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Work or play? The rise of online 'kidfluencers' is raising complex legal and ethical questions

These children are hired by companies — and managed by their parents — to promote toys and other products in an job-like arrangement. This has raised concerns about child exploitation, privacy risks, and unethical work practices.

Videos of children opening boxes of toys and playing with them have become a feature of online marketing — making stars out of children as young as two.

Twelve-year-old influencer Ryan Kaji, for example, earns US\$30 million a year on YouTube leading one of the most popular children's channels. His empire was built on toy unboxing.

An influencer (child or adult) with more than one million followers can earn upwards of \$20,000 for one sponsored post, while a person with under 100,000 followers on a social media platform may still earn as much as \$4,000 for each sponsored post. But the rise of kidfluencers around the globe raises questions about the blurred lines between play and labour, independence and control, privacy, profit and online success.

Our research examines these questions. By analysing existing research to clearly identify the challenges faced by child toy unboxers, we can guide future researchers and governments to best support children who are living parts of their lives online.

YouTube as a career goal

A 2023 global survey of children aged between eight and 12 found



they were three times more likely to aspire to be a YouTuber (29%) than an astronaut (11%).

Unboxing videos became popular in the 2010s, with content creators unpacking products such as tech

gadgets and fashion items. Toy unboxing is now one of the highest-earning genres on YouTube.

PHOTOS: FREEPIK IMAGES

Work, play or somewhere in between

At first glance, unboxing videos seem to follow a simple

entertainer-audience relationship.
The kidfluencers emotionally engage with young viewers, who are then inspired to create their own toy wish lists. But behind the fun is a world of complexity often not obvious for young viewers (and sometimes older viewers too). These children are hired by companies — and managed by their parents — to promote toys and other products in an job-like arrangement. This has raised concerns about child exploitation, privacy risks and unethical work

practices.

In 2020, the French government labelled kidfluencers a "grey zone" — where the child is not officially working, but nevertheless spends a significant amount of time making videos, or derives a significant level of income from them.

Protecting children

Another complexity is that some social media platforms require users to be over 13, yet some kidfluencers are toddlers, with parents creating and managing their accounts, including producing and posting their children's online content.

While parents play a big role in managing their child's online presence, the child drives the toy sales, creating tension between parental control and a child's independence.

Privacy and online safety are two key issues facing the kidfluencer industry. The more content a child toy unboxer posts online, the more popular and profitable they can become. But at the same time, popularity brings very real risks.

All governments should follow suit and create policies that recognise the challenges of the kidfluencer industry, and which support and protect the children involved. THE CONVERSATION

London toy 'shop' window where nothing is for sale



LONDON, U.K.: With its twinkling Christmas fairy lights and nostalgic array of vintage toys, the window of one London "shop" never fails to enchant passers-by.

A Punch and Judy puppet, old board games, model trains and planes, papier mache masks adorn the window of Number 43, Camden Passage in the north London neighbourhood of Islington. Would-be shoppers intrigued by the quirky collection immediately start searching for the entrance. But Number 43 is not a shop and nothing here is for sale.

Sandwiched between a Chipotle Mexican grill and a jewellery store, neighbouring shopkeepers say people are forever asking where the entrance is. In fact, the property is the former home of Bob Borzello, 88, and the window display is the result of a lifetime obsession with collecting, or

"accumulating", as he prefers to call it.

The property was once home to a poster shop where Borzello and his former wife sold pin-ups of iconic figures like Che Guevara.

Accumulator

All along, however, Borzello was "accumulating" his vast collection of items picked up in antique shops and junk sales. A decade ago Borzello began displaying the items, and the window in the property he still owns is now something of an Islington institution. The toy

collection began with aeroplane models which are soon to be the subject of another themed display.

As well as toys, Borzello has accumulated lots of souvenir items from the late Queen Elizabeth II's coronation.

Other collections include clocks, badges, wedding cake toppers, shop mannequins, his children's old school reports, even his old Covid tests, which he has lined up next to his phone.

He says he thinks he picked up the llecting gene" from his Italian-American and that his children are also collectors in

"collecting gene" from his Italian-American mother and that his children are also collectors in different ways.

Despite his lifelong dislike of throwing anything away, Borzello laughed when Belle revealed she recently found him "slaving over the shredder". He admitted he was shredding his old love letters so his grandchildren can't read them after his death, although he has insisted on keeping the shreds. "I just have a hard time getting rid of things," he said. AFP

Today's

Have you been following the news headlines? 1 What kind of disease is Handigodu, that was recently seen in the news?

