

THE FACT CORNER

The US flag displays 13 stripes – for the original 13 states.



A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours.



DIAMONDS are the hardest substance known.



Giraffes have no vocal cords.



BRAIN TEASERS

1 Q. Which word does NOT belong with the others?

A. parsley    B. basil  
C. dill        D. mayonnaise

2 Q. Which word does NOT belong with the others?

A. tulip    B. rose  
C. bud      D. daisy

3 Q. Which word does NOT belong with the others?

A. guitar    B. flute  
C. violin     D. cello

4 Q. Which word does NOT belong with the

others?

A. heading    B. body  
C. letter      D. closing

5 Q. Which word does NOT belong with the others?

A. tape    B. twine  
C. cord    D. yarn

6 Q. Odometer is to mileage as compass is to

A. speed    B. hiking  
C. needle    D. direction

7 Q. Marathon is to race as hibernation is to

A. winter    B. bear  
C. dream    D. sleep

SOLUTION:  
1. Bud  
2. Bud  
3. Flute  
4. Letter  
5. Tape  
6. Direction  
7. Sleep

English Proverbs and Meanings

\* A friend's eye is a good mirror.  
A real friend will tell you the truth.

\* A good beginning makes a good end.

If a task is carefully planned, there's a better chance that it will be done well.

\* A leopard cannot change its spots.

It is not possible for a bad or unpleasant person to become good or pleasant.

\* A stumble may prevent a fall.  
Correcting a small mistake

may help you to avoid making a bigger one.

\* Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know.  
It's better to deal with some body difficult but familiar, than change and risk dealing with somebody worse.

\* Better untaught than ill-taught.  
It's better not to be taught at all than to be taught badly.

\* Blood will out.  
A person's background or education will eventually show.

Paneer Dosa



Ingredients:  
For Dosa  
Whole wheat flour – 1 ½ cup  
Salt – to taste  
Water – enough for making batter  
Filling  
Paneer – 1 cup, crumbled  
Onion – 1, medium sized  
Turmeric – A pinch

Red chilli powder – 1 tsp  
Green chilli – 1  
Salt – As needed  
Coriander leaves – 2 tbsp, chopped  
Oil – 2 tsp  
**How To Make:**  
In a deep kadai, heat oil and allow cumin seeds to splutter. Add onions and green chillies and fry until golden brown. Add spices and give a quick mix. Add crumbled paneer and coriander leaves and cook for 2 more minutes. Keep aside. Mix water with wheat flour and salt to make a batter of pouring consistency. Heat a griddle and brush a little oil. Pour ¼ cup of batter on the griddle kept on medium heat and spread out in concentric circles. Drizzle a few drop of oil and cook until the bottom portion turns golden. Flip over and cook for 2 more minutes. Once again, flip. Take about 1 tbsp of the filling and spread it on one side of the dosa. Fold dosa into half and press the edges. Serve hot with spicy mint coconut chutney.

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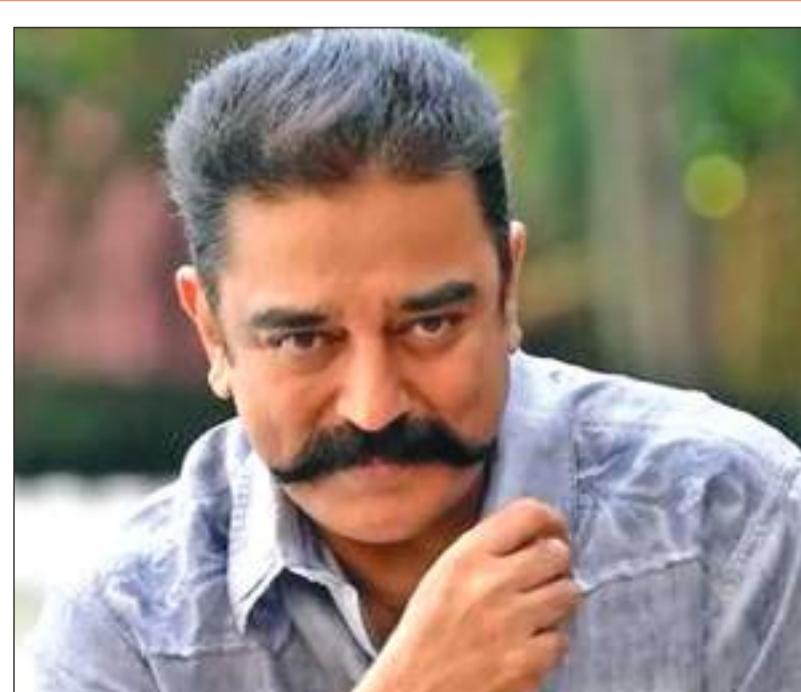
Whole Wheat Jaggery Crepe



Ingredients:  
Whole wheat flour – 1 ½ cups  
Jaggery – 1 cup  
Water – 2 ½ cups  
Cardamom powder -1 tsp  
Clarified butter – for cooking and serving

Almonds – 10,  
**Method**  
In a deep pan, melt jaggery in 1½ cups water on medium heat. Filter to discard impurities. In a large mixing bowl, place whole wheat flour. Add the melted jaggery to water. With a wire whisk, mix the ingredients thoroughly to form dosa batter without any lumps. Add more water, if required to get the batter consistency. Preheat a non-stick tawa on medium heat. Brush it with a little oil. Pour 1/8 cup of the batter onto the tawa on medium flame. Too much of heat will disallow the batter to be spread out into concentric circles. Spread out like dosa. Drizzle clarified butter and cook for 3 to 4 minutes on medium flame or until the bottom side turns golden brown. Flip the dosa, lower the flame and cook for 2 to 3 minutes more. Serve hot with ghee or butter, toasted almonds, and freshly sliced fruits.

Kamal Haasan, the master of masquerade



Kamal Haasan has donned many hats. From starting as an actor, he has acquired success in every field like singing, directing, producing and so on. His professional life has been a very interesting one with a number of awards in his kitty. Father of two beautiful daughters, Kamal Haasan is continuing his ardent journey with the same dedication and inclination that he did several years ago. He has never shunned back to try something new. This enthusiasm has made him what he is today a superstar who runs a production company, Rajkamal International.

Kamal Haasan was born in a middle class Tamil family in 1954. His native place is Paramakudi. His father, D.Srinivasan was a criminal lawyer, while his mother, Rajalakshmi, was a homemaker. Kamal started his schooling at his native place, but later moved to Chennai. His father supported Kamal Haasan's passion for films and theater.

He debuted as a child artist in a Tamil film, Kalathur Kannamma for which he was awarded the National Film Award for his outstanding performance. He never looked back since then. Destiny favoured him as he started getting lucrative offers from big banners with famous stars like Shivaji Ganesan. Soon audiences noticed his hard work. After taking a brief hiatus from films to continue his education, Kamal came back with a few budget films in 1972 where he did cameos for superstars. He soon ended this profile and finally moved to mainstream cinema as a Hero.

In 1974, he received the first Filmfare regional award for the movie, Malayalam film Kanyakumari. His movie, Apoorva Raagangala is a saga of age-gap relationships that is directed by K. Balachander. The ace director collaborated with Kamal Haasan and the duo then gave blockbusters like Avargala in 1977 for which he was awarded the first Tamil actor award.

He came in movies like Moondru Mudichua, with superstars Rajnikant and Sridevi. Kamal became a heartthrob in the late 70s. His was paired with Sridevi for the film Gurua in 1980. He made his 100th career film appearance with Raja Parvai, a 1981 film that marked his debut in film production.

His next role of an aggressive lover in Elk Duje Ke Liya was another successful film that was also his first hindu-language film. The movie was a remake of his previous Telugu-language film, K. Balachandara Maru Charithra. Kamal Haasan won the National award in Balu Mahendra's a Moondram Pirai for the best actor with his role of a schoolteacher who takes care of a mentally retarded girl.

Haasan continued coming in Hindi language films until 1985. The film Saagar

won him the Filmfare Best actor award and the best supporting actor award, making him the first actor to win two awards for a single film. He played as a man in love with a woman but unable to confess his love, loses her to his friend.

His recognized role in Mani Ratnam's film Nayagana, release in 1987 that gathered popularity. The movie is loosely based on the real-life of Bombay underworld don Varadarajan Mudaliar, and brings to light the struggle of South Indians living in Bombay. The film secured the Indian National Award for his performance where he was nominated as the Best Foreign Language Film for the Academy Awards in

1987. It was also included in the Time top 100 movies list. In 1987, Singeetam Srinivasa Rao, a silent, black comedy film Pushpak Vimana garnered highly positive reviews, and remained a box office hit for 35 weeks in Bengaluru. His next film, Apoorva Sagodharargal became Haasan's first attempt at playing a triple role. He played the role of a dwarf, making him the first Indian actor to attempt such a role.

His controversial film, Hey Rama, was centered on the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

Awards and Recognition

Kamal Haasan began his journey with tinsel town at a very young age. He was barely six when he received his first award for Kalathur Kannamma, which was for his debut film released in August 1959. The young Kamal plays the role of an innocent son who is forced to grow under the poor conditions of an orphanage. He received the President's Gold Medal award for his brilliant performance.

His career has been shining since then. He has done 200 films in 52 years that have been appreciated and recognized by people. His magnificent performances have won him recognitions and awards. He discovered his love for scriptwriting when he wrote a story at the age of 18 for Unarehigala in 1976. The film was a huge success that inspired Kamal to continue writing for films. In 1983, he was awarded the Best actor award for the movie Moondram Pirai.

His love for theatre can be reflected in his most loved film, Pushpak Vimaanam, released in 1987. The silent movie displays a romantic saga of a struggling and a magician's daughter. Although the movie was a black comedy, it was a huge hit with people.

Later, in 1988, he received the best actor award for his movie Nayagana and for Indians in 1997. He also received the Best Producer award for the movie Thevar Magana released in 1992. His comic side was displayed in 1997 with his movie, Chachi 420, a Hindi re-make of Mrs. Doubtfire. He got the award for the best actor in a comic role.

Other awards that followed were best actor award for Saagara, released in 1985. He got the best storywriter award for the movie, Virasata, released in 1997. Kamal Haasan was recognized at the International level as well, where he was awarded the Best Director award in focus award for the film a Virumaandia in 2004. His movie, Hey Rama was awarded the International Film Festival Rotterdam Director in Focus award in 2000.