humanitarian work involving spread of useful information regarding the disease. NGO's can help one care and support for those affected with the ailment. Faith sharing organization can do their part by educating the masses on the factors resulting to the disease. Schools and colleges can help by spreading awareness through sex education classes, through which young girls and boys get to know facts which will help them not to fall prey to this disease.

In order to combat AIDS and spread knowledge in a better way we need to put forth a community based plan and schedule it systematically so that each and every individual in a particular location gets required information. Stringing together a systematic plan is essential as in some communities the occurrence of HIV is low while in others the level is quite high. You also need to take into account practices like polygamy, dowry, superstitions and lack of health care when you consider awareness programs in localities where there are many poor people.

By using such a systematic plan we can hope to bring about a change in society for the good by informing individuals and at the same time providing a loving and caring atmosphere for those affected by this disease. A constructive, coordinated and consistent program will help orient the community to a higher success rate and in turn will help to combat HIV/AIDS in a better way. It is essential to get more and more people involved in an AIDS awareness program as this goes a long way in reducing incident as people are well informed regarding what to do and what not to do.

World AIDS Day provides an opportunity for all of us - individuals, communities and political leaders - to take on the challenge of getting to zero.

The red ribbon is an international symbol of AIDS awareness that is worn by people all year round and particularly around World AIDS Day to demonstrate care and concern about HIV and AIDS, and to remind others of the need for their support and commitment.

The red ribbon started as a "grass roots" effort; as a result there is no one official AIDS ribbon manufacturer, and many people make their own. It's easily done - just use some ordinary red ribbon and a safety pin!

If you want to take your awareness raising a step further then try finding a local event to take part in. Around the world there are hundreds of activities taking place to mark World AIDS Day, including candlelight vigils, art shows, marches and religious services. If you can't find anything in your area then why not organise an event yourself?

STATISTICS: WORLDWIDE

More than 35 million people now live with HIV/AIDS.

3.3 million of them are under the age of 15.

In 2012, an estimated 2.3 million people were newly infected with HIV.

260,000 were under the age of 15.

Every day nearly 6,300 people contract HIV—nearly 262 every hour.

In 2012, 1.6 million people died from AIDS.

210,000 of them were under the age of 15.

Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 75 million people have contracted HIV and nearly 36 million have died of HIV-related causes

GANDHI JAYANTHI – 2nd OCTOBER

India is called as the land of festivals. Some part or other of the nation has some festival or other, either small or big, those of various religions, beliefs, races and cultures. But few of these are celebrated on a national scale. One of these is Gandhi Jayanti, which is celebrated on the second of October every year in India. Gandhi Jayanti, India marks the birth of the father of the nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. 2nd October is one of the 3 officially declared national holidays of India and is observed in all states and Union territories of India.

About the Mahatma

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was given the title of Mahatma (great soul), which he indeed was. He was and is called fondly as gandhiji. His ideologies and philosophies are like

none other on earth. He was the pioneer of satyagraha- the resistance of tyranny through mass civil disobedience, and also firmly founded upon ahimsa or total non-violence-, which lead to India's independence. Gandhiji said that, u can hit me, u can kill me, u can insult me, but u can never forget me. It is almost impossible that gandhiji's name will be wiped out from the pages of history. The Indian currency notes have a picture of his, every city in India has a street named after him and statues of the Great Mahatma are made at many places. He believed in simplicity, truth, non violence and spiritual and practical purity. His highly effective ideologies still inspire people from all over the world. On Gandhi Jayanti, India a national holiday is declared.

Celebrations

2nd of October every year is marked by prayer services and tributes all over India, especially Raj ghat, which is Gandhi's memorial in New Delhi where he was cremated. Celebrations include prayers, commemorative ceremonies in different cities by colleges, local government institutions and socio-political institutions. In schools, painting and essay competitions are held and best awards are awarded for projects in schools. Themes are generally of glorifying peace, non-violence and Gandhi's effort in the Indian freedom struggle. Gandhiji's favorite song named Raghupathi Raghava Rajaram is sung in memory of his on this day. No wonder that the government of India saw a need to declare a national holiday for just the birthday of such a person. He was none other than Mahatma Gandhi, the man of the previous century.

MAHATMA GANDHI

Gandhiji's full name was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He was born on October 2, 1869 in a town called Porbandar, Gujarat. He was the architect of India's freedom and one of the

greatest men of this century. Mahatma Gandhi's life was dedicated to the ideals of truth, non-violence and love.

Young Gandhi had his primary education up to the seventh year at Porbandar. Then his education continued at Rajkot. Once an Inspector of Schools visited the school. The teacher dictated some English words. Gandhiji had spelt the word 'Kettle' incorrectly. The teacher noticed this, and made signs to Gandhiji to correct it by copying from his neighbour. But Gandhiji did not do so. He also felt that the same teacher, who had taught him that copying was bad, was not right in prompting him to do so. Still, the respect he had for his teacher did not grow less. When Mahatma Gandhi was only nineteen years old, he went to England to become a barrister. He obtained the degree of Barrister-at-Law and started practising law in South Africa.

Once he had to make a journey by train,, so he bought a first-class ticket. During the journey, an officer of the railway asked him to vacate his seat for a white man, and to move to the van on the train. Mahatma Gandhi refused. The railway officials, with the help of the police, had his things thrown out. He was also removed from the carriage by force. Thus Gandhiji was subject to untold shame. This incident transformed him. Gandhi started an organisation and called it 'The Natal Indian Congress'. It was to carry on the struggle of the Indians against racial discrimination. He also started a newspaper called 'The Indian Opinion'. The paper became an organ to give information about the struggle.

Mahatma Gandhi stayed on in South Africa for nearly 21 years to fight against racial discrimination against Indian settlers. He propagated the concept of *Satyagraha* (*satya* means truth and *agraha* firmness). It was the use of 'Soul-Force' against 'Brute-Force' or violence.

He trained men, women and children as volunteers. He called his band a 'Peace Brigade'. He won his battle when, finally, the South African Government gave in to his demands. Gandhi now became a world-renowned person. He soon earned the title of 'Mahatma' (maha means great and atma means soul) among Indians all over the world.

A SHORT CHRONOLOGICAL SKETCH OF MAHATMA GANDHI

2 October, 1869	Birth at Porbunder in Gujarat (Sudamapuri, Kathiawad)
1876	Beginning of Education at Rajkot
1883	Married with Kasturba at Porbunder
4th September, 1888	Left for London to study Law
12 January, 1891	Passed the Law examination
10-11 June, 1891	Called to the British Bar and enrolled in the High Court
12 June, 1891	Set sail for home
6 July, 1891	In India, introduced to Raychandbhai (Whom Gandhiji regarded as his Guru)
16 November, 1891	Applied for enrollment in the Bombay High Court
24 May, 1892	Came to Bombay to start practice in the High Court as Barrister
April, 1893	Representing a Porbunder firm set sail for South Africa
June, 1893	At Pietermaritzberg station Gandhiji was ordered to go into the van compartment of the train although he held a first class ticket. On his refusal, a constable was brought and he was forcibly ejected, his bundles pitched out after him. He was left to shiver in the waiting room all night.
22 May, 1894	Proposed an Organisation to watch the interest of Indians and to oppose colour bar against them in South Africa.
22 August, 1894	Founded Natal Indian Congress to fight colour prejudice
3 September, 1894	Admitted to Natal Supreme Court despite opposition by Natal Law Society
17 October, 1899	Out break of Boer War and Gandhiji joined Ambulance Corps
18 October, 1899	Started for India assuring to return to South Africa in his service were to be needed
27 December, 1901	Moved a resolution on South Africa at Calcutta Congress session.
20 November, 1902	At the growing pressure from Indians in South Africa, returned

	to South Africa
1903	Founded Transvaal British India Association
1 October, 1904	Took over entire management responsibility of 'Indian Opinion'
Nov.-Dec., 1904	Founded Phoenix settlement
September, 1906	Started Passive Resistance Movement
13-22 November, 1909	Wrote 'Hind Swaraj' in Gujarati on board S.S.Kildonan Castle on the way to South Africa from London
9 January, 1915	Returned to India
25 May, 1915	Founded Satyagraha Ashram at Kochrab, Ahmedabad
April, 1917	Champaran Satyagraha
1918	Ahemadabad mill workers & Kheda Peasant Satyagraha
13 April, 1919	Massacre at mass meeting at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Gandhiji implored people to be calm
8 October, 1919	First issue of 'Young India' under Gandhiji's Editorship
1920-21	Khilafat and non-Co-operation Movement
5 February, 1922	Chauri Chaura incident and withdrawal of Non Co-operation Movement
10 March, 1922	Arrested. On 21 March sent to Yervada Jail. Remained in jail till March 1924.
17 September, 1924	Started 21 days fast for Hindu-Muslim unity
December, 1924	Presided over the Belgaum Congress
December, 1928	Attended Calcutta Congress where a draft Constitution of India was adopted on 31 December, 1928
December, 1929	Gandhiji's resolution on Complete Independence was adopted at open session of Lahore Congress along with immediate boycott of legislatures.
26 January, 1930	Pledge of Independence day taken all over India
19 February, 1930	All India Congress Committee adopted Civil Disobedience programme
12 March, 1930	At 6.30 a.m. with 78 Ashramaties Gandhiji started his famous Dandi March to break the Salt Law
4 May, 1930	Arrested and taken to Yervada jail
26 January, 1931	Released from Jail
5 March, 1931	Gandhi-Irwin Pact was announced
29 March, 1931	Left for London to attend Round Table Conference

