Dr. Mehta loved Dogs - Man's best friend he used to say.

tary and the 'cycle sawar', the war-

den and the sweeper, the accountant

and the driver, there was a team

spirit. Their contribution is just as

significant in making Vidya

Bhawan into an institution in its

All this while Dr. Mehta

remained in the shadows as the pri-

mary benefactor of Vidya Bhawan,

nurturing it by raising funds and

also contributing from his own

pocket. While doing his regular job

Maharana Mewar, he still kept an

eye on the school and played trouble

problems - administrative or any

shooter for all Vidya Bhawan's

other. Within a short span of time

Vidya Bhawan became well known

throughout the country with chil-

dren coming from all parts of India.

Independence / Diplomacy /

With independence Dr. Mehta was

made a member of the Constituent

Assembly of India. Then at the

behest of Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr.

Mehta was sent as India's first

ambassador to Netherlands and

later to Pakistan as the Indian High

Commissioner among the ambas

sadorships of other nations. But Dr Mehta was not interested in such

sinecure appointments. From 1960

to 1966, he came to oversee the cre-

ation of Rajasthan University in

Jaipur, As its first Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Mehta laid the foundations right

from site planning to establishing

different departments with labs,

sports etc. Much of what we see

today was done by Dr. Mehta. Upon

finishing his second term as the

University he chose to come back to

Udaipur declining Government's

offer of a Governorship of a state.

Chancellor of Rajasthan

Dr. Mehta working amongst the people he loved.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Rajasthan University

n the administrative service of

Cluster of Institutions &

Character of Vidya Bhawan

राष्ट्रदुत

#INSIGHT

International Asteroids Day

Meet some rocky worlds of our solar system.



objects revolving are too small to be called planets. They are also known as planetoids or minor planets. There are millions of asteroids, ranging in size from hundreds of miles to several feet across. In total, the mass of all the asteroids is less than that of Earth's moon.

Despite their size asteroids can be dangerous. Many have hit Earth in the past and more the future. That's one reason are eager to learn more about their numbers, orbits and physical characteristics. If an asteroid is headed our way, we want to know about it.

Asteroid Day

International Asteroid Day is another name for World Asteroid Day. The purpose of the day is to increase public awareness of asteroids and their benefits and drawbacks The anniversary of the Funguska impact on 30th June 1908 is celebrated as World As teroid Day. It also spreads knowledge about the part asteroids play in the creation of our cosmos, future uses for their resources, how asteroids pave the way for further research and how we can defend our world from asteroids.

The day is a global move ment to protect our Earth from the impacts of Asteroids.

Where are asteroids found? Asteroids lie primarily within three regions of the solar system. Most asteroids lie in a vast ring between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. This main asteroid belt holds more than 200 asteroids larger than 60 miles (100 km) in diameter. Sci entists estimate the asteroid belt also contains between 1.1 million and 1.9 million asteroids larger than 1 km (3,281

of smaller ones Scientists also suspect that many of the solar system's moons were once asteroids. until they were captured by a planet's gravity and became satellites. Likely candidates include Mars' moons Phobos and Deimos, and most of the outer moons of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

feet) in diameter and millions

Near-Earth asteroids

Near-Earth asteroids (NEAs) circles the sun at about the same distance as Earth does These objects are split into sub-categories based on how the asteroid's orbit compares to Earth's. Astronomers also classify

certain near-Earth asteroids as 'Potentially Hazardous Asteroids' or PHAs. These rocks come within 4.65 million miles (7.48 million kilometres) of

Earth's orbit and are larger than about 500 feet (140 meters) across. However, the classification does not imply that the asteroid poses a certain threat to Earth.

As of October 2021, scientists have discovered more than 27,000 near-Earth asteroids. Of these, just under 10,000 have diameters larger

How did asteroids form?

Asteroids are leftovers from the formation of our solar system about 4.6 billion years ago. Early on the birth of Jupiter prevented any planetary bod es from forming in the gap be tween Mars and Jupiter, causing the small objects that were there to collide with each other and fragment into the aster oids seen todav.

The gas giants moved around before settling into their modern orbits. This movement could have sent asteroids from the main belt raining down on the terrestrial planets, emptying and refill-

What are asteroids like?

Nearly all asteroids are irregularly shaped, although a few of the largest are nearly spherical, such as Ceres. They are often pitted or cratered for instance Vesta has a giant crater some 285 miles (460 km) in diameter. The surfaces of most asteroids are thought to be covered in dust.

As asteroids revolve around the sun in their elliptical or bits they also rotate sometimes tumbling quite erratically. More than 150 asteroids are also known to have a small companion moon with some having two moons. Binary or double asteroids also exist in which two asteroids of roughly equal size orbit each other as do triple asteroid systems.

