

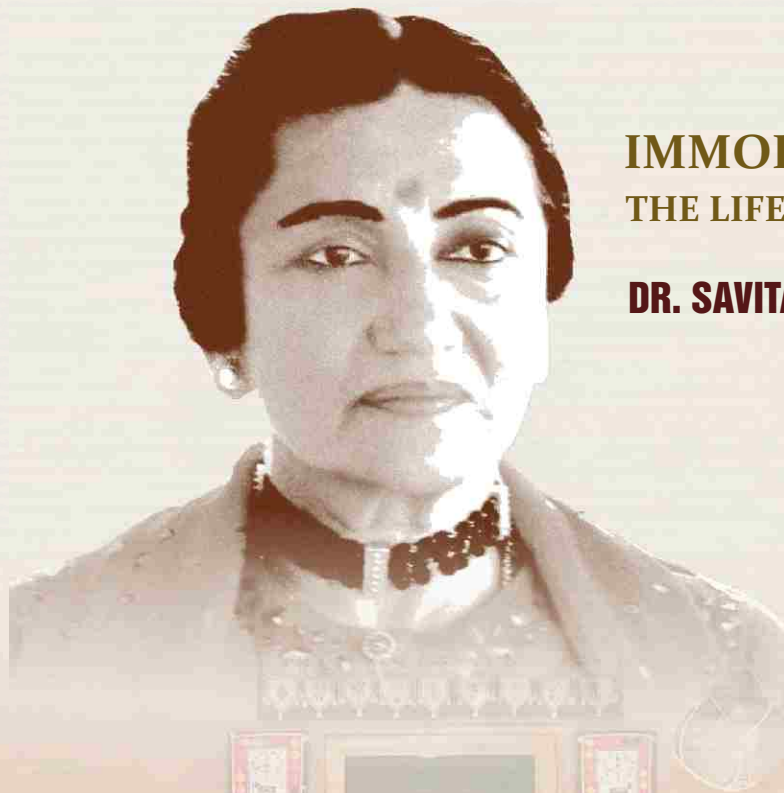
THE
MEHTA
GROUP

www.mehtagroup.com

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022

Gajgamiini

THE HOUSE JOURNAL OF THE MEHTA GROUP



**IMMORTALIZING
THE LIFE & LEGACY OF
DR. SAVITADIDI N. MEHTA**



Gajgamiini: The graceful gait of an elephant. Strong, sure-footed and alert, the positive characteristics of this majestic animal are also qualities found in The Mehta Group

INAUGURATION OF DR. SAVITADIDI N. MEHTA MUSEUM AND VISHWA GURJARI LIBRARY



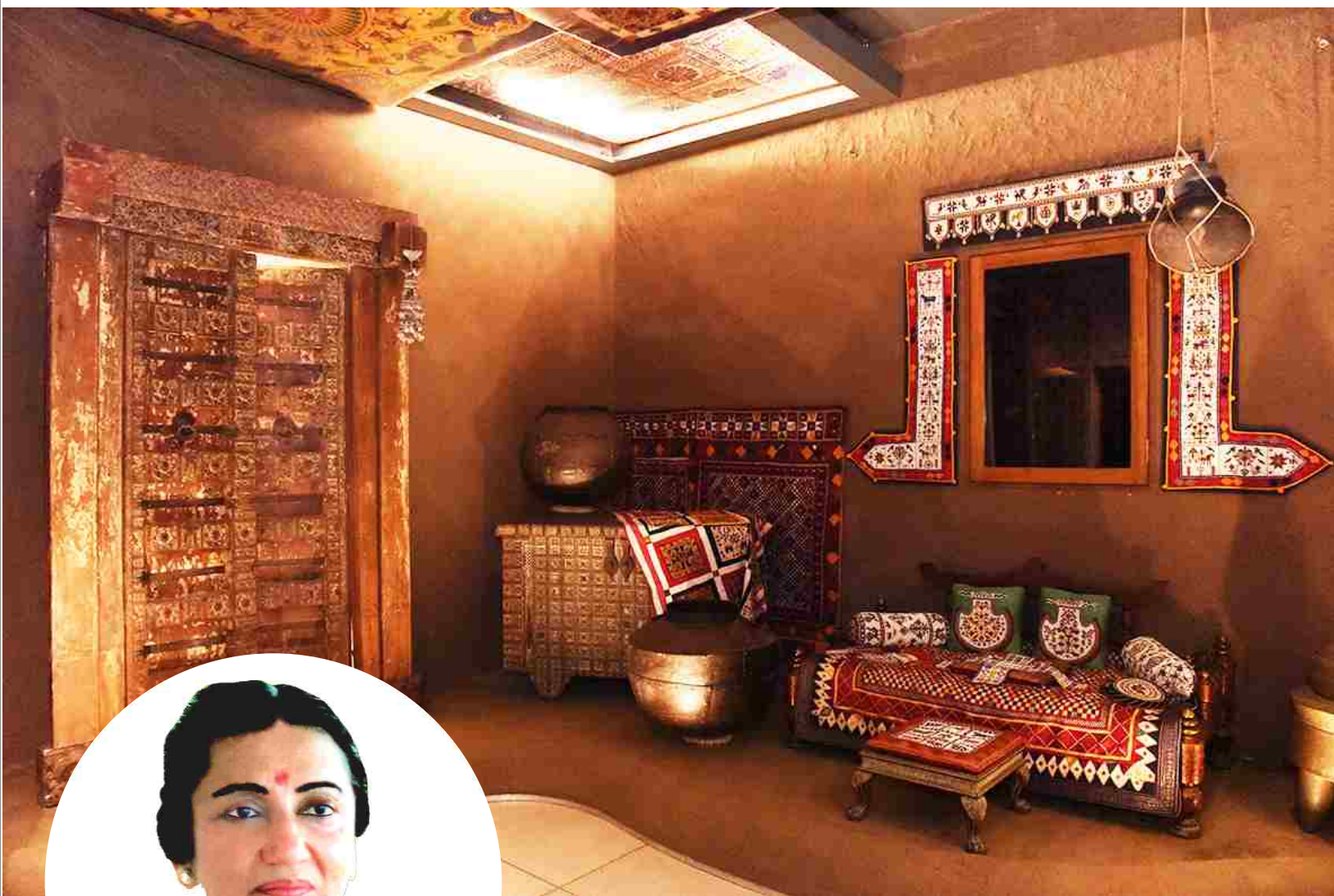
Dr. Savitadidi N. Mehta, the much beloved sister of Mr. Mahendra N Mehta, though no longer with us, remains to inspire us with her love for literature and performing arts. Her rich legacy now has been immortalized in Porbandar with the inauguration of Dr. Savitadidi Mehta Museum and an affiliated Vishwa Gurjari Library at Porbandar that houses her collection of over 10,000 books. Made open for the citizens, the inauguration that took place on December 09, 2022 had an august gathering of dignitaries.

Present at the event were Shri Rameshbhai Oza, eminent folk literature artist Mr. Bhikudan Gadhavi, Ms. Priti Patel, noted Manipuri dancer, Mr. L. Somi Roy and Mr. Satyajit Aribam, Chairman and Advisory Council Member respectively of Imasi Foundation.

The Maharaj Kumari Binodini Devi Foundation represented Manipur in the recognition and celebration of Dr. Mehta's contribution to the dissemination and study of Manipuri dance.

