

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

**Curiosity Inspires.
Confidence Grows.**

September brings a fresh rhythm to the academic year, with classrooms becoming spaces of deeper learning, meaningful participation, and new possibilities. As students settle into their learning journeys, each day brings opportunities to explore ideas, discover strengths, and turn curiosity into confidence.

This is a time to encourage students to ask questions, share their ideas, work together, and learn from every experience. With the guidance and encouragement of educators, they continue to build knowledge while developing creativity, resilience, empathy, and the confidence to take on new challenges.

As the year progresses, let us continue to create opportunities that inspire young minds, celebrate their efforts, and encourage them to learn beyond the classroom. Together, we can nurture responsible, confident, and future-ready individuals who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

USO Team
75 Years of Supporting Holistic Education

USO@75: Seventy-Five Sparks

Our Goal	Achieved	To Go
75 Sparks	51 Sparks	24 Sparks

Sparks are 75 meaningful initiatives engaging students, teachers, and schools - promoting inclusivity, innovation, and social awareness.

Scan to explore USO's
Seventy-Five Sparks



In this edition

Upcoming Activities

Ongoing Activities

- Smart Schools Series: AI for Everyday Learning
- Biosphere Reserve Champions 2026

Sparks Concluded Activities

National Observances:

- Krishna Janmashtami
- Teacher's Day
- Hindi Diwas

UN Key Observances:

- International Literacy Day
- International Day of Democracy
- International Day of Peace
- World Tourism Day

Article by Gian Jyoti Global School, Punjab

Guidelines to Submit Articles

USO Activities Calendar for Schools

Our Theme for 2026 - 2027

Upcoming Activities

USO INTER SCHOOLS FEST

- 2026 -

Inviting schools to a day of learning beyond classrooms, where young minds unite to compete, create and celebrate achievements together.



**Saturday,
Oct 31, 2026**



**9:00 AM -
5:00 PM**



Inviting schools in and around Pilani for a one-day celebration where young minds unite to compete, create, and celebrate achievements together.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



ON-THE-SPOT
PAINTING



SPEECH



DANCE



DRAMA -
DANCE



DEBATE



ALL-DAY
SCIENCE FAIR



RECOGNITION &
CELEBRATION

ONE DAY. MANY TALENTS. ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.





USO Inter Schools Fest at
BIRLA BALIKA VIDYAPEETH
PILANI, RAJASTHAN

Upcoming September Sparks

SPARK #52

TEACHER'S DAY



September

5

Submit a video on:
'My Favourite Teacher'

SPARK #53

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY & HINDI DIWAS



September

8

&



September

14

वाद-विवाद प्रतियोगिता:
'परीक्षा में ईमानदारी सुनिश्चित करना केवल विद्यार्थी की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है'

SPARK #54

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



September

21

Slogan Competition
'Say It Without Saying It'

SPARK #55

WORLD RIVER DAY



September

27

E-Card Challenge on:
'If My River Could Speak'

Ongoing Activities



USO Club Member Schools will earn 10
USO Club Points for participation.

Biosphere Reserve Champions 2026

This is the third edition of USO's national student engagement initiative under the flagship Students 360° programme, inviting students from Std. 6–12 to explore India's UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites through innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The Teacher Coordinators' Orientation Session was successfully conducted on August 5, 2026, introducing the programme, activities, guidelines, and phase-wise implementation.

Phase I has been successfully completed with the support of three webinars, helping students explore India's rich biodiversity and natural heritage. Schools have now moved to Phase II, where schools are conducting the assigned activities and guiding students to explore their selected Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites.

The phase encourages schools to engage students in research, observation, analysis, and the use of AI as a learning tool while building environmental awareness and research skills. Schools are actively conducting the activities and progressing towards the next phase with enthusiasm and creativity.



USO Club Member Schools will earn 10
USO Club Points for participation.

Webinar #6 A Teacher's Week Reimagined with AI

USO will continue its Smart Schools Series with Webinar #6: A Teacher's Week Reimagined with AI. The session is designed to help educators discover practical ways AI can simplify everyday teaching, professional tasks, and time management.

Built around 7 Days. 7 Everyday Challenges., the webinar will explore common tasks teachers face throughout the week - from planning lessons and creating classroom activities to preparing assessments, managing information, communicating, and organising professional work.

Through practical demonstrations and real-life examples, participants will discover smarter ways to teach, work and balance using AI. The session will also highlight effective prompting, responsible AI use, and simple strategies educators can apply immediately to save time, boost productivity, and create more engaging learning experiences.



