

Dada Bhagwan Pariwar's

May 2025

AKRAM Express



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Holidays... Are... FUN...

Editorial

Friends,

Holidays mean fun! Didima Jungle always finds an excuse to enjoy the holidays. This year they have discovered a special calendar.

Every country has its own holidays, but some are celebrated worldwide on the same day. Didima Jungle has gathered all the holidays celebrated in May from across the globe and created a calendar. The most special day in this calendar is Pujyashree's birthday.

Let's take a look at the days marked in the calendar and how they are celebrated in Didima Jungle.

- Dimple Mehta

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The calendar for the month of May was displayed on the notice board of Didima Jungle. At the top, it was written in bold letters: 'Celebration Month' and under it, in smaller letters, it read: 'To find out more, meet near the lake at 6 p.m. today.'

What would this celebration be? How would it take place? Everyone was eager to find out. By 6 o'clock, every single inhabitant of Didima Jungle had gathered at the lake. Theo first served fresh juice to everyone. Then Zoey took the microphone and announced, "This time, we'll celebrate all the holidays in May." Everyone was delighted to hear this. The dates and celebrations were then revealed.





'Celebration Month'

- 1st May – Gujarat Foundation Day
- 4th May – World Laughter Day
- 8th May – Rabindranath Tagore Day
- 9th May – Pujyashree's Birthday
- 11th May – Mother's Day
- 12th May – Buddha Purnima
- 15th May – International Day of Families

There were lengthy discussions on how each of these special days could be celebrated. In the end, everyone came together and agreed on a few key plans. Let us take a look at how Didima Jungle celebrated all of these events.



Near the lake in Didima Jungle, Gullu, Polo and Momo worked together to stage an exhibition about Gujarat. The entrance to the exhibition was beautifully decorated with balloons and ribbons, making it feel like a grand birthday celebration.

Just after the entrance, there were two magnificent photos, each adorned with colourful flower garlands. Colourful rangolis and lighted lamps nearby added to the festive ambience. In large golden letters above the photos, it stated: 'Gujarat, the Birthplace of *Gnanis*.' The photos were of Dada Bhagwan and Shrimad Rajchandra. Dada Bhagwan's photo seemed so lifelike that upon looking into his eyes everyone felt as though

Dadashri himself was looking back at them and blessing them.

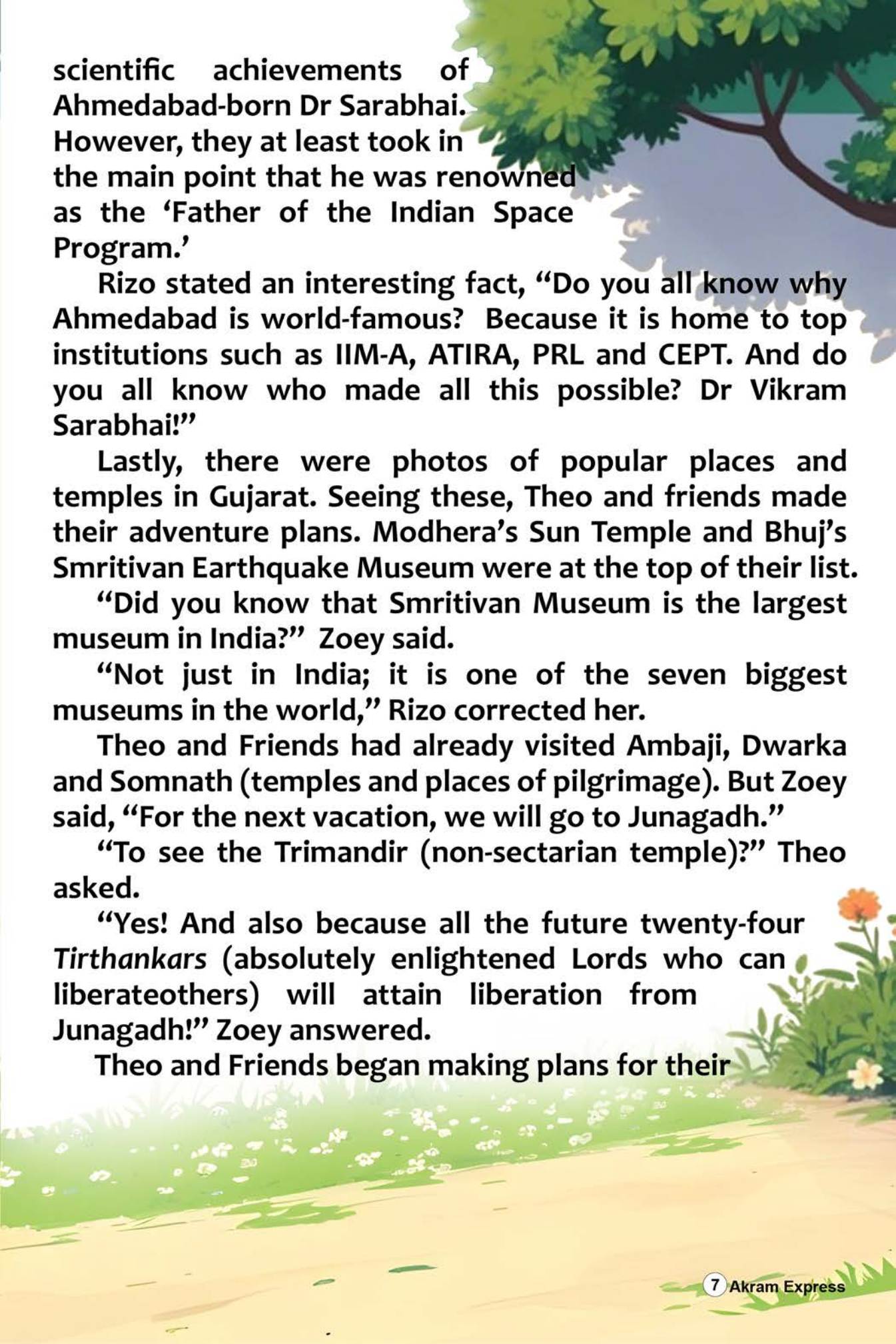
Aaloo said, “We’re so fortunate that such great *Gnanis* (the awakened One) were born in Gujarat and they blessed us with *Gnan* (knowledge of the Self) in Gujarati.”

