

the  
**SUNDAY  
TIMES**

SUNDAY  
JANUARY 21, 2024



# FUNDA DAY TIMES



**Little warriors on stage**

Pic. by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

**New**

**IORA DAY 2024  
COMPETITIONS**

**PAGES 2 - 3**



**COMPETITIONS**

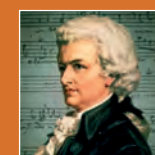
**PAGE 4**

**(ONLINE)**



**INDIAN OCEAN**

**PAGE 5**



**FAMOUS PEOPLE**

**PAGE 6**

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# FROM THE EDITOR

## Calling Funday Times Club Members

IORA Day 2024 will be celebrated on March 10, 2024 in Colombo. Many interesting, ocean-related activities are being organized during the period leading up to that day.

Two-hundred (200) Funday Times Club members will be selected on a first-come first-served basis to participate in the activities.

**Club members who would like to attend the main event, please call us or email us your contact details along with your club membership number.**

Telephone: 2479337 / 2479333

[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



# IORA Day 2024 Essay Competition



Hey Kids, Funday Times is planning an Essay Competition to create awareness about IORA Day 2024. This is apart from the IORA Day 2024 All-Island Art Competition (See Page 3 for more details).

Under the main theme for IORA Day 2024, 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations,' we give below three topics for the three age groups.

Please send in your essays with your full details to Funday Times by post or email. Remember to get your entries certified as your original work by a parent or teacher.

Exciting prizes will be awarded to the winners!

**Closing Date: March 1, 2024**

**Age group: 9 years and below**

**Topic:**

*Our Ocean - Our Life*

**Word count: 150**

**Age group: 10 - 12 years**

**Topic:**

*Protecting our ocean*

**Word count: 150 - 200**

**Age group: 13 - 15 years**

**Topic:**

*Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations*

**Word count: 200 - 300**



Or



[fundaytimes1@gmail.com](mailto:fundaytimes1@gmail.com)



'Singithi Salmusu Suwanda' by the Primary School students of Lumbini College, Colombo 5 was held on December 15, 2023 at the Lumbini College Theatre.

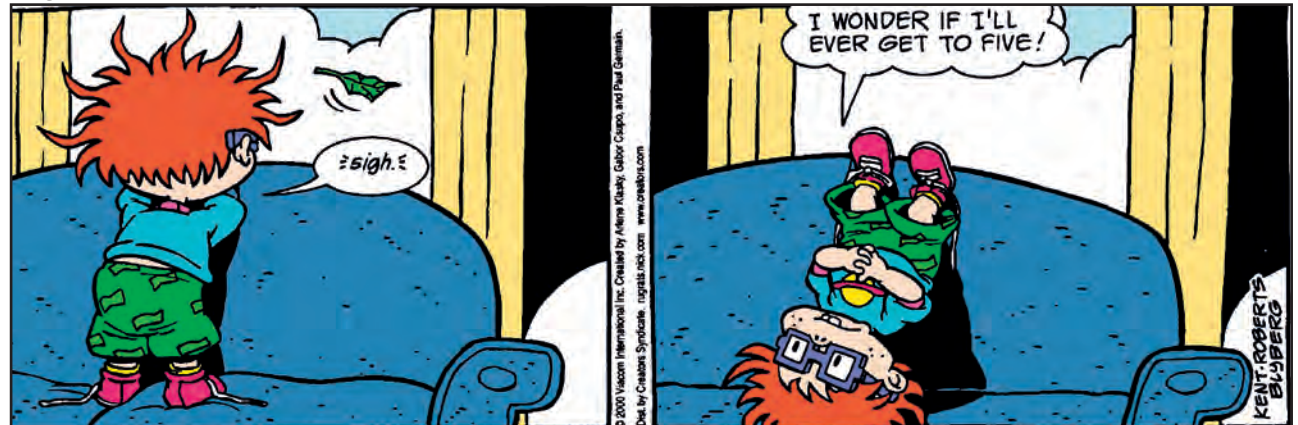
Pix by M. A. Pushpa Kumara

### This week's online issue:

- **Page 5** – Indian Ocean
- **Page 6** – Famous People
- **Page 7** – Kids News
- **Page 8** – News in Pictures

Please log on to the Funday Times website on [www.fundaytimes.lk](http://www.fundaytimes.lk) or check out the Sunday Times epaper on [www.sundaytimes.lk](http://www.sundaytimes.lk) for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

### Rugrats



## ***IORA Day 2024***

The ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education have combined to commemorate IORA Day in March this year with a major programme for school children which will include an art competition that will showcase the importance of the Indian Ocean.

