

SANKRANTI CELEBRATION

Celebrating the significance of the harvest festival

Sankranti is dedicated to Lord Surya (Sun God) and marks the sun's transit into Makara (Capricorn) raashi (zodiac sign). Makara Sankranti is celebrated all over India in many ways in the month of January. During this festival people decorate

APPOLLO NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

their houses, wear new dresses and share sweets, particularly made of sesame seeds and jaggery, symbolising being together in peace and joyfulness. In this pandemic time, the school's cultural team conducted an art event online to keep the charm of the celebration for students of classes I to VIII. Students actively and enthusiastically participated in the event and shared drawings and paintings done by them, depicting the significance of the day



such as socializing and families enjoying each other's company, flying kites, taking care of the cattle and celebrating around bonfires, etc.

A school is a place that opens the door to a child's perception of the future, it's not a place where only knowledge related to the subject is delivered.

India is a country with a rich culture, heritage and values. Each state, each festival and every occasion is

VISHWA VIDYAPEETH ICSE

unique. Sankranti is a harvest festival that is celebrated across various states. On this special occasion, the school held a sugarcane eating activity, which made the children realize that 'every small act is important. The crops and grains grown during Sankranti signify prosperity and happiness. On this



auspicious festival, therefore, teachers, students and staff members sat together and shared a few light moments while chewing on the sugarcane.

Gita Jayanti celebration creates positive vibrations

Gita Jayanti symbolizes the birth of Shrimad Bhagavad Gita, the sacred text of the Hindus. Gita Jayanti is celebrated on Ekadashi tithi. Gita Jayanti is the day when Lord Krishna narrated the Gita to Arjuna at the battlefield of Kurukshetra before the Mahabharata war began. Bhagwat Gita contains 18 chapters and 700 verses. The spiritual guide to many, the

BHAVAN BANGALORE PRESS SCHOOL

scripture discusses the nature of mind, body and senses. It elucidates the relationship between man, Dharma, Karma, bondage, liberation and the cycle of birth and death. Gita Jayanti, also called Gitopanishad, is the crest jewel of all Vedic compositions; it is unique in the sense that no other Vedic or western literature has God himself speaking. It would be more apt to call the Bhagwat Gita the science of self; it is applicable to all irrespective of caste, creed, religion or gender. It is meant for thinkers from all walks of life and it turns every reader into a positive thinker through the ages. Bhagavad Gita has inspired and guided hosts of philosophers and scientists across the world. Gita says the person whose mind is always free from attachment, who has subdued the mind and senses and those who are free from desire attain the supreme perfection of freedom from Karma, through renunciation. The Gita Jayanti celebration at school was overwhelming. Gita teacher Sudha was the chief guest. Principal



Manjula, school coordinators Geetha and Shashi were part of our celebration. We began with the pooja and prayer: Shreya gave a welcome speech, our children chanted the 1st and 12th chapter with great devotion. Our chief guest narrated many stories with moral values. The principal also narrated some stories from the Gita. Chanting slokas also help in releasing beneficial endorphins, which act as pain relievers in the body. Chanting shlokas improves concentration and memory, reduces stress and anger, improves immunity, helps to align the chakras, boosts blood flow, sharpens the intellect and cognitive function. All the children participated actively in sloka chanting and the celebration was filled with positive vibrations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Vidyasoudha Public School, Bengaluru presents "Spellathon Challenge", an inter-school Spell Bee competition. There will be three categories. Registrations are free and are open till January 21, 2022.

Online preliminary elimination round will be on January 29, 2022. Semi-finals and finals will be on February 5, 2022. Attractive prizes and certificates to

be won. For registrations: vspbngr.spellathon@gmail.com vspblrspellathon@gmail.com Phone: 080 28391219, 8880864000

Losing to a much lower-ranked, weaker and inexperienced South African side, this Indian Test team doesn't deserve its world No.1 ranking

India has lost to the Proteas, who were an inexperienced side, yet they outperformed Indian test veterans. We need to understand that India did not play incompetently and the opposition played in an aggressive manner. The Indian team has accepted that the South African bowlers were 'clinical in crunch moments'. The Indian team did not only underperform in comparison to opponents in this series but also in the World Test Championship finals. So it will be unfair to say that India does not deserve such a ranking just on the basis of this series, but keeping in mind the gradual deterioration of the performance the Indian team needs to be ranked low, at least 1 or 2 positions down, because a lower rank will remove the pressure of over performing everyone and will probably help them play without any pressure and play freely so that they can win crucial matches.