The opening of this museum is an expression of Dr. Savitadidi Mehta's last wish which she expressed to her younger brother Mr. Mahendra N. Mehta.

As part of her last wish, she had asked Mr. Mehta to build a museum and library which would be home to collection of books, traditional silverware and bharatkam (Indian embroidery work) and dresses from Kutch, Saurashtra and Manipuri costumes.



THE SETTING-UP OF THE MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Situated in the Gurukul campus in a building designed by renowned architect Mr. Channa Daswatte and curated by Ms. Deepthi Sasidharan, the museum is divided into two blocks, each facing one another. One block houses Savitadidi's personally created treasures, while the other, 'Glimpses of Saurashtra', has her regional collection.



We would like to share that Mr. Channa charged no fees for his expertise, citing the noble cause behind the setting up of the museum and the library.

To put together all the items collected during her lifetime was an arduous task hence Mr. Jay Mehta, Executive Vice-Chairman, The Mehta Group, sought professional help from Ms. Deepthi Sasidharan, the founder-director of Eka Archiving Services, a cultural advisory that works on museum and heritage projects.

Ms. Sasidharan's team spent months reading and inspecting the trove of possessions. A major treasure of her collection comprised of Manipuri dance costumes. Ms. Sasidharan worked with the Delhi-based textile expert Ms. Deepshikha Kalsi of the Textile Conservation Studio to restore the vintage clothes. Ms. Kalsi has mounted each costume on mannequins custom-made to Didiji's proportions. The treasure had a huge collection of silverware costumes and also those with intricate embroideries. These required Ms. Sasidharan's team to work meticulously for two years to ensure each of them was fit for display. The work included tracing the period of their origin, listing them, digitalizing them and also mending some of the costumes.

There are also some stunning examples of local attire, particularly Rabari shawls and jewelry. It is important to note that this museum has been created with a significant focus on presentation using specialized communication design, lighting and display, a level of care often missing from large public institutions.

Mr. Jay Mehta said, "It is a representation of my aunt's legacy, so it had to be done properly".

In addition, the museum houses Dr. Savitaben Mehta's collection of books, films, and costumery related to Manipuri Dance. The museum also contains images of her with former Prime Ministers and Presidents, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, as well as Zakir Hussain and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, during their visits to the Gurukul.



Interior view of the Museum

TRACING THE LIFE OF DR. SAVITADIDI N. MEHTA

Dr. Savitadidi N. Mehta, born to Raj Ratna Nanji Kalidas Mehta and Santokba Mehta in Jinja, Uganda, in 1921. In British India, her parents sent her to study at Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya in Baroda, for “Exposure to Indian Culture”. It was a turning point in the young girl's life as the progressive ideas imbibed here were seminal when at the young age of 19, in 1940 she took over as the Principal of the AryaKanyaGurukul, Porbandar.

When she became Principal of the Gurukul in 1940, she turned her focus to education and the betterment of the students.

Gurukul was founded by her father in 1936 for the education of women.



Interior view of Vishwa Gurjari Library
(Seen in the pic: Shri Rameshbhai Oza - Chief Guest,
Shri Bhikudan Gadhvi and Shri Suresh Kothari)



Interior image of Vishwa Gurjari Library at Porbandar



Over the course of time, Didiji acquired a deep love for performing arts and pursued her devotion to Manipuri dance, becoming one of the first non-Manipuri to go and master the art in Imphal. It was a difficult art form for a non-Manipuri person but she and her sister Smt. Nirmalaben Khatau became the first woman to graduate from the Nehru Dance Academy in Imphal.

Didiji studied with the greatest dance gurus of Manipuri like Oja Amudon Sharma and Oja Ras behari Sharma.

Pursuing its rigour, Didiji reached the pinnacle of perfection in this ancient dance form.

During her lifetime, Didiji has been credited with popularising this dance around the world, performing it in places as varied as Germany, Switzerland and Kenya. Didiji and her sister Nirmalaben were the first girls to graduate from the Nehru Dance Academy, Imphal.

In time, she was conferred the epithet of **"Meitei Jagoi Hanjabi"** by Maharaja Bodh chandra, a title not claimed previously for 200 years and **"Dwitiya Usha"** by Dowager Maharani Dhanamanjuri.

Didiji was honoured with many other eminent states, and national awards, among various other honours.

AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. SAVITADIDI N. MEHTA



**Inauguration of Dr. Savitadidi N. Mehta Museum by
Shri Mahendra N. Mehta and Shri Rameshbhai Oza at Porbandar**

As part of the inauguration of the museum, an exhibition was conducted to celebrate the inspirational life and times of Didiji and to give a glimpse into the rich land of Saurashtra. The exhibition had prominent dance costumes from her collection.

For Didiji, dance and music were like a sadhana dedicated to God. This was made possible by her family, especially through the untiring efforts of Mr. Mahendra Mehta, Mrs. Sunayana Mehta, Mr. Jay Mehta and Mrs. Juhi Chawla Mehta.

The exhibitions reflected 3 years of work in delving through the amazing Gurukul and Mehta family archives, and the presentation of an important part of Porbandar's historical legacy viewed through the images and personal belongings of its most famous family both pre and post-independence.

In his inaugural address Mr. Mahendra Mehta mentioned, "Nonetheless, it is true that our father Pujya Bapuji created Arya Kanya Gurukul at Porbandar and also became a legend during his lifetime, but it was Didiji who put her heart and soul into this institution. After Pujya Didiji passed away, my elder brother Shri Dhirendra Mehta and his wife Smt. Medha Mehta were looking after Gurukul as Managing Trustees. After my elder brother passed away, it was decided that the new generation would take over the responsibility of Gurukul. That is when I requested my daughter-in-law Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta to take up the leadership of looking after Gurukul and after some hesitation, she accepted the challenge".

Mr. Mehta further remarked that the young generation consisting of Kamalakshi and Uma, daughters of Pujya Dhirubhai, Hemnabh Khatau, (son of his sister Nirmalaben) and his son Jay took over the charge under the guidance of Dr. Anupam Nagar and Sureshbhai Kothari who have been the Honorary Secretary of the Trust right from Pujya Didiji's time. They all have done a remarkable job in taking Gurukul to a different level.

Mr. Mehta continued, "Apart from Didiji's love for dance and music, she had unparalleled zeal to restore the Gurukul systems of education, which was destroyed by the British Raj. She also had a deep love for vedic studies, religion and she had a good command of Hindi, Sanskrit, English and even Meitei.

She was a great orator and when she spoke, the audience would be spellbound. Didiji's love for land is also portrayed through textiles, jewelry and artifacts drawn from her lifetime collections. Together the embroideries and beadwork of Saurashtra and Kutch, collected by her over a period of time, comprised the richest and most vibrant traditions of the region. These textile skills were passed on from mother to daughter, almost as a rite of passage without the aid of any pattern books or formal training.



