

Times NIE Editorial Powered by students

In The DEEP Blue

Learn about remaining endangered species and the challenges they face in today's world

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By ADITYA KAUSHAL, batch of 2020, Ekya Schools, Bengaluru

We live in a world where speed and efficiency is everything; fast-paced development, increasing manufacturing requirements and growing networks both physical and digital spanning the entire globe. Human beings have transformed their environment faster than any other species. That has resulted in us changing the face of the entire planet and not always for the better. **We have already eradicated many species, either as a direct consequence of our actions or through a chain of compounding problems starting with us.**

Through my series of articles, we'll learn about some of the few remaining endangered species left, and the challenges they face in today's world.

Whale of a concept

We have all perhaps had our first encounter with this magnificent species at an early age – through pictures in our science or general knowledge books, or through television cartoons, but few of us know more about them than the statement 'Largest mammals in the world'. Whales.

Apart from being the world's largest, they are also among the oldest living species on the planet – **some scientists estimate their ancestral species (the species which they are closely related to) might even have been around at a time predating dinosaurs!** The anatomy of whales is something of a mixed bag. Despite living in the cold, dark waters several metres below the surface, whales do not have gills. They have lungs, just like we do; they need oxygen. This is why whales will come up to the surface – to catch a whiff of the fresh air of the open sea they need to survive. This is also the time one can truly appreciate the size of a huge humpback whale.

Economic importance

As you can probably guess, whale-watching is an elusive tourist experience. Tourism agencies at various locations offer 'Whale watching' experiences – where one can get on a boat and catch a 'glimpse' of these beautiful creatures when they surface for air.

As such, the experience in the islands of Luzon, Philippines is unparalleled. The Philippines are home to a nearby cousin of the Humpback whale – the Oslob Whale-Shark. **These whales are relatively smaller than their cousins, but are known for their distinctive white spots throughout their body.** Since they



swim closer to the surface, at Philippines, one can interact with them a little more closely. Tourists can snorkel or scuba dive with

these whales, they are very passive and friendly.

These whales, and especially the humpbacks, are of more economic importance than we realise. These whales consume plankton from the depths of the ocean, in the process they circulate vast amounts of water making sure vital dissolved gases like nitrogen are continually refreshed at the upper layers of the ocean. This abundance of nitrogen ensures that several other species of fish are sustained and have enough nutrients to eat and thrive. Further, they also bring up some of the phytoplankton to the top of the surface. These phytoplankton now see the light of the sun, can photosynthesize, and produce over 15% of the oxygen present in the atmosphere at any given time. Oxygen, that we breathe. Oxygen, that sustains us.

WALKING THE TALK

The Hunter Games

However, with the advent of a growing economy and demand for fisheries – people have been hunting and killing these very whales for their massive amounts of fats and oils which are used in making soaps and industry reagents. They are also hunted for their meat

and bones. Whale hunting has been practiced for centuries, but never at this rate. **In the 1900's, poachers in Iceland killed the largest blue whale known to ever exist. It was said to be a rare hybrid, one that has not been seen ever in recorded history.** Iceland and the Faroe Islands are still

one of the only countries in the WORLD that refuses to end their whale hunting policy – instead they annually celebrate their whale hunting festival (I am not joking, this is a thing, look it up). **Since 1986, Iceland poachers have killed over 30,000 whales of all sub-species.**



In 2017, the ocean turned red.

It was only in May, 2020, in wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and increasing awareness among consumers that demand for whale meat in Japan went down.

In May, the Icelandic government announced it would not hold its whale hunting festival for at least one year; a small win for the environment and one step closer to a permanent ban. People are beginning to prefer watching them annually, rather than hunt. **It is people like us, people like you and me that can make a difference. The whale population is still critically endangered, but is beginning to make a comeback.** It is up to us to ensure they have a chance at survival. It is up to us to be aware and to stop wrongs. Being aware can make all the difference, just like the consumers in Japan.

By being aware, somewhere deep within the ocean, you will have saved a life. You will have saved a species.



Letters to the author can be sent on timesnie175@gmail.com under the subject: Letter for Aditya. If you want to 'walk the talk', pick a relevant topic and write to us!

Should we not look at new options for real heroes?

The conversation around nepotism and substance abuse is woefully myopic. Bollywood also reflects the fissures of the society it inhabits, naturally.

Celebrities aren't heroes and reel isn't real. It's time to challenge this notion.

ASISH SINGH, CLASS XII, ST AUGUSTINE'S DAY SCHOOL BARRACKPORE, WEST BENGAL

Bollywood is under constant fire - from nepotism to substance abuse - so is it a good time to focus on 'real heroes'? Our students tell you more...

IN THE DOCKYARD

Many of our favourite actors have become victims of hate... either rightfully, or wrongly, is not yet known to us. Perhaps it's time to make people like authors, musicians, activists, our idols. They play a crucial role in this world, and are more deserving.

PIA OZA, CLASS IX, SSPM'S SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR VIDYA MANDIR (BORIVALI EAST)

A true 'Hero' is the one who works for others selflessly. It is time we show our gratitude to each of those sanitation workers, doctors, teachers who have been working round the clock in hard times. No denying that among the reel-life entertainers too exist a few real 'heroes'.

AKSHAY SINGH, CLASS XII, SADHU VASWANI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PUNE

It is unfair to discredit entire Bollywood just because few celebrities have been accused of substance abuse. We have to remember that Bollywood is an entertainment industry, and is also one of the most impactful media for communicating with the masses.

AVNI DEV PHARASI, CLASS VIII, DOON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, DEHRADUN

Heroes have always been around us and amidst us, it's just that we have been failing to take note. Now with Bollywood actors failing us as role models, let's take a look - new heroes could be women fighter pilots, ISRO scientists who we don't know much about, our school principals and so on.

ANUPAMA SHARMA, CLASS XII, INDUS VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL, NOIDA

Bollywood actors are not real life heroes. They're regular people like you and me with a job. It's unfair to label them as such. The real heroes emerged this year in the form of doctors, nurses, sanitation workers, ambulance drivers, etc.

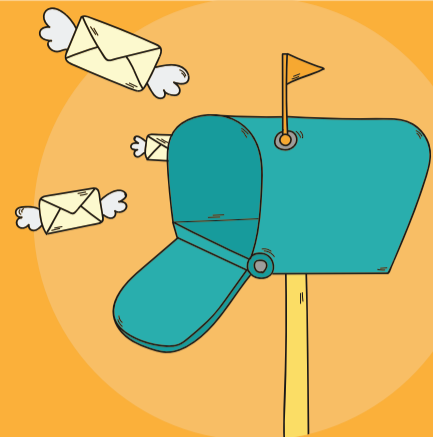
CHARVIE JOANNA, CLASS X, VIDYODAYA MATRICULATION ACADEMY, CHENNAI

It is very crucial in today's time to generate inspiration from real life heroes. As the world faces a pandemic and climate crises, it's essential to find real-life heroes like Nelson Mandela, Greta Thunberg and others who have worked towards the benefit of the world.

HUNAR, CLASS XII, CARMEL CONVENT SCHOOL, CHANDIGARH

People take inspiration from leaders and stars but one should never forget that they too are human beings. They are no different from us. They just lead a different life. Reel or real heroes, both make mistakes since no one is perfect.

ZANKHNA PATHAN, CLASS XII, MAHARAJA AGRASEN VIDYALAYA, AHMEDABAD



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WE ARE WAITING

Big Q

Is safety for women a distant dream?

In India, crimes against girls/women are at an all-time high. As I write this, there has been an exponential rise of about 64%. Although some women activists have relentlessly worked towards empowerment of women, the crime against the fairer sex is on an upward spiral. As a society, we should all begin by asking tough questions. Why is

safety of the girl child still such a distant dream? Why are the laws against such heinous crimes not strict? Why have we turned a blind eye towards skewed population ratio in some cities of the country? Why is girl child education still not given importance? Let us all be responsible citizens and direct our angst to the right issues. Rather than teach our children about good touch and bad touch, how about telling them Just Don't Touch! Or let us start by teaching our kids the importance of consent.

SR DHIVYA, class X, Sri Ramakrishna Matric Hr Sec School, Coimbatore



Is the treatment to RTE unconstitutional?

Some petitioners claim that Gujarat Government is hiding the actual numbers of RTE (Right to Education) in the school. Petitioners have approached Supreme Court to get help.