FOR Mayank Mundhra, Class X, Apeejay School, Park Street

Winning and losing are part of the game. Like people say, "In the end, it is the quality displayed that matters." Those who have watched this series have surely witnessed the ups and downs faced by both the teams. There was no loss of momentum at either sides. If we carefully notice, every match built towards the crunch moment and this time, South Africa held their nerves in such situations. India truly justifies its No. 1 Test ranking because whenever such doubts arise, the Indian cricket team fights back with much better results and I'm sure team India will work on further improving from here. There was a time when winning overseas was an achievement but now it is a habit. This is the reputation our team has built and it shall live up to it. But then, we too have a role to play. We must show belief and trust in our team. I wish Team India all the very best in their upcoming matches.

AGAINST Siddhartha Kothari, class X, St Joseph's Boys' High School

Don't let your failures define you, let them refine you. This must have been the Proteas' mindset after losing the first test match to India in Centurion. They made an inconceivable comeback and won the three-match series 2-1. Temba Bavuma hit the winning shot to mark a historic win for the South African cricket team. They were lower ranked, weaker and inexperienced and were facing the world no. 1 Indian team. However, this shocking defeat leads to the question - Does the Indian Test team deserve its World No.1 ranking? The Indian Test team has no doubt had a terrible series but does it justify displacing them from the top of the ranking chart? After all, Sachin Tendulkar couldn't score a century every time he stepped on the field yet we consider him the best batsman of all time. This is simply because of his sheer brilliance and consistency. Team India is probably the most consistent and highest performing test team on planet earth. One bad series does not mean they aren't the best!



DEBATE

Discovering Panna and Khajuraho

As the dew droplets settled gently on the tender leaves, our Gypsy cruised past. The otherwise silent forest saw a bit of activity that winter morning as jeeps moved through the jungle to try their luck at spotting a tiger in the Panna forest reserve, in Madhya Pradesh.

A part of our road trip to the Eastern Part of Madhya Pradesh, Panna was our second destination. We reached on the second day after driving from Kolkata to Varanasi, where we rested for the night and then drove from Varanasi to Panna.

Although it is one of the lesser known tiger reserves of India, Panna is nonetheless extremely beautiful. With the



river Ken flowing gently by, the forest has a serene calm around it. Panna is also home to the Pandav caves and the Pandav Falls, which has its own mythical past. Set in a strategic spot, Panna is an hour away from Khajuraho, which houses

the Khajuraho Group of temples, a UNESCO world heritage site. This site, which was restored by the Archeological Survey of India, was built during the reign of the Chandela Kings.

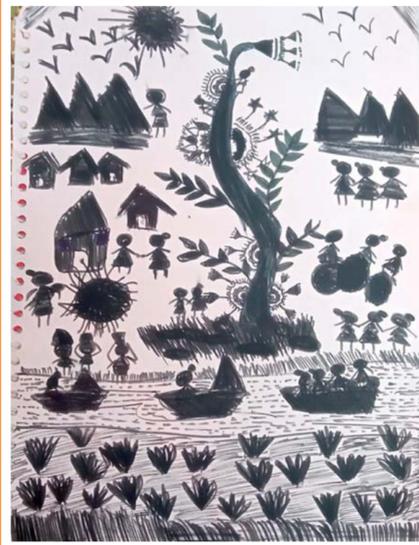
An example of our glorious architectural expertise, this temple complex was forgotten for a very long time, till the Britishers rediscovered this place.

As the sun sets over the horizon, one can also experience the sound and light show hosted at the temple complex, which unravels a past about which only a few are aware.

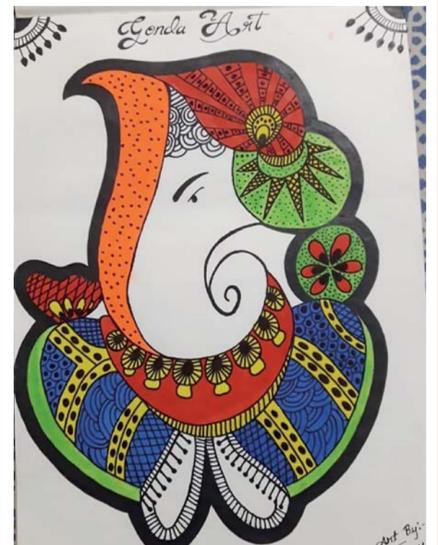
In these trying times, when the main filters in our search are secluded and less crowded, Panna followed by Khajuraho certainly meets the requirement. Shriyaa Gangoli, Class XII, The Heritage School



