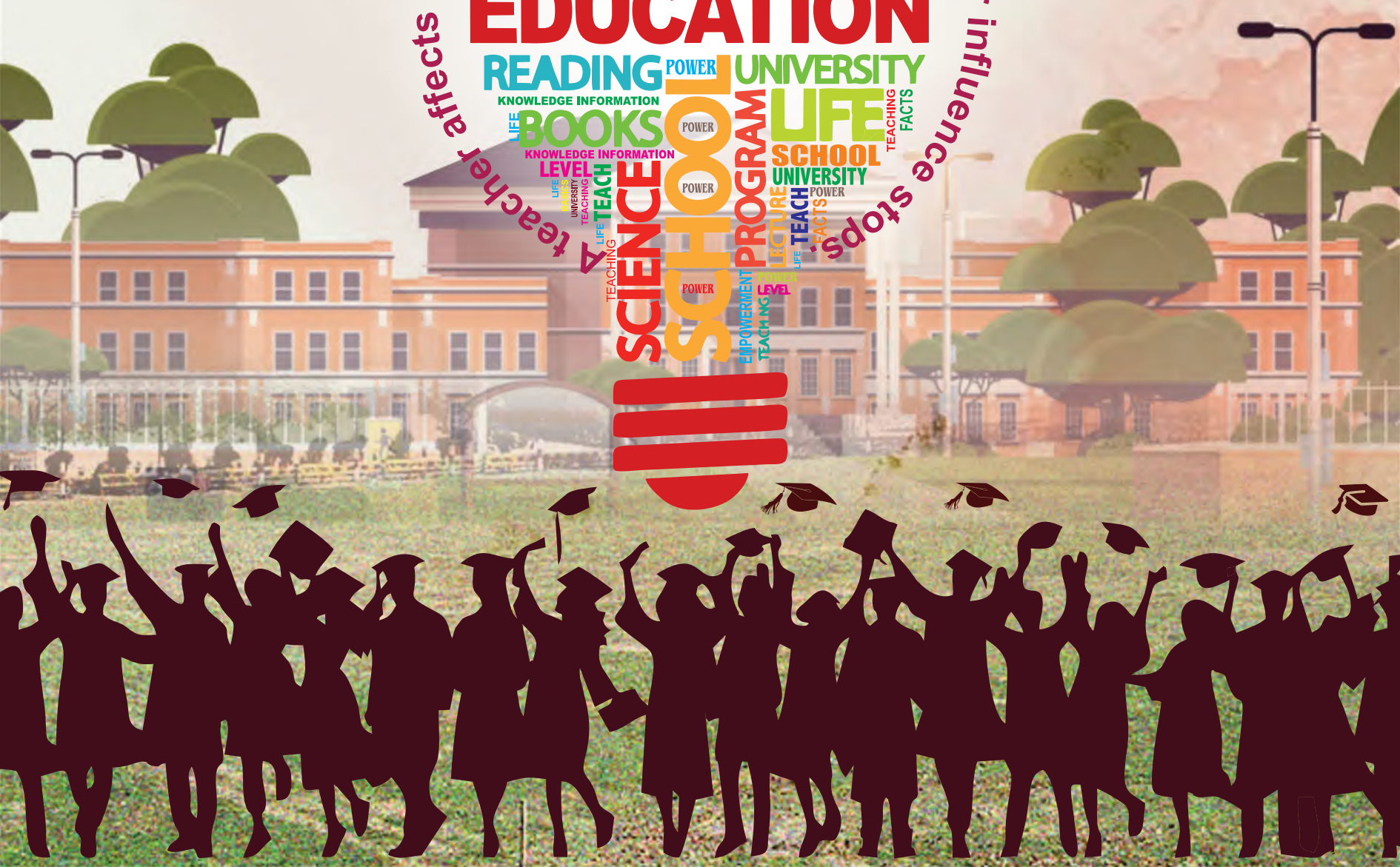
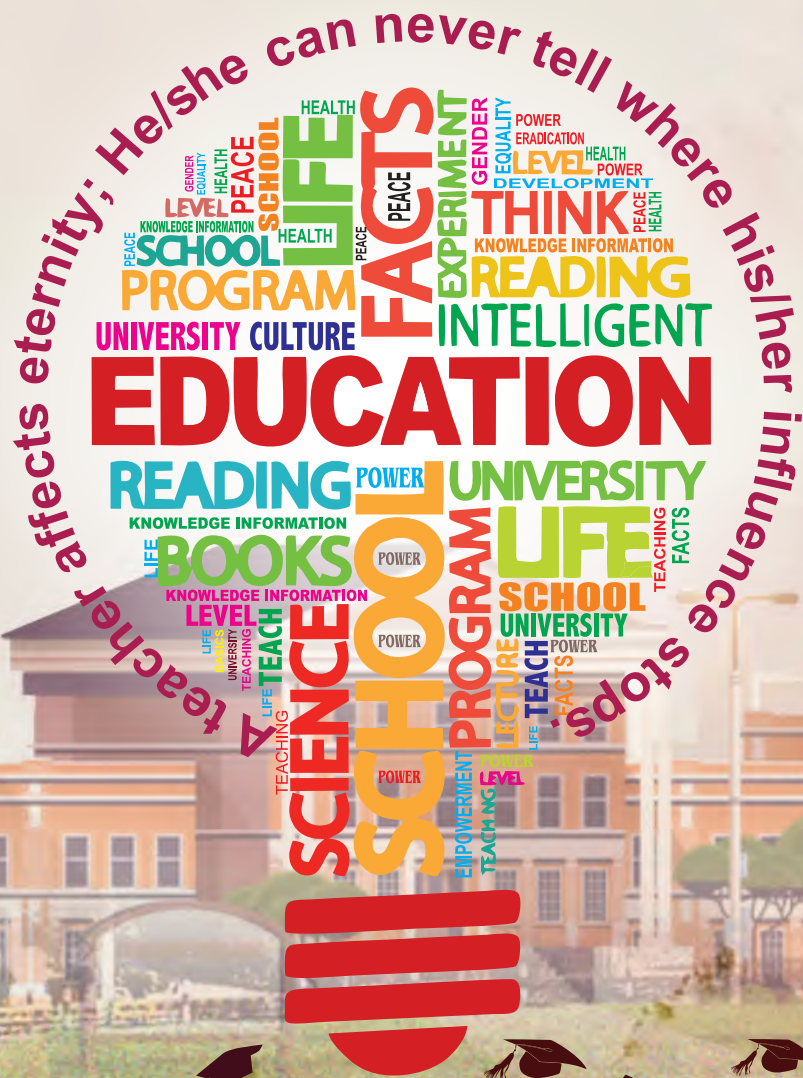




PRESENTS

EDUCATIONAL ALCHEMISTS

Transforming Bihar's Districts

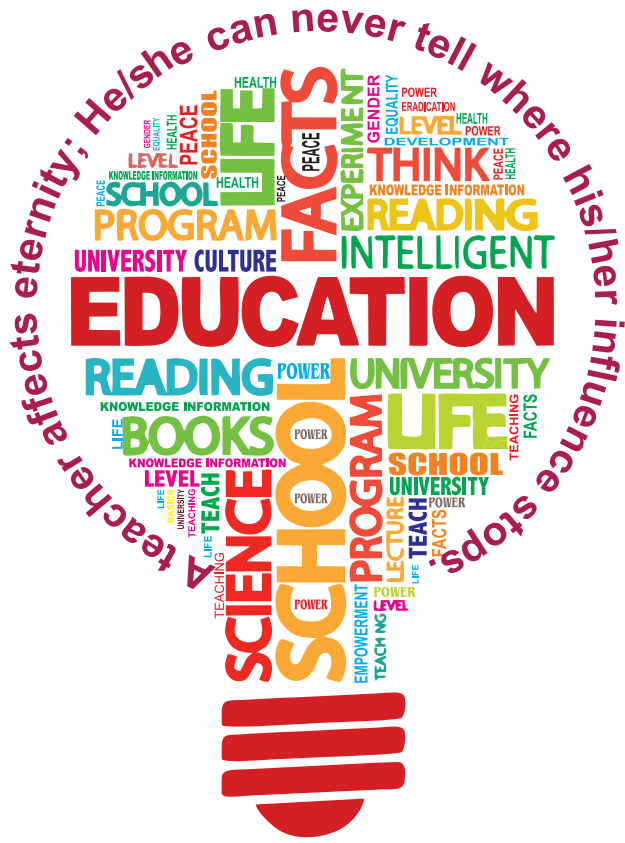




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Disclaimer

This inspirational book is a biographical narrative that reveals the unique thought process, grand vision, untiring efforts and enthralling anecdotes of top achievers in the field of private education in Bihar.

Every article is based on the information shared by the featured person in a freewheeling chat with the author. On certain occasions, additional information and photographs were provided by them through their representatives or sourced from the featured organisation's website or its publication available in the public domain.

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PREFACE

Today, people from Bihar are the backbone of Indian administrative machinery. They have been doing exceptionally well in the corporate world as well as in different areas of scientific research, medical and engineering. Credit goes to those selfless souls who truly cared about serving the society and worked tirelessly to upgrade the lives of people around them.

Towards the end of the 20th century, certain people took it upon themselves to prepare the future generations of Bihar to meet the challenges of globalisation as well as to make the most of the opportunities it was supposed to bring to the country.

There was a new awakening. Bihar witnessed yet another phase of reform – introduction of English medium schools imparting modern education. Everyone who decided to make a contribution did it for self satisfaction... no matter whether they belonged to a princely state... or came from a family that has been producing top professionals for generations.

As we are approaching the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, we decided to look for those unsung heroes and document their efforts for posterity. We travelled the length-and-breadth of Bihar and came across several individuals who braved the challenges and continued the mission. We zeroed in on indigenously developed CBSE-affiliated schools and selected one top institution from each district.

This book, "Educational Alchemists: Transforming Bihar's Districts," celebrates the legacy of twenty visionary educators who transformed socio-economic conditions in their neighbourhood through quality education.

As you flip through pages of the book, you will come across stories of several real life heroes including someone who was a UGC scholar with a PhD degree at an early age of 23 but decided to forego a lucrative career in research and academics to serve the society. The book also traces the cases of top corporate professionals who quit their jobs to give positive direction to hundreds of youth in small towns. While certain edupreneurs came forward and established quality schools offering modern education, several educationists also resigned from top institutions in big cities and returned home to serve children in their neighbourhood.

We present this book to you with great expectations that it will help shine a light on such a dynamic region of India, demonstrating that the challenges and opportunities confronting Bihar are unique and worthy of discussion by academics, businesses and governments.

—IMRAN MOJIB

FOREWORD

**“Education is not merely the imparting of knowledge;
it is the key to unlocking the vast potential within every individual!”**



Ashit Kukian
CEO, Radio City

As we delve into the pages of 'Educational Alchemists Transforming Bihar's Districts,' we embark on a journey through the educational landscape of Bihar, a state committed to the transformative power of learning.

Over the past decade, Bihar has witnessed a remarkable shift in its approach to education. The rise of private schools has played a pivotal role in shaping the educational narrative, offering not just classrooms but vibrant spaces where young minds can thrive and evolve. In this Coffee Table Book, we celebrate these institutions that have become beacons of quality education, providing a platform for holistic development.

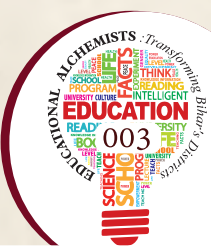
Each school featured in these pages represents more than just an institution; it symbolises a commitment to nurturing young talents, fostering a globally-inclusive community, and providing endless extracurricular opportunities for character development. These educational alchemists are moulding the future of Bihar, one student at a time.

However, we must acknowledge the challenges that persist. Disparities in infrastructure, varying student-teacher ratios, and the quest for quality education create concerns for parents seeking the best for their children. This book serves not only as a tribute to the achievements of these schools but also as a guide for parents navigating the important decision of choosing the right educational path for their wards.

Our Radio City team has embarked on an initiative to showcase a visual and editorial journey through the rich history and legacy of these schools. This book is our effort to honour and showcase the dedication and passion of educators who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Bihar.

May this compilation serve as a source of inspiration and information, igniting conversations that transcend words. Let us collectively strive towards a future where every child in Bihar has access to quality education, unlocking their limitless potential.

— Ashit Kukian
CEO, Radio City





School's ex-student IPS Alok Rajnarayan being felicitated for success in UPSC civil service examination by Dr Urmila Bhagat and Dr Eklavya Bhagat. He achieved All India Rank 346.



ILLUMINATING THE PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Since its inception three decades ago, Jeevan Deep Public School, Nawada, has been nurturing its students to be global citizens and agents of social change committed to humanistic values and democratic traditions

Bihar is considered the most prolific state to produce competent youngsters who successfully crack the country's toughest competitive exams, be it to secure a job in the coveted Indian Administrative Services, or to obtain a seat in the country's top medical and engineering colleges. Their achievements continue to bewilder one and all year after year because even a cursory look at the education quality index of India would reflect that Bihar lags much behind several states and union territories. Credit goes to visionaries who rightly anticipated today's scenario several decades ago and decided to make efforts in their individual capacity to change the future of the state. One such visionary was Dr Basuki Prasad Bhagat popularly known as Dr B P Bhagat in Nawada district of Bihar.

Like every other parent, Dr B P Bhagat and his wife Dr (Mrs) Urmila Bhagat also wanted their child to be well-educated. But in the absence of advanced facilities, they wondered how their child would get the best education in a well-disciplined manner for him to have a bright future. They planned to enroll their child in a reputed boarding school of Dehradun or Mussoorie. Before sending him to a boarding school, they were quite anxious and concerned and had many questions.

They were also concerned that their child would have to live apart from them. They visited various boarding schools that could shape their child's personality and inculcate good manners in him. After a long tour through Delhi, Mussoorie and

Members of Parliament Sanjay Jaiswal and Ramkripal Yadav being welcomed by Dr Urmila Bhagat and Dr Eklavya Bhagat.



MILESTONES

- 1993 : The school was established by Dr B P Bhagat and Dr (Mrs) Urmila Bhagat.
- 1997 : CBSE, New Delhi, awarded affiliation up to Grade 10.
- 1999 : First batch of students appeared for Grade 10 examinations.
- 2000 : CBSE affiliation was extended up to Grade 12.
- 2001 : First batch of students appeared for Grade 12 examinations.

Deoghar, they realised how difficult it would be for both of them. The situation was compelling and another realisation dawned. They realised that this was not just a matter of concern for them alone, there were plenty of other parents who were not able to send their children to a boarding school faraway... both for financial as well as emotional reasons.

The Vision

Dr B P Bhagat, a visionary, always looked for ways to serve the society. He found this as an ideal opportunity to establish a quality school equipped with all modern facilities. This would help prepare children in Nawada and neighbouring districts for 21st century challenges, leadership and the global job market.

He was ably supported by his wife Dr (Mrs) Urmila Bhagat, a reputed obstetrician and gynaecologist. They acquired a plot of land to build the school and started searching for an academician who could steer them to complete this challenging job. With the help of some well-wishers, they zeroed in on R D Singh, who was then serving as HOD in Sainik School, Tilaiya. A strict disciplinarian bred in army

culture, he was about to retire in a few months. He agreed to join Dr B P Bhagat in this great social cause post-retirement. The coming together of two visionary souls brought to life Jeevan Deep Public School, Nawada.

Dr Eklavya Bhagat, who is currently leading the school as Executive Director, said, "My father (Dr B P Bhagat) was a very famous and reputed eye surgeon. He performed more than one lakh surgeries for free extending help to patients from economically marginalised sections. He is still fondly remembered for his selfless dedication and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others even in challenging conditions. Initially he focused in the areas around his ancestral place in Belhar, Banka. Later he shifted his base to Nawada; he focused on the neighbouring towns and villages spread in the radius of 50-60 km of Nawada. The decision to set up this school was just an extension of his continued effort to improve the quality of life for communities in need."

Speaking about the school, Dr Eklavya Bhagat said that his father was a man of action. For him, making a decision was a process that takes time carefully weighing options. Once decided, he would act and not keep waiting for just the right time. He would act fast and wait for the long-term results to follow.

"He had made the decision to establish this school in 1992. Soon he acquired a plot of land in an ideal location and started the construction of the building. As soon as the boundary of the campus was erected to ensure the safety of the students and the ground floor of the proposed building was ready, he opened the gates. The school became operational in May 1993," he said. "The academic activities started with about 35 students in classes ranging from KG to Grade 5. One class was added every subsequent year."

Community outreach programme with brave Police heroes on the occasion of Rakshabandhan.





“Initially, the number of students was very less as no marketing campaign was carried out. That was a deliberate decision because this was not a business venture to earn profit. The school was established with the conviction to serve the people who were suffering due to lack of a good English-medium school. A careful pre-launch survey was carried out to gauge the mood of the masses and accordingly. The survey result had given a boost to the founders’ confidence,” said Dr Eklavya.

Vision to Reality

The life-long experience of R D Singh, the founding principal, played a key role in setting up the academic activities. He introduced the House System, motto, logo and emblem to the school. This was something completely alien to most people in Nawada. He brought a sense of army discipline that was hitherto unknown and that has been a rock solid base of the school since.

As it was a tough task to obtain the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), New Delhi, affiliation back in the 1990s, he designed and implemented academic framework and co-curricular activities that met the standards of the board. Later, Dr B P Bhagat went to New Delhi and met the then CBSE chairman, Chaman Lal, with all requisites and applied for affiliation. The board affiliated the school up to Grade 10 in 1997. The first batch of students appeared for Grade 10 examinations in 1999. In 2000, the affiliation was extended up to Grade 12 and the first batch appeared for the Grade 12 exams conducted by the board in 2001. All students passed the exams with flying colours.

“Bringing a revolutionary change in the society is never easy. People accept it only when they witness positive results. Similarly, setting up a school

radically different from the ones already running in the society was also challenging. The founders were very well aware of this fact. But they were also convinced that a school of this kind and stature was needed to uplift the society. Thus they continued to run the school despite the fact that it remained a loss-making venture for many years,” he said.

Dr Eklavya, who studied at the same school and was one of the few students of the first batch that passed out from the school, said there were teachers from different states. He fondly remembers Yugul Kishor from Uttar Pradesh, PK Rowther from Kerala and Abhijit Bose from West Bengal among many others.

“It was difficult to bring teachers to Nawada. They were offered high pay along with well-furnished accommodation and other perks. But, more than the financial gains, what inspired them to join the school was the founders’ vision and commitment for the school. Both, my father and R D Singh, were legends; whoever came in their contact was deeply influenced by their aura,” he added.

Moving with the Times

It has now been more than 30 years since the school was established. And with the passage of time several policies have needed modification to meet society’s demand. Initially it was planned to charge a one year tuition fee in advance so that students are not at all affected by monetary concerns. But, it had to be changed as not all parents were capable of paying the full fee in advance. Recently, the school started accepting fee monthly.

Similarly, the school had to change the ‘no bag policy’ where students were not supposed to carry bags home. But, parents were not very receptive to the idea.



“An idea is fantastic but until and unless it has a mass appeal, it will not flourish. Thus we had to dilute some ideal policies to a certain extent. But we have not compromised with our core, the main ideals,” he said.

Despite challenges, the school has been making steady growth enabling students to scale new heights in their career. During the past three decades, its alumni have become IAS officers, doctors, engineers, architects, chartered accountants, lawyers, army officers, administrative services officers, bank officers, entrepreneurs among many others. Many have settled abroad in the US, UK, Australia, Japan.

“Credit for the success goes to the core values instilled by the founding fathers. They are the true lighthouse. They are still guiding us to tread new and difficult paths carving a niche for ourselves,” he added.

Dr Eklavya Bhagat, who joined the school in 2017, continues to lead the school in line with the vision of the founding fathers, which is aimed at preparing global citizens and agents of social change committed to human values and democratic traditions rooted in our culture.

He said that the quality of teaching and strong student-teacher relationship form the foundation of the school’s highly scholastic programme. They are dynamic, relaxed and enthusiastic with the ability to create a friendly atmosphere in which the child can express himself and learn. They encourage the development of each child by providing security and warmth, emphasising self-discipline more than authority and encouragement rather than punishment.

“Our teachers are carefully selected for excellent aptitude, true inclination and experience teaching young children. They are encouraged to experiment and they take delight in creating more effective ways to explore and share knowledge. Thus their teaching comes alive. Every effort is made to go beyond mere rote learning. Our teachers’ love for teaching has resulted in a dynamic, challenging, interesting and excitement-filled atmosphere,” he added.

Community Engagement

Speaking about preparing students as global citizens, he said, “Globalisation is a fact. It is said that what you teach in the classroom becomes the mindset of the person when he grows up and that turns into his political approach later on. We go a step further and take children to field visits where they are exposed to and come face to face with, the realities of life. We organise educational tours, community outreach programme, awareness programme, nukkad natak and inter-house competitions to expand the horizons of our students. We keep expanding the programmes to include contemporary issues.”

The Community Outreach Programmes organised in different localities are designed with the aim of creating mass awareness on relevant social issues such as Dowry System and Child Marriage, Clean India Green India, Stop Alcoholism, Tree Plantation and Ban Plastic, Save Nature. These programmes are skillfully planned and executed under the guidance of teachers to give the kids maximum experience and simultaneously send a positive message to society.

“Through various activities conducted every Saturday in the school and in the hostel on every Sunday, the school has been making serious efforts



**and
the journey
continues ...**



