

VOL.5 ISS.07 | RNI: DELENG19767 | 1 JULY 2025

FAIRGAZE

PAGES 20 | COMPLIMENTARY COPY | NEW DELHI

SCHOOLASTIC NEWS

IMPACT-FOCUSED SCHOOL COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

**Chenab Rail Bridge:
A Pride of Engineering**
**Moocchali Ma:
Gijubhai Badheka**



BACK TO SCHOOL!



Editorial Lead

Dear Schoolastic News Readers,

Welcome to the July edition of Schoolastic News! This is that time of year when pretty much the whole country soaks up the monsoon vibes—nature's showing off, everything's green and wild. Thus, undoubtedly, this month is the peak celebration of creativity, emotional intelligence, and innovative progress.

For many of us, saying goodbye to summer vacation has been the most challenging part. That hope for an extended break quickly faded with the 6 AM alarm, and soon enough, the school bus arrived to take us "Back to School." It's the moment to rewind all those days of hard work on holiday home work and take a forward step to showcase all the extravaganza in the school exhibition. Remember, the seeds of tomorrow's blockbuster are being planted today—in your classrooms, projects, and curious questions.

This is the crucial period in the academic cycle where our brains and bodies have rejuvenated from a much-pampered summer break. It has allowed us to absorb more learning and act as our highest potential future selves. It is the marking of renewal, embracing new chapters with never-before-taken growth turns.

July, the midpoint of the year, reminds us that growth isn't merely about results or rewards—it's about reflection, reinvention, and resilience. It is during this phase that we unlearn and relearn, reshaping our perspectives and allowing curiosity to guide us forward.

This edition of Schoolastic News captures exactly that: the spirit of change. You'll find stories that highlight not just academic achievements but also personal victories—students finding their voices and moments of national progress, making us all proud and urging us to evolve with the new curriculum pattern. In an evolving global environment, students today are not only dynamic citizens of their nation but also of the entire world. This issue encourages readers to adopt an international perspective and take responsibility, starting in their classrooms. These aren't just extra-curricular activities—they're vital life lessons in teamwork, creativity, resilience, and emotional balance.

As you turn the pages, you will discover that we have initiated a few changes from this July edition. We are theme-based now—The July theme being Back to School. There is a section for students and teachers to send in their reviews. There is a section on educator focus, and we begin with Gijubhai Badheka and his thinking and practices about education.

As your Editor, it gives me immense pleasure and pride to participate with each one of you, our contributors and readers, bringing authentic content and life to this vibrant publication. The content here is not just words and visuals; it embodies the epitome of future-forward intellect and the evolving spirit of our school community. It serves as a growth gazette.

To our teachers and mentors, thank you for providing empowering environments that allow students to share their thoughts. It is through your support that these young voices show up with utmost confidence.

To the parents, we thank you for nourishing these minds with affection and patience, thus allowing them to blossom into their individuality.

To the students, you are the catalyst of this magazine. Continue writing, questioning, and dreaming. The world is looking at you, and more importantly, it is listening. We encourage our readers—students, teachers, and parents—to share their ideas, reflections, and innovations for future editions. Let Schoolastic News continue to reflect your voice and vision.

As we march forward into this new academic season, may we carry with us the wisdom gained during rest, the curiosity awakened by play, and the courage stirred by new beginnings.

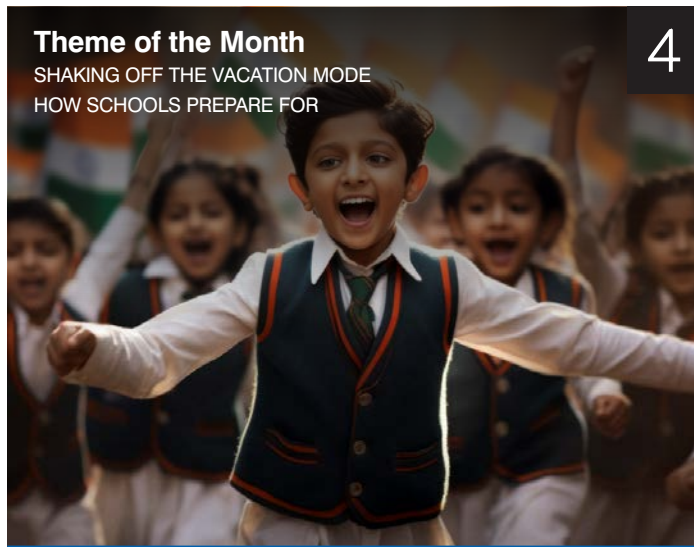
Discomfort shouldn't be seen as a roadblock; instead, it's a golden chance for personal growth and development. The lessons learned, challenges tackled, and opportunities seized are a milestone in themselves and lead to our journey of becoming the best version of ourselves.

Let's celebrate those risky beginnings, the courage to expand our limits, and the joy of being a learner throughout. This edition is a sweet reminder that amid all the chaos and responsibilities, every student can question, innovate, and lead. Let's work in collaboration to nourish that ability, both in ourselves and in each other.

