Community
Indian schools across Qatar organise events and assemblies to mark 71st Republic Day of India.

Community
Argentinian street artist paints powerful oryx to showcase the strength of the people of Qatar during unjust blockade.

Community
Indian schools across Qatar organise events and assemblies to mark 71st Republic Day of India.

Cover Story
Tourism and sustainable development-driven Thailand is now exporting Sufficiency Economy Philosophy with some zest.

Quiz
Story behind Alice in the Wonderland.

Hollywood
Impeachment trial tests American attention span.
**PRAYER TIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fajr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shorooq (sunrise)</td>
<td>6.21am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zuhr (noon)</td>
<td>11.48am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azr (afternoon)</td>
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<td>Maghreb (sunset)</td>
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<td>Isha (night)</td>
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**USEFUL NUMBERS**

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<td>Q-Post – General Postal Corporation</td>
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</table>

**Quote Unquote**

“Believe you can and you’re halfway there.”

– Theodore Roosevelt

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**Shylock**

**CAST:** Mammootty, Meena, Raffi

**DIRECTION:** Ajai Vasudev

**SYNOPSIS:** A kind-hearted man and a ruthless moneylender lock horns in this family entertainer. Boss is a money lender and Prathapa Varma has cheated him by not returning the money he owes. Despite warnings from Boss and his assistants, Prathapa Varma, with the help of his police commissioner friend, continues to mess with Boss. And the battle begins.

**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza, Landmark, The Mall

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**Pengo**

**DIRECTION:** Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari

**CAST:** Kangana Ranaut, Jassie Gill, Richa Chadha

**SYNOPSIS:** Panga is inspired from the life of a national level Kabbadi player from India. It follows her triumphs, struggle and overcoming of stereotypes. It shows how important the love and support of your family is for you to be successful.

**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza, Landmark, The Mall

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**THEATRES:** Royal Plaza, Landmark, The Mall
Shop Qatar 2020
WHERE: Malls in Qatar
WHEN: Ongoing till January 31
TIME: Entire day
Shop Qatar has something for everyone, including beauty masterclasses, fashion shows, shopping offers, mall activities and shows, raffle draws, and Chinese New Year celebrations.

Artistic Gymnastic Classes
WHERE: Qatar Academy Msheireb
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 3:15pm – 4:15pm
The Olympic sport using horizontal bar, rings and floor exercises on mats for the children from age 4 till 16.

Metro Street Food
WHERE: DECC Metro Station

Keto Diet at Elite Medical Centre
WHERE: Elite Medical Center
WHEN: February 8
TIME: 11am
To register for the seminar WhatsApp on 30771895 with your name and telephone number. It is a free seminar.

Qatar Food Fest
WHERE: Sheraton Hotel Park
WHEN: Ongoing till April 30
TIME: 4pm – 1am
The festival is currently happening at Sheraton Hotel Park. Qatar Food Fest features 77 stalls, food trucks, and trolleys, bringing culinary and cultural experiences from all corners of the globe to visitors and residents in Qatar.

Public Speaking Classes for Adults
WHERE: Sharq Capital, C-Ring Road
WHEN: Ongoing till July 1
TIME: 6:30pm – 9pm
Get trained by experts to be a good speaker. Smedley Toastmasters is conducting a six-month speech-craft programme that teaches new members to speak confidently and develop leadership skills. For more information, 66053485, 33232490 or visit www.SmedleyToastmasters.org

After School Activities
WHERE: Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
Music and arts activities for students taking place after they finish their day in school includes Group Music lessons, Hip-hop, Ballet, Drawing and Painting, Drama Theatre & Taekwondo. Ages between 5 and 10 years old after school hours.

Hobby Classes
WHERE: Mamangam Performing Art Centre
WHEN: Saturday – Friday
Mamangam is an art and performance centre started with a vision of spreading our knowledge, interests and experience in various disciplines in arts across different countries for children and adults.
We offer regular classes in disciplines like traditional classical dance, art and craft, Bollywood and hip-hop styles, Carnatic music, robotics, percussion instruments, keyboard, yoga, zumba and martial arts like Karate, Shaolin Kung Fu and Kalari. For those who wish to register email at info@mamangamqatar.in or call at 33897609/ 44723680

Ballet Lessons
WHERE: Music and Arts Atelier
WHEN: Ongoing
TIME: 4pm – 8pm
For more info e-mail at registration@atelierqatar.com or call on 33003839.

Makeup Masterclass
WHERE: Msheireb Downtown, M7 Building
WHEN: January 31
TIME: 3pm onwards
Shop Qatar presents The Masterclass by celebrity makeup artist Mario Dedivanovic. Mario will share his trademark beauty tips and secret tricks guiding you into the making of his genius and how he applied it to his highly renowned muse Kim Kardashian West.
Welcome to a ‘new’ Thailand

Ecologically-driven tourism, foreign medical hub and all things halal are instant catchers, but the country – fresh from leading the Asean last year – is now focused on taking every willing partner on board so that others, too, can reap the rewards of its successful home-grown sufficiency economy philosophy, or SEP.

― Natapanu Nopakun, Deputy DG, Department of Information, MoFA, Thailand
Consider. Thailand is now exporting perhaps influencing people (Dale Carnegie, anyone?) swiftly!

Natapanu Nopakun, Deputy Director General, Department of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the tour was part of a studied endeavour to familiarise media professionals with the diversity of Thailand. In this regard, he highlighted the economic vistas and tourism (including medical tourism, which also makes the country a choice destination), but with a greater emphasis on sustainable development, which he drew home was entirely homegrown in Thailand’s case.

It was a recurring theme throughout the tour and Assistant Professor Dr Molraudee Sarutun of the Sustainable Development and Sufficiency Economy, Studies Center, National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), painstakingly explained the philosophy that has enabled Thailand to become the success story it is today and how it was trying to fashion the same elsewhere with a profound commitment.

