

the
**SUNDAY
TIMES**

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2023



FUNDA DAY TIMES



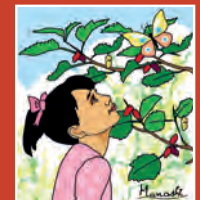
'Joy of Dance'
by **The Ballet School of Colombo**

Pic. by Nilan Maligaspe

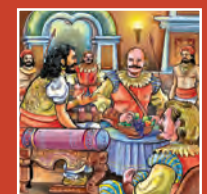
WINNERS

POETRY & ESSAYS

PAGES 2 & 5



STORY
PAGE 3



OUR HISTORY
PAGE 4

(ONLINE)

KIDS NEWS

PAGES 7 & 8

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Please send competition entries to:

Funday Times
C/O the Sunday Times
P.O. Box 1136, Colombo.
Or
8, Hunupitiya Cross Road,
Colombo 2.

Please note that competition entries are accepted by email.

Write the name of the competition and the date, clearly at the top of your entry and include the following details:

Full Name (including Surname),
Date of Birth, Address,
Telephone No. and School.

Please underline the name most commonly used.

All competition entries should be certified by a parent or guardian as your own work.

Competition entries without the full details requested above, will be disqualified.

Closing date for this week's competitions:

November 29, 2023

Telephone: 2479337/2479333

Email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com



Age groups:
6 – 10 years / 11 – 15 years
Word limit: 100 Words

6 – 10 years

The goblin



The nasty old crook,
Lingering by the brook,
Scaring the young fairies as they go,
They yell, "Here he is, the mean old crook
At his job again."

The big gold carriage arrives,
The goblin shakes in his boots,
As the Fairy King arrives,
Making a leap he tries to retreat.

He has a punishment,
I wouldn't like it!
Feed the old witch's cat!
He gets scraped and scratched!
Be better next time goblin!

Tehara Dissanayake
Methodist College, Colombo 3

Please note that copied poems will be disqualified.

Poetry Competition

This is your chance to get your poem published here. Entries should be in your handwriting and clearly certified by a teacher or parent as your own creation. Your poem should be posted to Funday Times with 'Poetry Competition' written at the top of the entry. The winner of each age category will be awarded a British Council Young Learner's Library membership.

Please write **the date** at the top of your entry.

11 – 15 years

Gone days

Walking down the street,
Memories flood my mind,
Of laughter and tears,
And moments left behind.

Sound of the pavement,
Beneath my feet,
Echoes footsteps,
From a time that's bittersweet.

Smell of fresh air,
Mixed with city scents,
Brings back images,
Of people and events.

I remember the faces,
Of those who passed me by,
Their stories and dreams,
Lost in the blink of an eye.

The street's a canvas,
A photograph of my life,
Tapestry of memories,
That forever survives.

I walk on with gratitude,
For the moments I had,
Moments that shaped me,
As I continue to unfold.

Risandi Rajapaksha
Lyceum Int. School, Nugegoda



Or



fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Win super books from



Age: 9 years and below

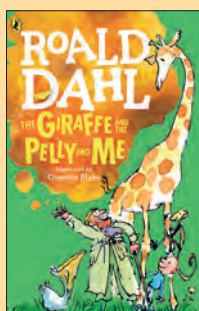
Word Count: 150

Topic: Things you like and dislike about school

Win: The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl

Introducing the Ladderless Window-Cleaning Company! A giraffe with a neck so long she can reach the highest windows, a pelican with a bucket-sized beak, a monkey to do the washing and their new friend Billy.

Now the richest man in England has given them a job that could make all their dreams come true!



Age: 10 – 12 years

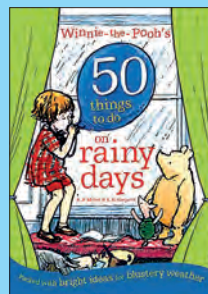
Word Count: 150 – 200

Topic: An interesting incident or experience

Win: Winnie-the-Pooh's 50 things to do on rainy days by A. A. Milne & E. H. Shepard

The friends of the Hundred Acre Wood have 50 things to try on rainy days.

Join Winnie-the-Pooh, Piglet, Tigger and Owl as they build a rain gauge, find Eeyore's tail and take part in a scavenger hunt.



