

Photography contest sees competitive entries



The Photography Club conducted a photography competition for students of classes VII to XII during the winter break. The aim was to provide a novel opportunity to unravel the latent talent through their creative attempts at photography. The contest covered varied categories, from street photography to wildlife, saw an overwhelming response among students. Com-

THE OXFORD SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

petitive entries in multiple categories made it challenging for the panel to decide the winners. Johannes Abraham of class X and Shri

Haridhra of class VII were awarded the first prize under Bird photography and Nature photography respectively. The photo by Shri Haridhra was taken at Vandalur Zoo, while the photo by Abraham was clicked at the paddy fields at Vakathanam, Kottayam. The management and principal congratulates the winners and all the participants for their zealous performance.

Young skier heads for national games

Jiah Aryan, a zealous athlete, is the first and only athlete representing Karnataka in the National Winter Games and Khelo India 2021 in Gulmarg, Kashmir. In Feb 2019 Jiah enrolled in Basic Ski Course conducted by Jawahar Institute of Mountaineering and Winter Sports (JIM&WS) and was totally hooked to Alpine Skiing. She goes to Vera fitness to work on her core strength and conditioning. During her basic &



RYAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, KUNDALAHALLI

intermediate courses, she received the Best Student Award and Alpha Grading. She puts her utmost efforts to train to be a professional Alpine Ski Racer. We applaud your arduous journey, exemplary skills exhibited in a rare sport like skiing and wish for your successful career path. Good luck! Have the pleasures of adventuring!

Yummy way to the moon



Future scientists, class III students, enjoyed a bit of edible astronomy with a **NPS, WHITEFIELD** activity on the phases of the moon. They demonstrated different phases of the moon with their favorite cookies. After separating the cookies, students used spoons to separate the frosting to create the eight phases of the moon. Who knew science could be so yummy!!

THE EDUCATIONIST Staying connected just the solution to a beautiful world

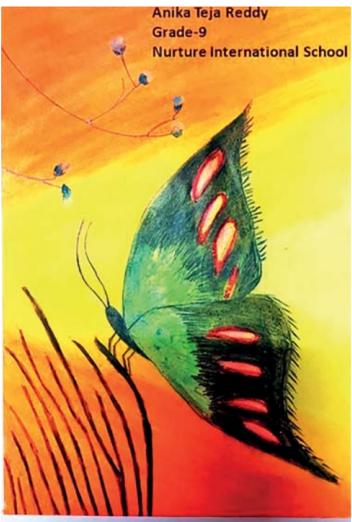
Research expert J Clement in the an November 24, 2020 article in the Journal of International Telecommunication Union Statistics, an important specialized agency of the United Nations, has stated that almost 4 billion people were active internet users as of October 2020, encompassing 59 percent of the global population. This number is still growing, with the latest data showing that more than 321 million new users came online in the twelve months to October 2020 as stated in the global digital overview by DataReportal Global Insights. The crux behind these many users is Connectivity, the big word today. Amidst the pandemic which took the world by storm and confined us to our abodes, what we as social beings learnt is to connect. Yes, connect with our families, with our neighbours, with our long-lost friends. Most importantly it paved the way for parents to connect in a special way with their own offsprings. Among all the difficult things that the pandemic forced us to face, a silver lining in the cloud was Connectivity. In spite of the empty classrooms, empty playgrounds, staffrooms without the regular hustle & bustle of teachers, we remain connected. Connectivity



ensures learning is continual, along with online competitions and assessments for enhancing the skills of students. Learning interactions for school stakeholders and educationists increased through webinars and social media connectivity. A new world of intellectual discussions over chat groups and various other platforms evolved. The young poetess Amanda Gorman mentioned in her address at the US Presidential inauguration so beautifully about hope: hope that we will unite and be connected with each other in all circumstances, amidst all challenges. Taking on from her, let us hope that the connectivity we boast of today will continue longer even after things get normal. I must say we have learnt the hard way the hard-driven lessons of our childhood that to stay connected with each other is the reason why we are all born. "Learn how to see. Realize that everything connects to everything else", said Leonardo DaVinci. In this world of algorithms, hashtags and followers, being connected with each other is the solution to a beautiful world. **Taranum Iqbal, principal, National Centre For Excellence**



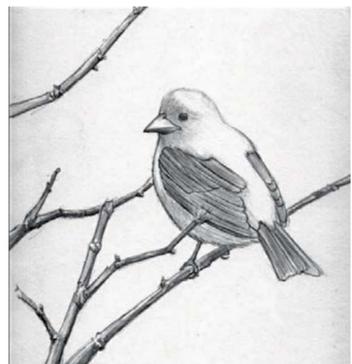
Painters' Gallery



BUTTERFLY: Ankita Teja Reddy, class IX, Nurture International School



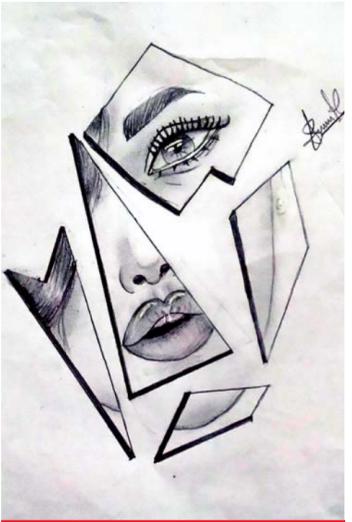
LORD GANESHA: Kavya Mittal, class V, Sherwood High



HAPPY BIRD: Navneeth Gowda G M, class VII, Sishu Griha Senior School



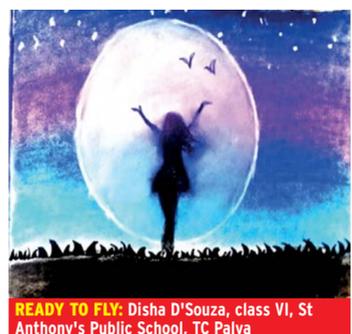
KINGFISHER: Arshiya Bilal, class IV, Greenfield Public School



SHATTERED: Sumith S Solankar, class VII, SJSS Public School



IN DIRE NEED: Rithvik Krishna, class IX, Anthony Claret School



READY TO FLY: Disha D'Souza, class VI, St Anthony's Public School, TC Palya

Express YOURSELF

Getting back to school is not going to be the same

After a long break of almost a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some schools have already started offline classes while some may be reopening soon. What can we expect? An abandoned school building with a jungle feel where vines cover the walls and windows? Spooky! What if the classrooms are now dens of animals? What if the moths and termites have been feasting on our desks and chairs? Yuck! I know, I know. It is wishful thinking so that schools do not reopen. But do I really want that to happen? I don't know actually, it's a mixed feeling. We have been staying home and keeping safe. We have been spending quality time as a family and working on our hobbies. My parents, like many others, have done their fair share of kitchen experiments and even tried their hand at professional photography. I have slept enough, watched quite a lot of TV and now, I miss school and my friends. I, for sure, miss the noisy and crammed bus rides to school and the petty fights over the window seat. Then the race to the

classroom and sometimes getting caught by the PE teachers. The fight over the tiny chips packet from the school canteen. Wow! Getting back to all that is going to be fun. What is not going to be fun? Sitting under the watchful eyes of the teachers. What if I fall asleep? What about the loo breaks? Will I be able to make it to the boys room on time? Everything kept aside, I am bored at home and am rearing to get back to school after COVID. All the things I miss most may be the things we are not allowed to do now, after the pandemic. Not being able to share desks, lunch boxes, or maybe even stationary might be the new rules in schools. Whenever we get back to school, we need to remember to follow precautions like maintaining social distance, frequent hand washes and proper usage of masks. It is going to be very, very different for sure... But we need to follow them to Stay Safe! **Ayaan Anugrah Lall, class V, Delhi Public School Whitefield**



IS INDIA NOT TAKING FIELDING SERIOUSLY?



R Ashwin

Photo: PTI

Indians have dropped four catches in the first two days of their first Test against England, leading to the visitors piling up a huge score

'THEIR FOCUS WAS ON BATTING AND BOWLING, AND NOT ON FIELDING'

- Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and spinners R Ashwin, Shahbaz Nadeem, and Washington Sundar were the sufferers as England took full advantage of the reprieves to pile up 578 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium here. Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, Cheteshwar Pujara, Rohit Sharma, and Ashwin, who dropped a return catch, were the offenders. Bumrah, playing in his 18th Test and the first one in India, was left ruing his luck as Pant dropped England opener Rory Burns on his right-hand side. Burns was on one and ended up scoring 33 on the first day.
- On the second day, Ashwin dropped a tough catch of all-rounder Ben Stokes off his bowling when he was on 31 in the 110th over of the innings. In the next over, Stokes got another lifeline as Pujara dropped him off Nadeem. Stokes, on 32, went on to score 82 runs. Later, Rohit dropped a sitter offered by Dominic Bess off Sundar. Bess was on 19 then and he ended up scoring 34.
- A specialist close-in fielder, Yajurvindra Singh, who took seven catches in 1977 to equal the world record of Australia's Greg Chappell before Ajinkya Rahane broke it by grabbing one more in 2015, was at a loss to explain the reasons for Indians dropping catches regularly. "How do you explain these dropped catches? Maybe the players are not taking enough catches in practice. The Indian team got three days to practice before the first Test against England started on Friday. Maybe their focus was on batting and bowling, and not on fielding or catching," Yajurvindra, 68, told IANS.
- Yajurvindra, who took five catches in England's first innings in Bengaluru and added two more in the second, said only specialists should be fielding in close-in positions. "Fielding at close-in requires lot of practice; the positions, including mid-wicket and cover, are not to be fooled around with. When non-specialists like Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill field in close-in positions, how do you expect them to take catches? It was funny that Rahane, who specialises in close-in fielding, wasn't close to batsmen," he observed.

'ASHWIN LOOKS LIKE HE'S 20 YEARS OLDER THAN HIS REAL AGE'

People are not taking close-in fielding seriously. One-day and T20 cricket has been detrimental to fielding close, as they now practice fielding inside the 30-yard circle. If you are a specialist fielder, you adjust where you stand according to bounce. A specialist has the ability to judge the bounce. Yajurvindra Singh, former India cricketer

Just like they practice the pull shot, the cut shot in the nets, I think the fielding coach must also try and give them these caught and bowled situations as if the bowler has bowled and then he looks up and the catch comes. I don't know how they will practice but they need to do that. Sunil Gavaskar, former India captain

Ashwin's not the 'best mover' in the Indian side. He always looks like he's 20 years older than he really is sometimes out there. He's bowled a lot of overs, he's looking a little bit tired and that's the chance (Ben Stokes' return catch) you desperately want to hang on to. Mark Boucher, former South Africa keeper

Fielding demands volume practice. If you are doing it in less volume, it affects the performances. They had to quarantine themselves at various stages. So, I don't know if the team got enough time for fielding drills. Earlier, practice sessions used to have warm ups, around 45 minutes to one hour fielding sessions, then nets and gym training in the evening.

Frequent quarantine has thrown the schedule for a toss. The Indian team was in quarantine in Chennai. This period would have been used for preparatory camp. Now, they don't have enough time for that. It gets more difficult when you have limited time to prepare for all different balls (pink, red and white). Dishaant Yagnik, Rajasthan Royals' fielding coach

VETERANS WHO MIGHT PLAY THEIR LAST IPL THIS YEAR

This year's complete tournament looks all but set to be played in India. The auction will take place on February 18th



Photo: TOI

CHRIS GAYLE

Even though he has been among run-scorers for Kings XI Punjab, his age and the fact that there will be a mega-auction next year could see the franchise offloading him. In the mega-auctions, the franchises build a team for the next 3 years and Gayle can't be part of any team's plans at the age of 42. Not to forget, he has gone unsold once in IPL. And in 2018, KXIP only bid for him after his name came up for the 3rd time. Though, the 'Universe Boss' had said that he still sees himself at the crease battling it out with the best in the business for another five years. "I believe that I still have five more years."

HARBHAJAN SINGH

Should he manage to draw a bid in IPL 2021 auction, Harbhajan might call it quits after the season as there will be a mega-auction next year and he can't be in a team's future plans at that age. Harbhajan doesn't play domestic cricket and hasn't played any form of cricket since IPL 2019. A full-time commentator for the past few years, he might find it difficult to draw a bid in IPL 2021 auction.



Photo: TOI

AMBATI RAYUDU

The former Indian batsman is expected to take a call regarding his career after the next IPL season. In 2019 as well, Ambati Rayudu had retired from international cricket but he made his return back then. With the franchises building new teams from IPL 2022, Rayudu isn't expected to be part of their plans and might retire from the league after IPL 2021.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

MS DHONI

The highest earner in the history of the league, MS Dhoni had confirmed his participation in IPL 2021 before CSK's final league stage match last year. But he isn't expected to continue playing the league after IPL 2021. Since there will be a mega-auction next year, the franchises will have an opportunity to build a new team with an eye on the future. At 39, Dhoni can't be part of CSK's future plans and he is highly expected to quit the game after the next edition. Of course, Dhoni can continue his association with CSK as a mentor or in any other role. One of the most successful international captains, Dhoni retired from international cricket in August 2020 and now only plays in the IPL.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which cricketer has played the most matches as a captain in the Ashes?

- a) Ricky Ponting b) Allan Border
c) Archie Maclaren d) Mark Taylor

Q2: Name the first English club to win the European Cup in 1968?

- a) Liverpool b) Arsenal
c) Manchester United d) Chelsea

Q3: Who is the first Indian woman to win a boxing gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games?

- a) Saina Nehwal b) PV Sindhu
c) Mary Kom d) PT Usha

Q4: Which of the following competitor is all set to become the youngest Olympian at the Tokyo Olympics 2021?

- a) Sky Brown b) Marjorie Gestring
c) Margery Hinton d) Hend Zaza

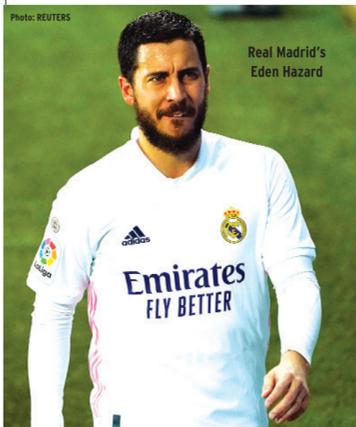
Q5: Which of the following players hold the record of most catches in the Wisden trophy?

- a) Brian Lara b) Clive Lloyd
c) Garry Sobers d) Gordon Greenidge

Q6: Who is the youngest football manager to reach 100 UEFA Champions League matches?

- a) Sir Alex Ferguson
b) Mauricio Pochettino c) Jose Mourinho
d) Ole Gunnar Solskjær

Q7: How many FIFA Club World Cups has Real Madrid won till date?



Real Madrid's Eden Hazard

- a) One b) Three c) Five d) Four

Q8: In which year did Di Stefano become the only player in the world to win a Super Ballon d'Or?

- a) 1986 b) 1987 c) 1988 d) 1989

Q9: Lasith Malinga has taken the highest wickets in the history of IPL. How many wickets has he taken?

- a) 170 b) 165 c) 169 d) 171

Q10: Which of the following players have made fastest 2000 runs in T20 Internationals?

- a) Martin Guptill b) Brendon McCullum
c) Aaron Finch d) Virat Kohli

Q11: Who holds the record for League opening goal for Bayern Munich against Real Madrid?

- a) Luis Suarez b) Roy Makaay
c) Salva Ballesta d) Diego Tristan

Q12: Which of the following countries won most gold medals in the 2012 London Olympics?

- a) Great Britain b) Russia
c) USA d) China

ANSWERS: 1 b) Allan Border
2 c) Manchester United 3 c) Mary Kom
4 d) Hend Zaza 5 a) Brian Lara
6 c) Jose Mourinho 7 d) Four 8 d) 1989
9 a) 170 10 d) Virat Kohli
11 b) Roy Makaay 12 c) The United States