

Entertainment & Promotional Features

'Learning should be innovative and fun so it makes your child creative and confident'

Meet **Dan Curry**, an educationist with decades of experience in the field of education. Curry has been associated with many international schools and has worked in several countries around the world. During his stint in the US, Curry focused on implementing the best research-based practices, specifically PBL (Problem Based Learning). According to the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, USA, PBL is a 3-in-1 combination of experiential, inquiry-based and project-based learning.

Bringing his rich experience to India, Curry is now the director and principal of one of the most innovative schools in the country — **Vega Schools**. It has two campuses in sector 48 and sector 76, Gurugram and it is the only school in North India to have Global School Alliance (GSA) membership. The school has won several prestigious awards from Education World, India Today, Business World and Ministry of Ayush, Government of India. In conversation with us, Curry answers a few key questions about Vega Schools and the education domain in India.

What made you move to India?

Very few schools in the world are enabling deep learning which is fun as well as leads to enhancing creativity, communication skills and confidence building. These become all the more important when schools have to operate in an online or hybrid mode. When I learned about Vega Schools and their philosophy, it was too tempting an opportunity to pass.

With the implementation of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, how do you see things changing at Vega Schools?

The NEP 2020 is a watershed moment for India. College



Vega Schools have an innovative open classroom concept and its campus has been designed by a leading US-based architect firm PHOTOS: HTC

entrance exams have already changed and are now testing students for a deeper understanding of concepts. With NEP 2020, the class 10 and 12 CBSE grades syllabi are also set for an overhaul. With our teaching method, we are at the forefront of helping our young learners capitalise on these changes.

We've heard that at Vega, there are no classrooms? Can you elaborate on this concept?

When teachers need to give individual attention to each child and create learning atmosphere for their all-round development, it is not possible to do so in a traditional classroom. Research has shown that open classrooms need to be created in order to provide individualised and small group learning. Vega Schools is designed by a leading US-based architect firm which has been at the forefront of this new research.

How will you reinforce the trust of parents in school, in terms of health and safety post-pandemic?

As schools reopen, the most important factor in the post-pandemic world will be health and well-being. Our campuses in

Gurugram are WHO compliant. Our open classrooms naturally lend themselves to social distancing as we don't need to pack our learners in a classroom with 30/40 children. We've also installed a state of the art AC plant that purifies the air by filtering out harmful viruses and bacteria. The system also pushes in fresh purified air.

As Vega Schools is coming up with a new campus, can you share its details with us?

We've created a new campus in

sector 76, Gurugram, with social distancing in mind. Our open classrooms are far safer than traditional ones. We've also planned large and open indoor and outdoor learning spaces. In order to nurture a happy, healthy child, we have large sports facilities that will ensure all-round development. Our high-quality and open-minded faculty is specially

trained to provide a 3-in-1 learning experience for each and every child. HTC



Dan Curry, director and principal, Vega Schools

Savour Chilean Walnuts in India this festive season

An evening filled with good music, delicious food and lot of walnuts, marked the launch of **Chilean Walnuts** in India. ChileNut, the grower and exporter association of Chilean walnuts, in collaboration with ProChile, has brought the Chilean Walnuts to India. Its launch event was organised at the residence of Ambassador of Chile to India, **Juan Angulo**.

Talking about the walnut production, Angulo said, "Chile is facing the Pacific Ocean in the west, has high mountains in the east, a desert in the north and glaciers in the south. We've the perfect condition to grow any agricultural product, particularly walnuts."

Outlining the significance of launching it now, **Sumit Saran**, In-country marketing representative for Chilean Walnuts, said, "These walnuts are coming to India perfectly in time for our festive season. They're available



Chilean walnuts



(L to R) Marcela Zúñiga Alegria, Juan Angulo, Sumit Saran PHOTOS: HTCS/ DHIRUV SETHI

with retailers and on e-commerce portals." Hailing the trade relationship, **Marcela Zúñiga Alegria**, trade commissioner, ProChile, said, "This will make the presence of Chilean products in the Indian market more prominent."

Also present at the event was chef **Manjit Singh Gill**, who said "Walnuts provide healthy fats, fibre, vitamins and minerals and are a great source of antioxidants."



Chef Manjit Singh Gill

Digvijay

#instastyle



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

Work mode on: Tennis player Sania Mirza gave a glimpse of her professional life. She posted a snap from Indian Wells in California and wrote, "Spot light on at Tennis Paradise"

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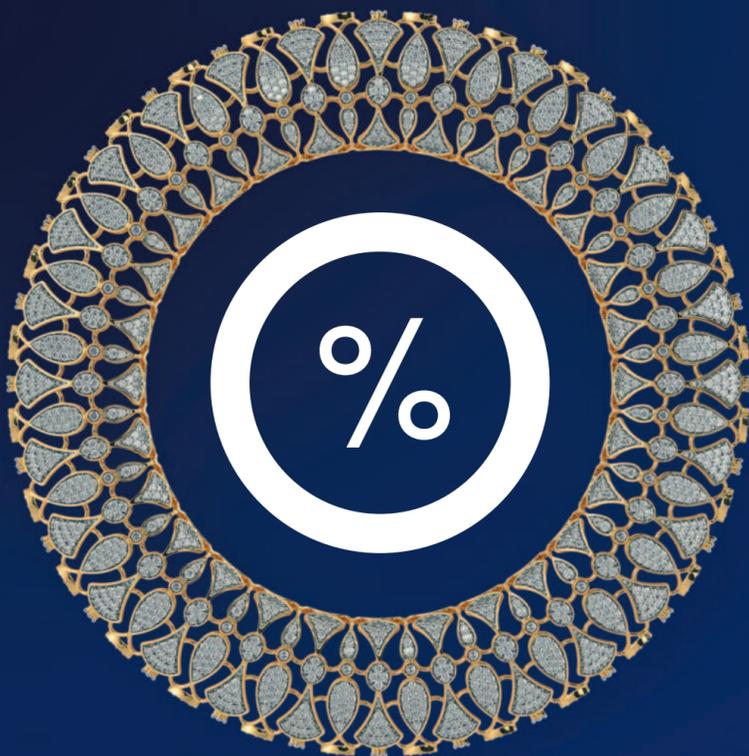
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