Inaugural address by Shri Mahendra N. Mehta



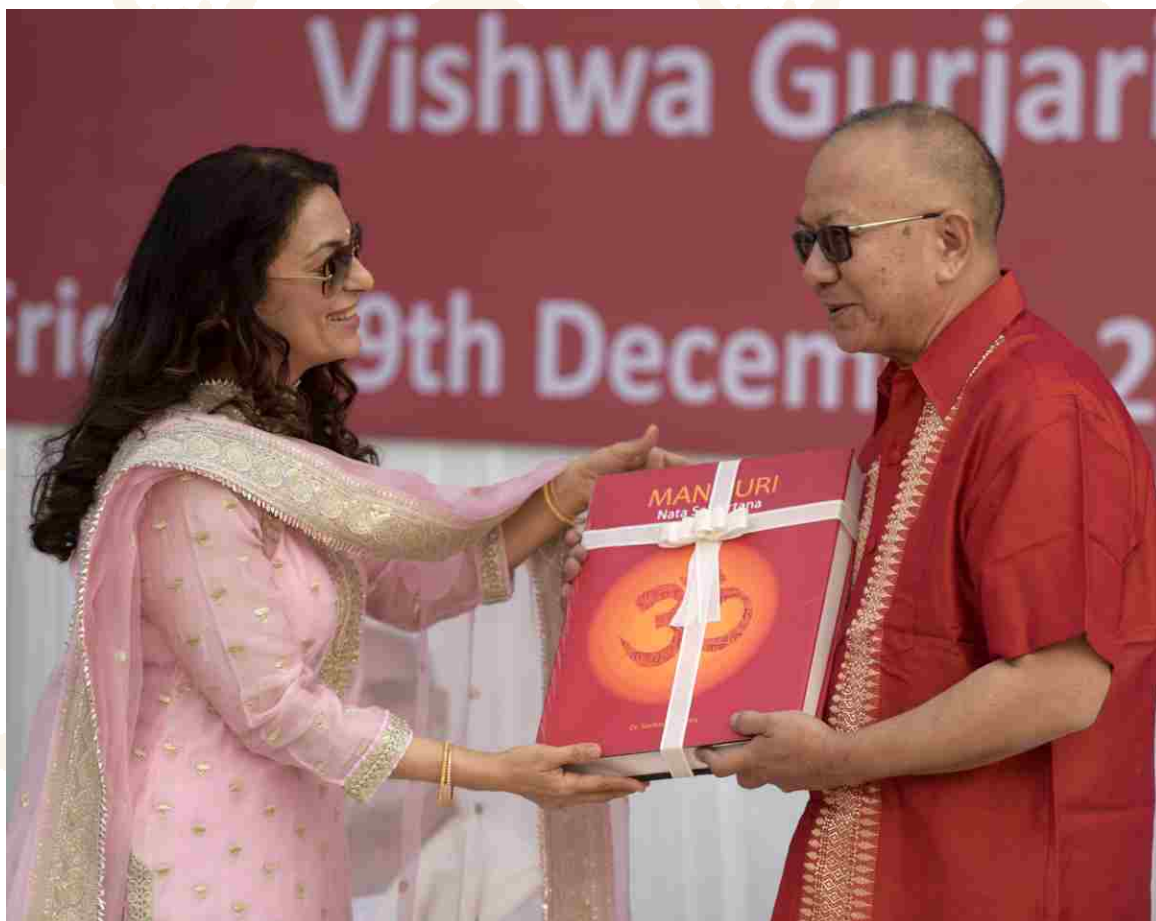
Felicitation to
Shri Rameshbhai Oza
by
Shri. Mahendra N. Mehta



Felicitation to
Shri Bhikhudan Gadhi
by
Shri Hemnabh Khatau



Felicitation to
Shri Sanjay Thakrar
by
Shri Jay Mehta



Felicitation to
Shri L. Somi Roy
by
Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta

The visual lexicon is robust and easily identifiable because a young girl would copy patterns created by older women in the community. These embroideries are identified as Mochi, belonging to communities of Modh, Matwa and Lohanas, the Kanbis, Ahirs, Jats, Rabaris and Mahajans.

Didi would collect these beautiful pieces of workmanship and use these to decorate both her living spaces and at Gurukul on special occasions”.

Mr. Mehta concluded his speech with a message to his sister, stating - “Didiji today, as per your wishes, with blessings from God, and blessings of our well-wisher Shri Rameshbhai Oza, the task assigned to me is completed and also more than ten thousand book collection you gave to my wife, Sunayana is preserved in Vishwa Gurjari Library including rare book collections and manuscripts which can be accessed by scholars for research on Indian Art, culture and many other subjects”.

Mr. Mehta also paid tribute to his sister Smt. Nirmalaben Khatau who helped in completing Didiji's masterpiece book called - MANIPURI NAT SANKIRTAN GRANTH which was not completed during Didiji's time. Nirmalaben has also written 3 books on Savita Didi -

1. **Mere Didi Ke Patra**
2. **Agampanth na Yatri**
3. **Dr. Savita Didi's Vagmita - A collection of her lectures and speeches.**

All these books give a deep insight into Didiji's spiritual pursuit and experience. Unfortunately, Nirmalaben is now no more (she breathed her last soon after this historic event).

Mr. Mehta also remembered Smt. Medha Mehta on this day as she has been actively associated with Gurukul along with his elder brother Dhirubhai for so many years. Due to her illness, she was unable to travel hence could not attend the event. He sought her blessings and prayed for her quick recovery.

VISIT TO THE GURUKUL EXHIBITION BY SMT. SONAL AMITBHAI SHAH



Inauguration of Exhibition by Smt. Sonal Amitbhai Shah and Mr. M N Mehta. Also seen in the picture are Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta and Mr. Jay Mehta



Smt. Sonal Amitbhai Shah is keenly observing the creativity of the students of Arya Kanya Gurukul in the exhibition

PARADIGM SHIFT FROM 'EGOCENTRICNESS' TO 'OMNICENTRICNESS'" INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'THE LIFE AND WORK OF RAJRATNA SHRI NANJIBHAI KALIDAS MEHTA'



Shri Nanjibhai Kalidas Mehta

To commemorate the selfless service of Rajratna Shri Nanjibhai Kalidas Mehta (Pujya Bapuji), an International Conference was organized by the Gurukul Mahila Arts and Commerce College, Porbandar.

Titled - The Life and Work of Rajratna Shri Nanjibhai Kalidas Mehta, the conference witnessed an august gathering from the members of the Mehta family which included Mr. Mahendra Mehta, Mr. Jay Mehta, Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta, Mr. Hemnabh Khatau, Ms. Uma Mehta and Ms. Kamalakshi Mehta.

Also present at the event were the Hon'ble Trustees of the Arya Kanya Vidyalaya Trust, national-international experts, teachers, research-scholars and students.



Mr. Jay Mehta and Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta lighting the lamp as Mr. Suresh Kothari looks on

Inaugurating the conference by congratulating Dr. Anupam Nagar, Principal - Gurukul Mahila Arts and Commerce College, Porbandar, Mr. Jay Mehta shared lesser known facts about Pujya Bapuji (Shri Nanjibhai Kalidas Mehta) stating that he learnt more from experience than books.

Though, initially Pujya Bapuji was associated with his father's business, he soon developed a knack for national-international trading houses. In spite of being a globe-trotter, Pujya Bapuji ensured his roots remained firmly with India – his motherland and he left no stone unturned to repay the debt he owed to the country.

Post the inauguration, the sessions in the conference had experts debate and deliberate on various subjects ranging from art, literature, society, folk-lore, philosophy, economics, commerce, Arya Samaj, spirituality, philanthropy etc. Videos and presentations on the life and works of Pujya Bapuji added considerable excitement amongst the audience.

To get acquainted with some unknown, untouched areas of the life of the founding father Rajratna Shresthi Shri Nanjibhai Kalidas Mehta, an International Conference was organized with the objective of reminiscing, re-interpreting and re-contextualizing his life and works.