In a frank exchange where a figure of $63 billion turnover was trotted out for the last year, Nopakun said that while tourism had been pivotal in making Thailand a hub, the country believed in — and practised — responsibility to ecology.

“We believe in maintaining a fine balance; we offer value for money, but money on its own is not our goal. (Hence) our tourism is not only for the rich indulging in luxury, but it caters to all tiers where the prime goal is helping other capitals. If nothing else, it

Assistant Professor Dr Molraudee Sarutun of the Sustainable Development and Sufficiency Economy, Studies Center, NIDA.

By Kamran Rehmat

here are multiple engaging areas and aspects to a familiarisation trip such as one to Thailand, but each time you realise one is not enough. ‘The Land of Smiles’ — as it is popularly known — immediately strikes you as (why it is) one of the world’s premier tourist destinations even if you have not been here before. But if you have, chances are you just take it for granted. Because somehow they have managed to whittle it down to a simple enough equation: smile = happy tourist.

The figures speak for themselves: 2020 marks the 60th anniversary of the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Thai Airways International — the pillars of Thai tourism. Today, the kingdom enjoys 40 million arrivals and 3 trillion bahts in income according to Imtiaz Muqbil, Executive Editor of Travel Impact Newswire.

Thai diplomatic missions abroad had a new partner along on a journey for collective helping other capitals. If nothing else, it

PICSUREQ: The Doi Tung Royal Villa in northern Thailand where Her Highness the late Princess Mother Sirirajindra spent considerable time. Photo by Kamran Rehmat

shared with our media group from the Middle East. In fact, Saowalak Pornwilasirri, of the Department of South Asia, African and Middle East Affairs, disclosed that Thai diplomatic missions abroad had a new mandate vis-à-vis SEP.

Fresh from leading the Asean with panache as its chair last year, Thailand is wearying to the uncanny scruples of taking every willing rewards. When this scribe asked about the ‘novelty factor’ in passing the ingredients of success to other nations with the possibility that they may go on to rise as similar powers or even better, she reasoned that ultimately, it benefitted humanity and that was the only motivating goal for Bangkok in proactively helping other capitals. If nothing else, it

"We are supposed to plant a tree in the people’s heart and those people will plant tree in the land"

— King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX)

Over the years, Thailand has developed indigenous marketing schemes to promote tourism and it has also been creative in using tourism as a bridge to enhance diplomatic relations. However, late King Bhumibol inspired the development of sustainable tourism by empowering local communities as well as preserving natural resources and natural resources (in the round-up that follows on the select few sites this scribe visited, this is a central theme of Thailand’s green outlook).
Islam in Thailand: A look at history and the burgeoning Halal industry

Thailand, a predominantly Buddhist nation, has been for some time now, a go-to destination for even people of other faiths particularly, Muslims, from the Middle East, and closer home, the GCC. In fact, it is already the top ranked destination in Asia for Muslims. The reason is not hard to understand. It has also evolved into a dedicated tourism industry catering to the Islamic faith: from running halal hotels and food to the many places of worship that enable Muslims to have a relaxed vacation.

Similarly, patients coming from the Middle East and GCC have been benefiting from medical tourism in completely safe and secure environs with dedicated help right from native language communication tools to treatment and post-treatment stay in the country, and resultant follow-ups. Associate Professor Dr Pakorn Priyakorn, Chairman of the International Task Force, Office of the Sheikhul Islam of Thailand, was at hand to give the media a detailed presentation on his behalf and answer questions related to various issues falling under the subject.

Going back in time, he said, historically, politically and culturally, Muslims have been an integral part of the social and economic development of Thailand for nearly five centuries. Islam is the second biggest religion in the kingdom and enjoys royal and official patronage. Muslims number approximately 5.9 million. He felt that part of the Thai success story was owed to peaceful coexistence by intent. The Sheikhul Islam was first established and appointed by King Songtham in 1602 AD. Islam is the dominant religion in four southernmost provinces. He disclosed that there were nearly 4,000 mosques in the country, and 185 of these were in Bangkok alone.

But none of this backgrounder would be complete with a word on halal food. Coined as ‘Kitchen of The World’ since 2000, Thailand is one of the world’s top 10 Halal food exporting countries and all this is owed to an elaborate paraphernalia manned and overseen by Muslim researchers and food inspectors in a detailed set-up. Dr Priyakorn, who is also Director, The Halal Standards Institute of Thailand, ran a documentary on the subject to enlighten the visitors on how — and what — Thailand manages to dutifully respond to the need for Muslims to lead their lives in conjunction with Islam where halal food is concerned. Thailand’s status in the Muslim world is also embellished by the fact that it also enjoys Observer Status in the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

— Kamran Rehmat
QU law students volunteer with THIMUN Qatar high school delegates

Members of Qatar University (QU) College of Law’s Moot Court team recently volunteered with local high school students at The Hague International Model United Nations (THIMUN) Qatar’s ‘THIMUN Conference’ at the Qatar National Convention Centre.

During the event, QU Law students, including Latifa Abdulla al-Marri, Lolwa Ibrahim al-Mohannadi, Rawan Yousef al-Mohannadi, Sharouq Saeed Bawazer, and Wafa Saad al-Kuwari, along with Fatema Ali al-Amri, recent QU Law graduate, led a workshop with THIMUN students preparing to compete with each other during a Model International Court of Justice (ICJ) competition. QU Law Moot Court members coached students from the American School of Bombay, Doha College, Newton International Academy, and Lycée Bonaparte French School as they prepared oral arguments for mock hearings based on real-life ICJ cases before the ICJ in The Hague. QU Law volunteers advised on what they have learned regarding how to formulate arguments, analyse for counter arguments, and conduct direct and cross-examinations of witnesses. QU Law Moot Court members also worked with student ICJ Officers and members of THIMUN’s Secretariat General representing Doha College, American Embassy School, and the American School of Doha.

