



bal vividha 2002
a festival celebrating alternate approaches to learning

बाल विविधा 2002
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Who came, and what did they show?

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Festival directory

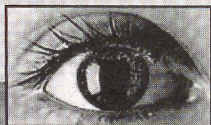
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a festival celebrating alternative approaches to learning

theme for 2002:
living in harmony with one another and with nature



22nd to 25th November 2002

at Santa Cruz West Education Society's campus
opposite Balkan-ji-Bari at Santa Cruz West
Mumbai 400 054



30th November and 1st December 2002

at Shree Nutan Vidya Mandir English Medium School
next to the Lakshmi Narayan temple on Marve Road
Malad, Mumbai 400 064



10 am to 8 pm on all days



organised by Comet Media Foundation



hosted by Santa Cruz West Education Society
at Santa Cruz



co-hosted by Kandivli Medical Association
and Shree Nutan Kelavani Mandal
at Malad

bal vividha 2002



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What is *bal vividha*?

bal vividha is an educational resource festival that celebrates alternative approaches to learning. It brings together educationists, NGOs and media people in a festive environment to make an exciting event for children. The festival hopes to reach out to students, parents, teachers and school managements. Everyone who is looking for ways of enhancing the learning experience of children, in formal and non-formal settings, should find something of interest here.

The theme of the festival this year is living in harmony with one another and with nature. The festival has many highlights and we invite you to come and be part of it.

There is:

- the mela with over 20 interactive corners, where children can learn through hands-on activities, conducted by well-known educational institutions and NGOs. Children's literature, educational toys and learning aids will also be on sale.
- an amphitheatre with open-air performances: puppet shows, street plays, slide shows and book readings.
- a film festival—the *bal chitrapat mela* featuring a selection of films for children along with workshops on film making.
- almost 50 learning workshops for teachers, teacher trainees, NGO workers, parents and others, where leading experts will pass on their skills and insights on various aspects of education.
- an amphitheatre with events such as puppet shows, street plays, slide shows and book readings going on continuously.
- *Challenge of the Past*, a special lecture by the well-known thinker on education Professor Krishna Kumar, at 11 am on Saturday, 23rd November at Santa Cruz West Education Society's school hall.



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- the history of science exhibition from the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education.

- a night sky programme at the mini-planetarium put up by the Nehru Planetarium.

Comet Media Foundation is a voluntary organisation working in the area of educational communication since 1985. Comet produces materials on themes such as health, education, environment, gender issues and the history of science. Our activities involve creating and distributing knowledge artifacts— videos, learning toys, publications and exhibitions, and organising workshops and festivals. This is the tenth in a series of festivals concerned with development issues put together by Comet, and the fifth one in the *bal vividha* series.

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either your opinions
or your religion
but what is your suffering"*

Louis Pasteur

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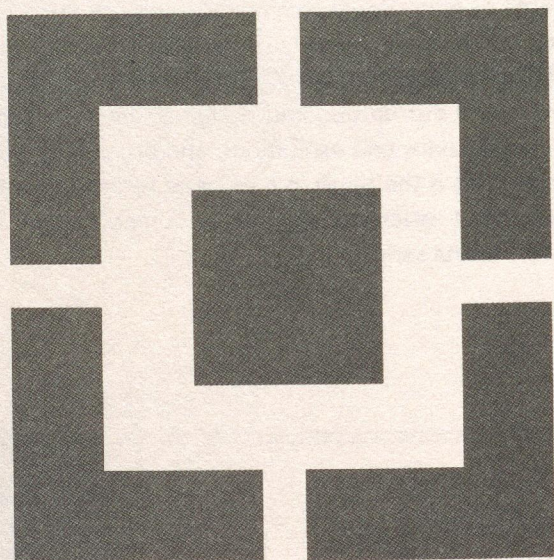
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Who is hosting *bal vividha*?

Santa Cruz West Education Society

Some five decades ago, Santa Cruz West Education Society started the first pre-primary school in the Santa Cruz area, inspired by Lilavati Khandvala, a trained Montessori teacher assisted by Sushila G. Dalal.

In response to the growing demands of the community in the area, the institution grew into a primary school in the Gujarati medium. With the passage of time and a growing student strength, the institution constructed a building with a large playground on land leased from the Maharashtra Government at Juhu Road and started a primary and secondary school in the English medium and a secondary school in the Gujarati medium.

The organisation's past presidents include Shri M. A. Master, doyen of shipping, and Shri H. M. Trivedi, expert in transport economics. The present president is Smt. Jyoti H. Trivedi, consultant medical educationist. Other trustees are Smt. Kamaliniben, educationist, Smt. Bindu D. Kumana, lawyer, Dr. Gupta, consultant surgeon, Smt. Torulata Gupta, medical practitioner and Shri S.B. Modi, businessman. The secretary is Smt. Sushila G. Dalal.

The notable features of education at the Society's schools include education by play-way method, cultural activities and cultivation of scientific temper. The emphasis is on developing conceptual skills. Students participate in inter school science exhibitions, elocution, essay, dance, drawing and other competitions. There is an active parent-teacher association engaged in solving academic and administrative problems. The schools have a good library and time is made for educational visits by the children to places related to their studies. Care is taken that workshops for teachers are conducted to enhance the standard of teaching. Apart from this, the students have opportunities for karate classes, Western dance classes, computer education and vocational courses.





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The Shree Nutan Kelavani Mandal

The Mandal was established in 1950 and immediately started the Gujarati medium school in Malad. The Shree Nutan Vidya Mandir an English Medium School was founded by Shri Kelvani Mandal in 1979.

Cicero, a great philosopher said, "Constant practice often excels even talent". Likewise, the aim of the institution is to bring out the hidden talent in the students through co-curricular activities. The motto of the school is to improve the confidence, creativeness, self-respect, social and physical development of their students and to fill up the treasure of knowledge in them.

The school won the Rolling Trophy for the best school from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation in 1999 and the Mayor's Award for the year 2001-2002. The year was one of the best for the students as the school opened a well equipped computer room and audio visual room. The library of the school has more than 4000 informative books. The same year the school participated in activities like singing, essay writing and elocution competitions and science exhibitions.

Among the managing council members of the Shree Nutan Vidya Mandir English Medium School are Dr. Anil Suchak, president, Mr. K.D. Dalal, vice president, Mr. Kiran Patel, chairperson, Mr. H.B. Desai, vice chairperson, Mr. A. B. Patel, treasurer and the honorary secretaries Mr. R. J. Chokshi and Dr. Yatin Shah. Ms. Shashi Singh is the principal of the pre-primary and primary sections and Mr. Deepak Patankar is the Principal of the secondary section of the English medium school.

