



# *Cognitionis*

Curated by MSMSV QUIZZING SOCIETY



# *Jaipur Special*

ALL ABOUT  
INDIA

*Celebrating 36th Founder's Day*

JULY 2020



# INDEX

---



*ALL ABOUT  
INDIA*

*JAIPUR  
SPECIAL*



*CURRENT  
AFFAIRS*

*WORLD  
EVENTS*



# NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

---

My house is just next to my school and I always dreamt of entering its haloed portal. Yet it took me some years before I could call myself a Mansinghite. When I finally came into the school, Rajmata Gayatri Devi had already left us but her imprints were strewn around the school. World over she is known for her legendary beauty, but as Mansinghites, we can all sense and feel her beautiful soul and the good values that she inculcated in her students. Her principles and ethics literally guide us even today.

In this school, I learnt the the custom of greeting our teachers with hands folded, saying a genial namaste, which indicates respect, gratitude and regards for our gurus. The simple exercise taught me the need for maintaining a right balance between traditions, respect for elders and a modern outlook. And this I think is what Rajmata Gayatri Devi truly stood for.

She was, in fact, the most progressive queens Jaipur has ever had. Having studied in Shantiniketan's Vishwa Bharati, Rajmata had interacted with Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. Her progressive outlook somewhat emanates from her liberal childhood, spent in Bengal's Coochbehar. When she came to Jaipur as a bride, she was not happy with the way women were treated here and hence she openly rebelled against the 'Purdah system'. Keen that girls should have equal educational opportunities, she started one of India's most prestigious schools till date, the Maharani Gayatri Devi School.

She was at ease in all her roles - on the social front and politically as well. She became a Member of Parliament, when there were only a few women who contested polls. She won her constituency first in 1962 with the world's largest landslide, winning 192,909 votes out of 246,516 cast. She held the seat for the next two consecutive terms in 1967 and 1971. She was a vocal Parliamentarian and spoke her mind on many national and regional issues.



Rajmata was equally concerned about her city, Jaipur, having sat on dharna thrice over preserving the city's heritage. Her love for art and craft was also well known, she revived the blue pottery industry of Jaipur. Rajmata was also a good sportswoman, loved playing polo and was also good in equestrian. She shot her first tiger at the age of 12. And even drove her own car. Yet she was grounded to earth and her roots. Her larger than life personality inspires us and will continue to do so always.

In this issue, we are celebrating our Founder's Day by coming up with a Jaipur Special issue, where we highlight some unknown facts about Jaipur. In the World Events section, we elucidate about the progress of the Oxford coronavirus vaccine. In the current affairs section we update you about the India-China skirmishes and finally we highlight the plight of the state of Assam in our environment page. We hope you all will enjoy this issue too!!

*- Jiyan Roytalukdar*







# HARYANA

Haryana is bounded by Punjab in the west, Himachal Pradesh in the north and Rajasthan in the south. The river, Yamuna defines its eastern border with Uttar Pradesh. On its part, Haryana surrounds the country's capital, Delhi from three sides namely northern, western and southern. Consequently, a large area of south Haryana comes within the National Capital Region. Economically, Haryana is one of the most developed States of India. Its agricultural and manufacturing sectors have experienced sustained growth since the 1970s. Since the year 2000, the State has also emerged as the largest recipient of per capita investment in India.



**HARYANA STATE GOVERNMENT SEAL**

## CULTURAL SPECIFICITIES

### Language

Hindi is the official language of Haryana and is spoken by the majority of the population in this predominantly Hindi-speaking State. Besides, with sizable number of Punjabi speaking Sikh population residing in the State, Punjabi has also been accorded the status of the second official language of the State since the year 2010.

### Dress

The vibrancy of the people of Haryana and their simplicity and spirited enthusiasm for life find expression in their costume. The women of the State specially have an attraction towards colour. Their basic trousseau includes *daaman*, *kurti* and *chunder*.

| <i>Fact Sheet</i>        |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>State Day</i>         | 1 November             |
| <i>Geographical Area</i> | 44,212 km <sup>2</sup> |
| <i>State Capital</i>     | Chandigarh             |
| <i>Official Language</i> | Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu   |
| <i>State Animal</i>      | Blackbuck              |
| <i>State Bird</i>        | Black francolin        |
| <i>State Flower</i>      | Lotus                  |
| <i>State Tree</i>        | Sacred fig             |

## FAIRS AND FESTIVALS



The people of Haryana celebrate various fairs and festivals with equal pomp, splendour and gaiety. Just like other regions of the country, festivities like Dussehra, Navaratri, Holi, Diwali, Mahavir Jayanti, Guru Parav, Raksha Bandhan, Lohri, Karva Chauth, Krishna Janmashtami, Maha Shivratri, Durga Puja, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Juha and Muharram are celebrated across the State. Apart from these, the State also observes many fairs and festivals, which serve not only as occasions of celebration, but also attract a large number of visitors to the State at different times of the year. Some of these festivals are Baisakhi, Haryana Day, Kurukshetra Festival, Mahabharata Festival, Mango Festival, Sohna Car Rally, Surajkund Craft Mela, Kartik Cultural Festival and Pinjore Heritage Festival.