Ms. Uma Mehta and Ms. Kamalakshi Mehta lighting the lamp during the International Seminar as Mr. Hemnabh Khatau and Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta looks on



Sitting on the dias from L-R:
Ms. Kamalakshi Mehta, Mr. Hemnabh Khatau, Ms. Uma Mehta, Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta, Mr. Jay Mehta,
Mr. Ashok Sharma, Dist. Collector, Porbandar and Dr. Anupam Nagar
alongwith the Arya Kanya Gurukul students listening to their vedic mantras



THE JOURNEY OF “HUMANITY FIRST” GETS STRONGER IN ITS SERVICE TOWARDS THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

(continued from our last issue's cover story)

It is indeed a matter of pride for us that the Humanity First team have completed more than half a year in their quest towards serving the less privileged in and around Lugazi. What started off as a humble thought of serving food to those in need, today has grown in strength taking initiatives to ensure a smile on the face of people around them.



Christmas is a festival of joy. The world around comes together in celebrating Christmas irrespective of the faith they belong to. It was indeed touching to see the Humanity First volunteers take a journey in the interiors of a village in Lugazi and spread joy to the residents there with distribution of food packets.

What made our hearts melt was to witness a five year old girl Hetvi Yagnesh Raval, daughter of Mr. Yagnesh Raval, working as Chief Cashier in SCOUT, extending a helping hand along with her father in serving food and distributing clothes.



To share a beautiful quote from the great Indian saint – Rishi Vagbhata befits the tasks undertaken by the Humanity First team.

The saint on being asked who's life he considered as being successful, was quoted saying, "One, who, after taking care of his misery and after solving his problems, does not struggle to solve the problems of others, whether he succeeds or not, the life of such a person is a waste".

He further explained that, "Even if a saint goes to the mountain and achieves some spiritual power by extreme penance, and afterwards, he does not use his powers for the betterment of humanity, even the life of such a saint is useless".

SAURASHTRA CEMENT VIDHYA VIHAR SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL TRIPS



Educational trip of The Saurashtra Cement Vidya Vihar School

School life remains incomplete without excursions and picnics. Going for these trips remains the highlight during school life and each child is seen eagerly waiting for their teacher to announce the picnic/field trip day!

The Saurashtra Cement Vidhya Vihar School recently organized educational trips for the students of 1st and 2nd standard to Jambuvan Cave, Sidsar, Jamnagar and nearby places of Jamnagar.

All the little children were seen excited and happy during the trip and they showed tremendous eagerness in witnessing and learning about the various historical places shown to them.

PICNIC OF SIDHEE LADIES CLUB



The Sidhee Ladies Club department hosted a picnic for its members at the Zennis Farm & Resort in Gir Sasan.

All the participating members spent an entire day in the wilderness at Gir Forest and appreciated the event. Games, music, fun, lunch, high tea and jungle safari were the moments that thrilled all the members.



SPORTS DAY CELEBRATION

As part of the monthly group celebration, a Sports Day event was organized by Sidhee Ladies Club under the aegis of Dr. (Mrs.) Madhuri Randad, President of Sidhee Ladies Club.

The event was followed by a one minute game, a card game, housie, musical chair, memory game and luck game. Post all the activities, the ladies enjoyed the end of the day with mouth watering delicacies.



APPRECIATED AND HONOURED



Mr. Gangadhar Jadhav, working in the administration department in Corporate Office, Mumbai, was recently appreciated and honoured by the Kalgi Tura Samaj Unnati Mandal, Mumbai, affiliated by the Government of Maharashtra, for his contribution in promoting the traditional form of musical folk drama which includes singing and dancing, especially the Jhakri dance, originating in the coastal belt of Maharashtra, which is now becoming extinct in the Konkan region.

We thank him for his efforts to revive this precious folk art of Maharashtra.

THE MEHTA GROUP TAKES PRIDE IN MAKING GOLF ACCESSIBLE TO THE CHILDREN OF THE TEAM AT SCOUL.



The Mehta Group's contribution in grooming the individuals to play golf and outshine themselves in various golfing competitions has time and again borne fruit where a lot many awards and accolades have been won. We take pride in highlighting the success story of one such SCOUL employee's children that has been covered by the National newspaper of Uganda, "New Vision".

Winnie Musiya, Peter Mayende and Edwin have won several trophies and the interesting fact is that the father of these children, Moses Masette works as a washerman in the Company.

If we talk about the specifics, Musiya has won nine trophies in the national team and has travelled to countries such as Egypt to play golf. Peter has seven trophies and Edwin has won two.

Peter says that the Mehta Golf Club inspires them to play the game because they provide them with everything they need like the field, coaches and equipment. They also give the stars sponsorship abroad.

Musiya says her elder sister, Doreen Mutoni, who is in Senior Six inspired her. She is a star player with several awards. Apparently, Musiya used to love netball but then her sister convinced her to take on golf and post the training within a year she won her first trophy. Mutoni also inspired her younger brothers Mayenda and Nanyaya who too today play golf, winning various trophies and prizes round the year.

WON GOLD MEDAL IN INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH OLYMPIAD



Master Shourya Raval, son of Ms. Bunty Raval, Sr. Officer-HR, Ahmedabad Office, studying in Udgam School won a gold medal in the International English Olympiad.

We congratulate this dashing 4-year-old on his achievement!

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

The Gujarat Pollution Control Board(GPCB) had organized an Essay Competition on World Environment Day 2022 on June 5, 2022.

Many students of NKDAV Public School participated in this competition.

Out of them, Ms Dhruvi Patel, student of 9th standard of our NKDAV Public School and daughter of Mr. Dharmendra Patel, Sr. Manager-Mechanical got second position in 'B' Category in State Level Competition and won a cash prize of Rs. 5,000/- from GPCB.

This is a matter of pride for her parents, the school and Sidhee Parivar.



PARTICIPATION AT PEATA VISION 2022 EXHIBITION AS ASSOCIATE SPONSOR

Architects, engineers, contractors, masons and other members from the construction industry who have a direct rapport with our end consumer play a very important role as influencers for our industry.

Targeting this set of influencers- PEATA (an association in Bhavnagar) organized an event titled – PEATA Vision 2022, bringing various products and brands from the construction business under one roof.

Established in 1965, PEATA stands for 'Practising Engineers, Architects and Town Planners Association'.

The event which witnessed a huge footfall of over 1 lakh visitors, was held between December 23 – 25, 2022 at the 'Jawahar Ground', Bhavnagar.

It was launched with fanfare amidst known faces of political personalities and dignitaries of PEATA, along with various business solutions providers.



Apart from being an associate sponsor, we also had a mega stall at the exhibition, where we showcased Hathi Cement, Sidhee Cement and Snowcem Paints wherein we showcased the product range of cement, LPP bags, technical aspects of cement, etc. to visitors along with continuously projecting of the brand AVs on the screen at the stall.

It was heartening to witness Snowcem Paints attracting customer curiosity.



The team posing at the stall along with images of stall showcasing cement



Mehta Group receiving memento for participation



Entire team at stall along with
Mr. Ujash Mehta (Regional Head – Bhavnagar) and Mr. Shailabh Sharma (Marketing Head)



Channel Partners along with
Mr. Ujash Mehta (Regional Head – Bhavnagar) and Mr. Nayan Sureja (Regional Head – Rajkot)

THE MEHTA GROUP CO-SPONSORS PORBANDAR COASTAL HALF MARATHON – 2022

Shree Ram Sea Swimming Club (SRSSC) is a group of swimmers that encourages sports and fitness related activities. The swimming club was established in the year 2001 and formally registered in the year 2009 having more than 200 active members.