“We are extremely proud of our Moot Court students and seriously impressed with the high school students participating in the THIMUN Conference,” said Dr. Melissa Deehring, QU Legal Skills faculty member and UNODC Education for Justice (E4J) Ethics Champion, who also volunteered at the event.

She added, “Our College is invested in advancing our students’ skills while promoting the Sustainable Development Goals and encouraging students to be more active in their communities. Our Legal Skills Department always tries to participate in collaborative teaching and learning efforts and volunteering with THIMUN is the perfect way for our Moot Court students to learn while simultaneously educating for the rule of law and promoting SDG 16 for peace, justice and strong institutions.”

Fatima F El Mahdi, Head of THIMUN Qatar, said, “I would like to reiterate our thanks on behalf of the THIMUN Qatar team to QU College of Law’s generous support of the ICJ student advocate teams. Thanks to the QU Moot Court’s participation, the education for advocacy that THIMUN Qatar promotes gained a polish and expertise that our student teams will carry on with them for life. We hope that this collaboration will inspire the next generation of lawyers to be diligent, ethical, critical and passionate about upholding the law and promoting a culture of lawfulness.”

UMAI Qatar marks its 20th anniversary

United Martial Arts Academy International (UMAI) Qatar recently organised an event to mark its 20th anniversary celebrations and interclub championship at Al-Arabi Indoor Stadium. UMAI students in Qatar participated in various competitions, including Karate, Kung-Fu and Wushu martial arts styles.

Sheik Fahad Khaled Jassem al-Thani, Qatar’s first professional boxer, was the chief guest on the occasion. Falah Mohamed al-Jahy, Ahmani Mustafa, Technical Expert at Qatar Karate Federation, Thahir Pattara, Executive Director of Mixmax Group of Companies, S A M Basheer, Sifu CP Arif Paladhi, Founder and Grand Master of UMAI, Noushad K Mannoli, Technical Director of UMAI, along with international referees attended the celebrations. Certificates of Achievement were handed over to 17 new black belt holders and 14 higher black belt holders, which was followed by a documentary on UMAI Qatar’s history and a martial arts demonstration performed by UMAI Karate, Kung-Fu and Kalarippayattu teams.
DPS-Modern Indian School

DPS-Modern Indian School (DPS-MIS) recently marked 71st Republic Day of India. Hassan Chougule, President of DPS-MIS, was the chief guest on the occasion. The chief guest unfurled the national flag, which was followed by the National Anthem. The students of Nursery Section presented a patriotic song. Speaking on the occasion, Hassan Chougule outlined the significance of the day and discussed the contribution of the Indian diaspora towards the development of India and the world. He urged the students to dedicate themselves in building a stronger and better India, an India of their dreams.

Asna Nafees, Principal of DPS-MIS, shared her views on the multifarious growth of India in all the fields and advised the students to reconnect to the past, develop the qualities of tolerance, sensitivity and respect for all cultures. She encouraged the parents to educate their children to join the bureaucracy and the armed forces and contribute significantly for the development of the world.

The programme was anchored by Ziya Rasik, Head Girl of Junior School; and Aaryan Sujith, Head Boy of Junior School. Imaad Hussain, President of Student Council Junior School, proposed a vote of thanks.

Ideal Indian School

Ideal Indian School (IIS) recently marked 71st Republic Day of India. Dr Hassan Kunhi MP, President of IIS, hoisted the national flag, which was followed by the national anthem by the choir of the school. Syed Shoukath Ali, Principal of IIS, along with the heads of the sections, staff and parents attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest reminded the students about their responsibility to contribute for strengthening the country. “As the future leaders of the country, it is the duty of everyone to protect the integrity and fraternity of our nation. Tolerance towards the caste, creed, religion and gender is the most important aspect of our constitution which has to be maintained,” he added.

Students in their speeches reiterated their bond with their motherland and called upon the students to live up to the traditions of their country and work for her betterment. Jyothisha Pillai, a student of grade XI, and Robin Varghese, a student of Grade XI, spoke on the occasion.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides were honoured with certificates and medals for their services rendered on various occasions. Certificates of merit for academic excellence award given in the CBSE Gulf Principals’ Conference, under the aegis of Council of CBSE Affiliated Schools in the Gulf Region, were also distributed on the occasion. Kalinga Sahani, Assistant Head Girl, welcomed the gathering, and Darryl Menezes, Assistant Head Boy, proposed a vote of thanks. The event was coordinated by Khaita TC, Assistant Headmistress of Boys’ Section, and compered by Ronnie Elizabeth.

Birla Public School

Birla Public School (BPS) recently celebrated the 71st Republic Day of India. C V Rappai, Director of BPS, unfurled the national flag, accompanied by Mohammed Farooq, Life Member of BPS; Nevile Lukose, Management Representative of BPS, and A P Sharma, Principal. The event featured a parade by the school scouts and guide members.

Speaking on the occasion, C V Rappai emphasised that as the Republic Day exemplified the celebration of the Indian Constitution, each Indian and student should revisit the preamble and live the values of equality and freedom in its true essence.

A P Sharma underscored the need for recognising the greatness of a Nation spread from east to west, south to north, including various cultures, caste and creed and yet breathing as a single soul. Using the medium of Hindi, he added that unity is the greatest strength of India and BPS too as the school host students who belong to more than 25 different cultural backgrounds.

