



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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Flag of FRIENDSHIP

This is the theme of the Theatre Olympics in India. Since 1962, World Theatre Day has been celebrated annually all over the world by theatre lovers on March 27. This day is a celebration for those who can see the value and importance of 'theatre' as an art form.

What is Theatre Olympics?

The Theatre Olympics was established in 1993 in Delphi, Greece, on the initiative of the famous Greek theatre director, Theodoros Terzopoulos. Just like Olympic Games, Theatre Olympics (TO) is held in a different country every four years.

TO is an international theatre festival, which presents some of the achievements of the greatest theatre practitioners from around the world. It is a platform for theatrical exchange, a gathering for students and masters, where a dialogue despite ideological, culture and language differences is encouraged.

Some facts about Theatre Olympics held in India 2018

Theatre Olympics in India opened in Delhi at the Red Fort on February 17 and will culminate in Mumbai on April 8 at Gateway of India. The festival is organised by the National School of Drama under the aegis of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Govt. of India. If all the world's a stage, that stage arrived in Mumbai on March 24, as the city plays host to the Theatre Olympics. There will be 28 plays staged at Ravindra Natya Mandir and Nehru Centre.

A scene of play 'Abhimanyu' or 'Chakravayugam' from Tamil Nadu being staged during Theatre Olympics at Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal



EIGHTH EDITION



Theme for Theatre Olympics in India

'The Flag of Friendship' is the theme of the festival. It seeks to celebrate universal friendship and human values. In the Indian theatre tradition, there is a deep and meaningful relationship between Theatre and the Flag. According to ancient texts, at the first-ever theatrical performance in his court, Lord Indra, the king of Devas (demi gods), used the power of the flag over the Daityas (evil spirits) to silence their objections and to remove all obstacles placed by them to prevent the performance. He then presented this flag to the actors, thus forging bonds of friendship between the Gods and performers.



POWER TO THE YOUNG

would argue that the most important infrastructure we have are minds, educated minds," said former Tunisian government minister Amel Karboul and member of Education Commission under former UK Prime Minister and UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown, in one of her talks in Oct 2017. Speaking about the global learning crisis and the scope of the problem, she quoted some stunning facts when she mentioned that half of the world's children by 2030 will be failing to learn. She makes a distinction between school and learning. If children go to school and don't learn, it devalues education, and it devalues spending on education. She says that there is a need to change the world's focus from schooling to learning, from just counting how many bodies are in classrooms to actually how many are learning. The problem is grave, yet we can do something about this international crisis. And research has shown that "we can, for the first time, have every child in school and learning within just one generation. And we don't even have to really invent the wheel to do so. We just need to learn

children, healthy and mature interaction with parents, curbing promotion of instant coffee culture, and the uncertain future that lies ahead. The best way for schools to innovate and evolve is in seeking support and inputs from their own students who are problem solvers and even design thinkers. It's time to make a difference by providing more power to the young!



Pic: Mukesh Shah

Principal Guest Editor
Fr Bernard Fernandes, principal, Don Bosco High School, Matunga

from the best in class, but not any best in class — the best in your own class." Provided we have the proper infrastructure, funding and hunger for excellence and quality in education.

Closer home, President Ram Nath Kovind on the eve of India's 69th Republic Day speech on 25th Jan 2018, appealed to the educators and the educated when he said, "An innovative nation is built by innovative children. This must be our obsessive goal. Our schooling system has to encourage our children to think and to tinker, not just to memorize and reproduce." Without doubt, our children respond to some of the major challenges faced by our education system, and we need to tap this resource that is at times, ignored and forgotten. They do have their views and innovative solutions to the crucial questions facing us in education or otherwise — motivation of teachers, right recruitment, role of a principal, difficult

The student edition of *The Times of India* that you hold today is not an ordinary edition. This is a special edition that has been exclusively edited by the principal and school students to bring you a direct feel of what a youth newspaper should read and look like. This time we invited Fr Bernard Fernandes, principal, Don Bosco High School, Matunga and his dynamic editorial team to visit our premises, write stories for this edition and edit it for you. We believe, when it comes to bringing out a newspaper for students and young readers, there is nobody better than you who can guide us in our efforts.

STUDENT EDITION
MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2018

DON BOSCO: ETERNAL VALUES

Don Bosco High School, Matunga is in the platinum year of its existence. The completion of 75 years is undoubtedly an important event in the life of any organisation, especially an educational institution. Great many students-famed and ordinary-have passed through its portals and many more are knocking on its doors to experience its warmth and quality education. We can pride ourselves of innumerable accolades and awards in sports, academics and cultural activities.

Don Bosco institutions are spread all over the world and they stand out for their all round quality education and spacious playing fields availed by the students especially the poor and the marginalised. Our founder, St John Bosco is a much revered and relevant saint today. Revered for his sanctity and humanness. Relevant for his revolutionary preventive pedagogy and educational works. Born on August 16, 1815 into a poor and religious family in Becchi, Italy, little Johnny knew hardships and confronted poverty. At a very young age, John Bosco nursed a strong desire to be a priest of God working for the neglected young boys on the streets of Turin, Italy. He faced umpteen obstacles but his single minded purpose and deep faith in God helped him tide over these challenges. He was misunderstood by his colleagues, superiors and society; lacked funds and open spaces for his poor boys of the Oratory; and suffered ill-health. Along the way, John picked up skills, worked hard on his temperament - he chose St Francis de Sales (Salesians are so named after this patron saint) as his model of humility, kindness and patience — and stayed abreast of the happenings and educational philosophies of his time. All this to be a good educator, friend and father of the young placed under his care.