Write at the top of your Essay

■ **Book Competition** ■ **Essay Topic**

Age: 13 – 15 years

Word Count: 200 – 250

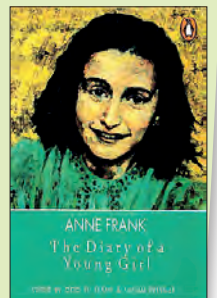
Topic: The Festival of Deepavali

Win: The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank

Thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family flee the horrors of Nazi occupation and go into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse in July 1942.

Over the next two years Anne vividly described in her diary the frustrations of living in such confined quarters.

The Diary of a Young Girl remains the single most poignant true-life story to emerge from World War II.



Book Competition



9 years below

My favourite book

Tina Chand

Logos College, Colombo

10 – 12 years

Why I like to read

Nivethikaa Yogendran

St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo

13 – 15 years

Sri Lanka's Indigenous People

Aysha Manaal

Ilma Int. Girls' School, Colombo

The Tiny Bulbs

By Manoshi De Silva

Sithmi went to the corner of her grandmother's garden and stood at a distance, carefully observing the Mulberry tree. Every time Sithmi visited her grandparents, she made sure to search the Mulberry tree for dark, ripe little berries. But it was not too long ago that something terrible happened to her, while picking Mulberries.

Sithmi remembered that day. She lowered a branch full of Mulberries. The red berries were a bit sour but the ripe ones were a dark purple shade and tasted very sweet. She reached all over the branches trying to collect as many berries as she could. Suddenly Sithmi's hands started to itch badly and she let go of the branch. The itching went all the way up her arms and it was terrible.

Red patches started to appear all over her hands. The girl started to cry while scratching herself nonstop. Sithmi's grandmother hurried towards her. "Oh dear! I forgot to tell you not to go near that Mulberry tree. It's full of caterpillars. They must have rubbed on your skin!" she said, examining the little girl's hands. It was only then that Sithmi saw the tiny caterpillars on the branches. There were so many of them.

After washing Sithmi's hands and applying a medicated oil all over, the pain gradually went away. Even the itching was not as bad as before.

"But if it gets any worse, we'll have to go to a doctor," said her worried grandmother and her grandfather also agreed. "I am alright now *Achchiamma*. But what horrible little creatures those caterpillars are," said Sithmi, feeling very angry.

"*Seeya*, is there any way you can destroy all those caterpillars on the Mulberry tree?" the girl asked her grandfather eagerly. "You know, it's only during a certain period that they are found on the tree. After sometime they will be gone and then you can pick Mulberries again," answered her grandfather. "But I don't want them there at all. Please get rid of them!" insisted the little girl. Her grandfather only smiled.

So next time Sithmi went to visit her grandparents, she didn't go near the Mulberry tree at once.

Although this was after a couple of weeks, she was still too scared, after what happened the last time. Seeing the girl lingering near the tree, her grandfather extended his hand towards her. "Come let's go near the tree," he smiled.

"There are no more caterpillars on the branches now."

"Oh good!" smiled Sithmi, holding her grandfather's hand tight. "I am so glad you got rid of those horrible little creatures. They shouldn't be on this planet!"

Sithmi's grandfather smiled but remained quiet until they reached the Mulberry tree. "Look carefully," he said, "do you see anything different?"

Sithmi looked very carefully at all the branches. There were no more caterpillars for sure. She also noticed a few ripe berries here and there. But there was something else there as well. They reminded her of tiny fairy-lights. The whole tree was decorated with these shiny little things. "What are these tiny bulb-like things *Seeya*? Did you put them there?" Sithmi stared at her grandfather.

"These are those naughty caterpillars!" smiled Sithmi's grandfather. "What?" gasped Sithmi. "These are not moving. Nor do they have any fuzz like the caterpillars!" "Yes, the caterpillars are sleeping in those little bulbs called cocoons...and do you know what happens next?" he asked her. "They come out and rub on you again and make you itch?" asked Sithmi and her grandfather laughed out loud.

"Look at that!" Sithmi's grandfather suddenly diverted her attention and pointed up. She looked up and saw a beautiful butterfly that her grandfather was pointing at. "How beautiful!" sighed the girl, "I wish the whole world was full of beautiful butterflies!" "But you also wished for no caterpillars on earth, didn't you?" asked her grandfather. "There can't be butterflies without caterpillars."



"What do you mean?" Sithmi looked at her grandfather in confusion.