5 December, 1931	Decided to restart Non Co-operation Movement
4 January, 1932	Started fast against separate electorate for the Harijans
8 May, 1933	Started 21 days fast for the improvement of Harijan's condition and was released at 6 p.m. from jail
31 July, 1933	Individual Civil Disobedience started
1 August, 1933	Arrested and remained in Jail till 23 Aug.1933
17 September, 1934	Stated "I am going to resign from the Congress"
28 October, 1934	Declared his intention to retire from Congress
1936	Founded Sevagram Ashram at Wardha
1937	Wardha Scheme of Education
May & Oct-Nov, 1938	North West Frontier tours
3 March, 1939	Started fast unto death at Rajkot and on settlement of the issue ended fast on 7 March, 1939
15 October, 1940	Started Anti-war individual Satyagraha with Vinoba as the first Satyagrahi
15 January, 1942	'My political successor is Jawaharlal' Gandhiji said.
5 March, 1942	Cripps arrives
30 March, 1942	The idea of 'Quit India' burst upon Gandhiji
8 March, 1942	Addressed All India Congress Committee of Bombay and Quit India resolution was passed.
9 August, 1942	Arrested and taken to Agakhan Palace-Jail
15 August, 1942	Lighted the pyre of Mahadev Desai, his secretary who died in Jail
10 February, 1943	Started fast in Agakhan Palace-Jail
3 March, 1943	Ended fast-in-Jail
22 February, 1944	At 7.35 p.m. Kasturba died. The saree woven from yarn spun by Gandhiji was wrapped round her body
6 May, 1944	Released from Jail
March, 1945	Cabinet Mission
Jan-July, 1945	Simla Conference
1946	Cabinet plan accepted
10 October, 1946	In Naokhali and other districts in East Bengal inhuman atrocities started
6 November, 1946	Left Calcutta for Naokhali by a special train
Jan-Dec., 1947	Toured troubled areas of Bengal, Bihar & Delhi
15 August, 1947	At Calcutta, fasted as country was cut into two pieces

13 January, 1948	Started fast in Delhi against communal riots
16 January, 1948	'I do not wish to live if peace is not established in India and Pakistan'
18 January, 1948	Broke fast by taking orange juice from Maulana Azad
20 January, 1948	A bomb exploded during prayer
27 January, 1948	Wrote that Congress should cease as political body and should devote on his way to evening prayer ground at Birla House, Delhi.

AMBEDKAR JAYANTHI – 14th APRIL

DR. BHIMRAO RAMJI AMBEDKAR or simply B.R. Ambedkar was born on April 14, 1891 at MHOW (Military Headquarter of War) in Madhya Pradesh. He was the architect of Indian Constitution and is also known as the "Father of Indian Constitution".

He had dedicated his entire life for the upliftment of the deprived section of the society. Hence many Indians and even people from other countries revere him as a great social reformer. He also played a significant role in India's freedom struggle.

Dr. Ambedkar was one of the first 'untouchables' to obtain a college education in India. He went on to United States and England to pursue higher studies, where he earned a law degree and multiple doctorates for his study and research in law, economics and political science.

Returning home as a famous scholar, Ambedkar practiced law for a few years before he began publishing journals advocating political rights and social freedom for India's untouchables.

Dr. Ambedkar spent his life fighting against the system of untouchability and the caste system. He is also credited for having sparked the Dalit Buddhist movement. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the chairman of the drafting committee that was constituted by the

Constituent Assembly to draft a constitution for the independent India; he was also the first Law Minister of India.

He was honored with Bharat Ratna in 1990, India's highest civilian award. The day 14th April is celebrated all over the country as his birthday (Jayanti) and it is also a public holiday.

Various Dalit organizations carry out huge processions on this day in the memory of this great soul. On this very day various organizations organize several activities including rally and cultural programs.

Dalit Melas are held in various parts of the country. Ambedkar Jayanti is observed both in government and private organizations. Prayers, meetings and memorial speeches are organized in various state capitals.

B. R. AMBEDKAR

BHEEM RAO AMBEDKAR was born on April 14, 1891 at Ambedkar village in Ratnagiri District of Maharashtra state. His father was Ramji. He was the 14th son of his father.

Ambedkar was a brilliant child. His teacher at school, who noticed this, was impressed and added a surname to him. It is also said that his earlier name was Bheemrao Ambedkar and it was his teacher who made it Ambedkar and gave him the full name as Bheemrao Ramji Ambedkar.

After leaving school, Ambedkar studied F.A., at the Elphinstone College, Bombay (Mumbai). With the help of the Rajah of Baroda, Ambedkar went to Colombia University, America and completed his B.A., and M.A., degrees, in 1912 and 1913 respectively. For his M.A. degree he wrote a research paper "Commerce in India". He wrote many more research essays while staying at Colombia. They are:

(1) Religious in India and their origin, (2) Nationalists in India—a historical study. For the latter research paper he was awarded Ph.D., by the Colombia University. With this he became Dr. Ambedkar.

He went to England to study law. Along with law, he studied Economics and political Science. He acquired the degree of Barrister-at-law and also M.Sc. degree simultaneously. Dr. Ambedkar hails from the community of Mahars who are condemned as untouchables. On this account Dr. Ambedkar had to face a number of problems. He was looked down upon and ill-treated. Hence he wanted to agitate against untouchability.

In 1918, he took up a job as a professor in a college and in 1920 he took part in the first meet of the Depressed Classes held at Nagpur. In 1923, he started practice at Bombay High Court. In 1924, he started a paper "Bahishkrita hitakarini". He took up the cause of the Depressed Classes before the Simon Commission which visited India in 1928. He attended the First Round Table Conference held at London and argued that the Depressed Classes should have voting rights and the right to elect their own leaders.

Dr. Ambedkar had a sharp mind. He said that all men are equal in all matters. Once he entered the Veereswar temple where Mahars were not allowed. A case was filed against him by the temple authorities. The court justified the action of Dr. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar could not reconcile to the domination of upper castes. It was Mahatma Gandhi who could convince Dr. Ambedkar against this and bring him back to the mainstream.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was first Law Minister of India after we got Independence in 1947. He was also the chairman of the drafting committee of our Constitution and in fact, he is one of the main architects of our Constitution. As a brilliant law minister and an intelligent person, he could include in the Constitution, the required safeguards for the depressed Classes. On November 1, 1949 the Draft Constitution was approved by the Government and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was since then called, the "Modern Manu of India".

The caste system in Hinduism forced Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to embrace Buddhism along with 5 lakhs of other Depressed Class people. He attended a conference of Buddhists in Sri Lanka in 1950. He was a lover of books. On a visit to New York, it is said that he purchased as many as 2000 books. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar passed away on December 6, 1956.

KANNADA RAJYOTSAVA – 1st NOVEMBER

KARNATAKA or *Kannada Rajyotsava* (Kannada: ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವ; *Karnataka Formation Day*; literally "Birth of the Karnataka state") is celebrated on 1 November every year. This was



the day in 1956 when all the Kannada language-speaking regions of South India were merged to form the state of Karnataka. The Rajyotsava day is listed as a government holiday in the state of Karnataka and is celebrated by Kannadigas across the world. It is marked by the announcement and presentation of the honours list for Rajyotsava Awards by the Government of Karnataka, hoisting of Karnataka flag with an address from the Chief Minister and Governor of the state along with community festivals, orchestra, Kannada book releases and concerts.

HISTORY

Aluru Venkata Rao was the first person who dreamt of unifying the State as early as 1905 with the *Karnataka Ekikarana* movement. In 1950, India became republic and different provinces were formed in the country on the basis of language spoken in the particular region and this gave birth to the state of Mysore including various places in south India, which were earlier ruled by the kings.

The Kannada flag, used as an emblem of Kannada culture

On November 1 in 1956, Mysore state, comprising most of the area of the erstwhile princely state of Mysore, was merged with the Kannada-speaking areas of the Bombay and Madras presidencies, as also of the principality of Hyderabad, to create a unified Kannada-speaking sub national entity. North Karnataka, Malnad (Canara) and old Mysore were thus the three regions of the newly formed Mysore state.

The newly unified state initially retained the name "Mysore", which was that of the erstwhile princely state which formed the core of the new entity. But the people of North Karnataka did not favour the retention of the name Mysore, as it was closely associated with the erstwhile principality and the southern areas of the new state. In deference to this logic, the name of the state was changed to "Karnataka" on November 1, 1973. Devaraj Urs was the Chief Minister of the state when this landmark decision was taken. Other people credited for the unification of Karnataka include litterateurs like K. Shivaram Karanth, Kuvempu, Masti Venkatesha Iyengar, A. N. Krishna Rao and B. M. Srikantaiah.

CELEBRATIONS

Rajyotsava day is celebrated with great joy and vigour all over the state of Karnataka. The entire state wears a festive look on this day as the red and yellow Kannada flags are hoisted at different strategic locations across the state and the Kannada anthem ("*Jaya Bharatha Jananiya Tanujate*") is chanted. The flag is hoisted at political party offices and several localities even as youth in many areas take out processions on two-wheelers. Religion not being a factor, the Rajyotsava is celebrated by Hindus, Muslims and Christians as well.

CHILDRENS DAY – 14th NOVEMBER

Children's Day is to celebrate "childhood". On Children's Day tribute is paid to all children in the world. Children are loved by one and all. They win over our hearts with their angelic eyes and innocent smiles. It makes one realise that maybe that's the way God wanted us to be.

India's first prime minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was born on November 14. After his death in 1963, his birthday has been celebrated as children's Day in India. Children's Day is not just a day to let the future generation have its say. It is a day to remember a leader who, in his quiet but determined way, laid the foundation to convert a nascent nation into a world power.

But why Children's Day? Apart from being known for his skills as a statesman, Nehru was also immensely fond of children. The more popular and famous of Nehru's pictures show him with children.

In all the photographs Nehru's joy at being with children is apparent. When he is not sharing pleasantries with them, the expression of intense concentration as he listens to them reveals his commitment and attitude to children. Children to Nehru were little adults in the

making.Nehru, to children, is never the Indian political leader and prime minister. He is always Chacha Nehru - Nehru Uncle.

Children's Day is celebrated all over India, especially at the school level. There are also community activities with stress on children's involvement.

The story also goes that he started to wear a rose on his jacket after a child pinned one on it.The national children's centre, Jawahar Bal Bhavan, is also named after Jawaharlal Nehru. Children's Day is literally that. It is the day when children all over the country are pampered with goodies. From the schoolchild's point of view, the best thing perhaps is that it is a special day at school - they need not wear uniforms and are given sweets.

CELEBRATIONS

Most schools have cultural programmes for the day, with the students managing it all. All over the country, various cultural, social, and even corporate, institutions conduct competitions for children. Children's Day is a day for children to engage in fun and frolic. Schools celebrate this day by organising cultural programmes.Teachers of the school perform songs and dances for their students. Various competitions like quizzes, fancy dress competitions, elocutions are organised on this day. Children are also treated to a movie and lunch.Television networks have in the recent years started to air special programmes all day long for kids on November 14, making this day a special treat.

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, the son of Motilal Nehru, was born on 14th November, 1889 at Allahabad. He was born in an aristocratic family. His father was a famous lawyer. With successful early education at home Jawaharlal was sent to Harrow, the best public school in

England. He was a brilliant student. Then he read in the Trinity College of the Cambridge University.

Jawaharlal was a true patriot. While a student in England, he kept close touch with the political events in India. He had been inspired by the life of Garibaldi, an Italian patriot. He had an ambition to be a patriot. With degree of law he came back to India and joined the bar at the Allahabad High court.

In 1916, he married Kamala. He met the top Indian leaders like G.K. Gokhale, Dr. Annie Bessant, C.R.Das and M.K.Gandhi. He met M.K.Gandhi at the Congress Session in Lucknow. In 1920 he joined the Non-co-operation Movement started by Gandhiji. He suffered imprisonment for the first time in 1921 for taking part in the Non-co-operation Movement.

The more he suffered the more he loved his country. He was again imprisoned in 1930 and in 1932 for taking part in the Civil Disobedience Movement. In 1942 he also joined Gandhiji's Quit India Movement. He was sentenced to imprisonment till 1945. Finally, on 15th August 1947, India got her freedom. Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister of India.

Pandit Nehru was a true diplomat. He kept good relations with other countries. He started the Non-Alignment Movement. He was also the founder of Panchashila. He was a strong supporter of industrialisation. He wanted to change the fate of India by setting up more and more factories.

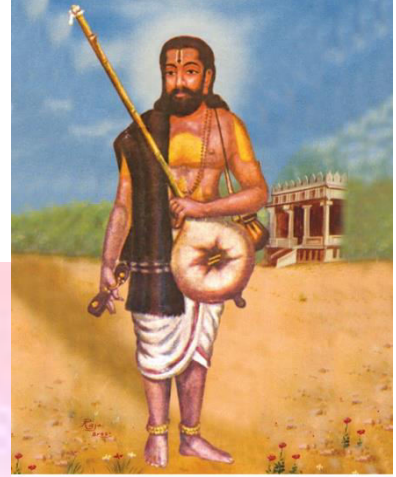
As the Prime Minister of India, he travelled everywhere and India. He was a broad minded person. He never wanted his countrymen to remain in the grip of illiteracy, ignorance and superstition. He wanted the spread of science in India. He believed that India could be able to join the progress of the world only through the improvement of science and technology.

Jawaharlal Nehru was a lover of Indian Culture. He had a high appreciation for the rivers, the mountains, the festivals and the sculpture of India. He was a great writer and a thinker. He wrote such famous books as "Autobiography", "the Discovery of India" and "Glimpses of World History". He was a great speaker and delivered his speech at many places in India and abroad. He advocated India's stand on non-violence, love and universal brotherhood.

Nehru passed away on 27th May 1964. His death was mourned by the world.

KANAKADASA JAYANTHI- 24th NOVEMBER

KANAKA DASA (Kannada: ಕನಕ ದಾಸ) (1509–1609) was a great poet, philosopher, musician and composer from Karnataka. He is known for his Kirtanes and Ugabhoga compositions in the Kannada language for Carnatic music. Like some other dasas, he often used colloquial language for his compositions. He was a disciple of Vyasathirtha and a follower of Dwaita philosophy propounded by Madhvacharya.



Kanakadasa

LIFE

Thimmappa Nayaka was his original name and he belonged to chieftain (Kuruba Gowda) / (Dhangar) family of Kaginele in Haveri district. He was born to the Kuruba Gowda couple Biregowda and Bachchamma at Bada village. Kanaka Nayaka being of the warrior community (Kuruba Gowda) his defeat in the field of battle, directed him to the path of devotion. He came to be called **Kanaka Nayaka** as he found a treasure-trove of gold (*kanaka* means gold in Kannada). Kanaka Dasa was well educated and capable of analyzing the society microscopically. Based on one of his compositions it is interpreted that after he severely got injured in a war and was miraculously saved, he gave up his profession as a warrior and devoted his life to composing music and literature with philosophy explained in common man's language. It appears that he started traveling to places a lot to gain more knowledge. However he had maintained a balanced view about all faiths At a young age he authored poetries *Narasimha stotra*, *Ramadhyana Mantra*, and *Mohanatarangini*

WRITINGS

His writing started showing his innovativeness in using day to day activities of common man. For e.g. *Ramadhyana Charite* is a poetic expression of conflicts between rich and poor classes where he uses ragi (staple food of poor and high in nutrients) and rice (main food of rich but not as rich in nutrients) to synonymously to represent poor and rich. He joined Haridasa movement and became a follower of Vyasaraaja who named him as Kanakadasa. His poems and krithi deal with many aspects of life and expose the futility of external rituals. They stress the need for cultivation of moral values in life. Similar to Purandara

Daasa, Kanaka Daasaru's compositions addressed social issues in addition to devotional aspect. Kanaka Daasa was very aggressive and straight forward in criticizing evils of society such as superiority claims using caste system. His poem "Kula Kula Kula vendu hodedhada dhiri" asks humans not to segregate themselves from one another, because every human is born the same way, everyone eats the same food and drinks the same water, hence none is superior or inferior to one another.

