

The Crossroads

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Les Connexions

Shri. Nagarajan

The Hardest Logical Puzzle

Adhavan Diwakar Vidya

Bharatia Samvidhan

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CHYK CIRS

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(IBDP Coordinator)



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IRREFUTABLE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHERS

- Athmika V

It is unanimously agreed upon, that education is the passport to the future. As students, we undoubtedly go through a lot in our school lives. Homework, exams, submissions, meeting deadlines, the list is endless. But, over the course of these 14-15 years, we tend to overlook the efforts of those people who constantly guide and support us; our teachers.

Teachers succour students whenever and however they require it. Teaching is indeed a noble profession, and teachers are those efficient people who provide students with prodigious amounts of knowledge. The recent Covid pandemic has definitely propelled a sense of realisation in the minds of several students, that a world without teachers is in fact, unimaginable. In the absence of teachers, our minds would forever be flooded with gargantuan doubts and puzzling questions confusing us every second.

Teachers do not merely teach their students to learn, but rather, to love learning. The most spellbinding part is that, they do so in ways which

we least expect! Teachers do not just instruct students on what they are supposed to do, they are individuals who demonstrate confidence, understand each student's motivation, and most of all, they act as role models to the entire class.

Distinctly depicting the indispensable qualities such as dedication, perseverance, organisation, time management, critical thinking, creativity, communication and collaboration, teachers are those real-life superheroes who cater to the needs of every learner, by following a divergent approach.

Teachers have this arcane competency of making any subject enthralling. Be it IVANCAPP, permutations and combinations, production function, bank reconciliation statements, remembering the elements of the periodic table, locating a place on the map, what happened in which year in France, and the list goes on and on. No matter what they do, they make sure that their number one priority are their students.



Many a time have I wondered, "How are teachers able to manage all the tasks that are incessantly showered upon them invariably on a daily basis?" It was quite a while later, I realised that they possessed the inimitable quality of patience. Apart from knowledge, which is a pivotal aspect of an individual, teachers also impart paramount qualities to their learners, such as leadership, teamwork, motivation, perseverance, self-awareness, and the like. Teaching is a work of heart, without which, the world just cannot function. To everyone reading, I remind you the phrase; 'Mata, Pita, Guru, Daivam.' This phrase translates to Mother, Father, Guru (Teacher) and God. A child's first motivator in is their mother, followed by the father. Then, when a child starts schooling, their next interaction is with teachers. It is these people who shape an individual's life. After all, as rightly quoted by Rita Pierson, "Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be!"



01 **Amazing Discovery** - Remains of an Ancient Temple discovered at the Ram Mandir site in Ayodhya.

As **excavation work continues at Ayodhya Ram Mandir** site, archaeologists have unearthed remnants of an ancient temple, including various idols and pillars.

Champat Rai, the general secretary of the Ram Temple Trust, has provided information about this discovery. He mentioned that the **findings primarily consist of pillars and idols from the ancient temple.**



02 **INDIAN CUISINE** - Best Breads in the World - Butter Garlic Naan, Amritsari Kulcha and many more.

International food travel guide TasteAtlas recently released their list for the Top 50 Best Rated Breads in the World. **Butter Garlic Naan** bagged the third spot on the list. Interestingly, butter garlic naan had also been selected by TasteAtlas earlier among the 50 best flatbreads in the world. It was put high up in the second spot. The naan, flavoured with garlic and lusciously served with butter is undoubtedly one of the tastiest breads we have eaten. Even plain naan was included in the list at the 8th position, which was named the fourth-best flatbread in the previous list.

Paratha also snatched a spot in both the lists and we are not surprised. The breakfast essential can impress anyone who tastes it. The Amritsari kulcha with its hearty and satisfying flavours had to be on the list. And, our humble roti - the everyday Indian diet staple was ranked right under the Amritsari Kulcha at the 27th position.



03 **Gen Alpha Solutions to troubling problems** - Woman finds the right diagnosis for her son on ChatGPT.

A mother has shared the story of how after three years of her son suffering from chronic pain and numerous visits to medical specialists, the **correct diagnosis was finally uncovered with the help of prompts in ChatGPT.** During the COVID-19 lockdown, a mother named Courtney found that her son began experiencing pain. Courtney was thoroughly frustrated after visiting 17 doctors and created an account with ChatGPT to share her son's symptoms. **"I went line by line of everything that was in his MRI notes and plugged it into ChatGPT,"** she said. When ChatGPT suggested that Alex might be suffering from **tethered cord syndrome**, Courtney admitted, "it made a lot of sense." With this knowledge, she approached a neurosurgeon.



04 **As Indic Brands witness growth** - **Tata Cliq** introduces indigenous store.



Tata Cliq Luxury, a renowned multi-brand retailer specializing in luxury fashion and lifestyle products, has introduced a new section called 'Indi Finds' on its platform. This dedicated store is specifically curated to empower female shoppers in discovering and supporting homegrown brands, emphasizing the promotion of indigenous labels. These brands are well-known for their exceptional craftsmanship and offer attractive pricing. Some of the prominent names set to be featured in the store include Anuja Banthia, B'infinite, Ek Katha, Grass and Sunshine, Karaj Jaipur, Khamaj India, Ganga Fashions, House of Manaa, Monojolika, Mushio, Nero, Palak and Mehak, Radhika Jindal, Shibui, Ted Frede, and Zazu.



THE HARDEST LOGICAL PUZZLE

- Adhavan Diwakar Vidya



Logical puzzles. They're something that causes most people to pull their hair out in frustration. Seemingly unsolvable, their difficulty is what ensnares logicians, transporting them to magical worlds of uncrossable bridges, life-threatening crises, and invincible monsters.

Coined by world-renowned logician Raymond Smullyan, the following problem has been described as the 'world's hardest logical puzzle'. Logicians were stumped by its complexity until it was solved in 1996 by American mathematician and logician George Boolos. At first glance, it seems outright unsolvable, yet, hidden somewhere within the layers of its intricate wording is an answer to one of the most perplexing, yet elegant puzzles ever devised. Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to take a trip to an alien planet ruled over by three Gods, and find out what they have in store for us.

The standard statement of the problems is as follows:

Three gods - A, B, and C - are called, in some order, True, False and Random. True always speaks the truth, False always lies, and whether Random speaks the truth or not is a completely random matter like the toss of a coin. Your job is to determine the identities of each God by asking three yes or no questions. Each question can be posed to exactly one God but the same God can be asked multiple questions. The Gods all understand English, but will answer in their own language, in which the words for yes and no are 'da' and 'ja'. You do not know which word means which.

Read that? Give it a try. Have at it for a few hours. Once you've eventually given up, come back, and let's go over the solution to this mind-bending puzzle.

There are two things that really complicate this problem. The first one is Random - the fact that you never know if he's lying or telling the truth. Baiting out the identities of True and False seems rather straightforward, but the addition of Random adds a whole new level of difficulty. The second hurdle is the fact that you do not know what the words 'da' and 'ja' mean. However, there's a rather clever way to circumvent both of these limitations.

Firstly, the words. The key to negating the words' meaning lies in a kind of question called a hypothetical. For a moment, assume that Random was out of the equation, and you were speaking to only True or False. If you asked them some statement, say "Is New Delhi the capital of India?", they would reply with their words for either 'yes' or 'no'. This tells you neither the meaning of the words nor the identities of the gods, effectively wasting a question. However, this is where the hypothetical comes into play. A hypothetical embeds a question into another question, creating a situation where we can gain information from the answers, even though we don't know what the words actually mean. Let's look at an example.

Suppose you were to ask True "If I asked you whether Russia is the largest country on Earth, would you say ja?" (Assume that you do not know this fact). Let's look at the possible answers in the form of a matrix -



Russia is the biggest country Russia is not the biggest country

'Ja' means 'yes'	True answers 'ja'. Effectively, what he's saying is "Yes, I would say yes". False also answers 'ja'. His original response would be 'da' - a lie - but he also lies for the second question. The double negative creates a positive and we get a 'ja'.	Here, True answers 'da', saying "No, I would not say yes". Keep in mind the original question. False's original answer would be 'ja', but the second lie flips it to 'da' and he answers 'da', effectively saying "No, I would not say yes"
'Ja' means 'no'	True answers 'ja', effectively saying "No, I would not say 'no'". In similar fashion, the double negative causes False to answer 'ja'. His original answer would be 'ja', but he flips to 'da' and says "No, I would not say no."	True's answer here would be 'da', as he's basically saying "Yes, I would say no". Again, the double negative causes False to flip from 'da' to 'ja', and he answers 'da', basically saying "Yes, I would say no"

If I asked you whether Russia is the biggest country on Earth, would you say 'ja'?

From the matrix, we make our first interesting observation – if Russia is indeed the biggest country on Earth, we get 'ja', regardless of the God we're speaking to or the meaning of the word. Similarly, if Russia is not the biggest country, we get 'da'.

The embedded question in the hypothetical gives us four possibilities – double positive, double negative, or two versions of one negative-one positive. It is the combination of these properties that allows us to discern whether or not Russia is indeed the largest country on Earth without knowing the meaning of the words 'da' and 'ja'.

Do a few more questions and you'll begin to see a pattern – if the answer to the embedded question is affirmative, the answer you'd get from either of the Gods is the word in the question, and vice versa.

Now, what about the second problem? Figuring out the identity of Random is almost impossible, and would be a gross waste of questions. The catch here is, instead of trying to figure out which God is Random, we try to identify which one isn't. Let's see how this will play out.

A small note before we dive into the actual solution of the main problem – matrices outlining the possibilities and outcomes of each question aren't given, but I highly recommend you draw them yourselves. They are the easiest way of understanding the logic behind these questions and to see all the various possibilities at play.



First, you go to the God in the middle and ask him, "If I asked you whether the God to your left is Random, would you say 'ja'?" There are two possible answers to this question, and both give us substantial information. Draw your own matrix to see how the various answers play out, because it's really important to understand how this question works in order to grasp the full solution.

If the god tells us 'ja', then we have two possibilities. First, the god we are speaking to is True or False, in which case the god on the left is Random, or second, we're speaking to Random himself. Either way, you know for sure that the god on the right isn't Random. Similarly, if you get 'da', its the same two possibilities occur, so you know for sure that the god on the left isn't Random.

Once you've gotten through this task, go to the god who you know for sure isn't Random. Now, it's just a matter of determining whether the god is True or False. Ask the god "If I asked you whether you are True, would you say 'ja'?" Here's the matrix for that question, because it's a little different from before –

	God is True	God is False
'Ja' means yes	Here, you'd get a 'ja'. True is effectively saying "Yes, I would say yes"	False's original answer to this would be 'ja', because he lies. However, the double negative causes him to flip and say 'da', effectively "No, I would not say yes"
'Ja' means no	Here too, True replies 'ja', basically saying "No, I would not say no"	Here, False's original answer would be 'ja'. However, he flips and says 'da', effectively saying "Yes, I would say no"

If I asked you whether you are True, would you say 'ja'?

Again, we see something interesting. If the god is True, we get a 'ja', and if the god is False, we get a 'da'. This is because in the previous examples, the embedded question had a fixed answer – whether you were talking to True or False, it did not affect whether Random was the god in the middle (assuming you were not talking to Random).

However, here, the answer to the embedded question depends on which God you're talking to, and this is what causes the gods to give different answers. The third question is rather straightforward. Now that you've identified one God for sure, you ask him "If I asked you whether the God in the middle is Random, would you say 'ja'?" We still have to stick to the hypotheticals because we don't know the meanings of 'da' and 'ja'. Notice that here, the true answer to the embedded question remains the same regardless of whether the god you're talking to is True or False. Following the pattern, you get a 'ja' if the god in the middle is Random, which would imply that the one God remaining is either True or False (depending on the god you identified), and you get a 'da' if the god isn't Random, which means that the one in the middle is either True or False and the one remaining is Random.

With just a bit of logic, you've now identified the three gods, a task that seemed so disconnected, abstract and flat-out impossible. Here's a recap of the solution:

1. [To God in the middle] If I asked you whether the God on your left is Random, would you say 'ja'?
2. [If answer is ja, then to the God on the right. If the answer is da, then to the God on the left] If I asked you whether you are True, would you say 'ja'?
3. [To the same God] If I asked you whether the God in the middle is Random, would you say 'ja'?

A puzzle that really goes to show the breathtaking complexity, yet underlying simplicity of these logic problems. For now, just for now, the world of reason – with all its magic and innate beauty – bids you farewell.

CIRS REPORTS



CIRS celebrated Krishna Janmashtami with great enthusiasm and fervour. Due to the upcoming examinations, unfortunately, many students were unable to partake in the evening's cultural program to showcase their talents. Nonetheless, our ever-enthusiastic teachers stepped up to the occasion and skillfully crafted a captivating series of scenes depicting the life of Bhagavan Shri Krishna - Krishna Charitra.

For the second time since the inception of the school, CIRS students came together to celebrate 'Vishva Sanskrit Diwas'. Many fascinating facts about Sanskrit were shared during the morning assembly. Followed by an evening program, highlighting the greatness and sanctity of Sanskrit, as well as its significant contributions to the linguistic heritage of the world, influencing many modern languages. The program concluded with a soulful traditional dance performance by Sanskrit students from Grade 9 and 10. On the same day, the Bhagavad Gita competition was conducted for the entire school. All students enthusiastically participated and were evaluated by judges from Chinmaya Mission CBE. The winners at the school level have been selected to compete in the finals at the Coimbatore district level.