Everyone heartily bowed down to Shrimad Rajchandra and Dada Bhagwan before proceeding further in the exhibition.

Aaloo and Chilly were delighted to learn that great people such as Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dhirubhai Ambani, Gautam Adani and Karsanbhai Patel all hailed from Gujarat.

Further along in the exhibition, there was a photo of the world-famous scientist, Dr Vikram Sarabhai. Aaloo and Chilly’s eyes grew tired reading about all the many



A stylized illustration of a green tree with dense foliage in the upper right corner. A light brown path leads from the bottom left towards the right, bordered by green grass and small white flowers. In the bottom right corner, there are some orange and yellow flowers.

scientific achievements of Ahmedabad-born Dr Sarabhai. However, they at least took in the main point that he was renowned as the ‘Father of the Indian Space Program.’

Rizo stated an interesting fact, “Do you all know why Ahmedabad is world-famous? Because it is home to top institutions such as IIM-A, ATIRA, PRL and CEPT. And do you all know who made all this possible? Dr Vikram Sarabhai!”

Lastly, there were photos of popular places and temples in Gujarat. Seeing these, Theo and friends made their adventure plans. Modhera’s Sun Temple and Bhuj’s Smritivan Earthquake Museum were at the top of their list.

“Did you know that Smritivan Museum is the largest museum in India?” Zoey said.

“Not just in India; it is one of the seven biggest museums in the world,” Rizo corrected her.

Theo and Friends had already visited Ambaji, Dwarka and Somnath (temples and places of pilgrimage). But Zoey said, “For the next vacation, we will go to Junagadh.”

“To see the Trimandir (non-sectarian temple)?” Theo asked.

“Yes! And also because all the future twenty-four *Tirthankars* (absolutely enlightened Lords who can liberate others) will attain liberation from Junagadh!” Zoey answered.

Theo and Friends began making plans for their

tour, when Aaloo suddenly asked, “Oh! What about the cricketers of Gujarat?”

“We completely forgot about them!” said Momo, scratching his head.

Everyone started calling out the names of cricketers from Gujarat: “Hardik Pandya,” “Ravindra Jadeja,” “Irfan Pathan,” “Parthiv Patel.”

Then, a debate arose over the player ‘Bumrah,’ with some questioning whether he could be considered Gujarati. Eventually, they all agreed that if someone was brought up in Gujarat, then they should be considered Gujarati.

Everyone felt proud to be Gujarati after hearing such wonderful details about Gujarat. Towards the end, they enthusiastically celebrated the birthday for the state of Gujarat by doing *garba* (traditional Gujarati folk dance) near the lake and eating *fafda*, *jalebi*, *khaman* and *dhokla* (a variety of sweet and savoury Gujarati snacks).





Giffy was going to tell everyone a funny story. He took hold of the microphone. Seeing this, Zoey suddenly got worried, 'What if no one laughed at Giffy's story? Or worse, what if Giffy started crying while telling a comedy story? What a tragedy that would be!' Zoey was still lost in her thoughts when Giffy began telling his story.



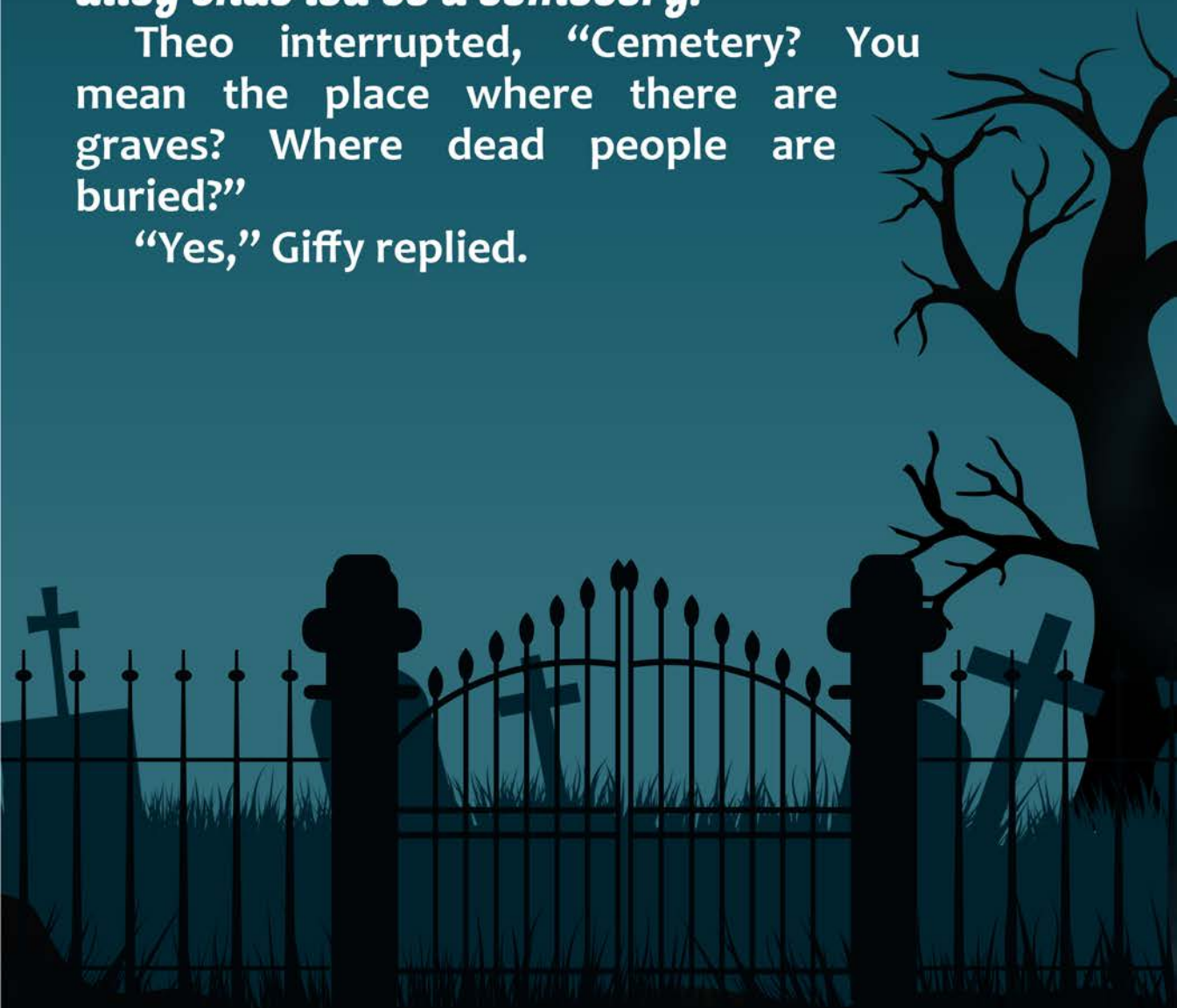
One time, Mullah Nasruddin had an upset stomach. The doctor advised him to go for a walk in the morning and in the evening.

Late one night, Mullah went for his walk. As he wandered off far from the town, he noticed three people staring at him and whispering. Mullah quickly realised that they were thieves. Feeling uneasy, he started walking quickly. The thieves also followed him at a quickened pace.

Mullah took a sudden turn into a narrow alley that led to a cemetery.

Theo interrupted, “Cemetery? You mean the place where there are graves? Where dead people are buried?”

“Yes,” Giffy replied.



Zoey got worried again, 'Was this a horror story or a comedy story?'

Giffy continued telling the story.

Mullah saw a half-dug grave in the cemetery. He climbed inside and laid down. The thieves arrived at the grave, looked around and called out in a stern voice, "Are you hiding from us?"

