

Celebrating 15 years of e-FloraofIndia



■ DR. GURCHARAN SINGH

eFloraofIndia one of the biggest non-commercial websites, one of its kind in the world & also without advertisements, is celebrating its 15th Anniversary in June this year. It is based on the collection of photographic images of plants, where no money or professional organisation is involved except for the selfless efforts of its members (and experts from all over the world) from diverse backgrounds. The group Indiantreepix was started by Shri Jag Mohan Garg in 2007 (a Bird watcher and Amateur photographer) inspired by book "A Monk who Sold his Ferrari". The group was initially devoted to identification of trees, but later expanded to include all sorts

of plants and renamed Efloraofindia. The E-mail group with more than 3300 members, a mix of Hard-Core taxonomists and non-botanist nature lovers, discuss pictures contributed by different members and results are finally published on the website.

The group has collection of more than 4,00,000 images of more than 14,000 species (mostly from India). This is significant in light of the fact that around 18,000 species of plants are reported from India. The results are displayed on the website <https://efloraofindia.com/>. More than 3,00,000 images have already been displayed at 'species' pages along with displaying these at genera & family pages for comparative pur-



poses for easy identification. For members of the group, it is not a project for few years, rather a continuous lifetime activity. Some of the members have dedicated their whole life for its building and improvement in different areas like photography, etymology, compiling names in local languages, coordination, supplying keys for easy identification and site building. What will amaze everyone that not a single penny has been collected from anybody in last 15 years, in building the biggest Citizen Science effort, and not a single meeting offline or online was ever held.

The members of the group have received recognition in various forms. The members who have contributed significant-

ly are designated as 'Moderators', and help in taking important decisions. The Members of long-standing, committed and hard-working persons with high-level expertise are designated as 'Pillars'. They are persons who have played critical roles in growth of the group. There is also a strong group of Subject/Area experts who have been providing expert advice and help in critical identifications. Three members to date have been especially recognised after rigorous discussions among moderators. The first one to get title of 'Pitamah of Efloraofindia' in 2014 is Dr. Gurcharan Singh, who has contributed mainly from Jammu & Kashmir and played major role in guiding the growth of the group. Shri Saroj Kasaju, who joined group in 2016, and contributed in a big way from Eastern Himalayas, mainly Nepal was chosen for the title 'Ajey' of Efloraofindia in February 2021. Shri Dinesh Valke who has been with Efloraofindia right from beginning and has impressed one and all through his excellent photography skills and specialises in compiling local Indian Names of Plants in Native Script, was chosen for the title of 'Saarthi' of Efloraofindia in February 2022. One or two may get added during 15th Anniversary celebrations. Shri Garg, although not basically a botanist has always led the group from the front, may soon be crossing 1 lakh posts, has acquired high level of proficiency in identifying plants and has been correcting many old identifications in recent months. In spite of all efforts by moderators he has resisted any title for himself, and perhaps he is beyond any formal title. Thanks Garg ji. The whole Efloraofindia community and whole botanical fraternity and plant lovers would remain indebted to you for years to come.

(The writer is Retired Associate Professor at SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi.)

THE FACT CORNER



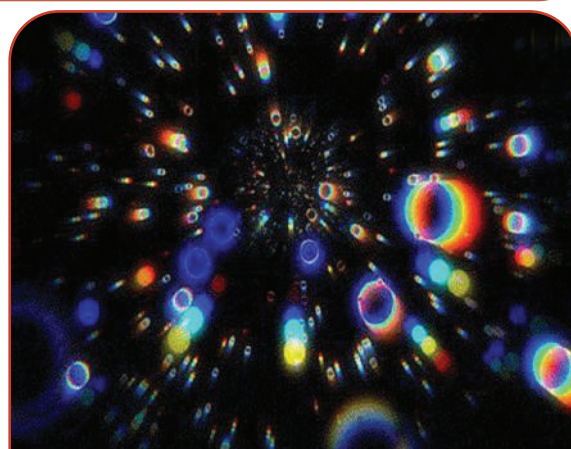
The **Roman – Persian** wars are the longest in history, lasting over 680 years. They began in 54 BC and ended in 628 AD



The **Bagheera kiplingi** spider was discovered in the 1800s and is the only species of spider that has been classified as **vegetarian**



The tongue is the only **muscle** in one's body that is attached from **one end**



The flashes of colored light you see when you rub your eyes are called **phosphores**

BRAIN TEASERS

1 Q. Divide 30 by ½ and add 10. What's the answer?

2 Q. A clerk at the butcher shop is six feet tall and wears size 10 shoes. What does he weigh?

3 Q. A farmer has 19 sheep on his land. One day, a big storm hits and all but seven run away. How many sheep does the farmer have left?

4 Q. Your sock drawer only contains 18 white socks and 18 blue socks. How many times do you need to reach inside the drawer and take out a sock to guarantee a matching pair?

pair?

5 Q. You planted sunflower seeds in your back garden. Every day, the number of flowers doubles. If it takes 52 days for the flowers to fill the garden, how many days would it take for them to fill half the garden?

6 Q. Using only addition, how can you use eight eights to get the number 1,000?

7 Q. When Ashley was 15, her mother was 37. Now, her mother is twice her age. How old is Ashley?

SOLUTION:
1. It's 70.
2. Meat.
3. Seven.
4. Three times.
5. It would take 51 days.
6. 888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8
7. Ashley is 22. Her mother is 22 years older, so when Ashley is 22, she's now half her mother's age.

English Proverbs and Meanings

* **Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.**

It's better to be the leader of a small group than a subordinate in a bigger one.

* **Better flatter a fool than fight him.**

It's better to avoid disputes with stupid people.

* **Better lose the saddle than the horse.**

It's better to stop and accept a small loss, rather than continue and risk losing everything.

* **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.

* **He who plays with fire gets burnt.**

If you behave in a risky way, you are likely to have problems.

* **One today is worth two tomorrow.**

What you have today is better than what is promised for.

Garlic Cheese Corn Roll



Ingredients:

5 boiled, mashed potato
1 cup corn, 5 green chilli
1 tablespoon sesame seed
1 tablespoon red chilli powder
salt as required
1/2 tablespoon garlic paste, 2 cup cheese cubes
1/2 tablespoon ginger paste
2 tablespoon coriander leaves
1 tablespoon fennel seeds, 5 tablespoon bread crumbs
1 1/2 cup refined oil

Method:

Make a dough of potatoes with bread crumbs, add salt and red chilli powder mix well and bind it properly. Now, take grated cheese and corn and mix it all with other ingredients. Make balls from the dough and press it with thumb for enough space for filling.

Now, stuff cheese corn filling in the gap created by the thumb and lock it properly so that it does not break while frying. Give any shape to the ball of your choice.

Put a pan over medium flame and heat some oil in it. When the oil is hot enough, deep fry the potato balls till they become golden brown. Serve hot with cheese dip.

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Soyabean, Pea and Oat Kebabs



Ingredients:

2 cup boiled, soaked overnight soybean
1/2 cup ground oats
3 cloves garlic
salt as required
3/4 cup boiled peas
1 chopped onion
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper

How to Proceed:

To prepare this easy kebab recipe, add boiled soybean, boiled peas, oats, onion, garlic in a grinding jar and grind them together to make a mixture. Add salt and cayenne pepper to this mixture and transfer to a bowl.

Now, use this mixture to make long kebabs. You can also use a stick to give these kebabs proper shape. Meanwhile, preheat the oven at 180 degrees Celsius.

Cook these kebabs in the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes and bake them till they are brown. If you have an electric tandoor, then these kebabs will come out better.

When these kebabs are made, insert bamboo skewers in them. Meanwhile, cut an avocado roughly and wash mint and spinach leaves. Grind them together to make the nutritious dip.