The school choir presented patriotic songs, which was followed by a speech by Andra Sunil, Student Representative BPS. Rajesh Pillai, Vice Principal of BPS, added that the importance of today was proved via united effort taken by all to make the programme a huge success.
Shantiniketan Indian School

Shantiniketan Indian School (SIS) recently organised an event to mark the 71st Republic Day of India. K C Abdul Latheef, President of SIS, hoisted the national flag and addressed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion he emphasised on the words of Ram Nath Kovind, President of India. He insisted that the citizens of the nation be committed to engage in the global community, in order to build a secure and prosperous future for them and the entire humanity.

He reminded about the freedom movement and its leaders including Dr Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi, the hardships and sacrifices they had undergone to unify the Indian society seeing the beauty in diversity. He stressed upon the clear understanding of the values and practices along with honouring one’s host country and try to strengthen the bilateral relations too. With reflect on education, he said that the stakeholders have the responsibility to keep up the tradition and develop the educational institutions and bring up the future generation in a way that they protect the values of our constitution, justice, liberty, equality and brotherhood. The event also featured various cultural and traditional performances from south-western states of India, including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The teachers of SIS also presented a patriotic song. Dr Subhash Nair, Principal of SIS, represented SIS at the Republic Day celebrations organised by the Embassy of India on the embassy premises.

MES Indian School

MES Indian School recently commemorated the 71st Republic Day of India. The event featured patriotic songs, group dances and tableau depicting the cultural integrity and harmony of the country. B M Sidhique, President of MES, was the chief guest and P K Mohammed, General Secretary of MES, the guest of honour. The chief guest hoisted the national flag, which was followed by the national anthem.

"It is due to the struggles underwent by the freedom fighters and by their ultimate sacrifice for the welfare of free India, our country has flourished in the international arena,” said B M Sidhique. Speaking on the occasion, Hameeda Kadar, Principal of MES, urged the students to assume a more responsible role in upholding the pride and glory of the nation and to fructify the dreams of visionary leaders. Dhananjay Gaur, Head Boy of MES, read the preamble of the constitution of India, which was followed by a patriotic song by the school choir, written by Rajendran S, Department of Hindi at MES, and composed by Anver VP, music teacher at MES. The scouts and guides, members of Campus Care Force (CCF) and the students of Junior, Boys’ and Girls’ Sections waved the Indian national flag. The event was attended by notable personalities, including K Abdul Karim, Senior Vice President of MES; Kashif Jaleel, Vice President; and Khaleel A P, M C Muhamed, and M P Saleem, Directors of MES. Nandhini Rajagopal, Assistant Head Girl, welcomed the gathering and Arushika, a student of Grade-X, proposed a vote of thanks. The event was co-ordinated by Rajendran, Cultural Co-ordinator of MES.

Doha Modern Indian School

Doha Modern Indian School recently celebrated the 71st Republic Day of India. Rahul Nair, Head Boy of DMIS, welcomed the gathering. Jayashankar Pillai, Director of Taleb Schools, along with Sabu Thomas, the Academic Auditor of Taleb Schools; Jacob Mathew, Principal of DMIS; Ursula Sabu, Assistant Principal, hoisted the national flag, which was followed by various patriotic songs and performances. Speaking on the occasion, Jayashankar Pillai urged everyone to work for the constitutional values and to create a better India. Jacob Mathew exhorted everyone to be more committed citizens and contribute to the growth of India. Harini, Head Girl of DMIS, proposed a vote of thanks.
Story behind Alice in Wonderland

The day is February 27. Lewis Carroll was a man of words, a poet and a storyteller. But he was also a man of numbers. He was a big letter writer, sometimes figures (like Alfred, Lord Tennyson), photographic images, including Dodgson created over 3,000. He went on to publish several mathematics books, offering you cake, we’ve gone down the Thames on July 4, 1862. Does this remind you of grinning Cheshire cats, rabbits running life and a Mad Hatter’s tea party? You are in the right space!

You might know Dodgson better by his pseudonym Lewis Carroll, a genius play on his name Charles Dodgson which came about by translating it into Latin – Carolus Ludovicus, reversing the names and retranslating them into English – hence, Lewis Carroll. Instead of offering you cake, we’ve gone down the rabbit hole to find some fun facts about this renaissance man of the Victorian Era, celebrated around the world as one of the great purveyors of literary nonsense. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson started using the pen name in 1856 when he published a romantic poem called Silas Wilde.

Dodgson had a rough childhood. Calling it his ‘resilience,’ he developed a stutter at an early age that stuck with him throughout adulthood and ultimately became part of his personal mythos – including the evidence-free claim that he only stuttered around adulthood and ultimately became part of his personal mythos – including the evidence-free claim that he only stuttered around adulthood, but spoke without problem in childhood.

A childhood fever also provided him with the “un-birthday” which he inspired Alice in the follow-up book, Through the Looking-Glass. The ‘Alice’ in that book’s subtitle, And What Alice Found There, referred to what Carroll’s five-year-old cousin, Alice Theodora Kales, said. It was originally titled Alice’s Adventures Under Ground when he gave a handwritten copy to Alice Liddell. By the time it was published, the name had been changed to Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland. But he went through other titles along the way, including Alice’s Hour in Elfland, Alice Among the Fairies, and Alice Among the Goblins.

Alice in Wonderland came out in 1865 and was an instant success. The book is widely credited with changing the landscape of children’s literature, adding nonsensical fun to what had been a genre considered it useful for the blind.

Alice Liddell is well known to have been the inspiration behind Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland. However, she wasn’t the girl who inspired Alice in the follow-up book, Through the Looking-Glass. The ‘Alice’ in that book’s subtitle, And What Alice Found There, referred to who?

Carroll’s five-year-old cousin, Alice Theodora Kales.

In Through the Looking-Glass, Humpty Dumpty is wearing a cravat which he says was given to him as an “un-birthday present” by the White King and Queen. In 2020, we celebrate our birthday on one day only, the day we were born. How many day(s) can we celebrate our “un-birthday” this year?