The average temperature of the surface of a typical asteroid is minus 100 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 73 degrees Celsius). Asteroids have stayed mostly unchanged for billions of years as such, research into them could reveal a great deal about the early so-

Did asteroids bring Earth water?

Ironically, the collisions that could mean death for humans may be the reason we are alive todav. When Earth formed i was dry and barren. Asteroid and comet collisions may have delivered the water-ice and other carbon-based molecules to the planet that allowed life to evolve. At the same time the requent collisions kept life from surviving until the solar system calmed down. Later collisions helped species evolve and which were wiped out in due course of time.



#PERSONALITY

DR. MOHAN SINGH MEHTA **Spirit of Voluntary Action**

with children coming from all parts of India.

Dr. Mehta remained in the shadows as the primary benefactor of

Vidya Bhawan, nurturing it by raising funds and also contributing

administrative service of Maharana Mewar, he still kept an eye on

the school and played trouble shooter for all Vidya Bhawan's

problems – administrative or any other. Within a short span of

time Vidya Bhawan became well known throughout the country

from his own pocket. While doing his regular job in the



National Movement &

Scouting Movement Young Mohan was deeply attracted by the rising wave of the national freedom movement. He embraced the aims and ideals of the Servants of Indian Society where the young came forward to dedicate their lives. in the service of the nation. But Mohan Sinha Mehta was specially drawn towards the values of the Boy Scout Movement that spoke of character building, self discipline and service to society. He was invited by Hriday Nath Kunzru to join the Seva Samiti of the Boy Scouts Association where he was a Commissioner for 2 years in Allahabad. In 1923, young Mohan was asked to come back home to ioin the family tradition of serving the Maharana of Mewar. As an obe dient son he returned and joined the administrative service of Mewar. Rich with the experience of his days in Allahabad, he initiated the Scouting Movement in Mewar. His dynamic idealism attracted a band of young public spirited peo-

ple who shared his vision of progressive nationalism and lovingly

own the long road of history, ordinary peofrom the shadows to hand and act with free will in the larger interest of society. They were what we should ship was taught by Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta, a visionary who devoted his **Udaipur - Birth & Education**

lifetime to the cause of public good. Mohan Sinha Mehta was born in April 1895 into a feudal family of hereditary officials who were the Dewans in the old state of Mewar, former Udaipur. In those times, Mewar was a restrictive and stratified society where obeisance to tradition was the norm and education was the preserve of the privileged few. As a precocious child, young Mehta was deeply influenced by his uncle Shri Jaswant Singhji Mehta, who exposed him to the words. deeds and personalities of the Indian freedom movement. Although born and brought up in a traditional society Mohan Sinha Mehta was truly a revolutionary at heart, albeit a peaceful one. As a voung boy he left for Aimer to study at the Mayo College and later went on to do his graduation at Agra. From there he went to Allahabad and after finishing his post graduation he did a brief stint as a sub-edi-



Marriage, Family, Work &

English Sojourn Soon, he also got married to Ullas Kuvar who bore him a son - Jagat, who later rose to be the Foreign Secretary of India but that is another story. With the untimely demise of his wife in 1925. Mohan Sinha Mehta took leave from his duties and left for England to pursue fur ther studies. Within two and a half years he earned his doctorate from the London School of Economics. During his stay in England he was deeply impressed by the good work being done in some poor working class areas called the Settlements. Here, for the first time he experienced firsthand, how people of the upper classes with good education and comfortable lifestyle could live and work in harmony with the poor of the East End of London. This idea that the privileged can work for the upliftment of poor aroused in him a keen desire to work amongst the deprived sections of the community in his own country. Catherine Mary Heilman, an associate of Dr. Mehta accompanied him when he came back to India in 1928. After spending a few years in

Unique Features fact, for Dr. Mehta, the first and

owards achieving Bhai Sahib's dream there are still many organizations and individuals working in Udaipur amidst the people. And though they may be going separately or in groups their direction is the same. This journey of the volunteer may be down a long and winding path but he or she is never alone.



to groom a child into a good citizen.

For Dr. Mehta a good citizen is

he/she who steps out of his/her

comfort zone and act in the larger

nterest of the society, without

being told in a spirit of voluntary

It was in the high open spaces of the

Himalayas during the Annual Hike

of 1929 to the Pindari Glacier that

the idea of starting a new & pro-

gressive school was mooted. The fol-

lowing year, during the Kashmir

Hike a plan of the school was drawn

the world on 21st July 1931 in a brief

and simple ceremony. Here was a

progressive school for both boys

and girls who studied, lived and ate

together in the day long school.

where a Harijan boy could play

with another of higher caste, where

women walked around the premises

without purdah and where there

was no corporeal punishment.