"Once this tiny little cocoon cracks open, a butterfly will come out," said Sithmi's grandfather, pointing at one of the tiny bulb-like things. The girl was very surprised. "But caterpillars are ugly and butterflies are so beautiful! How can something so horrible, turn into something so wonderful?" she asked her grandfather widening her eyes.

"That is the beauty of nature!" smiled Sithmi's grandfather. "Although the caterpillar seems ugly, unworthy and destroys the tree by eating the leaves, it later turns into a beautiful butterfly that serves the world by pollinating the flowers!" He looked at Sithmi and she smiled. "I don't think I dislike the caterpillars anymore. I guess they are kind of like baby butterflies. So I don't hate them now. But I will for sure, keep away from them!" said the little girl and both of them laughed.

"This planet belongs to every animal, bird, fish and insect! They all have a purpose to fulfill on earth. So we must not harm any of them, even if they don't look nice," Sithmi's grandfather held her close, "And do you know what? The caterpillar teaches us a wonderful lesson as well. That is, no matter how bad your start may be, you can always change your ways and turn your story into something beautiful!"

"And what a beautiful lesson that is," smiled the little girl, hugging her grandfather.

This article is part of a continuing series on the history of Sri Lanka

Boyd's hopes are dashed



1. Hugh Boyd was very eager to meet the Kandyan King. As he was so impatient, he did not wait until the Disapathi who was to escort him to Kandy, arrived. He left for Kandy but it took him a month to reach Gannoruwa.

Boyd had to go through many challenges along his journey but it was all for nothing. Just three days before Boyd left for Kandy, King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe passed away. This King had always been willing to speak with anyone against the Dutch.



2. The new heir to the throne was Prince Rajadhi Rajasinghe. He inherited the throne unexpectedly. Therefore it would take time to gauge how the new king would govern and reign.



3. The new king's Disapathis' were hoping to gain Maha Adikaram positions. They were friendly with the Dutch in secret. They were not interested in taking any action regarding the country. Because of these reasons, without the king's knowledge, the British attacked Trincomalee and gained control.

The king was very displeased of this action by the British. The Dutch also informed King Rajadhi Rajasinghe that the British were at war. The king was very angry about this and banned his people from dealing with the British.

4. All these issues made it very difficult for the British to have any discussion with the Kandyan king. However, Boyd managed to meet the new king and his ministers. They directly asked Boyd what the reason was behind the British starting a war.

They asked why the British were so eager to start a war and why they had attacked people who were friendly towards them.

Boyd answered that he did not have permission to answer these questions as the Kandyan king had not signed a treaty with the British king regarding an alliance.



5. Boyd left Kandy and reached Trincomalee on March 26, 1782. Due to a shortage of food and rations, the ship that was to take him to Madras had left him and sailed. So Boyd hired another ship and started his journey.

To be continued....

Sinhala text by
Halaliye Karunathilaka
Illustrated by
Saman Kalubowila

History Quiz - 5

Q: Who was the new King of Kandy and why was he displeased with the British?



 Or
 fundaytimes1@gmail.com

History Quiz - 4

Tharindu de Silva, WINNER!
Galle

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Kashayapa Athauda
12 years on November 9

Christmas Cover 2023

Hey Kids! It is time once again to think about the Funday Times Christmas Cover. We invite our readers to send in paintings for the Christmas Cover 2023 Competition. Entries for the Christmas Cover should be of a suitable Christmas theme. You could use any type of paints or crayons you like but try to make your picture colourful and creative.

All entries should be on A4 size paper. Please write 'Christmas Cover' at the back of your picture, along with your **Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone Number (if any) and School.**

All paintings entered for this competition should be certified as your own work by a parent or teacher. Uncertified paintings will not be considered for the prize.

The best picture will adorn the cover page of our Christmas issue. The winner will also receive a prize. **This competition is open to children between 4 - 15 years of age.**

Good luck and happy painting!


 Or
  fundaytimes1@gmail.com

Closing Date :
December 15, 2023



Book Competition



9 years and below

My favourite storybook

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl has got to be my favourite ever!

The story's main character is a young boy called Charlie who wins a tour through the most magnificent chocolate factory in the world, led by the candy maker Willy Wonka. Willy Wonka decides to let five children into his chocolate factory. He decides to release five golden tickets in five separate chocolate bars. Charlie being one of the Luckiest Winner's goes to the Factory.

I really enjoyed reading this book for many reasons. The main reason is that it made me laugh out loud many times. Some of the main characters are irresponsible, and watching them make mistakes and end up in sticky situations made me chuckle. Also the ending of the chocolate factory story made me happy and smile. I love stories with happy endings and this book has a great ending.

