



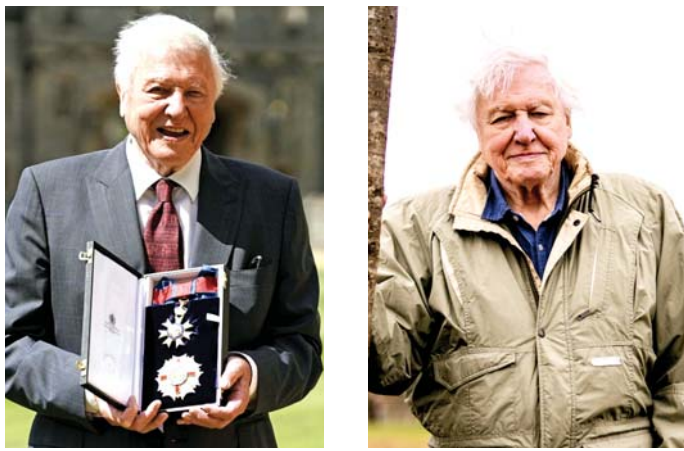
Celebrating International Invention Day

International Invention Day, observed annually on May 16, celebrates the creativity and innovation that have shaped the modern world. From the wheel to wireless technology, inventions continue to revolutionize how we live, work, and connect. This day honours inventors, past and present, whose groundbreaking ideas have solved problems, sparked progress, and inspired future generations. It also encourages young minds to think critically, innovate fearlessly, and contribute to global challenges through science and technology. Whether it's a new gadget or a game-changing solution, every invention begins with imagination. On this day, we celebrate the spirit of discovery that drives humanity forward.

#CLIMATE CHANGE

Ocean's Last Hope

Environmentalist Attenborough launches action programme for restoring the world's oceans.



Anjan Roy
A renowned veteran journalist, having worked with Business Standard and the Telegraph.

At 99, Sir David Attenborough, the legendary environmentalist and presenter of natural life, produced yet another picture on the oceans. It is a study of the oceans, something that Sir David has been pursuing for a life time. The message of the film is simple: the world's oceans are much more important than land and they would determine what would happen to the planet's future. Attenborough took his first scuba diving in 1957, and ever since, he has pursued this sport as well as a dive into the secrets of the oceans. Sir David says since his first scuba diving, a look into the beauty of ocean depths, humans have immeasurably damaged the oceans and underwater creatures so much that some of these are on the verge of extinction. At the same time, Sir David's hopeful note is that the oceans are particularly adept at regenerating and once humans steps back from their predatory and destructive intrusions into oceans, the life under-water could revive surprisingly fast. As an example, he cites the resurgence of the great Blue Whales. These were relentlessly pursued by the large trawler operators and their governments had cheered whaling. According to some reliable agencies, no

less than 2.9 million whales were culled, leading to their near extinction.

However, with the introduction of new laws and requirements, the extent of useless culling has virtually ended and these are giving new room for whales. Their numbers have since multiplied hopefully. Attenborough's film has sought to bring attention of some of the practices of present day commercial fishing organisation. Their trawlers drag a heavy iron chain on the floor of the sea which disturbs severely life and habitation on ocean floors. But when these rise up, they are captured in the large nylon or synthetic nets. The irony is that ninety percent of the creatures captured are useless for the purposes of the commercial trawlers and these are thrown back into oceans floors! What a waste and horrible annihilation of life on ocean floors! Sir David abhors.

Sir David is in his 100th year now and still actively participate in the environmental campaigns and activities. Sir David's Ocean is being show in UK this week. Sir David has been a precursor in this activity of showcasing the earth's oceans. And his TV programmes have been hugely successful.

Sir David hopes that his new film would act as a catalyst and energise environmentalists and ocean lovers into action. He is hopeful that it is not yet irretrievable and co-ordinated actions at this time could restore the world's oceans to their easier health. "That could be a contribution to reversing climate change and making the earth a more livable place," Attenborough says.