Warm regards,
Bhavna Sharma
Editorial Lead
info@fairgaze.com

Content

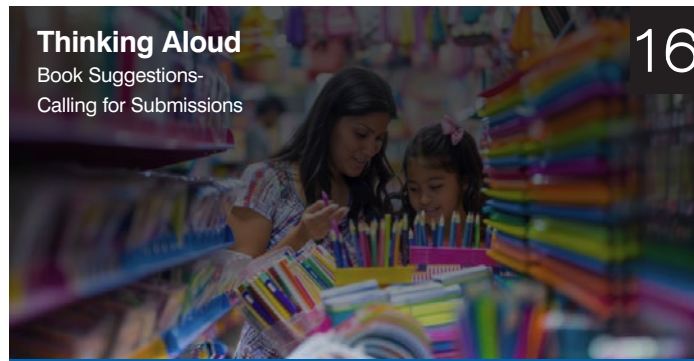
Editor's Note..... 3



Theme of the Month

SHAKING OFF THE VACATION MODE
HOW SCHOOLS PREPARE FOR

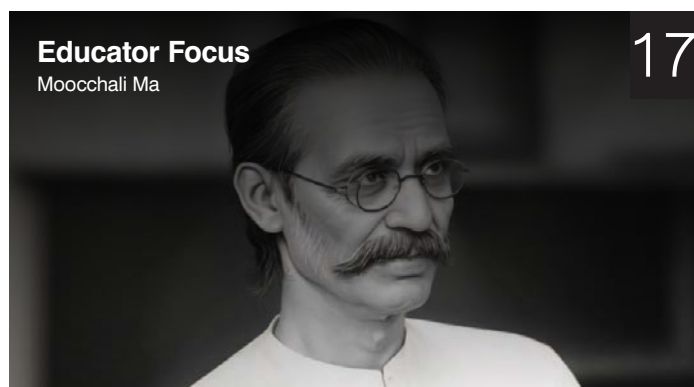
4



Thinking Aloud

Book Suggestions-
Calling for Submissions

16

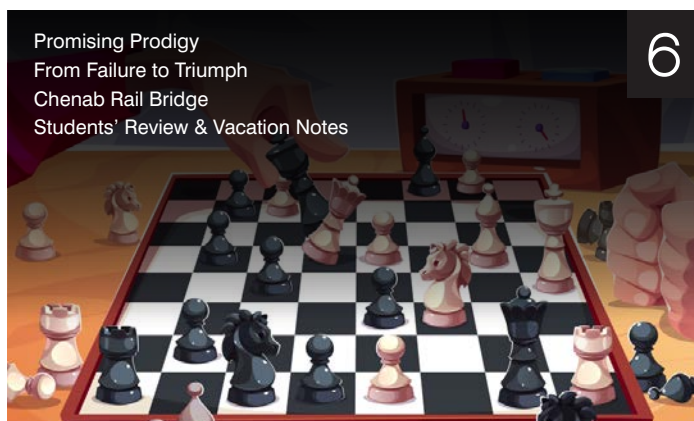


Educator Focus

Moocchali Ma

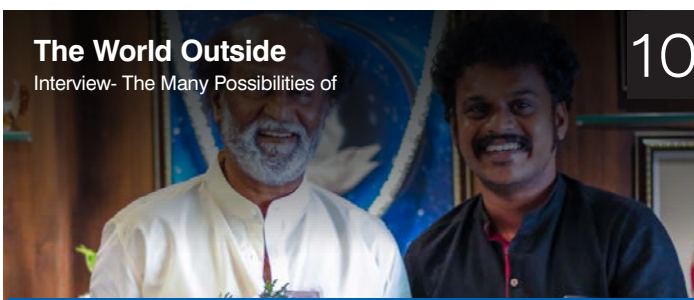
17

STUDENT VOICE



Promising Prodigy
From Failure to Triumph
Chenab Rail Bridge
Students' Review & Vacation Notes

6



The World Outside

Interview- The Many Possibilities of

10



Education News
Beyond the Curriculum

13



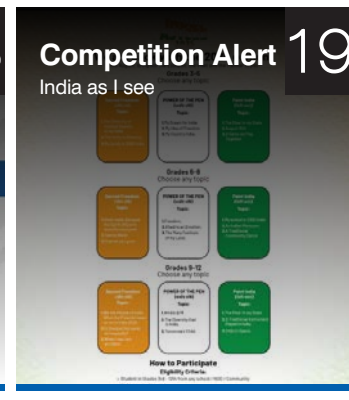
FairGaze Initiatives
FairGaze and MUN

14



FairGaze Initiatives
FortiSteps SELP Learning Program

18



Competition Alert
India as I see

19

CREDITS & EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITORIAL LEAD

BHAVNA SHARMA

EDITORIAL TEAM

ANNA CHANDY

MANGALA DWIVEDI

HEAD OF DESIGN & LAYOUT

JASVINDAR SINGH

COMMUNITY GROWTH & OUTREACH

KIRAN TOMAR

SHRUTI SRIVASTAVA

EDITORIAL & MARKETING CORRESPONDENCE

FairGaze Skills Pvt. Ltd.

1412 Chiranjiv Tower 43, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, India.

Ph.: +91-11-46850000 | E-mail: info@fairgaze.com

IMPRINT LINE:

Published and printed by Mookola Lakshman Sudheen on behalf of FairGaze Skills Pvt. Ltd.
Printed at: JK Offset Graphics Pvt. Ltd. B-278, Okhla Industrial Area Phase 1, New Delhi 110020.
Published from 1412 Chiranjiv Tower 43, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, India.

Editor: Mookola Lakshman Sudheen

All rights reserved, no part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic and mechanical, including photocopy, and information storage or retrieval system, without publisher's permission.

Disclaimer

Any opinions and views expressed on or through the content/article are those of the designated authors and do not necessarily represent views of FairGaze Skills Private Limited ("Company"). Further, the company does not make any warranty as to the correctness or reliability of such content/article.

THEME OF THE MONTH

SHAKING OFF THE VACATION MODE - TRANSITIONING BACK TO SCHOOL MODE

THE SCHOOLASTIC NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM



School vacations are something that we look forward to. So, what happens after the vacation is over? Is the 'Back to School' mode something parents and children dread alike, or are anxious about; or do we look forward to the school routines?

For most of us, vacations are a time to go easy on routines, preparations, homework, home rules, housework and other chores. For students it could be sleeping in, and sleeping late, extended time to play, unwind, just loll around, reading books, magazines, watching shows, movies, sports, listening to music, podcasts among the many ways to unwind without the worry of formal learning routines.

It is not easy to let go of vacations. So how do we prep ourselves to get back to school, and what can we do to help those not quite ready to transition to school-readiness? Is the preparation the

same for children in different grades? Here are some suggestions based on our research about post vacation transitioning back to school.

Sleep schedules and morning routines: Ideally start two weeks in advance across grades. This is a good enough span to reset to an early bedtime and wake up time. This includes getting ready for the day and having a healthy breakfast. Transition to these routines through meaningful conversations. Expectation of transition is to see it as a way of being prepared, so that your little one, pre-teen, or teenager sees it as a way grow towards their goals. Every break is to unwind from old routines, shed the baggage of disappointment and follow it up with a new beginning.

Conversations about school: Your conversations can speak of what their anxieties are, what they look forward to, and what can be done to make it

possible. Aligning personal/ future goals, and school goals/ expectations so that the way ahead can be structured meaningfully. Conversations can be around affirmations of their strengths and strategies to overcome old challenges and anticipating new ones.

Physical Prep: Time to wash, repair, iron, make new school bags, uniforms, socks and shoes, lunch box, and water bottle. Leaf through, cover and label the text and notebooks. Clipping nails, haircuts, setting aside hair bands/ribbons, handkerchiefs, belt, Tie, badges help in presenting a confident YOU.

Academic Prep: Revisit structured learning routines/ time/ check on teacher –school notes and notices. Revisit previously taught concepts, go through new texts, connect holiday assignments to old and new syllabus make learning connected and meaningful.

Organization: Designate a space and time/ schedule at home. Go through the study material, together with your child, irrespective of age. As parents it shows your willingness to be a part of what your child is engaged in every year. Most importantly, speak of a 'me-time' and why it is needed as a space to unwind, reflect, reset. It builds trust, demonstrates empathy and your commitment to, journey along with your child. Foster and affirm their independence in managing their selves, teach them to ask for help, and strategies to build determination, resilience, friends and friendships.

THEME OF THE MONTH

HOW SCHOOLS PREPARE FOR POST BREAK ACADEMIC SESSIONS

THE SCHOOLASTIC NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM

A vacation is as needed for the teachers as the students. At the beginning of a new academic year, before a vacation ends are spaces for schools and teachers to reskill, train and reflect. Some schools have yearlong, continuous trainings and workshops for the teachers, special educators, counsellors and other support staff; mostly on designated days. Yet, other schools plan workshops and trainings before reopening the school to students.

Many of these capacity building sessions are also identified and offered by the National Council for Educational Research and Training and the State Council for Educational Research and Training. On their own, many schools actively analyse student assessment data, assignments, class observations, teacher lesson plans to identify teaching-learning gaps. Workshops and trainings are then chosen to address these gaps. Many of the schools also conduct workshops around teacher well-being. This is an acknowledgement of the multiple roles a teacher plays as an educator, a teacher is a subject specialist, a mentor, deals with mental, social and emotional well-being of their students, has a fair understanding of child development, psychology and learning and class management methods. The FairGaze editorial team wrote to teachers, school coordinators and principals to find out what goes into the capacity building sessions and the outcomes they expect from these. We bring you some teacher voices and their reflections.