What is the name of India's first AI-powered app launched for accessibility audits in India?

Which country won the Asian Cricket Council U-19 Men's Asia Cup title?

A Name the countries that participated in the trilateral air combat exercise called Desert Knight?

5 Which country has developed an mRNA vaccine for cancer patients?

Answers on page 3.

SEAL-ING THE DAY



Onlookers watch the unusual citing of a fur seal on the shore of Ipanema beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.. PHOTO: AP



20-MINUTE ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN - 1148

There are many words on this picture. Read the note below, then spot and

Just a minute - zoom in!

circle the word that matches the description.

Who is the co-founder of Facebook?

Brian Acton

Larry Page

Two-minute comprehension

Read the paragraphs below and answer the questions

Croatia is blessed with a stunning coastline along the Adriatic Sea dotted with more than 1,000 islands and islets attracting around 20 million tourists annually.

Tourism is the key pillar powering the country's economy, accounting for a fifth of gross domestic product. Apart from the coastline, other top tourist attractions include the Istria hinterland, known for its truffles, the Velebit mountain range, and the Krka and Plitvice national parks.

"At all events, people who deny the influence of Europe's 'smaller nations' should remember that the Croats have the rest of us by the throat," wrote Norman Davies in his book Europe - A History. The British historian was referring to the tie or cravat – worn every day by millions worldwide - whose Croatian origin reaches far into the past and is linked to love and devotion.

According to Croatian tradition, women tied kerchiefs around their darlings' necks as they set off for battle in foreign wars. Notably, Croat mercenaries wore them as they fought on the side of King Louis XIV during the Thirty Years War in the 17th Century. The humble tie was soon accepted as a fashion accessory by the powerful French court, and later spread to Britain and throughout the world. Its association with the Croat nation resulted in the word

Unscramble - in a minute

A noun, the word means concern for the sufferings or

misfortunes of others.

1) Name a book written by Norman Davies.

2) Along which sea is Croatia's coastline situated?

3) Which are two national parks in Croatia?

4) Cravats originated in which country?

In how many minutes did you complete today's activities?



WORD OF THE DAY

Zuckerberg

Brian Acton

Апѕмек: Магк Інскегрегд

CONCERTED

Pronounces as: kuhn-suht-uhd

Meaning

Something done with a group effort, jointly planned and arranged or coordinated. and carried out.

Origin

The origin comes from the Italian word *concertare* which means to come to a mutual agreement or to work in harmony.

The richer countries of the world should take concerted action to help the poorer countries. Activity

Now use the word in your own sentence.

WORD BUILDER

How many words can you make with the letters in the word

NEUROTRANSMITTERS

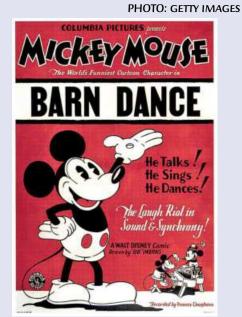


MINI QUIZ 2 mins...

Ans: Compassion

Today's quiz is all about Disney films

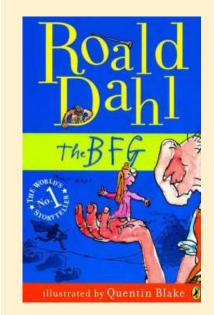
- 1) What was the name of Walt Disney's first cartoon character?
- 2) Which Disney film does the song 'Under the Sea' come from?
- 3) Which was the first full-length animated Disney film that was released?
- 4) What Disney animated film was loosely based on the novel Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens?
- 5) Which Disney film does the song 'Circle of Life' come from?



Answers: 1) Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, 2) The Little Mermaid, 3) Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 4) Oliver & Company, 5) The Lion King

LIT-WIT IN TWO MINUTES

Identify the false statement



- 1. In Enid Blyton's The Naughtiest Girl, the name of the headmistress of Whyteleafe School is Miss Belle.
- 2. In Roald Dahl's *The BFG*, the letters stand for Big Funny Giant.
- 3. Sherlock Holmes's address is 221B Baker Street, London.
- 4. In The Hunger Games' series, Katniss leaves the battle at the Cornucopia with an orange backpack.

letters stand for Big Friendly Giant. Answer: In Roald Dahl's The BFG, The

Journal Writing

5 minutes

Dear Diary,
In the year 2024, I was able to learn more about

GK Corner (3 mins)	PHOTO: REUTERS

The remains of a baby mammoth, estimated to be over 50,000 years old, were discovered preserved in the Siberian permafrost at the Batagaika crater in the Verkhoyansky district of Yakutia. In which geological era or period did mammoths primarily exist?