Painters' Gallery



WORLI ART: Krishna Priya G Pillai, class VII, Presidency School Nandini Layout



GANESHA: Revanth, class IX, St John's School, Hebbal



DEBATE Championship

Format: Asian Parliamentary (3:3)

Prelims: 29th-30th Jan Semis & Final: 5th-6th Feb

10 - 13 years 14 - 18 years

Rs. 199 Individual entry Rs. 499 Team entry

Registrations open till 24th Jan Limited seats!!! All online rounds

Register at: <https://www.learniqo.com/lq-debate-tournament/> Call/Whatsapp: 9727938614

MURRAY WINS FIVE-SET EPIC



Five-time finalist Andy Murray needed a tough five-setter over a player he beat last week to register his first win at the Australian Open since 2017

Andy Murray battled to his first win at the Australian Open since 2017 with an epic five-set victory over 21st seed Nikoloz Basilashvili on Tuesday. The three-time Grand Slam champion, playing with a metal hip following career-saving surgery in 2019, wrestled with the Georgian for almost four hours before claiming his place in the second round. Scotland's Murray, ranked 113 and playing as a tournament wild card, showed his trademark fighting spirit to edge home in the gripping final set and clinch a 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 victory in 3hr 52 min on John Cain Arena. It was the 34-year-old's first match at the Australian Open since 2019, when he went out in the first round. He made a tearful exit and it was thought that it might be his farewell. He had surgery on his hip weeks later.

It continued a keen rivalry between the pair with Murray rallying from a set down to defeat the big-hitting Georgian last week in Sydney and also prevailing over four sets in the first round at Wimbledon last year. Murray grabbed the opening set with the loss of just one game, but Basilashvili levelled it up with the second set, before trading blows with the wily Scot in the third.

MURRAY STRETCHED

Basilashvili was pounding his groundstrokes and Murray had to use all his guile to get the ball back in play and work for an opening. Murray, a five-time finalist in Melbourne, had three set points at 5-3 but the Georgian fought them all off to cling on to his service. Murray again worked his way to two more set points in his next service game as Basilashvili overhit a couple of volleys, before the Scot took the third set when the Georgian whacked a backhand wide. Basilashvili broke Murray's serve in the fourth set but the indomitable Scot fought back from 0-30 down to break back. Basilashvili won a titanic tiebreaker to force the match into a fifth set. The Georgian began the final set poorly, falling behind 0-40 on serve and netting a backhand to hand Murray a break. But yet again Basilashvili refused to give in and broke back to level at 4-4. Murray held serve and then got to 0-40 on Basilashvili's service in the 10th game before taking the epic.

Murray has lost to Roger Federer once in the final of the Australian Open and four times to Novak Djokovic. But Murray is a three-time Grand Slam champion, winning the 2012 US Open, and the following year he became the first British man to win the Wimbledon singles crown in 77 years. He won it again in 2016. **AP**



Nikoloz Basilashvili

MEDVEDEV LAMENTS 'IMPOSSIBLE' SCHEDULE

Daniil Medvedev conserved his energy after his shortest ever off-season with an efficient straight-sets win over Swiss battler Henri Laaksonen on Tuesday to reach the second round of the Australian Open. US Open champion Medvedev, favoured to win the title at Melbourne Park following Novak Djokovic's deportation, had only 14 days' rest at the end of 2021 before firing up for Russia's run to the ATP Cup semi-finals this month. The cramped tennis schedule has been a bugbear for players for years, with many complaining of the

physical toll, but Medvedev could see few solutions. "It's impossible, and yes, it's definitely not enough (off-season)," the Russian told reporters after his 6-1 6-4 7-6(3) win in the afternoon sun at Rod Laver Arena. "If you want to represent your country every year in Davis Cup and if you are every year in the finals, well, it becomes impossible. "So you'll have to sacrifice something. Sometimes your body will tell you what you have to sacrifice, sometimes you will have to decide. And it's not easy decisions because many people will be against your decisions." **REUTERS**

Amazing, been a tough three or four years. Put in a lot of work to get back here. I've played on this court many times and the atmosphere is incredible. It's amazing to be back and winning a five-set battle like that, I couldn't ask for any more.

ANDY MURRAY

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

SPEZIA STUN AC MILAN

Third straight away with goal in dying seconds lifts team to 14th place

Emmanuel Gyasi coolly finished a 96th minute counter-attack to give Spezia their first Serie A victory away to AC Milan, 2-1, on Monday night. Milan missed a chance to overtake neighbours Inter at the top of Serie A, while third-place Napoli closed to within two points with a 2-0 win in Bologna. Milan dominated much of the game but spurned a host of chances. In the 44 minute, Rafael Leao escaped behind the Spezia half but was flattened by goalie Ivan Provedel kicking wildly at the bouncing ball. Theo Hernandez fired the penalty wide. A minute later Leao escaped again and this time reached the ball first and lobbed Provedel to give Milan the lead.

