Pg 6, 7



High flyers

Kakabhushundi learns about other universes Pg •



Iconic church

Visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa

WORLD WETLANDS DAY, ON FEBRUARY 2,

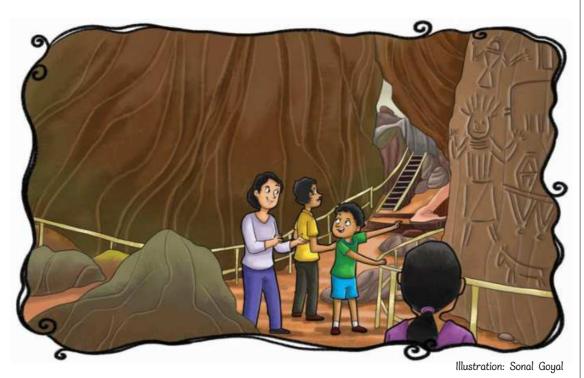
ON FEBRUARY 2,
HIGHLIGHTS THE
INVALUABLE ROLE OF
LAKES, RIVERS, PONDS,
MARSHES AND
OTHER WETLANDS IN
SUSTAINING BIODIVERSITY,
SAFEGUARDING WATER
RESOURCES, AND
PROVIDING ESSENTIAL
ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES.
TURN TO PAGE 3 TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT WHY WE
CELEBRATE THIS DAY.





Cave of petroglyphs

Taran and his family visit the Edakkal caves in Kerala to learn more about prehistoric man.



id early man really live here?" Taran wondered aloud, keeping an eye on a monkey nearby, which in turn was watching his backpack. He was walking up a steel stairway in Edakkal caves. Large boulders, slightly mossy due to rains, lay around and there was a whiff of moist earth in the air. The family was enjoying some time in Wayanad, Kerala, and had come to explore some caves nearby which had ancient carvings.

"Yes, and we have come to get a glimpse of life 6,000 years ago by looking at their art, specifically the petroglyphs," said Appa, looking like quite the explorer in his *khakis*, binoculars and cap.

"What's pe-tro-glyphs?"A dinosaur?" Asked Taran, imitating a T-Rex.



Appa laughed. "Petroglyphs are carvings on stone; you chip away a layer to reveal a lighter shade of rock. The ones here are from the Stone Age, which means Early Man had already designed tools for such purposes." They reached the top of Edakkal Caves, which was like boulders jammed together to form a cave. The ticket-seller explained that Edakkal meant "stone stuck in between" in Malayalam and added that local legend said that an arrow fired by Rama had pierced the boulders and caused a fissure.

After navigating some stairs in the crevices, they came to the petroglyphs. "Look Amma, that figure looks like he or she had spiked raised hair. Here you are, not letting me have anything other than a 'school haircut'," pointed out Taran.

"I'm sure their mother disapproved too," smiled Amma.

"Just imagine. We are witnessing evolution first hand," said Appa. "We have only seen such photos in encyclopaedias and textbooks."

"What about Wiki ... oh! I forgot Google baba was not invented in your time. You are so ancient, Appa!" laughed Taran.

"That may be true in general but, today, alongside these carvings, I am still a baby," joked Appa.

A horde of school kids came charging in noisily. "Did Early Man know that children from the future will be coming to look at their carvings in droves?"

"Perhaps they did. They seemed to know exactly what they were doing," smiled Amma. From the top of the hills, the views were stunning.

"No one knew about these carvings till around 1895. Fred Fawcett, who was the region's Superintendent of Police, discovered it while on a hunting trip. After that, several archaeologists have visited and written about its importance in the study of Neolithic people," explained Appa.

"Wow, imagine wandering about and discovering something like this," said Taran. "Do you think everything that has to be discovered is already discovered, Appa?"

"I am sure there are many wonders in the world yet to be discovered," replied Appa thoughtfully.

"I hope so, because I want to be an explorer," declared Taran.

"For starters, let's explore some of the local snacks, shall we?" laughed Amma as they made their way down the hill.





Green guardians

What are wetlands? Why are they important? Read on to find out...

What is a wetland?

A wetland is an area that is saturated with water or flooded, either permanently or seasonally. Inland wetlands include marshes, ponds, lakes, streams, floodplains and swamps. Coastal wetlands include saltwater marshes, estuaries, mangroves, and lagoons. Fish ponds, rice fields and salt marshes are artificial wetlands.

Nimi Kurian



What is RAMSAR?

On February 2, 1971, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of Ramsar sites (wetlands) was signed at Ramsar in Iran. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. The treaty provides a framework for all conservation and sustainable management actions affecting wetlands within the countries that signed the treaty. This day is celebrated as World Wetlands Day annually to commemorate the signing of the convention.

Why are wetlands important?

Wetlands store all the water that we drink and use. They support coastal communities and are also a sanctuary for biodiversity; 40% of the world's species live in wetlands. Wetlands help regulate the climate by assisting forests, mangroves, seagrass beds and marshes to store carbon. They also protect coastlines against natural disasters.

How are wetlands connected to the water cycle?

Wetlands regulate the water cycle. In the heart of forests, there is always a source of water, which flows into a river, or a lake and ends its course in the sea. The sun evaporates these waters and, as they gather, they form clouds. Pushed by the wind, they give rain. And the cycle begins again. Wetlands capture and store rainwater and release it at the right time in the right place. During this process, wetlands improve the quality of the distributed water by removing and absorbing pollutants.



How do we protect wetlands?

Today, the world is facing a water crisis. Some of the factors that contribute to this are population growth and urbanisation leading to the draining and filling of wetlands to aid construction of buildings. So many wetlands have disappeared. We must preserve existing wetlands and try to restore those that have been despoiled. We must clean and preserve freshwater sources. We must use water wisely and sustainably. Finally, we need to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands and water in development plans, as wetlands are a nature-based solution to water resource management.





Snowdrop makes new friends

Snowdrop lived in a castle with a loving stepfather and mother and had everything she wanted. But she itched to explore the forest behind her home, which she had been warned not to enter. When she did go in ...



Illustrations: Sreejith R. Kumar

RADHIKA D. SHYAM

nce upon a time, a pretty princess named Snowdrop was born and named when the first snowflake fell in winter. Sadly, soon after her birth, her father died. The kingdom could not go on for long without a king, so the queen re-married a very kind and wise man. Snowdrop's stepfather loved her very much and wanted her to grow up to be as wise as he was. He happened to possess a magic mirror. Whenever he asked it: "Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the wisest of us all?"

The magic mirror would answer, "You are the wisest, no doubt about it. But Snowdrop will soon beat you to it." And the king would gloat proudly, obviously pleased with the answer.

Snowdrop grew up to be beautiful and wise. However, she was constantly bored, as expected of a girl who had everything in life without



working for it. Just behind the castle were dense woods.
Snowdrop had been told never to venture there, as wild animals lurked there. Not surprisingly, she was tempted to go.

Into the woods

So, one day when her parents

were out, she entered the woods and planned to return safely before they did. She thought her parents would appreciate her courage and confidence. She skipped and danced her way into the woods, happy to be all by herself. She closed her eyes and breathed deeply to inhale the fragrance of the flowers and wet grass. She watched rabbits and deer skipping around and listening to the chirping of the birds. Soon, however, she realised she was lost. She had no idea which way led home, as all the trees looked the same. She kept walking, hoping to find shelter before night fell.

After some time, Snowdrop came upon a big cottage with huge doors and windows. She



went in to see seven super-large beds in the bedroom and huge utensils in the kitchen. The cottage was a big mess but there was not a single morsel to eat. The princess nibbled at some fruits left on the massive dining table and soon fell asleep on a chair that doubled as a couch for her.

When she opened her eyes, seven men — all extremely tall — were staring down at her. Her fear turned to amusement when she saw the concerned look on their faces. She introduced herself and the men promised to help her find a way to the castle the next day. Early the next morning, the men cooked breakfast for Snowdrop before they set out to find a castle whose princess was missing.

A chance meeting

Meanwhile, Snowdrop gathered flowers from the garden outside to decorate their vases, humming a happy tune all the while. Suddenly an old man, bent with age, appeared with a basket of apples. He used his marketing skills to try and convince her to taste one. But Snowdrop was too clever to fall for it.

The old man laughed and took off his disguise. It was her beloved stepfather. He had wanted to test her and was relieved that she did not accept anything from strangers. He said, "Congratulations! You are truly wise. But, please don't go anywhere without informing us next time. You might not always be lucky."

Snowdrop apologised and promised to be more obedient in the future. The two of them waited for her newfound friends to return. After bidding them a tearful farewell, she returned home with her father—a little wiser than before. And, no, there was no prince on the way, waiting to woo and marry her. But she did live happily ever after.







Title:
The Talking Book
Author:
Jane De Suza
Publisher: Puffin
Price: ₹299



Title: The Golden
Tiger Mountain
Author: Nicholas
Hoffland; Ravi
Kapoor
Publisher: Harper
Collins
Price: ₹499



Title:
Biji's in the Kitchen!
Author: Natasha
Sharma
Publisher: Duckbill
Price: ₹199

he story of communication begins in prehistoric times, gallops through the dark arts, untranslatable words and languages brought back from the dead, and arrives in the age of Al. Along the way, we meet outstanding characters the one-word man, the 400-word monkey and the million-word computer — who play their part in the development of language. Enjoy the rollercoaster ride of language, hilarious histories and crazy quizzes, but ignore the wise-cracking dog who will insist he wrote this book.

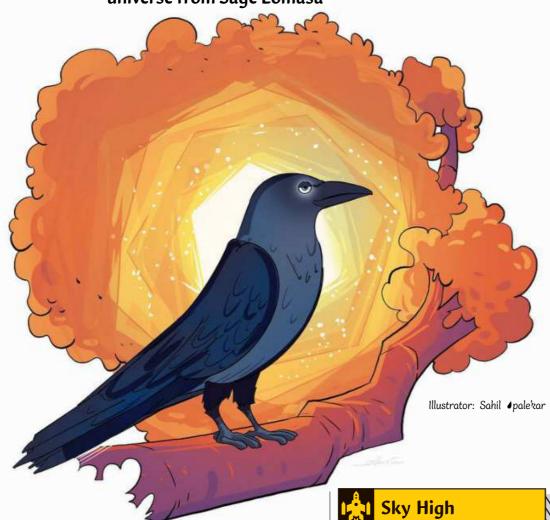
o find the magical cure for his ailments, old Pala Dawa and Rinzing, his little granddaughter and the heart of his world, must do what no man has ever done: climb the Golden Tiger Mountain, and come back alive. In their way stand formidable, legendary challenges that will test their faith and endurance. Will their optimism and love for each other be enough to conquer the monsters, both real and imagined, that threaten to overpower them?

Slimy bhindi curry, anyone? How about only chutney for lunch? Well, we can see you wanting for more! So, we have the super-cool, freestyle and fun Biji who can ride a motorbike and do karate in the kitchen, but cooking...you'll have to find out for yourself! So, pick up this sweet (maybe a bit burnt on the sides) book, which will satiate your taste for storytelling.



Of universes and multiverses

Kakabhushundi learns about the magnitude of the universe from Sage Lomasa



hile Rama is talking to Kaikeyi, a crow sitting atop a tree is watching and closely following the conversation.



Jagadeesh Kanna

Kakabhushundi (to himself): This is the 11th time I am seeing all this. This yuga has more science than any other cycle. If human knowledge of science grows this way, humans will be able to time travel and, once that happens, it could possibly be the last kalpa. I must confirm this with my guru, Sage Lomasa.

Kakabhushundi moves his wings in a strange way and a

wormhole appears before him. He enters it and travels 1000 times faster than the speed of light and reaches a mountain in a parallel universe, where Sage Lomasa lives.

Sage Lomasa: Welcome back, Kakabhushundi. Did you see anything strange this time?

Kakabhushundi: Yes, the last time I watched Lord Rama as a child, he did not have as much scientific knowledge as he does this time. His brother and he were talking about technology and controlling rockets and so much more.

Sage Lomasa: You probably visited the Treta Yuga of the last kalpa, where most students have access to all kinds of scientific knowledge but need some guidance to use them. In the same kalpa's Kali Yuga, children have more advanced knowledge and access to devices like cell phones, satellites, the Internet and more. They are like demi gods who have not yet realised their power.

Kakabhushundi: What? You are talking about mortals, right?

Sage Lomasa: Yes, these children will be the decision makers for the future in their period and possibly find ways to reach other worlds.

Kakabhushundi: I wanted to ask you about something. Lord Rama gave me the power to time travel to parallel universes to watch different versions of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. Can you tell me why?

Sage Lomasa: Because you are the messenger who is going to tell the world that the universe is not one but a multiverse where similar events happen in parallel universes several thousand light years away from each other.

Kakabhushundi: What is multiverse and parallel universe?

The Milky Way

itself is part of a

Galactic Super

Cluster called

Laniakea.

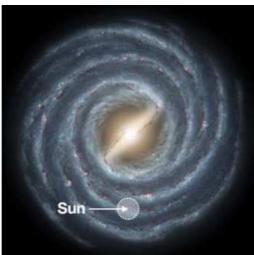
Sage Lomasa: All right. Let me start with some basics about our galaxy and universe before going to multiverse. We live in the Milky Way, which contains 200-400 billion stars and at least 100

billion planets. Many of these planets revolve around stars and may possess life. But much of it is unexplored.

Kakabhushundi: So, we are like a dust particle.

Sage Lomasa: Smaller than that when compared to the scale





of the galaxy. The universe is packed with billions of galaxies. The Milky Way itself is part of a Galactic Super Cluster called Laniakea. It's like being a single nerve among the billion nerves in the human body. According to current understanding, such multiple clusters create a huge egg-shaped structure called PerAndam or the big egg.

Kakabhushundi: Are you telling me we live in an egg? Sage Lomasa: And there are multiple such universes.

Kakabhushundi: Wait, I have heard something similar about Brahma being born from Lord Vishnu's dream.

Sage Lomasa: Exactly.
Something like that. Basically, there are billions of such eggs (universes), each with its own laws of Physics and Science that we do not know. Our predictions and calculations are based on whatever we observe. So, some version of Rama might be very

intelligent and technically superior to another. But that doesn't mean it ends there. It keeps happening again and again. Which is why you are an immortal time-travelling being. The purpose of your life is to take this knowledge to every edge of every universe.

Kakabhushundi: Hmmmm, that is a humongous task. But, if I don't have anything to do, this immortal life will be boring. Anyway, let me explore more about Rama before I start taking the message around.

Kakabhushundi travels back to the same spot from where he was watching Rama. Sage Lomasa smiles, as he knows that Kakabhushundi will be most confused when he sees all the versions of whatever is happening.

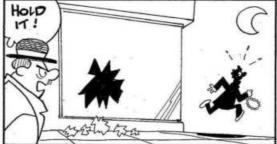
The author is the founder and CEO of Vaayusastra Aerospace, an IIT-Madras incubated ed-tech start-up that offers Air Science workshops for children between five and 14 years.



Ancient origins

The concept of multiverse was first propounded by Greek philosophers in the fifth century BCE. Phillip Pullman's The Dark Materials trilogy used the concept of parallel universes.









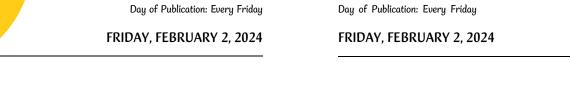










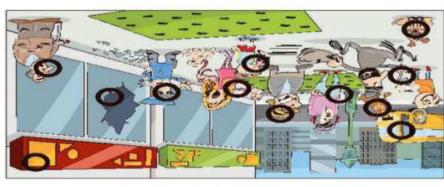












SOLUTION



QUIZ Whizz



Which fruit is the main ingredient in guacamole, a dip that originated in Mexico?



2 Which country recently became the fifth to soft-land on the Moon?



Which parallel of latitude passes through India — The Tropic of Cancer or Tropic of Capricorn?



If someone were to tell you that polar bears live in Antarctica, will it be true or false?



5 Ruth Wakefield was an American chef who developed the first recipe for which yummy treat?



6 Which country is currently hosting the ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup?

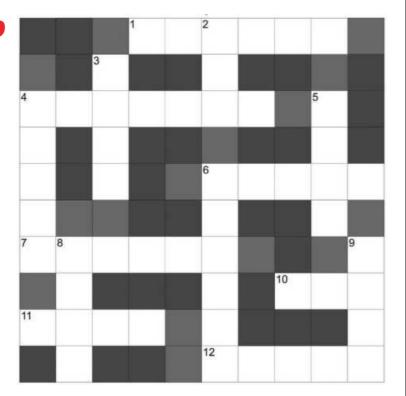
CROSSWORD FOR YOU



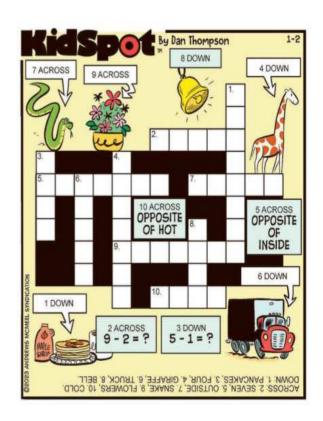
Bhavya Venkatesh

Rhyme time

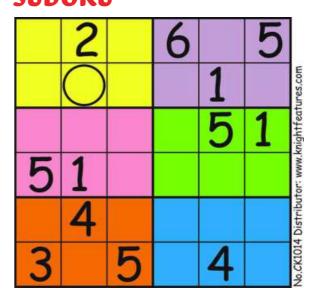
ACROSS



1 Little Jack Horner sat in the
(6)
4 Up above the world so high, like a
in the sky (7)
6 Here is my handle, here is my
(5)
7 Incy wincy climbed up the
water spout (6)
10 Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,
eating curds and whey (3)
11 Little Bo Peep has lost her
sheep, and doesn't know where to
them (4)
12 Hickory dickory dock, the



SUDOKU



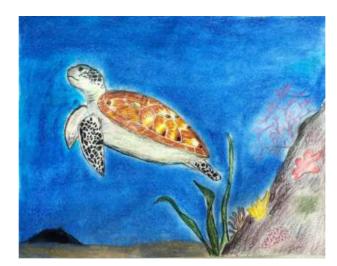
Solutions on page 16

Scrapbook





Shreya Manesh, IV, Kendriya Vidyalaya-Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



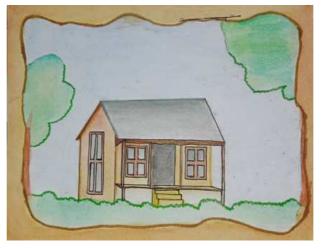


Desh Chemuturi, IV, Indus Universal School, Hyderabad, Telangana





Aarav Shravan, IV, Delhi Public School, Bengaluru, Karnataka



Noorul Fathima K., VI, Cluny Matric. H.S. Sec. School, Salem, Tamil Nadu





Naavya Narayani, IV, The Srijan School, New Delhi





Kartikeyan, VII, SRM Nightingale Matric. H.S. School, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Let's split

In a room colourful and bright That is where a girl first took sight

Of a person on TV doing a split That's when she decided to aim high.

The limit was the sky
Her tiny legs stretched
Her muscles flexed
After doing stretches every day
There was a sudden shout of

hooray The little girl had done her splits

So that's a lesson for all kids In how she tried to reach her goal

You could do the same And may be even get some fame

Kids can be mighty and strong Even though they can be wrong.



Aleya Mary Jaffin, IV, Hari Sri Vidya Nidhi, Thrissur, Kerala





Satdeepkaur Sodhi, VI, Woodridge High School, Aurangabad, Maharashtra



Scrapbook





A. Krishanth, IV, Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Sr. Sec. School, K.K. Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu





Srimayi Vignesh, III, Sri Vageesha Vidhyashram, Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu





Hibba Fathima Anshadh, II, Anand Bhavan Central School, Kollam, Kerala





K. Mahijith, VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh





Muthe Rajasri, V A, Krishna Reddy's Sri Chaitanya Children's Academy, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh





Gaurya, I D, Freedom International School, HSR, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Fire

The fire that I behold is immutable, It never leaves me Our relationship is a knot that cannot be untied It sometimes turns into ashes But if you have a way

So dream, chase and achieve.
My life is filled with blood,
betrayal, love and agony
But I still find hope and beauty
There is much more in me to
offer, deep inside
So I explore the unexplored
If I am still not found, I will be
myself.



K. Sindhu, VII, The Gaudium International School, Hyderabad, Telangana

My Father

My father is the best
He never ever rests
He works hard day and night
For my bright future.
His arms are my shelter
My father is my supporter
My father is my special friend
He taught me good values
Your smile makes me happy
My father, I love you

Zaman Siraj, IV D, Vidyani'zethan Public School, Payyoli, Kerala



Advika Jindal, III, Rukmini Devi Public School, Delhi

Youngworld. 13

Scrapbook

Sailing

Sailing is a sport, In which you go shore to shore.

I love it.

For, never is it a bore.

My boat has a sail,

Ropes, rudder, and all.

When the wind blows fast, Sometimes, I do shudder.

My boat does rock,

And I get a shock.

Wind in my hair,

Without a care.

Happy, excited,

Ready to have fun,

When I run,

Under the sun.

To reach the finish line,

Sailing is all these things. Sometimes, in my boat, I sing.

Sometimes, in my boat, I sing

Samaira Tandon, V, Army Public School, Kir'kee, Pune, Maharashtra

A new day

t's a new day and a new chance

With new ways and new rays, Don't let it go.

So, wake up and make your day fruitful,

For, every new day comes with

A new opportunity and new chance.

Things we wish for,

Things we pray for,

Need a new chance.

Use it, don't waste it,

Let your dreams find place in your life.

A new morning brings a new goal,

Which makes your dreams come true.

Don't let it go, oh, don't let it go.

Radhika, VI C, St. Albans School, Faridabad, Haryana





Harsha Deepa Syam, III, St.Thomas Central School, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala





Anaisha Agrawal, I, Step By Step School, Noida, Uttar Pradesh





S R Kaviya Varshini, III, Everwin Vidhyashram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu





Advika Srivastava, IV, Cambridge School, Indirapuram, Uttar Pradesh





Felicia Shah, II, JBCN International School, Oshiwara, Mumbai, Maharashtra





Bodhi Sri Manasvi Urla, V, Nalanda International Public School, Mettur Dam, Salem, Tamil Nadu







An iconic church

The Basilica of Bom Jesus is one of the Churches and Convents of Goa that have been recognised as architectural wonders

ne of the Seven Wonders of Portuguese Origin in the World and among the best of baroque architecture in India, the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Goa is the first minor basilica in the country. In Portuguese, it is known as Basílica do Bom Jesus and as Borea Jezuchi Bajilika in Konkani.

The church was part of the Churches and Convents of Goa, which were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986. Begun in 1594 and consecrated in 1605, the church was granted the status of basilica in 1946 through a Pontifical decree from Pope Pius XII.

The church attained iconic status because it contains the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, who, along with St. Ignatius Loyola, founded the Society of Jesus. He died on Sancian Island while on the way to China. His body was taken to

Portuguese Malacca initially, but shipped back to Goa after two years. Giovanni Battista Foggini, a sculptor from Florence, designed the mausoleum that took around 10 years. On top of this lies the silver coffin that contains the body of the saint. This was gifted by Cosimo III, the Grand Duke of Tuscany and the last of the famous Medicis. A public viewing of the saint's remains is held every 10 years and attracts a massive crowd from across the world.

The floor is of marble and the altars are elaborate and gilded. A large statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola can be found in the main altar, gazing upwards at Jesuit emblem, which contains the name of Jesus. Above that is the Holy Trinity. The altar table, used during the Mass, has the image of the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. The words Hi Mhoji Kudd are inscribed on it. In

Konkani, this means "This is My Body". Paintings depicting events from the saint's life can be found in the lower level, while paintings by Dom Martin, a surrealist artist from Goa, decorate the upper level.

Also on the list:

- The Basilica of Bom Jesus is one of the Churches and Convents of Goa in the World Heritage Site list. The others are Chapel of St. Catherine, which was built in 1510. Pope Paul III gave it the status of cathedral in 1534.
- Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, which was built in 1517.
- Church of Our Lady of Rosary, which was built in 1549.
- Sé Cathedral, which was built in 1652 and is dedicated to St. Catherine.
- Church of St. Augustine, which was built in 1602, but is in ruins and has only part of a bell tower still standing.
- Chapel of St. Cajetan, which was built in 1661 and modelled on the lines of St. Peter's Church in Rome.



Rohini Ramakrishnan





Marine mania

Time for some fin-tastic fun! Follow these steps to make your own paper shark.



Step 1: Draw the shapes on the paper.



Step 3: Fold the circle in half. This will be the body of the shark.



Step 5: Stick the tail and fins.

*se glitter to decorate your shark.



Step 2: Cut out all the shapes as shown.



Step 4: Stick the eyes using glue.



Step 6: Draw a smile. Your aquatic companion is ready!

Photos: Getty Images/iStockPhoto





H FLYING

Get your paints, colour pencils and crayons ready, as the country-wide painting competition is set to begin. The competition will be held over three stages: Preliminary, Regional and National Finale.



CATEGORIES AND TOPICS FOR PRELIMS:

Sub-Junior (Std. III to V): A day at the zoo; Underwater dreamland; My happy family

Juniors (Std. VI to VIII): A day in the theme park; Animal Olympics; Sharing a rainbow

Seniors (Std. IX to XII): Journey to outer space; A zero-pollution world; Unity in diversity

> Last date to receive entries: February 27



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Choose any one topic in your category and paint on an A3 white drawing sheet (size 11.7 x 16.5 inches).
- You may use water colours, crayons, and colour pencils. Sketch pens and markers can be used only for outline purposes.
- On the reverse of your drawing sheet,

mention the following details: Topic, Name, Class, School Name (with branch), City, State, Category of Participation, Parent's name, and Registered email ID and mobile number.



- Your physical drawing should be sent to your nearest office of The Hindu. Visit ywc.thehindu.com/thg-office-address/ to get the address.
- On the top left of the envelope, mention, "Young World - JSW Futurescapes Painting Competition 2024".
- Ensure that the painting reaches The Hindu Office before February 27.
 - Those who qualify for the next round will be receive the details of the date and other information through the registered email ID or mobile number.

For more details, visit ywc.thehindu.com/jswpaints or call 18001021878 (7.00 am to 7.00 pm)

SOLUTIONS

Inspector Danger Crime Quiz: The member of the "Curly Hair Club" with the ring in his ear proved to be the thief. He was the only one who didn't smell of spicy pepperoni. Quiz Whizz: 1. Avocado; 2. Japan; 3. The Tropic of Cancer; 4. False; 5. Chocolate chip cookie; 6. South **Africa**

THEMAHINDU **foungworld**

Air Surcharge as applicable: Manipur - Rs. 4/-

Sudoku

4	2	1	6	3	5
6	5	3	2	1	4
2	3	6	4	5	1
5	1	4	3	2	6
1	4	2	5	6	3
3	6	5	1	4	2

Crossword for you



Calling Young World Readers!

Send us your thoughts on World Science Day before February 10 either as drawings or prose/poetry along with your name, class, school, city and your photograph. Email us at youngworld@ thehindu.co.in and select ones will be featured in the special issue.

THE HINDU

to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves abou THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this ne