With the aim of a fit and better Porbandar, the group organizes events at regular intervals. One such event was organised on November 13, 2022 at Chowpatty ground, Porbandar by SRSSC.

The competition comprised of five categories:

- 21 KMS** – Half Marathon
- 10 KMS** – Fitness Run
- 5 KMS** – Smart Run
- 5 KMS** – Fun Run (Non-competitive)
- 2 KMS** – Kids Run



With a keen interest in supporting any fitness related events and activities, The Mehta Group ensures its active participation by way of sponsorships and for this event too, we joined hands with SRSSC as a co-sponsor. The event was flagged off early in the morning at 6.00 a.m. by Mr. Animesh Rathore, Vice President-Engineering, SCL on behalf of The Mehta Group along with other important dignitaries of the Navy and Coast Guard. More than 400 fitness enthusiasts participated in the event.



The winner being felicitated by Mr. Animesh Rathore

HOW THE MEHTA FAMILY HAS IMPACTED SO MANY LIVES IN UGANDA

(Published in "Sunday Vision" (Uganda Newspaper) on September 4, 2022)

In early August 1972, 50 years back when Idi Amin overnight and on a whim, expelled the Asians, many had no place to go. They were confused and devastated to leave Uganda, the only home they knew.

The Mehta family was among the affected but since their return in the 1980s, they have put their painful past behind them to spread love, happiness and transform lives of Ugandans.

In the final piece in a series on the expulsion of Asians, the newspaper Sunday Vision spoke to beneficiaries of The Mehta Group's kindness as to how the employees families of The Mehta Group are looked after in Uganda.

- **Jessica Serugga**, 61, was recruited as a Stenographer at Sugar Corporation of Uganda Ltd. (SCOUL) after completing her secretarial studies in 1983. She was also given a house and free medical treatment. She worked in different departments till 2016, when she retired. Thereafter, her bosses advised her to remain working instead of staying at home.

"I have arthritis, which causes pain in my legs, but my bosses insisted that I continue working and this has helped me to exercise," she says.

For six years now, Serugga has been in charge of housekeeping.

Serugga says, "The Mehta Group has helped educate her two daughters. Now one is working in the IT department of the United Nations and another as Human Resource Officer with Huawei."

"I am always content with my salary because I have job security, free medical care and education for my children," she says.

She says she managed to save enough for a comfortable retirement.



- Similarly, **Timothy Muwonge** has worked with The Mehta Group for 39 years. He is now the General Manager-Health, Environment and Safety. He was recruited as a Junior Chemist and given a self-contained house. Over the years, SCOUL has sponsored him for training as a Sugar Technologist in India and several times to Mauritius and Malaysia, thus becoming one of the Senior Chemists in the Company.

“The Mehta Group has supported me to start a family, build a home and has given my six children a good education. I can't ask for more from God,” he says.



Mehta Group provides basic healthcare to all workers and their families

- Another employee, **Henry Nsiyona**, 25, is working as a Laboratory Technician at The Mehta Hospital. He says the hospital has employed his father as an Engineer for the last 30 or so years. They also helped educate his children and employ them as well.

“I almost failed to sit for my final examinations at the Campus. The Company intervened and after studies, the Company gave me a job. I also did my training from here,” he says.

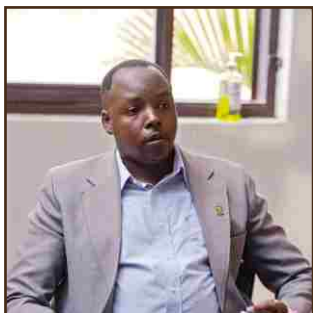
- Away from that, **Specioza Nammande**, 41, another beneficiary has a more revitalising story to tell. One of her three children, Joel Basaline, a Golfer, was recently sent to North Carolina in the US by The Mehta Group to pursue a fully sponsored Bachelor's degree in Commerce. This was a distant dream for Nammande, a casual labourer and her husband Emmanuel Baligeya, a waiter, who has worked for the Company for over 30 years.

Initially, Nammande was a housewife staying with her husband in the staff quarters. She was later recruited as a Gardener in the golf course gardens. Thereafter, she was moved to the restaurant, where she has worked for 15 years as a waitress. They were overjoyed when their son travelled abroad.

She says, "We still can't believe it happened. God bless the Mehtas, they have supported us in all ways." She says over the years, they have benefitted from free decent housing, subsidized education for their children in Mehta Schools and free medical care at the Mehta Hospital. The children also have free access to the golf course, football, volleyball and basketball pitches at all times.



Mehta Golf Club



■ Former Ghetto Boy (who grew up in the slum area) turned **Mayor Lutajani Kemisi** is the Lugazi Central Division Mayor. He was educated and employed in The Mehta Group.

He says growing up, he was needy and had experienced everything poverty can throw at a child.

His mother was involved in a tedious task associated with banana leaves around Lugazi town and the neighbourhood villages to put food on the table for her four children. Kemisi would also do the same task as his mother and do comedy skits in bars to get the school fees.

He dropped out of school. Just as luck would have it, Kemisi had been selling bananas to some Indians inside the Mehta gated community in Lugazi and many loved his lively character.

The Company got wind of his predicament and enrolled him in the Mehta Senior Secondary for free of cost.

They also provided him with scholastic materials throughout to keep him in school and encouraged him to play golf in which he excelled.

After his 'A' level, the Company sponsored him to pursue a degree in Business Administration at Nkumba University.

Thereafter, he worked in the customer care department of SCOUL and is now Assistant Manager- Sales and Marketing besides being the Mayor.

The Mehta Group has blessed many former Ghetto boys, mostly now Golfers. They are living successful lives here and abroad.

“The Mehta Group adopted and gave us a good life”, Kemisi says. He is quick to add that apart from educating them and hundreds of the workers' children, the Company also gives them free medical care at the hospital.



- **Ivan Waiswa**, a Pharmacist says they have most of the drugs and they dispense it to all workers, their families and community members for free.
- The Hospital Head **Dr. S. Mishra**, says they receive over 130 patients daily in their outpatient and inpatient departments. The hospital is a 60-bed capacity health facility. “We treat diseases ranging from malaria, HIV/AIDS, snake bites and non-communicable ones such as diabetes and hypertension,” he explains. They also receive accident victims but they refer casualties to Kawolo and Mulago Hospitals, Uganda.
- **Jane Draaru**, 29, a casual labourer, who gave birth to her fourth baby in the Mehta Hospital. She has worked in the Sugar Plantation since the last 10 years and has delivered two of her four children from the Mehta Hospital.

She says, “The nurses are hospitable. They do not discriminate between Managers and casual labourers. They treat us with respect and dignity.”

She further says, “I plan to have more children. I don't earn millions, but I love my job because education and medical care are free and good.

We thank The Mehta Group for their generosity.”

This positivity supports the well-being of employees at the workplace, building and maintaining a workplace culture that makes employees feel safe, lower incidences of employee burnout, increases rates of engagement and a company that feels like a second home.



SHRI INTERNATIONAL MAHER SUPREME COUNCIL ORGANISES “UGANDA SUMMIT – 2022”



Mr. Mahendra Mehta and Mrs. Sunayana M. Mehta arriving at the Uganda Maher Summit in Kampala, Uganda

A grand Summit organised by Shri International Maher Supreme Council (IMSC) witnessed a massive presence of more than 600 Mahers from all over the world at the Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort near Kampala for a week.