The Mandal believes that the role of teachers in a child's upbringing is crucial. A teacher is an important source of information, a guide, a mentor, a surrogate parent and motivator all rolled in one. Teaching is the only profession which always deals with the future of a child.



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The Kandivli Medical Association

An organisation representing 600 doctors from the Kandivli area, the group is engaged in various scientific, cultural and humanitarian activities for its members and the wider society residing in the area. The president of the organisation is Dr. C. K. Roygaga and the secretary is Dr. H. M. Solanki.

The scientific activities of the group include CMEs and workshops on relevant topics, an annual scientific meet and lectures by experts in various fields for the members. A unique event each year is Pratibha—a singing competition for doctors from all over Maharashtra. The KMA has taken up a Clean Kandivli Project which will make Kandivli an ideal suburb with the help of the residents.

The group conducts interactive lectures on subjects of interest to the public such as asthma, epilepsy and learning disability. Counselling centres for children are run by the Association at the N. L. High School and Kapol Vidya Nidhi School. The KMA screens good children's films from all over the world on the first Sunday of every month at the New Era Theatre, Malad followed by discussions among children. An attempt is made to introduce children to filmmakers, artists and other creative persons at the theatre and discussions are held with them.

The challenges that today's child faces are more serious than the situation that prevailed earlier. Studies take up most of the time, and the anxieties and expectations of the parents compound this. Whatever time is left is spent in front of the TV. This crowds the available mental and physical space. Children become addicted to cartoons, game shows and sitcoms, most of which depict violent and aggressive behaviour.

The end result is an increasing number of children with behavioral and psychiatric problems emerging from this way of life. The group strongly feels that some form of positive intervention is called for, however small in scale it may be, in the form of mind-nourishing activities—wholesome children's films are one, *bal vividha* is another.



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I believe that nothing can be greater than a business, however small it may be, that is governed by conscience, and that nothing can be meaner or more petty than a business, however large, governed without honesty and without brotherhood.

—The First Viscount Leverhulme



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Who put together *bal vividha*?

We would like to thank our hosts at the Santa Cruz West Education Society—trustees Smt. Sushila Dalal, Smt. Jyotiben Trivedi, Dr. Gupta, Smt. Torulata Gupta and Smt Vijaya Churi, the principal of the Taraben Master School, for accommodating *bal vividha 2002* at their premises. We also thank the school staff for their cooperation during the event. A special word of thanks to Ms. Veena Kumar of Balkan-ji-Bari for her help.

Our thanks also go to our hosts at Malad, the Kandivli Medical Association, especially Dr. Kartikeya Bhagat and Dr. Hema Dave whose enthusiasm for the event kept us inspired; Shree Nutan Kelavani Mandal trustee Shri Choksi and the Principal Smt. Shashi Singh and staff of the Shree Nutan Vidya Mandir School.

Thanks to the people who made the festival what it is—all the participating organisations and resource persons conducting the interactive corners and numerous workshops; Prof Krishna Kumar for coming all the way for his lecture despite a packed schedule; all the performers and presenters at the amphitheatre and at the film festival; Majlis for the loan of their projector for the screenings; Nehru Planetarium for bringing their mini planetarium to the mela and Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education for their History of Science exhibition.

We are grateful to the student volunteers from Hinduja, Bhavan's, N.L. Raheja, Mithibai, and Chinai Colleges who kept order at the fair, polled the visitors' opinions, went around to schools to publicise the event and supported the organisers in all ways. Thanks also to Dr. Anil Patil, NSS Programme Coordinator, and Mr. Deokar of Mumbai University for connecting us with the college NSS coordinators and making it possible for the students to take part in the event.

A special thanks to the principal, teachers and students of the Kapila Khandvala College of Education for their help in documenting the workshops; and to Upasana Saraf and Kishwar Nensey for their help in designing the evaluation of the workshops.





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The atmosphere of the festival is the work of our design team: the graphic design is by Amir Rizvi, and architect Pankaj Joshi created the environment and structure design.

The festival is coordinated by Patricia Mascarenhas, supported by the efforts of V. P. Jacob, Mrunalini Jog, Ujjaini Bhattacharya, Sarita Almeida, Vinayak Lambe and Sanjay Ranade. Assistance at the festival was provided by S. B. Jadhav, Umesh Ipte, Jaswanti Solanki, Shaila Kamble, Tejrao Jadhav and Pradeep Sawardekar.

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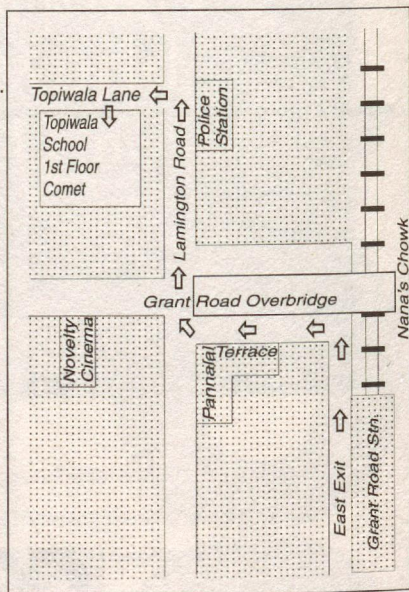
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Comet Media Foundation is a voluntary organisation involved in producing communication materials on themes related to science and development since 1985. The subjects include education, environment, health, gender issues and the history of science. The materials produced by the Foundation bring out alternative perspectives on these themes and tell of attempted innovations by practitioners in these areas. All our activities involve either creating knowledge artifacts or distributing knowledge. At Comet you will find:

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Location Map

Comet Educational Services	Comet Resource Centre	Comet Media Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the workshop programme • themed educational festivals under the title vividha • Comet Resource Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a library • an educational book and toy counter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • media advocacy • video and text production • photography • video editing services

**For details contact us at
2386 9052, 2382 6674, email: comet_media@vsnl.com**

What are the interactive corners at *bal vividha*?

ABHIVYAKTI MEDIA FOR DEVELOPMENT

Abhivyakti Media for Development is a Nashik-based organisation that believes that alternative media has an essential role to play in the process of development. It views the development of a just and democratic society as a process in which people can fulfill their basic political, social, economic and cultural aspirations by participating and choosing the type of society they want to live in, for themselves.

Contact Person: Nitin Paranjpe
 "Omkar" Bungalow, Opposite Wagh
 Guruji Vidyalyaya
 Pumping Station Road, Nashik 422 005
 Tel: 0253 - 580981
 email: amdnasik@bom3.vsnl.net.in
 Web: www.abhivyakti.org.in

The group is involved in various productions with the aim of empowering the under-privileged and marginalised. Responding to the paucity of relevant material for development work, Abhivyakti has developed a variety of training programmes for grassroots workers on various aspects of media-making, and it disseminates information regarding available materials.

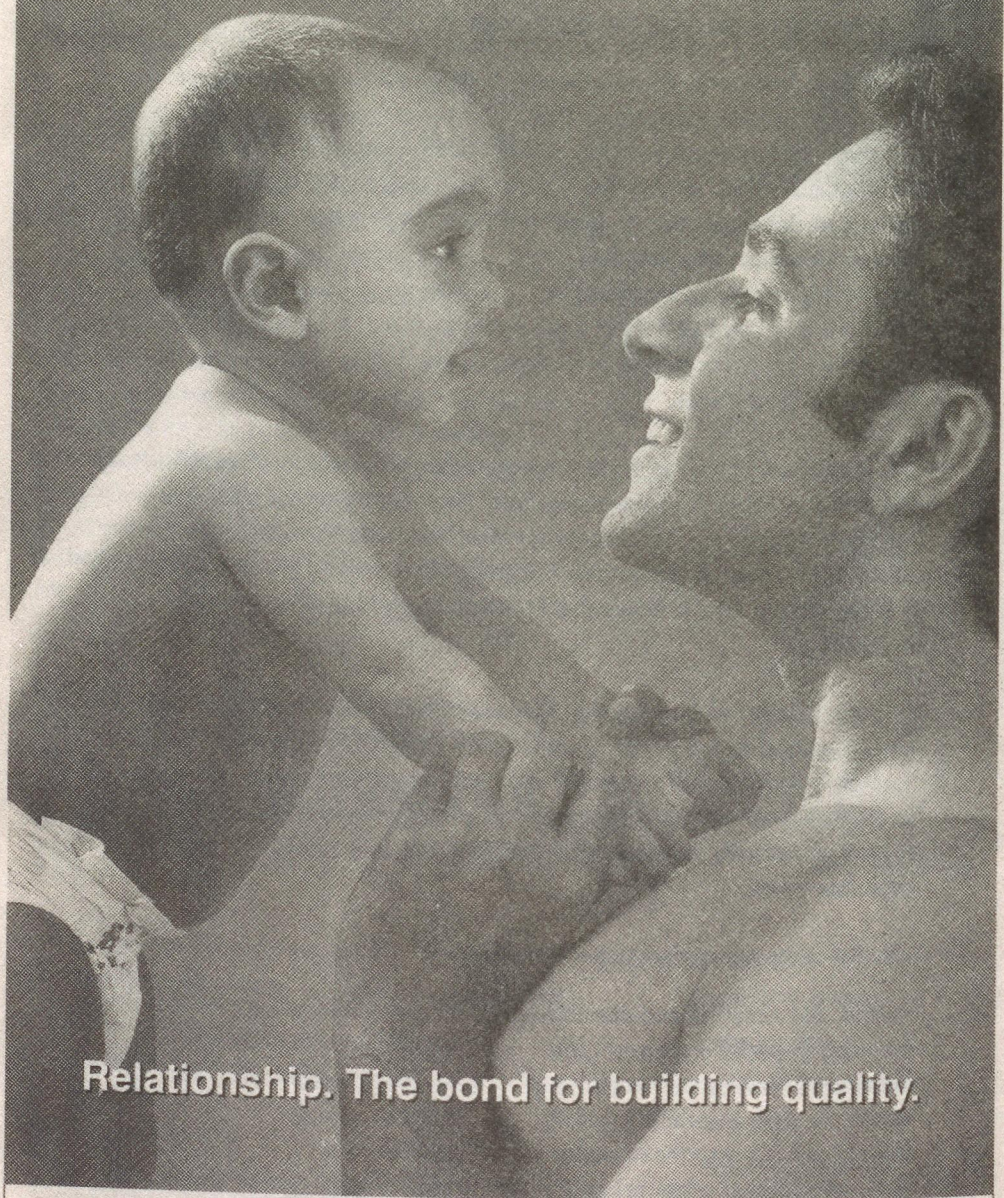
At their counter at *bal vividha*, Abhivyakti will be demonstrating various games and other means of communication that have emerged from their workshop experiences. They will use experiential methodologies to demonstrate how reel-life violence influences perceptions and shapes attitudes regarding real-life violence. Their publications and videos will also be available there.

ANAND AND ANJALI BHAVE

Anand and Anjali Bhave are actively involved in paper craft and other activities involving the recycling of waste. At their interactive corner visitors can learn to make paper caps, and several other origami paper-folded objects, simple and complex. Tables and chairs made out of old newspapers, reflecting their conservationist attitude to materials will also be displayed.

Contact Persons: Anand & Anjali Bhave
 Bhagyashree, 12A Anand Nagar
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Avehi is an educational trust committed to the cause of empowerment through education. Its roots are in a unique collection of media artifacts such as films, videos, audio cassettes, slideshows, flash card sets, puppets, posters, maps, which it lends out to members. Avehi also trains people in the use of media for education in the community.

Contact person: *Simantini Dhuru*
Avehi-Abacus
3rd Floor, K K Marg Municipal School
Behind Shirin Cinema,
Jacob Circle, Mahalaxmi,
Mumbai 400 001
Tel: 2305 2790 / 2307 5231
e-mail: avcab@vsnl.com

The Abacus project was initiated by Avehi in 1990, to develop an enriching supplementary curriculum for schools. Over the past decade, the Avehi-Abacus curriculum has been used by over 17,000 children in schools and NFE centres. The curriculum is now available in the form of series of teaching-learning kits named Sangati, which will be demonstrated at the *bal vividha 2002* festival.

The aim of these materials is to help children integrate what they learn in school and from life. The package helps children to build skills of thinking, analysing and making choices, to encourage them to listen to different opinions while forming and expressing their own, and to foster values that promote harmony and celebrate diversity.

The Avehi- Abacus team will have story telling sessions and games and activities with socially and environmentally relevant themes as some of their activities at their interactive corner at the festival.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Bombay Natural History Society aims to promote "conservation of nature, primarily biological diversity, through action based research, education and public awareness". Founded in 1883, BNHS is India's largest non- governmental organisation engaged in nature conservation,

Contact person: *Prashant Mahajan*
Conservation Education Centre,
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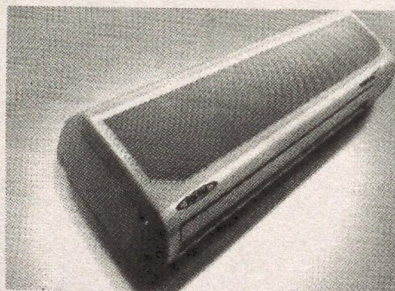
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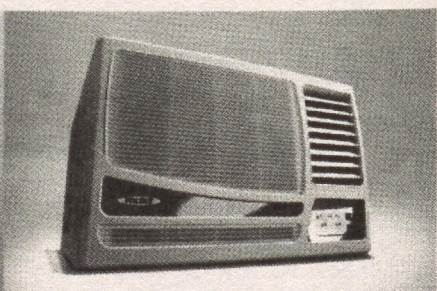
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education and research in natural history. It has members in over 25 countries.

At their interactive corner, BNHS will have various nature related games, puzzles and quizzes for visitors.

C.B.KORA INSTITUTE OF VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

C.B. Kora Institute of Village Industries, Borivili, one of the departmental training institutes of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), provides training to individuals and entrepreneurs in various disciplines since 1972. Through its activities, the Institute not only aims to provide employment and manufacture saleable goods, but also meets the wider objective of creating self-reliance amongst rural people and building up a strong rural community spirit.

*Contact person: Sapan Guha Thakurta
C.B.Kora Institute of Village Industries
Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Shimpoli Road, Borivili,
Mumbai 400 092
Tel: 2899 9143 / 2898 1105*

At their interactive corner, the Kora Kendra team will be demonstrating their eco-friendly activities like turning clay pots on a wheel, making of agarbatti from organic materials and articles of banana fibre and agricultural waste being put to good use.

CHILDREN TOY FOUNDATION

The Children Toy Foundation believes in educating children beyond reading and writing by using the potential of toys and games to shape the skills of young children. The Foundation promotes the concept of a toy library as a place where children come to play and to borrow toys that they can keep for a few days at home. This is a sustainable idea, which permits children in a community to enjoy a variety of toys without the parents having to spend on them. The Foundation helps individuals and groups to start toy libraries and trains their staff in conducting activities with children. Their mobile toy library will be parked at *bal vividha 2002* to give visiting children an opportunity to play.

*Contact person: Devendra Desai
Ali Building,
72, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg,
Between old Custom House and Lion
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Eklavya, Kali for Women, Katha, Manushi, National Book Trust, Other India Bookstore, Sage, Samya, Seagull, Stree, Tara, Tulika and others. The books are in English as well as in regional languages.

Contact persons: Sarita Almeida and Jaswanti Solanki

Comet Media Foundation, Topiwala Lane School, Lamington Road Mumbai 400 007

Tel: 2386 9052 / 2382 6674

e-mail: comet_media@vsnl.com

COSMOS TOY CORNER

COSMOS Toy Corner is a service of Comet Media Foundation. The Toy Corner which displays a range of unusual educational toys. These encourage fantasy play, structure building skills, development of

strategic thinking, as well as physical coordination skills. These toys are made by groups in the cooperative sector such as Eklavya, Padmavati Associates, Kutch Mahila Vikas Sanghatana and Navnirmiti. Their sale creates income for the craftspersons involved in their making. At the festival, children will be able to actually have hands on experience with the toys, at the play corner in the stall.

Contact person: V.P. Jacob Topiwala Lane School

Lamington Road Mumbai 400 007

Tel: 2386 9052 / 2382 6674

e-mail: comet_media@vsnl.com

CREATIVE HANDICRAFTS

Founded in 1984, Creative Handicrafts is a voluntary organization that works for the welfare of disadvantaged women and children. The organisation aims to create self-help groups that are economically and socially self-reliant.

In its efforts to teach these women the skills of self employment, Creative Handicrafts runs a catering service, and they will be serving delicious snacks, meals and juices at the Tiffin Box Café at the festival.

Contact person: Anjali Tapkire

D/1, Achanak Colony

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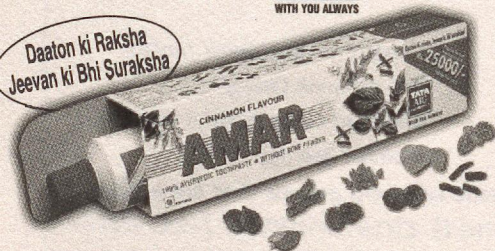
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DISHA COUNSELLING CENTRE

Disha Counselling Centre is a mental health and vocational guidance centre, dedicated to the well being of children, adolescents and adults. Disha believes that each individual is unique and has the potential to excel in herself or himself. With its team of psychologists, counselors and remedial teachers, the organisation aims to empower individuals to help themselves.

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At the festival their activities will consist of interactive games that use play as a medium of alternative learning. The games will try to explore the theme of living in harmony with each other and with nature. They will be designed for children from different age groups. Thus the theme will serve as both an inspiration and a mode of learning.

EARTHCARE BOOKS

A publisher committed to the environmental cause, Earthcare books will be showing their own publications as well as a collection of books by other publishers on subjects related to the environment at the *bal vividha 2002* festival.

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EKLAYVA

Eklavya focuses on creating alternatives in education and development with the active participation of the community. A voluntary organisation based in Madhya Pradesh, Eklavya has been responsible for evolving innovative curricula, teaching methodologies and educational material for primary classes and for science and social studies in middle schools. Outside of school Eklavya helps stimulate creativity,

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inventiveness and artistic expression in children through their discussion groups, youth forums and other activities.

At *bal vividha*, they will provide children an opportunity to perform a wide range of science experiments using low cost apparatus and materials available from their immediate environment. They will have another corner where children can engage in activities like origami, paper folding and making simple dynamic toys that stimulate their creativity, manual skills and artistic abilities. In addition, Eklavya will also display its wide range of publications for children.

HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) is a national centre of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, a leading institute of research in science and

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mathematics. the main foci of work at HBCSE are - development of school curriculum in science and mathematics, building resources for in-service teacher education, research on aspects of learning science and mathematics and science popularisation.

As a part of its popular science activities, HBCSE has developed an exhibition on history of science. The exhibition "Science - A Human Saga" is a part of HBCSE's efforts to inculcate a developmental view of science among students and to heighten their awareness of the contribution of India to the global enterprise of science.