365 days. An unholiday (originally written un-birthday) is an event that is typically celebrated on any or all of the 364 (365 on leap years) days in which it is not the person’s birthday. It is a neologism coined by Lewis Carroll in his Through the Looking-Glass.

Why is Lewis Carroll’s ‘Alice in Wonderland’ banned in the Hunan province of China? On the grounds that “animals should not use human language, and that it was disastrous to put animals and humans beings on the same level.”

This word was first used by Lewis Carroll in Through the Looking-Glass in which Humpty Dumpty explains to Alice the coinage of the unusual words in “Jabberwocky,” which slithy means “slimy and lithe” and mimic is “miserable and filmous.” In this column as well, “Informalism” is “information and entertainment” and hence a brilliant mix of the Two. What do we call these kind of words? Portmanteau.

Story behind Alice in Wonderland

1. What is the name of the dog that lives with Garfield? Odie. (Joaquim Fernandes, Tourist, Manila)

2. What two measurements of data come next in this sequence: Kilobyte, Megabyte, Gigabyte? Terabyte, Petabyte. (Thomas N, GAC, Dehaa)

Do you have some interesting bytes to share? And, does yourvibe attract you to the Tribe NI.yays! Every week two of your best questions will be featured here. Please do write to us at ni.yays@zoho.com.

Signed on this day (January 27) in 1967, which treaty forms the basis of international space law? This treaty prohibits the placing of nuclear weapons in space, limits the use of the Moon and all other celestial bodies to peaceful purposes only, and establishes that space shall be free for exploration and use by all nations, that no nation may claim sovereignty of outer space or any celestial body.

The Outer Space Treaty, formally the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

Which revolutionary product was first announced 10 years back on January 27, 2010 at a press conference in the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) in San Francisco, USA? iPad.

The first Winter Olympic Games, officially known as the ‘I Olympic Winter Games,’ were held in Chamonix, France between January 25 and February 5, 1924. Which country has won more Winter Olympics medals than any other?

Norway, a total of 36,8, eclipsing USA at 305 and Germany at 258.

January 26 is celebrated every year in India as Republic Day. It honours the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950. Australia Day is also celebrated on January 26. What is its significance? It marks the anniversary of the 1788 arrival of the First Fleet of British ships at Port Jackson, New South Wales, and the raising of the Flag of Great Britain at Sydney Cove.

Below is the image of the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever found, weighing 3,106.75 carats (621.35g) and discovered at the Premier No. 2 mine in South Africa, on 26 January 1909. Name it. It was named after the mine’s chairman.
D o you know why some people like to watch horror movies like ‘The Conjuring’ despite the scare and frequent shouting episodes? If we ask researchers, this is because scary flicks manipulate brain expertly to enhance excitement. Finnish researchers mapped neural activity as study participants watched horror movies, and found that our brains are continuously anticipating and preparing us for action in response to threat.

“Horror movies exploit this expertly to enhance our excitement," said researcher Matthew Hudson from University of Turku, Finland.

People found horror that was psychological in nature and based on real events the scariest, and were far more scared by things that were unseen or implied rather than what they could actually see. The researchers first established the 100 best and scariest horror movies of the past century and how they made people feel. Firstly, 72 per cent of people report watching at last one horror movie every six months, and the reasons for doing so, besides the feelings of fear and anxiety, was primarily that of excitement.

“Watching horror movies was also an excuse to socialise, with many people preferring to watch horror movies with others than on their own,” the findings showed.

While all movies have our heroes face some kind of threat to their safety or happiness, horror movie up the ante by having some kind of superhuman or supernatural threat that cannot be reasoned with or fought easily. The research team at the University of Turku, Finland, studied why we are drawn to such things as entertainment? People found horror that was psychological in nature and based on real events the scariest, and were far more scared by things that were unseen or implied rather than what they could actually see.

The team discovered two key findings.

“The creeping foreboding dread that occurs when one feels that something isn’t quite right, and the instinctive response we have to the sudden appearance of a monster that make us jump out of our skin,” said principal investigator Professor Lauri Nummenmaa.

During those times when anxiety is slowly increasing, regions of the brain involved in visual and auditory perception become more active, as the need to attend for cues of threat in the environment become more important.

“After a sudden shock, brain activity is more evident in regions involved in emotion processing, threat evaluation, and decision making, enabling a rapid response,” said the researchers. – IANS

LIFESTYLE/HOROSCOPE

**ARIES**
March 21 – April 19

It’s time to put away the sentimental feelings for the day and move to something new. Aries, stop pulling out old photo albums and crying about past experiences. You will only succeed in sinking into a puddle of tears that you can’t pull yourself out of. Instead, this is a day to look to the future and plan for new experiences that you can enjoy with the people you love.

**CANCER**
June 21 – July 22

Because of your well-mannered attitude and socially minded outlook, Cancer, you may normally be reluctant to make a stand with an outstanding idea or draw attention with an unusual outfit or hairstyle. Today is a day to be an individual in all aspects of the word. Prove that you are by doing something unexpected. Make yourself stand out above the rest in whatever way feels most comfortable to you.

**LIBRA**
September 23 – October 22

This is a good time for you to subscribe to some sort of magazine or newsletter that will keep you abreast of current events and developments in a field or hobby that interests you, Libra. The operative word of the day is “new.” Keep your mind fresh with news that sparks your interest and gives you the inspiration you need to keep striving for the goals you have set for yourself.

**CAPRICORN**
December 22 – January 19

If you’re still using the old shovel and rake out in the fields, now is the time to upgrade, Capricorn. Get that big piece of machinery that will plow all the acres in no time. In a nutshell, think about ways in which you can be more efficient. Feel free to invest in those things that will help make your life easier and more comfortable. Most likely, the natural flow of the day will take you to exactly where you need to go.

**TAURUS**
April 20 – May 20

Let the genius within you come out and play, Taurus. You may feel like some sort of inventor who has wild ideas that could help to revolutionise the future. Bring these ideas into the open and see what kind of response you get from the people around you. Cutting-edge concepts are likely to appeal to you the most. These are the ones that you should pursue and follow through on if you can.

**LEO**
July 23 – August 22

Don’t be surprised if you’re scolded by people who are upset about the way you’re handling certain things in your life, Leo. Most likely, the people who criticise you the most are the ones who understand you the least. They are probably on a completely different wavelength than you, and it isn’t your job to try to change them, nor is it your responsibility to change your ways because of them.

**SCORPIO**
October 23 – November 21

You probably have the desire to take charge, and you certainly have the capability, so what are you waiting for, Scorpio? Stop sitting around waiting for someone else to make a decision. By the time the others are done arguing and vacillating about which direction to go, you will already have travelled miles and miles down the road. Your heart wants you to take a strong, independent stance.

**GEMINI**
May 21 – June 20

You may get frustrated when your list of tasks for the day just does not seem to get any shorter, Gemini. More than likely, this is due to unforeseen circumstances and unexpected interruptions that you basically have no control over. Don’t get upset at yourself because of things you can’t change. Make sure to leave extra time to do the things you want, because the interruptions will continue throughout the day.

**VIRGO**
August 23 – September 22

You may find yourself flying high for no particular reason, Virgo. If you aren’t, stop and examine the situation. Any emotional discomfort you feel is due to a lack of personal freedom in one way or another. Perhaps you’re feeling too tied down emotionally or too restrained mentally. Perhaps you need to get out of your current situation entirely. Use this day to seek ways to feel more independence in your world.

**SAGITTARIUS**
November 22 – December 21

Remember that no one can make you feel inferior without your consent, Sagittarius. It might seem as if others are trying to show you up today with their knowledge about the world and how it should be run. Don’t let them talk you into believing that your thoughts and ideas are any less valid than theirs. At the same time, it’s important for you to stay open-minded and accepting of other people’s ideas.

**AQUARIUS**
January 20 – February 18

Drink plenty of water in order to keep your system properly hydrated. Aquarius, Water is the most important part of your diet, and it’s likely that you aren’t drinking nearly enough. You are highly sensitive today so taking care of yourself is the best thing you can do. Otherwise you might act emotional and too easily manipulated. Distance yourself from people who try to suck this life force from you.

**PISCES**
February 19 – March 20

You’re likely to hit that magic spot with someone today in which you can almost read each other’s thoughts, Pisces. You may know exactly what that person is going to say before he or she says it. You may also find that your mind is working so quickly that while someone is trying to make one point, you are already five steps ahead of where that person is going to say before he or she says it. You may also find that your mind is working so quickly that while someone is trying to make one point, you are already five steps ahead of where that person is trying to go. Put your gifts to good use.
Wordsearch

Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Squares with the same number in have the same letter in. Work out which number represents which letter.

Codeword

Sudoku

Sudoku is a puzzle based on a 9x9 grid. The grid is divided into nine 3x3 boxes. You are given a selection of numbers and to complete the puzzle, you must fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains each number exactly once.
Super Cryptic Clues

Across
1 Saint has to go on horseback or walk with big steps (6)
4 Looked deeper, perhaps (6)
8 Warmer cockney animal (5)
9 Is present as a race finishes (7)
10 Woman with others on a mountain (7)
11 She is entertained by the queen in Surrey (5)
12 Fit to sail in other ways, possibly (9)
17 Flooded a laundry (5)
19 Aerial used by social worker before queen turns up (7)
20 It’s the most expensive, darling (7)
21 An opportunity in the interval (5)
22 Set out and set about finding six performers (6)
24 New Escort model is a tight fit! (6)

Down
1 Tool seen in small insanitary dwelling (6)
2 The right animals for worthless people (7)
3 Giggles start to interrupt dreadful sad song (5)
5 Beg for change in net rate (7)
6 Managed church and western farm (5)
7 Run away from pudding, say (6)
9 Some one setting out unto a star! (9)
13 Let heat sort out a sportsman (7)
14 Look for no revolutionary Americans (7)
15 Animals found in a shop and a store (6)
16 Swindle that may be taken to court! (6)
18 Gather a large amount (5)
20 Expressions of gratitude and disapproval are forbidden (5)

Solution

Wordsearch

Codeword
People shouldn’t be judged by their height: Puneet

By Ahana Bhattacharyya

People should not be judged on the basis of their height, feels television actor Puneet Chouksey. The actor is all set for the release of his new daily soap Naati Pinky Ki Lambi Love Story where he plays the lead.

“We often see people around us suffering from lack of confidence due to their low height. And they are called chhota, nata and so on. So, we want to deliver a message through the show that there should not be any discrimination on the basis of height or weight because these do not really matter at the end of the day,” Puneet said.

Talking about the serial he added: “Naati Pinky Ki Lambi Love Story is different in a way that the common people will be able to relate to the story. It’s a light hearted drama which the entire family can sit and watch together.”

The actor also opened up on his role in the show.

“I play a character called Arjun. It’s an intense character which brings a different flavour to the show. Arjun is a very serious person always immersed in work. He has a soft nature but has created a hard layer around it, so that nobody can read his mind or hurt him.”

When asked if a word like “Naati” (short height) in the title would be offensive, the actor replied that he does not feel that way.

“Don’t think that it is offensive. What we are trying to say is that people who have a short height are in no way lesser than others in any aspect. Look at Lata Mangeshkar ji or Sachin Tendulkar. They are not known for their height but for their work, their achievement. That’s the message we want to convey that height does not matter. It’s God’s gift. People should be measured not by their height but by their personality, their contribution to the society and what kind of human beings they are.”