Mullah replied softly, "Oh no, no! I died last week, and they buried me here. I just come out every now and then to get some fresh air. What can I do? It gets very hot in the ground! Even when dead... We still need to take a little walk now and then, don't we?"

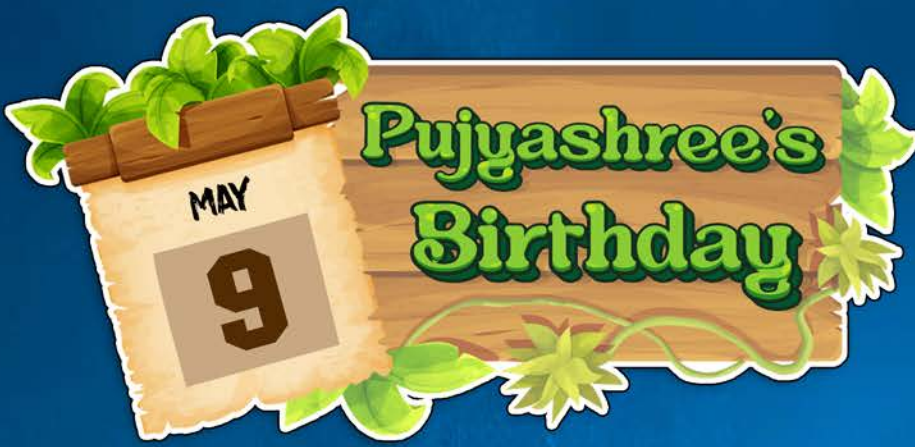


The expression on the thieves' faces changed to that of shock. One of them immediately screamed, "Ghost! Ghost! Run!"

All three thieves ran for their lives. Mullah got out of the grave, brushed off the dirt and started walking back to his house with a gleeful grin on his face.

Zoey burst out laughing and stood up from her seat, clapping loudly. Actually she was more relieved than she was happy. However on seeing her, everyone else began clapping too. Seeing how happy everyone was, Giffy got tears in his eyes.





That day, there was a festive spirit in the air throughout the whole of Didima Jungle. At night, candles were lit outside every home. Garlands of twinkling fairy lights adorned the trees, casting a magical glow. A colourful dome of balloons stood tall, adding to the celebratory spirit. Delicately decorated lanterns hung from thin



threads, swaying gently, creating the illusion that they were floating in the air!

Even more amazing than the decorations was the food. Theo's restaurant had never made such tasty food like this before. Chilly and Koko sang 'Happy Birthday' for Pujiyashree. Then, everyone joined together to sing 'Dada Bhagwan Na Aseem Jay Jay Kar Ho' for one hour to pray for Pujiyashree's good health. Finally, it was time to cut the cake. Everyone joined in cutting the pineapple and ginger cake, marking the joyous occasion.

Afterwards, Vicky took the microphone and



said, “Pujiyashree always tells us to remain happy! So, let us watch a video where Pujiyashree entertains us.” Some excerpts from the conversations in the video are shared here.



Questioner: I want to ask you a general knowledge question. Can you write red with a blue pen?

Pujiyashree: What?!

Questioner: Write red with a blue pen.

Pujiyashree: Red with a blue pen? That can be done. Here... R... E... D! (Pujiyashree makes action of writing out the word ‘red’ with a blue pen)

Questioner: Why do you always wear white clothes? Why do you not wear other colours?

Pujyashree: There is a reason for that... If there is a stain, then it is easily noticeable.

Questioner: I have one more question. If a dog falls (chases) behind you, then what would you do?