∀ทร: โсе ผิด

5 TIPS TO BEAT holiday stress eating

The holiday season can be a time of joy, celebration, and indulgence in delicious foods and meals. However, for many, it can also be an emotional and stressful period. This stress can manifest in our eating habits, leading to what is known as emotional or stress eating. There are certain foods we tend to eat more of when we're stressed, and these can affect our health. What's more, our food choices can influence our stress levels and make us feel worse. Here's how.



1. WHY WE MIGHT EAT MORE WHEN STRESSED

The human stress response is a complex signalling network across the body and brain. Our nervous system then responds to physical and psychological events to maintain our health. Our stress response – which can be subtle or trigger a fight-or-flight response – is essential and part of daily life. The stress response increases production of the hormones cortisol and insulin and the release of glucose (blood sugars) and brain chemicals to meet demand. Eating when we experience stress is a normal behaviour to meet a spike in energy needs. But sometimes our relationship with food becomes strained in response to different types of stress. We might attach shame or guilt to overeating. And anxiety or insecurity can mean some people under-eat in stressful times. Over time, people can start to associate eating with negative emotions – such as anger, sadness, fear or worry. This link can create behavioural cycles of emotional eating. "Emotional eaters" may go on to develop altered brain responses to the sight or smell of food. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



3. WHAT STRESS EATING CAN DO TO THE BODY

Stress eating can include binge eating, grazing, eating late at night, eating quickly or eating past the feeling of fullness. It can also involve craving or eating foods we don't normally choose. For example, stressed people often reach for ultra-processed foods. While eating these foods is not necessarily a sign of stress, having them can activate the reward system in our brain to alleviate stress and create a pattern. Short-term stress eating, such as across the holiday period, can lead to symptoms such as acid reflux and poor sleep. In the longer term, stress eating can lead to weight gain and obesity, increasing the risks of cancer, heart diseases and diabetes. While stress eating may help reduce stress in the moment, long-term stress eating is linked with an increase in depressive symptoms and poor mental health. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO: MOHAMMED YOUSUF



2. WHAT WE EAT CAN MAKE US MORE OR LESS STRESSED

The foods we choose can also influence our stress levels. Diets high in refined carbohydrates and sugar (such as sugary drinks, sweets, crackers, cakes and most chocolates) can make blood sugar levels spike and then crash. Diets high in unhealthy saturated and trans fats (processed foods, animal fats and commercially fried foods) can increase inflammatory responses. Rapid changes in blood sugar and inflammation can increase anxiety and can change our mood. Meanwhile, certain foods can improve the balance of neurotransmitters in the brain that regulate stress and mood. Omega-3 fatty acids, found in fish and flaxseeds, are known to reduce inflammation and support brain health. Magnesium, found in leafy greens and nuts, helps regulate cortisol levels and the body's stress response. Vitamin Bs, found in whole grains, nuts, seeds, beans and animal products (mostly B12), help maintain a healthy nervous system and energy metabolism, improving mood and cognitive performance. PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

4. FIVE TIPS FOR THE HOLIDAY TABLE AND BEYOND

1. Slow down: be mindful about the speed of your eating. Slow down, chew food well and put down your utensils after each bite 2. Watch the clock: even if you're eating more food than you normally would, sticking to the same timing of eating can help maintain your body's response to the food. If you normally have an eight-hour eating window (the time between your first meal and last meal of the day) then stick to this even if you're eating

3. Continue other health behaviours: even if we are eating more



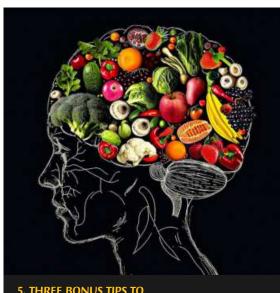
PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

food or different food during the festive season, try to keep up other healthy behaviours, such as sleep and

4. Stay hydrated: make sure to drink

plenty of fluids, especially water. This helps our body function and can help with feelings of hunger. When our brain gets the message something has entered the stomach (what we drink) this can provide a temporary reduction in feelings of hunger

5. Don't restrict: if we have a big day of eating, it can be tempting to restrict eating in the days before or after. But it is never a good idea to overly constrain food intake. It can lead to more overeating and worsen stress.