Tina Chand (8 years)
Logos College

10 – 12 years

Why I like to read

Reading is one of the most popular, effective ways of spending time. I love reading, especially storybooks during my free time. I started reading books when my mother borrowed an adventure storybook from the Public Library. I immediately fell in love with books. So from that day on I made it a habit to borrow a book every week.

Reading storybooks gave me the joy of actually being with the characters. I love reading the 'Famous Five' series where children of my age go adventuring. Moreover it gave me endless imagination to cure my boredom. After I started reading, I noticed that my language and phrases had improved a lot.

I got better in writing essays using some vocabulary words I learned from books. Now I enjoy not only reading, but writing too.

Whenever I feel bored or alone, books console me. My habit gave me the opportunity of reading awesome books like 'Harry Potter', 'Percy Jackson' and 'Sherlock Holmes'. Now as a long time bibliophile, I also read newspapers and interesting facts. I actually enjoy reading my school textbooks as I have a wild imagination which makes learning interesting. Thus I love reading because I feel ecstatic and relaxed.

Nivethikaa Yogendran (12 years)
St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7

13 – 15 years

What you know about Sri Lanka's Indigenous People

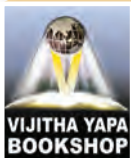
"If people can't acknowledge the wisdom of Indigenous cultures, then that's their loss" - Jay Griffiths

Indigenous people still exist in many countries all around the world. Sri Lanka is also home to Indigenous people. Indigenous people are native people who share ancestral ties to a specific country and its natural resources. Sri Lanka's first Indigenous people are known as Veddas or Adivasi. They were Lanka's original inhabitants from the 6th century. According to Sri Lanka's main historical chronicle the 'Mahawamsa', we are able to learn more about the fascinating Veddas. It states that the Veddas are descendants of the children of the legendary first king of Lanka, King Vijaya and Queen Kuveni, a native from the Yaksha tribe of Lanka.

Veddas usually dwell in forests and move from place to place due to environmental conditions and searching for food. Later, Veddas began to live in caves in large groups or in small huts made of mud. They lived by foraging and hunting for food and their diet consists of rich meat which gives them energy to do their work such as rabbit, wild boar and lizard, as well as fresh fruits and vegetables.

The original language of the Veddas is the Vedda language which is also rather similar to the Sinhala language. The Veddas at present are more adapted to the Sinhala language and so Vedda language is known by very few in the Vedda society. Some communities of Veddas are the coastal Veddas, Anuradhapura Veddas and Bintenne Veddas. Veddas use bow and arrows to hunt for food as well as toxic plants to bait fish. Veddas have also discovered many traditional medicines. The Vedda population is even less than 1% and only about 200 – 300 Veddas follow their traditional lifestyle. The Indigenous people's healthy diet, medicine and other traditions have helped the present society to improve in many ways. We should respect the contribution to our country from the Veddas, our native people.

Aysha Manaal (13 years)
Ilma Int. Girls' School



Read-a-Book and win a voucher from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop

Read any book of your choice and write briefly about it. What we want is not just a summary of the story but your views on the book.

The best account in the three age groups will be awarded book vouchers of Rs. 500 each from Vijitha Yapa Bookshop. Three winners will be selected each month. **Your account should not exceed 200 words.** Please indicate word count.

Read-a-Book Competition

Name :

Date of birth :

Address :

School:

Tel:

Finished book on :

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your entry.



Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com

From a Young Reporter

Handling Human-Animal Conflict in Sri Lanka

Save the wildlife of Sri Lanka!

The beautiful island of Sri Lanka is home to a wide variety of animals, big and small. Many of these creatures are endangered or threatened. This tropical island in the Indian Ocean, one of the best places for spotting wildlife, has many animals that need to be saved.

Endangered animals of Sri Lanka

The biggest example of human-animal conflict in Sri Lanka is the human-elephant conflict. The Sri Lankan Elephant is the largest land mammal in Sri Lanka, but is threatened due to habitat loss, illegal hunting and humans moving into their area. This is not only a danger to the animals but humans are also affected severely as elephants can be extremely aggressive. Hundreds of elephants and people have died due to this conflict. The main precaution people are using is electric fences around crops. Fortunately there is a great effort to save elephants in Sri Lanka.

Another endangered animal is the beautiful and rare Sri Lankan Leopard. Leopards in Sri Lanka have been found to be extremely adaptive, as seen in the Kandy area of Sri Lanka. They often come from the forest to the city to hunt down

dogs or cattle. Leopards can be snared in traps and killed. They rarely attack and kill people. However, there have been a number of leopard attacks on humans especially in the area near Horton Plains National Park.

Many other animals like deer, wild boar, pangolin, hares and porcupines are killed and eaten in Sri Lanka. Jackals, mongooses and civets kill poultry and small domestic animals. Cobras, vipers and kraits kill hundreds of Sri Lankans each year. Monkeys raid houses and damage rooftops. Civets spread rabies and raid rooftops, porcupines, hares and bandicoot rats destroy crops and crocodiles kill many people.

To avoid human-animal conflict the electric fence is an effective method. It prevents animals entering premises. However there are records of elephants managing to destroy electric fences.

Build strong chicken coops to avoid raids from animals like mongooses. If you have a big garden, clear the grass to avoid snakes. If a monitor lizard is in your garden, do not try to attack it with a stick. Some lizards will flee, but occasionally they will start to hiss and attack.

Don't swim in waters which are located in forests unless allowed. Aquatic snakes could bite you, water monitor lizards could brutally maul you and crocodiles could easily kill you. Making a strong fence will prevent porcupines from raiding your garden but for a short time only as these creatures are expert diggers.

At night, if you are driving through a village, be alert. Urban wildlife including porcupines, mongooses, civets, frogs and snakes are active, and you might crush them. On the Sri Lankan highway, look out for peacocks. They might suddenly fly at a vehicle and damage the car.

Sri Lanka is home to a variety of wildlife. Let us try to protect its beautiful wildlife forever.



A rat snake killed in a tea plantation.

K. Dulain Sasnula (Grade 6)
Horizon College Int., Malabe



Kekulu Kinder ART COMPETITION - 2023

Application Form

Child's Full Name :

Date of Birth :

Permanent Address and Telephone Number :

Email Address :

Kindergarten Name and Address :

Kindergarten Principal's Name :

Phone Number :

Kindergarten Email :

District :

Kindergarten Principal's Signature :

1. Eligible only for children of 2 ½ to 5 years of age.
 2. Competition topic is 'Our Family'.
 3. Drawing can be submitted only on an A4 sheet using pastels only.
 4. Should be certified by the Kindergarten Principal, that the drawing is done by the child.
 5. It is mandatory to paste the application to the back of drawing.
 6. Certificates are given only for drawings where application form is filled correctly.
 7. The product wrappings and the drawing to be enclosed in an envelope without stapling together and sent to the following address before 30th November 2023.
 8. Address: Hettigoda Industries (Pvt) Ltd., No. 33/3, Sri Dharmarama Road, Ratmalana.
 9. It is important to have filled the application form correctly. If not, the drawing will be rejected.
 10. Any clarifications on the competition, please call Yuresh on 077 244 0442 or Isuru on 077 261 3255.
- It is mandatory to include a product wrapping from any of the following product categories, to partake in the competition.



Kekulu Baby Soap



Kekulu Toothpastes



Kekulu Baby Cologne



Kekulu Toothbrush



THE OFFICIAL RADIO PARTNER



OFFICIAL PRINT PARTNER



OFFICIAL BANKING PARTNER



Kekulu Baby Soap 5 in 1

* Important Notice - To all Kindergarten Principals, please ensure that all drawings are submitted with the correct product wrappings to the above address before 30th November, 2023.

Gunung Padang: Could this underground pyramid in Indonesia be the oldest in the world?

November 4, 2023

A giant pyramid buried underground on an island just off the coast of Indonesia could be the oldest in the world, archaeologists say.

You might be wondering why it doesn't look like the pyramids you usually think of - but that's because Gunung Padang, which means 'mountain of enlightenment', is built into a volcano on the island of West Java.

Scientists think it could be the oldest monolithic structure in the world - even older than Stonehenge in England or the great pyramids of Giza in Egypt, which are both roughly 5000 years old.



Gunung Padang is an underground pyramid with many chambers

What is a monolithic structure?

- A monolith is a building or statue that is made from one piece of material, usually rock

Recent analysis has led scientists to believe that an ancient society carved the structure into the volcano's core thousands of years ago.

The results of this recent study comes after many years of researching the site -

between 2011 and 2015, scientists at Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency used techniques such as drilling and underground radars to try and find out more about the pyramid.

And through this intensive analysis, they've come up with a rough timeline of construction:

- Building began sometime in the last glacial period (a period of time when the Earth gets colder) at least 16,000 years ago and possibly as far back as 27,000 years ago
- The core part of the structure was probably built between 25,000 and 14,000 BCE, but was then abandoned for several thousand years
- Construction started again around 7900 to 6100 BCE, and around this time builders seem to have buried parts of the site on purpose
- The pyramid was finished in around 2000 to 1100 BCE, adding the stone terraces that can be seen on the surface of the volcano today

Archaeologists say further research is needed to find out who the people who built Gunung Padang are, and why they created such an incredible structure.



Scientists have been studying the site for years

Earthshot Prize 2023

November 7, 2023

Prince William has arrived in Singapore ahead of Tuesday's Earthshot Prize ceremony.



"It's fantastic to be back in Singapore for this year's Earthshot Prize ceremony, after eleven years," he said. "Singapore's bold vision to be a leader for

environmental innovation sets the standard for others to follow."

Fifteen innovators, entrepreneurs, community leaders and activists have been announced as finalists for the 2023 award, which is taking place in Asia for the first time.

Started by Prince William in 2020, it aims to celebrate and support people and companies working to provide innovative solutions for climate and environmental issues.

There are five 'Earthshots' - or goals: Protect and Restore Nature; Clean Our Air; Revive Our Oceans; Build a Waste-free World; and Fix Our Climate.

This year, there were more than 1,100 nominees whittled down to three finalists in each category.

All 15 finalists will receive support from The Earthshot Prize Fellowship Program, and the winners will get £1 million to help expand their project.

November 7

News in Pictures



Salisbury, UK
Colourful projections on Salisbury Cathedral in Wiltshire, part of the installation 'Sarum Lights: Illuminating Art'



Playas de Tijuana, Mexico
Little Amal, a 12 foot-tall puppet representing a 10-year-old Syrian refugee child, gathers with migrant children near the US-Mexico border wall in Baja California. Little Amal is visiting Tijuana during a journey across Mexico to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and migrants across the globe.

Blida, Lebanon
Mourners carry coffins during the funeral of three Lebanese girls and their grandmother who were killed in what Lebanese authorities said was an Israeli strike that hit their car on Sunday, near the border with Israel.



Saint-Étienne-au-Mont, France
Firefighters walk down a flooded street to evacuate people by boat after the Liane River overflowed near Boulogne-sur-Mer.

November 6

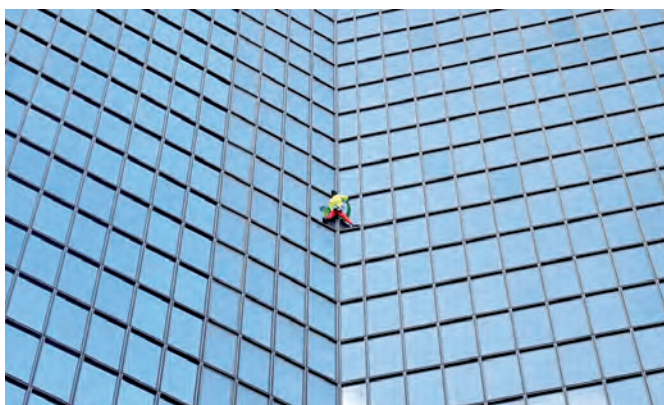


Schierke, Germany
A steam train drives through the autumn-coloured Harz forest, passing trees damaged by the bark beetle, on the 1,142 metre-high Brocken mountain.



Pampore, Indian Kashmir
Kashmiri villagers pick saffron flowers in a field in Pampore, south of Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian Kashmir. Pampore is also known as the Saffron Town of Kashmir because of the high quality of the flowers. It is also one of few places in the world where saffron, the most expensive of all spices, grows.

Singapore
The Prince of Wales takes part in dragon boating on the Kallang River in Singapore, with locals, British expats living in Singapore and representatives from across the Commonwealth, on day two of his visit to the island ahead of the third annual Earthshot prize awards ceremony.



Puteaux, France
French skyscraper climber Alain Robert, nicknamed Spiderman, climbs the Tour Total Energies Coupole skyscraper in Puteaux, in the financial and business district of La Defense, to call for peace in the Middle East.



Acapulco, Mexico
People queue for supplies in the aftermath of Hurricane Otis.

Source: The Guardian