



World Manta Day

World Manta Day, celebrated annually on September 17th, is a special occasion dedicated to raising awareness about the conservation status of manta and devil rays. These beautiful, mysterious ocean giants captivate us with their grace and size, but they face significant threats that require our attention and action. The inception of World Manta Day is rooted in the need to educate and raise awareness about these majestic creatures. The goal is to empower everyone, from scientists to tourists, school students to policymakers, with knowledge about manta rays, their relatives, and their precious habitats.

#EDUCATION

Inclusive Classrooms

Inclusive education benefits both students with and without disabilities, by fostering empathy, social skills, and a sense of belonging.



Inclusive education is emerging as a crucial element in creating equitable learning environments that benefit all students, including those with and without disabilities. By fostering a sense of belonging and respect for diversity, inclusive classrooms provide every student with the opportunity to succeed in a supportive and safe environment. "An inclusive classroom creates a level playing field for all students, respecting each student's background, learning style, and abilities," notes educational expert, Praneeet Mungali.

Building Meaningful Relationships and Empathy



In India, the lack of formalised programmes in mainstream schools often hampers the integration of students with diverse learning needs. However, inclusive settings allow students to build meaningful relationships and learn to appreciate differences without bias. "These classrooms are not just about academics, they provide a platform for students to connect emotionally," Mungali explains. This environment is particularly beneficial for students with disabilities, who may struggle with social skills, while also teaching their peers without disabilities empathy, patience, and effective communication.

Developing Essential Life Skills



Research shows that students in inclusive settings develop essential life skills, such as problem-solving, adaptability, and self-management. These skills are crucial for personal and academic success, as well as for future societal contributions. Yet, the success of inclusive education largely hinges on teacher training. "Teachers are a paramount ingredient in the success of inclusive education," says Mungali. Trained educators not only foster a safe and nurturing environment but also help parents of children with special needs by addressing their concerns with sensitivity.

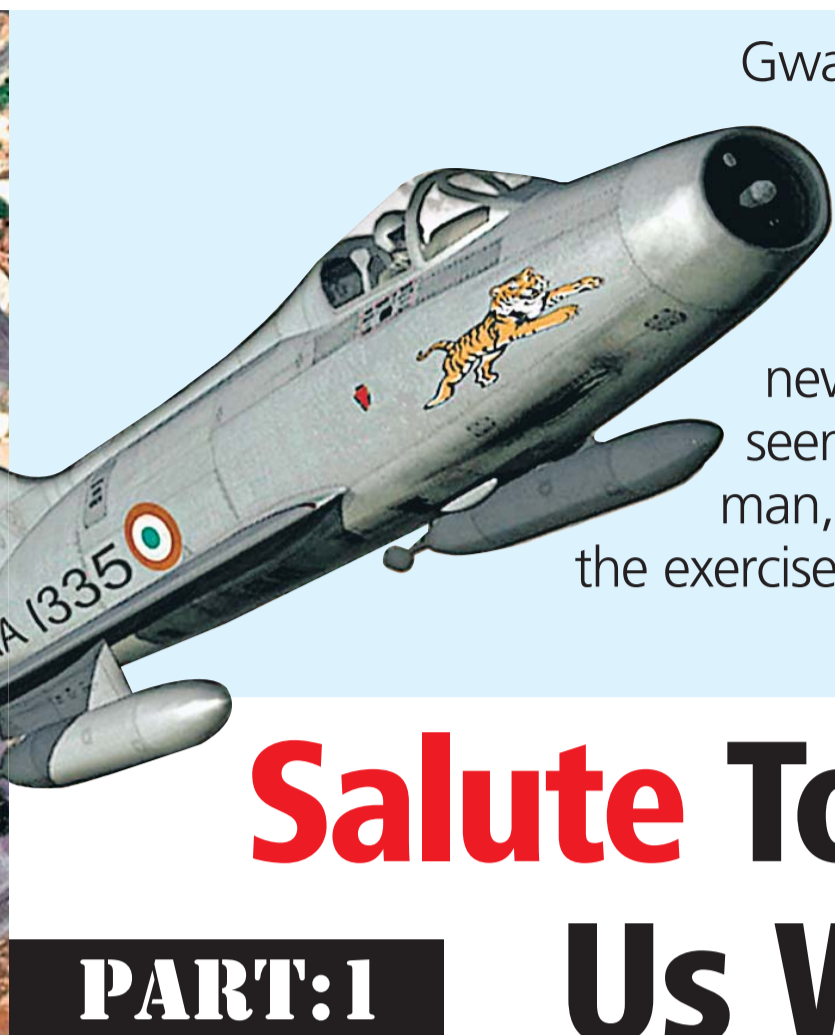
While some schools, such as Sanskriti School in Pune, have successfully implemented inclusive education by employing special educators

and adapting curricula, the journey towards widespread inclusivity is ongoing. "Studies suggest that only 9% of disabled students complete secondary school," Mungali points out, highlighting the significant challenges still faced by many, especially girls and children with autism or cerebral palsy.

A nationwide effort is needed to make inclusive education a reality. This includes improving infrastructure, enhancing teacher training, and fostering a culture of responsibility and trust. By making these changes, all children, regardless of their abilities, can have access to high-quality, inclusive education that promotes holistic development and prepares them for active participation in their communities.



Sargodha attack, how the Indian Air Force destroyed the air base.



Gwalior had recently become home to one of the newest fighter aircraft, the French Mirage 2000, inducted into the IAF in end of 1984, the time that our course received our wings and stripes. The entire base looked fresh and new and the exuberance and energy of the AoC seemed to have percolated right down to the last man, which was evident in the flawless conduct of the exercise and the way each one of us participants was made to feel at home at the base.

Salute To The Man Who Showed Us We Counted In The Skies

#AIR MARSHAL DENZIL JOSEPH KEELOR, PVSM, KC, AVSM, VRC



Air Cmde Nitin Sathe

805, Flying Pilot, Air Marshal Denzil Keelor has passed on. What he leaves behind is a set of admirers and friends, who saw him up close in his well-lived life of 91 years. This article focuses on the qualities of the man that made him 'a legend.' Gwalior, Summer of 1986.

With two years of flying experience on helicopters, as a newly appointed Captain, I was commanding my helicopter from my parent base at Bareilly to Gwalior, located a few hundred kilometers southwest. Gwalior was teeming with activity with many types of aircraft parked on the tarmac. As I came to hover and moved towards the parking area, I wondered whether they would have adequate space to park even this little helicopter.

Gwalior was hosting one of its biggest events of the year. The annual large-scale flying exercise, involving many types of fighters, was about to begin and many different types of aircraft had flown into the base in support of the same.



The Gnat on flight line.

People my age remember the 1965 war with the first gush of patriotism, very powerful and committed. We were not yet born for the freedom struggle, and the patriotism of that struggle was all stories for us, wonderful but not real, till '65 happened. There were many heroes of the '65 war, and Denzil and his brother were two prominent ones. Denzil was awarded two Chakras in his life. Here are the citations.

Vir Chakra

Denzil Keelor's first award was the Vir Chakra in 1965. The citation for the Vir Chakra reads as follows: Gazette Notification: 133 Pres/65, 22-9-65 Operation: 1965 Riddle Date of Award: 19 Sep 1965 CITATION SQUADRON LEADER DENZIL KEELOR (4805) GD (P)

On the 19th September 1965, Squadron Leader Denzil Keelor was providing Fighter Escort to Mystere aircraft during a strike mission in the operations against Pakistan. His section of four Gnat aircraft was engaged by four enemy Sabre Jet aircraft and the battle was fought at a height of less than 2000 feet from the ground where enemy anti-aircraft guns were also active. Under his guidance, his sub-section leader shot down a Sabre Jet aircraft. Thereafter, Squadron Leader Keelor himself engaged another Sabre Jet and crippled it. Throughout the operation,

till then. The driver, in his flying overalls, got out and approached the airman, who was still deciding how and where to marshal me in the confined space. Taking the table tennis bat like marshalling wand from him, he walked briskly to a spot at the edge of the tarmac, indicating to me to move in his direction. I was soon on ground, tucked away at the edge of the hard concrete, with my helicopter tail over the grassy area lining the tarmac.

My rotors came to a stop, and as I got out, I was greeted by none other than Air Commodore Denzil Keelor, the AoC of the base with a warm handshake and a smile. I was rather intrigued as to why the senior most officer of the base had to come down to meet a 'piddly' flying officer landing at his base, something that I had never experienced in my little time in the IAF till then.

Post exchange of pleasantries, he handed me an envelope containing ten hundred-rupee notes, again something that I wasn't expecting at all. "Welcome to Gwalior," he said, and, looking at the bewildered me in the eye, continued, "that money is for looking after the *chai-paani* of your ground crew. See that they are well looked after, and... happy landings and have a happy stay!" He was out of sight before I

On the 27th March, 1978, while Group Captain Denzil Keelor was flying a combat aircraft at high altitude, its canopy flew off and this exposed him to explosive decompression and severe wind blast. His eyes, ear-drum and left arm were injured and he experienced great difficulty in controlling the aircraft. Although abandoning the aircraft in the circumstances would have been justified, he decided to recover the aircraft. Under these adverse conditions, wherein he was not able to have a proper view due to wind blast, and that too only with one eye, he brought the aircraft back to base and executed a safe emergency landing.