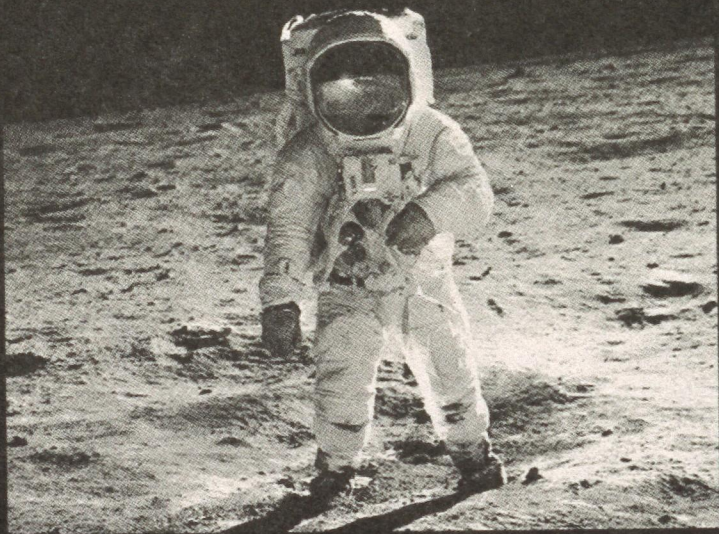
The exhibition begins with the great leaps our ancestors made in fathoming nature, journeys past the different milestones in the history of science and concludes with a brief description of the monumental achievements of twentieth century science. The Centre has developed a portable version of the exhibition. This will be on display at *bal vividha 2002*.

MOBILE CRÈCHES

Mobile Crèches offers day-care programmes and education for the children of migrant construction, labourers and slum dwellers all over

Contact person: Vrushali Kulkarni
1st Floor, Abbas House, Merewether
Road, Apollo Bunder, Colaba
Mumbai 400 001 Tel: 2202 0869





Planet Earth.

With every passing moment, our world is getting more and more polluted. Forests are being chopped down, drinking water levels are decreasing and the hole in the ozone layer just keeps expanding.

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Mumbai. The organisation is involved in activities to support children whose education is frequently interrupted by the mobility of their parents.

At the mela this year they will demonstrate to visitors the making of puppets, an activity which they carry out in their centres. Some of the handiwork of their children, such as colourful puppets and papier-mâché jewellery, will also be on sale. Additionally, the team from Mobile Creches will put up a number of puppet shows at the amphitheatre.

NEHRU PLANETARIUM

The Nehru Planetarium is putting up a mini planetarium at *bal vividha 2002*, plotting the coordinates so that the projected sky view will be exactly as the night sky will look

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Nehru Centre
Annie Besant Road, Worli
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from Juhu. Apart from the sky shows at the Planetarium at Worli, they also have several programmes for students of different age groups to enjoy astronomy. These include excursions, lectures, informal discussion groups as well as trainings enabling interested students to participate in front line research activities alongside practicing scientists.

NEHRU SCIENCE CENTRE

Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai is one of the 29 centres run by the National Council of Science Museums. The organisation's main objective is to communicate science

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Nehru Science Centre
Dr. E. Moses Road, Worli
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Tel: 2493 2668 / 2493 2667*

and enhance public understanding of science through their network of Science Centres. The Centre continuously makes efforts to create interest in science and natural phenomena in young minds. It also provides a platform for students to express their creativity.

In the interactive corner at *bal vividha*, the scientists from the Centre will show how science can be learnt in interesting ways through simple and easy hands-on experiments.





A group working for the past seven years to offer alternative methods in education to children, parents and teachers by helping individuals

*Contact persons: Aspi and Yasmin Shroff
43 Sea Queen, Juhu Tara Road,
Mumbai 400 049, Tel: 2660 7923
e-mail: hi_possibilities@hotmail.com*

to discover the unique possibilities within themselves. A visit to their interactive area in *bal vividha 2002* will be an experience that will keep visitors enthused about themselves and their lives. The Shroffs also conduct workshops on the same lines with many organisations and are open to invitations.

PRATHAM MUMBAI EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Established in 1994, Pratham Mumbai Education Initiative aims to ensure that every child goes to school and has the opportunity to learn. The organisation has been able to establish a wide outreach in the city, in its mission to achieve universal primary education in Mumbai.

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Above Adarsh Mithai Mandir,
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This mission has since grown in scope and scale as individuals, corporates and the state governments are taking the initiative further to other parts of India. Uniting these people and institutions is the concept of a societal mission where education becomes the responsibility of the whole society and not just the government.

The Pratham corner at the mela will have live demonstrations of CD ROM games developed to improve various curriculum-based skills. They will also have displays and demonstration of clay toys and drawing simple graphics. Various educational learning aids of the organisation will be demonstrated and will be on sale.

REWACHAND BHOJWANI ACADEMY (Disha Research and Resource Centre)

Rewachand Bhojwani Academy (RBA) is an integrated school with children from different linguistic, religious and social backgrounds as well as children with learning difficulties and physical challenges. RBA sees schooling as a process of

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web: www.rbacademy.org*

living, doing and being for all those involved including founders, funders, teachers who are learners and learners who are teachers, parents and others. Its methods have roots in both Eastern and Western culture and ethos, and the school practices a synthesis of art, music, dance, theories, methods of teaching and attitudes reflecting this mix. RBA emphasises the development of an atmosphere of trust and respect so that individuals can risk making mistakes, learn to make choices, take decisions and face the consequences of their decisions.

The RBA exhibit at *bal vividha 2002* will demonstrate some of their approaches such as cooperative learning, project-related work, community projects, business projects and internet based projects, with an emphasis on learning-by-doing and application.

SANE GURUJI AROGYA MANDIR

The Sane Guruji Arogya Mandir works closely with the Institute of School Science Education run by Rajiv Vartak. Rajiv aims to make science comprehensible and

*Contact person: Rajiv Vartak
Chunabhatti
Near BEST Depot
Santa Cruz (W)
Mumbai 400 057*

appealing to children by helping them explore and discover it in everyday life situations. He believes this to be essential in order to help foster a spirit of scientific enquiry in them. The teachers of the Sane Guruji Arogya Mandir, who have been incorporating this eco-enviro approach of teaching-learning into their work with their students, will host an interactive corner at *bal vividha, 2002*. They will demonstrate geography and science experiments that communicate how learning takes place in different environments.





A programme founded by the veteran educationist Fulchandbhai Purwar, Sarjan is an innovative, creative education project for children run by Ahmedabad Study Action Group (ASAG). Sarjan conducts non-formal education through use of inexpensive tools and materials. The organisation encourages creative expression and offers children facilities to draw, paint, play and sing. It also arranges festivals, exhibitions, Bal Mahotsavs, trips and games. It also helps to create income generating projects and encourages the children to save their earnings. At *bal vividha 2002* the children and teachers of Sarjan will demonstrate various creative play techniques which child visitors will be able to join. Visitors will not only learn to make simple, low cost creative toys and cards, but will also be able to take home objects that they make.

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SWATI BEDEKAR

Swati runs an enterprise called SM Graphics, involved in designing and manufacturing educational toys, science project kits, teaching aids and workbooks. The toys are designed to encourage skill devel-

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Race Course, Baroda 390 007
Tel: 0265-399 7862, Mobile: 98240 58675
e-mail: svb@wilnetonline.net

opment and creativity among toddlers and children upto 7 years. For older children of age 10 and above, she designs activities and games which convey difficult concepts in chemistry such as the formation of different compounds, balancing of chemical reactions, setting up a personal chemistry lab and so on.

Swati co-ordinates a science education programme emphasising learning by exploration and discovery in 24 district level schools. This involves developing a parallel curriculum. She also writes on interesting chemistry projects, and prepares workbooks on science and social sciences. She has developed subject laboratories equipped with activity based study material for science, social studies and mathematics in some schools and conducted orientation workshops for teachers. She has also developed a web portal for online interactive education.

What is the film festival or *bal chitrapat mela*?

The *bal chitrapat mela* is the children's film event at *bal vividha 2002*—a festival celebrating alternative approaches to education. *bal vividha* is organised each year by Comet Media Foundation, a voluntary organisation working in the area of educational communication.

The *bal chitrapat mela* structured by Vishal Rawlley includes feature films, documentaries as well as short animation films. They have been chosen so as to make children familiar with a wide range of film formats.

Workshops and activities centred around these films will also initiate children into the process of film making. The two packages of Indian animation films will be followed by animation workshops, which aim to inspire children to construct their own audio-visual fantasies. The makers of the films in the festival have been invited to introduce their work and to conduct discussions with viewers after the screenings.

Therefore, apart from screening films for the sake of their content, this festival will also be an education in the language of cinema. The films have been selected in order to introduce children to the rich traditions and cultures from different regions within the country and from Iran.

All in all the *bal chitrapat mela* hopes to be a fun learning experience and promotes the *bal vividha* festival theme for this year: *living in harmony with one another and with nature*. The shows are open to all, and space being limited, entry is on a first-come first-served basis, so be sure to come early to prevent disappointment.

Cinema is a collectively shared experience. A film festival provides an ideal forum to examine and explore issues of social concern. At this festival, children will not only have the opportunity to view films made especially for them, but also to discuss and debate on films and film-making with peers and film-makers.

The daily film programme with the synopses of the films is available at the reception desk.





At the *bal chitrapat mela*, there will be workshops for children. Among the expected resource persons:

Shilpa Ranade

Shilpa is a graduate of the Royal College of Art, UK and currently a faculty member of the design institute at IIT Powai. She has made several award winning animation films. Her films are not cartoon animations; rather she uses the medium of animation to discuss important social issues.

Shilpa will be making a presentation of her work as well as several rare animation films at the festival.

Kireet Khurana and Vaibhav

Kireet has trained with his father Bhimsain, one of the pioneers of Indian animation. Kireet is an accomplished animator in his own right and has won several important awards for his films. He currently heads the 2NZ animation company.

Vaibhav is an animation graduate from NID and currently works as a senior animator at Famous Studios. He has done some exciting work for TV and Ad films.

Kireet and Vaibhav are both part of TASI (The Animation Society of India) which is a collective of dedicated animators. They will be showing their films and conducting a claymation workshop at the festival.

Vani Subramanian

Vani Subramanian and Surajit Sarkar make documentary films. Their films stand apart because of their interesting content matter and stylistic qualities. Their films have won several accolades. 'Padhoge-Likhoge...' a documentary on schooling, will be presented by Vani at the festival and she will also be conducting an interactive session with children.

Prashant

Prashant is a NID graduate and currently designs children's content for Canadian Television. He will be showing his work and conducting an illustration workshop with the children at the festival.

Who is performing at the amphitheatre?

There are performances by various groups and individuals working with children all through the festival. They are centred around the festival theme: living in harmony with one another and with nature. There are puppet shows, street plays, slide shows and book readings, going on throughout the day.

Amar Deshpande

Amar, formerly of NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute) and BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society), currently works with the Godrej Foundation on their Mangrove Conservation Project. At *bal vividha 2002*, Amar will give a slide show presentation on Wildlife of Mumbai, a live snake show and discussion on bio-diversity.

Anusree Bonnerjee and Sudipta Druva of SUAVE-INDIA (Education through and with the Arts)

Inspired by the work of the group called SUAVE (Education through and with the arts) based in the US, Sudipta, an education consultant, and Anusree, an industrial psychologist, professional dancer and choreographer started SUAVE-INDIA a couple of years ago. The focus of SUAVE-INDIA is to explore learning concepts through various art forms resulting in effective, interesting education and learning. So far, the duo has presented "The History of Mumbai" and "The Colours of South Africa". Rhyme and Rhythm- a Reason for Living will be the new presentation created for *bal vividha 2002*. This show aims to creatively expand on the topic of living in harmony with each other and nature, using the media of poetry, music and dance. The show will be followed by a fun filled interactive session with the audience.

Aparna Inamdar

Aparna is a microbiologist who started practising vermiculture out of her gardening requirements. But once she realised the strength of the technique, this developed into a passion. The slide show titled Vermicomposting will demonstrate how vermiculture can be used to carry out waste processing, and to give back to nature what we have been taking away from it for centuries. This will be



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followed by an interactive session where Aparna will talk about how children can become responsible for their own actions regarding waste.

Aseema

Established in 1995, Aseema believes that education is the right of every child. By education it means not only literacy, but the overall development of the child. Regular judo lessons conducted by Sensei Cava Billimoria is part of their effort to promote this development, as it influences the children in many positive ways. At the festival, these children will be presenting a judo demonstration.

Bombay Natural History Society

Founded in 1883, BNHS is India's largest non- governmental organisation engaged in nature conservation, education and research in natural history. It has members in over 25 countries. At the amphitheatre they will be having slide shows on various nature-related issues to promote environmental awareness. These will be followed by discussions with the audience.

Experimental Theatre Foundation

Founded by Manjul Bharadwaj, the Experimental Theatre Foundation explores innovative ideas of theatre as a medium of change through their performances and workshops. The group has gone through a journey from nukkads in remote villages and towns to the slums of metropolitan cities to well known performing venues and international arenas.

At *bal vividha 2002*, ETF presents "Jago Sonewalo", a street play written by Archana Mathur, dealing with the theme of *living in harmony with each other and with nature*.

Mobile Crèches

The organisation is involved in a number of creative activities to support children whose education is frequently interrupted by the mobility of their parents. At the amphitheatre, they will be doing puppet shows based on Panchatantra tales such as *balwaan se bada buddhimaan*, *murkh kaowa* and *chalaak gadha*, all of which





are centred around the theme of living in harmony with each other and with nature.

Nehru Planetarium

Jatin and Prabhu are part of the enthusiastic team from Nehru Planetarium, which, in its efforts to promote astronomy, regularly conducts shows on the night sky of Mumbai. At the amphitheatre they will have a slide show and discussion on our Solar System. The slide show will be most suitable for children between the ages of 10 to 15 years.

Richa Bahl

Richa has been working in the field of market research, and has also been using her expertise to conduct interactive sessions with children. Through her sessions she aims to help children explore questions that often get neglected in the regular school curricula, but are important nonetheless.

At her interactive session at the festival, Richa will conduct an interactive session for children helping them answer questions related to the theme of *living in harmony with each other and with nature*. This session will be most effective for children between 7 to 12 years of age.

Ruchi Gupta

A graduate of Psychology from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, Ruchi's desire to work with children in an alternative environment led her to train as a Montessori teacher after graduation. Ruchi is also trained in speech, drama and effective communication. Currently, she teaches three to six year olds at Activity Infant School, Mumbai.

Ruchi believes that her work has taught her to recognise that regardless of age, we have an innate ability to imagine the bizarre, and to believe the improbable. It is this belief that has led her to select stories like Sunder the Seahorse, Meena the Mynah and Bharati the Caterpillar and poems such as Parents' Sayings, Tommy and the Robin, and Balloons.

She will narrate these in English at the amphitheatre to create a fun session, especially for the 5 to 7 year age group.

Shili Sathyu

A teacher at the pre-primary level at New Era School, story-telling sessions for children are an everyday routine for Shili at school. The school gives special emphasis to fluency in one's mother tongue, giving Shili many opportunities to conduct such sessions in Hindi. She has also been actively involved in performing arts and designing for theatre, and has recently taken up creative writing for children. At the amphitheater, Shili will be conducting interactive story telling sessions with puppets in Hindi. This fun session will be most enjoyable for children between 3 to 7 years of age.





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What are the workshops about?

Over the years Comet Media Foundation has conducted training workshops for NGO workers in non-formal educational set-ups and schoolteachers looking for in-service training opportunities. Our experience in running the workshop series indicates that those in the teaching profession today are yearning to enhance their ability to communicate, and at the same time improve upon their own knowledge base. It is with this in mind that we have been doing these workshops which emphasise experiential learning.

The workshops can be broadly classed as theoretical-philosophical and skill-building types. The subjects range from creative expression skills such as calligraphy, puppetry, street play making and story telling to more issue-based topics like problems of adolescence, girl-child rights centred issues and sexuality. Other workshops related to media monitoring and advocacy skills have also been conducted. The choice of subjects has been based on a combination of public demand and our own capacities combined with the availability of appropriate resource persons.

All those involved in or influencing children's education, are seen as potentially benefiting from these workshops. Besides training educators, we have also held occasional workshops for street children and municipal school children at vacation times. We have also gone to other organisations, and done custom-designed workshops for their staff or students, such as the workshops specially created for Mobile Crèches, Balgram and Vatsalya.

The *bal vividha 2002* theme is *living in harmony with each other and with nature*. At a time when social, economic and political conflict is taking centre stage in our society it has become imperative to look at means to find harmony between people and for people to have a say on issues concerning the environment. The learning workshops in *bal vividha* will focus on topics like *Maintaining harmony in the midst of chaos*, *Cooperative learning: learning from and with each other*, and *Recognising prejudice and how we pass it on*. The details of the workshops are available in the companion booklet entitled *workshop series*.



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Profiles of the resource persons at the workshops

Aban Bana

One of the founders of Tridha, a school based on the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner, Aban believes that we need a more well-rounded educational system one that seeks to tutor not just the head, but the body and the heart as well. She is keen to dialogue and work with others to share the Tridha methodology.

Anahita Dastoor

Trained in speech, drama and effective communication, Anahita thinks that improving communication skills in the classroom makes learning more enjoyable for both teachers and students. She has held workshops with teachers, students and other learners for fifteen years.

Anand Pendarkar

A journalist and environmentalist, Anand writes on nature, travel and trekking in popular periodicals and websites to create awareness on environmental issues. He is the founder of SPROUTS, a group devoted to research, training, adventure-sports and education on the environment.

Aparna Inamdar

Aparna is a microbiologist who sees workshops on vermiculture as a way of making us become responsible for our own actions regarding the waste we generate. Beyond waste management and organic farming, she would like to use it as an attitude-building process, wherein we learn to give back to nature what we have been taking away for centuries.

Arati Luthra Pinto

After a master's degree in social work, Arati's work has focused on understanding how children learn in natural and organic ways. Pursuing this interest, she has worked with groups teaching thinking skills, creating material and processes in a range of subjects. In creative writing workshops, she has found that all students have much to express, and she wants to share ways of encouraging students to bring out their thoughts.





Ayesha Ganguly, Leslie Nazareth, Vinod Sreedhar and Zainab Bawa

The resource team belongs to Phase Five, an educational consulting group working on issues of human development by generating awareness and appropriate action. Its training programmes stimulate thought and explore new paradigms. The team have worked with issues of concern to young people for several years. Ayesha is working in the media and education sector to make young people aware of issues in society. Zainab has been involved with projects and issues of education, human rights, urban problems and development of independent thinking among young people. Vinod is a musician, photographer and writer exploring options of living ecologically. Leslie is an experienced ecological farmer who has worked as an administrator, technician, musician and a training facilitator with NGOs.

Charu Gargi and Punam Sawhney

Charu is a film maker and cameraperson with a wide-ranging experience as a media practitioner. She has also conducted a number of workshops and courses related to gender issues, sexual harassment, leadership training and communal issues. Punam has been a manager and trainer in the corporate and NGO sectors. At present she works with the Insaaniyat group, taking the concept of living with differences to Mumbai schools by training people to actively recognise biases, and to integrate the concept of dialogue into their daily lives.

Diamay D'Souza

Diamay supervises the pre-primary section at Udayachal School. Here students get developmental opportunities such as music, languages and physical activities, and teachers are encouraged to make learning meaningful and enjoyable. Diamay will be sharing activities and ideas developed by their team of teachers.

Dipalle Edwankar

Dipalle is an artist, architect and writer-poet and performer concerned with educational issues. Apart from her own creative activities, she regularly does workshops with children and adults in art education and creative communication.

Elizabeth Mehta

A teacher of many years' experience, Elizabeth is Consultant on research and development to the Aga Khan Educational Services, India. Her specialty is mobilising existing school structures for change, by making them responsive to the needs and hopes of students, teachers and the community.

Ferzeen Randelia

Ferzeen is a trained counselor and trainer dealing with various mental health and psycho-social issues related to children and adolescents. She is a consulting child psychologist at Bal Bhavan.

Jayashree Inbaraj and Subbalakshmi Kumar

Jayashree is a teacher-educator based at the Kapila Khandwala College of Education, currently coordinating the Indian activities of the Global-ITE project. An international initiative, the project trains pre-service teachers in Kenya, UK and India to carry out action research in development education. Their aim is to build positive attitudes towards a sustainable future in young children today. Subbalakshmi, an educational consultant from Pune, is the Project Manager, Global-ITE India.

Kishwar Nensey

Trained as a teacher of English as a second language, Kishwar is concerned with a wide spectrum of psycho-pedagogical questions. She has been teaching, counselling and holding workshops for teachers, members of school managements, social workers, parents and students with a view to encouraging creativity and critical awareness of performance.

Lee Krishnan

Lee Krishnan teaches at the Diamond Jubilee Boys' School, where she and her colleagues have brought out several publications of student writing on subjects originated by the children, awakening the interest of parents and the community in this activity. She is keen to spread the idea of peer coaching as she believes that children learn more willingly from each other than from teachers.





Manisha Rajput and Narmada Waghela

Manisha and Narmada are trainers at Sarjan, an organisation working with children of lower-income groups in Ahmedabad. Sarjan runs programmes in non-formal education using low cost materials, encouraging creative expression. Some of the activities generate income for the children, who are encouraged to save their earnings.

Manjul Bharadwaj

Manjul is a trained actor and an experienced director, writer and initiator in theatre. He sees himself as a process facilitator who enables participants to gain insights into their own behaviour, to discover creative ways of working for change and to channelise their energies in a meaningful direction through theatrical performance.

Niloufer Aga and Shubhangi Bapat

Niloufer Aga is a teacher with the Rewachand Bhojwani Academy in Pune, and Shubhangi Bapat is currently the school's Director of Administration. RBA is an integrated school with children from different linguistic and social backgrounds, as well as children with learning difficulties and physical challenges. The school practices a synthesis of different methods of teaching, emphasising trust and respect, so that individuals can risk making mistakes, learn to make choices, take decisions and confidently face the consequences of their decisions.

Oihika Chakrabarti

With a background in fine arts and art history, Oihika went on to train professionally in art psychotherapy. She has since built up a practice in this area, working as a consultant and trainer, in association with organisations such as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Wadia Children's Hospital and Kangaroo Kids.

Radhika Pandya

Radhika is a psychotherapist whose career began as a teacher in the JB Petit Girls' High School and Bombay International School. Wanting to develop the skills to deal with the emotional needs of children and difficult classroom dynamics emerging from conflict, she studied psychotherapy and trained in conflict resolution.

Radhike Khanna

Radhike is the Vice Principal of S.P.J. Sadhana School for the Mentally Challenged. She has a doctorate in Special Education, and is known for workshops on subjects like auditory integration, curriculum planning, counselling and art therapy, which emphasise experiential learning.

Rajiv Tambe

Rajiv Tambe is the Director of Top Consultancy, a support agency for teachers, organisations and parents. He has worked as a consultant with UNICEF and with various experimental schools.

Rajiv Vartak

Rajiv Vartak started the Institute of School Science Education with a view to using the classroom to instill the method of science in students, and to help them develop skills and cognitive abilities. He creates interest in science through exploration and discovery, relating it to daily life, so that it is comprehensible to children.

Rakhi Banerjee, Shweta Naik and Smita Patil

Rakhi, Shweta and Smita work at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education. At HBCSE, researchers focus on the development of school curriculum in science and maths, building resources for in-service teacher education, various aspects of science and maths education in the classroom, and the communication of science.

Ravindra Keskar

Ravindra Keskar is an electronics engineer teaching at the Xavier's Institute of Engineering. His passion is origami, and he calls himself a 'mathematics through origami' expert. Apart from holding workshops, he has authored several publications on the subject.

Shambhavi Joshi and Shalini Nair

Both resource persons are from the Institute of Environment Education and Research, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune. Shambhavi is an environment educator, working for several years to sensitise students and teachers to conservation issues.





Shalini is involved in holding capacity-building workshops for teachers in the Pune Municipal Corporation schools.

Sugra Chunawala

Sugra Chunawala is Reader at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education. Her work has focussed on social aspects of education, history of science and gender issues.

Swati Bedekar

An academic consultant to several schools in Baroda, Swati conducts field educational programmes and workshops on science experiments for teachers and children. From this experience, she has developed a number of interesting learning aids and kits, which will be on display at *bal vividha*.

Swati Popat

Swati is an educational advisor and consultant, running an organisation called TASHA. She conducts activities for teachers and students to bring about interactive teaching and learning, and to foster creativity in the classroom.

Vijaya Wad

Vijaya Wad is a well-known Marathi writer and poet. She is the Headmistress of the Raja Ramdeo Poddar Shala, Santa Cruz. She has received an encouraging response to her workshops connecting concern for the environment with creative self-expression activities.

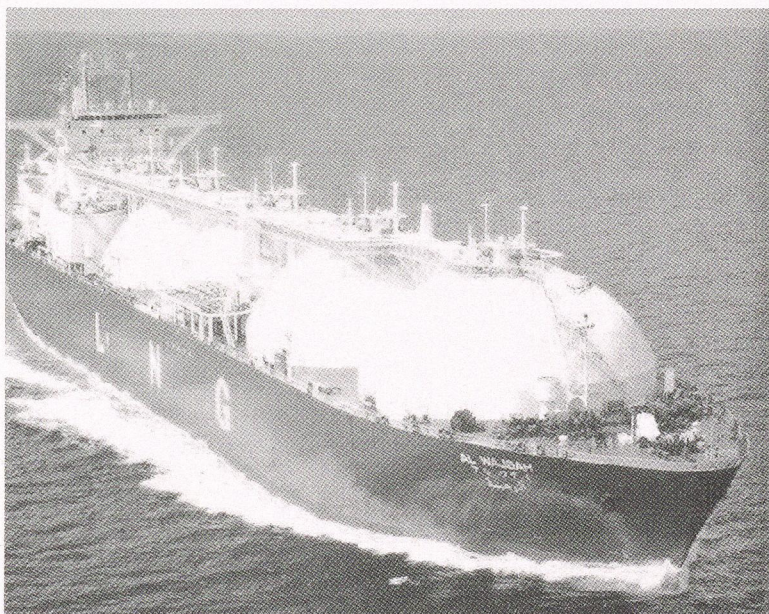


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bal vividha

bal vividha engages students, teachers and education professionals in questioning the ways that education is transacted, and in discovering methods and processes which make knowledge relevant to learners.

It is organised by Comet Media Foundation in collaboration with groups and individuals committed to alternative approaches to education.

Comet Media Foundation's activities are centred around:

creating knowledge, in the form of films, books and other learning materials and *distributing knowledge*, through resource festivals, a library, a book and toy counter and workshops for teachers.

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