Pics: Istock

BORN STORYTELLER

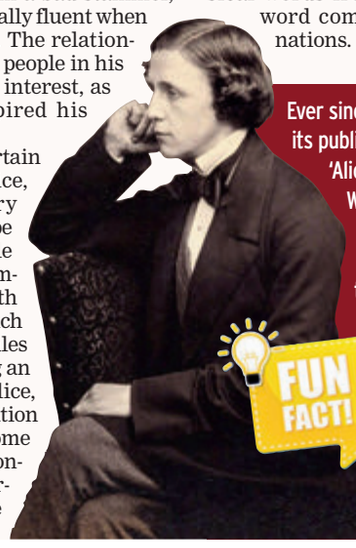
LEWIS CARROLL
BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 27, 1832

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known by his pen name Lewis Carroll, was an English author, poet, and mathematician. His most notable works are 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and its sequel 'Through the Looking-Glass'. He was noted for his word play, logic, and fantasy.

Carroll suffered from a bad stammer, but he found himself vocally fluent when speaking with children. The relationships he had with young people in his adult years are of great interest, as they undoubtedly inspired his best-known writings.

Carroll loved to entertain children, and it was Alice, the daughter of Henry George Liddell, who can be credited with his pinnacle inspiration. Alice remembers spending hours with Carroll, sitting on his couch while he told fantastic tales of dream worlds. During an afternoon picnic with Alice, Carroll told the first iteration of what would later become 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. Many of Carroll's philosophies were based on games. He primarily wrote comic fantasies and humorous verse that was often very childlike. Both his novels were considered children's novels that were satirical in nature and in exemplification of Carroll's wit. Also famous is Carroll's poem "Jabberwocky," in which he created nonsensical words from word combinations.

Besides writing, Carroll created several fine photographs. His notable portraits include those of the actress Ellen Terry and the poet Alfred Tennyson.



Ever since its publication in 1865, 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' has never been out of print. The book has been translated into more than 170 languages and adapted, both strictly and loosely, into cartoons, movies, plays, immersive theatre, and even burlesque. Even 'The Matrix' uses the rabbit-hole analogy.

FUN FACT!

LONGEST SERVING PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 30, 1882

Franklin D. Roosevelt served for 12 years as the 32nd president of the United States. He was elected four times beginning in 1932. Roosevelt led the country through two of the greatest crises of the 20th century: the Great Depression and World War II.

POLITICAL CAREER

In 1910 Roosevelt was elected as a Democrat to the New York Senate. In 1912 President Woodrow Wilson made Roosevelt assistant secretary of the Navy. During World War I (1914–18) Roosevelt helped lead the Navy to victory over German sea forces. In 1920 Roosevelt ran for vice president, but the Democrats lost the election.

In 1921 Roosevelt caught poliomyelitis, a disease that paralyzed him from the waist down. In later years he could walk a little using a cane and leg braces, but he usually used a wheelchair.

PRESIDENCY

By the time Roosevelt was sworn in as president in March 1933, about 13 million people were unemployed in the United States. Roosevelt began his New Deal programmes by making sure banks did not go out of business and by creating work for the jobless. In 1935 he asked Congress to pass the Social Security Act, which provided money to people who were unemployed, disabled, or elderly.

On December 7, 1941, Japan bombed US military bases in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The surprise attack brought the US into the war. Roosevelt worked with Winston Churchill to plan the war effort. Later, Soviet leader Stalin joined them. Roosevelt and other world leaders also began planning the United Nations, a new international organization to maintain world peace. failing health, Roosevelt won election to a fourth term in 1944.

In college, Roosevelt was average academically, but very active socially. He was editor of the college newspaper, graduated in three years, and later passed his bar exam without finishing his law degree.

FUN FACT!

A REAL SUCCESS STORY

OPRAH WINFREY
BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 29, 1954

She's bold, beautiful and a TV mogul. Oprah Winfrey's story is inspiring and at the same time heart-wrenching! This award-winning talk show host is known for her philanthropy. But while most of us associate her with 'The Oprah Winfrey Show', how well do we know her? Read on to find out some lesser known and interesting facts about this American media proprietor, actress and producer.

- Before she became a media mogul and the queen of daytime TV, Winfrey suffered a tumultuous childhood.
- She was shuffled between family members, spending her first few years on her grandmother's farm in rural Mississippi while her unwed teenage mom looked for work.
- When her grandmother fell ill, 6-year-old Winfrey was sent to live with her mother in a Milwaukee boarding house, where she grew up around extreme poverty.
- She was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in the 1985 drama 'The Colour Purple.'
- According to forbes.com, Oprah remains the only black female billionaire in the world and her estimated real time net worth is $3 billion as of December 2014. She also becomes the first woman in history to own and produce her own talk show.
- She was hugely responsible for the Oprah Bill in 1993 that was signed by then President Bill Clinton which aimed at preventing child abuse.
- Oprah is said to have kept a journal recording her everyday life since the age of 15. She created history of sorts when she became the first African American woman to own a cable network called OWN, that stands for Oprah Winfrey Network
- She was influential through her support to Barack Obama who went on to become the first black US president. She was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013 by President Barack Obama.
- Due to her increasing influence and popularity, 'The Wall Street Journal' coined the term "Oprahfication", meaning public confession as a form of therapy.
- She was very good friends with American author, poet, dancer, actress and singer Maya Angelou whom she called the rainbow in her clouds.
- Oprah Winfrey has been scrutinised for her weight publicly over the years. From being shamed in the tabloids for being overweight to becoming a subject of online trolling, the 69-year-old media mogul has now shed a significant amount of weight, shutting the mouth of all social media trolls the right way.

> Lots of people want to ride with you in the Limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the Limo breaks down

MOZART THE MAVERICK

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART
BIRTHDAY: JANUARY 27, 1956

Johannes Chrystostomus Wolfgangus Theophilus Mozart (1756–1791) was arguably the most gifted musician in the history of classical music. His inspiration is often described as 'divine', but he worked assiduously, not only to become the great composer he was, but also a conductor, virtuoso pianist, organist, and violinist. Mozart's music embraces opera, symphony, concerto, chamber, choral, instrumental, and vocal music, revealing an astonishing number of imperishable masterpieces.

Little Wolfgang started to pick out notes on the piano at the age of three, learned the organ and the violin at four and began composing music at five. He had astonishingly precocious gifts for sight-reading and improvisation. So brilliant were his performances that critics and rivals started a whispering campaign that the thing was somehow a fake.

Post-marriage, some of Mozart's best started to appear -the Haffner and Linz symphonies and five string quartets, for example. Between 1784 and 1786, he composed nine piano concertos and three of these concurrently with The Marriage of Figaro.

The year 1787 saw the premiere of Mozart's second opera, Don Giovanni. Mozart had a great run of successes in his final years - Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and the Clarinet Quintet in A, three of his 41 symphonies: Cosí fan Tutte, three piano trios, the Coronation piano concerto, two piano sonatas and three string quartets.

His health began to fail, and his work rate slowed in 1790. He got better, though, and in 1791 alone composed the most famous The Magic Flute, the Requiem (unfinished), and the Clarinet Concerto. Mozart did not live long enough to complete his Requiem. He died in Vienna, in 1791, before his 36th birthday.

HE WAS MULTILINGUAL

Being a composer of Austrian origin, he effortlessly spoke German but among the languages he was more proficient in, he possessed a decent fluency in Italian, English, and French. He had a fair grasp of Spanish, Russian, Latin, Dutch, Czech, Polish, and Turkish.

HE HAD PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

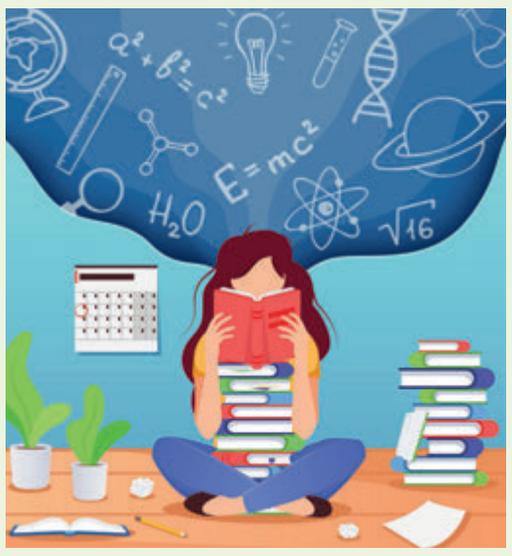
While this never received definite confirmation, most people speculated that Mozart had an eidetic (or photographic) memory for music. This rumour began after he showcased his ability to listen to a full-length classical piece one time before writing down its musical composition exactly. Mozart wasn't using his eyes to memorise an already written piece of sheet music, but rather his ears to listen to an arrangement of it. There's no explanation for why he possessed this gift.

FUN FACT!

TELL ME

WHY

ARE MATHEMATICIANS OBSESSED WITH PRIME NUMBERS?



In the enchanting world of mathematics, there exists a category of numbers that has captured the imagination of mathematicians for centuries - prime numbers. A prime number is a natural number greater than 1 that has no positive divisors other than 1 and itself. In simpler terms, a prime number can only be divided by 1 and itself without leaving a remainder. Examples include 2, 3, 5, 7, and 11.

THE FUNDAMENTAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF MATHEMATICS

Prime numbers are often referred to as the "building blocks" of mathematics. Why? Because they are the basic, indivisible components from which all other positive integers are formed.

THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF PRIMES

One of the most captivating aspects of prime numbers is their apparent randomness and unpredictability. Despite their simple definition, prime numbers don't follow a regular pattern as they occur. Mathematicians have tirelessly searched for a formula or pattern that can predict prime numbers, but so far, none has been found.

PRIME NUMBERS IN NATURE

Interestingly, prime numbers also appear in unexpected places in the natural world. For instance, the spirals of pinecones and sunflower seeds often follow Fibonacci sequences, which are related to prime numbers. This mysterious connection between primes and natural patterns adds another layer of fascination.

WHEN

did stock markets originate?

The origins of stock markets trace back to the 17th century in Europe. It began in trading hubs like Amsterdam and London. During this time, powerful trading companies, such as the Dutch East India Company, were embarking on lucrative but risky journeys to distant lands. To finance these expeditions, they devised an ingenious way of raising capital — they offered shares of their ventures to the public.

These shares represented not just a piece of the company but also a share in the potential profits (or losses) that could result from these daring adventures. This pioneering concept of trading shares laid the foundation for what we now know as stock markets, where people buy and sell ownership in companies.

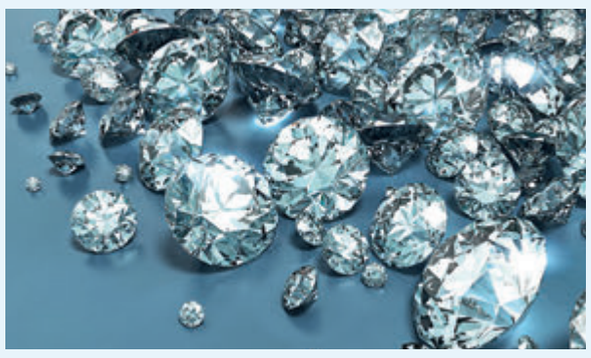
The history of stock markets in India began with the establishment of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in 1875 when the East India Company began trading in government securities. Gradually, it evolved into one of Asia's oldest and most prominent stock exchanges. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) was founded in 1992, revolutionizing Indian stock trading with electronic systems stock, making trading more accessible and efficient for investors across the country. Currently present, the BSE and NSE have more than 5,400 and 1,700 registered companies. To understand how well the exchanges are performing, indicators like SENSEX and

HOW STOCKS WORK?

Stocks are shares of ownership in a company, and they can be classified into various types, including common and preferred stocks. To illustrate stocks better, let us consider a simple example. Imagine you want to start a new business with a friend. You both invest equal amounts of money, resulting in a 50-50 partnership. In this situation, you have essentially given your friend 50% ownership in the company, meaning they're entitled to 50% of the profits and responsible for 50% of any losses.

WHAT

MAKES DIAMONDS SO VALUABLE AND EXPENSIVE?



Diamonds are one of the most valuable and coveted gemstones in the world. They are prized for their beauty, rarity, and durability.

DURABILITY

Diamonds are the hardest substance on Earth. They have a hardness rating of 10 on the Mohs scale, which is a measure of a mineral's ability to resist scratches and abrasions. This makes diamonds extremely durable and resistant to wear and tear. In fact, they are so tough that they can only be scratched by other diamonds.

RARITY

While diamonds are not particularly rare in the grand scheme of things, high-quality diamonds that are suitable for use in jewellery are quite rare. This is because diamonds that are formed deep within the Earth are often flawed.

THE FOUR CS

The value of a diamond is determined by the Four Cs: cut, clarity, carat weight, and colour.

■ **Cut:** The cut of a diamond refers to its shape and the quality of the cutting. A well-cut diamond will reflect light in a way that maximizes its brilliance and sparkle.

■ **Clarity:** The clarity of a diamond refers to the number and severity of flaws, or inclusions, in the stone. A diamond with fewer inclusions is more valuable.

■ **Carat weight:** The carat weight of a diamond refers to its size, with one carat equalling 0.2 grams. The larger the diamond, the more valuable it is.

■ **Colour:** The colour of a diamond is graded on a scale from D to Z, with D being the most colourless and therefore the most valuable. Coloured diamonds, such as pink or blue diamonds, are also highly valued.

Diamonds are crystals made up of pure carbon atoms that have been subjected to intense heat and pressure deep within the Earth's mantle. They are formed over millions of years and are brought to the surface through volcanic eruptions

WHY

are proteins called 'building blocks' of the body?

Proteins are often referred to as the "building blocks" of the body due to their vital role in constructing and maintaining the structures that make up our bodies. They are involved in tissue formation, growth, repair, and various important functions necessary for our overall well-being.

Construction Crew: Proteins Building the Body's Structures Proteins serve as the fundamental materials for constructing and maintaining the different parts of our body.

Tissue Builders: Proteins play a crucial role in building tissues, organs, and other important components that form the structural foundation of our body. For example: Collagen, a structural protein, provides strength and elasticity to our skin, tendons, and ligaments, keeping them flexible and resilient.

Growth Partners: Proteins are essential for the growth and development of our body from infancy to adulthood, ensuring proper size and strength. For example: Actin and myosin proteins are responsible for the growth and strengthening of muscles as we engage in physical activities and exercise.

Repair Brigade: Proteins are actively involved in the repair and regeneration of damaged tissues, aiding in the body's healing process.

Wound Healing Warriors: Proteins play a role in wound healing, promoting the closure of wounds and the formation of new tissue. For example: Fibronectin, a protein involved in wound healing, helps in the migration and attachment of cells during tissue repair.