5. THREE BONUS TIPS TO

MANAGE HOLIDAY STRESS

1. Shift your thinking: try reframing festive stress. Instead of viewing it as "something bad", see it as "providing the energy" to reach your goals, such as a family gathering or present

2. Be kind to yourself and others: practise an act of compassion for someone else or try talking to yourself as you would a friend. These actions can stimulate our brains and improve wellbeing 3. Do something enjoyable: being absorbed in enjoyable activities - such as crafting, movement or even breathing exercises – can help our brains and bodies to return to a more relaxed state, feel steady and connected.

PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT THE CONVERSATION

AUSTRALIA ROCKHAMPTON.

THE AUTHORS, SAMAN KHALESI, CHARLOTTE GUPTA AND TALITHA BEST, WORK AT THE CQUNIVERSITY

+ Odisha to use satellite telemetry to study movement of Olive Ridleys

A three-year study using modern techniques will be initiated by the Wildlife Conservation Society of India (WCI) to assess the population dynamics of the Olive Ridley Turtles along the Odisha coast, including their migration patterns.

BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA: The Odisha government has decided to use satellite telemetry and underwater videography to study the movement of Olive Ridley turtles to ascertain the reason behind the variation in the number of the turtles coming to the coast to lay eggs every year, an official statement said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of a high-powered committee on turtles chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

The meeting analysed the number of turtles reaching the Odisha coast to lay eggs in the last 10 years. According to available statistics, 11.49 lakh Olive Ridley Turtles laid eggs at Gahirmatha coast in Kendrapara district and Rushikulya beach in Ganjam district in 2022-23, there was no mass nesting in 2023-24 and only 3 lakh laid eggs in various coasts.

The Olive Ridley Turtles generally congregate at Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhitarkanika Sanctuary, Devi river-mouth, Balukhand Wildlife Sanctuary, Rushikulya Wildlife Sanctuary and the river banks in lakhs every year to lay their eggs.

'The meeting discussed the variation of laying of eggs by turtles and could not reach any conclusion over the exact reason behind the fluctuating number of turtles turning up at the Odisha coast to lay eggs. It is a mystery for the



PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

researchers," it said.

In view of this, the committee decided to initiate steps to monitor the movement of sea turtles through a satellite telemetry study.

A three-year study using modern techniques will be initiated by the Wildlife Conservation Society of India (WCI) to assess the population dynamics of the Olive Ridley Turtles along the Odisha coast, including their migration patterns.

The meeting also discussed the importance of underwater videography during the nesting

season of Olive Ridley turtles.

The chief secretary directed the officials concerned to monitor the movement of sea turtles using modern technology, create awareness in the areas concerned during the nesting season and strengthen the enforcement system.

"It is our responsibility and duty to protect sea turtles and their eggs. Like the previous years, this year too, the state government is providing all necessary support in this direction and it will continue," the chief secretary said. PTI

What is esoteric literature?

LEARNING TREE

Esoteric literature refers to writings that convey hidden or specialised knowledge, often intended for a select group of individuals.

Esoteric literature often contains teachings, symbols, or ideas that are meant to be understood only by those with specific Much of esoteric knowledge or initiation Many esoteric texts are literature draws from into a particular linked to mystical or ancient, occult, or tradition. spiritual practices, secret traditions. such as alchemy. Esoteric works frequently employ complex symbols and metaphors that Notable examples require interpretation. include the Corpus These symbols may Hermeticum, The Book represent hidden truths, of Thoth, the Zohar, and cosmic principles, or works by authors such aspects of the self. as Helena Blavatsky, Rudolf Steiner, etc.

THE MARK HINDU

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TODAY'S QUIZ: ANSWERS

- 1. Bone and joint disease
- 2. YesToAccess 3. Bangladesh
- 4. India, France and UAE
- 5. Russia

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AN EYE FOR AN I

ROMANENKO

AND HIS III SPACE MISSIONS

Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko spent a total of 430 days in space over three different missions. His third and final mission came to an end on December 29, 1987, making him the owner of the record for the longest single-mission stay in space at that time. A.S.Ganesh takes a look at Romanenko's three different missions and what made them eventful...



Yuri Romanenko (left) and Georgi Grechko. PHOTO: THE HINDU ARCHIVES

The first mission

Born on August 1, 1944 in Koltubanovskiy village in Orenburg Oblast, Soviet Union, Yuri Romanenko was the son of a senior commander on military ships (father) and a **combat medic** (a military professional who provides emergency medical care and treatment in a variety of settings, including on the battlefield and in humanitarian efforts). He did some of his schooling in Kaliningrad after his family moved there, and counted hunting and underwater fishing among his hobbies.

Following a brief stint doing odd jobs, he joined

the Chernigov High Air Force School in what is now Ukraine in 1962. He graduated with honours in 1966 and stayed on to train students, while fine-tuning himself for the demands of a cosmonaut. By 1970, he was cleared and ready for space flights.

It was another seven years before Romanenko

had his first experience of space. As the flight commander on Soyuz 26, Romanenko, along with engineer Georgi Grechko, was launched to space on December 10, 1977. During their 96 days in orbit, they met with Soyuz 27, Soyuz 28, and Progress 1.

In his first mission, Romanenko performed a space walk for an hour-and-a-half. Leading up to this, there was a moment when Romanenko had pushed against the wall and flew outside, but without harnessing himself to the safety cord. Grechko grabbed hold of him to ensure he didn't leave the space station, but Romanenko would have nevertheless not floated away because of the electrical cables that were attached still. Grechko joked about the whole accident when the duo met the press, going as far as saying that Romanenko was on the verge of death.



Baikonur cosmodrome. Yuri Romanenko (right) and Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez before their take-off on September 18, 1980. PHOTO: THE HINDU

Cuban connection

Romanenko's second space mission began on September 18, 1980 when he was part of a historic flight aboard Soyuz 38 alongside Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez. This flight was special as Mendez was not only the first Cuban cosmonaut and the first **Latin American** (from parts of Central and South America where Spanish or Portuguese is spoken) to fly into space, but also the first person of African descent to make a space-bound journey.

Over seven days, the duo completed 124 orbits around the Earth, while conducting science and health experiments. A total of nine experiments were performed, including those that studied stress, blood circulation, immunity, balance, and the growth of a single crystal of sucrose in weightlessness. The two returned to Earth on September 26.

Following his retirement in 1988, Romanenko and his family were invited to Cuba. Cuban revolutionary Fidel Castro – the country's President at that time – not only personally met Romanenko, but also organised a social tour that accommodated Romanenko's interests in underwater fishing and hunting.



Mendez and Romanenko talking with Pilot-cosmonaut of USSR Georgi Dghalabov (left).
PHOTO: THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Yuri Romanenko PHOTO: "GCTC"/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

326 days in space

Romanenko's third and final voyage to space was his longest. In fact, it wasn't just his longest, but the longest there had been until then!

Lasting from February to December 1987, the Mir EO-2 expedition – also called the Mir Principal Expedition 2 – was the second long duration expedition to the Soviet space station Mir. Launched aboard a Soyuz TM-2 along with Aleksandr Laveykin on February 6, 1987, Romanenko returned to Earth aboard a Soyuz TM-3 on December 29 – after 326 days in space!

During this stay, Romanenko performed three space walks – on April 11, June 11, and June 16. The space walk on April 11 was an emergency extra-vehicular activity (EVA) that lasted 3 hours and 40 minutes, during which Romanenko and Laveykin had to exit Mir to repair a problem with Kvant (first module to be attached to the Mir Core Module). Discovering a foreign object (probably a trash bag they had left between Progress 28 and Mir's drogue) lodged in Kvant's docking unit, the duo pulled it free. Once it was discarded into space, Kvant successfully completed docking following a command from the ground.

Even though both of them were scheduled to stay throughout, Laveykin was replaced by Alexandr Alexandrov from Soyuz TM-3 in July. This was because ground-based doctors had diagnosed Laveykin to have minor heart problems (tests once he was back revealed that he was fit to fly after all!).

By the time Romanenko returned on December 29, 1987, the pair who went on to break his longest spaceflight record were already in space. Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov stayed for 365 days, starting on December 21, 1987 and returning the same day the following year. Their record has also since been broken, and it is currently held by Valeri Poliyakov, whose longest single-mission stay lasted 437 days.

ONE QUOTE. TWO INTERPRETATIONS.

On returning to Earth following what was then the longest single-mission human stay in space, Romanenko remarked that "The cosmos is a magnet. Once you've been there, all you can think of is how to get back."

This **poignant** (to the point; cutting or piercing) statement can be interpreted in a couple of ways, both of which are deep and symbolic.

On the one hand, the statement can be said to mean that experiencing the vastness and wonder of infinite space can be so profoundly captivating that there is a constant tug in the heart, even after returning to Earth. This tug makes the person yearn to experience the same feeling once again. This pull by an invisible force is likened to that of a magnet.

The cosmos is a magnet. Once you've been there, all you can think of is how to get back.

On the other hand, the statement can also be interpreted to the overwhelming feeling that one might experience when setting out into the cosmos. The celestial beauty that goes along with the awe-inspiring and humbling nature of space can evoke a sense of smallness and insignificance among those who experience it. This, coupled with the longing to "get back" to the comfort and familiarity of Earth, could well be conveyed by this quote. The magnet that is the cosmos in this case then keeps the space traveller attracted to it and holds them spellbound, even when they wish to head back to all that they have been disconnected from.



Like father, like son
Married to Alevtina
Ivanovna Frolova,
Romanenko had two
children. Their first son
Roman was born on

second son Artem was born on May 17, 1977. Like his father Yuri, Roman too went on to become a cosmonaut, heading to space on a couple of instances. There have been only a

August 9, 1971, while the

handful of second-generation space venturers, and Roman is one of them. This means that Yuri

and Roman are also among the very few father-son duo where both of them have been to space.

A view of the commander of the spaceship "Soyuz-26" Yuri Romanenko with his wife Alevtina. PHOTO: THE HINDU ARCHIVES

QUICK QUIZ

Take this quiz once before you read this article. Take it once more after you've read it. Answers to all these questions can be found right here!

- 1) Who was Romanenko's spaceflight partner during his first mission to space in 1977?
- 2) Name the first Cuban cosmonaut.
- 3) Name Romanenko's son who also became a cosmonaut himself.

(From left to right)
Astronauts Tim Kopra,
John "Danny" Olivas,
Frank De Winne and
Roman Romanenko pose
for a photo in the Unity
node of the International
Space Station in this NASA
handout photo taken
September 7, 2009. PHOTO:
REUTERS/ NASA/ HANDOUT



1) Georgi Grechko; 2) Arnaldo Tamayo Mendez: 3) Roman Romanenko

РИЗМЕВЗ ТО QUICK QUIZ:

QWIKIPEDIA: A DAILY SEARCH-AND-LEARN ACTIVITY

Ever been on Wikipedia to search for something? More often than not we start with one topic, click a few links and within no time, are eagerly reading something else.

Qwikipedia is a game that tries to quench our curiosity to learn something new. Start with one search from a specific article in this newspaper, and get started on a journey of learning with multiple clicks.

Surprise yourself by finding new routes each time!

THE MONDAYS MARAUDER ROUTE: WREATH → CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



WREATH

A wreath is a woven arrangement of flowers, twigs, buds and fruits, formed in the shape of a large ring. The flowers used to create these wreaths may be real or artificial, and the same can be said for the fruits and other colourful items. In many countries, a wreath is a common item used in house decoration, more specifically during the festive season of Christmas. They are also used in some places for ceremonies and important events, as a symbol of honour. During the Ancient period of Egypt, folks created wreaths by attaching flowers to linen bands before tying them around their heads as an accessory. In Ancient Greece, the wreath was used as an award for those who won the Olympic games. Alongside Christmas wreaths and Decorative wreaths, there are also harvest wreaths, popular in Europe and associated with the belief of animism.



ANIMISM

Animism is a system of belief that claims that everything in the world, living or non-living, has a spiritual essence, or a sentience that is given out. This belief is often displayed in many traditional events that take place in different countries. These events can range from rituals and dances, to sacrifices and shamanism. This is based off of the world view that everything and everyone in the universe, regardless of being alive or not, is interconnected in one way or another. There are many factors that tie into this. For one, the system spreads the belief that all entities - humans animals, rocks, fire, forests, etc. - possess a spirit or soul. Rituals and ceremonies are often performed to communicate with and please the said spirits. Animism has also been popularised in literature by famous writers like Chinua Achebe, Alan Garner, and Alice Walker.





ALICE WALKER

Alice Walker is a novelist, poet, and social activist, known primarily for her novel. The Color Purple, which won her the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. She is the first African American woman to win this prize. A unique feature many notice in her writing style is that Walker, instead of using rhymes, utilises repetition to provide her poetry with a rhythmic touch. In her novels, her characters frequently overcome adversities and difficulties to find inner-strength and self-respect. She also examines complex family dynamics, love, and friendship. Her role in activism dates back to her college days when her institute was visited by Martin Luther King Jr. She grew inspired by him to become an activist and take part in the Civil Rights Movement.



So, the path we have travelled today is Wreath \rightarrow Animism \rightarrow Alice Walker \rightarrow Civil Rights Movement Three clicks! Hop over! It's time for the next question.

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Racial discrimination and segregation had been a serious problem in the United States. In order to ensure its abolishment, the campaign known even today as the Civil Rights Movement began. Its active years were within the 1950s and 1960s. Its message was mainly aimed at the problems faced by African Americans, and fought to establish equality through the US constitution. The movement was rooted on the struggles faced by the community, spanning back to centuries of systemic racism, slavery, and disenfranchisement of African Americans. Several historical events had taken place within the timeline of this event, not to mention all of the legendary personalities who arose with it. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was one of these events, which had erupted after activist Rosa Parks had refused to give up her bus seat. Then there's the March on Washington which was led by Martin Luther King Jr., during which he delivered his inspirational speech, "I Have a Dream".



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES, THE HINDU, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

IN SCHOOL INBOX

Showcase your creativity

A couple of artivity entries sent in by students

ARTIVITY

Read the newspaper and create an original artwork based on a news item that interests you and send your entry in JPEG format (not as PDF) to school@thehindu.co.in with the subject - Artivity. ONLY artworks based on current news or issues relating to Science, Space, Environment, Wildlife and Sports will be considered for publication. Please AVOID mailing other works. Mention your name, class, school and city in the same mail (not in separate mails).



Name: Aarushi C Class: III School: JSS Public School, Banashankari, Bengaluru, Karnataka



Name: P Gayathri Class: VIII School: Aravinda High School, Kunchanapalli, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

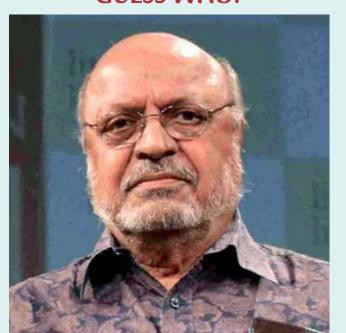
MISTY MAJESTY

Tuesday's Traveller



A man walks past the Taj Mahal on a cold foggy morning in Agra. PHOTO: AFP

GUESS WHO?



A renowned Indian filmmaker who recently passed away and was known for his contributions to parallel cinema with socially relevant themes. His notable works include Ankur, Nishant, and Manthan. Can you guess who is he?

Answer: Shyam Benegal

		4					1	
		2	7			6		
	1		6	8			2	5
6					2			
			1	4				7
1	5			2	7		3	
		6			9	4		
	2					8		

A mind game and a

puzzle that you solve with reasoning and logic. Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any. The solution to today's

puzzle is at right.

Highs and lows of Indian cricket in 2024

While India's painful trophy wait ended in the T20 World Cup, rare home Test series whitewash has triggered transition talk

JAY SHAH BECOMES

YOUNGEST ICC CHAIRMAN India is the engine of the global game and its influence on the sport increased further with the elevation of Jay Shah as ICC chairman, making him the fifth from the country at the helm of the governing body after Jagmohan Dalmiya, Sharad

Pawar, N Srinivasan and Shashank Manohar. Shah took over in early December and has already made his presence felt by ending the deadlock over the hosting of the Champions Trophy in Pakistan by ensuring consensus for a reciprocal hybrid model in which India will not be required to travel across the border for any ICC event till 2028. Likewise, Pakistan too will get a neutral venue in case of an event in India.

The build up to cricket's return at Summer Olympics in 2028 will also be at the top of his agenda.



PHOTOS: ALEX DAVIDSON-ICC/ICC VIA GETTY IMAGES, PTI, ANI

WORLD CUP TRIUMPH; T20 FAREWELL TO ROHIT AND KOHLI

The Indian cricket team and its unparalleled fan base were desperate for an ICC trophy after repeatedly faltering (losing strength or momentum) in the knock-out stages over the past decade, most recently in the ODI World Cup final at home last year.

The trophy finally came home after Rohit Sharma and his team played a near perfect tournament to become the T20 World Cup champions in the USA and the Caribbean.

India's clarity of thought throughout the one-month long event was remarkable and with a little bit of luck on their side, especially in the final at Barbados, they were able to go the distance.

A better script could not have been written for the likes of Rohit and Virat Kohli, who got to say goodbye to the T20 format with the coveted trophy in their hands. It was also a fitting farewell for head coach Rahul Dravid, whose tenure drew to a close.

With Rohit calling it a day, it was expected that Hardik Pandya will lead the T20 side into the transition phase, having captained the side in the former's absence.

However, Dravid's successor Gautam Gambhir had a different line of thinking as he played a major hand in elevating India's best T20 batter Suryakumar Yadav to the leadership position.

IPL RAZZMATAZZ IN SAUDI ARABIA

The IPL players' auction in Jeddah witnessed record-shattering action with Rishabh Pant (₹27 crore) and Shreyas Iyer (₹26.75 crore) becoming the first set of players to invite bids in excess of ₹25 crore.

WOMEN'S CRICKET UNDER-PERFORMS

Amid all the drama in men's cricket, women's cricket continued to be relatively stagnant in terms of performance with ODI and T20 debacles in Australia along with an early exit from the T20 World Cup being the talking points. However, the team did manage to log its first home series triumph at home in five years by beating the West Indies in a T20 showdown. The WPL too seems to be gathering steam with younger players getting the freedom and opportunity to express themselves alongside the elite cricketers, just like the IPL had provided a platform for India's youngsters.



Hungry Sabalenka ready for more Slam success

Aiming to become first woman to claim three straight Melbourne Park singles titles since Hingis

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA: World number one Aryna Sabalenka says she is "fresh and ready to go" in her bid for a third straight Australian Open title, warning she has plenty of room for improvement.

The 26-year-old enjoyed a sensational 2024, reaching seven finals and winning four titles, including the US Open.

Her year was kick-started by defending her Australian Open crown, beating China's high-flying Zheng Qinwen in the

Should she win it again, she will become the first woman to claim three straight Melbourne Park singles titles since Martina Hingis between 1997-1999.

"I feel fresh and ready to go," the Belarusian said, according to the WTA website on Thursday, after arriving for the Brisbane International ahead of the Australian Open from January 12.

"I love Australia and I always come here hungry and always come here ready. I feel all the support here, and I think that's the best thing about Australia, that people are really, really, into tennis.'

Sabalenka also began 2024 in

Brisbane, reaching the final without losing a set only to crash to Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina in the decider.

She spent time in the off-season at her home in Florida before heading to the Middle East to prepare for Australia and will use the Brisbane tournament to fine-tune her Grand Slam preparations.

'You work hard on lots of things in the pre-season," she said.

'The first tournament before the major tournament is the one where you can try it out and see what's going to work well for you, and what's not."

Need to improve

Despite her rise through the ranks to be the player to beat heading into 2025, Sabalenka said there were still parts of her game that need work.

"Oh, there is so many things to improve," she said.

"I mean, I'm not that good with maybe my game at the net in singles. There is a lot of things to improve in my touch game. There is so many things, even my serve is not as good as I want it to be, so there is always (elements) to improve." AFP





INDIA HIT ROCK BOTTOM AGAINST KIWIS

While India moved on from the mighty duo of Rohit (left) and Kohli in the shortest format rather quickly, the same is unlikely in the Test team.

The chatter around the future of senior players in the Test team has gained momentum after India's first whitewash at home in a three-match series and more recently, the sudden retirement of premier off-spinner R Ashwin (above).

India's loss to New Zealand in their own hackuard was easily one of the my embarrassing outcomes for the team in Test cricket over the past decade. Having slayed 'Bazball' earlier in the year against England, India blanked Bangladesh and were expected to hand out a similar treatment to the visiting Black

However, in a stunning turn of events, the spirited Kiwis out-batted and out-bowled Rohit and Co. to script their biggest series wins overseas.

With Ashwin gone and Mohammed Shami not available, a Test transition is well underway Down Under. The outcome of the Test series in Australia will determine where the Indian batting stands.



STORYBOARD Have you read today's The Hindu In School?

Using the newspaper as a tool, enhance your learning process.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words as complex and even multiple ideas can sometimes be conveyed using just one image. Using that as an inspiration, pick three images from this newspaper and complete these activities.

Please don't be curtailed by the context in which these images appear here and feel free to create stories on your own. Let your imagination run riot!

Once you have completed this activity sheet, cut it out and stick it in a book that you maintain exclusively for this purpose. This way, you can have a record of all the creative stories that you have written using newspaper images as your prompts.



vnen i see this image (paste one of the three here), the story that comes to my mina is



This is how I will connect both these images (stick two images on either side) in