Teacher's Day at CIRS is truly a grand event, ranging from hosting the morning assembly to an exhilarating, energetic, and fun-filled flash mob during the juice break. Our students are the driving force behind it, making every moment special. Senior students relished the opportunity to step into the role of teachers for a meaningful teaching session in the morning. However, the most exhilarating part of the day was an unexpected turn of events caused by rain, which led to an exciting impromptu game session organized by our Grade 11 students. It added a lively touch to the day, bringing joy to our dedicated teachers. The day culminated with our students expressing their gratitude through well-designed mementoes.

02 LES CONNEXIONS

— Shri. Nagarajan

Greetings, You. How have your days been?



YOU

Good day, dear friend. Although life has its ups and downs, I occasionally find happiness and comfort in our exchanges.

Knowing that makes me happy. I've been reflecting on the importance of our encounters and how kindness and compassion play a part in them.



YOU

Ah, kindness and compassion—the bonds that bind us. What role do you see these traits playing in our relationship?

I think we have an opportunity to bring our best selves to every engagement. It can be seen in the kind smile, the thoughtful ear, and the open heart. Kindness leaves an unfinished surface with room for understanding to grow.



YOU

That was very well said. But what about those instances when we disagreed? Can miscommunications ruin our interactions?

Any relationship has such points in it. Empathy prompts us to take a step back. To look at the depth of our differences and try to comprehend your viewpoint. The fact that we are both traveling in our own ways while gaining international ground is almost encouraging.



YOU

I respect your viewpoint. The globe seems so big at times and the efficacy of our individual efforts may be overlooked. But, how do these kind deeds function?

It's true that this world can be overwhelming. But consider this: Every act of kindness is like a pebble cast into a pond. Creating ripples that extend far beyond the point of impact. Each gesture, no matter how small, creates waves of positive energy that radiate outwards.



YOU

That's an interesting idea. But how can we ensure that our intentions are genuine and our actions are meaningful?



Being genuine is important. Kindness and compassion don't require elaborate displays of emotion. They focus on the honesty that underlines them. It's a sincere discussion, a helping hand and an attentive ear that says a lot.

YOU

This conversation gives me comfort. It serves as a reminder that these small moments matter a lot, especially in such a fast-paced society.

Definitely. In the same way that the sun's warmth enters our bodies through small openings. Kindness and compassion also find their way into our lives from the clouds, shining light on our connection.



YOU

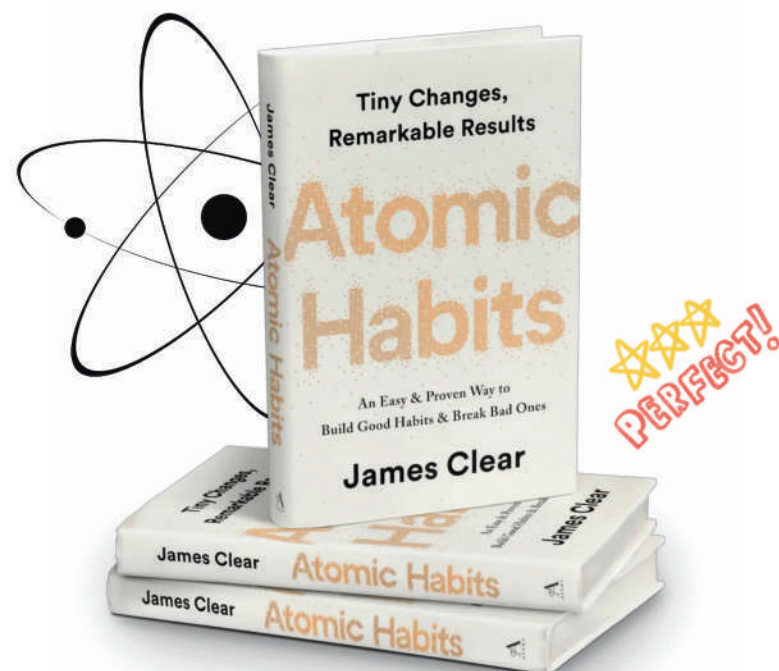
Alright, let's make a promise to bring genuine concern to all of our encounters and comprehensions henceforth.

I agree, You. Let's start on the journey of strengthening our relationship, where kindness and compassion are woven throughout the fabric, enhancing "me" and "you."



It's easy to ignore the important yet simple relationships that define our lives namely - the link between "Me" and "You"—in a society that frequently pours over with distractions and obligations. This conversation of kindness and compassion, whether it be with a family member, a friend, or a complete stranger, has the capacity to create a web of comprehension, sympathy, and warmth that brightens our shared journey.

CROSSBUSTERS - A Crossroads Initiative



In "Atomic Habits," author James Clear reveals a groundbreaking approach to personal development and lasting change. Drawing on scientific research and real-life examples, Clear unpacks the power of tiny, incremental habits and how they can lead to remarkable transformations. With practical strategies and actionable advice, Clear guides readers through the process of building good habits, breaking bad ones, and mastering the art of continuous improvement. "Atomic Habits" is a compelling roadmap for anyone seeking to make lasting changes and achieve their goals. We encourage you to grab this book and give a go at rebuilding your lifestyle from the ground up!

HOW TO HANDLE DRAMA?

LET'S LEARN FROM **राम**...

- Br. Sanatan Chaitanya

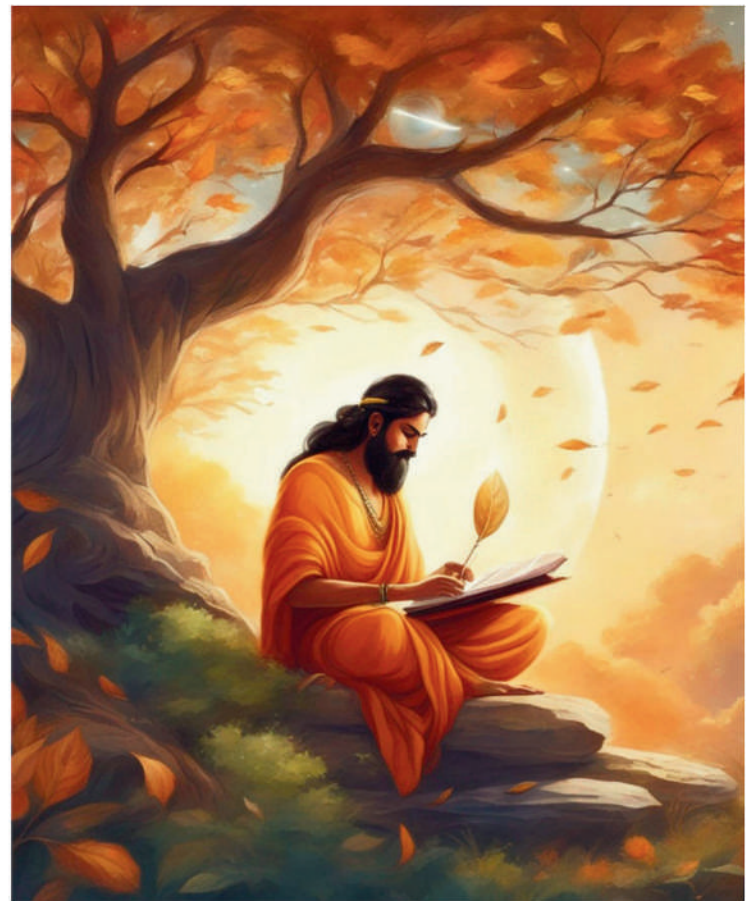


In the ever-evolving realm of modern workplaces, leaders often turn to age-old wisdom for inspiration and guidance to foster a harmonious and productive employer-employee relationship. The Valmiki Ramayana, an important civilizational epic, offers a wellspring of timeless teachings. Although originally aimed at instructing Emperors, namely Rama's younger brother Bharata, in the second canto, these insights can be thoughtfully interpreted to create a framework for a prosperous and cooperative employer-employee dynamic.