Chanakya Lahiri is a Teach for India, Year 2 Teacher Fellow at the MCD Primary School Mandawali No. 1, Delhi. He spoke

of workshops organised before the new academic year began. The focus was on building leadership capacity, so that "each one of our students get the most excellent education that they deserve". He is hopeful and excited to use the skills learned and expect more students and parent engagement from his classroom. He is hoping to build a strong foundation and love for learning in all his students.

Samreen is a Champion Intern at the Simple Education Foundation and teaches at the MC (co-ed) Primary School, Andrews Ganj. She emphasised that "before the new academic year began, I had the opportunity to attend some meaningful training sessions. The one I joined focused on important areas like understanding my role as a facilitator, building strong connections with stakeholders, exploring different frameworks, handling conflicts calmly, improving communication, understanding child psychology, and sharpening observation skills. Each part of the training helped me grow as an educator and prepare for the year ahead."

She chose purposefully trainings that would shape and refine both how we teach students (pedagogy) and how we grow as educators (andragogy). The good part about the trainings were that they were rooted in real challenges facilitators face. The trainings helped her better understand student behaviour, how to communicate with clearly with stakeholders, and see her role with more clarity. She feels better prepared to create a positive and effective learning space post the training.

Priyanshi Singh, teacher at MCD, Lajpat Nagar-IV Girls School attended the online

trainings organised by Simple Education

Foundation. The sessions included capacity building in phonics, child psychology, play way method, Hindi writing skills, a range of communication and reflection skills, and proactive stakeholder management. Overall, the goal was to equip teachers with practical strategies to support children's all-round development in an engaging and effective way. She found that the workshops enhanced her understanding of both academic and holistic teaching practices.

Our conversations with a school principal in Malad, Mumbai highlighted the benefits of need-based interventions for educators. They analysed multiple data points to recognise the gap between outcomes and practice. Their focus this year is on fostering creativity, engagement and teacher well-being. Among an array of creative workshops were:

Theatre-Based Learning Workshops that incorporated drama and role-play in morning assemblies, story-telling, poetry, language lessons. Techniques were taught to boost creativity, voice modulation, body language, confidence. Sessions on metacognitive and reflective teaching practices that equip the teachers with strategies to raise self-awareness (e.g., learning diaries), plan lessons, debrief on effectiveness, and adjust in real time. Cooperative Learning Techniques and Collaborative projects that engage learners and make learning engaging. Collaborative planning to scaffold and support teachers across grades, and Mindfulness and meditation sessions that highlighted accepting the present and "feeding" the mind with positive, soulful knowledge.

STUDENT VOICE

A PROMISING SUMMER FOR A YOUNG CHESS PRODIGY

BY: MUTHU NAVANEETHA KRISHNA P, CLASS 11, DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, BENGALURU SOUTH



In the beginning of summer this year, India participated in the Western Asian Youth Chess Championship 2025 held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. In the week-long championship (22nd to 28th April 2025), India secured 31 medals in total- 11 in Classical, 11 in Rapid, and 9 in Blitz. In the Classical under-8-girls category, Anvi Deepak Hinge, a young chess prodigy from Maharashtra, secured a silver medal with a score of 6.5/9 and a rating of 1474. In the Rapid, she continued to bedazzle the audience with a score of 9.5/11 and a 1513 rating, winning a silver medal. She followed it up with

another silver medal in the Blitz. Both, in team Rapid and team Classical events, she earned two gold medals thus adding up to India's victory in the 2025 Championship.

Anvi Deepak Hinge, born in 2017, was introduced to chess at a very young age. When she was just all of four her parents noticed her intense love for chess. They supported her through the journey, providing her with the best of facilities. Anvi trained under Mr. Pratik Mulay, an experienced instructor of FIDE. She began her formal training in 2022, and from then on, she left a mark

in every tournament she participated in. In a few months, she claimed the title of 'Pune District Champion' and continued shining in city-level events. Subsequently, she secured first place in the Under-9 category at another prestigious event and won the 'Best Girl Under-7' title at the Gandhi Tournament.

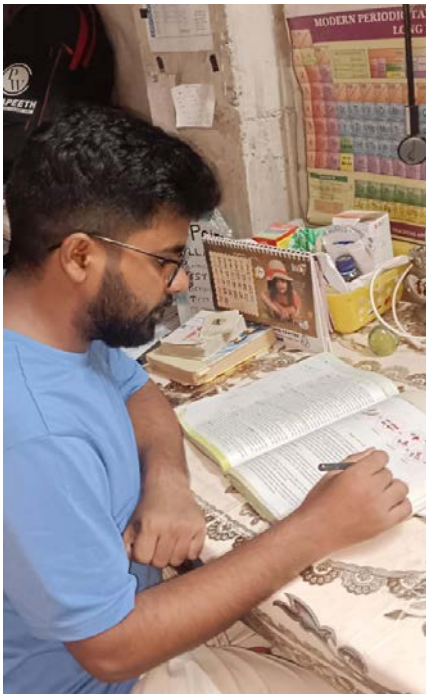
This young chess prodigy now extended her brilliance on the chessboard to national and international events. At the 12th National School Chess Championship 2024, she claimed the 2nd runner-up position in the Under-7 Girls category, scoring 7 out of 9 points. A few months later, she won against the tournament leader in just 18 moves, securing the title 'Maharashtra State Under-7 Champion'. After international events, she has become a youth sensation, inspiring many young minds. Her calm and composed mind have left every chess enthusiast awe-struck, as the discipline and dedication she displays is quite stellar for an eight-year-old.

Anvi is an idol to many youngsters. She has proved that strategic analysis, a calm and composed mind, and a determined heart is the key to being a prodigy in any field. Her determination, passion for the game, perseverance, and a supportive family are admired by all. Thus, the shaping of young minds play a crucial role in achieving success. Anvi's is an inspiring story for every child with a dream. She seems to be the next youngest Chess World Champion after Gukesh. Here is wishing her more occasions to make India proud and inspire the youth.

STUDENT VOICE

FROM FAILURE TO TRIUMPH:
◀ **MY NEET JOURNEY OF** ▶
HOPE AND PERSEVERANCE

BY: MD WASIM, NEET 2025, MALDA, WEST BENGAL

**The Dream**

When I first dreamt of becoming a doctor, I had no idea how tough the road would be. My NEET journey was not the story of overnight success, but of three failed attempts, long nights of tears, and a heart full of faith that never gave up.

The Motivation

I come from a humble background where money was always a concern. My father couldn't afford coaching or college admission fees, and many around us thought I was simply wasting time. "Three times failed, still dreaming?" they would say with sarcasm. But my mother, she stood by

me like a rock—encouraging, protecting, and reminding me, "Don't give up when you're so close." Her silent strength became my loudest motivation.

**"Sometimes life tests you
not to show your weakness,
but to discover your
strength."**

The Perseverance

Without coaching or financial help, I decided to rely completely on self-study. I collected old books, downloaded free PDFs, and made every second count. I created my own notes, made daily goals, and practiced hundreds of MCQs with the hope that one day, my turn would come.

