

#INSIGHT

## Significance Of Teachers' Day

In India, this day commemorates the birth anniversary of former President Sarvepalli Radha krishnan. He was a well-known scholar, teacher and ardent promoter of education



A teacher is a friend, philosopher, and guide who holds our mind, opens our heart, and touches our heart. The contribution of a teacher cannot be ignored at all. In many countries across the world, Teacher's Day is a special day where teachers of schools, colleges, and universities are honoured specially. Teacher's Day is celebrated on September 5 every year throughout India in memory of Dr. Sarvapalli Radha krishnan on his birthday.



The day is dedicated to the hard work and importance of a Teacher in our lives and it's celebrated in different parts of the world on different dates. It was on September 5, 1962, when the first Teachers' Day was celebrated in India. Also, President Radha krishnan assumed his office in the same year. Radha krishnan was born on September 5th, 1882 in a Telegu Brahmin family in Thiruttani in Tamil Nadu. He was the first Vice President of India and became the second President after succeeding Dr.Rajendra Prasad.

His remarkable contributions also led to his appointment as the Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University, Delhi University, and Banaras Hindu University. With a multitude of accolades and achievements throughout his lifetime, this day is a fitting tribute to India's most revered academician of all time.

"Instead of celebrating my birthday it would be my proud privilege if September 5 is observed as Teachers' Day," Dr Sarvepalli Radha krishnan had said.

When do other countries celebrate their Teachers' Day? **Indonesia: November 25** In Indonesia, National Teachers' Day is celebrated on November 25, the birthday of the Indonesian Teachers' Association, the PGRI.

**Singapore: First Friday of September**

Teachers' Day in Singapore is celebrated on the first Friday of September each year. It is a day dedicated to honouring and showing appreciation for the hard work and dedication of teachers in Singapore.

**USA: May 7, 2024**

In the United States, Teachers' Day is a non-official holiday on the Tuesday of the first full week of May. The day is celebrated with pomp and gaiety.

**Thailand: January 16**

In Thailand, Teachers' Day is celebrated on January 16th each year. This day is dedicated to honouring and expressing gratitude to teachers for their hard work and dedication to education.



Sugriva's quest for Sita or the sacred geography of India according to Valmiki: "Past the rains, the marshaled Vanars gathered around Sugriva bold. And unto a gallant chieftain thus the King his purpose told: Brave in war and wise in counsel take ten thousand of my best. Seek the hiding places of Ravan in the East. Seek each ravine, rock and forest and each shadowy hill and cave. Far where bright Saryus waters mix with Ganga's ruddy wave. And where Jamuna's dark blue waters ceaseless roll in regal pride. And the Sone through leagues of country spreads its torrents far and wide. Seek where the Videha's empire castled towns and hamlets shine. In Kosala and in Malwa and by Kasi sacred shrine. Maghad rich in peopled centers, Pundra region of the brave. Anga rich in corn and cattle on the eastern ocean wave. Seek where clans of skillful weavers dwell upon the eastern shore. ...In the realm of uncouth nations, in the islets of the sea. In the mountains of the ocean, wander far and wander free. ...Noblest, bravest of our chieftains, greatest of our race are ye. seek and search the southern regions, rock and ravine, wood and tree. Search the thousand peaks of the Vindhya lifting high its misty head. Through the gorges of Narmada rolling over its rocky bed. By the gloomy Godavari and by the Krishna's wooded stream. Through Utkala's sea-girt forests tinged by morning's early gleam. Search the towns of famed Darsana and Avanti's rocky shore. And the uplands of Vidharba and the mountains of Mysore. Land of Matsayas and Kalinga's and Kausika's regions fair. Trackless wilderness of Dandak seek with anxious toil and care. ...Halt not till you reach the country where the northern Kurus rest. Utmost confines of the wide earth, home of gods and spirits blest!"

# Mapped And Retold History



The other day Divij Sharma of the Rashtradrud family phoned me that the Udaipur City Palace is holding an exhibition on Maps and he wanted me to do an article on it. Little did he know that maps are my passion verging on perversity, for it is maps that combine my other two passions-geography and history. So I immediately agreed. To the best of my knowledge this is the first of its kind exhibition and credit must be given to MK Lakshyaraj Singh for taking the initiative in this novel venture which is both informative and interesting. In all the states of Rajasthan with the baton of custodianship of the heritage of the old princely order which ended in 1947 is now in the hands of the third or fourth generation from the time when the rulers merged their states with the Union Of India with the exception of Jodhpur which is in the hands of the second generation. Lakshyaraj is the fourth generation from the time of Maharana Bhupal Singhji. Lakshyaraj has had to step forward on account of his father's ill health. Having studied abroad and been exposed to a wider world one can feel a refreshing breath of fresh air blowing through the ancient walls and corridors of Udaipur.

I can spend hours browsing over maps and dreaming of mind travels to distant lands and different times. A single sheet of a good survey or ancient map has more wealth of information than a book of a thousand of pages. Maps are works of both science and art. Maps are the life blood of geography as all history has a geographical setting. The love of maps has stood by me in good stead as this extract from a book by Maj Gen Ashok Varma on the 1971 War shows.

Bridge on the River Meghna by Maj Gen Ashok Varma page 42. Thanks to this discovery we won the Battle of Akhaura which was not only the opening battle of the Bangladesh War, appropriately named Operation Nutcracker by Gen Sagat. Akhaura was also the biggest battle involving a Divisional attack by us and lasted over five days. Thereafter it was almost a free run to Dacca with just a few hiccups.

The British were happy to encourage belief in the canard propagated by the likes of Sir



## Discovering Lake Victoria and the source of the Nile



Col Himmet Singh and Maj Sharni Mehta pouring over a map of Dacca, before beginning their assault.



Maj later General Shafulah of Bangladesh planning operations of the Mukti Bahini.



Gen Sagt Singh and AVM Chandan Singh planning the Meghna crossing. Author on AVM Chandan Singh's right.

In the nineteenth century the aim of many governments and individual explorers was to discover the source of the Nile, all had failed till Lieutenant Speke of the Indian Army reconstructed a map out of information given in the Puranas (Wilford in the Asiatic Journal). Basing his exploration on Puranic sources he traced the source of the Nile to Lake Victoria. Most surprisingly he found that the ancient Sanskrit names for these places were the same as those in current use when translated in the local languages of the region. Speke said "All our information concerning the Abyssinians." Accompanying Speke was Richard Burton not the actor but the nineteenth century explorer and scholar. He is better known as the translator of the two classical works on erotics, the Kama Sutra and the Persian Perfumed Garden. He is



A Map authenticated by Gen Jacob showing the advance of the author's battalion 4 Guards from Agatula to Dacca. The advance was by foot, helicopters, tanks, cycle rickshaws and autos.

also a little infamous for being the lover of Lade Jane Attenborough the wife the former viceroy of India. A much respected Harvard scholar and authority on India Prof Diana L Eck writes: "It is surprising that in 326 BC, before the advent of the Mauryan Empire, there were informants in Greece, who would describe to Alexander a land we call India and twenty years later to Megasthenes. They correctly asserted that India was roughly quadrilateral in shape, with Indus flowing in the West, the

Himalayas and Hindu Kush stretched along the north and the seas skirting the other two sides. They even cited its measurements. Megasthenes also tells us that pillars have been put up at intervals to show the byroads and distances. More than two thousand years later in 1871 Major General Alexander Cunningham the first director general of the Archaeological Survey of India wrote- "The close agreement of these dimensions, given by Alexander's informants, with the actual size of the country is remarkable, and shows that the Indians, even at that early date in their history, had a very accurate knowledge of the form and extent of their native land." The Shankaracharya knew the geography and extent of India which he traversed on foot and located the Char Dhams, but he was not the first. Two thousand years before him, Valmiki spelled out the extent and geography of Jambudweep, Sapsaindhwa, Bharat and India. Call it what you like. Excerpts from Sugriva's speech to his chieftains:-

Strachey, that the English were the creators of the idea of India as one civilizational entity. Facts however

speak otherwise. Our ancients even during the Mythological Age and later when history started being

recorded were quite aware of not only the extent of India but also of adjacent lands and even of other



## World Samosa Day

If you've never had one of these delicious little pockets of goodness, you're certainly missing out. Here is the first and most important thing you need to know about Samosas: they are a delightfully fried dish filled with onions, peas, potatoes, cheese, beef or lamb, or any of a myriad of other fillings. Learn how to make the delicious stuffed, spiced, fried appetizer known as a samosa yourself, or get some Indian food to enjoy some professionally made ones.

## #UDAIPUR EXHIBITS

### Sugriva's quest for Sita or the sacred geography of India according to Valmiki

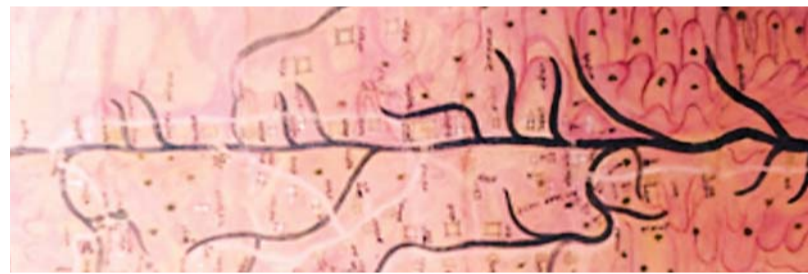
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Two examples of earliest known maps drawn on ivory and clay tablets from Mesopotamia.



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An old map in the Jaipur City Palace showing the pilgrim route to Badrinath.

themselves suddenly in pecuniary were forced to sell their treasures to art dealers, who then sold them to the highest foreign bidders. This too was loot by another means and only came to a stop when Mr Boing made air travel affordable and brought to India both millionaires and penniless pot smoking hippies. The Maharajah of Jaipur Sawai Man Singh II was the first to convert Rambagh Palace into a hotel and he along with Gayatri Devi moved into the old Residency now renamed as Rajmahal Palace. Simultaneously he opened up parts of the City Palace as a museum. The Maharana of Udaipur Bhagwati Singh followed suite and converted the Lake Palace perhaps the most romantic building in the world into a hotel and the City Palace into a museum. The example of Jaipur and Udaipur was followed by some other princes and also their old nobility with Mandawa and Samode leading the way. Today the palaces and forts of Udaipur, Jaipur and Jodhpur have become tourist destinations by themselves and the spillover from them has benefited other feudal types and the general public too, by bringing in business and employment.

Equally important as the economic benefits has been the preservation of art, artifacts and old manuscripts in the palace and fort museums, which have become centers of research and preservation of our heritage. This research has helping to rewrite Indian history

It was the first time in the history of the Moghuls that they failed in their mission. Pratap had chosen his field of battle wisely. The narrow valley precluded the Moghuls from deploying their artillery and cavalry in which they were superior, whilst Pratap's Bhils occupied the hillsides from where they rained down arrows and boulders on the Moghuls. The narrow front neutralized the Moghul superiority of numbers and Pratap's forces were able to prevent their further advance towards Udaipur.

which earlier was Moghul and British centric, but now thank God we are beginning to get to know the true history of India. For this we must thank the present custodians of our national legacy, and the best part is that the new generation of princes has come forward as custodians and is helping to preserve and promote this legacy.

Leading the charge of the new generation of princes is Maharaj Kumar Lakshyaraj Singh of Mewar who is not only carrying forward the legacy of his forefathers but also adding to it by incorporating

In the center right, Maharana Pratap is seen attacking Man Singh with his spear. Man Singh is forced to move backwards for cover. In the ensuing melee Chetak is wounded but carries Maharana Pratap to safety across the stream and then fall and dies. Maharana Pratap's brother Shakti, who has observed the event rushes forward killing two Moghul horsemen on the way and offers his horse to Maharana Pratap.

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Suttee Handprints



These two maps of Chittorgarh highlight the difference between indigenous and modern western cartography.

new age technology and methodology. The exhibition of maps is one such initiative.

These old maps and paintings have been showcased in such a manner that they are not only a viewing pleasure but also very informative and educative. As a military man who also has an interest in the arts I will discuss in detail three aspects which are of interest and significance to military men, art lovers and also to the general public.

The first is a painting of the Battle of Haldighati. This beautiful work is a landscape map on which a battle scene and sequence of events has been superimposed. This has been done in such an intelligent and aesthetic manner that it draws the viewer's attention to it and then tells the story of the battle at a single glance which would take several pages in a book to relate. The story of Haldighati briefly is that on 18 June 1576 Kunwar Man Singh of Amber mounted on his mighty elephant led the Moghul army against Maharana Pratap who was mounted on his white stallion Chetak.

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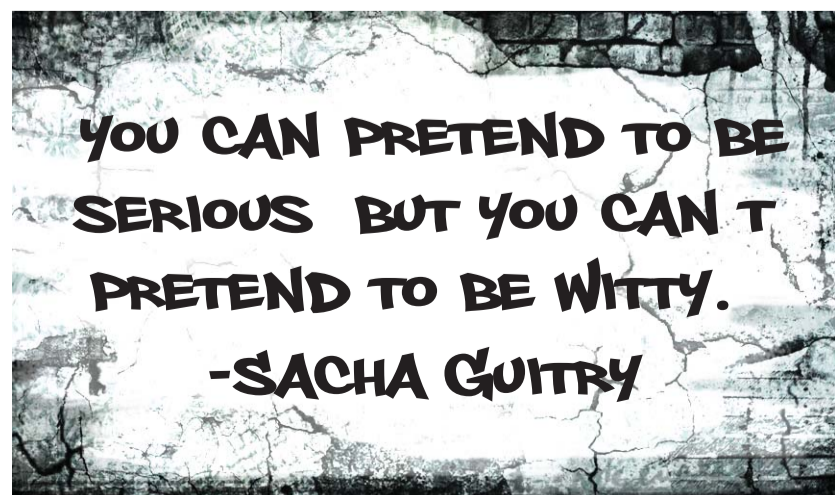
the hillsides from where they rained down arrows and boulders on the Moghuls. The narrow front neutralized the Moghul superiority of numbers and Pratap's forces were able to match the Moghuls and prevent their further advance towards Udaipur and the Girwa valley in which it is located. Pratap's horse Chetak was wounded and succumbed to his wounds but not before carrying Pratap to safety. Pratap lived to fight another day, consolidate his kingdom and prevent further Moghul incursions into his kingdom.

These maps dating to the time of Col Tod shows the strategically sound location of Udaipur. It is ringed on all sides by hill ranges and the narrow passes leading into the Girwa Valley where Udaipur is located are easily defensible.

For the Sisodiya rulers of Mewar, Chittorgarh holds immense strategic, sentimental, spiritual and historical significance. Chittorgarh is situated on a solitary four mile long, half mile wide and three hundred feet high solitary hill in the center of the sixteen mile gap between the Aravallis on East and the Vindhya Ranges on East. The holder of Chittorgarh controls the shortest route from Delhi and Western India to the Narmada Valley and the Deccan Plateau. Its strategic location has made it a prime target for invaders from both the south and the north. Being custodians of Chittorgarh confirmed their military supremacy amongst their neighbours and as custodians of the Shaivite and Vaishnavite shrines of Eklingji and Nathdwara their position of being the leading Hindu kingdom was confirmed and gave legitimacy to their claim of being rulers not only of Mewar but also leaders of all Hindus.

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## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman