

Trapped inside our homes in Bengaluru due to the current pandemic situation, this festive season I am mentally reliving the wonderful memories of our yearly celebrations at 'Jadcherla', my hometown in Telangana. Among the people of Telangana this period of nine days, as per the Sathavahana calendar, is celebrated as a beautiful floral festival called 'Bathukamma'.

Bathukamma is a representation of the 'Goddess', made by arranging various types of flowers in the shape of a dome. The festival starts on the day of 'Petharamasa' (no-moon day) with the making of Bathukamma.

Women and children, dressed in tra-

ditional attire go around Bathukamma singing bathukamma songs and dancing. People in the neighbouring area bring their Bathukamma to the temple and the whole village rejoices. It is a riot of colours and the place is filled with the fragrance of all the flowers. The married women sing devotional songs while making Gouramma out of turmeric.

On the last day, the priest performs a special pooja after which the Bathukamma is carried in a public procession with music and bathukamma songs, and finally immersed in a nearby river.

I have the best time of the year then, because all the members of my extended family come together from different places, especially for this festival. A festival is not only a celebration of our tradition but it is also a celebration of family bonding. There are also scientific reasons behind these celebrations. During the cold monsoon season, when we dance around the Bathukamma our body warms up. The turmeric used to make Gouramma, when applied to our face has many benefits.

After the festival, we return to our homes carrying a lot of fond memories. We come back rejuvenated, full of enthusiasm to carry out our routine with a new vigour.

T SAI ANU SREE, class VIII

AAVISHKAR ACADEMY



GOMBE HABBA, PERFORMANCES RECREATE VICTORY OVER EVIL

The dance depicted the defeat of Mahishasura by the combined powers of Devi Shalapatni, Devi Brahmacharini, Devi Chandraghanta, Devi Kushmanda, Devi Skandamata, Devi Katyayani, Devi Kalaratri, Devi Mahagauri and Devi Sidhidatri to bring in peace and harmony to the world.

Navaratri, literally meaning nine nights, is the Hindu festival celebrated over the span of nine days and nights culminating in the 10th day of Dusshera. It is essentially a celebration of the victory of good represented by Goddess Durga in her nine avatars over evil, represented by the demon king Mahishasura. This festival is celebrated all over India in different forms. Ramlleela performances, Durga puja, Raas-Garba and the famous Mysore Dasara in Karnataka are all part of the festival.

A dance performance by pre-primary school teachers, depicting the nine avatars of Goddess Durga, was presented on the occasion of Navaratri festival.

VISHWA VIDYAPEETH



As we academicians were struggling and juggling with online classes, courtesy the pandemic, the other departments in school got busy creating a wonderful reminiscence of the Dasara festival.

The school portico was decorated with "Dasara Gombe", a unique tradition which involves a toy festival.

APPOLLO NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Here in Karnataka, this festival is celebrated for 10 days and culminates on Vijayadashmi day, when Goddess Durga won the battle against the asuras after fighting for nine days.

The dolls are arranged and exhibited on a stepped platform that usually has 7, 9 or 11 tiers. Nine is the preferred number to signify nine nights of Navratri. Legend has it that Goddess Durga waged a war against the demon

Mahishasura. In order to help her all the Gods and Goddesses gave Durga all their powers, and stood as statues. To pay respects to the sacrifice of those deities, the doll festival is observed, when dolls are ritually worshipped.



THE EDUCATIONIST

Skill Up - there is no better time than now

Many of us may not have realised this, but it's nearly 7 months since educational institutions shut their doors for physical schooling and took up the challenge of continuing through virtual platforms. If seven months don't look so daunting, how about 210 days? During a webinar I attended, the resource person mentioned that one would be foolish if he/she emerged without learning a new skill and became healthier at the end of this 'lockdown'. The NEP 2020 extensively speaks about skill additions to the curriculum so that each student is equipped with employable expertise. But, we must realise that this is also the time to pick up habits that are most important to all - Life Skills.



ANUPAMA RAMACHANDRA, principal, Delhi Public School, Electronic City, Bengaluru

skill. Since the entire family is together for extended hours, it becomes imperative not only to imbibe these life hacks but also practise them on daily. Think about survival skills like personal hygiene, cooking, living with and sharing minimal resources, life-enriching abilities like growing your own food, pursuing a performing art, learning a new language,

writing articles and publishing. The list is endless.

The question is, are you skilling up? You, dear students, belong to a generation that knows very well that life has more to offer than testimonials on paper. It is the experiences that count and decide the quality of your life ahead. Look around, you will discover so many learning moments from your parents, grandparents and siblings. How does one build positive habits? Simple: ponder over the day and you will be surprised at how many affirmative behaviours you have picked up. Make a conscious effort to continue that over the days and it becomes a way of life. Dedicate a part of the time for self-paced learning and be consistent about repeating the newly learnt skill.

As Sean Covey says "Depending on what they are, our habits will either make us or break us. We become what we repeatedly do." Reflect and skill up!

Express YOURSELF

THE ART OF BEING HAPPY

Life should be embraced to the fullest without any selfishness. Any feelings of jealousy, greed or anger will prevent us from enjoying our life completely. We humans understand principles of life only when we are affected and see things ourselves. Many of us experience things which at times affects our whole life and in turn changes it. One of the incidents which has changed my life forever happened just a few months ago. My family and I had been to a shoe store to buy shoes for my brother. There I saw a pair of shoes which was very attractive and I wanted it. But my parents didn't buy it for me. I was very sad and angry. I sat in the car sulking, looking out of the window. It was not like I did not have enough pairs of footwear but I liked this one and wanted in. While we were getting on back home, I saw something terrible and heart touching too. A man was sitting in front of a temple, begging for food. He had no legs. Seeing this a dozen

thoughts came to my mind. I wanted a pair of shoes for my feet while there was a man who didn't have any legs itself. There are so many people in the world like him. They all are suffering so much with no proper treatment, food and care takers. They have to bear so much pain. I understood a lot from this incident.



Nature has created us giving all the things a human needs. We have it and we should be grateful for it. We should try finding joy, peace and satisfaction with what we have. We always want something or other each time, even if we have it or even if we do not require it. From this incident, I learnt that satisfaction always does not mean the fulfilment of what you want instead it is the realization of how blessed we are for what we have. We need to remember always that the art of being happy is to be satisfied with what we have. "Satisfaction in life is the true meaning of achievement."

ANAGHA B POOJARI, class IX, MES Kishore Kendra Public School, Bengaluru

ALL IN UTTER SILENCE

You had me wonder, Why I exist
You had me believe that this was normal
I sat there crying
And you never stopped
Knowing that what you did
Would leave a scar, I am here
Writing this poem
While you are perhaps
Cribbing about your pain
But what about me?
What about my pain?
I maybe just a kid,
But I am human
The type who has feelings
Hiding behind a rock.
3 years of hurting
3 years of crying
3 years of screaming
All in utter silence



NIVEDITHA KOTHANDARAMAN, class VIII, Sishu Griha High School, Bengaluru

STUDENTSPEAK



THE JOY OF READING

I am eight. In my hand is a Geronimo Stilton book. It is a simple and funny story about a cowardly mouse and his crazy family getting in wacky adventures. I read them then because they brought a smile to my face. A few days ago I picked up one of my old copies of that book. Both the world and me have certainly changed a lot since the last time I read them. One thing that hasn't changed, though, is that those colourful pages and bizarre words still bring a smile to my face.

I am ten. I am reading the fifth Harry Potter book, and tears are in my eyes as I witness the death of a beloved character. It seemed silly to me then. Why am I crying over someone who doesn't exist? And why, years later, do I still go back to those books? So much has changed since that first time I read them, and yet the loss of these characters still feels like the loss of a loved one.

That, I believe is the joy and beauty of reading. These words create a world in themselves. All these books become a second home for the readers, something that fills you with a sense of familiarity. Reading books exposes you to new ideas, new beliefs while at the same time creating a space for you to escape when reality gets too harsh. And it will always manage to amaze me how much impact one's words and imagination can have on people. So keep reading.

MANNAT SINGH, class IX, DPS Bangalore East

Teacher, students win accolades in Olympiad



The school has been associated with SOF for more than a decade now. In the year 2019-2020, we had 400 students who participated in the SOF exams, which was the highest participation in all these years of our association with the Olympiad foundation. Many students have brought laurels to the school with Gold and Silver medals. Roshan Shankar from class III has won the international 1st Rank in International Mathematics Olympiad 2019-2020

Teacher Jacqueline A H has been awarded with the Best District Teacher - 2019-2020 in recognition of the outstanding performance of the school in National Science olympiad Exam.

MG SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE



Painters' Gallery



HOUSE BY THE RIVER: MANASI D, class VIII, Oxford English School, Jayanagar, Bengaluru



HUES OF DUSK: SAISWARUP PATNAIK, class VII, DPS East, Bengaluru



GODDESS DURGA: SHARVANI JARUGU, class IX, DPS Whitefield, Bengaluru



TOP
5

BOWLING SPELLS

From Varun Chakravarthy's maiden fifer against Delhi Capitals (DC) to Trent Boult wreaking havoc versus MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings (CSK), here's looking back at top 5 bowling spells in IPL 2020 so far

MORRIS vs RR

South African pace ace Chris Morris has been a revelation for the Virat Kohli-led side in the ongoing season of the IPL 13. Morris, who was bought for a whopping ₹10 cr registered his best figures against Rajasthan Royals on matchday 33 of the cash-rich league. The Proteas pacer removed the likes of Ben Stokes, Steve Smith, Jos Buttler, and Archer to prevent RR from scoring big against the Bangalore franchise. Morris bagged four wickets and leaked just 26 runs in four overs.

RABADA vs RCB



South African pace ace Rabada has been one of the most impactful players for the Delhi Capitals this season. Besides ruling the Purple Cap standings in the 13th edition of the cash-rich league, Rabada has helped DC win a series of thrilling encounters. In match No. 19 of the IPL 13, Rabada propelled DC towards a comfortable win over RCB in Dubai. Rabada bowled four overs and scalped four wickets with an impressive economy of 6.00 to make sure DC finish ahead of RCB.

VARUN vs DC



Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy made his presence felt in match 42 against the high-flying Delhi Capitals. Dishing out his best performance, Chakravarthy bagged his maiden five-for in Kolkata's crucial win over the Shreyas Iyer-led side. Turning the high-voltage clash on its head, he architected DC's batting collapse by removing the likes of Rishabh Pant, Shimron Hetmyer, Marcus Stoinis, skipper Iyer and Axar Patel. His maiden five-wicket haul (5/20) is the first fifer of this season's IPL.

BOULT vs CSK

It takes something special to bundle out MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings and that too in a must-win clash. Joining forces with Bumrah in matchday 41, Boult dismantled the three-time champions with a match-winning spell. He registered 4/18 as the Kiwi pacer bagged a historic four-for, setting up a MI win.

BUMRAH vs RR

Regarded as the linchpin of Mumbai's bowling unit, Indian speed merchant Jasprit Bumrah was right on the money when Mumbai Indians crossed swords with the Rajasthan Royals in match No. 20 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi. Running rings around RR's formidable batting order, Bumrah returned with magnificent figures of four for 20 in Mumbai's convincing win over the Smith-led side. Bumrah is only behind Rabada in the Purple Cap list with 17 wickets in 10 matches.



We're trying to make winning a habit: Rahul



Kings XI Punjab skipper KL Rahul said his side is trying to make winning a habit, after a fourth straight victory kept its play-offs hopes alive in the ongoing Indian Premier League. KXIP made an incredible comeback at the death, taking five wickets in the final two overs to beat Sunrisers Hyderabad by 12 runs and stay afloat in the tournament. Chasing a modest 127-run target on Sunday, SRH made a mess of it after a solid 56-run opening stand between skipper David Warner (35) and Jonny Bairstow (19) to be all out for 114 in 19.5 overs.

Yes we are making it (winning) a habit. In the first half we somehow couldn't make this a habit. I am just speechless right now to be honest. Very happy with the show from the boys.

KL Rahul, KXIP skipper

RECORD BREAKER

AJAX'S 13-0 WIN IS BIGGEST IN DUTCH LEAGUE HISTORY

Ajax routed VVV-Venlo 13-0 for the biggest victory in Dutch league history. All the goals came within 66 minutes as the margin of success eclipsed Ajax's 12-1 victory over Vitesse in 1972 in the Eredivisie.



Ajax' Dutch forward Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (2R) scores the 0-11 goal

Play with freedom, not with survival mind-set



Shreyas Iyer to teammates

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

CRICKET QUIZ | AB de Villiers

Q1: Against which team did AB de Villiers make his Test debut?

- a) West Indies b) Zimbabwe
c) England d) India

Q2: In which year did AB de Villiers make his Test debut?

- a) 2000 b) 2002
c) 2004 d) 2008

Q3: In which year did AB de Villiers make his ODI debut?

- a) 2009 b) 2007
c) 2008 d) 2005

Q4: Against whom did AB de Villiers play his last ODI?

- a) West Indies b) Zimbabwe
c) England d) India

Q5: Against whom did AB de Villiers play his last Test?

- a) West Indies b) Australia
c) England d) India

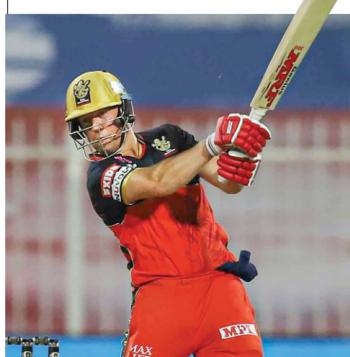
Q6: How many runs has AB de Villiers made in the 114

Tests he has played?

- a) 8765 b) 8786
c) 8976 d) 9034

Q7: In the 228 matches, how many runs has ABD made in his ODI career?

- a) 8765 b) 8786
c) 9577 d) 9034



Q8: What is AB de Villiers' highest score in Tests?

- a) 165 not out b) 278 not out
c) 270 d) 266

Q9: What is AB de Villiers' highest score in ODI?

- a) 165 b) 176 c) 170
d) 166

Q10: AB de Villiers became the first South African to score a double-century against India with his undefeated 217. In which city was it scored?

- a) Mumbai b) Nagpur
c) Ahmedabad d) Chennai

Q11: In which year AB de Villiers broke the record for the fastest ODI century, reaching it in just 31 balls against

West Indies at the Wanderers.

- a) January 2015 b) November 2018
c) September 2017 d) None of the above

Q12: In IPL 2014, AB de Villiers smacked his countryman ----- for 23 runs in one over?

- a) Quinton de Kock b) Dale Steyn
c) Chris Morris d) Kagiso Rabada

Q13: With 114 matches how many centuries and half centuries has AB de Villiers made in Tests?

- a) 22 and 46 b) 27 and 46
c) 22 and 49 d) 24 and 44

ANSWERS: 1 c) England 2 c) 2004 3 d) 2005 4 d) India 5 b) Australia 6 a) 8765 7 c) 9577 8 b) 278 not out 9 b) 176 10 c) Ahmedabad 11 a) January 2015 12 b) Dale Steyn 13 a) 22 and 46