

# Spring 2013 Junior Friends of Sangam UK



**Namaste** Junior Friends,

We have a lot of information about elephants in this newsletter, as promised last time, since the Festival of **Ganesh** follows the festival of **Nagapanchami** (the snake festival).

**Lord Ganesh** was the first son of the Gods, Lord Shiva and Parvati.

He had a human body and an elephant head. It is said that his large head symbolizes wisdom and understanding. The large ears signify that a perfect person is the one who can listen to others.

The Ganesh Chaturthi Festival is on the 19th September this year and it will last for 9 days. Gifts are given to the images of the God and on the last day idols are immersed in rivers or the sea.

Here is a picture of Ganesh for you to colour in. His clothes are usually red and yellow. Yellow symbolizes purity, peace and truthfulness. Red symbolizes the activity in the world. These are the qualities of a perfect person who performs all worldly acts with purity, peace and truthfulness.



The mouse symbolizes the ego or inner mind.

Can you find out how Ganesh got his elephant head and why he has four arms?

## More elephant facts

It is said that an elephant never forgets. They don't really have perfect memories but they do seem to remember people who have been kind or cruel to them.

An elephant's skin is between 2 and 4 centimetres thick, it is very sensitive and feels dry and rough to touch. Elephants look after their skin very carefully—they wash and massage it, and even powder it by rolling in the dust!

The Indian elephant has smaller ears than an African elephant.

Elephants are *Herbivorous*, which means that they only eat grass, leaves, roots and shoots, not meat. Because of their great size they need enormous amounts of food. Each day a wild elephant can spend up to twenty hours eating between 250 and 350 kilograms.

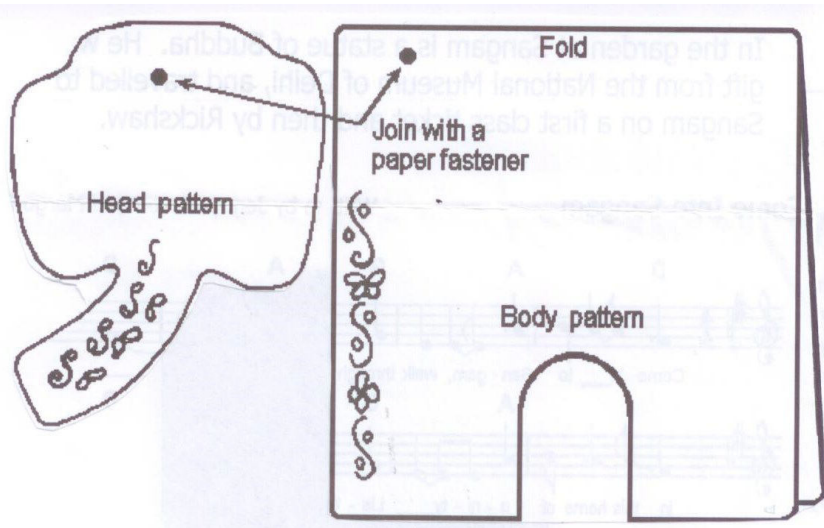
An elephant's head is so heavy that it needs a short, strong neck to support it. This means that it cannot reach its food on the ground, so elephants need their long trunks to pick up food and place it in their mouths.

The elephant also breathes and smells through its trunk, using it as a nose. They have a very good sense of smell.

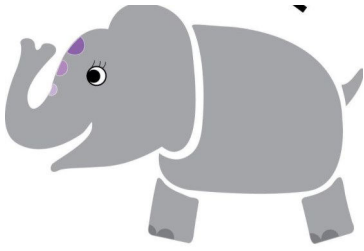
## AN ELEPHANT NEVER FORGETS CARD for you to make

Copy this elephant design onto card and colour him with a rangoli design on his head and legs

before you carefully cut him out. Put on some bead or wobbly eyes and fasten his head on with a brass paper fastener, so that he can nod his head.



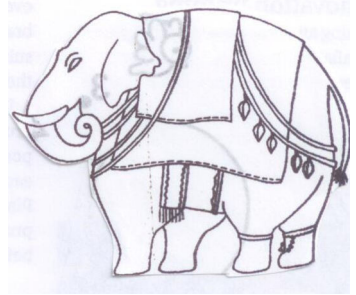
This is **Sangelle** she is the mascot for Sangam our Guide Home in Pune, India.



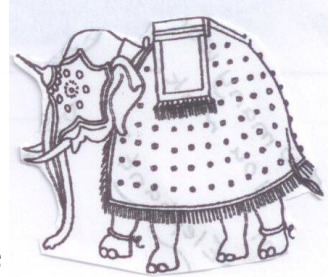
Some of you may have a badge with her on it.

She has many friends in India who have interesting names and jobs to do.

This is **Ramdas**. His name means **Ram's servant**. He will take you to see the tigers in Chitwain National Park. You will have to sit very still and quietly on a sacking seat on his back.



This is **Chella** which means **Loved One**. He lives in Delhi and wears very fine outfits for the parade on Republic Day in January.



This is **Tangam** which means **Gold**. He works with his **Mahut** (elephant master) in the country side around Mumbai, helping people by lifting and carrying heavy things like tree trunks.

This is **Ratan** meaning **Jewel**, he lives in a town called Mysore and has been decorated with rangoli for the very special Elephant God's Festival, Ganesha.



Can you find all the places with a line underneath, that Sangelle's friends live and work in, on a map of India?

Find where Sangellee and his friends live on this map