**SURAJKUND CRAFT FESTIVAL**

## PLACES OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE

Several pre-Harappan and Harappan sites have been found in Haryana. The major ones among these are located at Rakhigarhi, Banawali, Balu, Kunal, Agroha, Mittathal and Naurangabad. The Lat and the Humayun Mosque, located in Fatehbad, are two important monuments of the State that are associated with its medieval history.

However, the State is by far most well-known for Kurukshetra. The place has a sacred association with the Vedic Culture as well as the Mahabharata. It is believed that Lord Krishna proclaimed the philosophy of the Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna here at Jyotisar. The very first verse of the Gita describes Kurukshetra as the 'Dharmakshetra' (place of righteousness). According to Hindu mythology, Kurukshetra applies to a circuit of about 128 kilometers, which includes a large number of holy places, temples and tanks that are associated with the ancient Indian traditions and the Mahabharata War.



**KURUKSHETRA**



**RAKHIGARHI**



**HUMANYU MOSQUE**





# KERALA

The name Kerala is derived from the word *kerā*, which means coconut. Legend has it that the present geographical area that forms the State of Kerala emerged from the sea when Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, threw in rage his axe into it as a measure of repentance for exterminating the Kshatriyas, the warrior class, from the earth. Going by another tradition, the landmass of Kerala emerged from the sea with the blessings of Varuna, the Lord of the Sea, in return for the prayer of Bhumidevi, Mother Earth. The promotional tagline of ‘God’s own Country’ of the Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) captures the spirit of such legends apart from celebrating the verdant natural beauty of the State and its unique culture.



**KERELA STATE GOVERNMENT SEAL**

The backwaters is a typical geographical feature of the State. With canals linking these backwaters and other lakes, the State possesses an uninterrupted waterway of 450 kilometres from its capital, Thiruvananthapuram to Vadakara. Besides, the State also has many rivers and rivulets flowing from the Ghats in the north to the south. The prominent ones among these are: Valapattanam, Chaliar, Kadalundipuzha, Bharathapuzha, Chalakudy, Periyar, Pamba, Achancoil and Kalladayar. An interconnection between the backwaters, lakes and rivers, forming a unique grid especially in the coastal strip, has earned for the old port-town of Alappuzha the epithet of ‘Venice of the East’. With such natural endowment in possession, the State has also become emblematic for lush coconut groves and paddy fields. Naturally, therefore, Kerala has adopted the coconut tree as the ‘State Tree’. No aspect of the cultural life of the people of the State can be said to be complete without a generous use of the fruit of this all important tree.

## DID YOU KNOW ?

The conch shell, part of the Kerala government seal was taken from the flag of erstwhile Travancore Royal Family.



**BACKWATERS, AN IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE OF KERELA**



## PERFORMING ARTS

Kerala is well-known for its many beatific, sonorous and lyrical art forms. Most famous among these are Kathakali and Mohiniyattam. Besides, there are other 74 popular performing arts, which deftly combine dance, drama and music. Some of them are :

**Mohiniyattam** is another distinctive dance form which is characterised by slow, graceful, swaying movements of the body and highly emotive eye and hand gestures of female dancers wearing elegant gold-filigree dressing pure white or ivory, akin to the traditional attire of the women of Kerala. This dance form flourished under the patronage of the Chera kings between the 9th and the 12th century CE and was rooted in the Hindu mythology which speaks of Lord Vishnu taking the form of a celestial enchantress (*Mohini*) during the ‘Churning of the Sea’ (*Sagara Manthana*) to deny the demons a chance to share the drink of immortality (*amrit*). In its heydays, the dance was practised by *devadasis* or temple dancers and hence was also known as Dasiattam.



**Kutiyattam**, features dramatic performances enacted simultaneously by both the male and female members of the Chakkia community and lasts from six to twenty days. Late Ammannoor Madhava Chakkia was an unrivalled maestro of this art form.



## ARTS AND CRAFTS AND THEIR CENTRES

| Names of Major/Minor Crafts         | Distinctive Features                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Kasavu Saree, Mundu, and Neriyaattu | Off-white cotton or silk long cloths with golden brocade.                                                                                                  |
| Pavithra Mothiram                   | A uniquely crafted golden ring, shaped like a knot.                                                                                                        |
| Aranmula Kannadi                    | Bronze mirror with handles.                                                                                                                                |
| Nettipattom                         | A glittering copper and gold ornament which adorns the forehead of an elephant.                                                                            |
| Chundan Vallam                      | Snake boat of Kerala made of Anjili wood.                                                                                                                  |
| Vaikkol Chitrangal                  | Straw pictures made by pasting straw cut to different sizes on cloth or canvas.                                                                            |
| Coir products                       | These include mats, rugs, wall hangings, door pieces, bags, hammocks, ceiling and floor furnishings, beds, cushions, little show pieces and window blinds. |
| Fibre crafts                        | These include items like dolls, mats, purses, bags, bangles, wall hangings made from fibres obtained from plants like banana and pineapple.                |
| Pulpaya                             | Traditional mats woven out of Korappullu grass.                                                                                                            |
| Ramacham Vishari                    | Fan made of <i>Vetiver</i> grass.                                                                                                                          |
| Netturpetti                         | Jewel box made of rosewood, originally designed in the Nettur region of Malabar.                                                                           |
| Nilavilakku                         | Traditional bell metal lamp.                                                                                                                               |