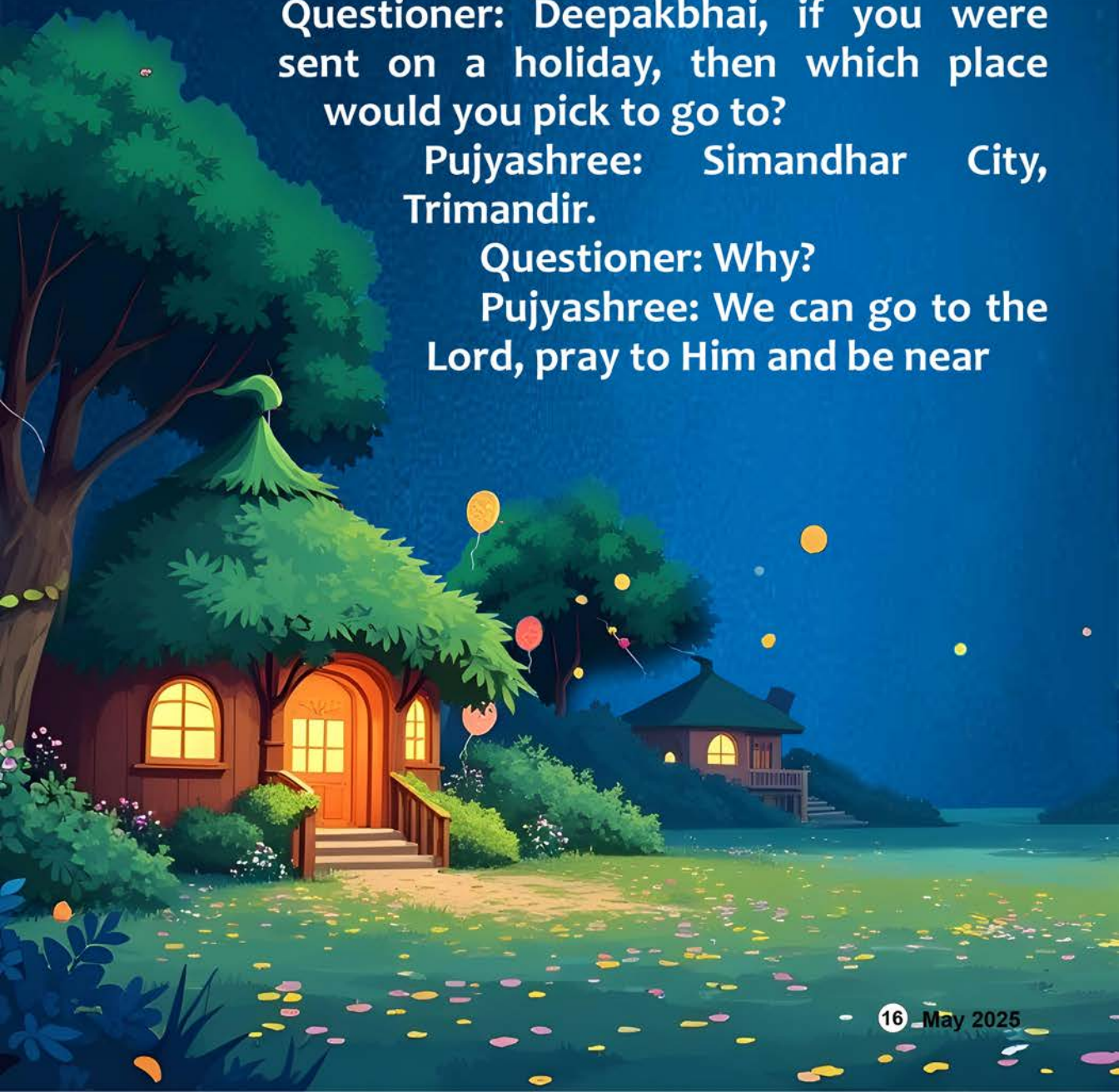
Pujyashree: If he 'falls' behind me, then I would help the poor thing get up. 'How did you fall?' My role is to pick up anyone who has fallen, not to make them fall. Anything else?

Questioner: Deepakbhai, if you were sent on a holiday, then which place would you pick to go to?

Pujyashree: Simandhar City, Trimandir.

Questioner: Why?

Pujyashree: We can go to the Lord, pray to Him and be near





Him. We can become *vitraag*
(free from all attachments, just
like Him).

Questioner: Deepakbhai, have you
ever done any cooking?

Pujyashree: Yes, I have.

Questioner: Who was the first person
you cooked for?

Pujyashree: Niruma taught me how to
cook. After the meal was prepared, we all
ate it. Niruma ate it as well that day.

Questioner: What did you make?

Pujyashree: *tikhi bhakhri* (Spicy wheat
flatbread).

Questioner: What did you think of the
taste?

Pujyashree: It was very flavourful.

Questioner: Jai Sat Chit Anand.



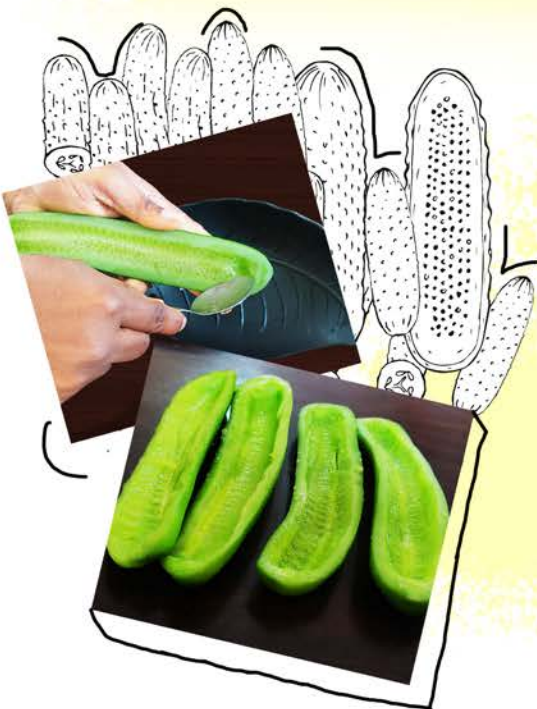
Everyone in Didima Jungle thought, 'Our mothers do so much for us, so let's do something special for them this Mother's Day.'