Spezia hit back when Kevin Agudelo, finding a huge hole in the home defence, tapped in a low Daniele Verde cross at the near post after 64 minutes.

Unhappy over foul

As the game entered five minutes of added time, Junior Messias put the ball in the net for Milan, but the referee had already whistled for

a foul rather than allow the home team the advantage. Milan coach Stefano Pioli blamed that decision for what happened next. "We lost our lucidity after having suffered an injustice, it's a shame," Pioli said. "The responsibility is ours but it must be shared tonight with the referee. It's all the more strange that he didn't whistle for half-fouls during the whole game and now he whistles when the ball is on our player's foot."

Milan applied frenzied pressure and Provedel made three saves from Zlatan Ibrahimovic. The first was from a close-range shot, the second from a curling free kick and the third, and best, to claw away a looping header dropping just under the bar. Spezia sprung one last counter-attack. Victor Kovalenko rolled the ball across the penalty area to Gyasi, who, with the game on the line, carefully controlled then coolly placed the ball inside the far post. "Anyone can have a bad night," said Pioli. "We will try to react, the team has always known how to do it."

Milan host Juventus on Sunday. It was Spezia's third straight away victory and lifted them to 14th in the table, six points clear of the relegation places. **AP**



Emmanuel Gyasi

PHOTOS: REUTERS

LEWANDOWSKI, PUTELLAS WIN FIFA BEST PLAYER AWARDS

■ Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski won the FIFA Best Men's Player award for 2021 and Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Alexia Putellas won the FIFA Best Women's Player prize.

■ The prolific Lewandowski won the award for the second straight year after a season in which he beat Gerd Mueller's 49-year old record of 40 goals in a single Bundesliga campaign.

■ The 27-year-old Putellas was at the heart of the Barcelona women's team which won the Spanish league and the UEFA Champions League.

■ Chelsea won awards for best coach, with Thomas Tuchel winning men's award and Emma Hayes the best women's coach.

RAHUL SET TO LEAD LUCKNOW IN IPL

KL Rahul will captain the yet-to-be-named Lucknow franchise in the upcoming IPL, a league source said on Tuesday.

It is learnt that Rahul is one of the players Lucknow has picked from the draft ahead of the mega auction on February 12 and 13 in Bengaluru. The other two are likely to be Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and uncapped leg spinner Ravi Bishnoi. "Rahul will captain Lucknow. The team is deciding on the other two draft picks," an IPL source said.

Rahul led Punjab Kings for the past two seasons but did not want to stay at the franchise. Bishnoi was also with Punjab while Stoinis represented Delhi Capitals. RPSG Group had shelled out Rs 7090 crore to buy the Lucknow franchise.

Rahul is currently the stand-in captain of the In-



dian ODI team in South Africa in the absence of an injured Rohit Sharma. **PTI**

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which famous golf player is nicknamed as "The King"?

- Alan Shepard
- Jack Nicklaus
- Arnold Palmer
- Tiger Woods

Q2: The first World Weightlifting Championship Competition was held in which year?

- 1890
- 1891
- 1892
- 1893

Q3: Kookaburras is the nickname of which country's hockey team?

- India
- Australia
- USA
- China

Q4: Who established the World Series Cricket in 1970s?

- Kerry Packer
- David Johnson
- Allen Hill
- Alfred Shaw

Q5: Latham became the first player in Test history to score 250 and take six catches in

the same match. Against which team did he make the record?

- South Africa
- Bangladesh
- Australia
- India



Tom Latham

PHOTO: AP

Q6: Which player has scored the highest number of sixes in his career in ODIs?

- Sachin Tendulkar
- Shahid Afridi
- Chris Gayle
- Danath Jayasuriya

Q7: Which sport's playing format is "Foursomes/alternate shot"?

- Badminton
- Golf
- Tennis
- Basketball

Q8: How many team members are there in each team of

an ice hockey game?

- 6
- 8
- 10
- 12

Q9: Which female tennis player won the most number of gold medals in tennis in the Summer Olympics?

- Serena Williams
- Venus Williams
- Kathleen McKane Godfree
- Victoria Azarenka

ANSWERS: 1. c. Arnold Palmer

- b. 1891
3. b. Australia
4. a. Kerry Packer
5. b. Bangladesh
6. b. Shahid Afridi
7. b. Golf
8. a. 6
9. b. Venus Williams