Central to these teachings is the significance of astute employee selection. Shri Rama underscores the importance of meticulous consideration when assembling a team, urging quality over quantity. A larger workforce doesn't necessarily guarantee success; it's the competency, skills, and unwavering commitment of the individuals that truly matter.

Furthermore, in moments of crisis or when quick results are imperative, the Ramayana suggests that the expertise and competence of a single individual can eclipse the efforts of a multitude of less efficient workers. This insight emphasizes the value of aligning roles with an employee's core - competency, capabilities, and background to ensure each one contributes meaningfully to the collective effort.

In the realm of leadership and delegation, Shri Rama advises entrusting authority exclusively to those who not only possess the necessary competency but also exhibit unwavering devotion to their work, loyalty towards the organization/institution and unblemished character. This perspective mirrors the idea that leadership roles should be reserved for individuals who've demonstrated intelligence, experience, and dependability in times of crises.



To nurture an effective employer-employee relationship, effective communication is paramount. Shri Rama encourages leaders to be tactful and considerate when imparting instructions, thereby cultivating a positive and cooperative atmosphere. Acknowledging and commending the dedication of employees further cements this bond, as does extending essential support and guidance to those in need.

The Ramayana also underscores the importance of maintaining fairness and impartiality in all dealings. This principle extends to the workplace, emphasizing the need to assess employees equitably and upholding the tenets of equality and justice. Timely compensation for services rendered is vital to an organization's harmony, as delays can erode trust and satisfaction.

In addition, it is imperative to remain vigilant against deception. Employers should be astute in detecting individuals who seek to project themselves as more accomplished when they are not, as such individuals can obstruct an organization's progress and most importantly it's efficiency.

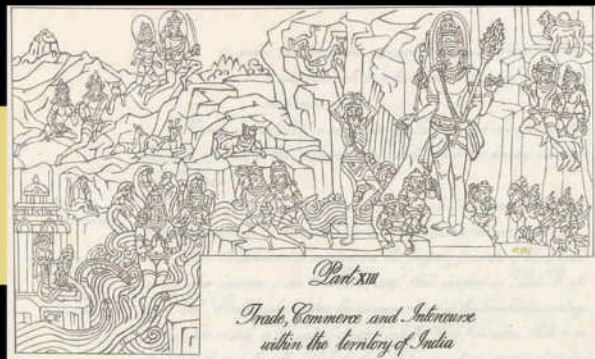
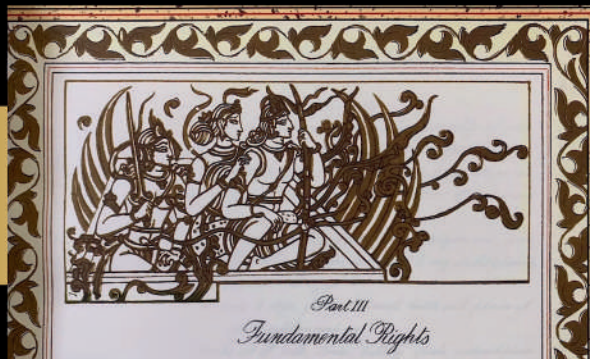
Beyond these employer-employee dynamics, the Valmiki Ramayana offers insights into personal responsibilities. Leaders are encouraged to embrace humility and a broad-minded approach, dedicating time to personal sadhana (spiritual practice) and moderation of personal enjoyment.

This balanced approach to personal and professional life aligns seamlessly with the values espoused in the great epic.

Bhagavan Shri Rama emphasizes very clearly on moral integrity. The Ramayana advises employers to never permit wrong-doers to escape justice or accept bribes to conceal wrongdoing. Upholding ethics and valuing values while wielding power and authority responsibly ensures a workplace where individuals are treated fairly, equitably and with respect.

The Valmiki Ramayana yields a treasure trove of timeless wisdom that can guide employers in cultivating an exemplary employer-employee relationship. These teachings underscore the importance of thoughtful employee selection, effective communication, fairness, and personal responsibility. By integrating these timeless principles into their leadership philosophy, employers can create a workplace where trust, cooperation, and success flourish.

The wisdom of the Ramayana serves as an enduring testament to the timeless principles that underlie the greatness of the Bharatiya Civilization. It's teachings have persevered through the ebb and flow of history, continuing to inspire billions with their remarkable capacity to remain practical and relevant, even after millennia have passed.



Bharatiya Samvidhan - A Homage to Dharma

*Chit
CIRS*

When the drafting of India's new Constitution was nearing completion in the Constituent Assembly, a comprehensive discussion regarding the inclusion of various artworks in the original copy ensued shortly after Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's final draft was passed. After reaching a unanimous decision, the renowned artist Nandalal Bose of Santiniketan was entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing the artwork. Bose and his team meticulously selected a range of paintings and drawings that depicted saints, gurus, rulers, and mythological characters from Bharatiya Itihaasa to embellish different sections of the Constitution. Each of these artistic creations conveyed a distinct message, highlighting Bharat's boundless heritage and legacy.

In Part III of the Constitution, which outlines our Fundamental Rights, there is a portrayal of Bhagwan Shri Ram, Devi Sita Ji, and Lakshman Ji. Following this, in the chapter on directive principles, there is an illustration of Bhagavan Shri Krishna guiding Arjuna's Chariot on the path of Dharma. This clearly indicates that drawing the wisdom and values from our scriptures was not alien to our forefathers, rather, it was an integral part of our national character. The past possesses the capacity to inspire change in the present, fostering profound ideas that can guide us in practicing good governance and strong leadership well into the future of our nation. Whether it's Rama's actions or Krishna's teachings, they continue to hold relevance for the common Bharatiya even today.

04 THROUGH HIS LENS



Shri. Ganesh Eswaran
(Co-ordinator of IBDP Program)



Being one of the finest teachers at CIRS, with an abundance of experience we would like to ask, what initiated your passion towards the field of education?

“My family has a legacy of teachers. My aunts were teachers, my cousins were teachers, my own brother is the principal of the PSG public school, my cousin is the principal of the Bhartiya Vidhya Bhavan and so I can proudly say that it runs in the blood.”

You have mentioned several times that your first love is Mathematics. What is it that made you fall in love with Mathematics?

“When I say mathematics is my first love, you should know who is my first God. My first God was not Ganesha or Shiva or Krishna. It was Mr. Ramesh, my brother’s mathematics professor. I was not fortunate enough to sit in his classroom in college, but I have had opportunities where I would just walk with him to class. I used to ask him what I thought to be a very complex problem. He wouldn’t think twice and answer immediately. Another aspect of him was his sheer passion for mathematics. He worked in a government arts college. Amongst his colleagues who were always unpunctual, Mr Ramesh was always on time. In his bag, he would always carry a box with all mathematics instruments necessary. That is what made me fall in love with mathematics. It was Professor Ramesh, and second, was well... my own brother who shared my interest towards math and became a math teacher. Mr. Ramesh was the one who asked me to take Physics. I was inspired by what he said, and I had faith in his words.”

Being a Physics teacher, how do you teach a variety of subjects ranging from, Chemistry, Accountancy, Math and even Hindi?

“I started my journey as a teacher when I was in class 11. When I was in my first year of college, I started coaching centers and we used to coach for Math, Physics, Chemistry and Hindi. We also had an Accountancy teacher. One fine day this teacher decided to leave, so, someone had to chip in. Then I decided that it’s better not to depend on somebody else. I had a marvelous book on accountancy, Shukla Vimal. This is a book on double-entry bookkeeping. I read this book and I was just fascinated. In a month, accountancy was effortless, right from entries to final accounts. Moreover, I am a Hindi Pracharak who was instructing students and helping them in their examinations. Chemistry is a natural inclination being a science teacher. Many times this was a necessity. When my students asked me a question, I could never say, ‘I don’t know’, and to avoid being blank, I had to learn. I would say that my students are my teachers. Their need became the necessity for me to learn.”

Carl Sagan said “Physics is philosophy written in the words of Mathematics.” Physics is often related to philosophy yet physicists are known to be atheists. What are your views on this?

“Physics is not written in mathematics, Physics is mathematics. Upon learning higher levels of Physics, one understands that they are the same. And when you look at Physics from the angle of its impact on human life, then yes, it definitely is a philosophy. I never mix Physics with my religion, the very fact is that it is foolish to mix both. Definitely, their ways may be different, but they are equally helpful to mankind.”

Most students always get confused while picking their stream after grade 10 and choosing the right college after grade 12. What is your suggestion to all such students?

“Being confused is absolutely fine at this age. Act in accordance to what your heart says. Don’t take it up because somebody else is taking it up as each one is different. Follow your heart, find what you love and stick to it.”

At any point in the class, no matter how serious it is, you effortlessly transition it into a lighthearted mood. Do you think it is needed while teaching?

“It’s absolutely important to bring in humour in the class, otherwise you will lose connectivity with your students. It is like establishing a link and unless it is not in place, you cannot communicate. So if you don’t connect with your students, you cannot teach them. Teaching is not important, ultimately learning is important. For effective teaching, there must be a connection which may waver and as teachers, we should re-establish it. Humor is a wonderful way of achieving this.”

Taking a step back from classes, let’s talk about your interests outside the classroom, especially on the tennis court. Could you give us an insight into these things?

“When I was your age, I wouldn’t study half as much as all of you do. I would attend classes, come back home and play, play and play! If it’s raining, I’d play carrom, if not, then cricket. Studying wasn’t particularly challenging; I would write and remember all of it. This was only possible because my mind was fresh, and it was so because of sports. The school in which I taught earlier, I wasn’t a teacher, I was more like a student. I learned a lot of physics, basketball, hockey, and tennis. I also learned about technology. I would pester the Head of IT Department with the question, ‘How to make a powerpoint presentation?’ I only wanted to teach in a boarding school; I only wanted a boarding school to play. That’s why I came here.”

That’s great to hear sir! Then what is it that started your inclination towards Bharatiya Classical Music?

“This is a very good question you have asked. I have never learned any music, only by listening, however, I am learning veena right now. As I mentioned, I didn’t have a lot of difficulty in learning and it is so because of classical music. I fervently believe in that because I used to listen to music and I would study. I have never studied without music, and I always believe that if there is a soothing song, then that’s the only distraction albeit music. There are always 100 distractions and thus, you are able to do better with 1 distraction, which is a distraction you love.”



Sir, you always had a penchant for teaching regardless of whatever other work you have. How do you manage to balance administration and teaching on a daily basis?

“It is very stressful, and it takes me away from the joy of teaching. I don’t want to lose that joy and I always say, ‘I can fail as an administrator, but I cannot fail as a teacher.’ This position of being a teacher is a fulfilling position and thus, I don’t want to lose it. Furthermore post-retirement, I wish to teach physics to students who are truly passionate about the subject.”

In conclusion, I would say that you should look at every possible learning experience. Grab opportunities. This would be my only suggestion to the youth of today.

05 LABYRINTHINE LOGIC

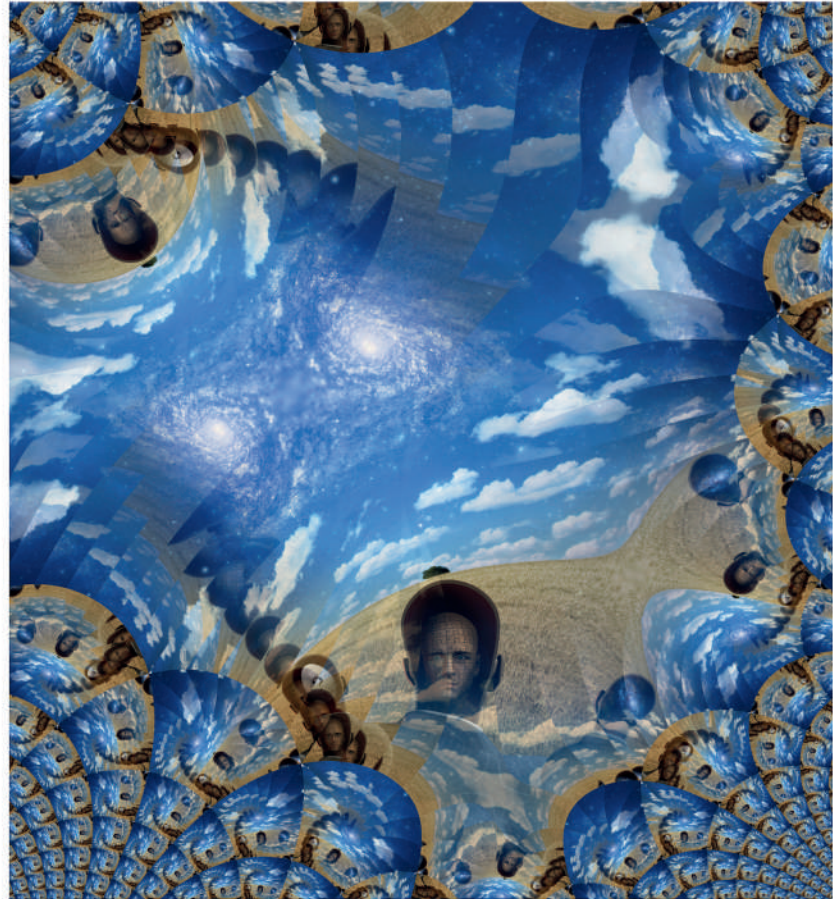
- Smt. Padmashini



A self fulfilling prophecy refers to a belief or expectation that influences how a person behaves, ultimately resulting in the fulfillment of that belief or expectation. This idea suggests that our thoughts and beliefs about ourselves and others can shape our actions and outcomes.

In various fields such as psychology, sociology, and education, self-fulfilling prophecies have been extensively studied. Researchers have found that when individuals hold positive expectations about themselves and others, they tend to behave in ways that align with those expectations, increasing the likelihood of positive outcomes. Conversely, negative expectations can lead to behaviors that reinforce those negative beliefs, resulting in negative outcomes.

For example, if a teacher believes that a student is academically gifted, they may provide more attention, support, and opportunities for that student to excel.



This increased attention and support can boost the student's confidence and motivation, leading to improved academic performance. On the other hand, if a teacher holds low expectations for a student, they may inadvertently provide less support and opportunities, which can hinder the student's progress and reinforce the belief that they are not capable.

Self-fulfilling prophecies can also occur in personal relationships. If someone believes that their partner is untrustworthy, they may act in ways that create distance or suspicion, ultimately leading to the breakdown of trust and the fulfillment of their initial belief. Similarly, individuals who believe they are destined to fail in their career may exhibit self-sabotaging behaviors that hinder their professional growth.



It is important to recognize the power of self-fulfilling prophecies and the impact they have on our lives. By becoming aware of our beliefs and expectations, we can consciously choose to challenge negative or limiting thoughts and replace them with more positive and empowering ones. Additionally, individuals in positions of influence, such as teachers, parents, and leaders, should be mindful of the expectations they hold for others and strive to create an environment that fosters growth and success.

In summary, self-fulfilling prophecies highlight how our beliefs and expectations shape our behavior and outcomes. By understanding this phenomenon, we can strive to cultivate positive beliefs and expectations for ourselves as well as others, leading to a more fulfilling and successful life.

'I' and the 'World around me' are the creations of the mind. - Swami Chinmayananda

06 TEACHERS

- Smt. Saradha



“TEACHERS ARE THOSE WHO SHOW YOU WHERE TO LOOK AND NOT WHAT TO SEE!”

It is my prerogative to pen down a few ruminations about one of the most noble professions that I've been into in the last 14 years. My experiences in this span of time have been many and I'm quite certain that the readers would agree with my view if I state that this vocation has undoubtedly undergone a lot many changes in the last few decades.

Teaching has been termed 'noble' for very many solid reasons! This engaging, constructive and impactful work is certainly a 'calling.' In my opinion, this two-way process which involves learning and teaching is most certainly a challenging yet rewarding vocation. Challenging, because the needs of every learner are unique and rewarding because as educators, we strive to accomplish the needs of the learners and seeing them blossom out of their comfort zone is unparalleled joy for any educator!

I consider myself blessed as I started my teaching career in the very same school where I studied. The thought of me working alongside two of the teachers who had taught me in Grades 1 and 5 was most certainly the icing on the cake! I vividly recall the first day I stepped into the portals of my school, feeling so overwhelmed. A wave of emotions surged within as I initially questioned and doubted myself if I'd actually be able to give myself wholly into this vocation. My first batch of students taught me that I need to constantly switch roles with them; I am not merely their teacher, but also their mother, sister and friend! During the initial days of my career, there were many instances wherein I was frustrated and impatient. Gradually, I learnt to be tolerant with students as I understood that not all learners have the same qualities.



Simple yet touching gestures such as lending an ear to their stories, comforting them on a day that hasn't gone too well, sincerely appreciating them for any kind deeds and boosting their morale when they face challenges in studying or any other issues that they've encountered, have constantly provided them joy and lightened their mood. Even today, my learners, be it Grade 9, 10 or 11, look forward to the 'smiley stickers' in their notebooks when they know that they'll be rewarded for neat presentation.

I strongly believe that as educators, bookish knowledge may help our learners score well in examinations but constantly instilling values such as discipline, humility and confidence in the minds of the young learners and teaching them to walk on the path of righteousness, undeterred, is the true essence of education that we impart to them; for they'd fondly cherish the fact that the 'heart' of education is the education of the heart!



♥
**TEACHING IS A
WORK OF HEART**

Issue No. II

Crossroads

07

THOUGHTFUL TALES

The Sight of Lakshmi - A Ramayana Story

- Dr. Anu Rajendran



The Ramayana is a text older than time itself, serving as the central theme of Indic civilization since time immemorial. Due to its open and vast nature, the Ramayana has been rewritten by different saints over the years, resulting in various versions, from the Tulsī Ramayana to the Kamba Ramayana. Many of these Ramayanas contain native sub-stories specific to their regions of origin. I will narrate one such story from the eternal masterpiece, the Ramayana. This is an inspiring tale from the Ramayana that touched my heart and that I always want to recollect and cherish—the story of Bhagwan Shri Rama, his exemplary behavior, and his boundless love for all beings in the universe. He set a high standard for us and benchmarked supreme values through his life, leading us on the path to eternity.



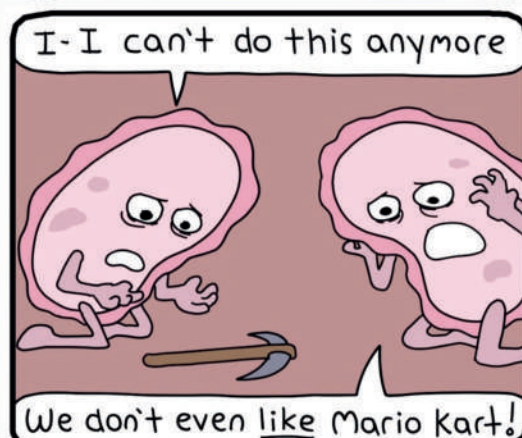
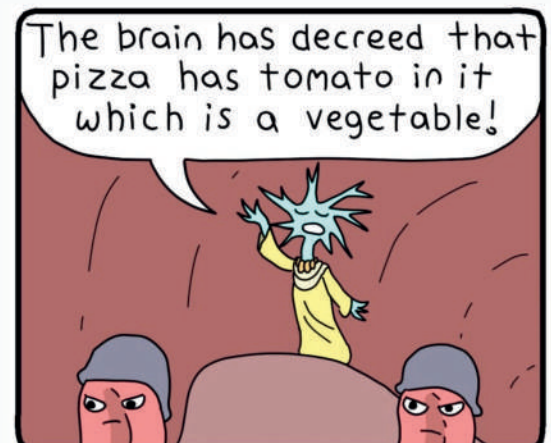
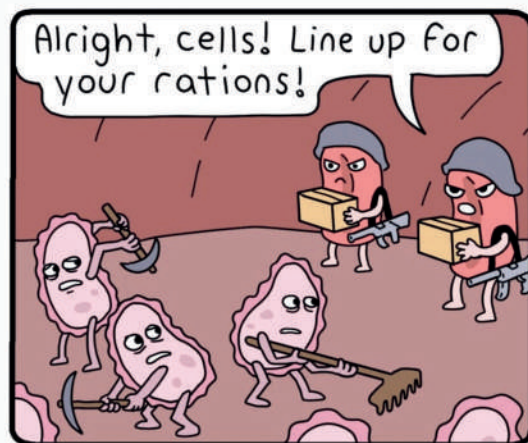
In the great epic Ramayana, we all know that Devi Sita was kidnapped by Ravana and held as a prisoner for 13 years. After Bhagwan Shri Rama emerged victorious in the war against Ravana, it was time for Shri Rama to reunite with Sita Maa and bring her back. Hanuman Ji and the others immediately offered to go retrieve Sita Maa, but Shri Rama, despite having won the war and not having seen Sita Maa for 13 long years, calmly said, "Let Vibhishana go and bring Sita!"

This decision left everyone confused, but Vibhishana promptly sought blessings from Shri Rama and journeyed to Ashoka Vatika to bring Sita Maa back to Shri Rama. As Vibhishana made his way to Ashoka Vatika, those around Shri Rama were visibly plagued with questions.



However, does the Creator understand the confusion prevailing in their minds? Of course, he does. Shri Rama, with an unassuming smile, explained, "Lanka has been completely destroyed, not only by fire but also by the destruction caused by the war. They have lost not only their materials but also numerous lives. This is going to be a tough time for Vibhishana, the next King, to set Lanka back on the path to prosperity. Sita is not just my wife; she is Devi Mahalakshmi herself. After being imprisoned for years, this victory over Ravana will bring Sita an abundance of joy and happiness. She will be waiting for me to bring her back. If Vibhishana meets her first and receives her blessings, Sita, overwhelmed with happiness, will bless Vibhishana with all her heart. From then on, Vibhishana, having obtained that Mahalakshmi Kataksham - The Sight of Mahalakshmi from Devi Sita, is bound to work with devotion and selfless service to bring Lanka back onto the path of dharma and prosperity."

Upon hearing this, everyone was astonished by Bhagwan Rama's pure intentions, not only toward Vibhishana but also toward every living being. Tears filled their eyes as they understood that Bhagwan Shri Rama is the perfect embodiment of righteousness, the true man of Dharma!



THIS IS MOST OFTEN OUR VACATION STORY.

08

ARE WE TRULY EDUCATED?



- Shri. Dasradhi Koganti

When Bhagawan Shri Rama returned to Ayodhya after the gracious victory in Lanka, his mother, Kausalya asked him in a delightful manner, "Dear Rama, did you defeat Ravana and achieve victory?" Rama's epic response was, "No, Mother, I did not defeat him – it was his ego that consumed his life. I was merely a tool in that process."

When we reflect upon this, we begin to fathom why Emperor Rama became Bhagawan Shri Rama. He possessed a profound understanding of the laws of the universe. He exemplified exceptional character, valour and a steadfast commitment to the prescribed Vedic practises. He embodied righteousness, benevolence, and gratitude. He never uttered falsehoods; truth was his essence. He remained resolute in his resolutions, achieved self-realization, conquered anger, and abstained from jealousy. He consistently spoke with intelligence and wisdom. As a great statesman, he upheld moral conduct and treated all individuals with equanimity. It is for these reasons that he is known as "Shodasakalaanidhi" – the one possessing the best 16 qualities among humans.

Was Bhagwan Shri Rama educated at the Oxford or Harvard Universities? To be honest, the West never comprehended what genuine education meant in those times. Bhagwan Rama's education was rooted in Sanatana Dharma, and he lived it. Sanatana Dharma was his true education. True education does not reside in the certificates one earns. It resides in one's character, values, wisdom, intelligence, and skills that facilitate personal growth and contribute to society. What, then, is education? Is it merely a certificate from a prestigious university, or is it a process that encompasses the way we communicate, behave, our value systems, our character, the culture we embody, and our contributions to society?

Education is not merely a gateway to amassing wealth and leading a materialistic life. Many people obtain education on paper, enabling them to talk about people rather than ideas. They find themselves lacking the freedom to pursue their passions, compelled instead to conform to societal expectations.

Take a moment to reflect upon ourselves – how many of us are free from ego? How many of us possess the capacity to accept people as they are, without judgment? How many of our peers derive joy from criticizing others and depriving them of opportunities through unfair means? And more importantly, how many of us are comfortable in such company? How many of us succumb to the temptation of presenting a false image to others, instead of embracing our true selves?

Let us consider – how many of us truly understand why our parents placed us in our schools? How many of us are actively exploring our life's purpose, career path, and contributions to our nation? How many of us are assets to our nation, or even to our own class and school? How many of us become distracted by teenage whims, disrupting those around us? How many of us support misguided causes under the guise of friendship? How many of us actively engage in productive learning sessions?

We often assert our rights, but what about our responsibilities? We have encountered senior students who have contributed significantly to the betterment of their peers and the education system. Conversely, some seniors have strayed from the path, disrupting the system and people around them. Labelling them as "bad" isn't entirely fair; their actions were merely misguided.

They ventured down the wrong path because nobody questioned or corrected their behaviour. Our struggle should be against negative habits, not against our own people.





Why do we not question our friends' inappropriate actions at school? Perhaps because such matters are not covered in our syllabus; they do not appear on exam papers, not even in multiple-choice questions.

As rightly stated, we cannot consistently identify the growth or decline in our daily lives. We must give special attention to such actions. If we remain passive, thinking, "This does not concern me," we may find the same problems knocking on our doors tomorrow, and by then, nobody may care about us

Being righteous is the guiding principle of life. A righteous person can stand alone against the world, for right is right, even if one person upholds it, and wrong is wrong, even if a thousand individuals endorse it. Real education is akin to a spiritual journey, with ego serving as the greatest obstacle and humility as the greatest ally. The more we learn and grow, the humbler we should become. Consider trees: as they grow, they contribute more to the ecological system. Rivers, too, offer more to life as they grow. Yet, we, as humans, often think small – the more we grow, the more we accumulate solely for our families, without contributing to our nation or society.

When we proclaim, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" – the world is one family, it becomes our responsibility to contribute to this global community. Let us begin by demonstrating responsibility within our own school. If we adopt a mindset that our fees entitle us to rights, we should also recognize that we are paying for an education that instills responsibility for the resources provided by our parents. We are investing in an education that shapes us into humane individuals, not mere profit-seeking machines. We are supporting an education that builds a nation, rather than training us to join a self-centred cohort leading self-serving lives. We are paying to become constructive characters, not destructive and selfish ones

Real education teaches us that the greatest joy lies in giving, not in taking. When we realize this, ignorance dissipates, and truth is unveiled. True education empowers us to discover ourselves, bringing us genuine happiness. If your education guides you in this direction, then you have received true education.

