

THE FACT CORNER



English is **NOT** the official language of the United States. There is no official language for the United States



50% of humans stop **growing** in height when they reach 16 years of age



Dark Chocolate is surprisingly **good** for your teeth. It can help fight against bacteria in the mouth and stop dental decay



You can't dream of **strangers**. The people you see, but don't know, are of people you have **seen** at some point in your life

BRAIN TEASERS

1 Q. Three coins are tossed in the air and two of the coins land with heads face upwards. What are the chances on the next toss of the coins that at least two of the coins will land with heads face upwards again?

2 Q. Add three consecutive letters of the alphabet to the group of letters below, without splitting the consecutive letters of the alphabet, to form another word.

GERE

3 Q. In a right-angled triangle what is the length of the hypotenuse if the two shortest sides are 10 and 24 cm respectively?

6. 40 days.  
5. 40 minutes.  
4. 115.  
3. 26  
2. GESTURE.  
1. 50 percent

4 Q. In eight years time the combined age of me and my two sons will be 124. What will it be in five years time?

5 Q. In a game of eight players lasting for 70 minutes, six substitutes alternate with each player. This means that all players, including the substitutes, are on the pitch for the same length of time. For how long?

6 Q. If five men can build a house in 16 days, how long will it take just two men to build the same house, assuming all men work at the same rate?

English Proverbs and Meanings

\* You are never too old to learn. You can always learn something new, no matter how old you are.

\* You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink. You can offer somebody an opportunity to do something but you can't force them to do it.

\* You can't teach an old dog new tricks. A person who is used to doing things a certain way cannot change.

\* Young idler, an old beggar. If you don't work, you won't

have any money when you're old.

\* What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over. If a person doesn't know about something, it cannot hurt them.

\* Who makes himself a sheep will be eaten by the wolves. Possible interpretation: an easily influenced person can be misled.

\* Two wrongs don't make a right. It is wrong to harm someone because they have harmed you.

Roasted Baby Potatoes



**Ingredients:**  
400 gm small potatoes with skins  
1 teaspoon thyme  
4 cloves garlic

salt as required  
1 teaspoon rosemary  
1 1/2 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil  
1 handful parsley  
1 teaspoon black pepper  
**Method**  
To begin with this easy recipe, just wash the potatoes and pat dry them. Do not peel the skin.  
Next, preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius. In the meantime, take a baking tray and grease it with a little oil.  
Place it inside the oven so that it gets piping hot. Take large bowl and add the baby potatoes, olive oil, chopped garlic, thyme and rosemary along with salt and black pepper.  
Mix well all the ingredients.  
When the tray becomes hot, take it out of the oven using mittens and arrange the seasoned potatoes.  
You can sprinkle some parsley and keep some for garnishing. Roast the potatoes to perfection.  
Roast the seasoned baby potatoes in the oven for 20 minutes until they become golden and crispy. Garnish with fresh parsley.

J  
U  
N  
I  
O  
R  
C  
H  
E

Ginger Halwa



**Ingredients:**  
1/2 kilograms ginger  
1/2 cup almonds  
20 raisins  
1/4 cup walnuts  
1 cup jaggery  
1/2 cup cashews  
2 tablespoon ghee  
**Method**

Pel and ginger, chop into pieces and wash them properly. Add them to a blender and blender to form a coarse paste. Add cashews, walnuts and almonds to a grinder. Grind to form a coarse mixture. Remember, that you don't have to make a powder. Just roughly crush to break them into small pieces. Heat ghee in a pan. Add ginger mixture and mix well. Keep stirring and saute for about 15 minutes.

Now add jaggery and mix well. Let it melt completely and now add crushed nuts along with raisins. Cook this mixture for 5-6 minutes more, or until it attains a thick consistency like a halwa.

Once cooked, divide the halwa into serving bowls, garnish with nuts of your choice and serve. You can also add 1/4 cup mawa to make the halwa richer.

Group Captain Varun Singh, the decorated pilot who saved an LCA Tejas

The Indian Airforce has announced the death of the lone survivor of the recent Coonoor chopper crash, Group Captain Varun Singh after succumbing to injuries caused to him. CDS Bipin Rawat along with his wife Madhulika Rawat had also lost their lives along with 11 other crew members in the fatal, unfortunate crash. Captain Varun Singh gave a tough fight against death but finally gave in and lost his life today at the hospital in Bengaluru. Check Captain Varun Singh's biography including his career, family, age etc below.

IAF has stated, "IAF is deeply saddened to inform the passing away of braveheart Group Captain Varun Singh, who succumbed this morning to the injuries sustained in the helicopter accident on 08 Dec 21. IAF offers sincere condolences and stands firmly with the bereaved family."

Group Captain Varun Singh was born to a family of soldiers. He hailed from Uttar Pradesh's Deoria district and his father K.P Singh has retired as a Colonel from the Indian Army regiment of Air Defence. Varun was always inspired by his father.

His mother's name is Uma Singh. His brother is Lieutenant Commander Tanuj Singh who serves the Indian Navy now. Varun Singh's age was between 40-45 years at the time of his death.

Group Captain Varun Singh qualified for National Defence Academy (NDA) after 12th standard and passed out as Officer Cadet from there. He had less interest in extracurricular activities and till then lacked confidence in himself and his true capabilities. He said, "I lacked confidence as I always thought I was meant to be average and there is no point trying to excel, as I possibly couldn't excel at anything."

His career flourished once he became the Flight Lieutenant and also became a flying instructor. He completed an eleven-month course after that of Experimental Test Pilot.

Group Captain Varun Singh's wife's name is Geetanjali Singh and he is survived by his two kids. He has a son and a daughter. He has been married for 10 years. The details of his son and his daughter's age are unknown as of now.

Group Captain Varun Singh's life has been an inspirational journey, from being a mediocre student in the school to a Shaurya Chakra Awardee. Take a look below to know more about him and his appeal against the pressures created by the current education system of the country.

Captain Varun Singh's letter: Life in his own words



Group Captain Varun Singh, in his letter to the Principal of his school, wrote, "It is ok to be mediocre. Not everyone will excel at school and not everyone will be able to score in the 90s... If you don't, do not think that you are meant to be mediocre. You may be mediocre in school but it is by no means a measure of things to come in life."

Varun Singh wrote this letter to his principal after he won the Shaurya Chakra and

wanted to thank his teachers for making him the person he was then. He is an alumnus of the Army Public School, Chandimandir Cantonment, Haryana.

**An underconfident, mediocre past:**

As Varun Singh has written about himself, he was not among the brightest students of his school and could barely score 1st division in Class 12th exams. He was not that bright in sports or co-curricular activities either. However, his passion for aeroplanes and aviation had no bounds. He was also among the first 12 candidates for ISRO's Gaganyaan programme in 2019 but his medical conditions ruled him out.

He went to National Defense Academy (NDA) and passed out as an Officer Cadet. He had no interest or excellence in extracurricular activities or sports to make the cut to be an appointment in NDA, he wrote. He lacked confidence in his true capabilities, even after reaching AFA and rising over his peers. He wrote something which many people would second with, "I lacked confidence as I always thought I was meant to be average and there is no point trying to excel, as I possibly couldn't excel at anything."

Many studies have shown that the students, if not provided with positive motivation, tend to lose confidence which gives them hopelessness in not just their career but every sphere of life. Group Captain Varun Singh, however, realised that he could do well as a Flight Lieutenant in case he put his mind and heart into it. Many mediocre students lose hope till they reach this level. They just wish to achieve the "pass" standard which was surpassed by Varun Singh. Varun, in his letter, tells how he started to do each task to the best of his abilities and soon got selected for a challenging flying instructors course bagging two out of five trophies.

Then there was no looking back. He completed the 11-month course of Experimental Test Pilot and was later selected to go to Staff College abroad. He was posted to a Tejas Aircraft Squadron.

**Winning Shaurya Chakra:**

While Group Captain Varun Singh was posted to a Tejas Aircraft Squadron, he faced a critical situation that required him to eject and abandon the aircraft. He, however, chose to stay, took a few risks, and managed to land it without any injuries to himself or citizens, causing no damage to the aircraft. This was the reason he was awarded the Shaurya Chakra in the year 2020.