Instead, there was an atmosphere of

informality and friendship between

student and teacher. All this was in

sharp contradiction to the existing

reality of schools where there were

differences in gender, caste and sta-

Pindari Glacier & Vidya

Bhawan School

Udaipur she left for Gandhi's ashram in Wardha, where she was Gandhi always referred to Udaipur

Back to Udaipur

Back home after an English sojourn Dr. Mehta re-joined the Mewar state 's administrative service. During his 26 years. Dr. Mehta worked on various posts and came in close contact with rural people of Mewar. He was profoundly affected by the poverty and backwardness of these poor tribal people for whom his eart reached out - wanting to help. But that would come later. For now Dr. Mehta used the scouting movement to draw out the talented people from Udaipur to channelize the energy and enthusiasm of these voung men along constructive lines with programs of community service, dramatics, games and of course, nature hikes and camps But with the rising tides of nationalism there was growing feeling amongst these men that it was time to serve the community at large in a more organized manner. They firmv believed that one dav India would gain independence from the British and then the new nation would need good citizens for nation building and it was only good education that could make one a good citizen. In foremost purpose of education was

Besides the regular class study. there were many other activities that made Vidva Bhawan special amongst the schools in India. There were for instance the Open Air Sessions where students lived, worked and studied while living in tents in the rural countryside. This was not only to give young minds a better appreciation of nature but also impart an empathic understanding of the life and culture of rural and tribal communities There was a Student's Council to provide living lessons in democrat shops for students to hone their skills at various crafts which inculcated a sense of self reliance in children when they worked with their hands and not just intellect

Teachers Of Vidya Bhawan

Bhawan came from different parts of the country to join this progres sive school, often giving up lucrative jobs and higher salaries. There was a dream of doing something tangible in nation building. They were fired with ideas of national ism and moral responsibility Despite their different background they shared one vision in common and that was to build a modern India on the foundations of a just social order. For them the new idea was social reconstruction through educational reform. Towards this end they dedicated their lives to teaching young students so as to prepare them to become useful citiens with a keen sense of duty and responsibility towards society Dhar Saab, the Dashottars, KI Bordia, Goverdhan Baba, Devi Lal Samar, Janardhan Nagar, KL Shrimal, etc. were some of the many teachers who taught in Vidya Bhawan.

In the early days of Vidya Bhawan there was a spirit of equal ity amongst the staff. Although there was organizational hierarchy of senior and junior but there also existed a sense of sharing a vision; an ideal to work towards with a sense of camaraderie. So, between the headmaster and the peon, the teacher and the gardener, the secre-

Meanwhile, the ideas of Vidya Bhawan took root and soon it was no longer a single school but a cluster of institutions An art & crafts centre came up first, which was followed by a college that trained teachers to become better teachers. When Gandhi came with 'Nai Taleem' Vidya Bhawan opened a Mahatma's thinking. Vidya Bhawan Rural Institute and a Polytechnic came next along with Krishi Vigyan Kendra – a pan-Indian government program that tried to connect the Lab to the Land, in the 1950s and

Vidya Bhawan enjoyed a great reputation and this is evident by the fact that during that time wherever students from Vidva Bhawan went they were selected on the strength of being Vidya Bhawan lumnus. No interviews, Such was its formidable reputation.

During this period, Vidya Bhawan School's annual day functions became a city event drawing people from neighbouring towns to see the thematic performances and presentations by children. Long before the festivities began, people would start guessing who would be the chief guest that year. Except Gandhi himself, who's who of India like Rajendra

Males with the manne

Prashad, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Rajagopalachari, Acharya Kriplani,

Rukmini Arundale, Indira Gandhi,

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, amongst many

other dignitaries of the time had all

visited Vidya Bhawan sometime or

also a strike by the teachers revers-

perhaps symptomatic of the cur-

loss of democratic values within

Coming Back to Udaipur

Trek to Pindari Glacier.

Jawaharlal

Wealthy Fischer & Early Workers

With a team of young and dedicated workers and some of his older associates, Bhai Sahib embarked on the larger task of bringing literacy for the masses of people living in the rural areas around Udaipur. In 1969, grant from Literacy House, Lucknow, under the Presidentship of Madam Welthy Fisher enabled Seva Mandir to start their first literacy project beginning with 30 cenres in the nearby block of Badgaon. Although aging in body Bhai Sahib was ever young in spirit. His magnetic personality attracted a team of young workers on whom fell the mantle of carrying the torch forward. From different backgrounds and lands, voung and dedicated workers came forward with a sense of mission to join Bha Sahib in his dream. In 1969, the Government of India honoured him with Padma Vibhushan - the second highest civil decoration in India.