Scan the QR Code to
Know More

August Sparks: Concluded Activities

SPARK #49

Independence Day Challenge: One Word. One Vision. One India.



- Launched an Independence Day One-Word Challenge for students.
- Encouraged students to reflect on the India they envision for the future.
- Promoted creative thinking and meaningful discussion among students.
- Gave students a platform to express their vision for India in one word.
- Recognised selected student responses with USO Spark Gifts.

SPARK #50

Renewable Energy Debate Challenge



- Conducted a school-level debate on renewable energy and India's future energy needs.
- Engaged students of Std. 6-8 in structured team debates.
- Encouraged students to research, present arguments, and develop rebuttals.
- Promoted awareness and discussion around sustainable energy solutions.
- Recognised the best video entries with USO Spark Goodies.

SPARK #51

USO National Sports Day Quiz



- Conducted a National Sports Day Quiz on Commonwealth Games 2026 and India's win.
- Provided 10 quiz questions to registered teachers.
- Engaged students through a school-level quiz activity.
- Encouraged students to learn about India's sporting achievements.
- Recognised the first five eligible school responses with USO Spark Goodies.

National Observances

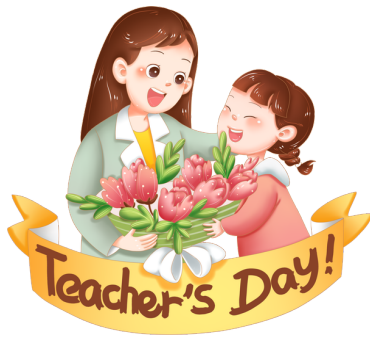


Krishna Janmashtami 4 September

Krishna Janmashtami is a revered Hindu festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu. It commemorates Krishna's divine birth in Mathura and celebrates his teachings of righteousness, truth, love, and compassion.

Krishna Janmashtami is celebrated with devotion across India. Devotees observe fasts, visit temples, offer prayers, and participate in devotional singing and cultural programmes. Midnight celebrations mark the traditional time of Krishna's birth, while Dahi Handi is organised in many regions.

The festival reminds us of Lord Krishna's teachings on dharma, selfless action, courage, and devotion. It inspires people to follow righteousness, show compassion, and face challenges with faith and determination.



Teacher's Day 5 September

Teacher's Day is a special occasion that honours the dedication and guidance of teachers in shaping young minds. In India, it is celebrated on 5 September, the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a respected teacher and former President of India. Students celebrate by organising programmes, presenting cards and gifts, and expressing their gratitude. The day teaches us the values of knowledge, respect, kindness, and learning and reminds us to appreciate those who guide and inspire us.



Hindi Diwas 14 September

Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on 14 September to honour the Hindi language and recognise its importance in India's cultural and linguistic heritage. This day commemorates the adoption of Hindi in Devanagari script as an official language of India in 1949. People celebrate Hindi Diwas through activities such as poetry, essay writing, debates, and cultural programmes. It promotes linguistic diversity, cultural pride, and appreciation for Hindi while inspiring people to use and preserve the language.

UN Key Observances



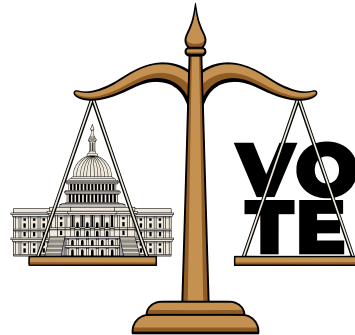
International Literacy Day 8 September

International Literacy Day highlights the transformative power of literacy in everyday life. Beyond reading and writing, literacy helps people understand information, communicate effectively, make informed choices, and adapt to a changing world. It is a foundation for confidence, social participation, and lifelong learning.

Theme: 'Literacy for people, the planet and prosperity' highlights the connection between literacy and a sustainable future. It encourages the development of knowledge and skills that help people respond to environmental challenges, make responsible choices, and contribute to healthier, more sustainable communities and economies.

Purpose: This day aims to highlight the need for stronger literacy efforts among children, young people, and adults, particularly those who face barriers to education. It encourages innovative approaches to learning, including digital and community-based initiatives, so that literacy remains relevant to the needs of a rapidly changing society.

Importance: Literacy opens pathways to independence, employability, and meaningful participation in community life. It helps individuals access information, understand their rights and responsibilities, and make informed decisions in daily life. By strengthening these skills, literacy contributes to personal growth, human well-being, environmental responsibility, and shared prosperity.



International Day of Democracy, 15 September

International Day of Democracy highlights the importance of giving people a meaningful voice in decisions that shape their lives and communities. It promotes democratic values such as freedom of expression, equality, participation, and respect for diverse perspectives, while recognising the important role of citizens in strengthening democratic institutions and social progress.

Theme: The theme highlights the importance of empowering individuals to take ownership of their civic role and engage thoughtfully in democratic processes. It encourages people to express their perspectives with confidence, consider differing viewpoints, and participate constructively in shaping decisions that affect their communities.

Purpose: This day encourages governments, institutions, schools, and communities to create meaningful spaces where people can participate in public decision-making. It aims to strengthen civic engagement, promote awareness of democratic rights and responsibilities, and help individuals understand that their voices and contributions can influence positive change in society.

Importance: International Day of Democracy reminds us that democracy grows stronger when people feel heard, valued, and empowered. It encourages informed participation, dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility, helping build more inclusive, transparent, and accountable communities.

UN Key Observances



International Day of Peace 21 September

International Day of Peace highlights the importance of promoting peace, non-violence, and harmony among people and nations. It encourages understanding, respect, cooperation, and peaceful dialogue while raising awareness about the need to prevent conflict and create safe and supportive communities.

Theme: 'Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day' emphasises that peace requires continuous effort and commitment from individuals, communities, governments, and organisations. It encourages investment in dialogue, education, equality, and cooperation to address the causes of conflict and create a more peaceful and secure world.

Purpose: This day encourages governments, organisations, schools, and communities to promote peaceful relationships and address the root causes of conflict. It aims to inspire people to choose dialogue over violence, respect differences, and take meaningful action to build a culture of peace.

Importance: International Day of Peace reminds us that lasting peace begins with empathy, respect, and cooperation among individuals and communities. It encourages everyone to contribute to peaceful communities while promoting unity, understanding, tolerance, and shared responsibility for a safer and more harmonious future.



World Tourism Day 27 September

World Tourism Day highlights the role of tourism in connecting people, cultures, and communities around the world. It recognises tourism as a source of economic opportunity, cultural exchange, and sustainable development while encouraging people to explore and appreciate the diverse heritage and destinations across the globe.

Theme: 'Digital Agenda and Artificial Intelligence to Redesign Tourism' focuses on how digital technologies and artificial intelligence can transform the tourism experience. It highlights the use of innovation to improve travel planning, personalise experiences, enhance services, and support smarter and more sustainable tourism.

Purpose: This day encourages governments, tourism organisations, businesses, and travellers to embrace digital innovation while ensuring that technology benefits destinations and local communities. It aims to promote responsible tourism, technological advancement, and new approaches to creating accessible and engaging travel experiences.

Importance: World Tourism Day reminds us that innovation can make tourism more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable. By using digital tools and artificial intelligence responsibly, the tourism sector can create new opportunities, improve visitor experiences, support local economies, and adapt effectively to the changing needs of travellers.

SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE

**Examination Integrity:
Building Trust, Fairness and Excellence in Education**

Katria Sharma, Std. XI
(Gian Jyoti Global School, Punjab)



Exams are a massive part of our lives as students, especially as we hit Class 11 and face the immense pressure of senior secondary school, where every single mark feels like it carries the weight of our entire future. They test what we have learned, measure our academic progress, and open doors to higher education and future careers. However, the true value of an exam does not lie in the percentage printed on a final report card, but in the honesty of the process. Examination integrity is the foundation of the education system. Without it, academic trust completely disappears, fairness is lost, and the true purpose of learning is destroyed.

For us students, trust is the invisible currency of our academic journey. Universities, employers, and society rely heavily on our school credentials to gauge what we are truly capable of doing. When educational institutions maintain strict security and ensure honest testing, they validate the authenticity of our hard work, our personal sacrifices, and our late-night study sessions. On the other hand, if cheating, leaking question papers, or digital malpractice become common, a degree loses its worth. People stop trusting the system, and employers begin to doubt whether top-scoring students actually know their subjects. Keeping exams clean is the only way to make sure that our certificates hold genuine value in the real world.

At its core, exam integrity is a matter of fairness and social justice. Every time we walk into an exam hall, we are surrounded by peers who have sacrificed sleep, skipped family events, and worked tirelessly for months to master their vast syllabus. When academic dishonesty takes place, it creates an uneven playing field that hurts honest students the most. Cheating allows dishonest individuals to secure unearned advantages and higher ranks. This malpractice essentially robs hardworking students of their rightful rewards and recognition. Furthermore, seeing others get away with fraud is deeply demoralizing and makes honest learners lose faith in the value of sincere effort. A secure exam environment ensures that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed based solely on merit.

An examination is also a diagnostic tool that reflects the quality of teaching and learning. When tests are conducted with absolute integrity, the results provide an accurate picture of a student's strengths and weaknesses. This transparency allows teachers to identify gaps in our understanding and improve their teaching methods for future batches. Conversely, when widespread copying masks the actual learning levels, the system fails to correct its flaws. We cannot achieve true educational excellence if our assessment data is corrupted by fraud, as it leaves us completely unprepared for competitive exams later on.

Today, technology has made cheating much easier and more sophisticated, creating tough challenges for schools. From hidden micro-gadgets to online cheating groups on social media platforms, malpractices have evolved rapidly. Building a culture of honesty requires a mix of strict rules and moral awareness. Schools need to use better security like smart checking and CCTV surveillance, while examiners must be well-trained to spot modern tricks. But more importantly, we need to shift our mindset from just chasing high marks to valuing actual competency, personal ethics, and character.

In conclusion, examination integrity is not just about following strict rules in a quiet room; it is the moral compass of education. By upholding fairness, institutions protect the efforts of honest students and reinforce societal trust. As students, we must foster an environment where honesty is celebrated above mere scores, ensuring that excellence remains the ultimate goal of learning. We must always remember that true success cannot be stolen, and real education is earned.

**USO Club Member Schools will earn 5 USO Club
Points for submitting a published article.**

CALL FOR FEATURE



Since 1953, World Informo, USO's monthly newsletter, has provided a platform for students and teachers to share ideas, exchange perspectives, and contribute to meaningful discussions on issues that shape education and society.

SEPTEMBER 2026 THEME

Examination Integrity: Building Trust, Fairness and Excellence in Education



We invite students and teachers to submit original feature articles on the above theme. Articles should present a balanced perspective, supported by facts, examples, research, or personal experiences, while encouraging critical thinking and offering constructive insights or solutions.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Articles should be **500–750** words.



The submission must be the author's original work and should not have been published elsewhere.



Please include the following details with your submission:

- Full Name
- Recent Photograph
- School Name
- Class/Standard (for students)
- State



Email your article to **info@usoindia.org** with the subject line:
Article for World Informo.



Please note: A new theme will be announced every month, providing contributors with opportunities to write on a wide range of contemporary educational and societal issues.

SELECTED FEATURE ARTICLES WILL:



Be published in World Informo.



Be featured on the USO Blog.



Receive a USO e-Certificate of Publication.



We look forward to receiving your thoughtful and inspiring contributions and sharing **your voice** with readers across India.



USO Activities Calendar For Schools September, October, November 2026

September 2026

- **Sept 1-10:** BRC - Phase II
- **Sept 1-10:** Future Solutions Camp
- **Sept 12:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #6
- **Sept 15:** USO Club Mid-Year Report Submission
- **Sept 20:** Evaluation of USO National Tests Begins
- **Sept 30:** BRC School Activity Report Submission
- **Sept 30:** Registration Deadline for GENS

October 2026

- **Oct 1:** BRC Finalists Selection
- **Oct 10:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #7
- **Oct 24:** USO National Tests Results Declaration
- **Oct 31:** USO Inter Schools Fest at Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani, Rajasthan

November 2026

- **Nov 3-4:** USO House Diwali Mela
- **Nov 14:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #8
- **Nov 19-20:** BRC Final Competition (Phase 3)

Sparks to do in September

- **Sept 5:** Teacher's Day
- **Sept 8 & 14:** International Literacy Day & Hindi diwas
- **Sept 21:** Interational Day of Peace
- **Sept 27:** World River Day

USO's Theme for 2026 - 2027

Our 75-yr theme is linked to SDG 4: Quality Education



Rooted in our theme **Empower, Educate & Evolve** USO's journey aligns with **SDG 4: Quality Education** ensuring inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning for all. As we celebrate 75 years, this shared vision continues to shape every initiative, bringing meaningful change to classrooms and communities. Designated as our two-year theme (for 2025-26 & 2026-27), Empower, Educate & Evolve serves as a guiding force to reimagine learning, strengthen educational ecosystems, and spark lasting transformation.

Thanks for **READING**

UNITED SCHOOLS ORGANISATION OF INDIA (USO)	(011) 4106-8486 / 4165-1103 98100 46619
info@usoindia.org worldinformo@usoindia.org https://www.usoindia.org	USO House, USO Road, 6, Special Institutional Area, New Delhi-110067