The aim of the event was to check on the overall development and to discuss core issues pertaining to the Maher community. Mahers from India, U.K., U.S.A., Canada, Kenya, U.A.E., Tanzania, Australia and from other countries participated in this summit.

In October 1972, the then President of Uganda, Idi Amin had expelled the Asian community from Uganda and they were asked to leave the country within 90 days. Many Maher families had to flee to the U.K., U.S.A., India and other countries and start a new life amidst several hardships.

This summit was a walk down the memory lane for many as a lot of the families from the community came to Uganda after almost five decades of expulsion.

Mr. Mahendra Nanji Mehta, Chairman - Mehta Group of Industries was the Chief Guest for the summit.



Mr. Vimalji Odedra, President- Shri International Maher Supreme Council honouring Mr. Mahendra Mehta with an "Aatiyadi Pagdi" in Kampala, Uganda on October 30, 2022. Seen sitting in the pic. are Mr. Sam Engola (Senior Advisor to the Honourable President of Uganda), Right Honourable Madam Rebecca Kadaga (Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda)

Apart from him, the other dignitaries who graced the event were Mrs. Sunayana Mehta, Hon. Rebecca Kadaga - The Deputy Prime Minister of Uganda & the Former Speaker in the Ugandan Parliament, Hon. Sam Engola, Senior Advisor to the Hon'ble President of Uganda, Mr. Sudhirbhai Ruparelia, Chairman of Ruparelia Group, Mr. Vimalji Odedra - President of National Council of Gujarati Organisation U.K (NCGOUK) and President of IMSC, Mr. Ranmal Keshwala - Chief Convener of East African Maher Supreme Council along with Members of Parliament.

Mr. Vimalji Odedra, President of IMSC honoured Mr. Mahendra Mehta with a "Aatiyadi Pagdi" (Maher turban), a shawl and a memento as a mark of highest respect in the Maher community.

Mr. Odedra thanked Mr. Mehta and his family for their continuous support towards the Maher Community.



**Mr. Mahendra N. Mehta addressing a large gathering of Maher Community
in Kampala on October 30, 2022**

Seen sitting in the pic. Mr. Vimalji Odedra (President - International Maher Supreme Council)

On receiving the honour, Mr. Mehta said, "I am grateful and deeply touched by the honour bestowed upon me by the Maher Community. My father Shri Nanji Kalidas Mehta is the main claimant of the respect and honour I have received from the Maher Community today.

Mahers are known as Kshatriyas, great fighters and are good farmers too".

UNDERSTANDING THE RELATION BETWEEN THE MAHER COMMUNITY AND THE MEHTA GROUP

The founder of The Mehta Group Rajratna Sheth Shri Nanji Kalidas Mehta was born in Gorana village near Porbandar and often visited Shri Ramji Velji, his maternal uncle at Visavada village.

Both the villages are known to have the Maher community in big numbers and thus Nanjibhai had many Maher friends during his childhood. Therefore the Maher Community and Lugazi Sugar Works (Mehta Group) go back many years. Many Maher families lived and worked in Lugazi, Uganda as early as 1940's till the expulsion of Asians in late 1972. The relation between The Mehta Family and The Maher Community also strengthened owing to the contribution of The Mehta family in extending educational facilities for the children of the Maher community.

As we are aware, Arya Kanya Gurukul for girl child education in Porbandar was built by the Mehta Family in the 1930's. What perhaps many do not know is that there were thousands of girls from the Maher Community who received education at this institution and till date the school has a huge number of students from the community.

Further, many are unaware but as per his award "Dharmaratna Dhanveer", Sheth Shri Nanji Kalidas Mehta built a High School called "N. K. Mehta High School" in Fatana village near Porbandar in 1966. Many students including Mr. Vimalji Odedra, current President of "International Maher Supreme Council" completed their studies from this institution.



Shri N. K. Mehta High School in Fatana village near Porbandar



EXTENDING HOSPITABILITY TO THE GUESTS AT THE SUMMIT

Mr. & Mrs. Mahendra Mehta invited all 600 delegates for a day trip to Lugazi Sugar.

The Mehta family organised a bus tour for the guests to visit the factories and also the houses where they all lived 5 decades back and a trip to the 'nature walk'.

All the guests were then invited to dine with the family where Mr. & Mrs. Mehta happily clicked pictures with everyone and invited them to come to Lugazi in the future again.



The 17th NCB International Conference on Cement, Concrete and Building Materials based on the theme of “Moving towards Net Zero Carbon Emissions” was organized from December 6 – 9, 2022 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.

Mr. Dinesh Randad, Director-Works, Mr. Garimesh Sharma, Asst. V.P. - Instrumentation and Mr. Kuldeep Singh Chouhan, Dy. Manager – QC represented Gujarat Sidhee Cement Limited at the conference.

Mr. Randad chaired a technical session on Productivity Enhancement and Process Optimization.



BIS MANAK MAHOTSAVA - BY BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS, RAJKOT

BIS Manak Mahotsava was organized by Bureau of Indian Standards-Rajkot Branch at Bhuj, Gujarat. Mr. Hasan Movar, Manager-QC and Mr. Kuldeep Singh Chouhan, Dy. Manager-QC attended the event on behalf of Gujarat Sidhee Cement Limited (GSCL).

BIS honored GSCL for being a long associated License Holder Company.



Mr. Hasan Movar, Manager -QC accepting the award on behalf of GSCL

ACHIEVER OF THE MONTH



We take pride in having amongst us talented team members who go out of their way and put in tremendous efforts to take the road less travelled when it comes to performance and innovations.

At GSCL, Sidheegram our Draughtsman-Mechanical Mr. Yasin Rahish displayed extraordinary efforts to develop Pre-heater Cyclone's Dip Tube drawing. It has resulted in cost saving and enhancement of productivity.

Congratulations to Mr. Yasin Rahish for his achievement and for future innovations!



CORPORATE OFFICE

Mr. Surender Bhatia
CEO - Paints, SCL

Mr. Fenil Shah	Manager Accounts
Ms. Ravina Dupargude	Dy. Manager-Housekeeping
Ms. Hemangi Pathare	Executive-Digital Content Management

SCL, RANAVAV

Mr. Sudarshan Vyas	Sr. Electrical Engineer
Mr. Hasmukh Karena	Electrical Supervisor
Mr. Mayur Vadhiya	Mechanical Supervisor
Mr. Shivam Jungi	Officer-Purchase

GSCL, SIDHEEGRAM

Mr. Ram Pratap Singh Sarandevot	Engineer-Mines
Mr. Yashpal Singh Parmar	Deputy Manager-Geology
Mr. Praveen Kumar Dwivedi	Engineer-Process/ Mines
Mr. Vijay Maghudiya	Senior Engineer-Instrumentation



**CABLE CORPORATION LTD.,
LUGAZI, UGANDA**

Mr. Krishnakumar Iyer
General Manager-Finance

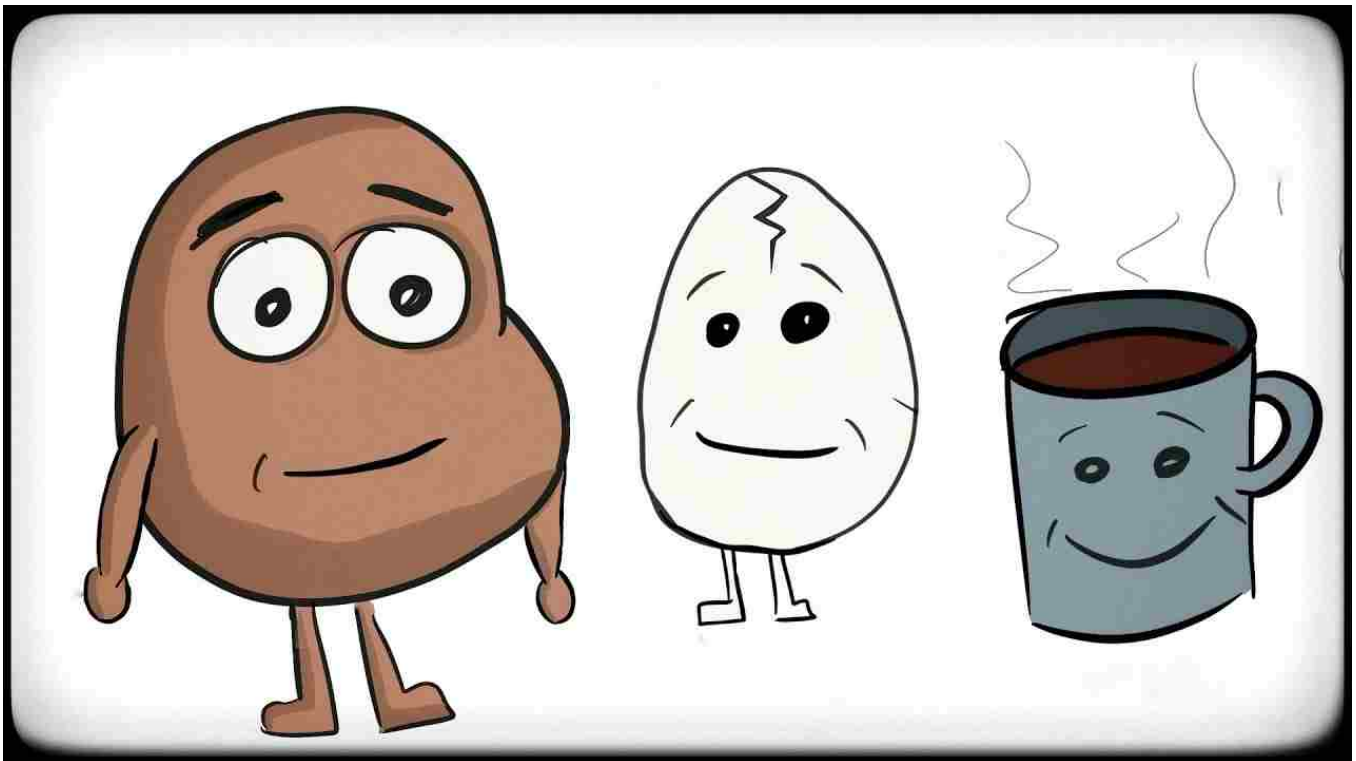
**SUGAR CORPORATION OF
UGANDA LTD., LUGAZI, UGANDA**

Mr. Chirukuri Vishnuvardhan
Dy. Manager (Boiler)



Potato, Egg and Coffee Beans

Sourced from -https://www.momjunction.com/articles/best-online-inspirational-stories-for-your-child_0093785/



A little boy named John lives in a beautiful home with his parents. One day, his father finds him crying and asks if something is wrong. John says meekly, "I have so many problems in life," and talks about his 'problems'.

John's father patiently listens to him. Then he brings a bowl and places a potato, an egg and some coffee beans in it. He asks John to touch and feel the ingredients in the bowl, and tell what he feels about them. John describes how he feels about each of them on touching.

The father smiles and asks John to place them all in three different bowls and pour water in them. He then boils them all. After a few minutes, the father turns off the stove and places all the bowls on the counter to cool them down.

When they have cooled down, John's father asks him to touch them once again and feel the egg, potato, and coffee beans. John has a different answer this time. And he says, the potato's skin is easier to peel as it has turned very soft, the egg has hardened, and there is a fresh coffee aroma coming from the beans.

Listening to John, his father smiles and tells him how the potato, egg, and coffee beans reacted to adverse situations. The potato has become soft, the egg turned very strong, and the coffee beans have changed their form completely during their testing time in the boiling water.

Moral Of The Story: Problems are a part of life. How we react to them makes us a better individual.

PEARLS



F WISDOM

by Mr. Manoj Wadhvani, Senior Executive, Corporate Office, Mumbai)

Teacher: Sani, if you had 5 dollars,
and you asked your mother for
another 5, how many dollars would you have?

Sani: 5 dollars, Sir!

Teacher: You don't know your arithmetic.

Sani: But Sir, you don't know my mother!



When I was young I
thought that money
was the most
important thing in
life; now that I am
old I know that it is.

Oscar Wilde

It was an
emotional
wedding

even the
cake was
in tiers.



(Sourced from "Seniors Today")

"NEVER JUDGE THE
FUTURE OF A PERSON
BASED ON THEIR PRESENT
CONDITIONS, BECAUSE
TIME HAS THE POWER TO
CHANGE ANY BLACK COAL
TO A SHINY DIAMOND"

#SOULFUL-QUOTES



INTELLIGENCE
CONSISTS IN IGNORING
THINGS THAT ARE
IRRELEVANT



HEALTH CORNER

So how many of you out there enjoy snacking on dry figs? Do you know this super-food is filled with nutrients and is one of the best snacking option that you can rely on without any guilt? So carry on munching on figs! And for those who haven't as yet developed a taste for figs, we will tell you why you need to eat a few figs everyday.



Read on to find out more...

Why Dry Figs?

Tasty and beautiful, figs are the unsung super heroes of fruits. A super food, rich in fiber, potassium, and manganese, a single fig has only about 50 calories and to the joy of veggies, they are also a source of calcium.

Do dry figs aid in weight loss?

Figs are a healthy snack option that may help promote weight loss, including the fat loss in the abdominal area. They contain a good amount of dietary fibre, which helps reduce appetite and keeps you feeling fuller for longer.

Best time to eat dry figs?

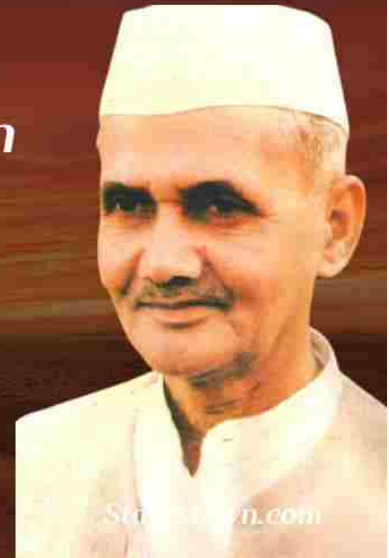
The optimal time to consume this incredibly healthy dried fruit is in the morning. Consuming figs on an empty stomach may produce the best effect on weight loss and overall heart health. Moreover, they are high in fiber and help you to deal with constipation if eating on an empty stomach. Soak a few figs overnight and have them each morning.

Who should avoid dry figs?