Marathas From Panipat to Balochistan



Anjali Sharma
Senior Journalist & Wildlife Enthusiast

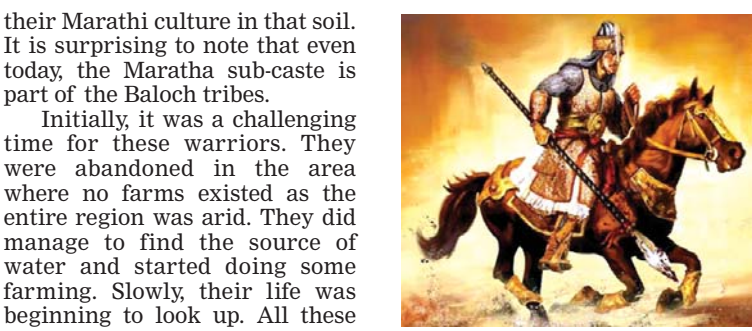
The third battle of Panipat took place in January 1760 between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan. The Mughal emperor had sought his help to break the dominance of Marathas. The Peshwas decided to take on this might to uproot the Mughal empire and march on to Panipat. However, luck deserted them, and the Marathas faced the most humiliating defeat in their glorious history. But even in the loss, they inflicted severe damage to the Afghan army, and Abdali never again set his foot in India. Some 500 soldiers of the Peshwa's army that fought the battle survived it and then scattered in Haryana's jungles. They are today known as Rod (or Ror) Marathas, and with a population between 7 lakhs to 10 lakhs, it is a robust local community spread in areas of Karnal, Rohtak, Bhiwani, etc. The golden boy of



the Tokyo Olympics, Neeraj Chopra, also hails from this community.

However, around 22,000 men and women were not so fortunate. They were made slaves and were forced to march with the Abdali army to Afghanistan. The Sikh warriors did save many women and children from captivity while Afghan army passed through Punjab. Once the army left the Indian border, they were in the province of Dera Bugti of Balochistan. Few of the soldiers of Baloch ruler had fought alongside Abdali in the Panipat war, and Abdali had to offer some compensation for the help. Abdali offered all the slaves (prisoners of war) as a gift to the Baloch ruler. And these people have lived there since then. But the real reason why Abdali gave away the slaves was that the Maratha prisoners were tired after a long journey. Hence, he decided to get rid of them under the pretext of gift.

Mir Nasir Khan Noori categorised the 22,000 prisoners and divided them into different groups. The tribes of Bugti, Marri, Gurchani, Mazari and Rayasani came into existence because of this division. Since then, these Marathi ancestors, who lived in Balochistan (largest province of Pakistan) as prisoners of war, started a new life, but they did not forget to inculcate



their Marathi culture in that soil. It is surprising to note that even today, the Maratha sub-caste is part of the Baloch tribes.

Initially, it was a challenging time for these warriors. They were abandoned in the area where no farms existed as the entire region was arid. They did manage to find the source of water and started doing some farming. Slowly, their life was beginning to look up. All these prisoners were forced to convert to Islam, but we can still find traces of Marathi culture in their lifestyle. The evidence of their Marathi origin can be seen from their caste surnames. One of the sub-caste of Bugti is named after Shahu (grandson of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj). The Baloch Marathas also have the surname Peshwani named after the Peshwas. The Shahu Marathas may have converted to Islam, but Marathi culture is evident in their marriages. The Bugti Marathas have a Haldi ceremony, tying the knot (as in Saptapadi) and entering the new house by crossing over rice bowl (नाम ओलंडणे). Along with traditions and culture, the Baluchi language has a lineage with Marathi. The Shahu

#HISTORY



Marathas address their mother as Aai (आई), and the overall Bugti tribe has also accepted that. The women are named as Godi (गोदी), Kamol (कमोल), which used to be typical Marathi names in the past. The Marhatta Qaumli Itehad (Pakistan) is the largest organisation of the Maratha community in Balochistan. In a message, its Chief, Wadera Din Muhammad Marhatta Bugti, and other members like Wazir Khan Marhatta, Zafar Marhatta Bugti and Nasrullah Marhatta Bugti echo the sentiments such as:

- We have not forgotten our roots.
- We have conserved the century-old traditions in our everyday lives.



Why is Balochistan the target of Iran and Pakistan

Region is divided between three countries and has a long history of resistance against Pakistan. Balochistan is a region with a distinct cultural and historical identity that is now divided between three countries: Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. The region takes its name from the Baloch tribe, who began inhabiting the area centuries ago, and has long been fought over and divided by rulers including the Persians and the British.

The largest portion of the region is in south-western Pakistan, which it joined in 1948 after independence. Though it is Pakistan's largest province, comprising 44% of the total landmass, its arid, largely desert landscape is the country's least inhabited and least economically developed region and has been blighted by problems for decades. Balochistan has a long history of resistance against the government of Pakistan.

- We are warriors by birth.
- We have established ourselves here in all major fields such as the military, education, politics, agriculture, telecom, etc. Several Marathi words and dishes are still part of our culture. Due to religious restrictions, we cannot celebrate the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji, but we keep his memories alive. Following their capture after the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761, Marathi captives in Balochistan adapted and thrived, preserving their Marathi heritage for generations. From festivals to everyday customs, the Bugti Marathas' story is one of survival, resilience, and a deeply rooted identity that transcends borders.

In 2023, Baloch, a Marathi film directed by Prakash Pawar, premiered on Amazon Prime. The movie sheds light on a forgotten chapter of history, the Maratha captives taken to Balochistan following the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761.

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resentment towards the ruling establishment. In response to the militant insurgency, Pakistan's military, paramilitary and intelligence forces have overseen a long-running and bloody counterinsurgency and crackdown on the region, with tens of thousands of people 'disappeared', tortured and killed with impunity. The militant insurgency has also been a long-running source of tensions between Pakistan and its neighbour Iran, which have each accused the other of harbouring separatist terrorists. Cross-border attacks have killed scores of soldiers, police officers and civilians over the past five years. Iran, in particular, has accused Pakistan of allowing militants from the Sunni separatist group Jaish al-Adl (Army of Justice) to operate freely from Balochistan and carry out attacks on Iranian authorities. As recently as December 2023, 11 Iranian police officers were killed and several injured when Jaish al-Adl militants attacked a police station in Iran's Sistan and Balochistan province. In 2023, a total of 10 Pakistani soldiers and security personnel were killed in three separate attacks in Balochistan carried out by militants, reportedly operating from the Iranian side.



#INSIGHT

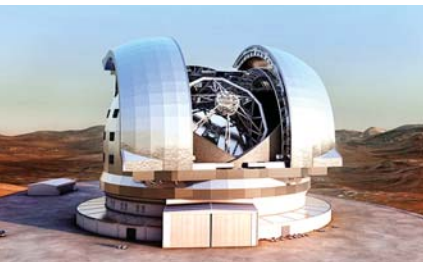
Chasing Light: How a Beam Shapes Our World Every Day

From lasers and lenses to life and literature, the International Day of Light celebrates the unseen force illuminating our science, art, and future.

'What if there were no light?'

Take a moment. Imagine your life with no sunlight waking you up, no streetlamps lighting your way home, no camera capturing your memories, and no

fiber optic cable delivering this very article to your screen. That's the kind of everyday magic we celebrate on May 16, International Day of Light.



A Global Glow: What is the International Day of Light?

Proclaimed by UNESCO, this day commemorates the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist Theodore Maiman. But it's about much more than lasers. It's a celebration of light in science, technology culture, education, sustainable development, and even art. Each year, the day shines a spotlight (pun

intended) on how light-based technologies can help tackle challenges in energy, healthcare, communication, and climate action. But beyond the tech and tools, light also stirs imagination and emotion. It's the muse of poets, the brush of painters, and the medium of photographers. It's both particle and poetry.



Light: More Than What Meets the Eye

We often take light for granted, until a blackout reminds us of its power. But light is everywhere, shaping how we see, what we know, and even how we feel. Consider this:

- In medicine, lasers treat everything from eye disorders to skin conditions.
- In communication, light pulses through fiber optic cables delivering gigabytes in milliseconds.



So, the next time you unlock your phone with Face ID or binge-watch your favourite show in HD, thank a photon.

Light Up Your Curiosity

Let's make this interactive! Here are a few ways you can observe the International Day of Light:

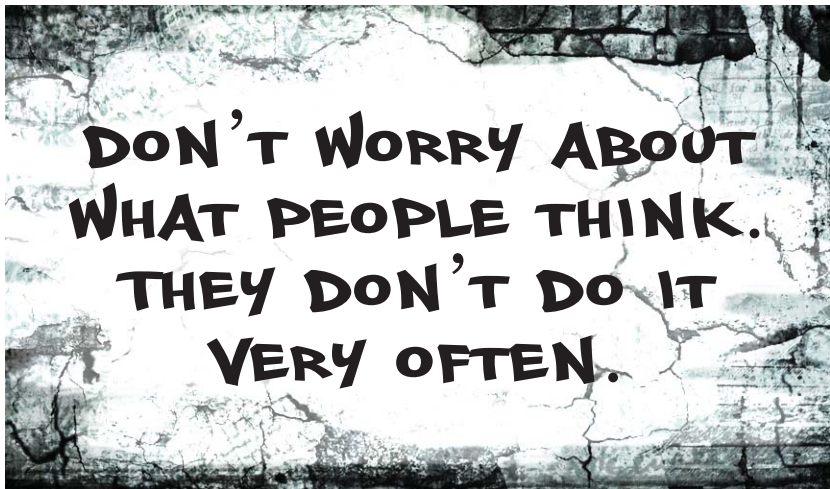
- **Make a rainbow:** Use a glass of water and sunlight to split light into colours.
- **Join a virtual science talk:** Organizations worldwide host webinars on light and its many wonders.
- **Try light painting:** All you need is a smartphone camera and a torch in the dark.
- **Visit a planetarium or museum:** Explore how light reveals the cosmos.
- **Go old school:** Read by candle-light and reflect on how far we've come.



