

Raffles Millennium International, has announced an interschool postcard design contest. The last date is Sep 26. 98842 72156

NSS unit of Guindy engineering college to organise cancer screening for women at Kalambakkam in Tiruvallur district

QUOTE OF THE DAY

While you live, tell truth and shame the Devil!

— Shakespeare Poet

Maths

Q A can finish a work in 15 days, B can finish only 75% of that work in the same time. At first B worked for several days and then A joined him and together they finished the rest of the work in 6 days. Find how many days each of them worked and what percent of the work has done each one of them?

SOLUTION:
The production of A in one day is 1/15 of the work and the production of B is 75% of 1/15, i.e. 75/100.1/15 = 1/20 of the work. Let B worked alone for x days. Then the work B finished will be x/20. For the 6 days work done, together is 6.(1/15 + 1/20) = 6.7/60 = 7/10
The sum of x/20 and 7/10 gives the whole work, i.e. 1. So the equation: x/20 + 7/10 = 1 => x = 6. B worked 6 + 6 = 12 days and A only 6 days. The work finished by B is 12.1/20 = 60/100 = 60%, & by A is 40%.
— S.Muraleedharan

English

Q The Cambridge University might have proved that the human brain is still able to decode and comprehend jumbled words, see if these are easy too:
1.pihw (whip), 2.tthee (teeth)
3. atirn (train), 4. ewiht (white), 5. laisro (sailor), 6. ctoar (actor), 7. imgac (magic), 8. ooptat (potato), 9. l cabk (black) 10. yomra (mayor)

Ans: 1. Whip, 2. Teeth, 3. Train, 4. White, 5. Sailor, 6. Actor, 7. Magic, 8. Potato, 9. Black, 10. Mayor

Q The English language has several words that sound the same but have different meanings, also known as homophones. Like 'accept' and 'except'. Here are four sets of words, look up their meanings in the dictionary and see if you can form sentences that bring out the meaning.

Ans: 1. formerly, formally, 2. pour, poor, 3. presence, presents 4. tense, tents

Write in to us with your suggestions and feedback at classroom@deccanmail.com

DC Fortune Guide

Tick the answer and check DECCAN CHRONICLE tomorrow to discover how good you are.

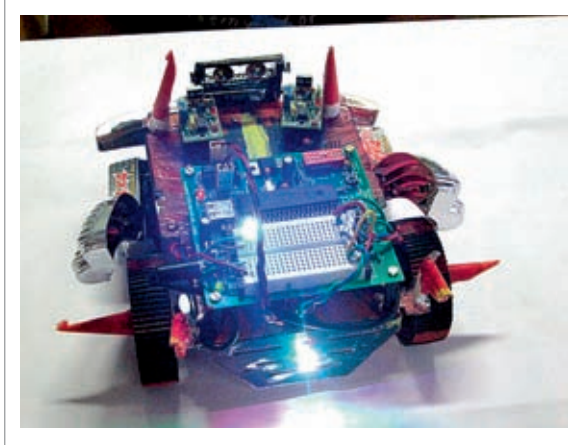
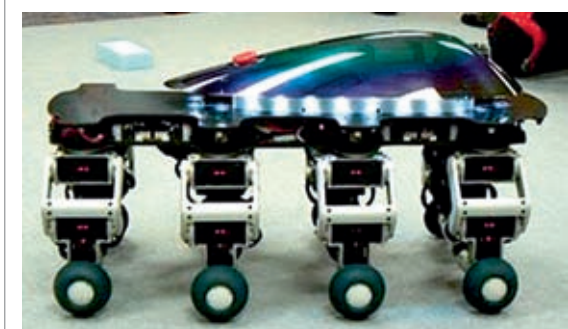
1 In which year was the G-20 grouping of nations established?
 ■ 1999
 ■ 2008
 ■ 2001

2 What was the Pakistani codename for the Kargil war?
 ■ Operation Oonth
 ■ Operation Badr
 ■ Operation Daava

3 Which is the only member of the cat family that cannot retract its claws?
 ■ Panther
 ■ Lion
 ■ Cheetah

Weather forecast

TAMIL NADU
Forecast for Chennai:
 The sky conditions may be partly cloudy. Rain or thunder-shower would occur in some areas during evening or Night. Maximum temperature would be around 34 degree Celsius.
Forecast & Farmers' weather bulletin:
 Light to moderate rain would occur at a few places over all the districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
Heavy Rainfall Warning:
 Isolated heavy rain would occur over Kerala and North Coastal Andhra Pradesh during the next 48 hours
Forecast for Coimbatore and Madurai:
 In Coimbatore the sky will be partly cloudy with possibility of rain or Thunderstorm. The maximum temperature would be 31 degrees and minimum would be 21 degrees. In Madurai the sky will be cloudy and possibility of slight rain in the city. The maximum and minimum temperature would be 35 degrees and 26 degrees.



Robotics, the next revolution

The popularity of the subject is fast gaining ground among the students of the state

SRINIDHI RAJAGOPAL
CHENNAI

When we talk of Robotics, the Rajinikanth-starrer *Enthiran* is not the only thing that comes to mind these days. A number of city schools and the Robotics Academy are encouraging students to take up the subject, which is a whole lot of fun and is an interesting way of learning.

"We are taught different parts of the robot. During summer vacations we come up with activities that we discuss after school reopens. It's a very different subject and we enjoy learning about sci-fi things," says nine-year-old R. Manushree of Bala Vidya Mandir.

The subject is a break from monotonous formulae and history notes and students automatically gravitate towards it. "The children are extremely happy that we started this club. The response has been overwhelming. In fact, one of

the students was running very high temperature and yet he insisted that he be allowed to attend the Robotics class. We started this club since we wanted to keep up with the latest subjects that are sought after, keeping in mind the interests of the students," says Minoov Aggarwal, Principal, D.A.V. School, Velachery.

Professors and specialists say that the Robotics revolution was long overdue but it's better late than never. Though it is considered an expensive subject to take up, scholars in this subject are trying to ensure it reaches out to students across the globe.

"In terms of technology, Robotics was bound to take off. There should have been a mass awareness programme in the country many years ago. The movie *Enthiran*, the labs that are built in schools across the country, all these measures are steps to revolutionise this subject. In terms of Robotics as part of school curriculum, the



Schools conduct several workshops in robotics

education system in India has always been more theoretical than practical. But when you teach a child a theorem, for example, using Robotics, he or she is bound to remember it for life. And we have seen it happen," says Dr Satish, who has completed his Ph.D. in Robotics and is working towards promoting the subject in the country.

Children find it amusing to watch a robot walk and talk in their classroom. Not only this, most of them take an initiative to experiment and learn the science



behind making one.

"I have no words to express how exciting the Robotics class is. When our teacher comes up with models and makes robots walk and talk, it's amazing to watch. Also, after watching *Enthiran*, I am all the more curious to learn more on this subject," says C.R. Hemant (16) who attends Robotics classes at his school.



The focus is intellectual and spiritual aspects

SCHOOL OF KNOWLEDGE AND SERVICE

NIZAR AHAMED
MADURAI

The Dolphin Public School strives to make its students Indians in the true sense of the word by imparting a spirit among them that enables them to become worthy Indians.

The institution's prime aim is to develop students' mental, physical, intellectual and spiritual aspects not only as part of academics but also in sports, and this entails discovering a child's inherent talents and bringing them out without putting pressure on learning.

The school also gives a lot of importance to chess and students here have achieved Asian-level distinctions in the game.

The school was also awarded the Elite World Record for creating a blood donation logo measuring five metres and weighing 250 kg. The logo was made with 1 lakh chocolates and spelt the words "Give Blood Give Life".

Correspondent A.R. Ramanathan says, "It's the only school which doesn't have a caste column in the application form. Dolphins have been known to help and that's why we chose the name for the school. And it's a complete school for the service of society and we don't take fees from students who perform well in academics and chess."

"Every year we do some sort of social service. For example we asked students to collect old newspapers through which we made money and helped a child with her heart surgery."

V.R. Arvind Chidambarn, a Class VIII student of the school said, "I was a national level champion of chess in 2011 and it was all because of the school's motivation and my hard work. I never feel that I am going to school every day as the teachers here look after us just like our parents."

"Our school is known throughout the state for chess. Also, any program that we organise in the school has a unique message. It's an honour for me to work in this school. I got the Best Teacher award from the state because of the correspondent and we are like a family," says Principal A. Padma.

At 11, he makes smartest moves

CONAN MENDOZA
COIMBATORE

How "young" should you be to learn a game that involves a lot of mental ability. Chess, a game that originated in India, involves a lot of patience. One slip and your opponent has won. Showing great proficiency at the game of 64 squares is 11-year-old Rathnavel V.S. He has been selected to represent India in a tournament to be held in Brazil next month. The 5th standard student of Stanes Anglo Indian Higher Secondary has already picked up a reputation in the game.

He first played chess at the age of six and in just a few months won a tournament involving 50-60 participants. His businessman father Sivakumar.C says he is hopeful his son, who is being sent to Brazil with the help of the All India Chess Federation, would soon be funded by the Tamil Nadu govern-



Rathnavel with his prized possessions

ment. "Sadly, funding was also a reason for Rathnavel not being able to take part in an event held in the Philippines," Sivakumar said.

Third in his age group in the national chess championship, Rathnavel, "I learn from his game. In a tournament in 2007 he finished me off in 20 moves". Rathnavel reveals the only icon he reveres is

held in China. "I like playing both defensively and attack. I observe my opponents' moves. It's important to plan ahead," he reveals.

A fellow student and batch mate, Sanjay Snehal, says of Rathnavel, "I learn from his game. In a tournament in 2007 he finished me off in 20 moves". Rathnavel reveals the only icon he reveres is

Garry Kasparov, a world champion well known for his offensive strategy.

His parents Sivakumar C and Senthilvadivu V.S. are proud of him and his achievements. His father said, "I don't know how to play the game and initially he used to play against his mom. After a while he began beating her easily and I put him in a chess academy because it was the closest to my house."

His father goes on to reveal, "I am a spitfire by nature and did not want the same influence on my son. Chess is a game that tames all emotions and since it sharpens the mind it was the game of choice for my son who had a chance to play against the world's best, Viswanathan Anand. The champion encouraged him saying — "He has a bright future and at his age is most promising." My son has his own webpage — www.chessvsvrathnavel.com — and I hope people would support his effort."

ART AND LANGUAGE

cachinnate (1824) to laugh loudly or immoderately



Adam Jacot de Boinod is the author of *The Meaning of Tingo and other Extraordinary words from around the World by Penguin Books*

FUN SCHOOL

Where gypsies learn to read

SAKTHI SAMBANDHAN
PUDUCHERRY

The 2011 census reveals India is a young country. However, primary education still eludes many young children in remote villages. Worse, children belonging to gypsies, Irulas and other tribal communities still remain outside the domain of primary education for various reasons.

Just two years ago an NGO led by Mr Lionel and Mrs Martine began attempts to fill this gap in Puducherry region. It was not an easy task for them to impart education as there were always problems in bringing both the parents and children who are from a different socio-cultural milieu.

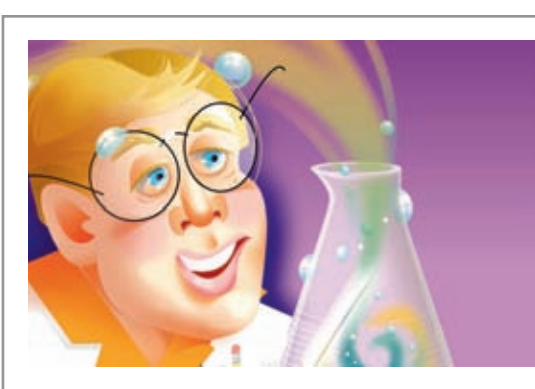
Located at Periyar Kattupalyam, 10 km from Puducherry, the school has a strength of more than 100 students in the age group 3 to 13. While 70% of the children are gypsies, 20% are orphans and semi-orphans and the rest are local SC/ST children.

The correspondent of



this special residential school Mr Venkat said, "It takes time for the young children to get used to the hygienic conditions. It is only natural. They are from an altogether different cultural upbringing. It takes time for them to get accustomed to the atmosphere of learning."

"It is not just traditional learning method that we adopt. "Besides formal education, we are equally concerned with the extra-curricular activities such as music, dance, yoga and even some sports activities and they go a long way in shaping their personalities. There is also a swimming pool that will relax both body and mind. Doctors periodically visit and take care of the children," Mr Venkat said.



ALL ABOUT SCIENCE

Q Why does a corked bottle filled with water burst if left out on a frosty night?

Ans: Because of low temperature, the water inside the bottle freezes.

On freezing, it expands, thereby its volume increases and pressure is exerted on the walls.

Q Why is a small gap left at the joint between two rails?

Ans: To permit expansion of rails due to heat generated by friction of a moving train. Otherwise the rails will expand and bend, especially during summers, that may derail trains.

FRIENDLY LEARNING

New-age teaching methods here to stay

GAUTAM SUNDER
COIMBATORE

Peals of laughter of the students reflect the enthusiasm amid the colorful ambience as you enter VCV Shishu Vidyalaya's school grounds. Vibrantly painted classroom walls are adorned by paintings, graffiti and charts that give a true sense of the school's philosophy. The school has made waves with its new age teaching methods, governing principles and the camaraderie shared by the students even as they maintain decorum.

"We urge our staff to be as friendly as possible to the students. Criticism and suggestions from parents are always taken into



Teachers are extremely cordial and friendly with the kids

account to improve pupil-teacher relationship, which is where the school's USP lies. Besides, we also follow the XSEED program, an initiative started by iDiscoveri, a social enterprise

that aims to revamp the education system in India. With this program, we follow a more hands-on methodology that encourages interaction and helps the students be well-

grounded", says Ms Pallavi Mandradiar, secretary of the school. Headed by the principal Nalini Rajasekhar and assisted by 75 other members of the teaching staff, the school boasts of a host of activities like yoga, arts & craft, music, karate, dance and a variety of sports — football, volleyball, etc. There is also a bevy of clubs associated with dramatics, maths, cookery, languages and so on that were so far only sporadically embraced by Coimbatore standards. The school also celebrates festivals and other important occasions traditionally, with the entire student body participating with gusto in events, variety entertainment shows and

competitions. "We lay emphasis on the students getting maximum exposure. Guest lectures and workshops by eminent personalities are often conducted to give the children a broader outlook on issues. Our teachers are also trained by other professionals to ensure the quality of our education system. Also, we have counselors come in to advise our students on topics like goal-setting, time management, moral values, etc.," says Ms Pallavi. VCV Shishu Vidyalaya recently branched out to include a higher secondary section, which promises higher standards of education, smarter students and more fun in school.