



- Royal times is newspaper for children to cater to the need of growing knowledge at a place where no English daily is available.
- This news would help student to understand the basic facts about India with special emphasis on culture, science, polity, geography, history.

Inside this issue:

- Endangered arts **2**
- Right to Education **3**
- Anthem for special kids **4**

Four-year-old girl with the IQ of a genius

LONDON: A four-year British girl has been hailed as a "child genius" after being ranked just one point below Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking in IQ. Heidi Hankins, whose father is a university lecturer and mother an artist, has an IQ of 159 as against the average adult IQ of 100. She has become the second youngest ever child to be accepted into the elite Mensa society for people with high IQs. The record for the youngest Mensa member remains with Oscar Wrigley who was just two and a half years old when she was accepted into Mensa with an IQ of 160. British Mensa chief executive John Stevenage said Heidi's parents "correctly identified that she shows great potential" when astonished by her "off-the-scale" IQ test results they sent them to Mensa for confirmation. "We wish them well, and are pleased that they have chosen to join the Mensa network for support, where we aim to provide a positive environment for younger members to develop," he said.

Extraordinary intelligence

Heidi's father, Matthew Hankins, who teaches at the University of Southampton, said he detected signs of extraordinary intelligence when she was just two. She taught herself to read and was able to count to 40 at an age when most children struggle with numbers. "We always thought Heidi was pretty bright because she was reading early. I happen to specialise in measuring IQs in

children, and I was curious about her and the results were off the scale. I got her the complete set of the Oxford Reading Tree books when she was two, and she read through the whole set of 30 in about an hour. It's what you would expect a seven-year-old to do. The thing is she is not precocious, she is just a little girl who likes her Barbies and Lego but then you will find her sitting down and reading a book. We are really proud of her," he said. Heidi's parents decided to test Heidi after her nursery told them they had no activities capable of challenging her. She is one of just 90 children under 10 to be accepted by Mensa UK.



Mobile phones on wrist watch

NEW DELHI: Giving an interesting twist to the mobile handset market in India, Netherlands-based Burg, on Friday (13 April), launched innovative models of wrist watch mobile phones, priced between Rs.9,000 and Rs.23,000. The company also expanded its presence by launching stores across the country. "We have plans to first estab-

lish our business in the North and, after nine months, expand our presence in the South," Burg Global Sales Director Koen Pieters told journalists here after opening two stores in Delhi. Now, the Dutch firm has five stores, two in Delhi and one each in Guwahati, Kolkata and Gurgaon. "We plan to open 20 outlets of Burg within the next one year...India is the next

focus destination for Burg in its global road map. We will keep introducing our wide range of futuristic products for Indian consumers at their door steps," Mr. Pieters added. Burg already has a significant presence in the U.S., Italy, Germany, Russia, Spain, Norway, Switzerland, Chile and Venezuela.



Must promote endangered folk arts, says Manmohan

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday (13th April) exhorted the seven Cultural Zonal Centres in the country to “update their functioning and programmes” in view of the emergence of new facilities and technologies in the world of art, culture and entertainment.

Inaugurating the four-day silver jubilee celebrations of the seven cultural centres on the theme of “Maati Ke Rang” here, he said that the Union Ministry of Culture was studying the report of the committee headed by former Union Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar which had suggested several changes in the working of these Centres so that they promote those folk arts whose “existence was endangered”.



Dr. Manmohan Singh exhorted these institutions to be more active in rural areas and small towns so that the rich cultural heritage could reach the masses living there.

He added that the Aiyar report had highlighted that these Centres were more focused on the urban areas which needed to be corrected. It had also suggested that these Centres should spend at least 70 per cent of their budget on programmes in villages and towns.

He further said that art and cultural heritage could be promoted through television and internet to reach the masses and touch their lives. Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the Committee had also suggested that the zonal cultural centres give more importance to production and presentation.

While noting the contribution of the late Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi in the promotion of art and culture, he said it was Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who had taken the initiative to set up the zonal cultural centres.

He further said that the government had taken steps to “restore” ancient monuments and upgrade the museums and libraries.

United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi also highlighted the need for preserving folk art. She recalled that her husband Rajiv Gandhi had inaugurated the first zonal cultural centre in Patiala to strengthen national integration and highlight Indian cultural heritage.

“This initiative has given opportunities to thousands of artisans to exhibit their skills, earn income and have their own identity,” she said while expressing regret that some folk arts had lost their “glory” and needed “revitalisation”.

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Baby shower

BONDING TIME: It was happy news for wildlife lovers with two lionesses at the Bannerghatta Biological Park, near Bangalore, giving birth to three cubs each recently. Both the lionesses, named Preksha and Hema, are about eight years old. With this new litter, the total number of lion cubs in the park has now gone up to 32.

The schools are now open

Now that the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional validity of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, the Centre and the States must do their utmost to provide eight years of good quality schooling to all children. The unsuccessful challenge to the Act, which went into effect on April 1, 2010, came from unaided private school managements who are required to set apart 25 per cent seats for poor children. Private schools that favoured a market-based approach to universalisation — relying on government education vouchers for the poor and filtered entry — failed to make convincing arguments. They are all within the ambit of the law, except for unaided private minority institutions. Rather than view this as a loss of prestige, they must sagaciously open their doors to students of all social strata, and help those from the weaker sections integrate with the others. The letter of the law is a far-going reform measure and has the potential to create a generation of Indians who are equipped to participate in nation building. But it will take relentless efforts to turn the legislation enacted in furtherance of Article 21A — which enjoins the State to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged six to fourteen — into a revolutionary instrument. The immediate challenges lie in the area of recruitment, to meet the estimated shortfall of one million teachers, and toning up teacher training as per the pedagogic requirements of the National Curriculum Framework, 2005

With continued economic growth, it should not be difficult to allocate the Rs. 4.50 lakh crore that the Planning Commission thinks is needed for the implementation of the RTE Act over the next five years. The task will primarily be led by the States, but only a few, notably in the South, have the capacity to take on the challenge. The others must use the opportunity that presents itself to improve facilities and raise standards. Government and municipal schools have a long history of neglect and lack of investment in infrastructure, while affluent private schools use the most modern educational tools and teaching methods. It is worth pointing out here that the RTE rules have provisions to help bridge this asymmetry, in the form of perspective plans to be drawn up by individual schools. Moreover, the Act enables monitoring of the manner in which the law is being implemented, through the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. The NCPCR and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights can, of course, only perform their task if they have sufficient resources. The Supreme Court order makes it possible to speed up these vital reforms.

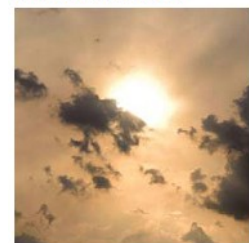


Dead Sea almost dried up 100,000 years ago



Researchers from Israel reveal that water levels of the Dead Sea have risen and fallen by hundreds of metres over the last 200,000 years. Material recovered by a drilling project may help forecast future changes, says the study.

U.S. records warmest March since 1895



More than 15,000 temperature records dating back to 1895 were broken in March in the eastern two-thirds of the U.S. The average temperature was 8.6 degrees above the 20th century average.

Royal public School

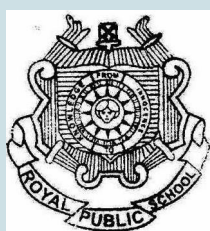
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Royal Public School with its experience of more than a decade handles child in utmost care in scientific way and caters to the **individual difference**. The school supports in various developmental stages of children right from discovery stage where child explores the environment, school assist by providing appropriate environmental stimulation. Children from deprived and disadvantaged sections are motivated. Principles of chaining and shaping are used to provide feedback where good performance is reinforced.

www.royalpublicschool.webs.com

An anthem for a group of very special kids

“Vishwas Hai, Vishwas Hai, Humko Ujjalo Ki Ahs Hai” (We believe, we believe and we hope for a better tomorrow), goes the anthem that has been composed for and is inspired by the children of Vishwas, a non-profit organisation that works with disabled children and those with special needs.

The anthem, “Keh Do Andheron Se Chal Pare Hain Hum” written by Prasoon Joshi,

composed by Aadesh Srivastava and sung by Kailash Kher, was released at a concert at the Siri Fort Auditorium here on Wednesday. The children from Vishwas sang and danced onstage with Kailash Kher who said he would only sing when it was his turn, leaving the rest of the chorus to the kids. “I only just heard the recording and I suddenly felt like crying. There is so much sadness everywhere but Lord Shiva has given us the strength to combat this sadness and this is exactly what the team at Vishwas is doing,” he said. Lyricist Prasoon Joshi, who was introduced with glowing words, refused to take any credit for the song. “I always like to take credit and sometimes fight for it, but this time the credit for the song belongs to someone else, the team from Vishwas.