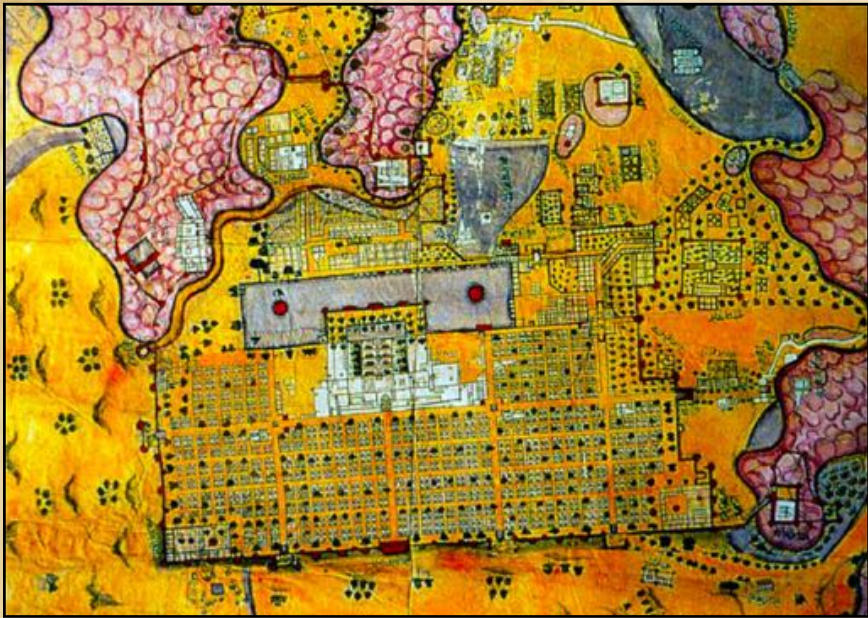
*Jaipur special*





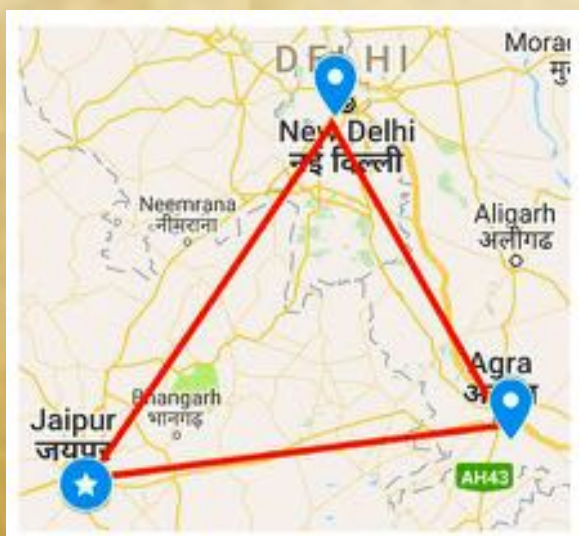
# Jaipur

One of the charming and most frequented places, Jaipur is an invaluable splendour of India. It is one of the few places where one can delve deep down the layers of time and learn in detail about the history of the country. Jaipur is believed to be the first planned city in the country as it was completed in the year 1730. The fact that Jaipur is the only city that has been planned as per the rules and regulations of the Vastu Shastra and the Shilpa Shastra will certainly amaze you.



**OLD MAP OF JAIPUR'S WALLED CITY**

Jaipur was painted pink on the advice of Dhanna Lal Kasliwal, who was a minister in the cabinet of Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh . The colour of the whole city was inspired by Dhanna Lal Kasliwal's own house . The city was painted pink on the occasion of the arrival of the Prince Of Wales.



Jaipur is a part of the Golden Tourism Triangle of the country; the other two cities that form this triangle are Delhi and Agra. It means that Jaipur is one of the most visited places in India. After all, it is a land where one can feel the essence of a royal aura.

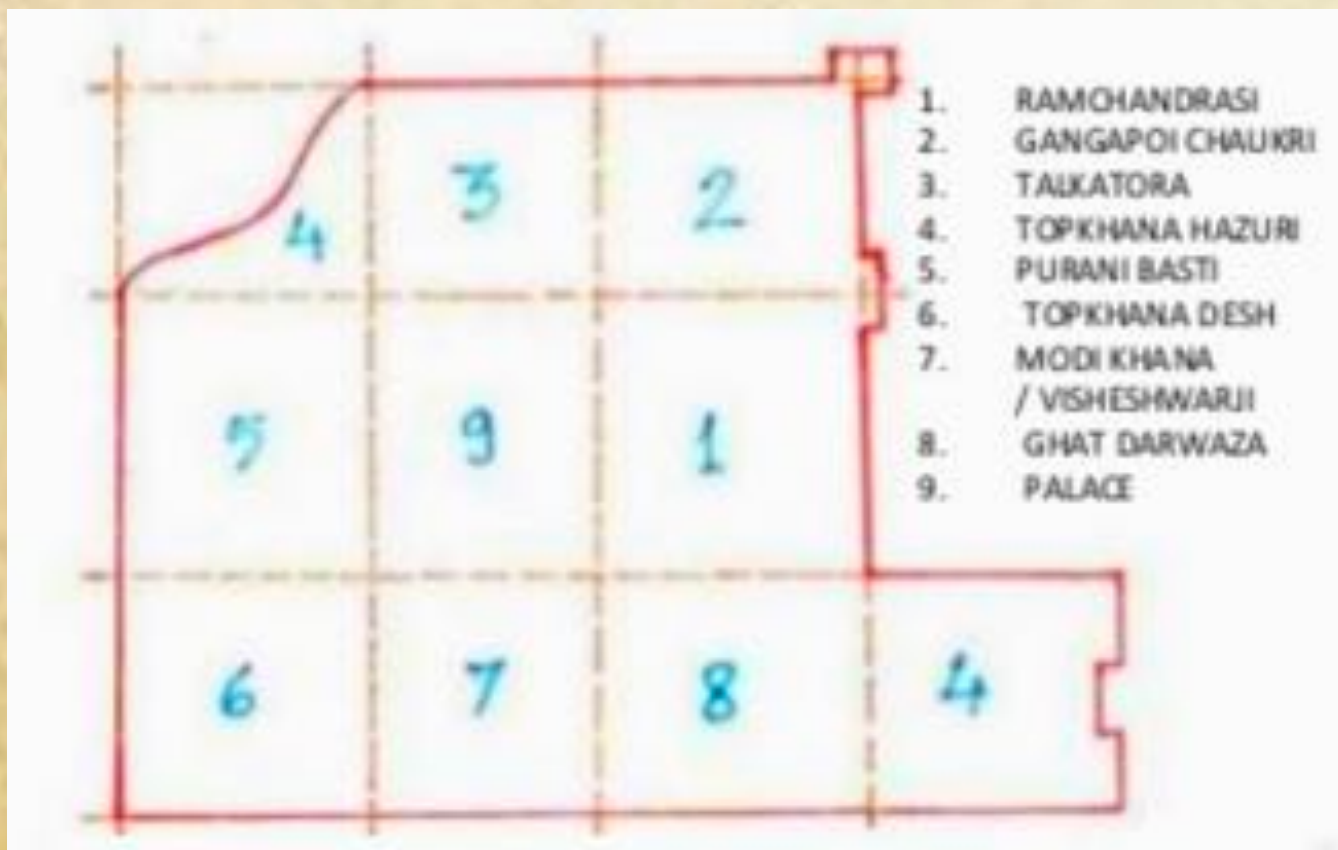


# Planning of Jaipur

The official name of the city when it was founded was 'Sawai Jaipur'. It is mentioned as 'Sawai Jaipur' in all the contemporary documents e.g. , the deed granting rent free land to the chief priest Jagannathan Samrat, who performed the ceremonies connected with the laying of the foundation stone of the City; the invitation letter (1729 A.D) given by Jai Singh to a trader Ghasiram Murlidhar to come and settle down in the newly built City of Jaipur and promising him many concessions for this act, mentions the same name. Vidyadhar Bhattacharya was the chief architect and city planner of Jaipur, Rajasthan. A Bengali architect, who hailed from Naihati of present-day West Bengal, he was already working in the Amer state as Junior Auditor when approached by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727 to build one of the earliest planned cities of India. Along with Sir Samuel Swinton Jacob, he is credited as the architect of City Palace, Jaipur. He used principles of Shilpa Shastra and Vaastu Shastra to create a grid-based model of city.



**MAHARAJA SAWAI JAI SINGH II**



**THE PLANNED BLOCKS OF JAIPUR**



# *Amer fort*

The town of Amer and the Amber Fort were originally built by the Meenas, and later it was ruled by Raja Man Singh I. Located high on a hill, it is the principal tourist



attraction in Jaipur. Amer Fort is known for its artistic style elements. With its large ramparts and series of gates and cobbled paths, the fort overlooks Maota Lake, which is the main source of water for the Amer Palace. Mughal architecture greatly influenced the architectural style of several buildings of the fort. Constructed of red sandstone and marble, the attractive, opulent palace is laid out on four levels, each with a courtyard. It consists of the Diwan-e-Aam, or "Hall of Public Audience", the Diwan-e-Khas, or "Hall of Private Audience", the Sheesh Mahal (mirror palace), or Jai Mandir, and the Sukh Niwas where a cool climate is artificially created by winds that blow over a water cascade within the palace. Hence, the Amer Fort is also popularly known as the Amer Palace.

