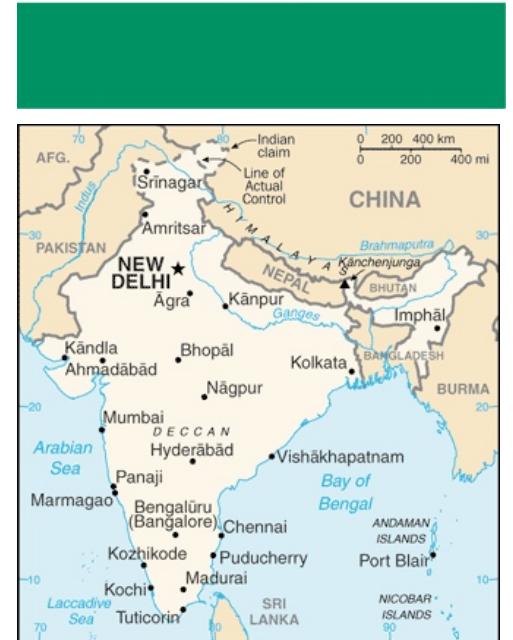


India

- The capital city of India is New Delhi.
- Most of the people in India practice the religion of Hinduism. Less than 3% are Christians.
- India has 16 official languages but most people speak Hindi.
- India is in southern Asia, bordering the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, between Burma (Myanmar) and Pakistan.
- Many people in India believe the Ganges River has the power to heal the sick. Millions of people live along its banks and bathe in it.
- One out of every five people in the world lives in India!
- The famous Taj Mahal is in Agra, India. The Taj Mahal is a mausoleum that an emperor built to bury his dead wife in 1631. It is one of the most costly tombs in the world and draws millions of tourists each year.
- Cows are sacred to Hindus. Decorated with jasmine and little bells, they freely wander the streets in India.
- Yoga originated in India about 5,000 years ago.
- Some Hindu women wear a Bindi or red dot on their foreheads to show that they are married. Young, unmarried women might also wear a bindi of any color. A widow sometimes wears a black bindi.



Story: Alone and Addicted

Abhay is twelve years old. He left his family nearly a year ago. His father drank too much alcohol and often beat him. In Jaipur, India, it is common for young boys and girls who live on the streets to be rag-pickers, so that is what Abhay does. He sifts through garbage in order to collect things he can sell to recyclers for money. He competes with other rag-pickers, pigs, and dogs as he searches through trash heaps on his hands and knees.



But that's only part of Abhay's story. He is addicted to glue, which he calls "dendrite." At the end of the day, he and his friends take the little money they were able to make, and buy the glue from a local hardware store. They sniff the glue from plastic bags so they will not feel cold or hungry. They know it can make them very sick, but for awhile it makes them fearless and hunger-free.

It is estimated that there are 18 million children living on the streets of India. Many of them are addicted to dendrite, just like

Story cont ..

Abhay and his friends. They work for low wages on India's streets as porters, mechanics, street tailors, rag pickers, or food, tea, or handicraft vendors.

Life on the streets is dangerous. Children are not aware of their rights and are often abused and mistreated. Even the police treat them as criminals.



Recipe: Kheer

2 cups coconut milk
2 cups regular milk
3 tablespoons white sugar
1/2 cup Basmati rice
1/4 cup raisins
1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/2 teaspoon rose water (optional)
1/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted
1/4 cup chopped pistachio nuts

Bring coconut milk, milk, and sugar to a boil in a large saucepan. Add Basmati rice. Simmer over low heat until the mixture thickens and the rice is tender, about 20 minutes.

Stir in the raisins, cardamom, and rose water, and cook for a few more minutes. Ladle into serving dishes, and garnish with almonds and pistachios.

Activity: Gulam Chor

Gulam Chor is an easy card game. The word Gulam means Jack, and the word Chor means thief. Kids play with one regular deck of cards, but one of the Jacks is removed before play begins. Next, the cards are dealt face down, one at a time, to all players. The players pick up their cards, pick out any pairs they have, and place them facedown on the table. When all the players have placed their pairs facedown on the table, play begins. The player to the left of the dealer holds his cards in the shape of a fan, and lets the player to his left pick one. This player checks to see if the card he selected can be paired up with any in his hand.



If it can, the pair is placed facedown on the table with the other pairs. The player who just chose a card now fans out his cards and lets the player to his left pick one, and if that player can pair up the card with one he is holding, the pair is placed facedown on the table. The players continue around the circle until all cards have been paired and discarded. At the end of the game, the player holding the Jack card is the Jack Thief and has lost the game.