

4 SIGNPOST

Bengaluru's fab five

Teens win \$10,000 for developing app integrating Swachh Bharat initiative; Get accolades from the Prime Minister

Sudhinder A. B.

BENGALURU: For Sanjana Vasanth, Anupama N, Mahima Mehendale, Swasthi P Rao and Navyashree B., what started as a curious activity at developing the **prototype** of a mobile application integrating Swachh Bharat initiative took an interesting turn when they received **accolades** at an international competition and a pat on the back from none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi. All this happened with the active participation of their teachers and mentors.

Sellixio (meaning waste in Portuguese) is a prototype of an android mobile application developed by these five girls, all class 9 students of New Horizon Public School in Indiranagar, Bengaluru.

They called themselves Team Pentechan and participated in the Technovation Challenge 2015, which is billed to be the world's largest and longest technology competition organised in partnership with Adobe Foundation, CA Technologies, Google, Verizon, United Nations Women, UNESCO and MIT Media Lab.

Team Pentechan was declared winners at this event and awarded \$10,000 as seed money for future research. Over 400 teams from 64 countries participated in the Technovation Global Challenge, with only 10 teams making it to the finals.

The award ceremony was held in San Francisco, U.S.A.

In an exclusive chat with The Hindu in School (THIS), the 'fantastic five' spoke about Sellixio, their experiences at San Francisco, their meeting with the Prime Minister and their future plans. The interaction also touched around a few issues concerning the common man in general and women and girl child in particular and the possible solutions using technology. They also shared their joy of becoming **entrepreneurs** soon.

Sellixio and the journey ahead

"We took five months to develop the prototype. Sellixio is an android mobile application which provides an online marketplace for users to buy and sell dry waste. It targets dry waste producers like small shopkeepers



THE MASTERMINDS Anupama, Mahima, Navyashree, Swasthi and Sanjana, students of New Horizon Public School, Bengaluru.

Sellixio is an android mobile application which provides an online marketplace for users to buy and sell dry waste. It targets dry waste producers like small shopkeepers

and apartment associations, dry waste collectors (raddiwaalas) and recycling agencies," says Mahima.

"We are really thankful to our teachers and mentors for their guidance and support. They told us just to enjoy the experience and not to treat it as a competition. They also told us that ideas may get rejected but not the passion," says Navyashree.

When asked about their journey to San Francisco, Swasthi said: "The experience is unforgettable. The competition was spread over three stages. We became serious and nervous only after we reached the final stages. In the initial stages, we were cool and

calm. At the finals, we had to explain our application to the audience. There were many technologists among them. Their response was very encouraging. We felt great to have met people who were devotees of technology."

The icing on the cake was definitely their meeting with Modi. "He spent 10 minutes with us though the Parliament was in Session. Earlier, soon after the news report appeared in the media, he had tweeted the reports wishing us 'good luck'. The PM enquired about the unique features of Sellixio and also listened with great interest about its features. He also praised us for integrating Swachh Bharat initiative in the App," says Sanjana.

About their future plans Anupama says, "Our parents are working on registering our company. Soon we will become young entrepreneurs. We want live in the present and we know that we have a long way to go before we develop full-fledged mobile applications. Hopefully, we will develop many socially-relevant mobile applications."



Page scan

How many species of trees can be found in a single hectare of Peru's Madre de Dios? Scan through the columns and send the answer to school@thehindu.co.in [Subject: Page scan] with your name, class, school and city. **Thursday's answer:** 1945. Congrats to S. Sakthi Sumanth, Class 9, The Western Ghats International School, Coimbatore for sending correct answer.



High jump to success

Vivekanandan is the recipient of bronze medal at the Asian School Athletics held in China

Arathi. M

On his way to China to participate in Asian School Athletics Under-18 Championship, N. Vivekanandan had butterflies in his stomach.

"I was a bit **apprehensive** about various things as it was my first time abroad," he says. Winner of the bronze medal for the boys' high jump event, he is now more confident and focuses single-mindedly on his goal — to become a professional athlete.

The Class XII student has been practicing for the past three years at the city's Athletic Foundation. It is here that he realised high jump was his forte, he says.

The 17-year-old has represented the district as well as the State in events such as decathlon, where he won the gold medal. His feats got him selected to the Bhopal camp, where he trained for one month with candidates selected from across the country for carious events, before being

sent to Wuhan in China. "The experience in China was enlightening and fun. My only regret is that even though my best is 2.03 metres, I could achieve only 2.01metres in China due to an ankle injury I got during a training session in Bhopal," Vivekanandan reminisces.

Son of banana leaf vendors S. Nagaraj and N. Saraswathy, Vivekanandan is a commerce student of Siddhapurdu Corporation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore.

"The cost of my visa to China, which came to Rs. 2 lakh, was incurred by the corporation here," he adds.

Vivekanandan practices from 5 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. every evening without fail at the Nehru stadium in the city under the watchful eye of his coach Mr. Nandhakumar from the Athletic Foundation, whom he refers to as his "support system." "But I do not practice on Sunday; it my day of rest," he says. So what about his studies? "I manage to get

"I would like to represent India in the Olympics 2020. Right now, I am practicing for that. This is my dream and I know next time I will perform even better."

good marks. I try that my practice sessions do not clash with my studies," he adds. When asked about his classmates and friends' reaction to his remarkable achievement, Vivekanandan laughs. "Everybody is really happy and talk to me more nicely than before!"

He is confident, talented and completely focused on his goal. "I would like to represent India in the Olympics 2020. Right now, I am practicing for that. This is my dream and I know next time I will perform even better," says Vivekanandan, signing off.

GLOSSARY

Prototype: A preliminary version of a device or vehicle from which other forms are developed.

Accolades: an award or privilege granted as a

special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit.

Entrepreneurs: A person who sets up a business, taking on financial risks in hope of profit.

Apprehensive: anxious or fearful that something bad or unpleasant will happen

Incalculable: too great to be calculated or estimated.

Illegal gold mines costing Amazon its life?

LIMA: Seen from above, the Amazon resembles a huge billiards table — a field of intense green pockmarked by brown stains.

These are the sites of illegal mines, and they reveal the scope of a gold rush that threatens the lungs of the planet.

"The loss of our natural resources is incalculable," says Antonio Fernandez Jeri, Peru's high commissioner on illegal mining.

"Each lost hectare represents unique flora and fauna species," he said. In his country, a new, unprecedented operation has shut down 55 illegal mining sites since mid-July. Those sites are in the Madre de Dios region, where approximately 150,000 acres of forest have already been lost due to illegal mining.

Peru leads South America in gold production and ranks fifth globally, but authorities there say 20 percent of its exported gold comes from these mines.

In every Amazon country, the

largest forest in the world is being slowly eaten away by an explosion of unreported mines.

"Although gold mining deforestation is usually less extensive than deforestation for agriculture, it happens in some of the most biodiverse tropical regions," said lead author Nora Alvarez-Berrios of a study published in the British journal

About 415,000 acres of tropical forest were cleared for gold mining sites in South America between 2001 and 2013.

Environmental Research Letters. She says up to 300 species of trees can be found in a single hectare of Peru's Madre de Dios.

"Illegal mining activity is widespread," Fernandez Jeri said. "That's why we need to do something. We have a technical commission with Ecuador as well as with Bolivia and Colombia. We still need to sort out the question with Brazil."

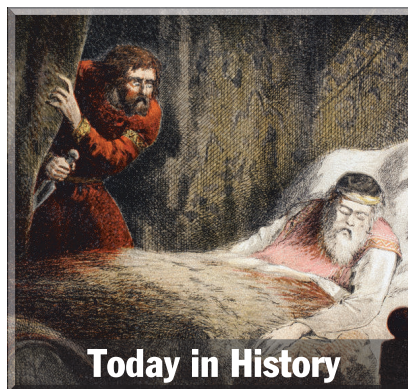
In Brazil, illegal mining activ-

ity is taking place in nine of 26 states. President Dilma Rousseff recently set a goal of achieving a rate of zero deforestation over the next 15 years.