Sri Lanka took over the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in October 2023 for the period 2023/2025. There are 23 member states and eleven dialogue partners in IORA.

The theme for IORA Day will be a 'Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations' and will focus on educating and engaging future generations on the importance of ocean conservation and sustainable practices to preserve the oceans for the future.

Among the activities planned is a national level art competition for school children in association with the Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

Entries will be accepted from school children in three categories: Primary (Grades 1 - 5), Junior (Grades 6 - 9) and Senior (Grades 10 - 13).

Details will appear in the children's publications of Wijeya Newspapers Ltd., and their online versions.

Several other ocean-related activities will be conducted with the participation of children island-wide, drawing awareness to the importance of ocean sustainability. These activities are also coordinated by the Sri Lanka Navy and other ocean-related agencies. Opportunities are to be provided for children to be taken out to sea on a short excursion.

Ahead of IORA Day, several awareness programmes are planned.

The main event of IORA Day 2024 will be held at an ocean-front site in Colombo on March 10 with stalls displaying various ocean-related activities.

**See Funday Times Page 5 (online) for some interesting facts on the Indian Ocean...**



## **IORA DAY ART COMPETITION 2024**

### **'SUSTAINABLE INDIAN OCEAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS'**

Currently, Sri Lanka holds the Chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and, plans are underway to hold the next IORA Day 2024 commemoration on 10th March, 2024.

As part of the activities, an Island-wide Art Competition among school children under different topics on the theme "Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations" will be held as indicated below, in association with the Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

### **CALLING ALL BUDDING ARTISTS ISLANDWIDE!**

Express your creativity and concern for the Indian Ocean through art!

We are inviting artists from all schools to participate in our art competition centered around preserving our beautiful Indian Ocean.



Prizes to be won and selected Artwork will be showcased in the IORA Day Art Exhibition



Showcase Your Talent and share your message with a wide audience



Be an advocate for Sustainability and Inspire Positive Change



### **PARTICIPATION**

Participation rules are categorized as follows:



**Primary (Grades 1 - 5)**  
Theme: Our Ocean - Our Life  
(Certificates/Prizes for Participation)



**Junior (Grades 6 - 9)**  
Theme: Protecting Our Ocean  
(Certificates/Prizes for Winners)



**Senior (Grades 10 - 13)**  
Theme: Sustainable Indian Ocean for Future Generations  
(Certificates/Prizes for Winners)



### **CONDITIONS**

- Open for all school children in Sri Lanka
- Must be done on size A3 Paper
- All submissions should be certified by the School Principal
- Each entry should be accompanied by an entry form as below.

### **SUBMISSION**

Submit your entry by registered post to reach before **16th February, 2024** with the completed entry form to:

**Director (Aesthetic Education)**  
Ministry of Education,  
Isurupaya,  
Pelawatte, Battaramulla.

Please indicate following on top left corner of the envelope:

IORA Day Art Competition 2024,  
Category :.....  
Province :.....



Selected artwork may be used for future programs both locally and internationally.  
Organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education and Wijeya Newspapers Ltd.

## **IORA DAY ART COMPETITION 2024**

### **Entry Form**

**Full Name:** .....

**Category:** Primary (Grades 1-5)  Junior (Grades 6-9)  Senior (Grades 10 - 13)

**School:** .....

**Province:** .....

**Home Address:** .....

**Name of the Parent/Guardian:** .....

**Contact Number of the Parent/Guardian:** .....

**Certification by the School Principal:**

I certify that the above student is studying in Grade ..... of this school.