Shila Devi is the famous idol of Durga. Her temple is located in Amer Fort in Jaipur, India. The idol was brought by Raja Man Singh I of Amber from Jessore (now in Bangladesh) in 1604 CE. Hundreds of thousands of people from Jaipur and surrounding areas gather to pay offerings to Shila Devi. From folklore it is believed, this idol was carved from the same stone as the Dashabhuja idol of the Susanga Royal Family of Durgapur (now in Bangladesh). The Dashabhuja idol was stolen from Susanga and lost.



**THE SILVER DOORS OF SHILA DEVI TEMPLE**



# *Last Royals*



## *Maharaja Sawai Man Singh*

Maj. Gen. HH Maharaja Sawai Shri Sir Man Singh II GCSI GCIE was the last ruling Maharaja of Jaipur State. He ruled the princely state between 1922 and 1949, when the state acceded unto the Dominion of India. Thereafter, he held office as Rajpramukh of Rajasthan between 1949 and 1956. In later life, he served as Ambassador of India to Spain. He was also a notable sportsman and celebrated polo player.

## *Maharani Gayatri Devi*

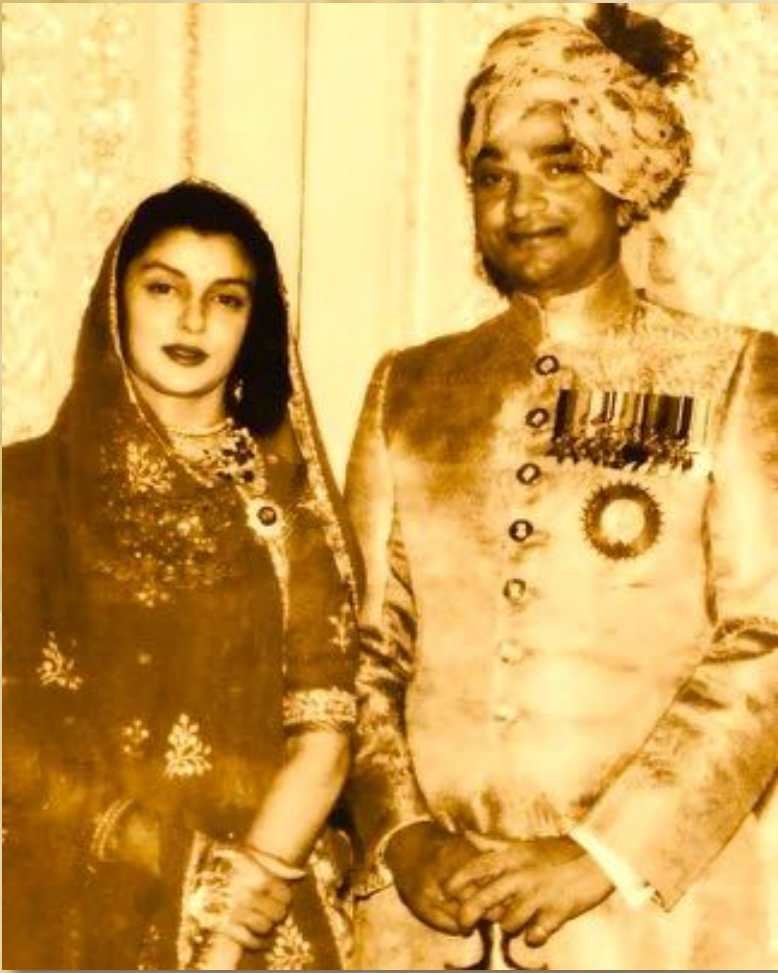
The founder of our school, was ethnically born in a Koch Rajbongshi family, her father was Maharaja Jitendra Narayan of Cooch Behar in West Bengal, and her mother was Maratha Princess Indira Raje of Baroda, the only daughter of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III.

Following India's independence and the abolition of the princely states, she became a successful politician in the Swatantra Party. Gayatri Devi was also celebrated for her classical beauty. She served 12 years in Swatantra Party. She was one of the most progressive queens, Jaipur has ever had. She disobeyed the Purda system and also was a staunch supporter for girls' education. Later she focused on co-ed schooling and laid the foundation of Msmsv, in the memory of her husband Maharaja Sawai Man Singh the second.