Ingredients:-

Cucumbers - 3 pieces
Chopped onion - 1 bowl
Chopped tomatoes - 1 bowl
Chopped capsicum - ½ cup
Lemon juice - 1 teaspoon
Oregano - ½ teaspoon

Ketchup - 2 teaspoons
Black pepper - ½ teaspoon
Aaloo sev - 1 packet
Chaat masala - ½ teaspoon
Salt as per taste



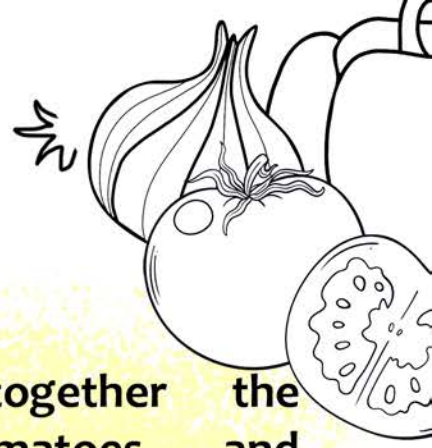
Directions:-

First, peel the cucumbers and cut them in half lengthwise. Then take out the pulp from inside of it and prepare it as shown in the picture.





Mix together the onion, tomatoes, and capsicum. Then add in two teaspoons of ketchup, chili flakes, oregano, black pepper, chaat masala, lemon juice, and salt as per taste.



Mix everything thoroughly, fill in the center of the cucumber with the mixture and garnish with the aaloo sev.



Then cut thin slices of cucumbers and shape them into a boat sail using a toothpick if needed, as shown in the picture.





While everyone in Didima Jungle had heard of Gautam Buddha, no one knew much about him. On that day, a statue of Lord Buddha was going to be brought to Didima Jungle. Everyone was eager to learn more about him from Oli. Oli put on his glasses and began to narrate the story.

Lord Buddha was born into a royal family in Ancient India, and raised in the town of Kapilvastu (now in modern day Nepal). At birth, he was named Siddharth. During his naming ceremony, many scholars predicted that he would either become a great king or a great saint. Years went by. Although Siddharth had



all the luxuries and happiness of a royal life, he felt that the true purpose of life must be something beyond worldly pleasures.

At the age of twenty-nine, Siddharth left his kingdom to search for a path to freedom from all sufferings, and began the life of an ascetic.

Once, Lord Buddha was passing through a town with his disciples. The people of the town were living in fear because of a notorious bandit named Angulimala. It was said that Angulimala had vowed to kill a thousand people. To keep a record of his kill count, he would cut off a finger from each person he killed and string it to the necklace which he wore around his neck. This necklace was



the reason he was known as 'Angulimala' ('anguli' meaning finger and 'mala' meaning necklace).

Angulimala had already killed 999 people and now was searching for his thousandth victim. When Lord Buddha decided to pass through the area, the townsfolk begged him not to go near Angulimala, but the Lord remained unafraid. He wanted to save Angulimala from this path of violence. As Lord Buddha walked along the road, Angulimala spotted him. He ran after Lord Buddha to kill him, but no matter how fast he ran, he could not catch up with him. Angulimala shouted with rage, "Hey, stop right there!"

Lord Buddha turned around and, with great compassion in his eyes, he said, "I have stopped. Why have you not stopped?"

Angulimala felt the powerful vibrations of Lord Buddha's love and immense inner peace. For a brief moment, he stood frozen staring at Lord Buddha. Then he asked boisterously, "What do you mean?"

Lord Buddha replied, "I stopped hurting people a long time ago. I have embraced the path of love and true happiness. When will you free yourself from your weaknesses?"

Angulimala shouted, "Me, weak? I am mighty and strong. Can you not see this garland of fingers around my neck?"

Lord Buddha said, "Yes, you have cut off those fingers. But tell me, could you attach them back?"

Angulimala was silent.

Lord Buddha continued, “If you cannot reattach them, then how can you claim the right to cut them? If you cannot create life, then you have no right to take it away.”

There was such an indescribable power in Lord Buddha’s speech that tears began to stream down Angulimala’s face. He bowed down before Lord Buddha and surrendered to him. Angulimala spent many years in repentance, eventually freeing himself from the burden of his sins.