Could we attempt to define Bhagawan Rama based on grades?

Could we reduce Swami Vivekananda to a mere numerical score?

If we believe that our grades define us as exceptional, we are mistaken. Grades are merely numbers that gauge the quality of our learning, they do not define our identities. They assist us in gaining admission into esteemed institutions for further learning. Each one of us is unique, and a numerical grade cannot encapsulate our essence. Could we attempt to define Bhagawan Rama based on grades? Could we try to assess Jagadguru Adi Shankara based on grades? Could we reduce Swami Vivekananda to a mere numerical score? Our contributions as humans define our humanity. True education resides in this realization.



As Adi Shankara eloquently stated, reality can only be grasped through the eye of understanding, not by so-called scholars. When we cultivate a deep understanding of our humanity, we can consider ourselves truly educated.

In conclusion, let us reflect upon the ideas presented in this reading without passing judgment and react thoughtfully. Wishing you the best on your journey of self-discovery and genuine education.



AN ODE TO SISTERS

BY YASH BAVISHI

A poem written in haste,
but compensates for our thoughts
misplaced.
A bond formed on the chassis of time,
and fully glossed, with memories it is
laced.

A stitch to seal the spirit of years,
don't forget the tabooed fears.
Conversed, discussed and spoken
through tears,
still touched by graceful prayers.

You, are a sacred link.
You, are a happy glimpse.
You, are a hymn to sing.
You, are a cherubic spring.

Sisters of ours,
I sing an ode to you.
Forget not the affection
of thy brothers.

Clock strikes the touch
of the second last year.
Let's revisit some eventful times
the last try with these rhymes.

Grade 5,
some jiggle some scruff,
some patchy jive,
and devilish and mischievous enough.

Shoe fights, sheer cries,
water fights, sheer lies,
pillow fights, yet innocent eyes,
queues for bathrooms, just compromise.

Describing Grade 6,
home sickness for loads.
They said, "Walk on the new road.",
but our slippery minds made us jump
around like toads.

From the worst class to the BEST CLASS,
except the class reps, tasks fulfilled by all.
A joint educational tour,
"UNITY IN DIVERSITY" an unforgettable call.

Comes Grade 7,
the shushed excitement.
New desks, new class,
new despairs to be opened by a lass.

Omprakash Valmiki and some
loud and cheery operas sung on LIFEBOUY.
Basketball was played better in class than fields,
some SERIOUS troubles we were caught in, OH
BOY.

Enters 9th,
some invested in duties,
some doused in revelry,
others in sewing the split of ambiguities.

Reunited from the clutches of that virus,
unfortunately Rakshabandhan was stalled.
But other events satisfied the need to
understand,
and for that was the dual masquerade was called.

Next year. BOARDS.
Late night was prime time.
Study time was kitty party for loads.
Parting ways and hence everyone closed upon for
the last time.

The acquaintance is lost within the threads of
ticks and tocks.
Forget not the supporting arches of each other.
Revive and reside in the aid of another.
Get a crevice of empathy once more to do
JUH VATI to dreaded locks.

Sisters of ours,
I sing an ode to you.
Forget not the affection
of thy brothers.



CIRS CAPTURES







CREATIVE CORNER



Shreyash J. ~ X



Nishitha P. ~ VI



Anshika B. ~ IX



Sia Rajiv ~ X



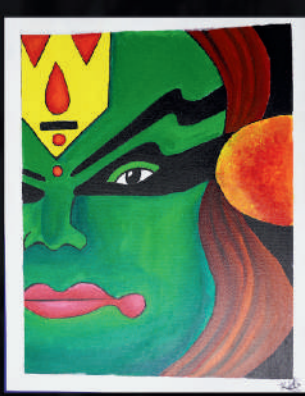
Laksh Pradhwani ~ X



Prisha Bhartia ~ X



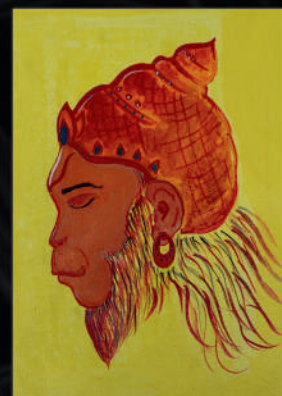
Radha G. ~ IX



Ridhima Jain ~ X

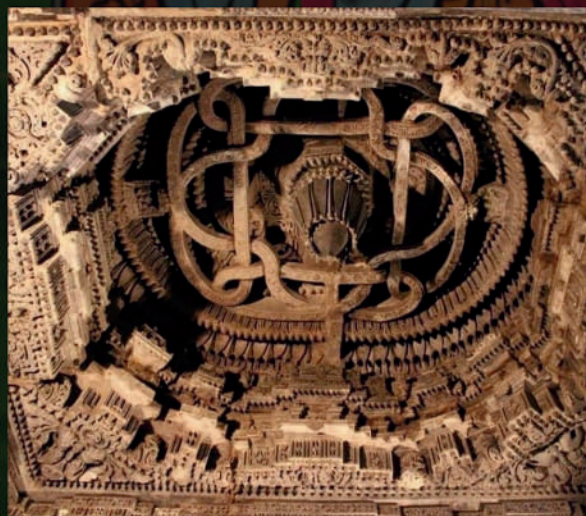


Anushya U.K. ~ IX



Aran S.C. ~ VI

SEPTEMBER APPROACHES US WITH HUSHED FEET BUT SOON MAKES US MATCH STEPS WITH ITS FAST-PACED LIFESTYLE. SEPTEMBER REMINDS US THAT GOALS ARE ACHIEVED BY THE RIGHT ACTIONS ALONE. ARE ALL THE DECISIONS WE MAKE BETTER FOR US AND THOSE AROUND US?



#BharatiaHistoryPics

1. Yoga Narasimha Temple, Karnataka

2. Chennakeshava Temple, Somanathapura

Indian Architectural Marvels

Flustering Fallacy

Trailblazing With TOK



- Rajeshwari Kejriwal

We are often under the misconception that the quantity of our knowledge affects the process of decision-making. Such is the case of an information bias, the delusion that more information guarantees better decisions. A simple example can be drawn when finding the perfect vacation spot, where we might believe that researching all the possible places would result in the best vacation ever! Well unfortunately, in the majority of situations, that is not the case. Such extensive amounts of information often lead to one conclusion, confusion. What we fail to realize is that our first search could've led to a relaxing getaway, but now option 8 also seems appealing, maybe even the 4th one. Evidently irrelevant knowledge is clouding our precision in judgment. Daniel J. Boorstin, an American historian, perfectly gives shape to this with a quote, "The greatest obstacle to discovery is not ignorance - rather the illusion of knowledge".

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