Again, on 17th May 1978, during a live air-to-air sortie, a 23 mm High Explosive shell burst as it left the gun muzzle. Shrapnel damaged the aircraft and caused total failure and a serious throttle restriction. The cone extended



Pathana and Keelor.

could even say thank you to him. The other airmen on tarmac told me later that the AoC was going around the tarmac all morning, welcoming in every aircraft that had landed at the base. I think I was witness to one of the finest examples in leadership that summer morning.

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Kirti Chakra

The citation for the Kirti Chakra reads as follows: Date of Award: 27 Mar 1978 CITATION GROUP CAPTAIN DENZIL KEELOR, VRC (4805) FLYING (PILOT)

fully and the associated engine rumbling and surge gave very indication of engine bearing failure. Without electric instruments and Radio Telephony, Group Captain Keelor had no way of either knowing what had happened or of asking for assistance. Assuming that the engine bearing had failed, he decided to attempt an emergency recovery. With his flying skill and experience, he returned to the airfield, set up a flame out pattern and executed a safe landing. The throttle was stuck at 60% revolutions per minute, and in spite of this, he

was able to stop the aircraft without damage. Group Captain Denzil Keelor, thus, displayed conspicuous courage, exemplary professional skill and devotion to duty of an exceptional order. Gp. Capt. Keelor, who had rich and wide combat experience and the destruction of a Sabre aircraft to his credit, was flying a MIG-21 FL on 27 Mar '78, when due to structural failure, the canopy of the aircraft detached and flew off. Gp. Capt. Keelor felt sudden decompression and loss of control, but

the 1965 war, when he and his brother, flying the indigenously built Gnat aircraft, shot down the much superior F-86 Sabre fighters of the Pakistan Air Force. The Gnat aircraft got its nickname 'Sabre-Killer,' thanks to the heroes of the two brothers!

"I was known as 'Charlie' in No. 4 Squadron, and we called ourselves 'The Oorials.'" My Commanding Officer (CO), Wing Commander DJ Keelor, insisted on calling me 'Char-Les,' right through my career!" says former Air Chief Marshal NAK Browne, who served in the unit as a young Flying Officer and Flight Lieutenant. "Our Squadron was always full of *josh*. Thanks to the amazing leadership skills of Keelor sir, I have served under so many COs, but there cannot be one like Air Marshal Keelor. He was so difficult to emulate," says the former Chief, becoming nostalgic.

"That man was so full of energy all the time. Whether it was going for a sortie or playing chess" adds Browne sir. Being a keen

managed to fly back to base and execute a safe emergency landing without the canopy. Later, on 17 May '78, during firing trials, one of the 23 mm Cannon Shells exploded, causing extensive damage and total electrical failure to his aircraft. He successfully executed another safe landing back at his airbase.

From 1980 to 1982, Keelor served as the Air Attaché at the Embassy of India in Paris, France, in the rank of Air Commodore. He later took over command of the Maharajpur Air Force Station as Air Officer Commanding. Keelor was awarded the *Ati Vishist Seva Medal* on 26 January 1986 and the *Param Vishist Seva Medal* on 26 January 1989.

He retired in 1991. Following his retirement, he worked as the President of the YMCA for ten years. He was the Chairman of Special Olympics Bharat.

sportsperson, his theory was that if a man played chess and hockey, he wouldn't do no wrong!

He was always in such a hurry to get moving off the blocks for a sortie that he often left his formation members behind! Even when he played chess, he would make his five moves in advance and ask his



The Gnat at Operational readiness at a forward base during the 1965 conflict.



#SPACE

Meet Scary Barbie!

Scary Barbie is a supermassive black hole that is devouring a star with a thousand times brightness of a supernova



A supermassive black hole is tearing apart a distant star that is now faced with a fiery and dramatic death. The scientists, who discovered it, have affectionately named the black hole 'Scary Barbie,' after a beloved children's character.

The supermassive black hole ripping apart the star is one of the most energetic, luminous and transient celestial events that has been discovered, and yet, it is not exactly blazing bright in the night sky. Instead, astronomers had to unearth evidence of the star's dying moments from a mass of telescope data, where it had been hiding undetected for years.

"It's absurd. If you take a typical supernova and multiply it a thousand times, we're still not at how bright this is, and supernovas are among the most luminous objects in the sky. This is the most energetic phenomenon I have ever encountered," said Danny Milisavljevic, co-author of the study. Milisavljevic is an assistant professor of Physics and Astronomy at Purdue University's College of Science.

According to Purdue University, Milisavljevic, an expert on stellar life cycles and especially star death, noted that the data points to what can be called an extremely anomalous observation.

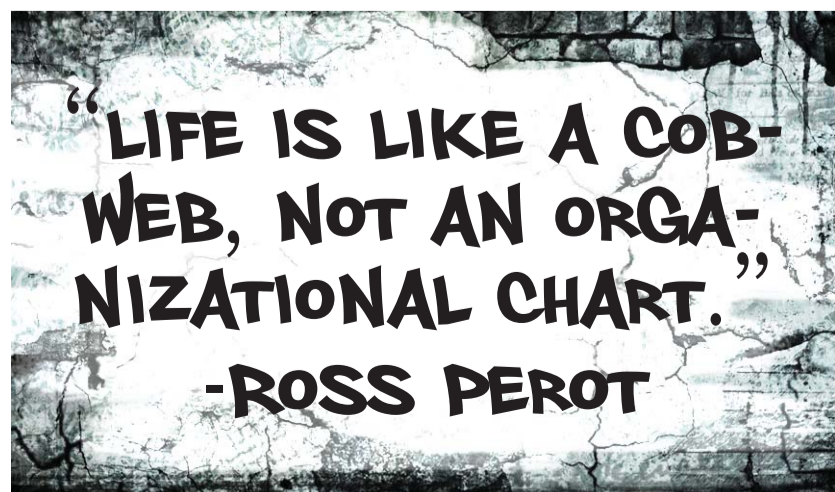
"We think that a very supermassive black hole pulled in a star and ripped it apart. The forces around a black hole, called tidal disruption, pull other objects apart in a process called 'spaghettification.' We think that's what happened, but on extreme time scales, the most massive of black holes ripping apart a massive star. The duration is unlike anything we've ever seen before, and it produced the most luminous transient in the universe," added Bhagya Subrayan, a co-author. Subrayan is a graduate student at Purdue University.

Not only is Scary Barbie many orders of magnitude brighter and more energetic than any such transient event that scientists have recorded before, but it also seems to be lasting much longer than they usually do. While most transient objects last for weeks or months, this one seems to have lasted for more than two years.

And based on the latest data, astronomers say that it may continue to be visible for many years to come.



THE WALL

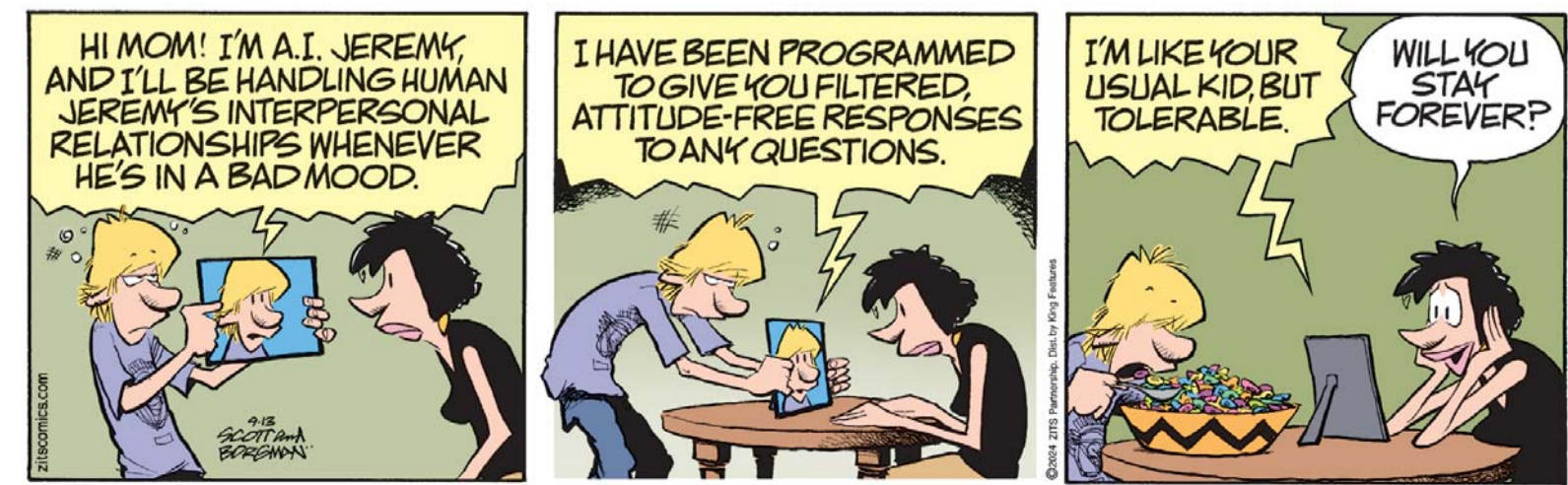


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman