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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

A PIL CALLS FOR PROHIBITION OF RAMPANT KILLING OF ANIMALS

Should ANIMALS too have right to life under ARTICLE 21?

The BIG DEBATE

Should animals have the right to life as guaranteed to the people under Article 21 of the Constitution to prohibit their killing without the sanction of law? The Supreme Court has asked the Centre. The apex court's observation came, while admitting a PIL that sought the prohibition of rampant killing of animals across the country for religious or other purposes. The petitioner has pleaded that the court should declare animals as 'legal entities' to elevate them from being treated as property by humans and killed at their will.

WHAT SC SAID TO THE PETITIONER

If animals are declared as legal entities, it would mean that they can sue or be sued for the damages. Are they capable of suing or getting sued? We understand that they are living beings. That is the reason for the enactment of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The bench has sought responses from the Centre and the states

WHAT IS ARTICLE 21

Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees protection of life and personal liberty. It says, no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty, except according to the procedure established by the law

HELP US!

STUDENTS REACT

Every species has a right to live, and should be safeguarded by the law of the land. Animals are also a part of this world, which supports our ecosystem. Stringent punishment should be given to those who kill animals for their selfish motives.

NIMISHA SONI, class VIII, Zebar School, Ahmedabad



The ambit of the provision of "right to life" under Article 21 should be widened, as the culling and trading of animals in the name of religion or other purpose is inhuman.

MANAVI KAPOOR, class XII, PML SD Public School, Chandigarh



Animals live, breathe and eat just like humans, and should have all the right to live. Any harm to their lives should be made punishable under law.

SWATHI R CHANDRAN, class XII, Army Public School, Chennai



SC TREATS THEM AS LEGAL BEINGS

In 2014, the SC in the Animal Welfare Board vs. A. Nagaraja & Ors. (Jallikattu case) had widened the ambit of the 'right to life' and included within its ambit the right to life, privacy, liberty, well-being and dignity of the animals. The SC had upheld the enforcement of the ban on the use of bulls in performances as being cruel, avoidable and non-essential. The HCs of Uttarakhand, Punjab and Haryana have also recently passed judgments, recognising animals as 'legal entities.'

Manilal Valliyate, CEO, PETA, India

MAJOR CHALLENGES

The biggest challenge on conferring the right to life to animals is the human mentality. We tend to think that we are superior to them

Lalita Iyer, advocate, B'luru

One of the major challenges would be to keep a tab on the number of animals killed on a daily basis. A headcount of all the animals, their habitats, etc, should be made, which require vast surveys and studies.

Subbalakshmy, lawyer, Ernakulam

[Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)

ENTERTAINMENT

OSCARS SET MINIMUM DIVERSITY RULES FOR BEST PICTURE PRIZE

In a landmark announcement, Hollywood's motion picture academy has unveiled new eligibility rules to boost diversity among best picture Oscars nominees and the wider movie industry. The groundbreaking move comes after years of criticism over a lack of diversity among the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' members, and among the Oscar nominees and the winners they select.

From 2024, all films hoping to win the Tinseltown's most coveted prize, will need to either employ a minimum number of cast, crew and administrative employees from the under-represented backgrounds, or directly tackle themes affecting those communities. Under the new rules, films vying for best picture will need to comply with at least two of the four criteria designed to improve the hiring practices and representation on and off screen. The first criteria requires the movie to feature either a prominent actor from an under-represented group, 30 per cent of its smaller roles from the minorities, or to address issues surrounding these communities as its main theme. The second stipulates that behind-the-scenes technical crew members must be drawn from the historically-disadvantaged groups.



GLOBAL WILDLIFE POPULATION HAVE DECLINED BY MORE THAN TWO THIRDS SINCE 1970

The world is losing its mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, and with them the security of ecosystems that have supported humanity since it first emerged, warned the Living Planet Report 2020. This year's report shows that these animal communities shrunk on an average 68% between 1970 and 2016.



BLAME IT ON HUMAN ACTIVITY

- The authors put half the blame on the changes on how we use our land and the sea. Clearing ecologically-important forests for human activities, overfishing and hunting, pollution and climate change are responsible for the global animal population crash, they said
- The report also said that continued human abuse of the planet may lead to the collapse of the natural systems and resources that allowed global civilisation and modern societies to persist in the first place. The damage is unprecedented in speed and vastness, it added

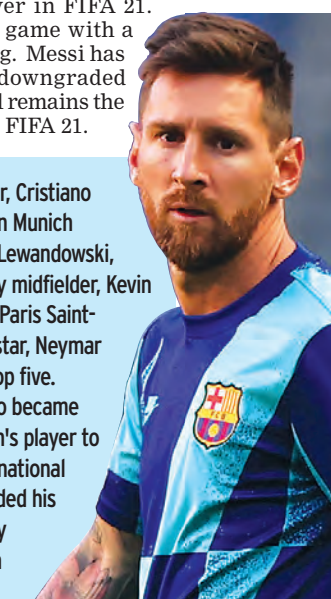
NEWS IN BRIEF

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LIONEL MESSI

Lionel Messi has once again beaten Cristiano Ronaldo to claim the title of the best player in FIFA 21. Messi tops the game with a 93 overall rating. Messi has actually been downgraded slightly, but still remains the world's best on FIFA 21.

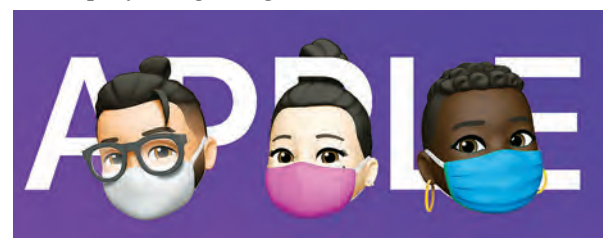
Juventus striker, Cristiano Ronaldo, Bayern Munich striker, Robert Lewandowski, Manchester City midfielder, Kevin De Bruyne and Paris Saint-Germain superstar, Neymar complete the top five. Earlier, Ronaldo became the second men's player to reach 100 international goals as he guided his side to a victory against Sweden



SPOTLIGHT

COMING SOON, AN APPLE FACE MASK!

Apple Inc has developed masks that the company is beginning to distribute to corporate and retail employees to limit the spread of Covid-19.



MICROSOFT TO LAUNCH XBOX SERIES X ON NOVEMBER 10



Microsoft is all set to launch the Xbox Series X console, which will be released on November 10 this year. According to The Verge, the console will be available for a price of \$499 (₹36,664 approx); its preorders will begin on September 22. The company is also offering the Xbox Series X via its Xbox All Access programme, which is a bundle that splits the cost of Xbox Game Pass Ultimate, Xbox Live, and Xbox console into a 24-month-long monthly payment system. Expanding the feature, Microsoft is working on making the Xbox All Access available in 12 countries, The Verge reported.

TECH BUZZ

- In typical Apple style, the mask looks unique with large coverings on the top and bottom for the wearer's nose and chin. It also has adjustable strings to fit around a person's ears
- The Apple Face Mask is the first created in-house mask by the technology giant for its staff

Colours evoke similar feelings around the world: Study

People all over the world associate colours with emotions. In fact, people from different parts of the world often associate the same colours with the same emotions.

This was the result of a detailed survey of 4,598 participants from 30 nations over six continents, carried out by an international research team.



RAINBOW LIFE

Choose your colour of life. Share your colour of love, anger, sadness with us at toinie175@gmail.com

- Throughout the world, Red is the only colour that is strongly associated with both: a positive feeling, love, and a negative feeling, anger. However, the scientists also noted some national peculiarities. For example, White is closely associated with sadness in China than it is in other countries, and the same applies to Purple in Greece. "This may be because in China white clothing is worn at funerals and Dark Purple is used in the Greek Orthodox Church during periods of mourning," they explained
- Apart from cultural peculiarities, climate also plays a role. For instance, Yellow tends to be associated with the emotion of joy in countries that see less sunshine, while the association is weaker in areas that have greater exposure to it

6 things you must do on WhatsApp to avoid harassment

- Don't receive video calls on WhatsApp from any unknown contact. Just disconnect and check whether you know the person or not. If you don't, then simply block him or her.
- Always block the selfie camera with your finger before taking a video call from unknown people. If you are eager to receive all calls, then it is always a good idea to block the selfie camera, while receiving a WhatsApp video call from strangers. Only show your face after you are sure about the

identity of the caller.

- Avoid receiving calls from numbers that do not start with +91: Scammers and harassers usually mask their numbers. If you find a caller using a number that has a different country code from that of India (+91) then simply disconnect. This is because unless you have any relative or friend, who lives abroad, there is no way someone will call you from outside India.



- Allow only your contacts to see your profile picture or status messages: Adjust your privacy settings accordingly.

- Manage who can see your profile picture on WhatsApp: Do not set it to public, as this will let everyone see your profile picture.

- Hide profile picture, status messages from people in your contact: Everyone uses WhatsApp. So, it is better to make a conscious effort to hide or block certain people whom you will never chat with on WhatsApp. You may have to save the contact of your auto driver or other people for essential services, but they need not be added on WhatsApp.

BHS HOSTS LN BIRLA DEBATE ONLINE

Birla High School hosted the 21st L N Birla Memorial Invitational Debate on a virtual platform on July 11, to commemorate the school's founding father late Lakshminiwas Birla. The debate, over the years, has brought on a common forum, keen debaters, from across the city and the country, who engage in dialectic debating, arguing passionately and putting forth their conflicting opinions on contentious and topical issues. The topic for the day was "The Digital World Holds the Key to a Better Education System".

The debate, this year, for reasons obvious, was a virtual event by invitation to only the Birla group of schools. It was

conducted through Zoom and streamed live on the LN Birla Debate Facebook page from the school conference room.

The debate commenced at 11 am with the welcome address delivered by Brigadier (retd) VN Chaturvedi, secretary general, Vidya Mandir Society. Brig. Chaturvedi emphasized the significance of the event and the correlation between debating, communication skills and leadership. This was followed by the lighting of the lamp by Brig. Chaturvedi, Mukta Nain, the director, Birla High Schools; the principal, Loveleen Saigal and the headmistress, Farida Singh.

The chairperson, Raju Raman, took the debate through fervent rounds of ardent debating, facilitating the partici-

pants to explore the topic 'The Digital World holds the key to a better Education System' from varied angles, raising questions on issues such as internet accessibility, digital divide, learning ability as a skill vs willingness to learn, team building in a real class, school as a miniature society and experiential learning vs virtual learning.

The debate raised a very pertinent question : whether school classrooms are to be replaced by virtual rooms or should the world brace up for a judicious blend of in-person and virtual classes?

Each participant was awarded a participation certificate along with a bluetooth speaker. The Best Team — Shri Shikshayatan School represented by Shudisksha Basu (for) and Koushiki Ghosh (against) bagged the trophy and a cheque for Rs 5000. Koushiki Ghosh from Shri Shikshayatan School was adjudged the Best Speaker winning the Best Speaker certificate, a trophy and a cheque for Rs 5000. Soubhagya Agarwal from Vidyaniketan Birla Public School was the runner up speaker winning a certificate and cheque for Rs 3000.

The judges, Tehnaz Dastoor and Moyuree Mukherjee, praised the school's endeavour, commending the tone and tenor of the participants' debating. The debate, as always, did indeed prove to be a most befitting tribute to the great visionary, the founding father of the school.



Shri Shikshayatan's virtual annual concert & prize day

Mahatma Gandhi had said, "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable spirit." Such an indomitable will was showcased by Shri Shikshayatan School, Junior Section on Saturday, July 25 when they hosted their annual prize distribution ceremony online through Google Meet platform against all adverse situations. The motif was to applaud and motivate the achievers of the previous academic year.

The secretary and administrator of St Francis Xavier School, Ajay Chopra was the chief guest for the occasion.

The programme commenced at 11.30 am with the introductory speech by emcee Preeti Chakraborty. A melodious welcome song "Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya" was sung by the students followed by the lighting of the lamp. Also present were secretary general Shikshayatan Foundation and Shri Shikshayatan School, Bratati Bhattacharyya; deputy secretary general Shikshayatan Foundation Vinod Agarwal; the principal, Sangeeta Tandon and the headmistress, Poushali Mukherjee.

The secretary general addressed the viewers next. Through her speech she welcomed one and all present. She thanked the parents for their support and boosted the potential of the



winners. She spoke about life's challenges and how the institution trains the children to confront and overcome it. This was followed by the felicitation of the chief guest where he was honoured with an e-certificate and then the address by the principal, Sangeeta Tandon took place where she described our wonderful board results, the mean crossing the 87 per cent mark. The headmistress, Poushali Mukherjee, pre-

FROM THE HEADMISTRESS' DESK

Lead me from darkness to light...was our theme for the annual prize distribution ceremony 2019-2020. We have always trained our students on life skills...today's programme was a perfect display of that. Little girls of the junior section rose to the occasion and put up such a confident show on a virtual platform! Our performers and achievers made us proud and showed that even in adverse conditions, when life throws up challenges, girls of Shri Shikshayatan School will emerge victorious.



sented the annual report of the Junior Section then.

Up next was a colourful presentation by the students based on the theme "Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya". Through this performance the students brought forth how from ancient times light has not only been the source for providing warmth and light but also helped in removing any evil and fear within mankind. With

time the light of knowledge gave us the strength to fight evil and move forward and achieve development. The students through their performance beautifully showcased how hope for a better tomorrow keeps us moving.

In his speech the chief guest was superlative in his appreciation for the organization, teachers and students. He lauded the vision of the school and the relentless hard work of the students and their mentor.

This was immediately followed by the most awaited episode of the programme, the prize distribution ceremony. The students from classes III, IV and V were awarded under the following categories: General Proficiency-I, II and III, Highest marks in subjects like English, Bengali, Hindi, EVS, Social Studies and Mathematics. There were 27 prizes in total.

The programme came to an end with the academic coordinator, Anshika Anand giving the vote of thanks and all joining for the school song and the National Anthem. The programme was truly a colourful one and was coordinated well which required a lot of preparation by the students and teachers under the guidance of the headmistress. The programme was a grand success and it was indeed a day to cherish by one and all at Shri Shikshayatan School.

WORDS VERSE

CAMPUS BECKONS....

Unsettling in human world.....the Centre cannot hold!
A virus? O yes! It is!
Tame Nature
Be not at ease!
Stay at home, break the chain
We teachers, online warriors -

realign and recreate
Transition is sudden!
Physical classrooms disappear - virtual learning dominates
Work from home - juggling multiple roles
We teachers, online warriors, craft wings of change
Isolation, distancing, precaution:

order of the day
We teachers, online warriors, combat crisis to dawn a new day
'Am I audible'?
'Suddenly disconnected'
'Poor network'
Rings our ears
Still with patience we wait for smiling faces to appear

The playground awaits
The campus beckons.....
When will the dawn arrive?
Let's pray
Create new streams of hope and joy
- Nabamita Chatterjee, PGT English, KV Command Hospital

INDIA - LAND OF PEACE & HUMANITY

India is our country, where we live.
We want humanity, we want peace

We have a lock called army that protects us from enemies,
We have love for our nation and, for those who never take vacation.
We feel safe in our life

Because of people who Stand at the age of knife, Soldiers just leave on a call,
We should give respect to all.
Jai Hind
- Aatharva Mangalam, Class IV, BHS Mukundapur

THE WAY FORWARD

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, school principals share the strategies their schools have adopted to cope with the limitations they have been compelled to deal with during the lockdown since the middle of March...

Billions of caterpillars, forced into cocoons, expecting to change from inside out, to rest, reflect, metamorphose and sprout wings. The abrupt closure of the school on March 15 necessitated an immediate decision to go for online teaching. The school's faculty was informed about the decision and the training began the same day with the help of our IT mentor, ma'am Baral, who had recently returned to Kolkata and the entire team of computer teachers.

Our school website had recently become interactive and this helped us to send the senior school reports to the parents in soft copies which were pending.

The teachers began working in full steam: preparing lessons, videos, PPTs with voice overs and assignments from home. They were guided patiently day and night by their team of academic coordinators through conference and Zoom calls.

Letters to parents were uploaded on the website and the official school Facebook page to communicate our decision and orient them about this new form of teaching. Senior classes were the first to get down to serious studies and within three days all the students had logged into their virtual classes and began submitting assignments or clearing their doubts through the portal. Parallel lines of communication were set up with class teachers through Whatsapp groups. Methods of communication were refined as time passed. Innovative problem solving was in evidence when the senior teachers evolved ways to collaborate, upload, edit and correct assignments online.

The start of the new session on April 1 saw the launch of online classes for the junior and middle school. Undoubtedly, many experienced difficulty in logging in or faced technical problems which were rectified by vigilant teachers at the help desk.

It's been an exciting and turbulent journey full of new discoveries and challenges of poor connectivity, no computer at home or shared time between siblings and parents working from home. We have received photographs and letters from parents sharing their feelings. We have also received mails expressing difficulties in following the concepts and are looking at reworking our teaching strategies constantly.

As the lockdown continues, the co-curricular team has prepared short videos or links



for yoga, art, karate, dance, aerobics and other fitness programmes to break the monotony of an only academics routine. Another milestone was online career counselling that enabled us to host webinars, Zoom meetings and alumni sessions relating to choice of streams, virtual summer internships for the seniors.

We are taking small baby steps to change the way we teach and to remove fear and competition from the process of evaluation. These are difficult steps but will surely change to confident strides. We are very happy that we are learning, evolving and facilitating meaningful learning in our virtual workplace. But we pray that we will return to our real and much-loved workplace soon.

Finally, we need to rethink the way school will operate in the near future, once government permissions are in. With social distancing norms requiring less numbers in classrooms and school buses, some of the options being considered are classes in shifts, alternate day school, staggering timings to reduce number of students to half and blended online and offline classes, redesigning the time table to avoid contact in breaks and entry and exit. Masks, gloves, sanitizers and screening of body temperature may become the new norms in school and finally abandoning old values of hugging your teachers or sharing your tiffin. Collaboration may be replaced by physical distancing as the new caring in school.

As the entire nation is stuck within the confines of the homes, several schools have taken resort to virtual platforms to render academic support to students. At Krishnagar Public School, we started with our online classes for classes X and XII students following a regular schedule from March 25 through Zoom. Gradually, in four phases, we implemented the same for all classes from pre-nursery to class XII. Initially, the lack of books had become an impediment for the students for which we urged the publishers to provide e-books, which enabled the students to consult the e-textbooks while taking online classes from their respective teachers. The teachers even interacted with parents and students individually via Whatsapp and Google Duos to provide technical support and clear doubts.

After achieving the right balance between 'chalk & talk' and 'click & navigate', the next challenge was to achieve the right mix of instructor led learning and self-learning. We understood that younger students of pre-primary and primary would find it difficult to read e-texts, hence provided additional study materials based on Extra-marks app and interactive websites like Pschool.in that the students would find engaging and fun.

Being aware of the various issues with the Zoom app, we shifted to Google Meet. By now the students have become comfortable and familiarized with online happiness classes- starting from virtual class assemblies, storytelling, inspirational time, circle time, debate hour to yoga, meditation, music, paper-craft, origami, science experiments in addition to its regular scheduled academic periods. We also made effective use of O-Labs and other digital tools in a routine manner to ensure effective learning experiences.

However, a school is not merely the place for academic development of students. It is also a centre for developing co-scholastic activities and a training ground in appreciating culture and heritage. We, therefore, introduced co-scholastic classes for the students in the evenings, which cater to different interests of the students, from art and craft to dance, from yoga to foreign languages.

Being associated with the Fit India Movement, we encouraged the students to remain healthy by including exercises and sports as their daily habit. It is difficult to run co-scholastic classes virtually and we are glad that at least this platform has given us uninterrupted connection with the students. More importantly the role of parents too has increased manifold especially in monitoring the young children and supervising them during



SANKAR PRASAD DUTTA, PRINCIPAL, KRISHNAGAR PUBLIC SCHOOL

the use of electronic weblinks and pages.

Realizing the challenges and anxiety in the parents' lives, we tried to reach out, and help them de-stress and engage their time in a more fruitful way by starting with yoga and Spoken English sessions for parents as well. We have also started with our 'Khulke Jio' sessions inculcating life skills and stress management training for both students and parents which is 'the need of the hour'.

We encouraged our parents and students to try and make as much contribution as is possible from their end to ensure the safety and well-being of all fellow citizens during this crisis. In fact, all our teachers and staff voluntarily raised funds together to contribute to the West Bengal State Emergency Relief Fund to play our part in the fight against the pandemic.

Amidst all these not to forget our teachers, they were regularly trained with the modern trends in online education, the effective use of tools and techniques. Teachers also attended online workshops conducted by the CBSE on a regular basis to enrich themselves. Their birthdays were celebrated online so as to give them a moral boost to face this challenge spontaneously.

We also tried to ensure students don't get completely detached with the feeling of togetherness and collective effort in observing the various im-

portant days of national and international significance, therefore we kept on observing special days on the virtual medium. In April, we started celebrating with Earth Day. We celebrated the 159th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the virtual platform in May. Students of different age group participated in the programme to show their regard and respect to the Nobel laureate, through their recitation, song, dance and musical presentation and was appreciated by several educators and principals.

This continued as we celebrated, International Mother's Day, 50 days of online classes, Father's Day, International day of Yoga, Rath-Yatra, Eid-ul-Fitr, poet Kazi Nazrul Islam Jayanti, Doctor's Day on the virtual platform and in different manner. We organized digital music competition and photography/ short film competition on World Music Day and Camera Day respectively. We plan to celebrate the upcoming days too, to spread awareness among students and parents.

The students were also encouraged to participate in various competitions both at regional as well as national levels. They participated in the national level Innovation Challenge 2020 and have submitted their projects on the themes of Space Technology, New and Innovative Ideas and Solutions for Social Distancing for Covid-19. Nilabhra Guha of class IX secured the all-India 8th rank and made the school proud. Our little Srijita Biswas of nursery stood first in the national level Poetry Hub competition. Students are enthusiastically participating and are constantly receiving appreciation in different other competitions like BRIC-SMATH, Phoenix Science Club competition, Google Code To Learn Contest, Zee Mind Wars, Dance Competition and Kids Fashion show.

In accordance with our Integrated Interdisciplinary approach towards education, the Social Science Department organized inter-class mock parliament on the digital platform on the occasion of International Day of Parliamentarism. Our Science Department has also planned a virtual science seminar.

These past few months have been really challenging for all of us. We had to let go a lot of convictions we held strongly earlier and adapt to the changing times. The determination to ensure that our students' lives are not disrupted or irreparably affected by the consequences of this global crisis motivates us each moment to innovate and implement newer initiatives as we move ahead with our virtual assessment plans.