The deity he worshiped was Adhikeshava of Kaginele, presently in Haveri district of Karnataka. Kaginele, now a village, was a prosperous place and trading center in the Middle Ages. Out of the many of his compositions, about 240 are fully accountable today. All his Karnataka Music compositions end with mudra (signature) *Kaginele Adhikeshava*. In addition to being a poet he worked as a social reformer by down playing dogmatic communities that were suppressing the disadvantaged communities. Kanakadasa made extreme effort in reforming the disadvantaged communities by convincing them to give-up their age old obsolete social practices and adapt to the changing world. He effectively used music to convey his philosophy. He lived at Tirupathi in his last days. He is one of the greatest musician, composer, poet, social reformer, philosopher and saints that India has ever seen.'

MAJOR WORKS

1. Nalacharitre
2. Haribhaktisara
3. Nrisimhastava
4. Ramadhanyacharitre, a rare work on class struggle
5. Mohanatarangini

Kanakadasa wrote about two hundred forty Karnataka Music compositions (Kirtane, Ugabhogas, padas and mundiges or philosophical songs) besides five major works. His compositions are published in many languages. For example about 100 songs in Kannada and 60 songs in English are published in popular books.

His writings were unique in style. In Ramadhanyacharitre, an allegory on the conflict between the socially strong and weak castes and classes, presented as an argument between two foodgrains, rice and ragi, is a most creative literary piece with a powerful social message. In the work, rice represents the socially powerful and ragi (millet) represents the working people. The two grains come before Rama to argue their case and establish their superiority. In the end Rama sends both of them to prison for six months. At the end of the

period, rice has turned rotten while the hardy ragi survives, earning Rama's blessings. This shows the intelligence of Kanaka Daasa in trying to reform the society. He was blunt in criticizing those who opposed the good practices. In one his compositions he says, "Eternal hell is for those who criticize noble men, for those who condemn teachings of jagadguru Madhvacharya...".

KANAKADASA'S FAMOUS PHRASE

I shall go (to heaven) if my-self (my selfishness) goes (away)

This was a famous phrase Kanakadaasa is quoted to have said in front of all vedantis, when asked who will attain Moksha. This question was asked by Vyasatirtha in a sabha, to actually bring light into Kanakadasara bhakti. Kanakadasa humbly but assertively tells that no one there will attain moksha. Only he can attain Moksha; on hearing this the pandits present there were taken aback and were very angry. Then Vyasatirtha asks Kanaka to explain what it means, then he goes ahead and explains the meaning, which actually means who has lost the Naanu ("self"/"I") i.e.; ego will attain Moksha.

CELEBRATIONS

In tribute to the great saint, the Government of Karnataka has declared November 14 as a state holiday. All the government offices, schools and colleges around the state celebrate the birth anniversary of Shri Kanaka Dasa. Famous Singers Like Puttur Narasimha Nayak and Vidyabhushana were popularising the songs of kanakadasa in modern age

Kannada's veteran actor Dr Rajkumar enacted as KankaDasa in the movie Bhakta Kanakadasa and the movie was a superhit

Film director and playwright Girish Karnad made a documentary film titled, *Kanaka-Purandara* (English, 1988) on the two medieval Bhakti poets of Karnataka.

TEACHERS DAY – 5th SEPTEMBER

There was a great Philosopher in India. He was named Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. He was also a teacher. As a professor he taught in many universities in India and abroad. He was also a great freedom fighter. But the Indians know him more as the former president of India. He had a deep love for the profession of teaching. He loved the teacher's community.

So his birth day is observed as the Teachers' Day in India. He was born on 5 September 1888. He was a philosopher, educationist, humanist and religious thinker. He was also a gifted speaker and a writer, a statesman and diplomat. He wrote many books on religion and philosophy.

Dr. Radhakrishnan believed that the teachers are the real makers of the future citizens of India. Without the good advice of a teacher, nobody can be great. Teachers played a very important role in ancient India. They taught discipline, morality and manners. Those who obeyed their teachers became famous in different fields.

Thus, the tradition of obeying teachers is rooted in India's past. But teachers are neglected at present. They do not get due prestige in our society. Radhakrishnan pleaded for the upliftment in the status of the teachers in India. First of all, they should be shown proper respect.

The Teachers' Day is observed on 5th September every year to pay honour to Dr. Radhakrishnan as well as to the teachers' community. In educational institutions all over India, this day is observed with seriousness. Students go to the houses of their teachers, offer them garlands and flower bouquets and in return seek their blessings. The teachers also do

not hesitate to shower their blessings on their students. This is how; a healthy relationship is maintained between students and teachers in educational institutions.

But it is sad to note that the teacher-student relationship has deteriorated at present. Instead of being modest, the students at present have become malicious. They have no love for learning. So they have no respect for their teachers. Some money minded teachers have also contaminated the atmosphere of teaching in schools and colleges. At present it is necessary for us to realise the value of the Teachers' Day.

SAVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN

SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN was born on 5th September, 1888, in Tamil Nadu. He had his early education in Christians Missionary Institution in Tamil Nadu. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees from Madras Christian College.

He worked for some time as Assistant Lecturer in Logic at Madras Presidency College, and then, became the Professor of Philosophy at the University of Mysore. Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, the renowned vice-chancellor of Kolkata University, offered him the King-George V chair



of Mental and Moral Science when Radhakrishnan was only 30 years old.

During 1931-1936 Radhakrishnan was the vice chancellor of Andhra University. Then he worked as a professor in Eastern Religion and Ethics at Oxford University for about three years. During 1939-1948, he was the Vice chancellor of the Benares Hindu University. He

wrote many articles and books on religion and philosophy. He delivered lectures in many countries of the world.

During 1952–62, Radhakrishnan was the Vice President, of India. In 1954, he was awarded the 'Bharat Ratna' award along with C.Rajagopalachari and C.V. Raman. During 1962–1967, he was the President of India. In 1969, he enjoyed a life of retirement.

Radhakrishnan was a great educationalist and humanist. His birthday is celebrated as the 'Teacher's Day' all over the country, by the Indian students. On this day, they show love and respect to their respective teachers as a mark of respect to the great Indian, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who passed away in 1975.

WOMENS DAY- 8th MARCH

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD), originally called **International Working Women's Day**, is marked on March 8 every year. In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements. Started as a Socialist political event, the holiday blended in the culture of many countries, primarily Eastern Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet bloc. In many regions, the day lost its political flavor and became simply an occasion for men to express their love for women in a way somewhat similar to a mixture of Mother's Day and Valentine's Day. In other regions, however, the original political and human rights theme designated by the United Nations runs strong, and political and social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner.

The first *national* Women's Day was observed on 28 February 1909 in the United States following a declaration by the Socialist Party of America. In August 1910, an International Women's Conference was organized to precede the general meeting of the Socialist Second International in Copenhagen. Inspired in part by the American socialists, German Socialist Luise Zietz proposed the establishment of an annual 'International Woman's Day' (singular) and was seconded by communist Clara Zetkin, although no date was specified at that conference. Delegates (100 women from 17 countries) agreed with the idea as a strategy to

promote equal rights, including suffrage, for women. The following year, on 18 March, 1911, IWD was marked for the first time, by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. In the Austro-Hungarian Empire alone, there were 300 demonstrations. In Vienna, women paraded on the Ringstrasse and carried banners honouring the martyrs of the Paris Commune. Women demanded that women be given the right to vote and to hold public office. They also protested against employment sex discrimination. Americans continued to celebrate National Women's Day on the last Sunday in February.

Female members of the Australian Builders Labourers Federation march on International Women's Day 1975 in Sydney

In 1913 Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February (by Julian calendar then used in Russia). In 1917 demonstrations marking International Women's Day in Saint Petersburg on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar) initiated the February Revolution.

Following the October Revolution, the Bolshevik Alexandra Kollontai persuaded Lenin to make it an official holiday in the Soviet Union, and it was established, but was a working day until 1965. On May 8, 1965 by the decree of the USSR Presidium of the Supreme Soviet International Women's Day was declared a non-working day in the USSR "in commemoration of the outstanding merits of Soviet women in communistic construction, in the defense of their Fatherland during the Great Patriotic War, in their heroism and selflessness at the front and in the rear, and also marking the great contribution of women to strengthening friendship between peoples, and the struggle for peace. But still, women's day must be celebrated as are other holidays."

From its official adoption in Russia following the Soviet Revolution in 1917 the holiday was predominantly celebrated in communist and socialist countries. It was celebrated by the communists in China from 1922, and by Spanish communists from 1936. After the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1, 1949 the state council proclaimed on December 23 that March 8 would be made an official holiday with women in China given a half-day off.

In the West, International Women's Day was first observed as a popular event after 1977 when the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace.

VALMIKI JAYANTHI – 18th OCTOBER

VALMIKI (during Lord Rama's time) is celebrated as the poet harbinger in Sanskrit literature. He is the author of the epic *Ramayana*, based on the attribution in the text of the epic itself. He is revered as the *Adi Kavi*, which means *First Poet*, for he discovered the first *śloka* i.e. first verse, which set the base and defined the form to Sanskrit poetry.

At least by the 1st century AD, Valmiki's reputation as the father of Sanskrit classical poetry seems to have been legendary. Ashvagoshā writes in the *Buddhacarita*:

"The voice of Valmiki uttered poetry which the great seer Chyavana could not compose."

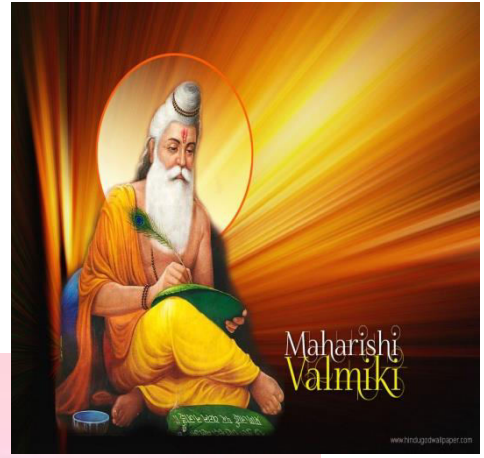
This particular verse has been speculated to indicate a familial relationship between Valmiki and Chyavana, as implied by the previous and subsequent verses.

EARLY LIFE

Valmiki was the son of Sumali. Maharishi Valmiki was born in a shudra family. His birth name was Ratnakara. But the trust factor of the sources is questionable. When everyone left to travel south Sumali took his son and wife and moved near the bank of Vipasa River (Northern India). The *Uttara Khanda* tells the story of Valmiki's early life, as an unnamed highway robber who used to rob people before killing them. Other versions name him Valya Meet. Robbing people who passed by was the only source of money for him.

WRITER OF THE RAMAYANA

The *Ramayana* tells the story of a prince, Rama of Ayodhya, whose wife Sita is abducted by the demon (*Rākshasa*) king of Lanka, Rāvana. The Valmiki *Ramayana* is dated variously from 500 BC to 100 BC, or about co-eval with early versions of the *Mahabhārata*. As with many traditional epics, it has gone through a long process of interpolations and redactions, making it impossible to date accurately. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, it is pertinent to



note that Valmiki is also quoted to be the contemporary of Rama. Rama met Valmiki during his period of exile and had interacted with him. Valmiki had Sita in his hermitage where Kusa and Lava were born to Sita. Valmiki taught Ramayana to Kusa and Lava, who later sang the divine story in Ayodhya during the Aswamedha yaga congregation, to the pleasure of the audience, whereupon, King Rama summoned them to his royal palace. Kusa and Lava sang the story of Rama there, and Rama confirmed that whatever had been sung by these two children was entirely true.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY- 10th DECEMBER

Rights are considered to be fundamental conditions for development of human personality. The importance of basic human rights was recognized by the U.N.O. The Economic and Social Council of U.N.O. appointed a Commission in 1946 to go into the question of fundamental human rights.

The commission submitted a report and the same was passed by the General Assembly of U.N.O. on 10th December, 1948. This day is a red-letter day in the history of the human race. Every year 10th December is celebrated as a Human Rights Day all over the world.

The Commission has become a Permanent Commission on human rights and functions as a subsidiary body of Economic and Social Council, and it is constantly engaged in the work of getting these rights translated into action by the different member states of the U.N.O. According to Article 55 and 56 of the U.N. Charter, all members of the United Nations pledge themselves to take joint and separate action for observation of human rights for all without distinction of race, sex, language or religion. The following is the list of fundamental human rights suggested by the Commission.

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

- (1) Right to life and liberty.
- (2) Right to self-defence.
- (3) Freedom from forced labour or 'Begar'.
- (4) No person should be imprisoned without a specific breach of law, established in a law court.
- (5) Freedom of sanctity of home.
- (6) Freedom of correspondence and communication.
- (7) Freedom to travel in any part of the world.
- (8) Right of property.
- (9) Right to religious freedom.

(10) Right to speech, press and association.

(11) Right to vote and to be elected.

(12) Right to hold any office under the Government, provided the prescribed qualifications are fulfilled.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

(1) Right to social security.

(2) Right to work and employment

(3) Right to equal wages for similar work irrespective of sex.

(4) Right to rest and leisure.

(5) Right to education.

(6) Right to cultural freedom.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The Commission on Human Rights has attained a substantial measure of success. Various states have incorporated a list of fundamental rights in their Constitutions.

Even the jurisdiction of the U.N.O. in this connection has been extended to include not only the member states but also to the individuals who are normally considered to be the citizens of the World State.

Points to Remember

1. Rights are necessary for the development of personality. The same is recognized by U.M.O. The Economic and Social Council submitted a report on human rights passed by the General Assembly. All the nations are committed to these rights.

2. Civil and Political Rights are rights to life, liberty self-defence, freedom from labour, sanctity of home, correspondence etc.

3. Economic , social and cultural rights to social security, work, equal wages, rest and leisure and education.

WORLD FOREST DAY – 21st MARCH

An area with high density of trees is generally referred as forest. The forest on the whole accommodates about 30% of total land area. However there is a considerable reduction which was initially covering a total of about 50% of the total land area. These forests essentially function as habitats for organisms, hydrologic flow modulators, and soil conservers, constituting one of the most important aspects of the Earth's biosphere. The forests help to control our planet's temperature, provide us with oxygen and absorb

pollution. It is not only home for all living species but also the forest is one of the best and continuous sources of rich nutrients. Studying in deep will make us realize that the place we are living today was initially a forest area. Thus World Forestry Day has been celebrated around the world on March 21st every year to alarm the people in the society about the importance and significance of forests and the scores of benefits which are gained from them. The origin of the concept of celebrating this World Forest Day came up at the 23rd General Assembly of the European Confederation of Agriculture in 1971. The celebration also involves bringing awareness in people about the anatomy of forestry like protection, production, recreation and the major contribution to the living organisms. March 21st was chosen to be observed as World Forest Day for it is both the autumnal equinox in the Southern Hemisphere and the vernal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere. It is the duty of each and every individual to participate in deforestation and creation of new forests.

IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS

The significance of forests and its importance dates back even much before the prehistoric days. The forests promote or enhance well-being of environment, people, and animals. Today the development in the industrial domain is at the cost of clearing away forest and thereby reducing the vegetation. Forest is a major source of furniture, houses, ships and railway sleepers, plywood, fuel wood or charcoal, paper, processed wood products like cellophane, plastics, synthetic fibers like rayon and nylon, rubber from the latex of rubber tree. Apart from the benefits of the forest to the mankind is innumerable way like in preventing floods where the roots of the trees hold the soil together and thus help to conserve soil by preventing rapid runoff of water after heavy rain. Sustainable Management of Forest has been recognized in the Earth summit at Rio and it has been stressed the need for enhancing the tree cover to 33% by 2012 to combat the global warming.

The World Forest Day brings together participants from a diverse range of forest stakeholders, academics and decision makers from around the world, to discuss key issues that discuss about forests and issues related to it. There are themes decided for the day every year and the participants take part in its related activities and events. The celebration also includes awards for those who have achieved in the domain of forestry. There are so many organizations and societies which work on the World Forest Day conducting various events and activities. One can also hold a presentation at the workplace, schools, colleges or community centre on the importance of forest. Sometimes there are invites for people who are working on the preservation of forest to talk about the contribution of the community towards the welfare of the forest. Thus such events and activities always promise to encourage a sense of inspiration in the public. Globally many social meets and cultural events are organized to emphasis on the World Forestry. Also on this day the school children and sometimes even the political leaders celebrate the day by planting saplings symbolizing preservation and creation of forest. There are Forest awareness rally held in different parts of the world.

WORLD WATER DAY – 22nd MARCH

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The United Nations General Assembly designated 22 March of each year as the World Day for Water by adopting a resolution. The world day for water is being observed since 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development contained in chapter 18 (Fresh Water Resources) of Agenda 21, which calls on States to devote the Day to implement the UN recommendations and set up concrete activities as deemed appropriate in their national context.

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. The Theme of World Water Day 1994 was 'Caring for Our Water Resources is Everyone's Business'.

In 1995, the World Day for Water was celebrated in Lesotho with the international theme 'Women and Water'. Two main activities on that day were water pollution and environmental degradation. In 1996, the theme was 'Water for Thirsty Cities'. It emphasized the growing water crisis faced by cities across the world which threatens the sustainability of their social and economic development. The message for the day in 1997 was: Water is a basic requirement for all life, yet water resources are facing more and more demands from, and competition among, users.

UNICEF and the United Nations Division of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), took the lead in organizing the observance of World Water Day in 1998, as per the recommendations of the 17th meeting of the ACC Sub-Committee on Water Resources. The same year, excessive flooding of major rivers in the world resulted in thousands of deaths and caused enormous damage in China, Bangladesh, and India, where nearly half of the world population lives. They were not only the result of excessive rains, but also of interference by mankind in the river basins. These tragedies made the world realize that virtually everybody in this world lives downstream.

UNEP was the coordinating UN agency for the 1999 theme 'Everyone Lives Downstream'. The Second World Water Forum and Ministerial Conference were held in the Netherlands in the week prior to 22 March 2000. Hundreds of water specialists, politicians, leading experts and top officials from all across the globe convened in The Hague. The event marked the conclusion to a long series of sessions during which thousands of concerned citizens addressed the water crisis that threatens all.

The World Health Organization was the coordinating UN agency for 2001 theme 'Water for Health: Taking Charge'. The message for the day was that concrete efforts were necessary to provide clean drinking water and improve health as well as to increase awareness world-wide of the problems and of the solutions. Water for Development was the theme for 2002. The International Atomic Energy Agency was the coordinating UN agency. The message was that the poor and deteriorating state of water resources in many parts of the world demand integrated water resources planning and management.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was the lead UN agency for World Water Day 2003. The theme 'Water for the Future' called on everyone to maintain and

improve the quality and quantity of fresh water available to future generations. The goal was to inspire political and community action and encourage greater global understanding of the need for more responsible water use and conservation. The UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization were charged with coordinating events for World Water Day 2004. The theme was 'Water and Disasters'.

The Theme of World Water Day 2005 was: Water for Life 2005 –2015. This was in accordance with the proclamation of the years 2005 to 2015 as the International Decade for Action by the UN General Assembly at its 58th session in December 2003. The Water for Life decade set the world's goals on "a greater focus on water-related issues, while striving to ensure the participation of women in water-related development efforts and further cooperation at all levels to achieve water-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development and Agenda 21".

The theme of World Water Day 2006 was Water and Culture under the leadership of UNESCO. The theme 2006 drew the attention to the fact that there are as many ways of viewing, using, and celebrating water as there are cultural traditions across the world. The growing problem of Water Scarcity was the topic for World Water Day 2007. The theme highlighted the increasing significance of water scarcity worldwide and the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources, both at international and local levels.

In 2008, World Water Day coincided with the International Year of Sanitation, which spurred action on a crisis affecting more than one out of three people on the planet. In 2009, the theme was "Shared Water – Shared Opportunities" with special focus on trans boundary waters. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) lead the activities of the day with the support of United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It was stressed that nurturing the opportunities for cooperation in trans boundary water management can help build mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries and promote peace, security and sustainable economic growth.

The World Water Day 2010 had 'Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities' as its theme. The campaign was envisaged to raise awareness about sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being through addressing the increasing water quality challenges in water management and to raise the profile of water quality by encouraging governments, organizations, communities, and individuals around the world to actively engage in proactively addressing water quality e.g. in pollution prevention, clean up and restoration.

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY – 11th NOVEMBER

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Government of India, has declared 11th November, the Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, great freedom fighter and eminent educationist, as the National day.

MOULANA ABUL KALAM

MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD was born on November 11, 1888 in Makkah. Azad's family descended from a line of eminent *Ulama* or scholars of Islam. His mother was of Arab descent, the daughter of Shaikh Muhammad Zahir Watri, and his father, Maulana Khairuddin lived with his family in the Bengal region until he left India during the First Indian War of Independence and settled in Mecca, the holiest city in Islam, where he met his wife. He came back to Calcutta with his family in 1890. Azad mastered several languages, including Pashto, Urdu, Arabic, Hindko, Persian, Bengali and Hindi. He was also trained in the subjects of Hanafi fiqh, shariat, mathematics, philosophy, world history and science by reputed tutors hired by his family. An avid and determined student, the precocious Azad was running a library, a reading room, a debating society before he was twelve, wanted to write on the life of Ghazali at twelve, was contributing learned articles to *Makhzan* (the best known literary magazine of the day) at fourteen, was teaching a class of students, most of whom were twice his age, when he was merely fifteen and succeeded in

completing the traditional course of study at the young age of sixteen, nine years ahead of his contemporaries, and brought out a magazine at the same age. In fact, in the field of journalism, he was publishing a poetical journal (*Nairang-e-Aalam*) and was already an editor of a weekly (*Al-Misbah*), in 1900, at the age of twelve and, in 1903, brought out a monthly journal, *Lissan-us-Sidq*, which soon gained popularity. At the age of thirteen, he was married to a young Muslim girl, Zuleikha Begum. Azad compiled many treatises interpreting the Qur'an, the *Hadith*, and the principles of *Fiqh* and *Kalam*.

A young man, Azad was also exposed to the modern intellectual life of Kolkata, the then capital of British-ruled India and the centre of cultural and political life. He began to doubt the traditional ways of his father and secretly diversified his studies. Azad learned English through intensive personal study and began learning Western philosophy, history and contemporary politics by reading advanced books and modern periodicals. Azad grew disillusioned with Islamic teachings and was inspired by the modern views of Muslim educationalist Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, who had promoted rationalism. Increasingly doubtful of religious dogma, Azad entered a period of self-described "atheism" and "sinfulness" that lasted for almost a decade.

Maulana **Abul Kalam Muhiyuddin Ahmed Azad** (11 November 1888 – 22 February 1958) was an Indian Muslim scholar and a senior political leader of the Indian independence movement. He was one of the most prominent Muslim leaders to support Hindu-Muslim unity, opposing the partition of India on communal lines. Following India's independence, he became the first Minister of Education in the Indian government. He is also known for having predicted the future military rule and partition of Pakistan before its independence.

He was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna in 1992. He is commonly remembered as **Maulana Azad**; he had adopted *Azad (Free)* as his pen name. His contribution to establishing the education foundation in India is recognised by celebrating his birthday as "National Education Day" across India.

As a young man, Azad composed poetry in Urdu as well as treatises on religion and philosophy. He rose to prominence through his work as a journalist, publishing works critical of the British Raj and espousing the causes of Indian nationalism. Azad became the leader of the Khilafat Movement during which he came into close contact with Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi. Azad became an enthusiastic supporter of Gandhi's ideas of non-violent civil disobedience, and worked actively to organise the Non-cooperation movement in protest at the 1919 Rowlatt Acts. Azad committed himself to Gandhi's ideals, including promoting *Swadeshi (Indigenous)* products and the cause of *Swaraj (Self-rule)* for India. In 1923, at an age of 35, he became the youngest person to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1923.

Azad was one of the main organisers of the Dharasana Satyagraha in 1931, and emerged as one of the most important national leaders of the time, prominently leading the causes of Hindu-Muslim unity as well as espousing secularism and socialism. He served as Congress President from 1940 to 1945, during which the *Quit India* rebellion was launched and

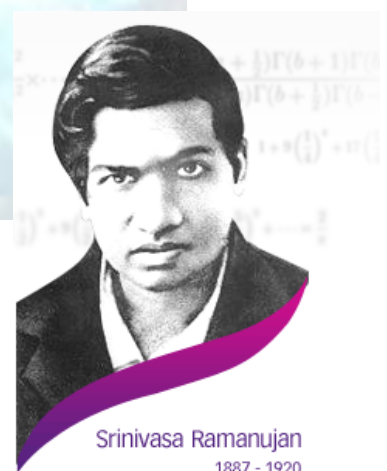
Azad was imprisoned with the entire Congress leadership for three years. Azad became the most prominent Muslim opponent of the demand for a separate Muslim state of Pakistan and served in the interim national government. Amidst communal turmoil following the partition of India, he worked for religious harmony. As India's Education Minister, Azad oversaw the establishment of a national education system with free primary education and modern institutions of higher education.

NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY – 22nd DECEMBER

In India, the day 'December 22' has been declared as the **NATIONAL MATHEMATICS DAY**. The declaration was made by Prime Minister of India, during the inaugural ceremony of the celebrations to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan held at the Madras University Centenary Auditorium on 26 February 2012. Dr Manmohan Singh also announced that the year 2012 CE would be celebrated as the National Mathematics Year.

The Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 December 1887 and died on 26 April 1920. It was in recognition of his contribution to mathematics the Government of India decided to celebrate Ramanujan's birthday as the National Mathematics Day every year and to celebrate 2012 as the National Mathematical Year.^[2]

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN (22 December 1887 – 26 April 1920) was an Indian mathematician and autodidact who, with almost no formal training in pure mathematics, made extraordinary contributions to mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series, and continued fractions. Living in India with no access to the larger mathematical community, which was centred in Europe at the time, Ramanujan developed his own mathematical research in isolation. As a result, he rediscovered known theorems in addition to producing new work. Ramanujan was said to be a natural genius by the English mathematician G. H.



Hardy, in the same league as mathematicians such as Euler and Gauss. He died at the age of 32.

Ramanujan was born at Erode, Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu) in a Tamil Brahmin family of Thenkalai Iyengar sect. His introduction to formal mathematics began at age 10. He demonstrated a natural ability, and was given books on advanced trigonometry written by S. L. Loney that he mastered by the age of 12; he even discovered theorems of his own, and re-discovered Euler's identity independently. He demonstrated unusual mathematical skills at school, winning accolades and awards. By 17, Ramanujan had conducted his own mathematical research on Bernoulli numbers and the Euler–Mascheroni constant.

Ramanujan received a scholarship to study at Government College in Kumbakonam, which was later rescinded when he failed his non-mathematical coursework. He joined another college to pursue independent mathematical research, working as a clerk in the Accountant-General's office at the Madras Port Trust Office to support himself. In 1912–1913, he sent samples of his theorems to three academics at the University of Cambridge. G. H. Hardy, recognizing the brilliance of his work, invited Ramanujan to visit and work with him at Cambridge. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society and a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Ramanujan died of illness, malnutrition, and possibly liver infection in 1920 at the age of 32.

During his short lifetime, Ramanujan independently compiled nearly 3900 results (mostly identities and equations). Nearly all his claims have now been proven correct, although a small number of these results were actually false and some were already known. He stated results that were both original and highly unconventional, such as the Ramanujan prime and the Ramanujan theta function, and these have inspired a vast amount of further research.^[9] However, the mathematical mainstream has been rather slow in absorbing some of his major discoveries.^[citation needed] The *Ramanujan Journal*, an international publication, was launched to publish work in all areas of mathematics influenced by his work.

In December 2011, in recognition of his contribution to mathematics, the Government of India declared that Ramanujan's birthday (22 December) should be celebrated every year as National Mathematics Day, and also declared 2012 the National Mathematics Year.

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY – 12th JANUARY

NATIONAL YOUTH DAY is celebrated in India on **12 January** on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984 the Government of India declared the day as the National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.

HISTORY

In 1984, the Government of India declared and decided to observe the birthday of Swami Vivekananda (12 January, according to the English calendar) as a National Youth Day every year from 1985 onwards. To quote from the Government of India's communication, 'it was felt that the philosophy of Swamiji and the ideals for which he lived and worked could be a great source of inspiration for the Indian Youth.

On 12 January 2011, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told in his address at the inauguration of four-year-long celebrations of Swami Vivekananda's 150th birth anniversary

What Gandhiji said captures the great importance of spreading Swami Vivekananda's ideas and ideals among the youth in our country today. He personified the eternal energy of the youth and their restless quest for truth. It is entirely fitting that the Government of India has declared 12th January, the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, as National Youth Day. We must work to rekindle the eternal message of this great patriot and son of India.

CELEBRATION AND ACTIVITIES

Swami Vivekananda's birthday (12 January 1863), according to the Indian Almanac (Vishuddha Siddhanta Almanac) is on Pausha Krishna Saptami tithi, which falls on different dates in the English Calendar every year (generally in the month of January). This is observed in various centres of Ramakrishna Math and Mission in a traditional Hindu manner which includes mangalarati (a kind of worship practised in India, specially by Hindu people), special worship, homa (fire-ritual), meditation, devotional songs, religious discourses and sandhya-arati (vesper service at evenings).

The National Youth Day is observed all over Jharkhand at schools and colleges, with processions, speeches, recitations, music, youth conventions, seminars, Yogasanas, presentations, competitions in essay-writing, recitations and sports on 12 January every year. Swami Vivekananda's lectures and writings, deriving their inspiration from Indian spiritual tradition and the broad outlook of his Master Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, are the source of inspiration and have motivated numerous youth organizations, study circles and service projects involving the youth.

The National Youth Day is observed all over India at schools and colleges, with processions, speeches, recitations, music, youth conventions, seminars, Yogasanas, presentations, competitions in essay-writing, recitations and sports on 12 January every year.

Swami Vivekananda's lectures and writings, deriving their inspiration from Indian spiritual tradition and the broad outlook of his Master Sri Ramakrishna, are a source of inspiration and have motivated numerous youth organizations, study circles and service projects involving the youth. All his teachings can be found in *The Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda*, in nine volumes, published by Advaita Ashrama, Kolkata.

On the occasion, different people participate in several activities in all over India (and many parts of world as well) which promote youth in the field of education, art, culture and hope to generate moral values with enlightenment of inner soul.

On the occasion Mission Bhartiyam organises a two-day grand event in Uttar Pradesh of India for youths where more than a dozen activities take place for all age groups. The event is named Basti Yuvo Mahotsav. In fact, other government and non-profit organisations and corporate groups also celebrate in their way.

National Youth Festival (India) is an annual gathering of young people associated with National Youth Day. It includes cultural activities of both a competitive and non-competitive nature.

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA, known in his pre-monastic life as **Narendranath Datta**, was born in an affluent family in **Kolkata** on 12 January 1863. His father, **Vishwanath Datta**, was a successful attorney with interests in a wide range of subjects, and his mother, **Bhuvaneshwari Devi**, was endowed with deep devotion, strong character and other qualities. A precocious boy, Narendra excelled in music, gymnastics and studies. By the time he graduated from Calcutta University, he had acquired a vast knowledge of different subjects, especially Western philosophy and history. Born with a yogic temperament, he used to practise meditation even from his boyhood, and was associated with Brahma Movement for some time.



WITH SRI RAMAKRISHNA

At the threshold of youth Narendra had to pass through a period of spiritual crisis when he was assailed by doubts about the existence of God. It was at that time he first heard about **Sri Ramakrishna** from one of his English professors at college. One day in November 1881, Narendra went to meet Sri Ramakrishna who was staying at the Kali Temple in **Dakshineswar**. He straightaway asked the Master a question which he had put to several others but had received no satisfactory answer: "Sir, have you seen God?" Without a moment's hesitation, Sri Ramakrishna replied: "Yes, I have. I see Him as clearly as I see you, only in a much intenser sense." Apart from removing doubts from the mind of Narendra, Sri Ramakrishna won him over through his pure, unselfish love. Thus began a guru-disciple relationship which is quite unique in the history of spiritual masters. Narendra now became a frequent visitor to Dakshineswar and, under the guidance of the Master, made rapid strides on the spiritual path. At Dakshineswar, Narendra also met several young men who were devoted to Sri Ramakrishna, and they all became close friends.

THE PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS AND AFTER

His speeches at the World's Parliament of Religions held in September 1893 made him famous as an 'orator by divine right' and as a 'Messenger of Indian wisdom to the Western world'. After the Parliament, Swamiji spent nearly three and a half years spreading Vedanta as lived and taught by Sri Ramakrishna, mostly in the eastern parts of USA and also in London.

AWAKENING HIS COUNTRYMEN

He returned to India in January 1897. In response to the enthusiastic welcome that he received everywhere, he delivered a series of lectures in different parts of India, which created a great stir all over the country. Through these inspiring and profoundly significant lectures Swamiji attempted to do the following:

- ★ to rouse the religious consciousness of the people and create in them pride in their cultural heritage;
- ★ to bring about unification of Hinduism by pointing out the common bases of its sects;
- ★ to focus the attention of educated people on the plight of the downtrodden masses, and to expound his plan for their uplift by the application of the principles of Practical Vedanta.

LAST DAYS

In June 1899 he went to the West on a second visit. This time he spent most of his time in the West coast of USA. After delivering many lectures there, he returned to Belur Math in December 1900. The rest of his life was spent in India, inspiring and guiding people, both

monastic and lay. Incessant work, especially giving lectures and inspiring people, told upon Swamiji's health. His health deteriorated and the end came quietly on the night of **4 July 1902**. Before his Mahasamadhi he had written to a Western follower: "It may be that I shall find it good to get outside my body, to cast it off like a worn out garment. But I shall not cease to work. I shall inspire men everywhere until the whole world shall know that it is one with God."

WORLD POPULATION DAY – 11th JULY

WORLD POPULATION DAY is an annual event, observed on **July 11** every year, which seeks to raise awareness of global population issues. The event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989. It was inspired by the public interest in Five Billion Day on July 11, 1987 approximately the date on which the world's population reached five billion people.