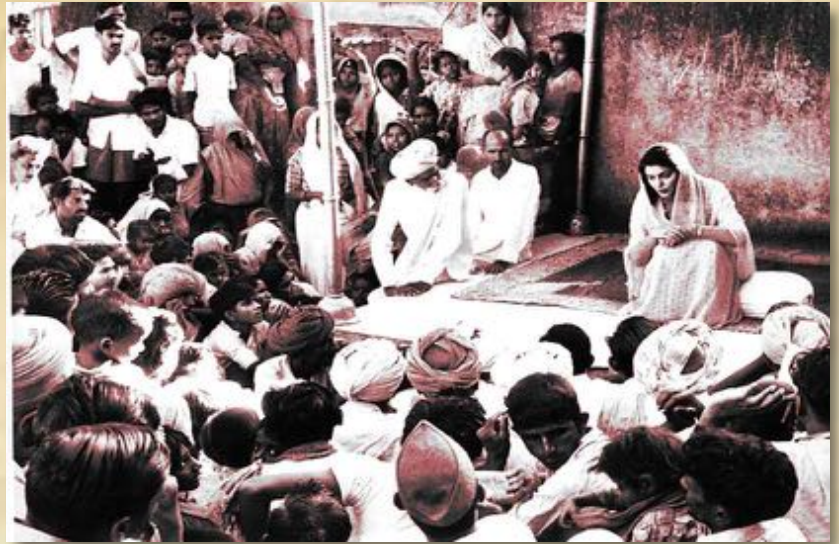




# *Rajmata Gayatri Devi in photos*



**WITH MAHARAJA SAWAI MAN SINGH II**



**AT AN ELECTION RALLY, SHE WAS LOK SABHA MP AND WON HER CONSTITUENCY WITH WORLD'S LARGEST LANDSLIDE VICTORY**



**WITH C RAJAGOPALACHARI, FIRST INDIAN TO BE THE VICEROY. RAJAGOPALACHARI WAS ALSO THE FOUNDER OF SWATANTRATA PARTY**



**WITH QUEEN ELIZABETH (SHE IS THE LONGEST REIGNING MONARCH OF THE UNITED KINGDOM )**



**WITH JACQUELINE KENNEDY (WIFE OF JOHN F KENNEDY, FORMER US PRESIDENT)**



# *Some Unknown Facts about Jaipur*

- ✿ **Hawa Mahal is the world's tallest building built without any foundation.**
- ✿ **Jaipur was made by combining six villages namely: Nahargarh, Taalkatora, Santosh Sagar, Moti Katla, Galtaji and Kishanpole.**
- ✿ **The streets of Jaipur had street lights lit by gas in the 1930-40's . There was a gas plant in Jaipur for the street lights . New York, Prague, Baltimore and London were some other cities that used this type of street lamps.**
- ✿ **Host to World's Largest Free Literary Festival, Jaipur Literature Festival .**
- ✿ **Hawa Mahal has 953 windows and the hawa mahal was built in the shape of Lord Krishna's Crown. It is said that Lal Chand Usa was the architect of Hawa Mahal.**



**JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL**



**HAWA MAHAL**



**ELECTRIFIED STREET LAMPS OF  
OLD CITY, THE SUN REPRESENTS  
THE SYMBOL OF KACHHAWA  
DYNASTY**





# WORLD EVENTS

---





## OXFORD UNIVERSITY'S COVID-19 VACCINE SHOWS PROMISE IN EARLY TESTING.



A vaccine being developed by AstraZeneca and the U.K.'s Oxford University appears to be safe, early-stage clinical trials have shown, marking a promising breakthrough in the race to develop a coronavirus vaccine, although it is yet to be seen whether it protects people against the virus.

## THE UAE HAS SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED THE ARAB WORLD'S FIRST MARS MISSION



The United Arab Emirates successfully launched its Mars-bound Hope Probe on Sunday, marking the the Arab world's first interplanetary mission -- and the first of three international missions to the Red Planet this summer.

The Hope Probe took off from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan,

after a delay last week due to bad weather. The solid rocket booster successfully separated from the launch vehicle, and the probe has established two-way communication with the ground segment in Dubai.





# CURRENT AFFAIRS

---





# NATIONAL AND WORLD POLITICS

---

1. Hagia Sophia will be open outside prayer time: Turkey: Turkey's Hagia Sophia could open to visitors outside prayer times and its Christian icons will remain, religious officials said, after a court ruling paved the way for it to become a mosque.
2. China doubles down on claims on eastern Bhutan boundary: Days after Bhutan sent China a demarche protesting against Chinese claims to the Sakteng wildlife sanctuary in eastern Bhutan, Beijing has doubled down, including Bhutan's "eastern sectors" to the boundary dispute between the two countries for the first time.
3. Russians grant Putin right to extend his rule until 2036 in landslide vote: Russians opened the door to Vladimir Putin staying in power until 2036 by voting overwhelmingly for constitutional changes that allow him to run again for president twice.

# BUSINESS

---

1. Tik Tok calls of talks with U.K government to open global HQ in Britain and create 3000 jobs : White house advisor Larry Kudlow said he expects TikTok to separate from its Chinese owner ByteDance and operate as an American company.
2. Uber Technologies has quietly launched a service to give public health officials quick access to data on drivers and riders presumed to have come into contact with someone infected from Covid-19.



# ART AND CULTURE

---

1. Indian artists in Europe – Pankaj Tiwari and Abhishek Thapar share experience of migrant labourers walking home during lockdown. Haunted by images of migrant labourers in India walking home during the lockdown, they shared their experiences by an arduous journey of their own, walking through The Netherlands, Belgium and France and covering 348km on foot.

2. One of India's best known ceramic artist – Jyotsna Bhatt passed away on 11th July, two days after she suffered a stroke.

# SPORTS CURRENT AFFAIRS

---

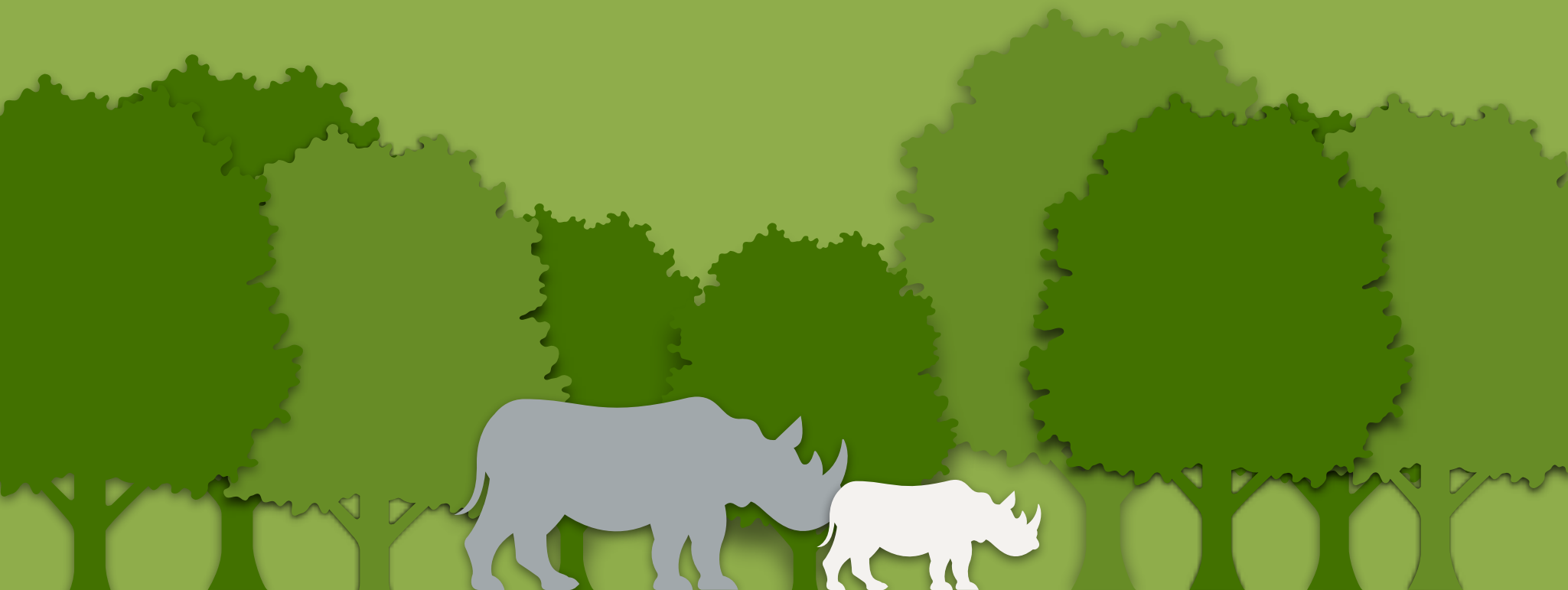
1. Sports Ministry to establish Khelo India State Centres of Excellence.
2. India get rights to host AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022.
3. World No.1 tennis player Novak Djokovic tested positive for Covid-19 earlier in June.
4. World Karate Federation provisionally derecognises Karate Federation of India.
5. 'NADA INDIA' Mobile Application launched to help athletes Stay Updated about Prohibited Substances.
6. Liverpool wins English Premier League 2019-20 title.
7. Real Madrid wins La Liga defeating Villarreal by 2-1.
8. International Cricket kickstarts with Windies and England leveling the test series 1-1 with a game to go.
9. ICC postpones T20 WC 2020 thereby giving IPL a window. IPL likely to happen from September 26 to November 7 in UAE.
10. For the first time since 1956, the Ballon d'Or will not be awarded to any player because of the break in football due to Covid-19.



# NATURE'S FURY OR A WAKE UP CALL FOR ALL OF HUMANITY

Assam floods are no alien to Indians . Year after year the fury of the mighty Brahmaputra is experienced by the north- east . But the question arises what has stimulated this ‘natural’ disaster . Each year the monsoons bring heavy rainfall in Assam , but the melting of the glaciers due to Global warming has worsened the situation. The embankments constructed to tame the river, have actually done the opposite and are causing it to rise and flow faster. The floods have become an ‘annual’ occurrence, the country is aware of the problem and its cause and still no steps have been taken towards implementing a solution . This negligence on the part of the government has costed 79 people and 96 animals their lives . Other than the loss of life , the floods have snatched the livelihoods of numerous farmers by destroying more than 1 lakh hectares of crops.