Don Bosco inspired hundreds of his boys to follow him and continue his works. His followers, the Salesians of Don Bosco, grew in number and traversed continents to pursue his mission. His dream lives on even today. Don Bosco High School, Matunga, is one such legacy!

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— Fr Crispino D'Souza, Rector, Don Bosco Matunga

Core of education

This topic deals with what is education, for whom is it, what is its final goal, etc. I am not mainly concerned about running our schools better, but education itself, which is a far wider topic than schools.

It is the art of building human persons, says Swami Vivekananda. It is the art of divinizing the human person, say Christian saints. It is the art of enabling individuals to realise the full potential of their humanity. As a consequence, it is the art of building individuals, communities, nations and the entire creation into an integrated whole.

Education is the art of building people into wise persons. Wisdom can be defined as loving intelligence. It is not merely intelligence, or just blind love. Intelligence and love can be compared to matter and form. It is the combination of the two that makes a person wise, mature or educated.

Intelligence in itself is a tool, like a knife. Just as a good knife can be used for healing, or for killing, intelligence can be used for good or for evil. Great benefactors of humanity have all been intelligent, but so have also been the biggest criminals. When in-



telligence and skill are guided by love, then we get wise people. It is love that turns intelligence into a positive quality. Without love, it is dangerous.

Hence, it is clear that education is not a matter of classrooms. Mark Twain used to say that he never allowed his schooling to interfere with his education! Schools and colleges are just phases in the life-long process of education. Every section of the society is educative, whether they realise it or not. Family, society, country, culture, religion, media, commerce, politics — they all play their part in the making of the individual. Every one of us is educating everyone else all the time in some way, for good or for bad. It is the activity of an entire community. So, education is a matter of study not just of schools but of the entire society. Education-

ists should be therefore, also social scientists and philosophers.

Following Don Bosco's intuition, education has three basic areas of formation. The individual (personal aspect), the society (community aspect) and God (spiritual aspect), which he put into three simple words, i.e., Reason, Love and Religion.

There is no education without these three basic contents. From this point of view, Buddha, Jesus, Gandhi and Mother Theresa would be among the most educated persons in history. When one reaches the zenith of personal, social and divine qualities, one becomes an educated person. This is the heart of education! All great educational thinkers have defined education with these elements. In our own country great educators like Gandhi, Vivekananda, Tagore, Radhakrishnan and others have defined education in this way.

This is an excerpt from Fr Maria Arokiam's keynote address at a Symposium on the Heart of Education in India. Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga is a Salesian priest from Tamil Nadu, India presently based in Rome. He is a member of the General Council of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Rome and holds the post of the South Asia Regional Councillor.

EDUCATING THE HEART, BY THE HEART

You can catch more flies with a teaspoon of honey than with a barrel of vinegar." Don Bosco believed in this statement. He was very passionate about education. He desired to persuade the boys to want to be good. He wanted discipline to come from within.

Education is the cultivation of the mind. Don Bosco put the power of his genius, and formulated a new trend in education which he named the 'preventive system'.

The roots of the Preventive System are the 3Rs: Rap- port, Religion, Reason and the

trunk is Presence. Important tips to maximise the 3 Rs

- Involve the child in the formulation of the rules.
- Keep the rules simple and few.
- Communicate the rules clearly.
- Tacitful reminders from time to time will cement the formulation of the desired character.
- Rules must have functional value and must be implemented with firmness.
- Qualitative Presence: Personal: The child feels loved and accepted, especially the weak, handicapped and underprivileged.
- Motivating: Infuses encouragement, enthusiasm



derprivileged. Motivating: Infuses encouragement, enthusiasm

and optimism. Incarnational: "Love what the boys love and they will love you." Seeing the world through the eyes of the child who will then want to live by your values.

Creative: Be open to the joy of discovery. Risk is a necessary ingredient of all creative learning.

Preventive and Corrective: Being there with the boys would prevent exposure from harm. Correction must be consistent, constructive and motivating. It must lead to conscience building to help children develop self-determination and inner control

Young people tend to live life like a feast. Theatre, sports, art are all ways of living life's celebration. Equally important are life's enriching attitudes of gratitude, optimism, respect, peace, tolerance, and justice.

The Preventive System is intensely challenging while at the same time amply rewarding. It is perceived as "Educating the heart, by the heart."

(The author Beatrice Pinto is the ex-Headmistress of Don Bosco High School, Matunga, and has served the institution for 35 years. Having lived the Educative system of Don Bosco for these many years she puts pen to paper to relive and share this priceless treasure for any educator).