They also claim that RTE figures are misleading on school portal. Some schools restrict taking RTE students in the school which is against the fundamental rights that states – "Every child below the age of 14 years has the right to education and studies." Most school nowadays, are shying away from giving admission to students from the RTE quota. Why are they allowed to manipulate data and get away by doing this which is not in compliance of the law?

RIYA KOTHARI, class VIII, Udgam School for Children, Ahmedabad

Is current news really NEWS these days?

I would be lying if I said I haven't been following all the Bollywood drama but at some point, even I stopped. Because if you're sensible enough then you ought to stop due to the irrelevance of the subject that has become big national news. I agree that the death of SSR needs to be scrutinised but that is not the only unfair thing happening in our country. The main idea of journalism is to make people aware of affairs that are happening behind closed doors. The media HAS to be rational and not take sides. In the past few weeks, we've had the law passed against farmer's benefit. We've had a teenage girl brutally abused, she died, and her parents weren't even allowed to perform her last rites. Now, if we dealt with this kind of inhumane behaviour as much as we did with the SSR issue, our people would have felt a little more secure.

MANMEET BEDI, PG student in Book Publishing



Whatever one says about IPL T20 being a batters' paradise, some bowlers still have made a deep impact in the tournament with their scorching pace and accuracy. We track some of these speed guns and their envious records

Fearsome, Fastest on the

PROWL

ANRICH NORTJE (DC)

Fastest Ball

149.70
kph

- ★ Matches- 4
- ★ Wickets- 5
- ★ Best

figures-3/33
This is his maiden IPL season for Delhi Capitals. From the start, he has made deep inroads with his scorching pace. He keeps clocking around 150 kph with the ball. Last year he was contracted by KKR but could not play due to a shoulder injury. This time, he is set to prove his mettle as a fast bowler.

- ★ Matches- 4
- ★ Wickets- 3
- ★ Best figures-2/25

Saini was bought by Royal Challengers Bangalore for tag of ₹3 crore. His scorching pace gave him death bowling responsibilities. Among Indians, he bowled the fastest delivery at 147.92 kph. His terrific yorkers helped his team to victory in the Super Over against MI on Sept 29.

JOFR A ARCHER (RR)

Fastest Ball

152.13
kph

- ★ Matches-4
- ★ Wickets- 8
- ★ Best figures-2/18

Definitely, he has been breathing fire with the ball. Rajasthan Royals bought him for a whopping ₹7.20 crore and he has not let them down. Rated as the most impactful player, the Caribbean flavour comes handy with the bat too. Archer has bowled the fastest ball of the season (152.13 kph) as he has bowled 16 among top 20 fastest deliveries.

- ★ Matches- 4
- ★ Wickets- 8
- ★ Best figures- 3/26

Rabada was responsible for enabling Delhi Capitals to reach the semifinals in the last IPL by taking 25 wickets. Commentator Harsha Bhogle was awestruck with his performance against KKR and Rajasthan Royals, where he consistently hit the deck hard. His strength lies in mixing deliveries along with deadly Yorkers. He is known as the 'King of Super Over'. His record in two Super Over record reads: nine balls bowled, nine runs given, and three wickets taken.

KAGISO RABADA (DC)

Fastest Ball

147.60
kph

- ★ Matches-4
- ★ Wickets- 2
- ★ Best figures- 1/13

Cummins, who plays for KKR, is the most expensive buy of IPL 2020, at a whopping ₹15.50 crore. In a match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, he troubled both Rajasthan Royals openers Baisrow and Warner with his uncanny pace and is set to raise his game in coming matches. His effectiveness at death overs makes him a class bowler.

PAT CUMMINS (KKR)

Fastest Ball

151.70
kph

- ★ Matches-5
- ★ Wickets- 8
- ★ Best figures- 3/15

Shami is a complete bowler whose death bowling is nearly unplayable. Kings XI Punjab bought him for ₹4.8 crore. In 2019, he finished the season as Kings XI Punjab's highest wicket-taker with 19 scalps from as many as 14 games. The main reason for his success can be attributed to his steadfast pace hovering around 145 kph and his unique skill to move the ball, both old and new.

MOHAMMAD SHAMI (KXIP)

Fastest Ball

145.66
kph

I have enjoyed watching the quicks bowl this year. You don't always get to say that but Kagiso Rabada and Jofra Archer and Pat Cummins are getting us all excited again and see fast bowling not just respected again but even a bit feared.

Harsha Bhogle, cricket commentator

We back our players way longer than possible: Fleming



I think it helps as players know they get more opportunities... We are reticent to changing the team, other than realising the areas that we are not happy with. Also you are not sure if that change will help or not. We try and improve and if players are doing the right thing we will back them, even longer than possible. **Stephen Fleming, CSK head coach**

Chennai Super Kings' "reticent" approach to change when faced with poor results has been the key to its success over the years, said head coach Stephen Fleming, citing veteran Australian all-rounder Shane Watson as a shining example of what the side has achieved. Watson finally came good with an unbeaten 83 off 53 balls in his fifth game as an opener, helping the three-time IPL champions record an emphatic 10-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab on Sunday after a hat-trick of defeats.

Aston Villa crush champions Liverpool



A superb first-half hat-trick from Ollie Watkins helped Aston Villa to a stunning 7-2 victory over Liverpool in the Premier League to end the champions' 100% start to the season in extraordinary fashion.

ANOTHER SHOCKER

Spurs humiliate Man U with 6-1 win

Polish teen Swiatek sends top seed Halep packing

HIGHLIGHTS

Rafael Nadal blew away American qualifier Sebastian Korda 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 to enter quarters.

Austrian Thiem survived five-set thriller to overcome Hugo Gaston 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-3.

Argentina 12th seed Diego Schwartzman overwhelm Lorenzo Sonego 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 to reach quarters.



World No 2 Simona Halep, who came into the clash on a 17-match unbeaten streak, was knocked out in the 4th round by teenager Iga Swiatek.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

GRAMMAR QUIZ | Theme: Prepositions

Q1. The milk is _____ the refrigerator.

- a) to ☐ b) of ☐ c) at ☐ d) in ☐ e) from ☐

Q2. Never look directly _____ the sun. It is bad for your eyes.

- a) to ☐ b) for ☐ c) through ☐ d) of ☐ e) at ☐

Q3. I'm surprised because rain was not _____ in the weather report.

- a) prediction ☐ b) predicted ☐ c) predictable ☐ d) predictably ☐ e) predict ☐

Q4. _____? There is just a little.

- a) Is there any ice cream left? ☐ b) There's some ice cream left? ☐ c) Is there an ice cream left? ☐ d) Is there left any ice cream? ☐ e) Is there many ice cream left? ☐

Q5. _____ are you having dinner with? I'm having dinner with Junko.

- a) Who ☐ b) Where ☐ c) What ☐ d) How ☐ e) Why ☐

Q6. Nitya frequently travels _____ Europe on business.

- a) in ☐ b) to ☐ c) at ☐

- d) on ☐ e) into ☐

Q7. _____ tired from working so much?

- a) Are you ☐ b) She's ☐ c) Is ☐ d) You are ☐ e) Are she ☐

Q8. How many days are there _____ in February?

- a) There is 28. ☐ b) They are 28. ☐ c) In February, there are 28. ☐ d) Are only 28 days. ☐ e) There in February are 28 days. ☐

Q9. I ran _____ Sanjay while I was in the library. I haven't seen him for ages.

- a) on ☐ b) at ☐ c) in ☐ d) into ☐ e) on ☐

Q10. The Olympic champion _____ the swimming pool from ten meters high.

- a) to ☐ b) into ☐ c) onto ☐ d) inside ☐ e) through ☐

Q11. Sorry, I can't. I _____ my daughter to work at that time.

- a) will be taking ☐ b) I'll take ☐ c) won't be take ☐

Q12. At noon tomorrow, I _____ on a beach somewhere.

- a) I'll be relaxing ☐ b) relax ☐ c) will being relax ☐

Q13. We _____ at a fancy restaurant tonight. Vikas decided this yesterday.

- a) eat ☐ b) are eating ☐ c) eats ☐

Q14. _____ they coming over for dinner?

- a) Is ☐ b) Are ☐ c) Am ☐

ANSWERS: 1. D 2. E 3. B 4. A 5. A 6. B 7. A 8. C 9. D 10. B 11. A 12. A 13. B 14. B