There were moments when I doubted myself. Seeing my friends move forward while I stayed behind was heartbreaking. But deep down, I knew this was my path. Failure did not break me—it built me.

On my third attempt, I studied like never before. I disconnected from distractions, avoided negativity, and focused entirely on improvement. I didn't want to prove others wrong—I wanted to prove myself right. And finally, when the result came in, I had passed.

The Hope

That one word 'Qualified,' was more than a result. It was the answer to every tear, every insult, every lonely night I spent convincing myself to not give up. I cried not because I was weak, but

because I had carried the weight for too long and finally made it. To every NEET aspirant reading this:

Don't let failure define you.

Let it refine you.

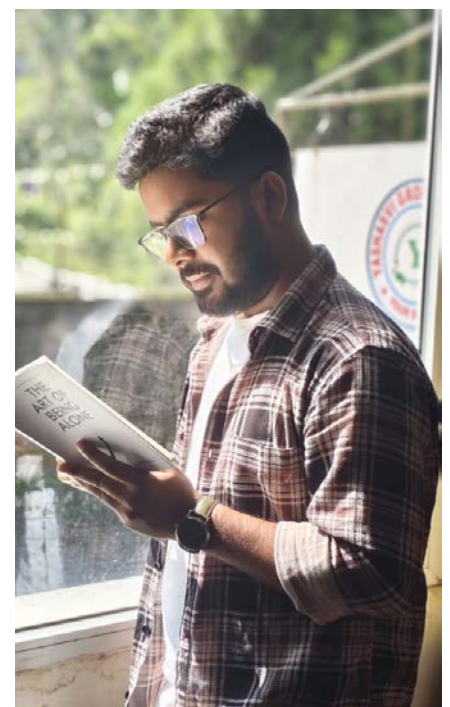
***Don't wait for perfect
conditions;***

start with what you have.

***And above all, don't give up
after falling.***

Stand up stronger.

If someone like me, with neither money, nor coaching, and three failures behind me can make it, you can too. Dreams take time, sacrifice, and a lot of patience. But in the end, they are worth it. I didn't just pass NEET - I passed every reason life gave me to quit.



STUDENT VOICE

CHENAB RAIL BRIDGE: A PRIDE OF ENGINEERING

BY: SHREEYA SRIVASTAVA, CLASS 11, LA MARTINIÈRE GIRLS' COLLEGE, LUCKNOW



India has its own array of architectural marvels from time immemorial. Ancient temples whispering ageless tales to modern skyscrapers gracing the skies. The Chenab Rail Bridge in Jammu and Kashmir is a grand leap in this hall of pride. This celebration goes beyond aesthetics; it sings of resolve, innovation, and the spirit of nationalism. An engineer on the project said, "This is more than just steel and stone; it's human ingenuity on display".

This Deck Arch Bridge made of steel and concrete was commissioned as part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project to connect the isolated regions of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India. The intent was to bring a much-required all-weather access for an area plagued by frequent

landslides in harsh winters. Thus, this was not meant to be just any bridge; it was a breath of new life. Perched at a height of 359 metres above the flowing serenity of the Chenab River, the Bridge covers a length of 1,315 metres of the river gorge. It now stands as the highest railroad bridge in the world, even higher than the Eiffel Tower.

Great strength, precision, and passion has been attributed to the construction of the Bridge. The structure designed by experts across the globe is meant to withstand earthquakes, severe winds, extreme terrain and weather. It was fabricated using over 30,000 tonnes of a special corrosion-resistant steel and put through several tests under extreme conditions to ensure its safety and durability.

The Chenab Rail Bridge reached a zenith

in terms of thorough planning and execution in the world of civil engineering and infrastructure. While they say all great wonders require a buy-in of some fantastic engineering and architecture, the reality is that a team of labourers unite to laborious efforts in completing a wonderful creation. With a morphing terrain and inclement weather, planning and on ground execution called for some out-of-the-box thinking and sheer persistence.

The engineering marvel has crossed geographical barriers to economic growth, tourism, and cultural exchange and created a land of opportunities for the communities of the region. Education, health facilities, job opportunities are not too far away for the communities that flourish along the rail link, thereby assuring a bright future for coming generations.

As the trains chug over this masterpiece of architecture, they carry with them the dreams and aspirations of millions. The Chenab rail bridge stands for unity and resilience; a demonstration of how, ingenuity and hard work can conquer the toughest challenge. The towering presence of the Chenab Rail Bridge against the great Himalayas is more than just a sight to behold; it is a story to be told for generations-it is a story of progress, pride, and the never-say-die spirit of India.

STUDENT VOICE

Students Review & and Vacation Notes...

Feel Good and Fun- Zootopia directed by Byron Howard and Rich Moore. I liked Zootopia because it has a very interesting story and a strong message. It is about a bunny named Judy Hopps who becomes a police officer and solves a mystery with the help of a fox named Nick. The movie teaches us about teamwork, believing in yourself, and fighting against stereotypes. I would recommend Zootopia to my friends." **Kulsum, Grade 11, Government Girls Senior Secondary School Delhi**

Action is my forte- I like action movies so I watched Pushpa 2 this vacation. It is directed by Sukumar. I liked the songs and music composed and written Devi Sri Prasad. **Madiha is a Grade 11 student at GGSS School Gautampuri**



Beyond the Thrill- "This summer, I watched **Now You See Me**, which I thought was a regular heist thriller, but I was indeed wrong. The movie is about how easily our perception can be tricked and people often believe what they want to see. With the opening line being "The more you think you see, the easier it'll be to fool you", the protagonists use misdirection to impress the crowd quite like in real life. We often focus on surface distractions while missing what really matters. It reminded me to look beyond the obvious and how magic is in the smallest of things and it lies just beyond our immediate gaze. **Keya Gupta, Grade X, Blue Bells Model School**

A Meaningful Summer: Books, Beliefs, And A Brilliant Series- "In spite of being a PCM student, I still managed to enjoy my summer vacation. An enriching experience was reading 100 Tales from the Mahagatha by Satyarth Nayak. It's an incredible mythological book that offered a new perspective on understanding my religion, Sanatan Dharma and deepened my respect and reverence for Dharma immensely. Every line in the book carries meaning and depth. I took an entire month to read just half of it, so that I could absorb its true essence without rushing.