The story came to an end. Oli took off his glasses and looked around at everyone. Everyone had become serious. Giffy’s vision was blurred with tears. Rizo handed him a tissue to wipe his eyes. Everyone then came together and placed a garland on Lord Buddha’s statue.






There was really no need for a special day to celebrate families in Didima Jungle because everyday felt like ‘Family Day’ for them! The lakeside was bustling with activity, just like it always was during their gatherings. As soon as the games were over, it was time for food.

Tigu’s cousin, Sanchez, who had come from Mizipu Jungle for his vacation, went up on the stage while eating ice cream. He asked for everyone’s attention, “Friends, this has been





the best vacation ever! What I learnt after a power cut at home is something you all already know. And I believe that is indeed the secret to your happiness.”

“Sanchez, tell us what you learnt after the power cut in your home,” Tigu asked loudly.

Sanchez began telling his story.

“That night, as usual, Mother was calling us to the dining table for dinner. Father was busy on his laptop, Simmi was talking to her friend on the phone, and I was playing a game on the TV.

Mother first got cross with Simmi and said,






‘You won’t get dinner on the sofa. Come to the dining table. And how many times have I told you not to use your phone while it is charging?!’

Then it was going to be Father’s turn and mine next, but suddenly, everything went dark. The electricity had gone out and the TV powered off. After a little while, Mother lit a lovely candle and placed it on the dining table.

For the first time in many days, we all sat down to have dinner together without any distractions.

It was such a wonderful experience! Father told us stories from his school days,



Mother shared memories of her family and Simmi told us more about her school friends. I made everyone laugh so much that their stomachs hurt! The dinner ended, but our conversation didn't.

At the end, Father shared an English proverb with us: 'A family that eats together, stays together!'"

Sanchez concluded his story with a big smile. "It took a power cut for us to learn this lesson, but you all seem to know it already. That is why you're all so happy!"



To read the Aaloo-Chilly stories all together...

Click Here

<https://shorturl.at/tfccK>



Chilly was furious because Aaloo had been supporting Koko. Upset, Chilly had left the competition and gone home. However, Aaloo didn't go to check on him, which made Chilly even more upset. Chilly tricked Parsley and flew off to Theo's Café.

Now, let us hear from Parsley about what happened next...

If Chilly wanted to drink that 'Chilly Shake', he really shouldn't have let me know that it was there in the fridge! He was so naive! I went and gulped the whole thing down. I returned to the living room only to find out that Chilly had disappeared.

Where had Chilly gone? I searched everywhere in and around the house, but I couldn't find him anywhere.



Huh? Where had Chilly flown off to? Where to look for him? Aaloo had told me to bring Chilly to the party. I got anxious and flew to the lake. The competition had just ended. Giffy said with tears in his eyes, “Koko sings well, but better than his voice, his words...” Before he could finish his sentence, he started to cry uncontrollably. Theo’s hat got drenched with Giffy’s tears. Theo said to him, “Don’t cry! We’ll take Koko with us on our next adventure, and we’ll become best friends with her!”



I looked around for Aaloo and saw him talking to Koko.

Koko was saying, “Aaloo, thank you, but you didn’t need to stay back for me. Chilly is very upset. Me on the other hand, I’m used to...”

Aaloo interrupted her, “Chilly is my best friend! He’ll understand. Don’t worry. From now on, you’re my friend, and Chilly’s too!”

Koko felt deeply moved and started to cry. “You know Aaloo, Chilly is a natural-born singer. Even though he started singing much later than I did, he sings better than me. Had he not got upset and changed his song, he would’ve won the competition today!”



Hearing this warmed my heart. Though she was the competition winner, Koko was praising my brother Chilly. Still I couldn’t help interrupting to say, “If you think about it, Koko has a couple more years of being the best singer. Once I start singing, then I’ll take over as the best singer.” Upon hearing this, Aaloo’s eyes widened in shock. I don’t know why!

He asked, “What are you doing here? Where is Chilly?”

Oh dear, I had briefly forgotten why I had gone there. “Oh yes, I forgot to tell you. Chilly has disappeared. I went looking for him, but I couldn't find him anywhere. Where could he have gone?”

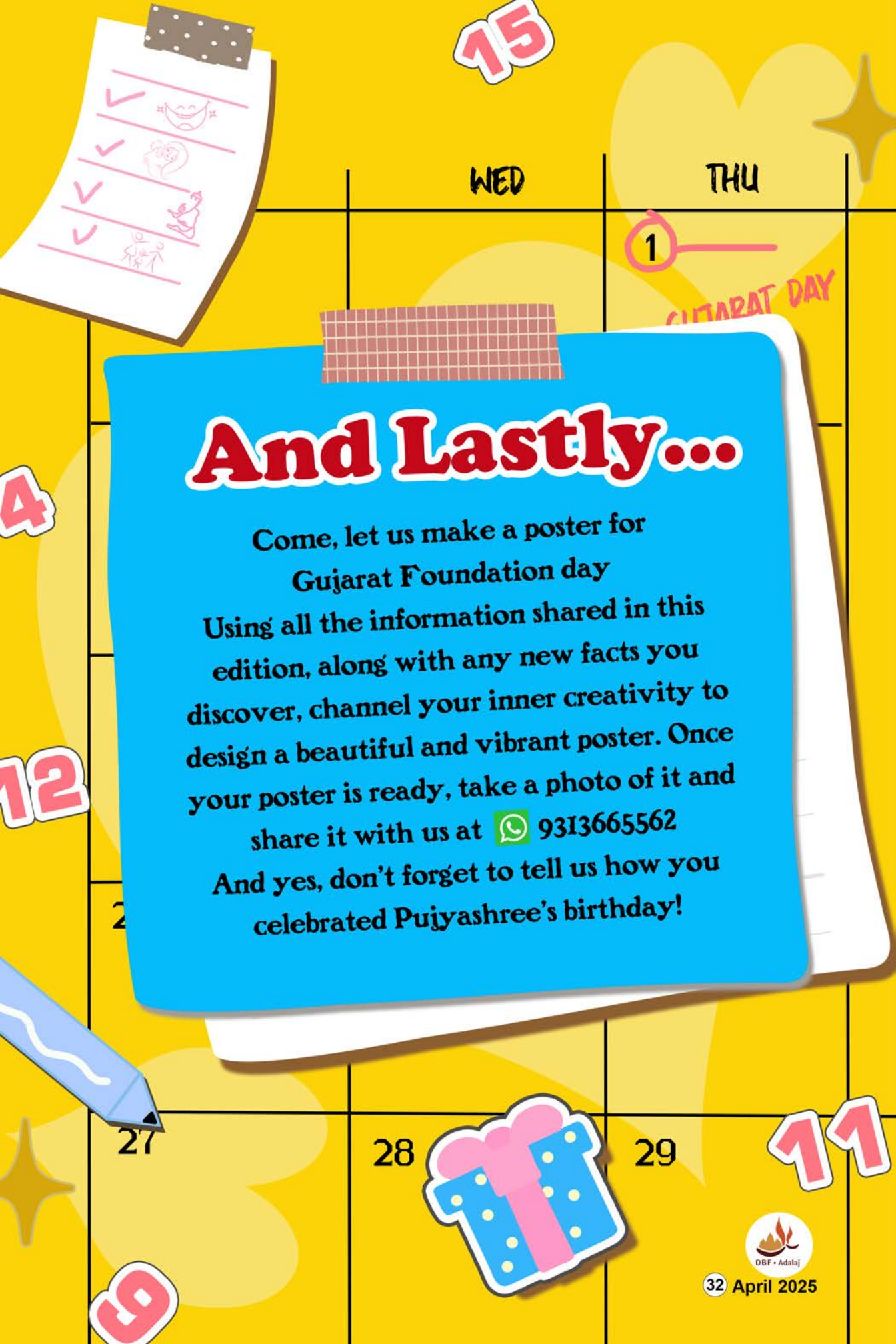
Aaloo said, “Once Chilly gets tired of flying, he'll definitely want something cold to drink from Theo's Café.” Aaloo knew my brother better than I did. I felt like I should place an ad in the newspaper with Aaloo's photo, asking for a best friend like him.

I was thinking about a catchy headline for the ad when Aaloo suddenly said, “Koko, please come to the party!” Hearing this, I thought, ‘Aaloo is so generous, but this might upset Chilly even more. Their friendship might fall apart!’ I whispered to Aaloo, “Chilly is still in a bad mood, so let it be!” Koko seemed to share my thoughts and also said, “No, Aaloo, let it be.”

But Aaloo pretended he hadn't heard anything. He put on his skates and said with a big smile, “Let's see who gets there first!” And he sped off.



What will happen next? When Chilly sees Aaloo with Koko at Theo's Café, will Parsley's fear come true or will Aaloo's faith in his friendship prevail?



15

WED

THU

1

GUJARAT DAY

And Lastly...

Come, let us make a poster for
Gujarat Foundation day

Using all the information shared in this
edition, along with any new facts you
discover, channel your inner creativity to
design a beautiful and vibrant poster. Once
your poster is ready, take a photo of it and
share it with us at  9313665562

And yes, don't forget to tell us how you
celebrated Puiyashree's birthday!

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