.....  
**Signature of the School Principal**

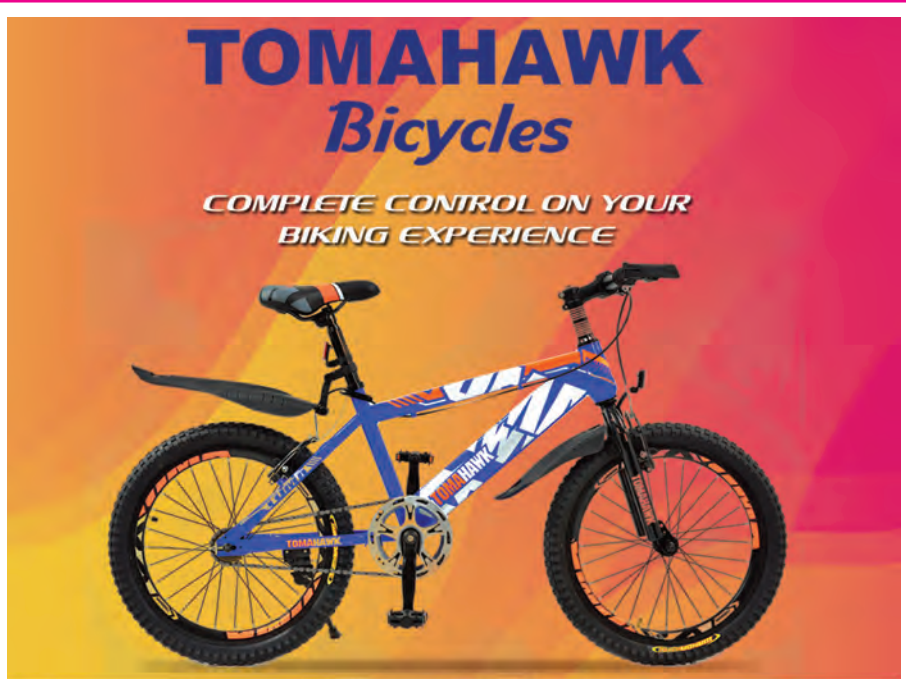
# Tomahawk

## Quiz No. 215

Questions for Tomahawk Quiz No. 215 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times print issues and e-papers of December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2023.

All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given here. Write the answers neatly on a postcard, cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 215' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

One lucky winner will receive a brand new Tomahawk Mountain Bike with the compliments of Tomahawk Bicycle Mall



Instagram: @TOMAHAWKBICYCLEOFFICIAL | Facebook: @TOMAHAWKBICYCLES  
 245 B, GALLE ROAD, COLOMBO 04 | BAMBALAPITIYA - 011 250 7307

### QUESTIONS – QUIZ NO. 215

1. Where do reindeer live and by what other name are they also known?
2. Why does Norway send a Christmas tree to the UK every year?
3. When did British explorer Robert F. Scott reach the South Pole?
4. What is a Christmas holiday tradition celebrated in Japan?
5. What is IORA and what is the theme for the IORA Day commemoration in March 2024?

All Funday Times readers between 8 – 15 years are eligible to participate.  
 (Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: January 31, 2024

mailto: Or email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

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**7 – 9 AGE GROUP**

Circle the odd fish out in each row.

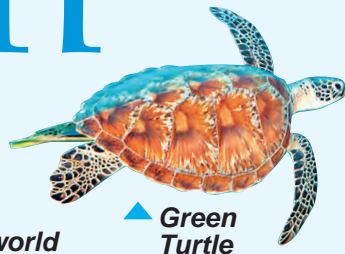

**7 - 9 years WINNERS**

- ▶ Taaib Ahmed, Dehiwala
- ▶ Chandeepea Alahakoon, Galigamuwa
- ▶ Hayaa Hassen, Colombo 4
- ▶ Farha Sirajudeen, Beruwala
- ▶ Nafisa Sabar, Battaramulla

Winners please call Funday Times on 2479333/2479337 and arrange to collect your prizes.

mailto: Or email: fundaytimes1@gmail.com

# The Indian Ocean



▲ Green Turtle



The Indian Ocean borders four continents: Asia, Africa, Australia and Antarctica.

Its size in area is about 70.56 million km<sup>2</sup> with a total coastline of around 41,340 miles.

The Indian Ocean has many islands. The most well-known are Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Some of the biggest coastal cities situated along the Indian Ocean include Mumbai (India), Durban (South Africa), Perth (Australia), Colombo (Sri Lanka) and the island-nation of Singapore.

*The Indian Ocean is the third largest ocean in the world after the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean. It covers approximately 14% of the Earth's surface and about 20% of the water on the Earth's surface.*

*The five oceans combined cover up to 71% of the Earth's surface.*



- Some endangered sea species in the Indian Ocean are turtles, seals and sea cows. It does however remain the largest breeding ground for the majestic humpback whale.
- Monsoons are common, producing a large amount of rain in the summer, and wind in the winter.
- The Indian Ocean is divided into east and west by a 5,000 km mountain range on its ocean floor, named the Ninety East Ridge.
- The ocean water has the highest concentration of dissolved and floating hydrocarbons.
- The Indian Ocean receives about 6000 km of river runoff including two of the largest rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra.
- Due to the melting of polar caps, this ocean actually grows wider by about 20 centimetres every year.
- There is a continent of volcanic origins that lies beneath the surface of the Indian Ocean.
- During the 1500s, the ocean was explored by sailors to find a route around Africa.
- According to an estimate, approximately 40% of the world's oil comes from the Indian Ocean.
- Scientists recently have discovered a lost continent in the depths of the Indian Ocean. They have named this undiscovered land mass, "Mauritia." It is believed that the movement of a tectonic plate over 80 million years ago, caused Mauritia to fracture and sink to the bottom of the ocean.
- The Indian Ocean suffered one of the worst natural disasters in 2004, when an undersea earthquake caused a tsunami affecting 14 countries and claiming over 225,000 lives.
- Developments in the Indian Ocean designed to attract tourists often cause environmental problems. It also suffers a lot of pollution from oil and ship spills.
- In 2010, the Indian Ocean Garbage Patch was discovered. The plastic garbage vortex, full of marine litter, spans over 5 million km<sup>2</sup>!

Sources: Easy Science for Kids & Easy Geography for Kids

## Quick Facts

- The average depth of the Indian Ocean is about 3,900 metres.
- The lowest point of this Ocean is located in the Sunda Deep of the Java Trench which is about 7,258 metres deep.
- Suez Canal in Egypt and the Strait of Malacca, the main access points to the Indian Ocean, are the two most well-known waterways in the ocean.
- Indian Ocean also includes the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf.
- It is the warmest ocean in the world. Its temperature makes it difficult for phytoplankton (an essential food source) to grow and live in.
- It has low oxygen content which is also a big reason for limited sea life.





# MOZART

*Mozart is one of the best-known composers ever!  
People have loved his music for hundreds of years, and still do.*



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born on January 27, 1756 in Salzburg, Austria. He was born into a musical family, and from a very small age, he was immensely interested in music.

Starting at the age of six, Mozart and his older sister Maria Anna (Nannerl) started playing piano and violin in major cities and in courts to royal families. The family travelled a lot in many European cities. They were so good that the audiences just loved them!

Wolfgang also started composing music at a very early age - since age five! He was very talented both as a composer and as a pianist. He would compose all the time and anywhere, such as when travelling in a wagon, or while eating.

At the age of eight, Wolfgang published his first two sonatas for the harpsichord. His skills as a composer continued to develop, and by the age of 13 he had composed his first opera. By the time Mozart was in his mid-twenties he had established himself as one of the most accomplished keyboard players in Vienna, and he was recognized as a talented composer.

As an adult, he earned his living as a composer and as a pianist, sometimes holding a job at some court or city, sometimes just earning money from performing and composing.

He married Constance in 1782 at the age of 26. They had six children, but only two of them grew to be adults.

The style of the music he wrote is called Classical. 'Classical music', as people commonly call it today, comprises different time periods.

Mozart wrote a lot of music of all kinds: symphonies (for the whole orchestra), operas, concertos for piano and violin, music for string quartet and string quintet, music for solo piano, etc. He wrote Catholic masses, and also short little pieces like dances and serenades.



*Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*



Young Mozart is playing piano, his dad is playing the violin and his sister is singing.

In all, he wrote over 600 pieces of work. Some of his most famous pieces of music are: 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik', 'Requiem', and his operas 'The Magic Flute', 'Don Giovanni', 'The Marriage of Figaro', and 'Cosi Fan Tutte'.

Mozart died very young, at the age of 35, on December 5, 1791.



## Interesting Facts

- Mozart could listen to music just once and then go away and write it down without any mistakes!
- He did not finish his 'Requiem' before he died.
- Although he wrote great music, Mozart did not make much money from it. He died very poor.
- Mozartkugel, a chocolate candy was created in 1890, in Salzburg, to honour Mozart.



Source: [pianolessons4children.com](http://pianolessons4children.com)

## Indian teenager sets record – singing in 140 languages

January 15, 2024

**A teenager from India has achieved a Guinness World Record for singing the most languages in a concert.**

Suchetha Satish from Kerala sang songs in a whopping 140 languages, including 39 in Indian and 101 international languages!

The 18-year-old performed for nine hours with songs lasting at least three minutes each as part of the Concert for Climate in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates in November 2023.

She announced the news of the award on her social media this week, and said she felt “blessed to set the new record”.

Suchetha says she first began singing at just three years old and that, at age four, she began to study Karnatak music,



a style of Indian classical music from southern India.

Suchetha went on to learn songs in different languages when she was about 10 years old, and says her motto is “music beyond borders”.

Suchetha says she can sing in around 150 languages, but

chose only 140 languages for her record attempt.

She explained that 140 languages was a “symbolic representation of the 140 nation heads who had been invited to UAE for the COP summit”.

Time to rest those vocal chords Suchetha, you deserve a little break after all that...

## Hercules, the biggest deadly Sydney funnel-web male spider

January 16, 2024

**The biggest known male specimen of the world’s most venomous spider has been found in Australia.**

The Sydney funnel-web spider was found on the Central Coast region of Australia.

He was initially given to a local hospital but has since been found a home at Australian Reptile Park.

The spider’s fangs will be milked of venom and used to create an antidote to save the lives of anyone unfortunate enough to get bitten.

Since Australian Reptile Park began its funnel-web spider anti-venom program in 1981, zero deaths have been recorded due to bites from the spider.

Named Hercules, the spider might not sound very big – at just 7.9 cm (3.1 inches) from foot to foot – but when compared to other male Sydney funnel-web spiders, he’s massive.

These spiders usually range in length from 1 – 5 cm.

Female Sydney funnel-web spiders



are generally larger than males, but not as deadly.

The biggest funnel-web spider donated to the Australian Reptile Park was a female, measuring 8 cm from foot to foot – comparable in size to a tarantula and was given the name “Megaspider”.

“We’re used to having pretty big funnel-web spiders donated to the park, however receiving a male funnel-

### How do you milk a spider?

Spider keepers at the Australian park need very steady hands and extreme focus to milk funnel-web spiders’ venom.

The keepers encourage the funnel-web spider to rear up in a defensive position and then gently suck the venom from the end of the spider’s fangs.

“Whilst female funnel-web spiders are venomous, males have proven to be more lethal,” Emma Teni said.

“Having a male funnel-web this size in our collection, his venom output could be enormous, proving incredibly valuable for the park’s venom program.”



The spider’s fangs are milked for venom

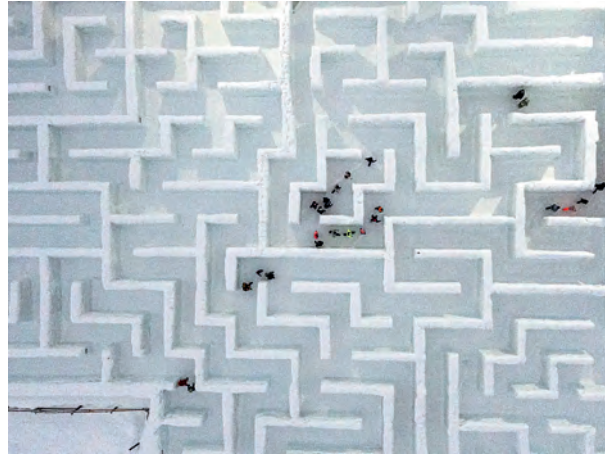
web this big is like hitting the jackpot,” said Emma Teni, a spider keeper at Australian Reptile Park.

January 16

# News in Pictures



**Antarctic**  
Penguins stand on a piece of floating ice in the Gerlache strait, which separates the Palmer Archipelago from the Antarctic Peninsula.



**Zakopane, Poland**  
An aerial view of people trying to find the way out in the biggest snow maze in the world. The snow maze idea was created for the first time in the winter season of 2015/2016 with an area of 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>.



**Nairobi, Kenya**  
Wildlife veterinarians and members of the capture team from the Kenya Wildlife Service try to take a sedated rhino out of the water for safety during a capture and translocation operation of rhinos in Nairobi National Park.



**Rafah, Gaza**  
Palestinian children wait to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen amid shortages of food supplies.

**Keswick, UK**  
Canoeists, kayakers and paddle-boarders in snowy conditions on Derwentwater in Cumbria. Much of Britain is facing another day of cold temperatures and travel disruption after overnight lows dropped below freezing for the bulk of the country.



**Los Angeles, USA**  
Sarah Snook, winner of the Lead Actress in a Drama series award, and Kieran Culkin, winner of the Lead Actor in a Drama series award, for their roles in 'Succession', at the 75<sup>th</sup> Emmy Awards.

January 15



**Copenhagen, Denmark**  
Fireworks explode at Tivoli Park to mark a change of monarch. Queen Margrethe II abdicated the throne and her son became King Frederik X, with more than 100,000 Danes turning out for the event.



**Mumbai, India**  
Tamil Hindu women offer prayers as they cook special food to celebrate harvest festival Pongal at Dharavi, one of the world's largest slums. This celebration, held according to the solar calendar, marks the beginning of the sun's northward movement and is considered to be auspicious.



**Grindavík, Iceland**  
A lava flow as a volcano erupts in south-western Iceland, sending semi-molten rock spewing toward a nearby settlement for the second time in less than a month. Iceland's meteorological office says the eruption on Sunday came after a series of earthquakes near the town of Grindavík.

Source : The Guardian