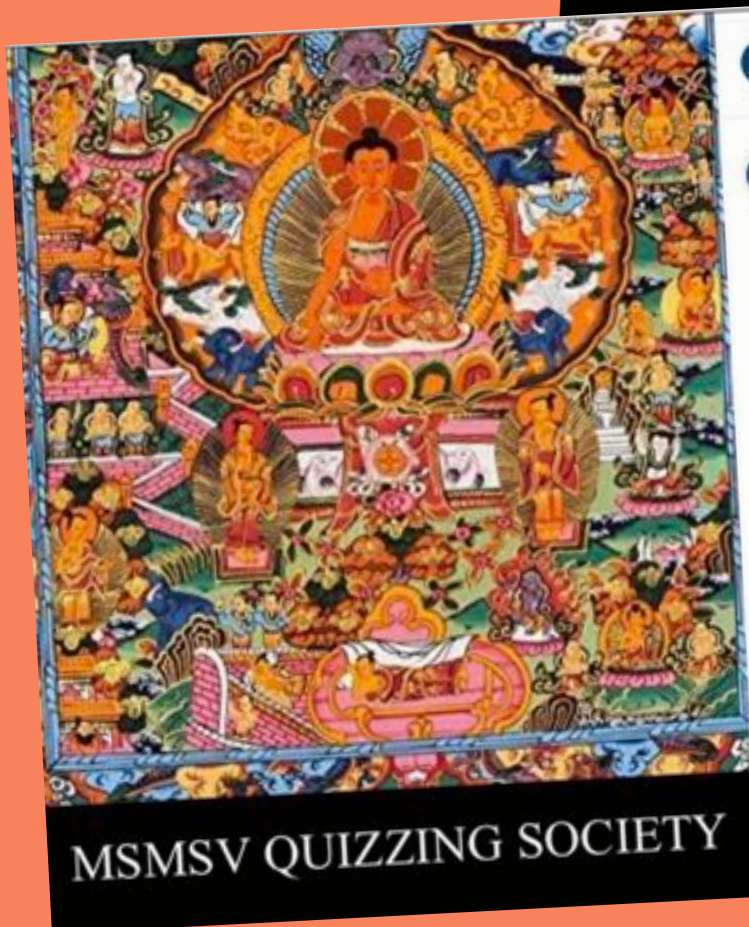
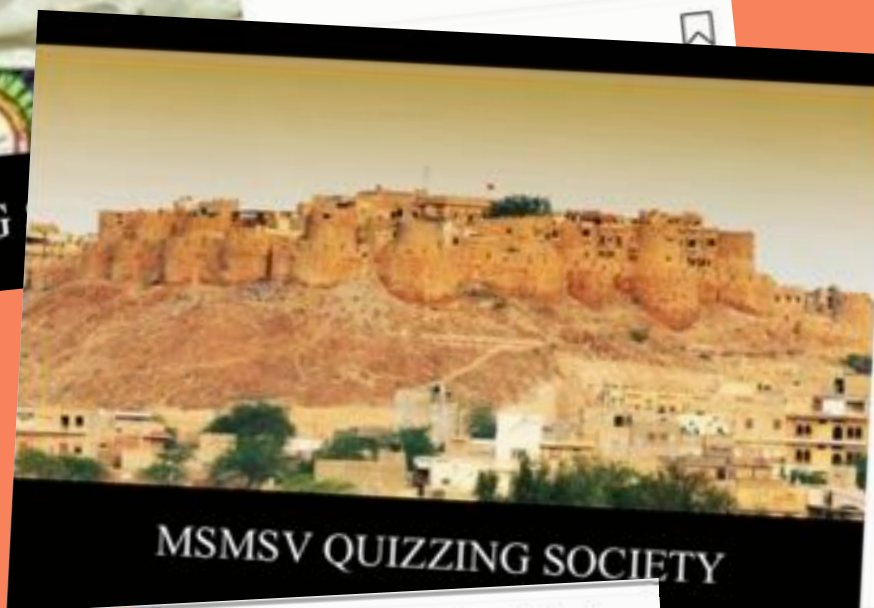
With more than 54 lakh people affected this year , this toll instead of reducing just keeps rising each year. The situation has drastically worsened and its not enough to just #PrayForAssam its time to #TakeActionForAssam.





From the

Instagram





# TRIVIA TIME

---

1. This place is famous for Shri Krishna's famous Bhagvad Gita teachings to Arjuna. Identify this place.
2. Which building is the world's biggest one built without any foundation?
3. Which team won the La Liga 2019-20?
4. Name the rocket launched by UAE as its first Mars mission.
5. Where was Maharani Gayatri Devi born?
6. Who was the last ruling Maharaja of Jaipur state?
7. Who was the Chief Architect and planner of Jaipur?
8. Why was Jaipur city coloured pink?
9. Kathakali and Mohiniyattam are the famous performing arts of which state?
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ part of the Kerala government seal was taken from the flag of erstwhile Travancore Royal Family.

**Mail us your answers at - [smsquizzingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:smsquizzingsociety@gmail.com)**

## EDITORIAL TEAM

*Amanjeet Mann - Consulting Editor*

*Jiyan Roytalukdar - Editor in chief*

*Zohaib Abbas Abbasi - world events' Page Editor*

*Madhav Khandelwal- Current Affairs page editor*

*Adishree Kasliwal, environment page editor*

*Aahana Gupta - Curr. Aff. Page joint editor*



## MSMSV QUIZZING SOCIETY

Mail ID -

[smsquizzingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:smsquizzingsociety@gmail.com)

Instagram -

[@msmsvquizzingsociety](https://www.instagram.com/msmsvquizzingsociety)