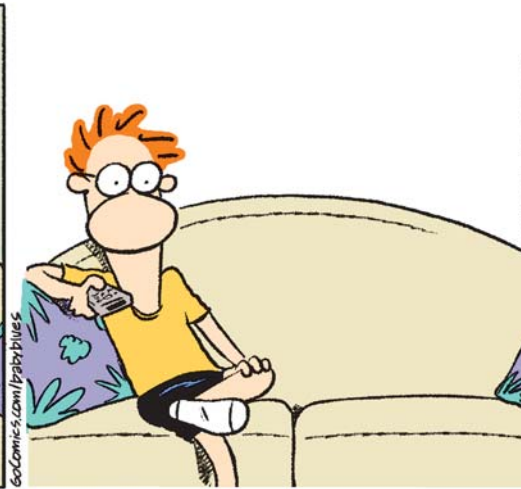
Final Flicker

Light isn't just about visibility. It's about vision. It powers our technology, fuels our creativity, and holds the potential to solve some of the planet's biggest problems. So, on May 16, whether you're marveling at a laser show, experimenting with shadows, or just soaking in the sun, remember that light is not just around you. It's within you. And as International Day of Light reminds us each year: a single spark can ignite global change.

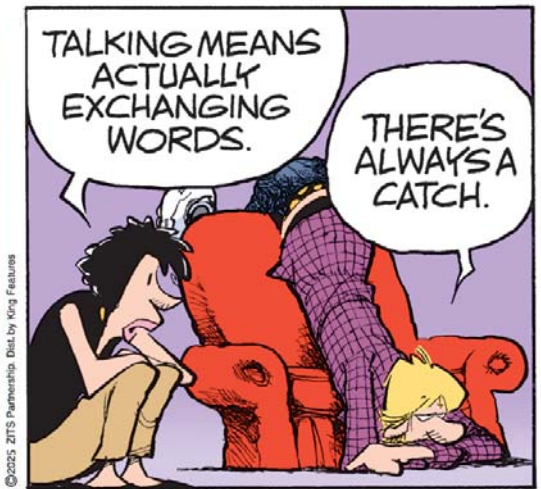
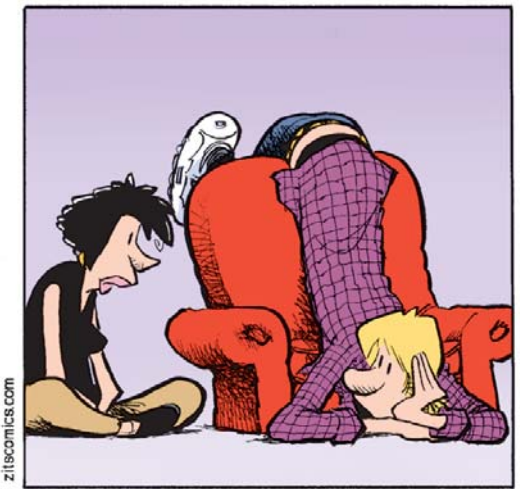
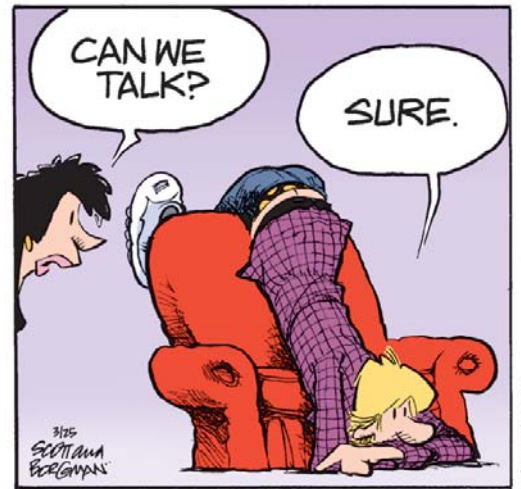
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman