

UNIT 2
CHAPTER 2
A Phoenix Rises

☀️ interview questions for Mr Arunachalam Muruganantham.

1. What inspired you to begin working on menstrual hygiene solutions?
2. How did your childhood experiences affect your career path?
3. What difficulties did you face while experimenting with cotton?
4. How did you discover that pinewood pulp was better than cotton?
5. What was the role of your pet dog in your invention process?
6. Why did you decide to design affordable machines for sanitary napkins?
7. Have you ever accepted offers from large companies for your invention?
8. Why do you choose to support women's self-help groups?
9. What do you mean when you say "detail, not retail"?
10. What advice do you have for students who want to become innovators?

☀️ Prepare a short write up describing bablu kewat's struggles in life and making every challenge into opportunities.

A Journey from Sparks to Solutions

Bablu Kewat was a young boy from a poor family who had to leave school after his father passed away. He started working in a welding workshop as a helper and got trained to become a welder and later took over the workshop. His journey from a tea boy to a business owner showed his strong will to support his family and his strength, even during hard times.

One day, Bablu saw his wife using a rag during her menstrual cycle. He was shocked and decided to make a better and cheaper sanitary pad for women like her. Though he had no training, he started experimenting with cotton, cloth, and other materials. People in his village didn't understand his efforts and began to spread rumours. Even his family turned against him. But Bablu remained focused on his goal, believing every woman deserved a safe and hygienic life.

Despite losing his wife, mother, and respect in the community, Bablu continued his experiments. He even tested his ideas on himself as no one else supported him. He struggled for all poor women who couldn't afford basic hygiene. Bablu proved that even in pain and rejection, we can find strength to help others. His story shows how a small act of love and courage can become a mission to change lives.

☀️ Write a paragraph on muruganantham's concept "social entrepreneurship should be impact based"

Arunachalam Muruganantham believes that social entrepreneurship should be focused on making an impact, not just on making profit. His goal is to create awareness, availability, and affordability of sanitary napkins for all women, especially in rural areas. He sells his machines at low cost and encourages women's self-help groups to use them so that they can reach more people and create jobs. Instead of just selling a product, he promotes the idea of giving clear and useful information to every woman. For him, true success comes from improving lives, not from earning money.

☀️ The 3rd of November is observed as National Entrepreneurship Day. The English Club of your school plans to conduct an idea generation contest for the Young Innovators Programme (YIP). You wish to invite Arunachalam Muruganantham as the chief guest. Draft a letter to Mr Muruganantham seeking his consent and inviting him to the event.

Manu M
Secretary, English Club
ABC School, AJ NAGAR
21 July 2025

Mr Arunachalam Muruganantham
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

Respected Sir,

We are happy to inform you that our school is organising an idea generation contest as part of the Young Innovators Programme on the 3rd of November to celebrate National Entrepreneurship Day.

It would be a great honour for us if you could be the Chief Guest at our event and share your inspiring journey with our young minds. Your presence will surely motivate students to think creatively and act responsibly.

We humbly request your kind consent to attend the event. We will be glad to share further details at your convenience.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

Manu M

Secretary, English Club

Contact No : 9847166798

☀️ The future of India will be shaped by its youth. The nation needs the efforts of young entrepreneurs for its growth and development. Young men and women should take the initiative to turn challenges into opportunities.' Prepare a speech on the topic 'Entrepreneurship; The Path to the Nation's Progress.'

Good morning everyone,

India is a developing country filled with talent, dreams and energy. As we look ahead, it is clear that the future of our nation lies in the hands of our youth. Entrepreneurship is not just about starting a business. It is about solving problems, creating jobs and bringing growth to our communities. As students and future leaders, you have the ability to shape India's tomorrow with bold ideas and strong actions.

Entrepreneurship is needed today more than ever. Our education should not only prepare us for exams, but also teach us to think, question and solve real-life issues. Many educated youth struggle with unemployment or leave the country searching for opportunities. To stop this brain drain, we

must encourage young minds to innovate right here at home. It all begins with ideation-thinking of new solutions to everyday challenges. Then comes implementation-turning ideas into real actions through hard work, planning and support. With good guidance and courage, these ideas can change lives.

Let us remember that every big invention started with a small step. The nation needs young entrepreneurs who are willing to try, fail, learn and succeed. India is waiting for your ideas-now is the time to rise and build the future. Thank you.

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☀️ From the story 'A Phoenix Rises' and from the interview, you have gained some insights into Arunachalam Muruganantham's life and achievements. Using the hints given, develop a biographical sketch of the entrepreneur.

Arunachalam Muruganantham: The Pad Man of India

Arunachalam Muruganantham was born in Tamil Nadu to a humble family. His father was a handloom weaver, After his father passed away unexpectedly, Muruganantham had to drop out of school at the age of fourteen. He began working in a welding workshop to support his family. At 21, he got married and soon found that his wife used old rags during her menstrual cycle due to the high cost of sanitary napkins.

This discovery led him to start experiments to create low-cost sanitary pads. He faced many failures and strong opposition from society. His wife left him, his mother was disgraced, and the entire village looked down on him. But he did not give up. After years of trial and error, he found that sanitary napkins used pinewood pulp, not cotton. He went on to design simple and affordable machines to produce hygienic pads to help poor women.

His mission is to make menstrual hygiene affordable and to create jobs for women through self-help groups. Though he was a school dropout, he now gives talks at universities around the world. His life story was made into a film in 2018.

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