BACKGROUND

The unprecedented decrease in mortality that began to accelerate in the more developed parts of the world in the nineteenth century and expanded to all the world in the twentieth century is one of the major achievements of humanity. By one estimate, life expectancy at birth increased from 30 to 67 years between 1800 and 2005, leading to a rapid growth of the population: from 1 billion in 1810 to over 7 billion in 2012.

The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme on population and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding population estimates and projections, and information and analyses on population and development issues.

At its thirty-eighth session (E/2007/24), the Statistical Commission requested the United Nations Statistics Division and other international agencies to increase their technical assistance to national statistical offices in order to strengthen national capacity for the implementation of the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. In addition, the Commission requested countries to begin implementation of the revised Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses.

UNFPA works with many partners, both within and outside the United Nations system, including Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society, faith-based organizations, religious leaders and others, to achieve its mission. To better respond to local needs, UNFPA increasingly devotes resources to country-led efforts, placing emphasis on country-focused and country-led implementation to achieve improved results, at the same time addressing mutual accountability and strengthening harmonization and alignment.

As the world population edged to 7 billion people in 2011 (up from 2.5 billion in 1950), it has had profound implications for development. A world of 7 billion is both a challenge and an opportunity with implications on sustainability, urbanization, access to health services and youth empowerment.

In 1989, in its decision 89/46, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme recommended that, in order to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programmes and the need to find solutions for these issues, 11 July should be observed by the international community as World Population Day.

About 16 million girls under age 18 give birth each year. Another 3.2 million undergo unsafe abortions. The vast majority – 90 per cent -- of the pregnant adolescents in the developing world are married. But for far too many of these girls, pregnancy has little to do with informed choice. Often it is a consequence of discrimination, rights violations (including child marriage), inadequate education or sexual coercion.

On 2013 World Population Day, we raise awareness of the issue of adolescent pregnancy in the hopes of delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

POPULATION OF INDIA

Current Population of India – India, with 1,270,272,105 (1.27 billion) people is the second most populous country in the world, while China is on the top with over 1,360,044,605 (1.36 billion) people. The figures show that India represents almost 17.31% of the world's population, which means one out of six people on this planet live in India. Although, the crown of the world's most populous country is on China's head for decades, India is all set to take the numero uno position by 2030. With the population growth rate at 1.58%, India

is predicted to have more than 1.53 billion people by the end of 2030. More than 50% of **India's current population** is below the age of 25 and over 65% below the age of 35. About 72.2% of the population lives in some 638,000 villages and the rest 27.8% in about 5,480 towns and urban agglomerations. The birth rate (child births per 1,000 people per year) is 22.22 births/1,000 population (2009 est.) while death rate (deaths per 1000 individuals per year) is 6.4 deaths/1,000 population. Fertility rate is 2.72 children born/woman (NFHS-3, 2008) and Infant mortality rate is 30.15 deaths/1,000 live births (2009 estimated). India has the largest illiterate population in the world. The literacy rate of India as per 2011 Population Census is 74.04%, with male literacy rate at 82.14% and female at 65.46%. Kerala has the highest literacy rate at 93.9%, Lakshadweep (92.3%) is on the second position and Mizoram (91.6%) is on third.

Every year, India adds more people than any other nation in the world, and in fact the individual population of some of its states is equal to the total population of many countries. For example, Population of Uttar Pradesh (state in India) almost equals to the population of Brazil. It, as per 2001 Population Census of India, has 190 million people and the growth rate is 16.16%.

The population of the second most populous state Maharashtra, which has a growth rate of 9.42%, is equal to that of Mexico's population. Bihar, with 8.07%, is the third most populous state in India and its population is more than Germany's. West Bengal with 7.79% growth rate, Andhra Pradesh (7.41%) and Tamil Nadu (6.07%) are at fourth, fifth and sixth positions respectively. The sex ratio of India stands at 940. Kerala with 1058 females per 1000 males is the state with the highest female sex ratio. Pondicherry (1001) is second,

while Chhatisgarh (990) and Tamil Nadu (986) are at third and fourth places respectively. Haryana with 861 has the lowest female sex ratio.

Some of the reasons for **India's rapidly growing population** are poverty, illiteracy, high fertility rate, rapid decline in death rates or mortality rates and immigration from Bangladesh and Nepal. Alarmed by its swelling population, India started taking measures to stem the growth rate quite early. In fact India by launching the National Family Planning program in 1952 became the first country in the world to have a population policy. The family planning program yielded some noticeable results, bringing down significantly the country's fertility rate. In 1965-2009, the contraceptive usage more than tripled and the fertility rate more than halved. The efforts did produce positive results, however, failed to achieve the ultimate goal and the population of India since getting independence from Britain in 1947 increased almost three times. Whereas India has missed almost all its targets to bring the rate of population growth under control, China's 'One Child Policy' in 1978, has brought tremendous results for the latter. The policy claims to have prevented between 250 and 300 million births from 1978 to 2000 and 400 million births from 1979 to 2010.

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY – 29th AUGUST

National Sports Day in India is celebrated on the August 29. This day marks the birthday of Dhyan Chand, the hockey player who won gold medals for India in year 1928, 1932 and 1936. This day is celebrated by organizing friendly matches between different Indian hockey teams at the Dhyan Chand National stadium in New Delhi which was constructed in the respect and honor of Dhyan Chand.

DHYAN CHAND

Born	29 August 1906
	Allahabad, United

		Provinces, British India
Died	4 December	1979 (aged 74)
		Delhi, India
Height	1.60 m (5 ft 3 in)	
Playing position	Forward	
Senior career		
Years	Team	
1921–	Indian Army	
National team		
1926–1948	India	
Medal record		
Olympic Games		
Gold	1928 Amsterdam	Team
Gold	1932 Los Angeles	Team
Gold	1936 Berlin	Team

DHYAN CHAND (29 August 1905 – 3 December 1979) was an Indian Hockey player widely considered to be one of the greatest players of all time. Chand is most remembered for his goal-scoring feats and for his three Olympic gold medals (1928, 1932, and 1936) in field hockey, during an era where India was dominant in the sport.

Known as “The Wizard” for his superb ball control, Chand played his final international match in 1948, having scored more than 400 goals during his international career.

Dhyan Chand was born in Allahabad, family. He was the elder brother of another player Roop Singh. His father Sameshwar Dutt Singh was in the British Indian Army, and he played hockey in the army. Dhyan Chand had two brothers – Mool Singh, and Roop Singh. Because of Sameshwar Dutt's numerous army transfers, the family had to move to different cities and as such Chand had to terminate his education after only six years of schooling. The family finally settled in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, India. Being in the military, Dhyan's father got a small piece of land for a house.

Young Chand had no serious inclination towards sports, though he loved wrestling. He stated that he did not remember whether he played any hockey worth mentioning before he

joined the Army, though he said that he occasionally indulged in casual games in Jhansi with his friends.

LEGACY

Even today, Dhyan Chand remains a legendary figure in Indian and world hockey. His astounding skills have been glorified in various apocryphal stories and anecdotes. A number of such these revolve around the fact that Singh had a magical control over dribbling the ball. 29 August, Chand's birthday, is celebrated as National Sports Day in India. The President gives away sport-related awards such as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award on this day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, India.

The Union Minister of India gives away 20th National Award 2012, namely Gem of India, to the magician of hockey i.e. Major Dhyan Chand. The award was received by his son Ashok Dhyan Chand (hockey Olympian himself) on behalf of his late Hon'ble father; award was given by Journalist Association of India under the flagship of Journalists Federation of India, Sirifort Auditorium, New Delhi, India, on 22 September 2012.

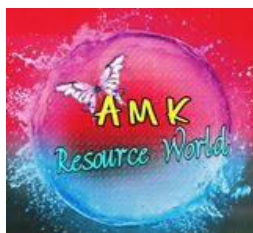
India's highest award for lifetime achievement in sports is the Dhyan Chand Award which has been awarded annually from 2002 to sporting figures who not only contribute through their performance but also contribute to the sport after their retirement. The National Stadium, Delhi was renamed Dhyan Chand National Stadium in 2002 in his honour.

He scored over 1000 goals in his career, from 1926 to 1948.

Astro-turf hockey pitch, at the Indian Gymkhana Club in London has been named after Indian hockey legend Dhyan Chand.

In 1956, at the age of 51, he retired from the army with the rank of Major. After he retired he coached for a while, then settled in his beloved Jhansi. However, The last days of Dhyan Chand were not very happy, as he was short of money and was badly ignored by the nation. Once he went to a tournament in Ahmedabad and they turned him away not knowing who he was. He developed liver cancer, and was sent to a general ward at the AIIMS, New Delhi.

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