In Colombia, flying trees are cut and brush torn out to get to the precious metal. Deforestation has destroyed indigenous lands in Peru, forcing inhabitants to search out new food sources. In Bolivia, mining sites are increasingly operated by cooperatives with their work papers in order but no permits.

Alvaro Pardo, director of the Colombia Punto Medio Center for Mining Studies, says, "The problem is that when illegal miners leave an area, they just go, leaving behind huge losses that all of Colombia pays for."

Mining is nevertheless a critical part of the South American economy, as the region remains one of the world's main sources for raw materials. **AFP**



Today in History

August 14, 1040

▲ King Duncan of Scotland was murdered by Macbeth, according to Shakespeare's play. In reality, Macbeth killed Duncan in battle before taking the crown

1880: Construction of Cologne Cathedral in Germany, which began in 1248, was finally completed

1945: Japan accepted the Allies' terms of unconditional surrender

1960: Australia's Jack Brabham won the Formula One drivers' championship for the second consecutive year

2000: The Russian Orthodox Church decided to canonise the last tsar, Nicholas II, and his family, who were shot dead by the Bolsheviks in 1918

Picture: Newscom © GRAPHIC NEWS



Learn English

Activity 1

Match the word or phrase with a definition.

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. a pilot | 2. a boss | 3. danger |
| 4. a race | 5. a beginner | |

- when people try to get somewhere before others for sport
- someone doing something for the first time
- a person who tells you what to do at work
- something that might hurt you
- a person who flies a plane; in older English, the same for a boat

Water Boatmen

by Luke Philips

In the west of England in the summer, you might see some very fast, small boats: pilot gigs, or gigs for short. They don't have engines, but six people instead. The oldest gig we have was built in 1838 and is still used today.

A pilot was the boss of a gig and his job was to help sailing ships stay away from underwater rocks and other danger, when they came in from sea. This job paid lots of money, but that meant that lots of other pilots wanted it too. It was a race to get to the ship first.

In the early 1900s, people stopped using sailing ships, so help wasn't needed from gigs any more. Thanks to people who love them, however, they are still being made and raced today.

Many clubs offer courses, including Newquay Rowing Club, where beginners can try the sport each Monday night between May and September. It's very cheap, and I learnt a lot and had great fun.

Useful link

For more information on gigs and gig racing, go to <http://gigrower.co.uk/>

Activity 2

True or false?

- Gigs move by using wind.
- The oldest gig is more than 175 years old.
- Gigs didn't pay pilots much.
- Gigs stopped working in the early 1800s.
- Gigs are still built today.
- There is a very cheap gig rowing day course in July and August.



World pilot gig championships, Isles of Scilly, UK © Adam White

Activity 3

Choose the correct answer.

Gigs are still making/being made today.

- Ships call/are called women's names in Britain.
- People build/are built gigs because they love them.
- Wind used/was used by people to move boats for hundreds of years.
- Not many large ships made/are made in Britain now.
- People in gigs raced/were raced to make money.

Activity 4

What's your favourite team sport? How do you play it? Why do you like it?

To find more English language activities visit: www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish

FEEDBACK
Send your feedback with your Class, name, school and address to school@thehindu.co.in or The Hindu in School, 859/860, Anna Salai, Chennai – 2.

REBUS 946
Any representation of a word or a phrase by pictures, symbols, etc. that suggest that word or phrase or its syllables is called a "Rebus". Here is today's question:

raeg

Kudos! This rebus was suggested by Austin Livison of class 10, Crescent Public School, Chalakudy. Do you also consider yourself to be an expert at solving rebuses? Why not try making them then! Send in your entries to rebuscorner@gmail.com and the best ones will be featured here. Do include your name, class, school and location.

Answer: Reverse gear
A gear that is used to make a vehicle or any piece of machinery move or work backwards is referred to as reverse gear.

By PG's Rebus Corner @pggrebus on fb.me/pggrebus

Activity 1: 1. a, 2. c, 3. d, 4. a, 5. b
Activity 2: 1. False (F); 2. True (T); 3. F; 4. F; 5. T; 6. T
Activity 3: 1. are called; 2. built; 3. was used; 4. are made; 5. raced

ANSWERS