Figs are good for diabetic people, but the characteristic of reducing blood sugar level may be harmful to others. It is recommended that those suffering from low blood sugar level should avoid eating figs

*Discipline And United Action
Are The Real Sources Of
Strength For The Nation.*

~ LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI ~



The Mettle of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri

(Contributed by Mr.Puneet Malik, Executive Assistant to Chairman, SCOUL, Uganda)

Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, who was the inventor of the famous slogan **“Jai Jawan Jai Kisan”** which rent the sky during the Indo Pak war of 1965 and which is still a very powerful slogan to rouse patriotism in the Indian public even today.

He became the Prime Minister of India after the sudden demise of Late Shri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The chair of the Prime Minister was not a bed of roses for him. The nation had not even emerged from the austerity caused by the sudden attack of China that Pakistan also initiated the attack.

And, under duress, India had to respond. The Indian response was so fierce that our armies started to push back the armies of Pakistan and even made deep incursions into enemy territories.

Having seen it, the U.S.A. threatened India to stop advances else she would stop the supply of wheat. That time, India was not a self-reliant country in food production. But, Panditji exhibited his mettle and decided not to bow down before USA's pressure and gave a free hand to security forces to retaliate and said, **“Force will be met with force”**.

Not to mention that Indian armed forces had even reached Lahore and captured considerable chunks of Pakistan's land. However, due to the supply cuts by America, a big problem of food shortage was looming over India. But, undaunted by the problem, he found a very extraordinary solution.

He thought, if India reduces its food consumption and increases food production, the problem of food grain shortage can be permanently sorted out. Food production could not be increased overnight but food consumption could be reduced but the method was painstaking.

Still, he took the decision and addressed the nation and urged every Indian to sacrifice one meal a day and asked his fellow countrymen to sow wheat wherever they find the place e.g. in loans, in pots, in backyards etc.

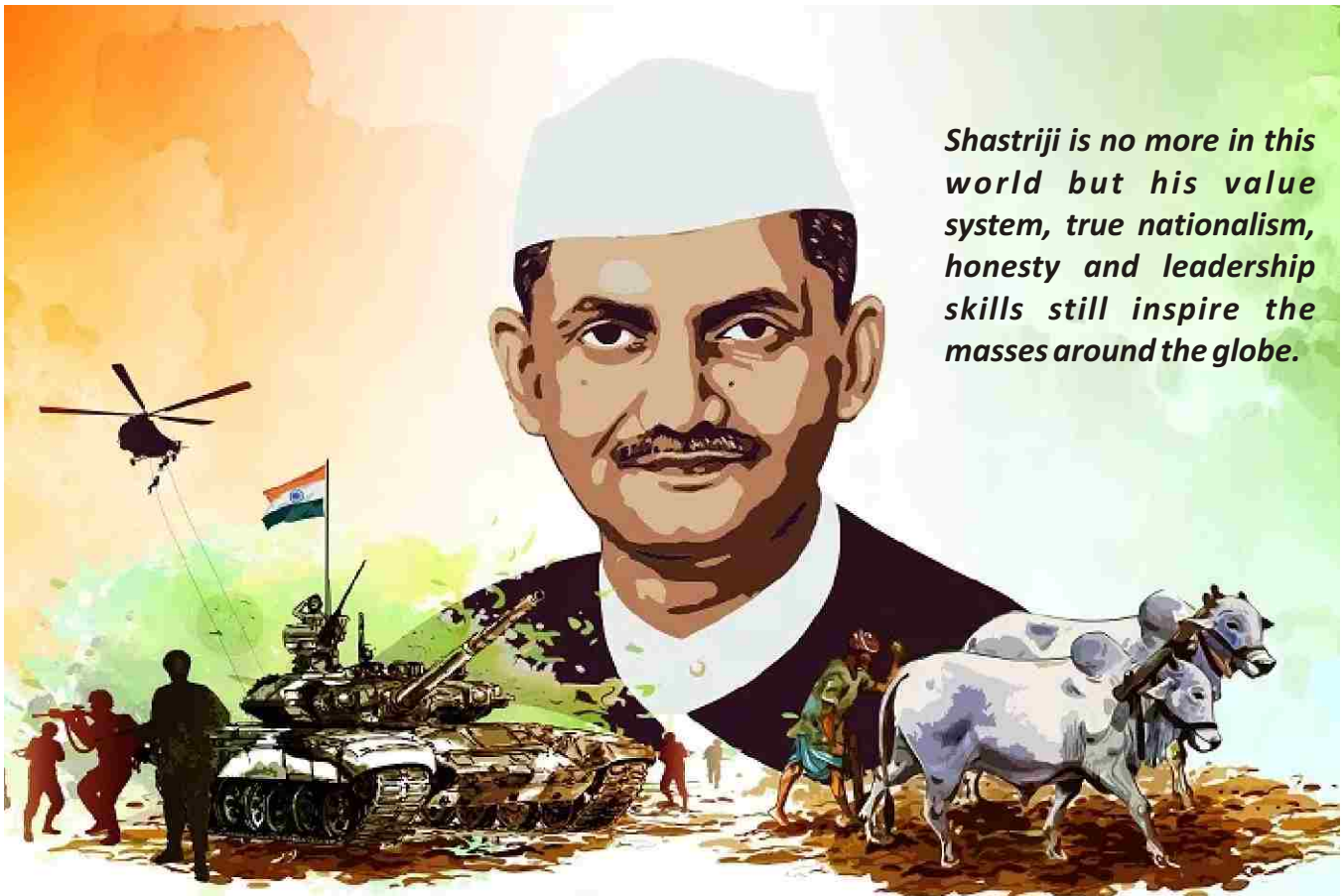
But before making such a bizarre urge to the nation, he applied it to himself and his own family. He ploughed the garden of flowers in his government bungalow and sowed wheat there, and along with his family sacrificed one meal a day.

जय जवान जय किसान



People of India knew Shastriji very well and would respect him a lot. Indians started to sacrifice one meal a day and sowed wheat wherever they found the space. That year India did record production of wheat and after that we had paved the way to become self-reliant in food grains.

The speech which he delivered that time to convince his fellow countrymen to ditch one meal a day and to sow wheat wherever possible became one of the historic speeches and one of its types in the world history because there have been very few leaders in this world of Shastriji's stature who had the charisma to make people walk on such a difficult path with perseverance.



Shastriji is no more in this world but his value system, true nationalism, honesty and leadership skills still inspire the masses around the globe.



Some amazing DIYs from waste by Mrs. Bhavna Malik, wife of Mr. Puneet Malik, Executive Assistant to Chairman, SCOUL, Uganda



Bottle Paintings



Paper Floor Lamp



Human figures made by using paper



BOSS to an employee:
Do you believe in life after Death?

EMPLOYEE:
Certainly not, there's no proof of it

BOSS: Well, there is now.
After you left early yesterday to go to your uncle's funeral, he came here looking for you.



“

I like work; it fascinates me.
I can sit and look at it for hours.

JEROME K. JEROME

Gajgamini

REVIEWS

Words that encourage us to do better -

- The issue is really outstanding. Very good graphics and photos along with awesome disposition of text and images.

(Mr. Puneet Malik, Executive Assistant to Chairman, SCOUL, Uganda)

- I really found Gajgamini interesting. I love the new layout and the design. Keep up the good work!

(Dr. Joan Maria Cruz, Physiotherapist, SCOUL, Uganda)



Here's another simple contest idea anyone can enter for a chance to win.

Caption the photograph and share it with neetam@mehtagroup.com

The three best entries of witty captions will win prizes.

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