

Kids



Celebrating India

He may be all of 10 years, but BG member KESHAV RAI knows what celebrations mean in a country like ours.

Communities have many cultural gatherings.

My community has festival gatherings every year. We wear traditional clothes and celebrate by praying together and offering scrumptious food to our gods that are sure to make your mouth water. Yummy! We also dance to traditional music. People from other communities celebrate with us as well, creating a special bond that enhances our diversity.

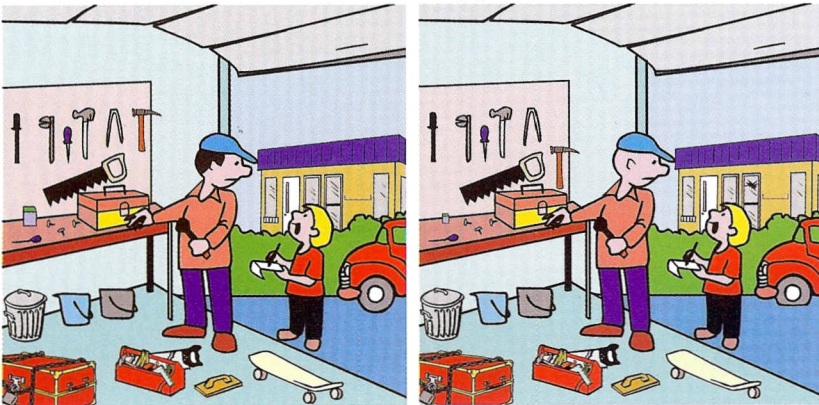
My singing teacher (guru), Pt. Paramanand Yadav is a disciple of the legend Pt. Kumar Gandharva. He holds sessions where all his disciples sing. Classical singing is a magnificent traditional art in India. We worship our instruments, and, as they say, Mother Saraswati resides in these instruments and blesses us. Though I am a child, I am pulled towards the

richness in this cultural art. Even as we move on with modern times, this serene ethos must be kept together.

People today are teaching sacred mantras from the Vedas to children with the help of CDs and cassettes. These mantras frame Hanuman as the epic Superman. But what are these mantras exactly? They are chants that give you courage and inspire you like they inspired Gandhiji. The mantras gave hope to freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad and many more. It was the chant of *Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram* that led us towards freedom. So do not shy away from your Indian colours. You must move on with modernity, but you must not let your culture break up. **BG**

Spot the *difference*

Game time!
See if you can spot at least six differences between the two pictures.



1. The hammer is in a different position.
2. The tyre is flat.
3. The man is bald.
4. The window pane is shattered.
5. The skateboard is missing.
6. The blue cube on the work table is smaller.

ANSWERS

Illustrations on this page by Vinod Mishra, Spanta Multimedia