I also watched Panchayat on Amazon Prime. It has become one of my favorite series that's both entertaining and meaningful. It beautifully unveils the life in Indian villages, the politics, and the innocence of the people living there; a learning experience that gave insights into local governance and rural realities. Definitely a must-watch. **Arya Ojha of Grade XI, Blue Bells Model School**

Of Queens and battles and politics- "This summer, I spent a significant amount of time reading books and listening to podcasts, but one piece that truly stood out was The Last Queen by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. A powerful rags-to-riches story about a young girl from a small town who marries a king. Her journey is deeply moving. After the king's untimely death, she is thrust into a complex political world, forced to navigate betrayal, manipulation, British interference and supporters who sought personal gain under the cloak of loyalty. The book captures the tragic annexation of Punjab by the British. It was a gripping, emotional, and enriching read. **Asmita Chauhan of Grade IX, Blue Bells Model School**

When the music does me good, and it's keeping me Alive! "This summer break, alongside Netflix and chill, I decided to conquer the world of rhythm and chords. I finally gathered enough motivation to pick up the guitar getting rusty in the corner of my room, hoping to discover a new hobby. Soon, I was greeted by sore fingers and messy sounds; but I pushed through the cacophony to finally achieve a clean-sounding E minor chord. That single strum made me feel ecstatic. Fast forward two weeks—I've learned chord progressions and am close to perfecting a song, thanks to YouTube tutorials. As I progressed through my guitar journey, I realized this summer wasn't just about learning a skill but about embodying a new quality: perseverance. Without it, my guitar would still be collecting dust, and I would have never discovered the joy of turning noise into melody. **Rupsha Ghosh Grade IX, Blue Bells Model School**

Chandigarh- "It was a wonderful stay at Chandigarh airbase during my summer vacations. I had the opportunity to see the latest war machines and new fighter jets and interacted with fighter pilots. It was exciting to be at the same airbase which was under attack during the Operation Sindoor. Our air defence system thwarted the attack. My stay in Chandigarh, also led me to visit several temples and the rock garden." **Rudraansh Singh of Grade 8 at Blue Bells Model School**

A Himalayan Journey- "Summer break was a blast! I spent my holidays traveling to Leh Ladakh, and it was an experience of a lifetime! The breathtaking landscapes, serene lakes, and majestic monasteries left me awestruck. I learned about the rich history and culture of the region, and the trip was a perfect blend of adventure and relaxation. From trekking to Pangong Lake to marvelling at the beauty of Nubra Valley, every moment was unforgettable. I highly recommend Leh- Ladakh to anyone looking for a mix of thrill and tranquillity. I'm already planning my next adventure!" **Srishti Sanjay of Grade XII, Blue Bells Model School**

Grandma's magic! "I spent my summer at my Nani's house. It was a time well spent with cousins, enjoying home-cooked food, and simply relaxing". **Kulsum from Grade 11, Government Girls Senior Secondary School Delhi**



THE WORLD OUTSIDE

THE MANY POSSIBILITIES OF FILM MAKING

OUR EDITORIAL LEAD, BHAVNA SHARMA IN CONVERSATION WITH ARAVIND KUMAR
RAVIVARMA, CINEMATOGRAPHER, DIRECTOR, SCRIPTWRITER, PRODUCER

We had the wonderful opportunity to speak with Cinematographer, | Director, Scriptwriter, Producer Aravind Kumar Ravivarma from the South Indian film industry. With an impressive portfolio that spans over 250 commercials and more than 100 independently produced ad films, music videos, and corporate shoots, Aravind has firmly established himself as a storyteller par excellence, both behind the camera and at the writing desk.

Aravind's journey began with an opportunity to work on India's biggest sci-fi spectacle, Enthiran – The Robot (2010), alongside filmstars Rajinikanth, Aishwarya Rai, and director Shankar. This

formative experience laid the groundwork for a career rooted in both artistic integrity and technical brilliance.

His subsequent contributions as an associate cinematographer on notable films like 1: Nenokadine (Telugu), Haridas (Tamil), Kool (Kannada), and David (Hindi) further refined his craft. By 2012, he founded his own advertising agency, delivering high-impact campaigns for giants such as Airtel, Asian Paints, ITC, Apollo Hospitals, and Kalyan Jewellers.

In a bold move that echoed the proof-of-concept culture of Hollywood, Aravind directed and produced a pilot film titled Chennai Engira Madras, earning critical acclaim and opening doors to

collaborations with top directors as a creative director, script consultant, and ghostwriter.

Aravind's multifaceted expertise doesn't end at filmmaking. He heads a talent management firm representing over 700 film industry professionals, a significant force in shaping cinematic talent.

In 2023, he brought his scriptwriting and cinematography skills together in the Telugu film Spark, which garnered positive reviews. His upcoming ventures include a Pan-India project and another under a major production banner. With 25 ready-to-shoot scripts and an unshakable passion for storytelling, Aravind is poised to be one of the most influential creators of his generation.

In Conversation with Aravind Kumar Ravivarma:

Early Career & Influences

- **You began your cinematic journey with Enthiran—what was it like working on such a massive project so early in your career?**

God has been kind to me - getting to work on a project as massive as Enthiran right after stepping out of college was nothing short of a dream. It was an incredible experience to work alongside legends like Rajinikanth sir, Shankar sir, Randy sir, and Aishwarya Rai ji. That project helped shape my career and gave me a solid foundation. Nothing teaches you more than witnessing the work of your role models, gurus, and legends firsthand.

- **Who or what were your early creative influences in filmmaking and cinematography?**

As a child, the only person I knew and thoroughly enjoyed watching on the big screen was Superstar Rajinikanth. My dad made sure we watched every one of his films on the first day. Those early experiences left a strong impression on me.

As I grew older and started to understand cinema and its artistry, I was deeply influenced by Kamal Haasan sir, Mani Ratnam sir, and Santosh Sivan sir. Internationally, Steven Spielberg's Jurassic Park sparked my curiosity about movies.

But it was the film Dil Se that made me want to become a cinematographer. The way it captured landscapes, colours, and emotions inspired me to start clicking photographs back in school. Later, as I explored the works of Satyajit Ray, Mahendran, and K. Balachander, I began to appreciate the philosophical depth in their storytelling. Their ability to root stories in Indian culture and craft character-driven narratives inspired me to pursue a degree in Visual Communication in college.

Craft & Philosophy

- **You wear many hats - cinematographer, director, writer, producer. How do you balance these roles?**

When you truly love what you do, you

end up running out of time every single day. I've always enjoyed keeping myself busy. Being a voracious reader, I've been endlessly fascinated by stories and the power of visual storytelling -that's how it all began. The other roles naturally followed, all rooted in my passion.

I'm also fortunate to have a wonderful team of people around me who help ensure everything stays balanced. Being deeply passionate about my work, I genuinely enjoy the process and find joy in staying creatively occupied.

- **What's your creative process like when developing a new script or visual concept?**

I usually handle everything myself - from ideation to execution - because, in a visual medium, I find it much easier to communicate directly with the audience than to explain my vision to others. If an idea inspires me and excites me as an audience member, that's when I know it's worth pursuing. I sit with it, write mostly



in solitude, and then move into discussions to translate it visually.

Being a tech-savvy person, I rely heavily on new-age gadgets. They've made it easier to write on the go and even test-shoot ideas whenever I feel inspired. That's how my process begins - spontaneous, intuitive, and driven by excitement. Once the core is ready, I collaborate with the right team to bring the concept to life. That balance between personal intuition and teamwork is what helps me craft my art effectively.

Industry Insights

- **With over 250 commercials and major brand campaigns under your belt, how has advertising shaped your storytelling style?**

Advertising is like T20 cricket - you have to be fast, precise, and extremely appealing to connect with your audience instantly. Every campaign comes with a specific goal, and you're expected to deliver high-quality visuals and narratives within tight constraints.

That discipline has sharpened my storytelling. It's taught me how to present ideas in a short, crisp, and impactful way without compromising on quality or creative integrity. It's also helped me develop a clear visual vision-something powerful, unique, and effective in capturing attention in just a few seconds.

- **What's your view on the current state of South Indian cinema, and where do you see it heading?**

I believe it's the right time to move past regional labels and embrace the term Indian Cinema. There's no longer a divide; audiences in the North are wholeheartedly enjoying stories set in the South, whether it's a rural tale like Pushpa or a royal saga like Maharaja. Likewise, people in the South are equally invested in films like Jawan and Animal from the North.