The actor, who has earlier featured in shows like Naagin 3, Vich, Naagpurnima – Ek Yoddha and Saath Nibhaana Saathiya feels that television serials these days are often not relatable due to larger than life characters and poor content. However, this one is “different”, he claims.

“Serials these days show a lot of tam jham which the masses cannot connect to. We are trying to change that via this show where we are showing the story of a normal family which everyone can relate to. At the same time, it delivers a social message. Contentwise, it is very different from other shows,” he said.

Naati Pinky Ki Lambi Love Story also stars Riya Shukla, Dheeraj Rai and veteran actress Bharati Achrekar. It will air on Colors from today.

Rang De Basanti clocks 14 years, Sharmansh Joshi gets nostalgic

It’s been 14 years since Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra’s patriotic film Rang De Basanti released, and it is still remembered by everyone – especially for its excellent storyline, songs, dialogues and artistes’ performances.

Actor Sharmansh Joshi, who played a pivotal role in the film, took to social media yesterday and reminisced about the film’s journey.

He posted one of the stills from the movie in which he can be seen standing next to co-stars Aamir Khan, Kumal Kapoor, Siddharth and Atul Kulkarni.

One of the famous dialogues from the movie is also written on the image, which Sharmansh has shared on his Instagram account.

“Koi bhi desh perfect nahi hota, usse perfect banana padta hai! (No country is perfect, we have to make it perfect!),” the image read. The 2006 released film narrated the story of a group of youngsters and how they are drawn towards leading a freedom movement after Independence. It also talks about how society invokes the group to fight the system with the aim to bring about a change.

The film brought forward a flashback to the freedom struggle about how freedom fighters like Chandrashekhars Azad, Bhagat Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan and Rajguru continue to inspire youngsters.

EXCITED: Ahmed Khan says he is quite excited to be a part of the show

Ahmed to play ex-army officer in Ek Duje Ke Vaaste 2

Actor Ahmed Khan, who has featured in movies such as Dil Chahta Hai and Krrish 3, will essay the role of a retired army officer in the show Ek Duje Ke Vaaste 2.

Set against an army backdrop, Ek Duje Ke Vaaste 2 will narrate the love story of Sharavan and Suman.

Ahmed will be seen in the role of Mohan Tiwari, Suman’s grandfather.

“Ek Duje Ke Vaaste 2 is a beautiful story and when I heard the script, I was quite excited to be a part of this show. My character is of an ex-army man which is a big responsibility. Also, I am getting a chance to experience their lifestyle which is a big opportunity in itself,” said Ahmed.

“Mohan is a unique character who has his own style and flair, which I am enjoying as an actor while playing the role. I also hope that the audience loves it too,” he added.

Also starring Mohit Kumar and Kanika Kapur, the show will premiere on Sony Entertainment Television on February 10.

UNIQUE: Ravneet Kaur calls her upcoming TV show very unique

Karn Sangini actress Ravneet in Naati Pinky

Karn Sangini actress Ravneet Kaur will be seen in the new TV show Naati Pinky Ki Lambi Love Story.

Ravneet will be essaying the role of a fashion designer named Medha in the show that revolves around the life of a girl named Pinky.

Pinky, who is short in height, is on a hunt to find a perfect match for herself.

“Medha is young, bold, energetic, independent and today’s girl. She is crazy about her work as well as for Gagan. She is super excited and happy as she is a part of this show. Such unique concepts are very few and I have always wanted to be a part of such a show,” said Ravneet.

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REMINISCENCE: Sharmansh Joshi took to social media and reminisced about the film’s journey

Rang De Basanti also featured Soha Ali Khan, R Madhavan, Waheeda Rehman, Kirron Kher, Anupam Kher and British actress Alice Patten.

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President Donald Trump’s impeachment trial — only the third in American history, the second since the advent of television and the first of a first-term president — rolled into the Senate chamber this week with the promise of a made-for-TV spectacle. Drama! Conflict! Burisma Bada Bing!

What landed was more like a local cable co-op hearing, spliced with a jury-duty service instructional video, squeezed through an uninspired PowerPoint presentation.

Thank the government for the low-brow production of this high-stakes trial, which began last Tuesday and will roll into next week with a series of all-day sessions featuring arguments for and against Trump’s removal from office.

The artless staging and inert fixed camera angles are a result of the Republican-controlled Senate’s request that no press photography or recording devices be allowed inside the chamber. The filmed record of this extraordinary period in our nation’s history is being documented by what appears to be one fixed camera left behind after Bill Clinton’s impeachment, equipped with a zoom feature and not much else.

Hours stuck in the same frame — Senator X and Trump lawyer Y making their argument in front of a marbleised wall whose cracks and fissures illustrate the glacial pace of the trial — make one fi ssures in our nation’s history is being recorded by what appears to be one fixed camera left behind after Bill Clinton’s impeachment, equipped with a zoom feature and not much else.

Hours stuck in the same frame — Senator X and Trump lawyer Y making their argument in front of a marbleised wall whose cracks and fissures illustrate the glacial pace of the trial — make one long for the brilliance of C-SPAN and the Frank Capra-esque masterworks it’s produced in these same chambers.

Presentations by impeachment manager Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and other Democrats arguing that the president abused his power were augmented by evidentiary documents and bullet-pointed timelines. Video clips of testimony during the House impeachment hearings from key players in Trump’s administration, such as Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman and Gordon Sondland, were interspersed throughout the proceedings to back their charges that the president used his office to game the forthcoming election in his favour.

But when the audio slipped out of sync, as it did quite often, it evoked the dubbed hilarity of a midcentury Godzilla movie, and their meticulously planned attack was upstaged by memories of another monstrous battle, but involving Rodan.

Political pundits lamented the setup, arguing that Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., banked on a boring telecast to dissuade voters from watching the hearing. “They don’t want the public to see this,” said MSNBC analyst Michael Steele. “They don’t want us to see ourselves.”

The unintended result, however, was impeachment in the raw, a sombre endeavour uncluttered by the flashy graphics and curated direction of news outlets tasked with entertaining their audiences. Reports of celebrities in the public seating area were just that, reports. Alyssa Milano was off camera. The American political process, as messed up as it is today, was centre stage and unadorned. Sans the bells and whistles, it was and is a study in paying attention when everything tells you not to, of staying attuned to a laborious process that’s designed to make us look the other way.

Call it a January miracle, but the first day of the trial drew an audience of more than 11 million television viewers, according to ratings data compiled by Nielsen. And that’s not accounting for those who live-streamed it on internet platforms. They’ll have plenty more to watch in the coming days. Each side is allotted 24 hours in all for opening arguments, and Trump’s legal team will likely begin its defence this weekend. Senators will then have the opportunity to pose written questions through Chief Justice John Roberts, who is presiding over the trial.

The state-controlled broadcast has been a great media equaliser. All news outlets and platforms have the same feed, no matter their political leaning, balance of punditry versus facts, or attention numbers. The only differences were the network ID icons on the side of the screen and colourful backing graphics that struggled to make the dry affair look sexy.

Imagine if political campaigns were run this way — if the candidates were only allowed the one setting to appeal to pollsters. If Bloomberg didn’t own it, and Fox couldn’t spin it. Congratulations, President Yang. CNN and The New York Times sent sketch artists into the trial, who came back with illustrations of senators falling asleep in their chairs, or vacating their seats like Lindsey Graham for the excitement of the cloak room.

Last Wednesday, as Schiff finished up his roughly three-hour presentation, perhaps two dozen Republicans were out of their seats at once. It’s a violation of the rules for senators to leave their seats during the trial, which may be another reason they wanted to control the narrative. Sens. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and Ben Sasse, R-Neb., reportedly loitered by the door while Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., was spotted sneaking chocolate from under his desk. If we’re honest, we all needed a sugar boost at that point.

The no-frills production had even the jurors tuning out, which probably wasn’t an anticipated detail in McConnell’s suppression of the-checks-and-balances play. Trump is on trial, but is the disappearing American attention span. Stay alert, because the last thing we need is a sequel of “Distraction vs. Democracy.” — Los Angeles Times/TNS
Argentinian street artist paints powerful oryx mural in Katara

By Mudassir Raja

There can be different opinions about the genre of street art but no one can deny its importance, when it comes to being in sight and available for everyone, irrespective of one’s social stratum, to appreciate creative pieces.

Murals and other forms of street art are very common in major cities of the world where street artists continue to paint the walls with their creative skills and unique subject matters. In this regard, Doha is not an exception.

Katara – the Cultural Village also supports and promotes street art. Recently, a talented Argentinian street artist painted a huge oryx outside Building 40. Facing towards the beech, the oryx is visible for the visitors even when they are driving by the building.

The mural was unveiled jointly by Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti, General Manager of Katara; Dr Carlos Hernandez, Ambassador of Argentina to Qatar; and Martin Ron, the talented young street artist; in the presence of a large gathering on a pleasant evening.

Martin is an artist based in Buenos Aires. He specialises in the creation of large inspirational murals that already decorate many walls of his city.

His works have a realistic feeling that is hard to match, while at the same time they include fantasy segments that are inspiring. He is known for the originality in his work and attends festivals and competitions around the world. “I travel around the world and create murals in collaboration with local artists and organisations. I have been painting murals for the last 15 years. I came to Qatar as a part of the artists invited by Pallas Art. Katara and the Pallas Art collaborated to create the oryx mural. Katara offered the wall and I completed the mural,” Martin said while talking to Community.

He further said: “The city of Doha is new for me. I learnt that oryx is an important figure for Qatar, that is why I chose to paint the huge mural. I also love painting exotic animals in big shapes. Wherever I am, I typically chose the local animals.”

The oryx mural is noticeably huge. “The mural is six metres wide and 12 metre tall. It took me nearly five days to complete the project. I worked for seven hours a day. I have used typical paint colours that are used to paint the houses. I picked up the best quality. The paints will not be impaired by rain for a long time. The administration of Katara, however, needs to repaint it after some time.”

Martin loves to tell story through each of his murals. “I try to tell a story with my brush. In this case, the mural is free of any kind of interpretation. However, my intention is to highlight the pride of people of Qatar. When I came here, I learnt about the ongoing unjust blockade. At the same time, I heard people saying talking about resilience of Qatar as there is no impact of the blockade is visible. So, I have displayed a powerful oryx breaking a wall. The name of the mural is ‘Oryx Going Ahead’. The background shows Doha skyline. The artist has painted the map of Qatar on the forehead of oryx.”

Martin finds Qatar an amazing place. “I am from the other part of the world. Qatar is so far from my country. When I came here, I felt I have discovered a hidden pearl. I think here art is growing.”

Ambassador Carlos was seemingly excited to have the mural painted by the Argentinian artist. “I am extremely happy because this is our first art work not only in Katara but also in Doha. It happened by chance. Martin came for a different work here.

“Katara people looked at his works and they asked him if he could do a mural for them. Katara wanted him to finish the work in one week and he has done it in five days. We have Martin’s works in streets of many cities around the world. I hope this is not going to be the last of his work in Qatar.”

The ambassador added: “Martin proposed the idea of painting the oryx and Katara accepted it. We have talks with Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim al-Sulaiti has promised to have an Argentine corner in Katara. We will try to hold cultural activities in the corner.”

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