& Drought of 1973 But homecoming in 1967 at the age of 72 was not easy. Since all good things must come to a pass, so did Vidva Bhawan's glory. During the late 60s and early 70s, the rot had set in the school which was wrecked by politics and corruption. There was ing Dr. Mehta's decisions. This was rent times in Indian polity when there was moral degradation and the country. Dr. Mehta found himself isolated from his former mates. Nothing could have been more

painful for a person who had nur tured Vidya Bhawan from its birth, now had to let go of it completely With stoic indifference and great fortitude Dr. Mehta chose to leave Vidva Bhawan behind and chart vet another course for himself Since social service was close to his heart and Dr. Mehta vearned to do some NGO called Seva Mandir for public service but because he was preoccu oied with fledgling Vidya Bhawan, deferred it for another time. That time had come now. Starting afresh in 1968. Dr. Mehta left his ancestra ome at Jeevan Niwas and chose to live within the premises of Seva Mandir so that he could devote every living moment of his life to help these helpless people of his home state – Mewar.

Theatre Society

Unlike the Scouting Movement in 1920s, this time Bhai Sahib started the Seva Mandir Amateur Dramatic Society in 1969 to attract the talented youth to come forward and enliv en the cultural space in Udaipur. In a decade long existence the Dramatic Society put up many thought provoking plays like Khamosh Adaalat Jari Hai, Ashad Ka Ek Din, Andha Yug, Oedipus Rex etc. that generated public debate and discussion within groups of concerned citizens, intellectuals and the youth of the city.

Farmer's Functional Literacy

In recognition of the good work done by Seva Mandir, the Government of India gave funding implement its Farmer's Functional Literacy programme that sought to add an educational component of agricultural knowledge and practical demonstrations of fertilizer, seeds, pesticides. etc Then in 1973, Udaipur region expe rienced a severe drought. There was no drinking water available and it was natural that people were interested in literacy Responding to the crisis at hand, the volunteers embarked on drink-





Dr. Mehta with High Commissioner to Pakistan

were dug along with deepening of the existing ones on both private and community lands. Extensive water surveys were done to tap water resources. This marked a major departure for the volunteer/social worker, for whom active intervention in the life of the villagers had been added to their agenda along with Education

Agricultural Work & Cultural Issues

of Seva Mandir entered the area of agricultural development by providing expertise of engineers, experts from various fields like animal husbandry, cooperative societies and generating income through traditional skills and crafts. Volunteers began in earnest to implement these Government programs that began to enlarge the scope of their work. While working with the village group, cultural issues like drinking, death feasts, marriages and other social prob lems of the rural poor began to be discussed. Seva Mandir used traditional media like puppetry, song dance and drama to communicate developmental messages to the villager. Bhai Sahib realised that literacy and agricultural inputs alone were not enough to address a rural scenario where other inter-related issues like women and child care: health etc. needed equal attention Bhai Sahib truly laid the founda tion of a more integrated approach to rural development long before the term became part of the estabished lexicon.

Death of Bhai Sahib & Kaya

Towards the end of his life Bhai

not far from Udaipur. He called it Kava Training Centre. Soon after in was commissioned Bhai Sahil passed away on 25th June 1985. Starting Seva Mandir with a handful of people, he now left behind a In the following years the workers movement. It is Bhai Sahib's legacy that today there are many organiza tions and individuals who are working with the rural poor in and

around the city of Udaipur. A man so rooted in reality. Bha Sahib had a dream. A dream of Udaipur as a Socratic City State where 'there would be no human being living below poverty line nobody would remain illiterate there would be no sick person with out the facilities of proper treatment, there would be no person without a proper shelter or house there would be no family which ha no fuel to cook its food and thus suf fer from hunger'. He believed that on the pillars of Honesty and Compassion one can create a better society on this very earth - here and

place where villagers could come,

ive, eat and sit together to deliber

ate on issues of their own develop

ment. He created a facility complete

with meeting halls, demonstration

rooms, overnight accommodation

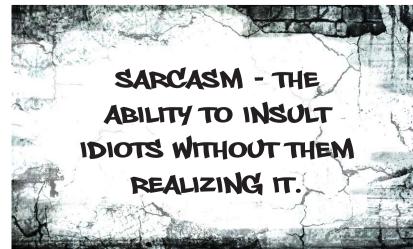
and kitchens in a sprawling com

plex situated amidst the Aravalis

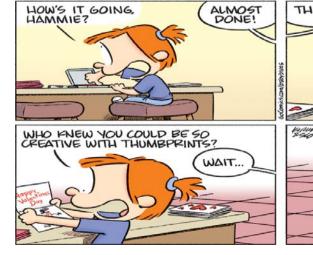
Towards achieving Bhai Sahib's dream there are still many organi zations and individuals working in Udaipur amidst the people. And though they may be going separate ly or in groups their direction is the same. This journey of the volunteer may be down a long and winding path but he or she is never alone...

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THE WALL



BABY BLUES



THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA, ZOE! THESE STAMP PADS MAKE EACH VALENTINE A WORK OF ART! THANKS ...DID YOU SAY THUMBPRINTS?

ZITS