We're moving towards a strong, unified, and collective form of storytelling. I can see the entertainment industry playing a major role in the economic growth of our country. India now produces more content than any other nation - Hollywood has become more of a name tag, while Indian creators are pushing boundaries with storytelling and execution, often using minimal resources.

Cinema and "Maa" (mother) are deeply rooted in the hearts of Indians - we are emotionally connected to both. That's why our industry will always remain powerful and progressive.

Noteworthy Projects

- **Chennai Engira Madras introduced a Hollywood-style proof-of-concept format. How did that idea come about?**

The idea was inspired after watching interviews of directors like Christopher Nolan and the Wachowskis, where they spoke about creating shorter versions or proof-of-concepts of Inception and The Matrix to convince studios to greenlight

their vision. In Hollywood, even big-budget films like Doctor Strange and Avengers only moved forward after showing a visual sample of how the movie would look and feel.

While anyone can write a story, execution at a high cinematic level requires deep experience and knowledge of the craft. Today, audiences demand a rich visual experience. So, it makes sense to present a visual proof of concept along with a bound screenplay - it significantly increases the chances of the project getting greenlit, and helps producers clearly see the director's vision.

That's exactly why I chose to do it. I'm grateful it reached the right people and was appreciated by legends like Rajinikanth Sir and Suriya Sir. Their words meant a lot to me.

- **Tell us more about your involvement in Spark. How did you manage the dual responsibilities of scripting and cinematography?**

It was an exciting journey. As I mentioned earlier, I love keeping myself occupied, so being both the story writer and the cinematographer was a big responsibility, but also something I thoroughly enjoyed. Thankfully, I had a fantastic team around me who ensured everything stayed on track. I'm truly glad that the audience appreciated the final output.

Upcoming Ventures

- **You have multiple Pan-India projects in the pipeline. Can you share any hints about what audiences can expect?**

Yes, there are several projects in the works, and scripting is in full swing. Mounting a Pan-India film takes a lot of effort, especially because the story needs to resonate across diverse regions and cultures. I'm currently working on concepts that aim to do just that. A few big stars have already given their nod to the screenplays, and I can say with confidence that these films are going to be very exciting. If you enjoyed Jawan, Lucky Baskhar, Vikram, or Pushpa, I believe you'll enjoy my upcoming projects even more. For now, I'll let the work speak for itself.

- **What excites you the most about the 25 scripts you've**

developed? Is there one project particularly close to your heart?

Every script is special to me, but there are a few that feel especially relevant right now. One is a high-octane action film, another is a strong female-centric narrative, and there's also a love story that I believe will connect deeply with today's Gen Z audience. These are the kinds of films we grew up loving, and I want to bring that same emotional and cinematic magic back to the big screen.

Beyond Filmmaking

- **You also run a talent management firm with 700+ professionals. How do you identify and nurture new talent?**

Talent management is incredibly important today. Artists - from actors to directors, cinematographers, editors, and technicians - need the right people to represent them. During their creative process, they can't always attend to every inquiry or negotiation, and that's where we come in. We match them with the right projects and ensure their strengths are aligned with the needs of the production.

Alongside that, I also run a social media marketing company that handles influencers, brand collaborations, and digital promotions. That space is evolving rapidly, and being in the industry for so long, we know exactly how to reach audiences and help creators grow. We're currently working on launching a much bigger all-in-one platform to integrate talent and branding in a more seamless way.

- **How important is mentorship and collaboration in the industry today?**

Mentorship and collaboration have played a huge role in my journey. I'm here today because I had the right guidance and partnerships along the way. In this industry, it's not just about how much work you do - it's about the quality of work and the decisions you make.

Sometimes, knowing which opportunities to let go of is just as important as the



ones you choose. That clarity comes through the right

mentorship. Discipline, focus, and hard work are the foundation for any meaningful collaboration.

Vision Ahead

- **What are your long-term goals in cinema? Any dream collaborations or genres you'd love to explore?**

My ultimate goal is to entertain audiences through cinema, always. Every project is a dream in itself, but I do hope to one day bring together some of India's top stars and seasoned Hollywood actors in a large-scale action film. That blend of storytelling and scale would be an exciting challenge. Let's see where God's grace takes us.

- **How do you envision your contribution to the evolution of Indian cinema over the next decade?**

We're entering a fascinating era of technological evolution, especially with AI and advanced filmmaking tools. I make it a point to stay updated with the latest gadgets and state-of-the-art equipment. The way we tell stories is evolving rapidly, and the next five years will bring massive shifts in our industry.

I want to be at the forefront of that change, while staying rooted in our Indian culture and storytelling traditions. My goal is to make the voice of India resonate globally, in a cinematic language that transcends borders. With the blessings of God, I hope to contribute meaningfully to that vision.

EDUCATION NEWS

BEYOND THE
CURRICULUM

BY: ABHINAV KUMAR, INTERN, FAIRGAZE

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has introduced seven new teaching modules aimed at linking subject learning with real-world challenges. Available on the NCERT website, these modules cover vital topics: digital skills, mental health, physical health, cleanliness, Indian history, COVID-19 awareness and management, and democracy.

As India emerges as a global digital leader, the emphasis on digital literacy becomes essential for the new generation. Initiatives like UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India), UMANG, DigiYatra, and Swayam exemplify the significant digital shift, making access to information and services more inclusive. This digital landscape empowers students to engage in online learning and manage their educational tasks conveniently. Recognizing growing concerns about mental health among students due to academic pressure, the government has prioritized accessible mental health resources, notably through the **Tele MANAS (14416)** initiative, a national helpline that provides immediate support. This fosters an environment where mental wellness is openly discussed, helping students navigate stress more effectively.

Similarly, the KHELO India initiative promotes physical fitness and sports culture, offering scholarships for training and competition exposure to aspiring athletes, highlighting the potential for sports careers. The Swachhata initiative emphasizes cleanliness and hygiene through innovative methods, such as using an animated character, SWACHHATA WIZARD, to engage students in understanding the importance of sanitation. By fostering individual responsibility in cleanliness, it contributes to broader public health efforts.



Another important module, Virasat aur Vikas, delves into India's rich cultural heritage, introducing students to historical sites and regional stories that enhance their appreciation of cultural diversity. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the module on the topic helps students understand its scientific, social, and psychological impacts, enabling them to develop a sense of preparedness for future health crises and encouraging critical thinking.

Lastly, the democracy module educates students about India's political history, exploring the evolution of voting traditions from ancient times to modern electoral systems. This knowledge equips students with an understanding of their democratic rights and responsibilities, fostering informed citizenship.

The NCERT site offers various titles, including "Legacy of Sacred Monuments," "Taste of Indian Regional Cuisine," "Our Rivers," "Weaving the Rich Tapestry of Threads," and "The Saga of Forts," which are not specified for stages.

For the Asian Games, titles like "Khelo India Scheme & Rise of Bhartiya Paralympians" and "Bharat Mein Khel V Khel Sanskriti Ka Navjagran" are available

for middle and secondary stages.

In the context of COVID-19, resources like "Understanding COVID-19" (Foundational Stage), "Impact on Public Health and Social Life" (Preparatory Stage), "Indian Perspective of Prevention" (Middle Stage), and "Successful Journey of Disease Management" (Secondary Stage) are provided.

Additionally, there are titles under Swachhata, including "Healthy Habits & Cleanliness" (Foundational Stage), "Cleanliness & Waste Management" (Preparatory Stage), and "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" (Middle Stage).

Lastly, the section on Bharat Mother of Democracy explores "Democracy in Ancient Bharat," "Democratic Roots of Voting System," and "Exploring the Idea of Welfare," all for the Secondary Stage.

The Ministry of Education emphasizes that these modules reflect India's commitment to education as a means of empowerment and the use of language as cultural identity. By addressing contemporary issues, NCERT aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for navigating an increasingly complex world, inspiring them to be proactive, engaged members of society.

FAIRGAZE OFFERINGS

School Membership Program

The School Membership Program helps the school instill experiential learning, holistic development, skill building and financial literacy in children further preparing them for their life after school.

available as a standalone engagement activity

1. STUDENTS' JOURNALISM TRAINING & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FairGaze trains students on journalistic skills, hosting webinars, hosting MUN, audience management etc.



available as a standalone engagement activity

2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL CAMPAIGNS

Led by eminent educationists and esteemed judges. Intricately designed to promote and implement UN SDGs in the school community.



3. MODEL UNITED NATIONS & VARIOUS EVENTS & CONTESTS

FairGaze organizes MUN for students of member schools who role-play as UN delegates and simulate a session.

Children get opportunities to show case their talent in various creative contests by FairGaze.



4. SCHOOL'S MEDIA COVERAGE & PROMOTIONS

FairGaze brings the schools' activities, events highlights, mission and vision of the school leaders outside to the entire K-12 fraternity.



5. CUSTOMIZED ONLINE SCHOOLASTIC MAGAZINE

Covers all school activities, events and achievements of the school, engages children to fetch stories/content of the school further furnished and designed by FairGaze.



6. BRAND EXPOSURE

FairGaze has partnered with Dabur, Decathlon, Fortis, etc to bring sponsorships and organize students' focused engagement activities & contests.



available as a standalone engagement activity

7. COUNSELLING SESSIONS

Organized for school children with expert counsellors to highlight and destigmatize important mental health issues



available as a standalone engagement activity

8. ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Conducted by professional mentors for students, teachers and parents focused on knowledge and skill building.



available as a standalone engagement activity

9. FAIRTALKS

Panel discussion organized on integral subjects around the education of India, covers ideas and perspectives from eminent panel of educationists.



A Stage For Every Talent: Find Yours & Shine!



FAIRGAZE MUN TOUR 2025 -2026



परामर्श - RKIS FairGaze MUN



Next Stop: DELHI NCR (Safiabad, Sonapat, Haryana)

Hosted By: R.K. International School, Narela Road, Safiabad, Sonapat, Haryana



23rd & 24th August 2025



What's in Store?

- Second edition in the national tour – Carry the momentum forward!
- Engage with passionate young leaders, debaters & innovators
- Dynamic committees and real-world agendas
- A professionally curated MUN experience by FairGaze

**The Journey
Continues!**
(Punjab)



**Next State
TBA**

Registration Open Now!

Limited Delegate Seats – Apply Early!



+91 97170 23141



mun.fairgaze.com



[fairgaze_mun](https://www.instagram.com/fairgaze_mun)



THINKING ALOUD

July 2025 Book Suggestions

Here is a set of books to start with. We start our new page of book suggestions and reviews with some classics, and some contemporary reads. Do read and send us a review by 15 July 2025 at schoolasticeditorial@fairgaze.com

Students

George Orwell, Nineteen Eighty-Four. This 1949 book published by Secker & Warburg is about a dystopian world in constant war. The book looks at a world thirty odd years in the future. Sitting nearly 76 years ahead, what do you make of this classic?

Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird 1960. A tale of a fractured society confronts race, class, courage, gender and compassion. What do you in 2025, make of the questions grappled with in the book?

Peter Wohlleben, The Secret Network of Nature: Trees, Animals, and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things 2017. A glimpse into natural systems that are inhabited by a diversity of living species on Earth. A forest scientist's insight into the unseen and unheard world we all benefit from. What did you learn?

Anirudh Kaniseti, Lords of the Deccan 2022. A non-fiction History by a public historian about a fascinating period 6th -12th centuries (CE) in South India. What

Teachers

Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, Totto-Chan: The Little Girl at the Window

Gijubhai Badheka, Divaswapna

Calling for August 2025 Submissions

Calling all budding writers, artists, poets, reviewers to send in their submissions.

August Theme: Celebrating Human Life.

Deadline: 15 July 2025 6 pm

Email: Send your submissions to schoolasticeditorial@fairgaze.com

There is much to commemorate, remember and celebrate this coming August. Check out a small list we at Schoolastic have put together. Send in your submissions by 15 July. Here is a short list of days to commemorate and celebrate this August.

Some days are for reflection and remembrance such as Hiroshima Day on Wednesday 6th August, World Humanitarian Day on the Tuesday the 19th, Quit India Movement 8th Friday, 15th Friday Independence Day.

Some are festivals to celebrate like 9th Saturday Raksha Bandhan, 16th Saturday Janmashtami, 27th Wednesday Ganesh Chaturthi.

Yet others make us wonder about our connections as a community like 12th Tuesday International Youth Day, 21st Thursday Senior Citizens Day, 22nd Friday Folklore Day.

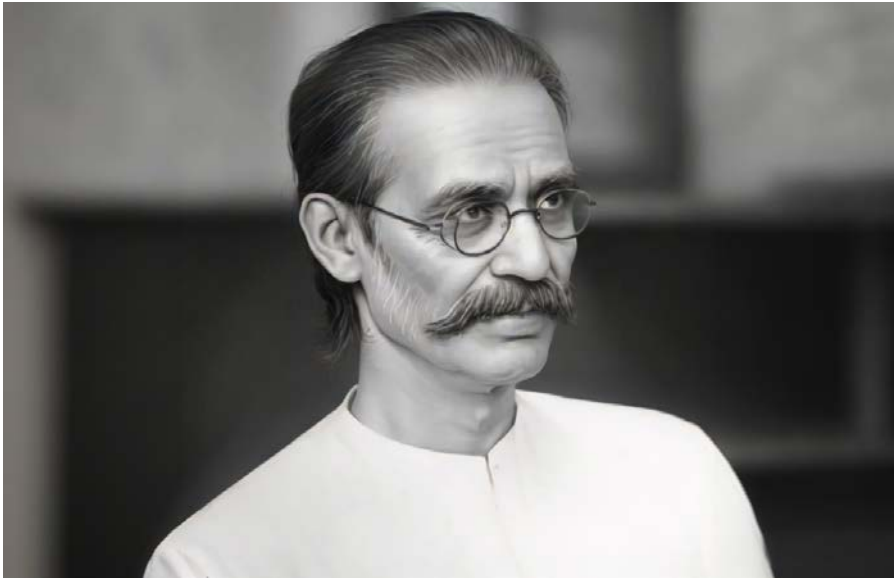
Some other days make us think about our perspectives, assumptions and biases, as well as the diversity around us such as 14th Thursday World Lizard Day, 19th Tuesday World Photography Day.

Write to us about your reflections on any of these days mentioned above. We love to hear your thoughts and publish it here.

EDUCATOR FOCUS

MOOCCHALI MA: GIJUBHAI BADHEKA

THE SCHOOLASTIC NEWS EDITORIAL TEAM



"It will do if our school does not have a vast library of books on education. It will not do if no one reads a single book on education related topics."*

Born in 1885 in colonial India, Gijubhai Girijashankar Baghmanji Badheka was a pleader by profession at the Vadhawan camp district court. The birth of his son in 1913 was a turning point in his thinking. With an education system enmeshed in colonial aims, Gijubhai began to read more about a child's education and its developmental needs. He was introduced to Maria Montessori's writings around this time. By 1920 he founded the Bal Mandir, a pre-primary school in Bhavnagar. It was in 1915 that he helped set up the Dakshinamurti (Bala Bhavan) and then started a hostel at Bhavnagar. By 1916, his commitment to education led him to give up his legal practice and join Dakshinamurti as an assistant superintendent.

Gijubhai's philosophy, while inspired by the works of Montessori, Froebel, etc, was also guided by his thoughts on what would be suitable for children in India. His methods used storytelling, music, dance, travel, and play, based on his belief that a constraint free environment would naturally bring in a love for learning, and Play. The educational system under the colonial government fostered rote, and hence unbending rules and the idea of discipline, and structured teacher-fed knowledge. His innate belief was that children are individuals in their own right, and come with capacities to learn, connect, apply and create. Teachers thus had two key roles to play: understand the circumstances of the child, and their strengths and challenges; and facilitate

meaningful learning experiences with empathy. Gijubhai's Bal Mandir was space for this worldview. His interaction with Mahatma Gandhi, who agreed with his ideas on education, earned him the name Moolchali Ma – or the mother with whiskers.

Much before the world moved to adopt words such as Inclusive, child-centric, holistic, critical thinking, Gijubhai was laying down in-classroom methods to these approaches Till his passing away in 1939 at the age of 54, Gijubhai worked with children and teachers experimenting with child-centric learning. He wrote extensively on teaching methods, for teachers and parents as well as children's literature. While his work Divaswapna, a fictional account of a year in the life of a school teacher has been translated into multiple languages, his article "Meri Shaala mein Nahin Chalega" (It Will Not Do in My School) is a must read for all educators, especially in today's times. It focuses and prioritizes what is required in a school- empathy, love, freedom.

"It will do if there is no expert teacher in my school. It will not do if the teacher is disrespectful to the students, and cannot provide a developmentally appropriate classroom environment."

*Quotes translated from Shiksha Hon Toh by Gijubhai Badheka, Translated to Hindi by Ram Naresh Soni, Montessori Bal Shikshan Samiti, Rajaladesar, 1988



FAIRGAZE
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

FortiSteps

Social and Emotional Learning Programme

Together Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

FortiSteps builds SEL competencies of Self-awareness, Self-management, Social-awareness, Responsible decision-making, and Relationship skills based on globally accepted practice-based research. A Programme that blends structured everyday interactive activities, reflective practices, games and a rich array of curated resources to engage and support students, parents, mentors and school systems in fostering SEL spaces in school, home and the community.

- Aligned to Global Education Focus and Supported by Cutting-Edge SEL Research
- Data Driven Insights and Progress Tracking
- Long-Term Impact on School Culture Enhanced School Reputation

5 MODULE GROWTH STAGES

**I AM AN
EXPLORER -
SELF-AWARENESS**



Learns to be curious, observe oneself in a context, to understand one's own emotions, thoughts, and values.

**I AM A
CONTRIBUTOR -
SELF-MANAGEMENT**



Learns to contribute to regulate emotions, thoughts, and behaviours to manage stress, control impulses, and achieve goals. Identify the task one does, and the steps to follow; assess how much can be done on own, when to ask for help, and when to give a pat on back for effort.

**I AM A
COLLABORATOR -
SOCIAL AWARENESS**



Collaborates to understand social situations, others' perspectives, and recognizes and shows empathy.

**I AM A CREATOR -
RESPONSIBLE
DECISION-MAKING**



Makes positive choices, considering consequences, and evaluating options. Find ways to encourage good for everybody.

**I AM REFLECTIVE -
RELATIONSHIP
BUILDING**



Reflects on how to build and maintain healthy relationships with a diversity of people and groups, by listening actively, communicating with clarity and empathy. Finds constructive solutions to conflicts without falling to pressure, and asks for and offers help. Thinks about how to make positive connections with others to establish and maintain healthy, and thriving relationships.

FortiSteps SELP Lite: 1500/-

FortiSteps SELP Premium: 2000/-



+91 93114 12820 (Monday to Friday-10am-6pm)



fortisteps@fairgaze.com



INDIA AS I SEE 2025

We are back with the 2025 edition!

This August, bring out the Essayist, the Poet and the Painter in you

Grades 3-5
Choose any topic


Sacred Freedom
(निबंध लिखें)
Topic:

1. The Diversity of Festival Sweets in my India
2. The Unity in Diversity
3. My family in 2050 India


POWER OF THE PEN
(कविता लिखें)
Topic:

1. My Dream for India
2. My Idea of Freedom
3. My Country India.



Paint India
(पेंटिंग बनाएं)
Topic:

1. The River in my State
2. August 15th
3. A Game we Play Together.

Grades 6-8
Choose any topic


Sacred Freedom
(निबंध लिखें)
Topic:

1. Khelo India-Because the Spirit of Sports benefits everyone.
2. Saving Water
3. How we can grow


POWER OF THE PEN
(कविता लिखें)
Topic:

1. Freedom.
2. Khadi is an Emotion.
3. The Many Festivals of my Land.


Paint India
(पेंटिंग बनाएं)
Topic:

1. My school in 2050 India
2. An Indian Monsoon.
3. A Traditional Community Dance

Grades 9-12
Choose any topic


Sacred Freedom
(निबंध लिखें)
Topic:

1. We the People of India What the Preamble means to me in India 2025.
2. Is Unequal the same as Inequality?
3. When I say I am an Indian.


POWER OF THE PEN
(कविता लिखें)
Topic:

1. #India @78
2. The Diversity that is India.
3. Tomorrow's Child.


Paint India
(पेंटिंग बनाएं)
Topic:

1. An Indian Summer.
2. A Traditional Instrument Played in India.
3. India in Space.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Student in Grades 3rd – 12th from any school / NGO / Community
- Children with Special Needs

How to Participate

Contest Duration:

16th July 2025 – 20th August 2025
Participation Fee : (Per Entry)

General Category students

- Early bird registrations from 16th July to 31st July - INR 100
- Registration from 1st Aug to 20th Aug - INR 200

Children With Special Needs

- Early bird registrations from 16th July to 31st July - INR 50
- Registration from 1st Aug to 20th Aug - INR 100

Just 3 easy steps to participate



CONTACT US



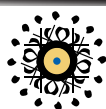
+91 8287959686 | 8130844055



info@fairgaze.com



<https://indiaasisee.fairgaze.com/>



FAIRGAZE
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

FairGaze Skills Pvt. Ltd.,

1412 Chiranjiv Tower, 43 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019, India | Ph.: +91-11-46850 000 | E-mail: info@fairgaze.com

www.fairgaze.com