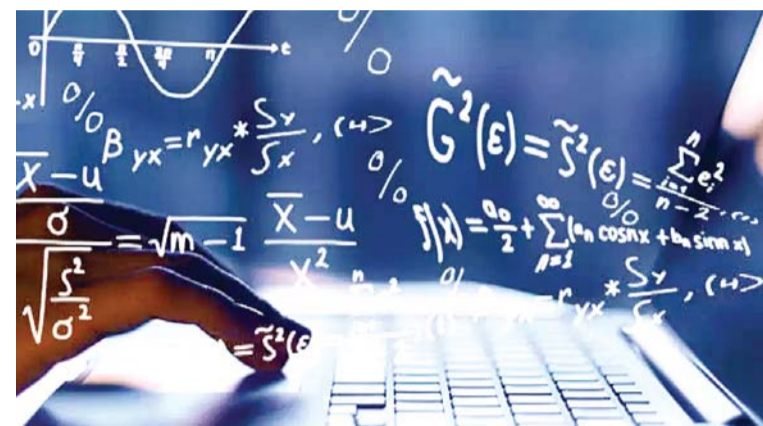


## #NATIONAL TREASURE

# National Mathematics Day

One of the greatest Indian mathematicians of all time, Ramanujan, is known for his work in the areas of Riemann series, hypergeometric series, elliptic integrals, continued fractions, and functional equations of the zeta function.



Mathematics plays a crucial role in understanding all sorts of subjects such as science, music, social studies and even art. The study of mathematics helps people to learn better problem solving skills and serves as a way to help humans organize and think logically. Mathematics Day is here to celebrate and appreciate everything that this discipline has to offer to individuals and to the world at large.



The National Mathematics Day (NMD) is observed on December 22 each year. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. December 22 was designated as the National Mathematics Day by the Manmohan Singh government in 2012. Since

then, the National Mathematics Day has been celebrated every year. The year 2012 was also termed and celebrated as the National Mathematics Year.

## Srinivasa Ramanujan

A math genius of the highest degree, Ramanujan was born in 1887 in Erode, Tamil Nadu. One of the greatest Indian mathematicians of all time, Ramanujan is known for his work in the areas of Riemann series, hypergeometric series, elliptic integrals, continued fractions, and functional equations of the zeta function. Ramanujan's original mathematical research and theories were born in isolation, as his work was far too advanced and novel for the mathematicians of his day to work with him. However, through correspondence with an English math professor at the University of Cambridge, Ramanujan became more connected and eventually moved to England and became the first Indian Fellow at Trinity College in Cambridge.

He was awarded the B.A. degree by research at the Cambridge University. Ramanujan's life was cut short at age 32, when he died in 1920 of complications from a disease that he had earlier in his childhood. Even after his death, his contributions were important, especially when a lost notebook of his was found more than 50 years after his death, in 1976.

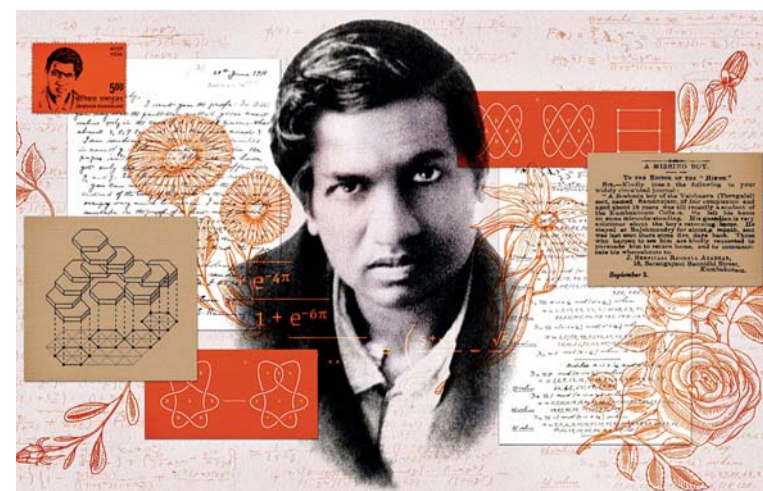
The great Indian mathematician has left behind around 4,000 original theorems. Now, Mathematics Day is here to appreciate and celebrate the life of Srinivasa Ramanujan and his contributions to the world. The introduction of Mathematics Day by the Indian government happened in 2011, in the lead up to what would be the celebration of 125th anniversary of Ramanujan's birth in 2012. That same year, the Indian government released a commemorative stamp in his honour.

The first Indian to document the city in a travelogue was Karpurthala's ruler Jagajit Singh, who visited the city in 1903.

## Significance

The National Mathematics Day is celebrated to spread awareness about the importance of mathematics and the contributions made by Srinivasa Ramanujan in the field of mathematics. On the occasion of National Mathematics Day, like Srinivasa Ramanujan, who lacked formal education, children are encouraged to go beyond textbooks and get

engage in critical thinking and logical reasoning. On this occasion, schools and colleges organise several competitions, Olympiads and other educational events. Mathematics is an essential part of life and has been enriched with the contributions of great Indian mathematicians such as Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Mahavira, and Bhaskara II.



KA Abbas.

# Not 'Shree 420' Or 'Awaara' KA Abbas's Travelogue From China

The lull on the ship was understandable. Abbas's co-passengers were refugees, who had fled, when the Japanese invaded and were finally returning home. Signs of the Japanese assault were visible to Abbas as his ship reached Shanghai. He wrote, "We go along a bend in the river, and then the doomed city of Woosung bursts on to our view. It was once a flourishing suburb of Shanghai, once! Now, it is all in ruins, victims of Japanese bombs and shells."

YANG-KING-PANG, SHANGHAI.



Shanghai, China, in early 20th century.



Ajay Kamalakar

Since his death at the age of 72 in 1987, polymath Khwaja Ahmad Abbas, better known as KA Abbas, is remembered mainly for his screenplays and being one of the pioneers of Indian neo-realistic cinema. Abbas, is remembered mainly for his screenplays and being one of the pioneers of Indian neo-realistic cinema. Abbas, is remembered mainly for his screenplays and being one of the pioneers of Indian neo-realistic cinema.

Early in this stint, in July 1938, Abbas got an opportunity to travel from Bombay to Shanghai. He was just 24 then. And Shanghai had undergone an extraordinary transformation, becoming, as Abbas wrote in an article for his newspaper, the 'world's most amazing city'.

Once a nondescript fishing village, Shanghai turned into a melting pot of Chinese and European cultures after the British made it a treaty port, following the end of the First Opium War in 1842. Over the next few decades, several fortune-seeking foreign businessmen made their way to the city, altering its cultural landscape and helping it earn the moniker 'Paris of the East'.

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Takeover of Shanghai.

## #HISTORY

During his stay in Shanghai, the Indian journalist went to, among other places, a Chinese theatre, tea houses and a Muslim restaurant. "Some Chinese friends, on learning with regret that I ate neither pork nor frogs, took me to a Muslim restaurant, where I struggled with a dish of chicken and a pair of chopsticks," Abbas wrote. "Though the Muslims in China do not eat any prohibited meat, they take indigenous wine regularly after meals, and my friends were surprised when I declined the liquor."

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Abbas sympathised with the plight of his Chinese co-passengers, writing, "Our Chinese friends look on with moist eyes, though they would not give expression to their feelings. Many of them had their homes here. They will, like a million more, take refuge in the International Settlement."

The passengers were herded onto a smaller boat and taken to the Custom House jetty, which was a scene of chaos. The Indian journalist described in *The Bombay Chronicle* his unusual welcome, "I am greeted with a smile by a young Chinese girl who hands me a flower and says some charming things to me, only I cannot understand them for she speaks Chinese. Then, I am embarrassed to find her pinning a bouquet to the lapel of my coat and I have to put an improvised pantomime show to ask her what it is all about."

In the Shanghai summer heat, the young journalist was relieved at seeing the better parts of the city. "Shanghai is full of far more exciting and pleasanter things than starving rickshawpullers, and the fast tempo of this, the world's most amazing city, its reckless pursuit of pleasure and the sense of insecurity and uncertainty of the future, which is in the air

as a legacy of the recent troubles, and which further sharpens the edge of desire for momentary enjoyment and escape from reality—these are guaranteed to set right the most uneasy social conscience."

## Sin City

Despite the physical scars left by the Japanese invasion, the vibrant social and business life in the foreign-occupied parts went on as usual. When Abbas visited what he called the "strangest city in the world whole", there was no dearth of customers in glitzy restaurants, skating rinks, dance halls, cabarets, opium dens, or for that matter, brothels.

The city even had a cosmopolitan character. "There are large numbers of Germans, Portuguese, Russians (mostly refugees who found the country too hot after the revolution) and even some Indians," Abbas wrote. "As invariably happens in all cities with such a mixed population, mostly composed of fortune-seekers, adventurers and profiteers, the city acquired the vices and doubtful virtues of all, while maintaining the moral and cultural values of none."

Many had got rich quickly in Shanghai by selling opium to the Chinese or selling weapons to bandits and warlords. To them, spending their ill-gotten wealth on entertainment was only natural. "And thus, Shanghai came to be classed among the world's 'Cities

## Worldwide Food Service Safety Month

Worldwide Food Service Safety Month focuses on keeping food prepared in the service industry safe. It also serves to remind us at home to ensure that we are doing the right things to make sure what we eat stays free of risks. And since this is the month where there's a high amount of festive feasting, keeping food safe is more important than ever! After all food preparation is complete, surfaces should always be washed. Utensils should not be used for different items before being washed.



## #CELEBRATIONS

# New Year's Eve Getaways in India

Don't want to spend New Year's Eve enclosed at home? No worries, we've got your back.

India is home to some of the most beautiful and fun places in the world. So when it's time for New Year's Eve, one can choose from a plethora of destinations to visit and have a great time. We present to you a list of some of the best places to celebrate new year in India.



## Mumbai- The city that never sleeps

### 'The City of Dreams'

Mumbai, the bustling metropolis, stands as one of the best places to celebrate New Year in India. The city's iconic Marine Drive and Gateway of India become dazzling spectacles with vibrant lights and fireworks. Its numerous clubs, bars, and restaurants host lively parties, offering a diverse range of entertainment options, making Mumbai a perfect choice for those looking to embrace the urban fervour as they welcome the New Year.

## Goa- India's own mini Las Vegas

### 'Beaches, Sunsets and Crazy Nights'

Goa stands out as one of the best New Year's Eve destinations, with its vibrant atmosphere, lively beach parties, and a pulsating nightlife. The coastal state transforms into a lively carnival during the year-end celebrations, attracting revellers from around the world. From beachside fireworks to all-night raves, Goa offers an unparalleled festive spirit, making it a go-to destination for those seeking a memorable and energetic start to the New Year.

## New Delhi- The centre of everything in India

### 'The Capital City of India'



New Delhi, the capital city of India, emerges as one of the best places to celebrate New Year's Eve, offering a unique mix of historical landmarks and contemporary revelry. With iconic monuments like India Gate and Humayun's Tomb providing a majestic backdrop, the city hosts a range of events, from grand fireworks displays to chic parties in upscale venues. The fusion of tradition and modernity creates an unforgettable atmosphere, making New Delhi an ideal destination for those seeking a sophisticated and culturally rich way to ring in the New Year.

## Puducherry

### 'The French Riviera of the East'

Puducherry emerges as one of the best places to celebrate New Year in India, offering a unique blend of tranquility and cultural richness. The French-influenced town provides a serene backdrop for those looking to ring in the New Year with a touch of history and spirituality. While beachside celebrations and cultural events add vibrancy to the occasion, Puducherry's quaint charm creates a perfect setting for reflective and peaceful start to the New Year.

## Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu

### 'The Princess of Hill Stations'

Kodaikanal emerges as one of the top choices for a New Year getaway, especially for those seeking tranquility amidst nature. The hill station's pleasant weather and scenic beauty create a perfect backdrop for a peaceful year-end celebration. Away from the bustling city life, Kodaikanal offers a serene escape with its misty mountains, lush greenery, and pristine lakes, making it an ideal destination for a reflective and rejuvenating start to the New Year.



## Udaipur, Rajasthan

### 'The city of Lakes'

Udaipur emerges as one of the best places to celebrate New Year in India with its regal ambience and cultural richness. The city of lakes offers a unique blend of heritage and modernity, creating a charming backdrop for year-end festivities. Revellers can witness grand fireworks against the stunning backdrop of Lake Pichola, attend cultural performances, and enjoy the luxurious hospitality of Udaipur's palatial hotels, making it an ideal destination for a sophisticated and culturally enriched New Year celebration.

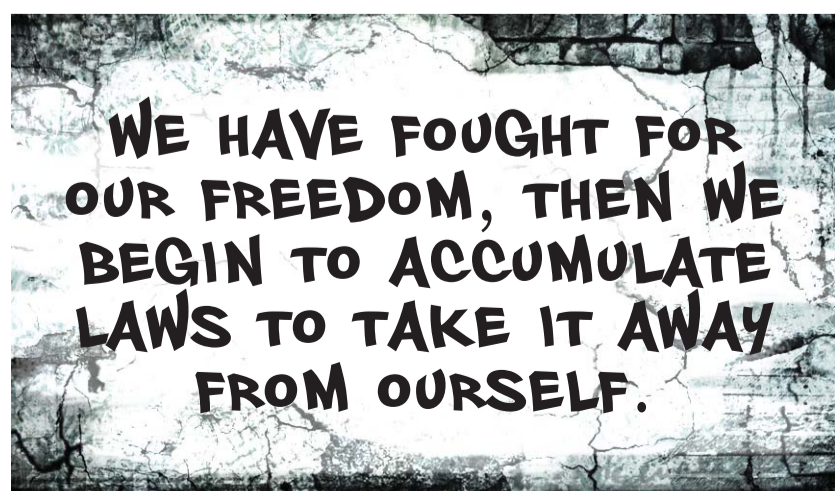
## Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

### 'The Golden City'



Jaisalmer emerges as one of the top New Year's Eve destinations for those seeking an extraordinary experience in the heart of the Thar Desert. The majestic backdrop of the golden sand dunes sets the stage for a magical celebration under the starlit sky. With traditional folk performances, camel safaris, and a charming blend of heritage and festivities, Jaisalmer offers a distinctive celebration away from the usual urban buzz, making it an ideal choice for those looking to welcome the new year in a culturally rich and enchanting setting.

## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman