any god who came their way.'

Inter-religious marriage, he was

told, was common, "In fact, with

all the Chinese people with whom

I discussed this topic, seemed to

attach no denominational labels at

all." It was later that he found it

was considered bad manners in

Chinese society to be curious

be in a perpetual state of wonder

as he went around Shanghai. He

was clear, though, that the life he

witnessed in the city was not the

Shanghai is essentially seen as

the beginning of the Second

September 1939, Europe was at

war and, with Imperial Japan

becoming part of the Axis with

Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy,

foreigners fled Shanghai. By

1943, the foreign areas of the city

came under total Japanese con-

trol. It would take several

decades for Shanghai to once

again become a global economic

and cultural hub. This time

around, the city is seen as far

more equal than the era when it

Abbas went on to attain a great

degree of fame as a screenwriter

and filmmaker. His column titled

Bombay Chronicle in 1941 and,

after the newspaper's closure in

1959, moved to Blitz. He continued

to write the column until his death

in 1987. But it was his travel arti-

cle about Shanghai that gave read-

ers one of the earliest glimpses

into the mind of a person for

whom social justice was of high-

est importance.

World War in Asia. By

The Japanese invasion of

life led in other parts of China.

The young reporter seemed to

about people's religion.

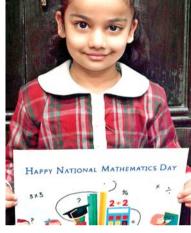
#NATIONAL TREASURE

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.



understanding all sorts of subjects such as science, music, social studies and even art The study of mathematics problem solving skills and 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



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

a disease that he had earlier

in his childhood. Even after

when a lost notebook of his

was found more than 50 years

The great Indian mathe

rems. Now. Mathematics Day

is here to appreciate and cel

ebrate the life of Srinivasa

Ramanujan and his contri-

butions to the world. The

introduction of Mathematics

ment happened in 2011, ir

the celebration of 125th

anniversary of Ramanujan's

birth in 2012. That same

vear, the Indian government

released a commemorative

stamp in his honour.

after his death, in 1976.

University.

Srinivasa Ramanujan

the birth anniversary of the

great Indian mathematician

Day by the Manmohan Singh

Ramanuiar

he was awarded the B.A. A est degree, Ramanujan degree by research at the was born in 1887 in Erode. Cambridge Tamil Nadu. One of the greatest Indian mathematicians of all time. Ramanujan is known in 1920 of complications from for his work in the areas of Riemann series, hypergeohis death, his contributions metric series, elliptic integrals, continued fractions, and functional equations of function. Ramanujan's original mathematical research and theories were born in isolation, as his matician has left behind around 4.000 original theowork 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 con-Day by the Indian governto England and became the the lead up to what would be

In 1911, he got his first paper published in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society. In 1916.

College in Cambridge.

first Indian Fellow at Trinity

Significance

he 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 tions, Olympiads and other educational Mathematics is an essential part of life and has been enriched with the contribu tions of great Indian mathematicians such as Arvabhata Brahmagupta, Mahavira, and Bhaskara II.





04. Singh wrote in glowing terms about the Shanghai International Settlement and the French Concession, but was visibly disturbed by the poor living conditions in the Chinese areas. By the time of Abbas's visit, the city had undergone profound change and also considerable tumult. In

parts of the city.

August 1937, the Imperial

Japanese Army staged a brutal

invasion of the city. Stiff resist-

ance was offered by the Chinese,

but in the end, the Japanese were

victorious, capturing the Chinese

the International Settlement was

run through a unique system of

governance, with the British,

Americans, Chinese and Japanese

jointly administering it. The area

was guarded by Scottish and Sikh

soldiers, and the police force

mainly comprised Sikhs and

Chinese. Interestingly enough, the

1938, started off on a sombre note.

"It is the morning of Sunday, the

10th. Our ship is puffing its way

up the delta of the Yangtze and

Whangpo rivers, and as the stream

is pretty fast, we can only move at

snail's speed. All the Chinese pas-

sengers, most of whom belong to

Shanghai and are returning after

months of homelessness in

Canton and Hong Kong, have been

up from an early hour. Today, they

are unusually quiet as they look

out in the direction of Shanghai.'

standable. 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

The lull on the ship was under-

Abbas's article, dated July 12,

French maintained total control

over the French Concession.

After the Japanese invasion

Ahmad Abbas, better known as KA Abbas, is remembered mainly for his screenplays and being one of the pioneers of Indian neorealistic cinema

Few recall that before he attained celebrity as the screenwriter of iconic Hindi films such as Shree 420 and Awaara, Abbas worked as a cub reporter for The Bombay 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 Once a nondescript fishing vil-

lage, 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

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



Madame Chiang, Shanghai, 1937.

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."



Shanghai, China, in early 20th century

uring his stay in Shanghai, the

Indian journalist went to,

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

as a legacy of the recent troubles,

and which further sharpens the

edge of desire for momentary

enjoyment and escape from reali-

ty these are guaranteed to set

right the most uneasy social con-

Despite the physical scars left by

the Japanese invasion, the vibrant

social and business life in the for-

eign-occupied parts went on as

usual. When Abbas visited what

he called the 'strangest city in the

whole world,' there was no dearth

of customers in glitzy restaurants.

skating rinks, dance halls,

cabarets, opium dens, or for that

The city even had a cosmopoli-

tan character. "There are large

numbers of Germans, Portuguese,

found the country too hot after the

revolution) and even some

Indians," Abbas wrote. "As invari-

ably happens in all cities with

such a mixed population, mostly

composed for fortune-seekers,

adventurers and profiteers, the

city acquired the vices and doubt-

ful virtues of all, while maintain

ing the moral and cultural values

Shanghai by selling opium to the

Chinese or selling weapons to ban-

dits and warlords. To them, spend-

ing their ill-gotten wealth on

entertainment was only natural

"And thus, Shanghai came to be

classed among the world's 'Cities

Many had got rich quickly in

Russians (mostly refugees who

matter brothels.

of none.

regularly after meals, and my

declined the liquor."

riends were surprised when I

among other places, a Chinese

#HISTORY



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

Abbas sympathised with the plight of his Chinese co-passenwriting, "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." A student with a bundle of English books, who was passing by, explained that she was collecting money for a refugee camp, to which Abbas gladly contributed.

Among the overflowing crowds at the jetty, Abbas could not get a taxi to the International Settlement and had to witness the suffering of the ordinary Chinese in Shanghai. He found that the only way to get to the Foreign YMCA in the posher part of the city was by a hand pulled rickshaw. Abbas hated riding the vehi-

the days when slaves carried rich men in sedan chairs and pulled their carriages like horses.' He described the locals' amusement scious young Indian riding in a rickshaw simultaneously, trying to keep his balance on the unsteady perch and hide his embarrassed countenance under the brim of his hat.' As the rickshaw went past

trams, buses and bicycles, Abbas said that he feared for his life and swore never to ride one again. He was appalled at how poorly the rickshaw-pullers were paid and how many of them died of tuberculosis at a young age. "For 10 cents (roughly one anna), you can get them to pull a bloated plutocrat for a mile," he wrote. "Perhaps, only the peasant in some parts of India can equal this record of sweated labour.' 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 rickshawwallas, 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

however, whether it deserves such eminence. The conception of what is 'Sin' has itself changed, and now we seek reasons for the moral degeneration in political and economic phenomena.'

of Sin." Abbas wrote, "I doubt,

The International Settlement also had a significant number of affluent Chinese. "The people here, including the Chinese, ndulge in the pursuit of pleasure with almost philosophic earnestness," Abbas wrote. "Not only for the rich, but for the middle classes, there are innumerable places of entertainment where, it may be conceded, escape from reality is offered at moderate rates, in clean surroundings and without any hypocritical pretensions." During his stay in Shanghai,

the Indian journalist went to, among other places, a Chinese theatre, tea houses and a Muslim restaurant. "Some Chinese riends, 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 indige nous wine regularly after meals, and my friends were surprised when I declined the liquor when it

that Chinese Muslims neither dressed differently from other communities in the country nor observed *purdah*. "I further learnt that there has never been communal friction in China and I wished I could tell them the same about India." he wrote. His friends told him that Chinese people, though mostly Buddhist, never took reli-

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com gion seriously and 'would worship

#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.

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 cele brate new year in India.

Mumbai- The city that

'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'

nall oa stands out as one of the U 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'



Tew 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.

Udaipur, Rajasthan

'The French Riviera of the East'

uducherry emerges as one of the best places to celebrate best places to celebrate New New Year in India, offering a unique blend of tranquility and and cultural richness. The city of cultural richness. The Frenchinfluenced town provides a itage and modernity, creating a serene backdrop for those lookcharming backdrop for year-end fesing to ring in the New Year with tivities. Revelers can witness grand a touch of history and spiritualifireworks against the stunning back ty. While beachside celebrations drop of Lake Pichola, attend cultural and cultural events add vibrancy performances, and enjoy the luxurito the occasion, Puducherry's ous hospitality of Udaipur's palatial hotels, making it an ideal destination setting for reflective and peacefor a sophisticated and culturally ful start to the New Year. enriched New Year celebration.

Kodaikanal, **Tamil Nadu**

'The Princess of

Hill Stations' **Zodaikanal** emerges as one of

the top choices for a New Year getaway, especially fo those seeking tranquility amids nature. The hill station's pleas ant 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.

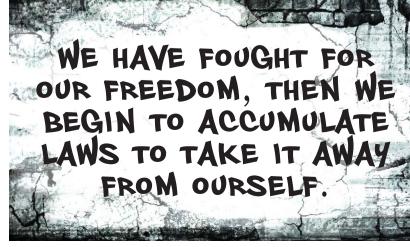


Jaisalmer, Rajasthan 'The Golden City'

'The city of Lakes'

🖊 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 cele bration under the starlit sky. With traditional folk performances camel safaris, and a charming blend of heritage and festivities Jaisalmer offers a distinctive cele bration away from the usual urban buzz, making it an ideal choice for those looking to welcome the new year in a culturally rich and

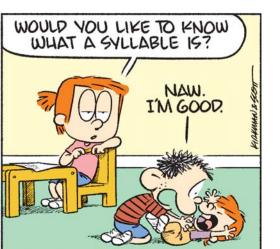
THE WALL



BABY BLUES



HAIKU IS A TYPE OF POETRY WITH FIVE SYLLABLES, THEN SEVEN, THEN FIVE AGAIN. interesting



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman