

THE HINDU Youngworld

TREASURE IN YOUR HANDS



₹ 10.00
VOL.11 • NO.2



FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024

Pg

02



Celebrating Tradition

Explore the Cape Town
Minstrel Carnival

Pg

14



Game, set and match

Ace moments will unravel at
the Australian Open

The collage features several illustrations: a central large illustration of three people (two men in turbans and one woman) dancing joyfully in traditional Indian attire (red and orange sarees) with confetti falling around them; a smaller inset illustration in the bottom left corner showing a large pile of yellow grains (rice or wheat), a blue and white patterned umbrella, a pink and white striped cloth, and a brown drum (mridangam); and a large background illustration on the right depicting a traditional Indian rice stack (matha) with a flag on top, set against a backdrop of a sunset over a field, palm trees, and two decorated clay pots (kalash) with smoke rising from them.

Harvesting JOY

Magh Bihu, Pongal, Makara Sankranti, Lohri... the names differ but the essence is the same: gratitude for a bountiful harvest. Turn to pages 6 and 7 to learn more.



A second New Year

Liani, the eagle, takes off to ring in the New Year at Cape Town in a burst of colour, music, and tradition!



Now that Christmas and New Year are done with, I can write about the 'Second New Year'. Surprised? Well, so was I when I first heard about it. That's what got me excited about going to Cape Town in South Africa. It is called Tweede Nuwe Jaar or the annual Cape Town Minstrel Carnival, established almost a century ago.

The festival is held on January 2; so literally the Second New Year. I got in on December 31 and was there when the new year dawned. However, I was not overly enthused about the New Year celebrations. I had an early night on the first and woke up at the crack of dawn not wanting to miss anything. I was not disappointed.

Music and dance

About 20,000 performers were divided into various troupes, as they marched and danced in the city centre to the music of brass

instruments and drums in the traditional ghoema musical style. The performers, known as the Kaapse Klopse, were dressed in colourful suits, with their faces painted and either wore hats or carried parasols.

At the head of one troupe was a two-year-old carried by his grandfather and, by the looks of it, enjoying every moment. The little fella was dressed in a green shirt with yellow and white polka



Eagle's Nest

dots and had a pacifier in his mouth.

If you thought the performers were too many, then you should have seen the spectators. They were far more in number. The blazing sun couldn't dim their enthusiasm or cheerfulness. Just watching them had me longing for a rest and a long, cold drink.

Beginnings

But, despite the joy and

happiness, the festival has rather sad origins. It began in colonial times when slaves brought to South Africa from other parts of Africa (Mozambique, West and Central Africa), India (Bengal, Malabar, Coromandel) and Sri Lanka and Indonesia were given one day off during the year to celebrate. They made it into a festival of colour, music, dancing and parades.

I made enquiries as to the best place to perch myself to get a bird's eye view of the parade. Everyone I asked had the same answer: the historic District Six area. At the end of the march, the performers and the many Cape Malay Choirs head to the Green Point Stadium to compete for the best singer prize. But this battle for the best does not complete itself on that day. It continues for the remaining Saturdays in January. So it is a month-long celebration. Of course, I couldn't stay the month, as I had work to do.



Nimi Kurian





Inspirational icon

Today is my birthday, which is celebrated as National Youth Day.

MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN

Formal name: Narendranath Datta

Meet me at: 3, Gourmohan Mukherjee Street in Kolkata, West Bengal

My birthday: January 12

Skilled at: Music. I learnt Dhrupad under two music maestros, Beni Gupta and Ahmad Khan. I could play multiple musical instruments including the dholak and sitar.

Famous for: Memory and speed reading abilities. Once, in a talk, I quoted two or three pages from Charles Dickens' *The Pickwick Papers* verbatim.

My guru: Ramakrishna Paramahansa of Dakshineshwar

Chance meeting: During Prof. William Hastie's talk on William Wordsworth, he mentioned the word 'trance' and suggested that students visit Dakshineshwar to understand its meaning. This led to my meeting with my guru.

Noted saying: 'Arise, awake' and 'Stop not until the goal is reached'.

Major moment: Representing India at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893 in Chicago. I began my speech with "Sisters and brothers of America..." and received a standing ovation from the 7,000 people assembled there.



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Brother dear

Janet was delighted to see Karan but why did her brother come when her mother and Colonel Sharma were away?


Talespin

Illustration: Sreejith R. Kumar

SRISTI SENGUPTA

Janet had gladly agreed to come along with them on the five-hour ride from her home in Shillong, when promised a beautiful garden beside Colonel Sharma's house. She left the car quietly and tried to run to take a peek because it was already past 8.00 pm. As she dashed away, she was lifted off the ground.

The colonel had grabbed her by the neck of her tunic just in time to save her from falling into the depths of the dark lake, a few yards away from the house's rear. The lamp posts at each end shone like little yellow moons on the surface. Two wooden boats floated on the far side. "I'm NOT a fan of mischief!" The colonel's growl

meant that they had to report indoors immediately. Yes, even Janet's little dog: Star.

Mother made a simple dinner because she was tired from the journey. Little Janet was only seven and not used to sleeping alone, as decreed by the colonel, who thought it was important to discipline a child. She understood that Mother would marry the Colonel soon. Perhaps she even admired his ways since she barely smiled or spoke any more. Karan's boarding school was only a couple hours away from the Colonel's bungalow. He was in Std. VIII and studying was so important that he could barely ever visit them.

At the lake

"Curnil Saab and Mem had to leave early to pack and move

some things from your old house," said Mohan. That was Janet's introduction to the prickly old caretaker of the bungalow when she woke up the next morning. He had driven Star away with a stick. Janet found the poor dog sitting at the edge of the lake, which looked like a black-green mirror on a clear morning. The water looked like glass waiting to break open. A ghastly fog always lined its banks, looking like the frozen breath of something that lived within.

Star started barking and she looked towards the gate. A boy stood outside it. "Brother!" Janet jumped into his arms. "This house was easier to find than I'd imagined!" Karan smiled.

"Saab had mentioned nothing about you. I was hoping to leave

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before lunch. I have nobody but a mother who seems to be sick more often than she is hungry. But now..." Mohan sighed.

"You can go, I will be a good girl. My brother will look after me," Janet suggested.

"First a dog, now a brother too?" Mohan yelled.

"He will only stay for two days. We want to surprise Mother," Janet begged. A ball shot passed them and Star came running to catch it.

"You had better not be a menace. Ask your brother to come inside or he will ruin the lawn with that little devil of yours. I'll be back when I can."

Mohan stood outside for a moment, listening to Janet's laughter. "Chhoti Mem," he called. "Don't touch the boats. The wood is poor and one has a large hole in its bottom." Mohan left for his house.

Where is Star?

Two hours went by, but Mohan didn't come back. "Star must be hungry," Janet thought to herself. But the dog didn't come when she called. So, she followed the faint barks coming from outside.

"This is fun," she heard Karan shout. He was in a boat in the middle of the lake and the fog slowly engulfed the boy and the little dog with him. Janet rushed to the other boat and stopped short in horror. Karan had taken out the boat that would sink.

As Janet broke down, crying, the soft mud gave way under her and she fell into the lake. "Come back! Please! Come b..." the water sucked her in and muffled her screams.

But she had nothing to worry about. A sinking boat couldn't drown a boy who had been laid to rest on the same day as his father, four years ago.


Bookworm

To catch a thief

Sixteenth century Hyderabad, a clan of time-travelling thieving djinns and the Shah-i-noor. What do they have in common?

Meet Sahabzada Hawa Singh Rafu Chakkar (Rafu), a descendant of the legendary Time-Travelling Thieving Djinns, who wants to abandon the family tradition of stealing jewels to pursue his true passion: cooking. However, when the king of djinns tasks him with a mission to steal the Shah-i-Noor diamond in the newly built city of Haiderabad, Rafu reluctantly accepts.

His secret agenda? The diamond is his ticket to his dream. Will Rafu escape the cunning courtiers, mysterious thieves and a most annoying horse, all while the tantalizing aroma of pulavs and kebabs constantly distracts him.

Visit the city of Haiderabad as the Char Minar was being built and enjoy this light-hearted and breezy adventure.

Get Lucky

Here's a chance for an exciting win. Answer the questions below and the first five correct entries will receive a copy of the book.

1 Which ruler from the Qutb Shahi dynasty built the Charminar?

2 Legend has it that a secret tunnel links the Charminar with which ancient structure in the city?

3 Name the popular bazaar around Charminar that is known for lacquer bangles studded with stones and glass.

Mail your entries to youngworld@thehindu.co.in along with your name, class, school, full residential address and mobile number. Entries without these details will not be considered. The contest is open only to students from Class II to Class VIII. Last date to receive entries is January 26, 2024.



REAP the harvest

The festival goes by many names, but the joy it brings is the same. Pongal is here and it's time to enjoy the benefits of a good yield of crops.

► MADHUVANTI S. KRISHNAN

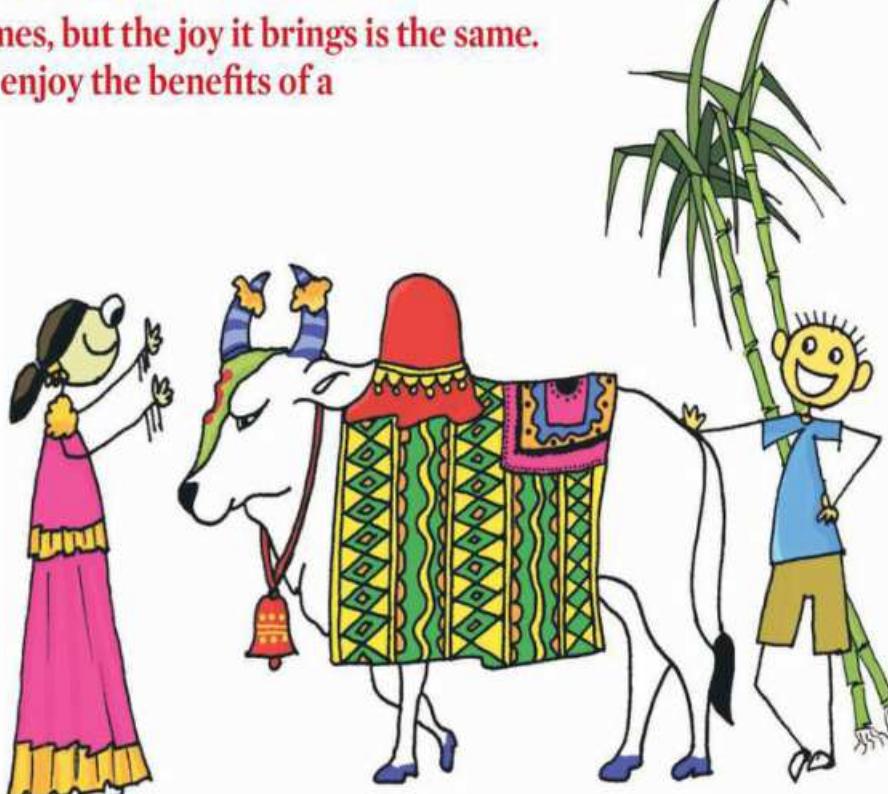
A new year has dawned and the cold winter gives way to the warm embrace of the golden sun. The skies are blue and the chirping of birds becomes more pronounced, as if in celebration of new life — one that is welcomed with ploughs working the soil, eating sugarcane and rejoicing with nature.

As Pongal arrives, the country gears up for the harvest festival. Irrespective of the numerous names it has— pongal, makar sankaranti, lohri — everyone gets together to thank nature for its bountiful resources.

As the festivities approach, pause awhile to think of the legends that surround it.

Taming the bull

Lord Shiva asked his bull, Nandi, to go



Illustrations: Sreejith R. Kumar

to the Earth and ask the mortals to have an oil massage and bath every day and to eat once a month. By a slip of the tongue, Nandi announced that everyone should eat daily and have an oil bath once a month. This infuriated Shiva. He cursed Nandi and banished him from Mount Kailash, asking him to live on earth forever where he would have to plough the fields and help people produce food required by them to eat every day.

This is the association the festival has with cattle. On *Mattu pongal*, cows and bulls are adorned with bells and worshipped. They are bathed and their horns are painted and decorated with shining metal caps. Multi-coloured beads, tinkling bells and garlands are tied around their necks while their foreheads sport turmeric and kumkum.

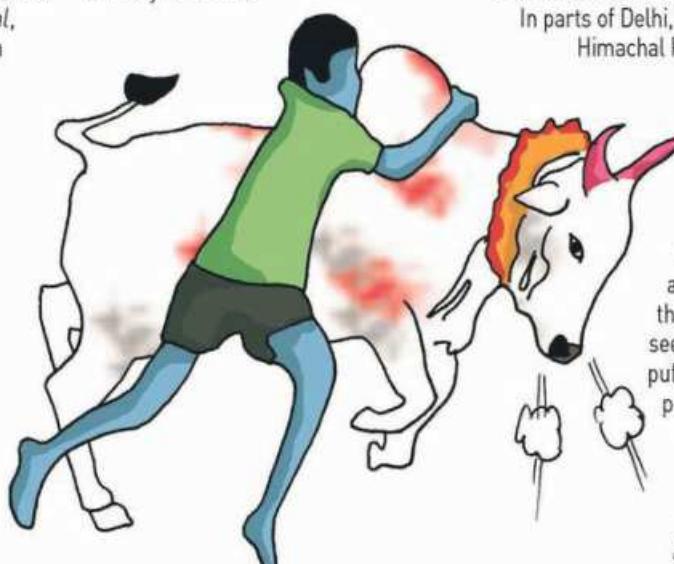
Indra humbled

According to another legend, Indra, the lord of the devas had grown arrogant of his courage and decided to vent his anger on the residents of Vrindavan. This was because, on the advice of Lord Krishna, then a child,

the people had decided to worship the forests, cattle and mountains as opposed to their annual worship of Indra. A furious Indra sent his thunderclouds and rain in an attempt to flood Vrindavan. Seeing that the people and cattle were on the verge of drowning, Krishna uprooted the Govardhan Mountain on his little finger and granted refuge for the village for three days. His arrogance quelled, a humbled Indra begged for forgiveness. Since then, Krishna allowed a day to be celebrated in honour of Indra. Legend has it that this day is Bhogi.

Did you know?

An important village sport, *Jallikattu* or *Manji Virattu* is



an integral part of *Mattu Pongal* and is enthusiastically celebrated in the villages of Tamil Nadu. This sport generally takes place in the evening of Mattu Pongal. In the past, it was a day when fierce bulls were chased by young youths of the village to retrieve the money that was tied to the horns of the bulls.

Variants include *vat i virattu* where a bull that is released from an enclosure needs to be held on to for a specific distance or time to win the prize, *ve li virattu* where a bull is released in an open ground with participants trying to subdue it. Then there's *vat am manjuvirattu* where a bull is tied to a 50-foot-long rope and a team attempts to subdue the bull within a specific time.

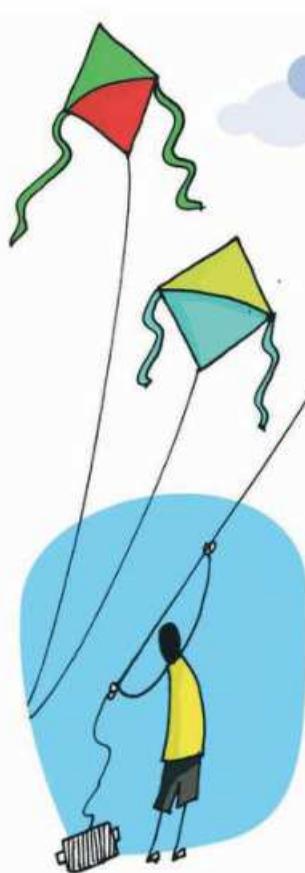
In May 2014, the Supreme Court of India banned *jallikattu*, citing animal welfare issues. On January 8, 2016, the Government of India passed an order exempting *Jallikattu* from all performances where bulls cannot be used, effectively reversing the ban. However, on January 14, 2016, the Supreme Court of India upheld its ban on the event, leading to protests all over Tamil Nadu.

By different names

India's harvest festival is celebrated in different ways in different states. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, cries of "*pongalo pongal*" rent the air as people stand around a pot of sweet pongal as it boils over. In Andhra and parts of Karnataka, people exchange trays of fried gram mixed with coconut pieces. What's more, in Karnataka, Makar Sankaranti is a chance for people to make and devour delicious well-crafted dolls from sugar candy. In Andhra, just like Tamil Nadu, old things are burnt, gifts are exchanged and cows are worshipped on these days.

In parts of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, the harvest festival, Lohri, is celebrated in January to mark the end of the harvest of rabi crops.

People light bonfires and dance around them while they throw sesame seeds, sweets and puffed rice into it as a prayer to the god of fire to bless the land with abundance. People also dance to beats of the *Bhangra* and sing folk songs.





QUICK and tasty

Make the festival extra special by dishing out some tasty pongal. It's easy to make and delicious too!

► R. KRITHIKA

Sakkarai pongal

Ingredients

Rice - 1/2 cup
Moong dal - 1/4 cup
Powdered jaggery - 1 cup
Ghee - 1/4 cup
Cardamom powder - 1/4 tsp

For garnish

Cashew nuts, a few
Raisins, a few

Method: Dry roast dal and rice separately. Pressure cook together with three cups of water. Mash well and keep aside.

Dissolve the jaggery in warm water and strain to clean it. Boil the strained liquid with a teaspoon of ghee. When it boils, add the mashed rice and dal and mix well till it is a sticky consistency. Add the cardamom powder and remove from heat.

Fry the cashew nuts in a teaspoon of ghee and keep aside. Heat the remaining ghee, fry the raisins till they swell. Now, add the rice-dal-jaggery mixture, the cashew nuts and mix well. Serve hot.



Ven pongal

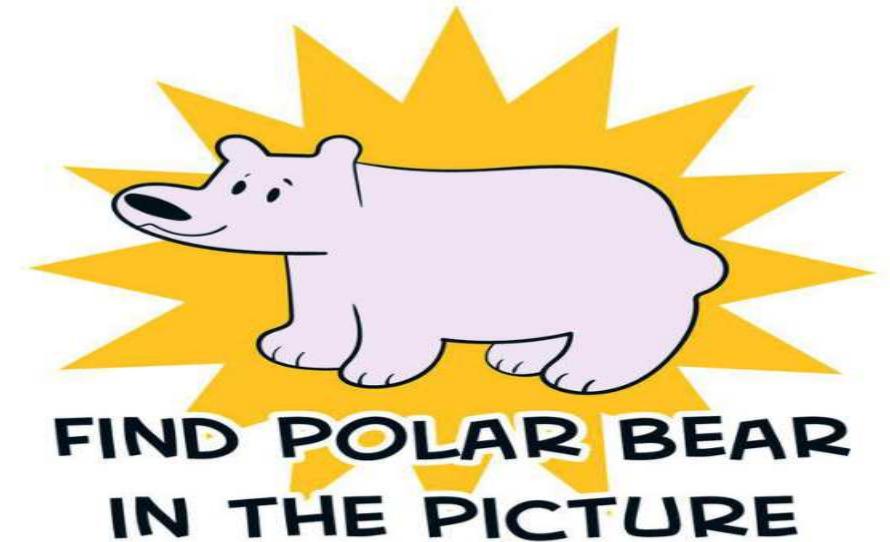
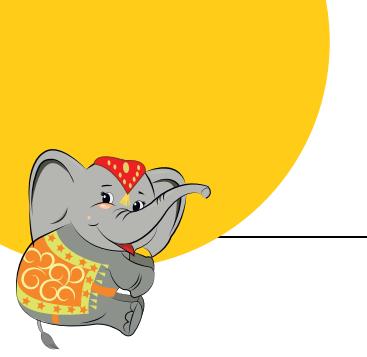
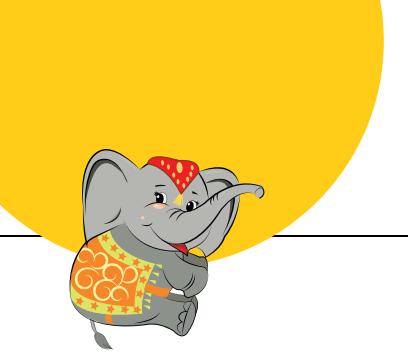
Ingredients

Raw rice - 1/2 cup
Moong dal - 1/4 cup
Ghee - 1 1/2 tbsp
Jeera - 1 tsp
Black peppercorns - 1 tsp
Salt to taste
Cashew nuts - 6-7
Curry leaves - For garnish

Method: Dry roast the rice and dal separately. Pressure cook together with three cups of water. Mash well and keep aside. Coarsely pound the jeera and black peppercorns and fry in half a teaspoon of ghee. Splitter curry leaves. Add the rice-dal mixture to it and stir well.

Fry the cashew nuts in the remaining ghee and pour over the rice. Serve hot with a spicy tomato chutney or *gotsu*.





**FIND POLAR BEAR
IN THE PICTURE**

**FIND
10
HIDDEN
OBJECTS
IN THE
PICTURE**

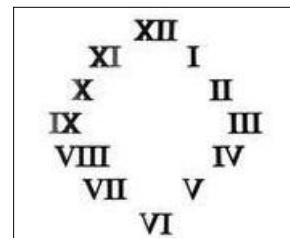




quiz Whizz



GINA NEUTRON



1 For which sport did Naorem Roshibina Devi receive the Arjuna Award in 2023?

2 General Dong Jun became the Defence Minister of which country in December 2023?

3 If Kabini is in Karnataka, and Corbett in Uttarakhand where is Panna?

4 Which sport is will make its debut in the 2024 Khelo India Youth Games?

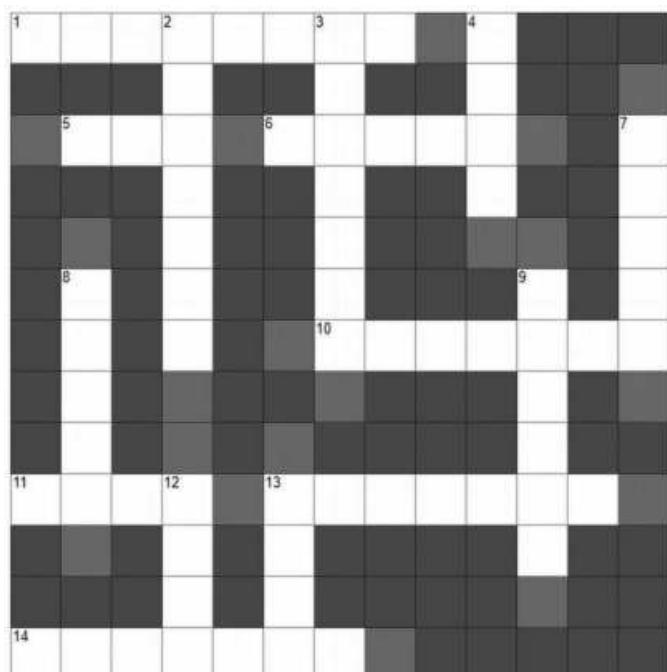
5 Know your Roman numerals? If V equals 5 and X equals 10, what does C equal?

6 Time for some anatomy. Babies are born without hard kneecaps. True or false?

CROSSWORD FOR YOU



Archana
Subramanian



Active living

ACROSS

- 1 We should _____ every day (8)
- 5 Try to have _____ while you exercise (3)
- 6 Moving very slowly, sometimes on hands and knees (5)
- 10 By exercising and eating nutritious food, you will help your body stay _____. (7)
- 11 Try to _____ over and touch your toes (4)
- 13 _____ is faster than walking, but slower than running (7)
- 14 We need to have strong arms to do _____. (7)

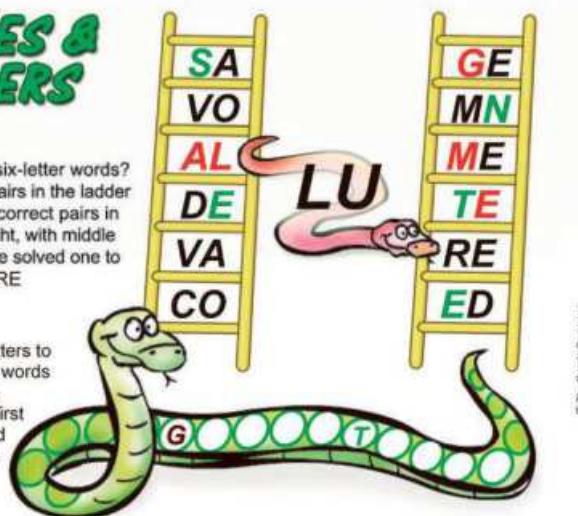
DOWN

- 2 Much faster than walking - we're _____.! (7)
- 3 You should do this before you exercise (7)
- 4 This can be an easy way to move. It rhymes with talk (4)
- 7 When we have a _____ race, you need more than one person on each team. (5)
- 8 One way to exercise is to _____ to your favourite music (5)
- 9 Exercise helps us to build _____ muscles (6)
- 12 A quick run (4)
- 13 One way to this is by using a rope (4)

SNAKES & LADDERS

Puzzle One

Can you solve the six-letter words? Connect the letter pairs in the ladder on the left with the correct pairs in the ladder on the right, with middle letters LU. We have solved one to start you off: ALLURE

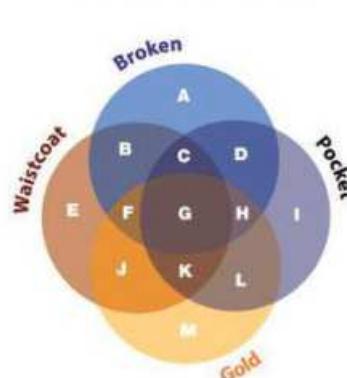


Puzzle Two

Use the coloured letters to make two five-letter words on the snake's back. We have given the first letter of the red word and the green word.

Venn Diagram

Can you work out which two areas of this diagram represent working gold watches kept in waistcoat pockets, and broken watches kept in pockets but not in waistcoats that aren't made of gold?



SUDOKU

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Solutions on page 16



Scrapbook



Neha Sakthi, VIII, KP Public School, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



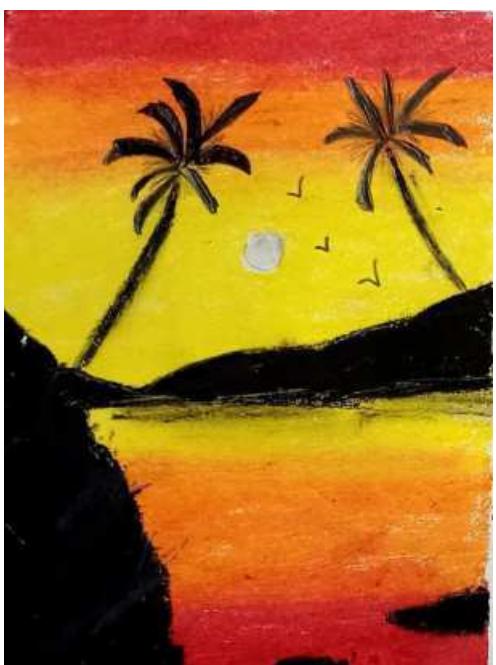
Viby Ann, III, St. Vincent Pallotti School, Bengaluru, Karnataka



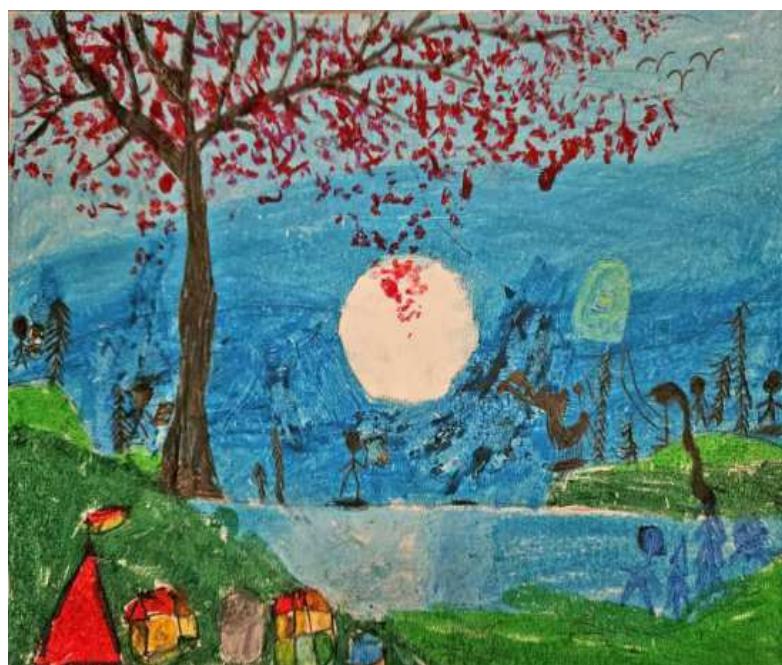
Abirami Sri K., II, The Indian Public School, Erode, Tamil Nadu



Prisha Sharma, II, N.K. Bagrodia Global School, New Delhi



Srivaishnavi Pasumarthi, IV, Kendriya Vidyalaya-Picket, Hyderabad, Telangana



Vanshika, I, Global Indian International School, Singapore

Technology

The world changes fast,
But we catch up.

Technology is the talk
Of this century's walk.

Sure it has flaws,
But who are we to judge.

From the telephone to the
smartphone
We have it all.

Each minute we take
New success comes.

And who is to say
When we shall stop.
We have it all.

Each minute we take
New success comes.
And who is to say
When we shall stop.



Shaun Mathew Andreas,
VI, St. Patrick's High School (CISCE), Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Kabeer Bhawasar, II,
Sree Narayana Guru Central School, Mumbai, Maharashtra



Scrapbook



G.T. Kavi Bharathi, I,
Narayana E Techno School,
Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu



Harsha Girish,
V, Chinmaya
Vidyalaya,
Kollengode,
Kerala



A beautiful sight

It starts steep, very steep
As we are on the ghat road
Go, with a thick forest
And a beautiful path
As we hike along the
Mountain track.
It feels like
The road is
Turning about
Inside a cloud.
No trees just
A few plants,
Very cold.
The great view
A beautiful sight to behold.



Saathvik Sriram
Poonati, V A, Capitol
Public School,
Bengaluru, Karnataka



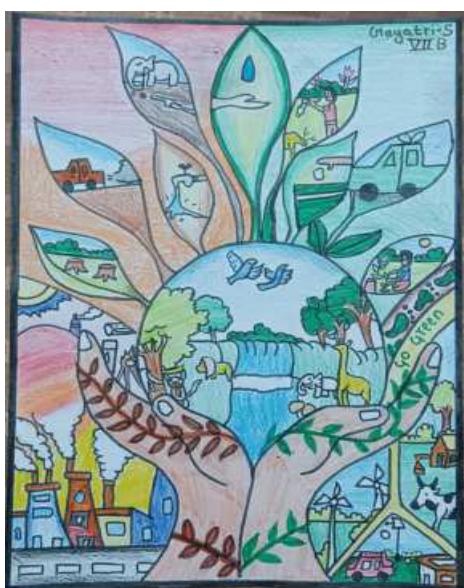
P. Rishi, TSWRS/JC
(BOYS), Gollapally,
Telangana



M. Shrinjay Ram Naik, V,
Aravinda High School,
Kunchanapalli, Andhra Pradesh

Lost my bag

One day I couldn't find
my bag though I
checked everywhere. The
bus could come at any
moment and I was hurrying
but I couldn't find my bag.
Then I checked under my
bed but still it was not
there. Suddenly I heard a
“BEEP BEEP”. It was my
bus's horn! I was feeling
very low because I just
couldn't see my bag.
After some time, with a cool
mind, I wondered where my
bag could be. In the blink of
an eye, I remembered that I
had hidden it under the
table last night. Then I
found it and shouted, “Bus,
here I come!” When I went,
the bus was gone.



Gayatri S.,
VII B, The
Ashok Leyland
School, Hosur,
Tamil Nadu



Jude George, IV, Believer's Church Residential School,
Tiruvalla, Kerala



Aadit Goyal, III B,
DPS, Faridabad,
Haryana



Scrapbook

The beautiful dawn

The crack of dawn,
Is so heavenly.
Sitting on a hill far away,
A humming breeze touches
your face,
Calm and soothing in its
pace.
An aesthetic waterfall on
the right,
Trying to cross the rocks
with all its might.
Birds are in their best
mood,
Chirping and finding their
food.
When the dawn is at bay,
The bright shining sun is
on its way,
As the sun rises in the
sky,
Yay, it is the beginning of
a lovely new day.



Aashvi Joshi, III,
Sanskriti School,
Chanakyapuri, New
Delhi



Olivia Das, III,
The Samhita
Academy,
Bengaluru,
Karnataka



V. Mahathi, III,
Ashvattha School,
Madurai, Tamil Nadu

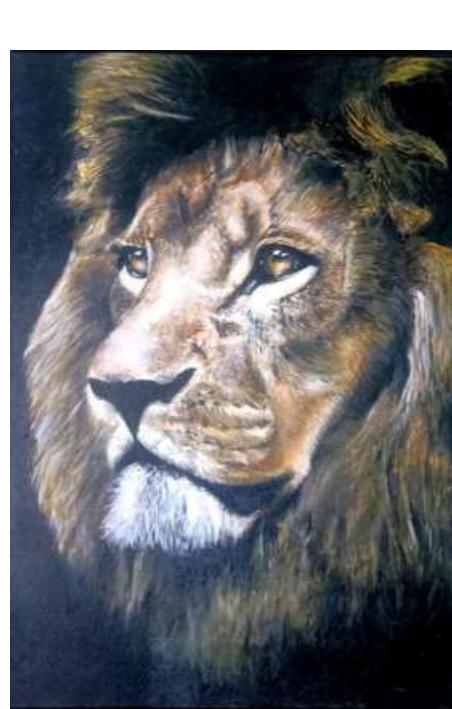


Rithanya R., III,
Cornerstone
Public School,
Chandanagar,
Hyderabad,
Telangana

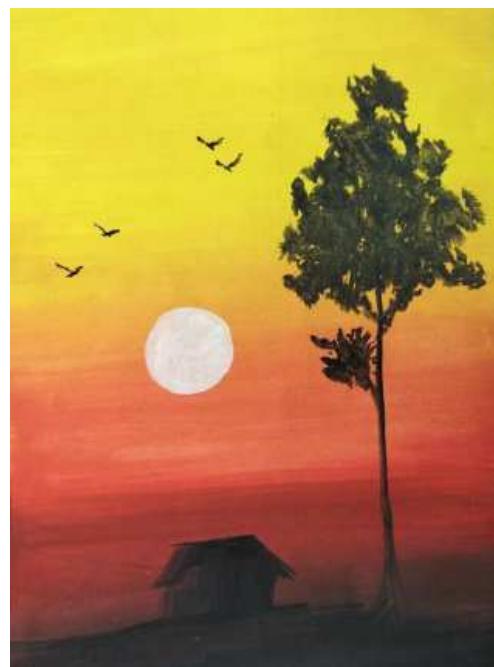
Rainbow

A rainbow is filled with
seven colours.
Violet, indigo, blue,
Green, yellow, orange, and
red too.
Colours, colours make me
joyous,
For, they appear in the
sky,
And look so pretty.
Colours, colours make me
happy.
When the rainbow
disappears,
I feel lonely.
I feel sad.

R.Nivedha, V B, Arka The Green
School, Andoor, Kanyakumari,
Tamil Nadu



Abhirami A S,
VIII, Le'cole
Chempaka,
Thiruvanan
-thapuram,
Kerala



T. Gandhimathy,
IV, Fairlands A
Foundation
School,
Pudupatti,
Cumbum, Tamil
Nadu



FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024



SUNSHINE SLAM

The world's tennis titans are all set to serve excellence at the first Grand Slam of the year.

N. SUDARSHAN

Rafael Nadal
Spain's Rafael Nadal, owner of 22 Grand Slam singles titles, will return to the tennis court after missing nearly 12 months of action because of a hip injury. One of the most popular players in the world, the 37 year old has said that 2024 could be his last year as a professional. Nadal has won the Australian Open twice, most recently in 2022, and is a four-time runner-up. Another victory may be tough but it will be a golden opportunity for his fans to reminisce the glory days.



Novak Djokovic
World No.1 Novak Djokovic is a 10-time Australian Open champion, including the last four times he has entered the competition (2019, 2020, 2021, 2023). The Serbian holds the world record for most Grand Slam singles crowns among men (24 trophies) and, last year, he won seven of the 12 tournaments he played, including three of the four Majors (Australian Open, French Open and US Open). At 36 years, he is remarkably fit and is hopeful of playing until 40. There are no signs of him slowing down.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024



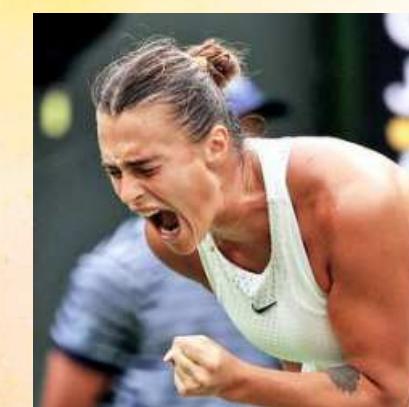
Carlos Alcaraz

Widely expected to be the next big star after Djokovic and Nadal retire, World No.2 Carlos Alcaraz is the king in waiting. The 20 year old won the 2022 US Open, and defeated Djokovic last year to win Wimbledon in sensational fashion. The Spaniard did not play in Melbourne last season and he hasn't progressed beyond the third round on the two previous occasions he made the journey to Australia. In 2024, he will look to change that record and rise further up the tennis ladder.



Rohan Bopanna

India's Rohan Bopanna may be 43 years old, but he is playing some of the best tennis of his life. He is now as high as World No.3 in men's doubles, a ranking he last reached way back in 2013. In the previous year, he made eight finals, including two at Grand Slams (with Sania Mirza in mixed doubles at Australian Open and with Matthew Ebden in men's doubles at US Open), and won two titles (Indian Wells Masters in the U.S. and Doha in Qatar). If he stays healthy, there is bound to be more success.



Aryna Sabalenka

World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka was the most consistent women's player in 2023. The Belarusian won the Australian Open, finished semifinalist at French Open and Wimbledon, before closing with a runner-up trophy at the US Open. In September, she became No.1 in the world, a just reward for her steady progress through the year. Though Swiatek reclaimed the top position by the end of the year, Sabalenka will be her biggest threat and competitor.



Coco Gauff

Still in her teens (19) but already a Major champion, the American World No.3 first shot to fame in 2019 when she beat the legendary Venus Williams at Wimbledon and reached the fourth round on her debut at the prestigious event. Since then, she has improved steadily, reaching the singles final at French Open in 2022 before winning the US Open last season. Also an accomplished doubles player — ranked No.3 in the world with compatriot Jessica Pegula — Gauff looks set for more accolades.



Naomi Osaka

Former World No.1 Naomi Osaka is set to come back to the site of her triumphs in 2019 and 2021 after more than a year's break. The 26-year-old gave birth to her daughter Shai in July 2023 and the Australian Open will be her first Major on return. Angelique Kerber — also a former Slam champion and World No.1 — will also be in Melbourne with her child in tow. If Osaka and Kerber can recapture their old form, the already inspirational champions will continue to set new benchmarks.

Iga Swiatek

The reigning World No.1 ended 2023 on a strong note, claiming her last two tournaments including the year-end championship. The Polish star is a four-time Major winner, but three of those have come on the clay at French Open. That is not to say that she is not good on synthetic courts like those in Melbourne. The 22 year old Swiatek, after all, won the 2022 US Open and had earlier that year reached the semifinals in Australia. She would no doubt like to go further this time around and bag the top prize.

(Rankings as on January 1, 2024)





GARFIELD



Sudoku

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

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