Role of media and technology in education

The media! Some can't live without it, while for others, it's a tool that has complicated, their already complicated lives. There is no doubt that the media - it is here to stay... be it in your drawing rooms or classrooms. Digital natives are the new generation of young people born into the digital age, while "digital immigrants" are those who learn to use computers at some stage during their adult life. Whereas digital natives are assumed to be inherently technology-savvy, digital immigrants are usually assumed to have

some difficulty with information technology.

The role of media and technology in education has changed the way we think, teach and interact with students. For the millennial generation, teaching methods of yesteryear are just passe.

A decade ago, students with a weakness in maths or physics would turn to their teachers. Today, they turn on their apps to

master their concepts. Students worldwide are connected with one another via the internet. The importance of media literacy in teacher education programmes is an essential tool and topic in the new millennium. With the help of new media, teachers are able to offer students information from around the world at an even faster and easier rate.



Computers and internet connections have transformed the way

teachers teach and students learn. Gone are the blackboards. Make way for smartboards! Gone are the bulky encyclopaedias! Make way for wikipedia. Computers have all the answers. Teachers can use media to help simulate problems that fit real-world situations for their students. Internet and videoconferencing technology allow students to participate in projects sponsored by researchers around the world. It is important for teachers to be a step ahead and build a culture of peace.

Fr Joaquim Fernandes, is an alumnus of Don Bosco HS, Matunga and Regional Delegate, Boscom South Asia, and Director, Tej-Prasarini, Don Bosco Communication, Mumbai.

EDUCATION FOR AN EVOLVED GEN NEXT

Don Bosco believed: "In every young person a point of goodness is accessible and it is the primary duty of the educator to discover the sensitive chord of the heart so as to draw out the best in the young person."

The swift growth of technology and increasing globalisation compel today's children as well as the youth to adapt to various educational challenges. They need to develop skills that will help them to think critically, master new and upcoming technology, tackle global issues and solve problems efficiently. Here at



Don Bosco, we don't limit education to just the classroom. Students are taught to excel in extra-curricular activities such as sports, music, art, drama, etc. so that

they develop skills which will always keep them one step ahead of their peers.

We have adapted impactful ways of learning through various means of technology such as iPads, smartphones, smart digital white boards which have replaced the traditional chalkboard with modern alternatives which provide a cognitive learning experience for the students. Our students have, at each stage, availed of the state-of-the-art technology.

At Don Bosco, the focus is on character, intelligence, intensive critical thinking coupled with spirituality to

equip students with the compass and the map to chart their bright future. We recognise the fact that developing a child's EQ is equally important as his IQ. At the Christmas Panorama Outreach Programme, the school reaches out to the poor and needy youngsters of the country. This year, Jeevan Dhara, an NGO, working with children was identified as the recipient of our Christmas mite. Besides this, opportunities are presented to students to imbibe social values and develop concern for the environment.

To keep pace with the fast changing times is a tall order. To strike a balance between timeless human values at an equally measured pace is a step better!

Cliff Richard D'Souza, Assistant Headmaster

I am what I am because of my Alma Mater

Dr Ram Chaddha MS, Consultant Spine Surgeon, Apollo Hospitals, Navi Mumbai

It is not too long ago that a chubby, obese and rather plain-looking lad attended his last day at Don Bosco High School, Matunga — May 26, 1978. It is almost forty years that I finished my SSC examination and my umbilical cord was detached from my Alma Mater.

The years I spent in the womb of my school has made me what I am today. I am what I am because of my Alma Mater. Yes, life has taken us across the seven seas; we are no more in touch with the way we were then, but the bonding is eternal. Be it the Senior Vice-President of a leading Software Company from San Francisco, USA or a spine surgeon in Mumbai, we are all the same—



Pic: Mukesh Shah

the White Shirt Navy Blue Shorts Uniformed Boscoites within. The strength of brotherhood that uniform gives us is far beyond any established relationship.

I hold my head high when I say, "I'm Ram Chaddha from Don Bosco High School, Matunga." The



Dr Ram Chaddha

strength of this line is immense. The number of doors that open, the hearts that welcome and the friends that join hands to help are beyond imagination. I really look back with fondest nostalgia and share a few very personal moments. Many of my brethren would have similar experiences which we now ruminate over, that taught us so much yet so little. Those were the best of times; we lived our lives on our own terms.

The mantra I learnt at school taught me how to face life in general and showed me how to convert adversity into opportunity. The mantra is aptly stated by Samuel Beckett - "Ever tried, ever failed — No matter. Try again, fail again — Fail better." The 11 Lessons I learnt in the 11

years at Don Bosco: 1. Maturity is a progressive phenomenon! There is no overnight 'Buddhu' to 'Buddha'—instant awakening. There are the stages we need to follow viz. Unconscious Incompetence — Conscious Incompetence — Conscious Competence — Unconscious Competence. Incompetence is lack of information, understanding and experience. Competence comes by listening, contemplation and implementation 2. Aim to be the very best at everything you do! The secret is to have a benchmark where you and only you monitor your performance. 3. Expect more from yourself! Mediocres accept. Champions go higher, deeper and beyond. 4. A good coach can turn good to great.

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