



KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

EKAA

Environment. Kerala. Awareness. Action

E -Newsletter of the Kerala State Biodiversity Board



22 MAY 2021
We're part of the solutions
KSBB # For Nature

May 2021
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International Day for Biological Diversity – 22nd May

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) is celebrated each year on 22 May, for raising global awareness about the importance of protecting biological resources and the global biodiversity that shapes our environment as well as the great variety of ecosystems that make up our planet. In the recent times of pandemics such as the latest COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak force us to reconsider the protective role that biodiversity plays in the future of humankind, since its many advantages result in one fundamental benefit: protection from infectious diseases. There is evidence to suggest that the loss of biodiversity could increase the number of cases of zoonosis, in other words, diseases transmitted from animals to humans. In fact, 70 % of emerging infectious diseases in recent years have stemmed from zoonosis. Since several species are often involved in the spread of infection, the loss of biodiversity and extinction of many of those species increases the chances of the pathogens reaching human beings. Therefore, last year, the UN's slogan to commemorate Biodiversity Day was "Our solutions are in nature" and this year 2021, the international body wanted to shift the focus and fundamentally remind humanity that "We're part of the solution", that the answer lies within us and that, without the commitment of every single human being, restoring the balance of our ecosystems will always be but a dream.

IDB 2021 celebrations of KSBB

The biodiversity day 2021 celebrations was held in a virtual mode globally because of the pandemic situations. Kerala State Biodiversity Board celebrated this years' International Day for Biological Diversity with various people participatory programmes. The event was inaugurated by Dr. V. Venu, Additional Chief secretary (Planning , Higher education and Environment). The event had an online webinar with two sessions, forenoon session for public & line departments and the afternoon session for the students. The fornoon session was started with the lead talk by Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Environment Programme based on the topic, "Biodiversity Conservation and Disaster Risk Reduction. In his talk, he opinioned that the ecological imbalance as the major reason behind the calamities in Kerala and also reminded about the importance of awareness creation to the local people living in the disaster prone areas of Kerala. It was followed by the technical talk by Prof. E. Kunhikrishnan, Renowned Environmentalist and Retired Professor from University College, Trivandrum. In his talk, he emphasized the importance of the Western Ghats and its biodiversity. He also explained the major challenges faced by these areas and the need of conserving it for our future. The third talk was delivered by Dr. TR, Keerthi, Retired professor , Department of Biotechnology, MG University about the importance of biodiversity with special reference to marine biodiversity and its major challenges. The after noon session for children was started with a talk on the role small creatures in the world of biodiversity by Mr. Vijayakumar Blathur, renounced popular science writer and observer. The Guest of Honor of the programme was given by renounced magician, Sri. Gopinath Muthukkad and in his speech he advised the students about the importance of biodiversity conservation and its role in our daily life.

**We're
part of the
solutions
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MG University about KSBB had also declared the results of the 13th Children Biodiversity Congress winners which was conducted through online platform under various competitions for senior as well as junior level students such as, Essay writing in Malayalam and English, Poster presentation, Photography, Painting, Project preparation, Pencil drawing and Mobile video making. The winners of each of these competitions were announced by Dr. K. Satheeshkumar, Board member, KSBB and the prizes will be distributed soon. In addition to these, the April edition of KSBB e-Newsletter ‘EKKA’ was released by Dr. K.T. Chandramohan, KSBB Board member. Nearly five hundred public and students were participated in the online programme.



Online Quiz
BIODIVERSITY MATTERS!

Welcome to the first monthly online quiz program of KSBB. Quizzing is a game to engage and display one's acquired knowledge and pushes to learn and learn more. Through this online quiz program we @ KSBB wishes you more learnings on nature and biodiversity and creative engagements for a greener world. Each month a new set of questions will appear, and a student can run through a monthly quiz once. Students of all categories can join. Certificates will be mailed to their given mail ID.

So keep going and Happy Quizzing!!

Category	Medium	Link
Lower Primary (LP) 1 st to 4 th Standard	English	Click here to Participate
	Malayalam	Click here to Participate
Upper Primary (UP) 5 th to 7 th Standard	English	Click here to Participate
	Malayalam	Click here to Participate
High School (HS) 8 th to 10 th Standard	English	Click here to Participate
	Malayalam	Click here to Participate
Higher Secondary School (HSS) 11 th to 12 th Standard	English	Click here to Participate
	Malayalam	Click here to Participate
College UG and PG	English	Click here to Participate
	Malayalam	Click here to Participate

KERALA STATE BIODIVERSITY BOARD

The official lanching of the Monthly online quiz competition for students –a new venture of Kerala State Biodiversisty Board was done by Sri. KV Govindan KSBB Board member. The Monthly online quiz competition is for students of different levels such as Lower Primary (1st to 4th Standard), Upper Primary (5th to 7th Standard), High School (8th to 10th Standard), Higher Secendory (11th to 12th Standard), and College level (UG & PG) with an aim to create biodiversity awarensss among the students.



Eminent Personalities

Sunderlal Bahuguna: End of an era for Indian environmentalism: Sunderlal Bahuguna, the green leader of India, who has contributed globally through awareness raising measures concerning deforestation, the health of the Ganges River and many other active environmental movements has passed away at the age of 94 on May 21, 2021 due to Covid 19. He was born in 1927 to an affluent family in an Indian- Himalayan village. He had spent his life working to educate and encourage Indian villagers to protest against ecological destruction by the government and protecting the Himalayan Mountains, hence he is also called as Gaurdian of Himalayas. He learned from Mahatma Gandhi to use peaceful means to bring major changes for his community. As a Ghandian peace worker he does not resort to violence to achieve the change he is working toward.



He has a very active role in the Chipko movement and anti-Tehri dam movements. He was very upset in the deforestation happening in Himalayas and the ways it is affecting the indigenous people living there. The Chipko movement was an effort to protest against deforestation. Chipko literally means ‘tree huggers’. Sunderlal and the local women from Himalayas chained themselves to the trees so that the loggers could not cut the trees down. This method often slowed the work and brought attention the government’s actions. The Chipko is still working to protect the trees today through the same nonviolent methods. The noted environmentalist and Padma Vibhushan Sunderlal Bahuguna will be most remembered in history for igniting a grassroots movement for protecting the environment.

Species Discoveries

Two new species of damselflies from the northern Western Ghats:

Two new species of the damselfly in the genus *Euphaea* (Odonata: Euphaeidae) were described from the northern Western Ghats distinguished by their distinct morphology and coloration. *Euphaea thosegharensis* and *Euphaea pseudodispar* were discovered from the paddy fields of the Satara district of Maharashtra. The species is restricted to the high-elevation streams and riparian patches of Thoseghar, Satara district, in Maharashtra, India. This discovery highlights the need for more systematic surveys of

invertebrates in the northern Western Ghats.

(Reference: Bhakare, S.D., Nair, V.P., Pawar, P.A., Bhoite, S.H. and Sadasivan, K., 2021. Two new species of *Euphaea* Selys, 1840 (Odonata: Zygoptera: Euphaeidae) from northern Western Ghats, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 13(5), pp.18200-18214.)



New plant species in the genus *Phyllanthus* from Kerala

A new plant species '*Phyllanthus sanatanadharmae*' belonging to the family Phyllanthaceae was discovered from Vellarimala in Kozhikkode district which is part of Southern Western Ghats. The specific epithet of the newly discovered plant is derived from the name of a well-known college in Alappuzha, the Sanatana Dharma College or S.D. College. The botanist Dr. Jose Mathew who discovered the new species is a faculty of the same college. The species was discovered from the evergreen forests of Vellarimala. The total number of individuals found is only fifteen which makes the species a sensitive and threatened one. This plant in its maturity reaches a maximum height of 3 m and the male and female flowers are developed distinctly.

Ref : MATHEW, J. and YOHANNAN, R., 2021.

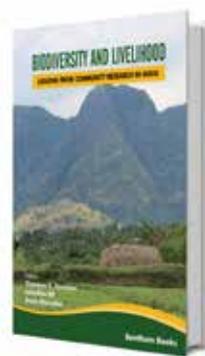
Phyllanthussanatanadharmae (Phyllanthaceae): a new species from the southern Western Ghats, India. *Phytotaxa*, 498(4), pp.290-294.



Green Reads

Biodiversity and Livelihood: Lessons from Community Research in India

is a compilation of research articles on the ecological biodiversity and local conservation efforts of selected regions in India, and among local communities throughout the country. 18 chapters have been contributed by experts in ecology, sustainability, and ethnic studies in India. The chapters provide information on a wide range of topics that cover local communities, their agricultural practices, and the ecological relationships between their community and the species on which their livelihood depends. Readers will find a wealth of information about biodiversity conservation in different regions in India (most notably the Western and Eastern ghats and provinces such as Kerala and Andhra Pradesh), from a



basic and applied perspective. The book is, therefore, an informative reference for conservationists, ecologists, environmentalists and ethnologists who are studying the biodiversity and conservation of India. Readers involved in sustainable development programs in the region will also find the content valuable to their knowledge.

Biodiversity and Livelihood: Lessons from Community Research in India
Editor(s): Oommen V. Oommen, Laladhas K.P. and Erach Bharucha
eBook: US \$69 SPECIAL OFFER (PDF + PRINTED COPY): US \$110
Printed Copy: US \$76

Library License: US \$276
Available in Amazon : Rs. 5,118.00
ISBN: 978-981-14-8307-3 (Print)
ISBN: 978-981-14-8215-1 (Online)
Year of Publication: 2020
DOI:10.2174/97898114821511200101

Eugenia pokkudanii: A new species from sky-islands of Nelliampathi named after Kallen Pokkudan, the mangrove conservationist.

A new species belonging to the family Myrtaceae was discovered from the high range shola forests of Nelliampathi in Kerala. The species is showing resemblance to *Eugenia discifera* and *Eugenia indica*

but it is differentiated by its characteristic shape, size and indumentum of leaves, petioles, pedicels, calyces, petals and bracteoles. The species was discovered from the Keshavanpara and Pothumala region of Nelliampathi hills. The specific epithet of the species is chosen in honor of the late Mr. Kallen Pokkudan, a well-known environmental activist and mangrove conservationist from Kerala.

Conservation Stories from the field

Mathew Joseph - Mango Man of Alappuzha

The Kuttanadu region in the Alappuzha district is not a land popular for mangoes. Interestingly, a veteran farmer is doing a special task that will help in conserving different varieties of Mangoes. Mr. Mathew Joseph Pallithanam, residing near Kainady of Neelamperoorpanchayat, an engineer by profession, is collecting and conserving more than 96 varieties of mangoes, in his backyard which includes rare ones such as Chikkili and Nithya and a few endangered ones like Crippling, Chittoor, and Rumani. Besides a mere conservator, he maintained a register that contains information like - variety name, site of collection, planting day, important growth characters like branching, flowering time, nature of inflorescence, fruit size, color, taste, pest resistance etc. He is sharing this valuable information with scientists, researchers, and Agriculture officers visiting his farmyard. He received many awards from

his Panchayath and Krishi Bhavan. Besides growing mango varieties, he has a good collection of fruit varieties, fishes, and some rare ornamental plants. This 76-Year-old farmer's dedication to biodiversity conservation needs to be recorded and appreciated.

Written by: Chandraprakash T.G,
District co-ordinator, Alappuzha



Conservation Stories from the field

Waste dump turns garden at Kalliyoor Panchayath

Kalliyoor Panchayath, one of the Model BMCs of Kerala State Biodiversity Board in Thiruvananthapuram district, has set a model emulative for all by turning a waste dump area into an attractive garden. The Panchayath initiated the restoration of an area in its Ward 4, blemished by waste dumping and eventually created a beautiful spot with flora that attracts everyone. Initially, the dumped waste was completely removed and segregated for further management. The land was then cleared and prepared for planting indigenous ornamental plants. Different species of *Ixora*, *Chrysanthemum* and *Rose* were planted. Mr. K.K. Chandu Krishna, President, Kalliyoor Panchayath inaugurated the programme. This site is being maintained by MNREGS workers and the BMC is also having plans to extend the programme to beautify

more waste lands in the panchayat. Consequently, the LSG has also strengthened the Haritha Karma Sena to step up effective waste collection and sorting with an aim to make a waste-free 'Beautiful Green Kalliyoor' with notable differences.

Written by: Dr. Akhila S. Nair
District coordinator, Thiruvananthapuram



Achievements

Shaji, the Tuber Man of Kerala bagged the India Biodiversity Award of 2020

Mr. Shaji. N.M. affectionately called as **‘Tuber Man of Kerala’** has bagged the India Biodiversity Award for the category **‘Conservation of Domesticated Species (Individual)’**. He has collected a large number of tuberous plants from all over India, which he displays to tourists and the local community on his farm named ‘Kedaram’ in Kerala’s Wayanad District. Currently, Shaji has two hundred different types of tubers in his collection, including six wild varieties. His list of species has been included in the Edavaka PBR of Wayanad District. He has educated other farmers and students of various agricultural institutions too on the value of his crops. He encourages school children to come and

see his collection and explains to them the nutritional and medicinal properties of the tubers. Shaji deserves to be called a model farmer with an ultimate degree of a social consciousness which is evident from his highly passionate activities. Shaji not only has his collection of tubers but also a pool of information on all classes of tubers starting from Dioscorea, Cassava and yam and as many varieties and cultivars as possible.



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AWARDS 2021	SL. No.	Individual/ Institution	About
	1.	Shaji N.M.	Conservation of Domesticated Species He is also known as Tuber Man of Kerala. He has received 7 State Awards for his contribution in conserving about 200 tuber crops on his farm, including greater yam, elephant foot yam, lesser yam, arrowroot, sweet potato, Chinese potato and colocasia
	2.	Krishi Avam Paristhitiki Vikas Sansthan (KRAPAVIS)	Sustainable Use of Biological Resources KRAPAVIS has won the award for lending support to communities in restoring water harvesting structures, recharge wells & water tables, along with planting a million local varieties of trees in Orans.
	3.	Khonoma Nature Conservation & Tragopan Sanctuary (KNCTS)	Sustainable Use of Biological Resources KNCTS helps in maintaining biodiversity in the Khonoma area which is inhabited by several endemic plants and animals.

PHOTO GALLERY



WINNERS
First Prize

13TH CHILDREN'S BIODIVERSITY CONGRESS



Ananya S Subhash,
Alen Xavier



Joshna Rajesh,
Nazifa Navas



Ashmil Shas Ahammad,
Maheswari P L



Anees K K,
Anusha S A



Abhijith M,
Gopika Kannan

Category		Prize	Name & Address (Master/Miss/Mr.)	School
PENCIL DRAWING	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Ananya S Subhash	SN Public School, Kollam
		2 nd	Akshay T P	KVR High School, Palakkad
		3 rd	Neeraja K	St. Marys HS for Girls Payyanur, Kannur
	(SENIOR)	1 st	Alen Xavier	Govt. HSS Kulathummel, Tvpm
		2 nd	Jyothish G P	CSI HSS For Partially Hearing, Adoor, Pathanamthitta
		3 rd	Anit Salu	NirmalaBhavan HSS, Kowdiar, Tvpm
MOBILE VIDEO MAKING	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Joshna Rajesh	SDV Govt. UPS, Alappuzha
		2 nd	Ahana Sunil	GGHSS Cotton Hill, Vazhuthacaud, Tvpm
		3 rd	Alona Anil	St. Joseph UP School , Edavaka P O, Wayanad
	(SENIOR)	(CONSOLATION PRIZE)	Thushara Stalin	Different Art Centre at the Magic Planet, Kinfra Film & Video Park Campus, Sainik School PO., Tvpm
			Alen S	JFKMVHSS Karunagapally, Kollam
ESSAY- ENGLISH	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Nazifa Navas	Eminence Public School Pandalam, Pathanamthitta
		2 nd	Sreeram.S	Chinmaya Vidyalaya HSS, Sasthamangalam P O, Tvpm
		3 rd	Aksa joy	St Thomas E.M.H.S Kumili, Idukki
	(SENIOR)	1 st	Ashmil Shas Ahammad	MTDM HSS Thondernad, Wayanad
		2 nd	Alka Mariya Jolly	FMGHSS, Koompanpara, Idukki
		3 rd	Aksa Riya Thomas	Mount Carmel HSS Kanjikuzhy, Kottayam
ESSAY- MALAYALAM	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Maheswari P L	GUPS Adinadu, Kattinkadavu P O Kollam
		2 nd	Ben Biju	SB HSS Changanassery, Kottayam
		2 nd	Alphonse Reji	St Antonys Public School, Kanjiappally, Kottayam
		3 rd	Reja Fathima	GMUPS Nilambur, Malappuram
	(SENIOR)	1 st	Anees K K	GHSS Anappara, Chulliyode P O, Wayanad
		2 nd	Adwaith M Prasanth	Janardhanapuram Higher Secondary, Tvpm
		3 rd	Hiba Fathima Ajmal	St. Mary's GHS, Kanjiappally, Kottayam

WINNERS
First Prize

13th CHILDREN'S BIODIVERSITY CONGRESS



Aadith Rajesh,
Devatheertha V N



Niya Maria Jayan,
Shivon Ann Wilfred



Lakshi Bharathy V,
Dhruv P

**THE TRUTH IS THE
NATURAL WORLD
IS CHANGING. AND
WE ARE TOTALLY
DEPENDENT ON
THAT WORLD.IT
PROVIDES OUR
FOOD, WATER AND
AIR. IT IS THE MOST
PRECIOUS THING
WE HAVE AND
WE NEED TO
DEFEND IT.**

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Category		Prize	Name &Address (Master/Miss/Mr.)	School
PHOTOGRAPHY	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Anusha S A	NKM Govt. HSS, Dhanuvachapuram, Tvpm
		2 nd	Sreenandha N K	GHSS Kottila, Kannur
		3 rd	Theertha V	GMUPS Nilambur, Malappuram
	(SENIOR)	1 st	Abhijith M	Model Technical HSS, Banerji Road, Ernakulam,
		2 nd	Shanas U Ali	DUHSS Panakkadu, Malappuram
		3 rd	Harikrishnan V M	GHSS Kuttipuram, Malappuram
PAINTING	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Gopika Kannan	S N Trusts Central School, Karbala Jn, Kollam
		2 nd	Alakananda.T	GGVHSS Feroke, Kozhikode
		3 rd	Shreya Ramesh	St. Antonys HSS, Kacherippadi, Ernakulam
	(SENIOR)	1 st	Aadith Rajesh	S N Trust Higher Secondary School, Thottada, Kannur
		2 nd	Akshaya Shameer	Azhikode Higher SS Azhikode P O, Kannur
		3 rd	Malavika	GMHSS CU, Calicut University Campus, Malappuram
PROJECT	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Devatheertha V N, Niya Maria Jayan	SKMJ HSS Kalpetta, North Wayanad
		2 nd	Neeraj N	NN Kakkanad SGHSS, Kozhikode
		3 rd	Parthiv V V, Dheeraj V V	AKAS GVVHSS Payyanur, Kannur
	(SENIOR)	1 st	Shivon Ann Wilfred, Lakshi Bharathy V	SKMJ HSS Kalpetta, North Wayanad
		2 nd	Diya Thomas, NanadanaPrمود	St. Mary's GHS, Kanjirapally, Kottayam
		3 rd	Soorya U K	GMHSS C.U. Campus, Malappuram
POSTER	(JUNIOR)	1 st	Dhruv P	Ramanattukara HSS Malappuram
		2 nd	Bhavya Prasad	V.G.S.S.A.H.S.S. Nediyaavila, Kollam
		3 rd	P Krishna	High School For Girls, Kollam
	(SENIOR)	1 st	Aadith Rajesh	SN Trust Higher Secondary School, Kannur
		2 nd	HibaFathimaAjmal	St. Mary's GHS, Kanjirapally, Kottayam
		3 rd	Nadhira C	GHSS, Kuttippuram PO, Malappuram

WINNERS ENTRIES

JUNIOR

PHOTOGRAPHY

SENIOR



(1st) ANUSHA S A - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



(1st) ABHIJITH M - ERNAKULAM



(2nd) SREENANDHA N K - KANNUR



(2nd) SHANAS U ALI - MALAPPURAM



(3rd) THEERTHA V - MALAPPURAM



(3rd) HARIKRISHNAN V M - MALAPPURAM

JUNIOR

PAINTING

SENIOR



(1st) GOPIKA KANNAN - KOLLAM



(1st) AADITH RAJESH - KANNUR

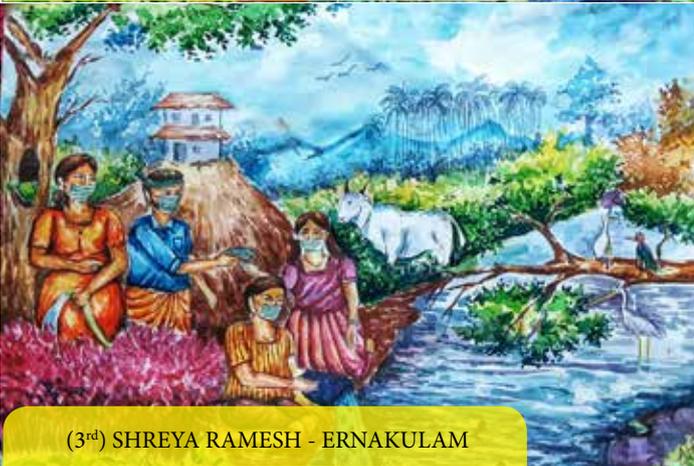
WINNERS ENTRIES



(2nd) ALAKANANDA.T - KOZHIKODE



(2nd) AKSHAYA SHAMEER - KANNUR



(3rd) SHREYA RAMESH - ERNAKULAM

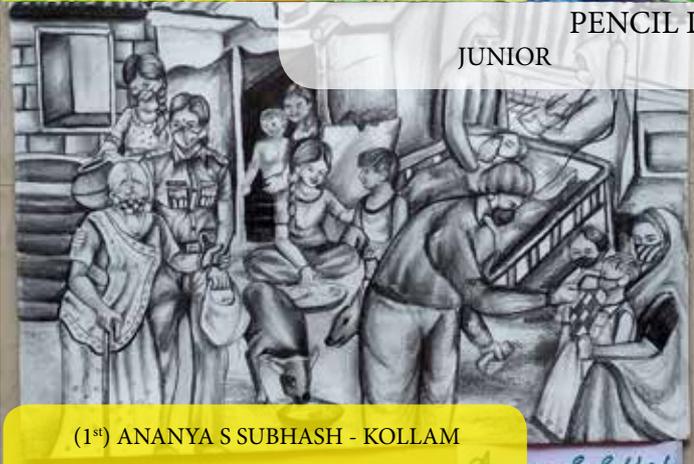


(3rd) MALAVIKA - MALAPPURAM

PENCIL DRAWING

JUNIOR

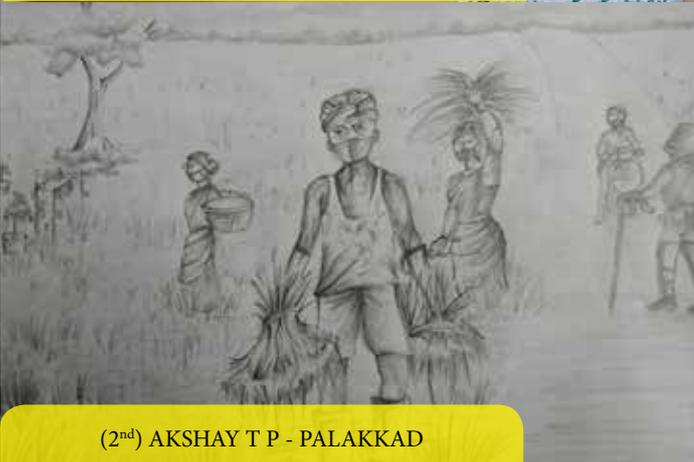
SENIOR



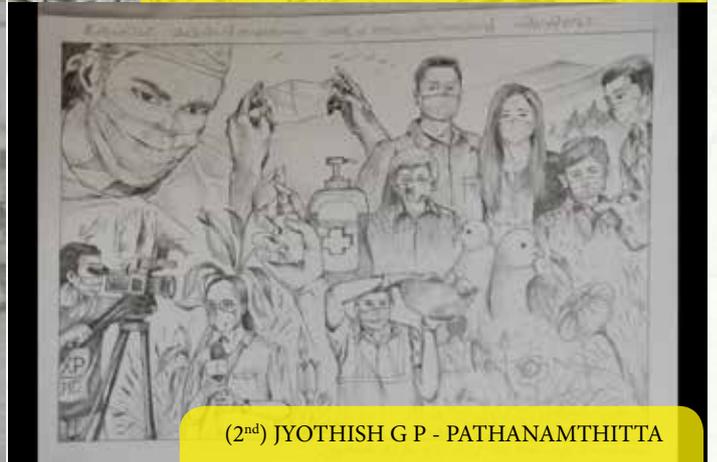
(1st) ANANYA S SUBHASH - KOLLAM



(1st) ALEN XAVIER - THIRUVANANATHAPURAM

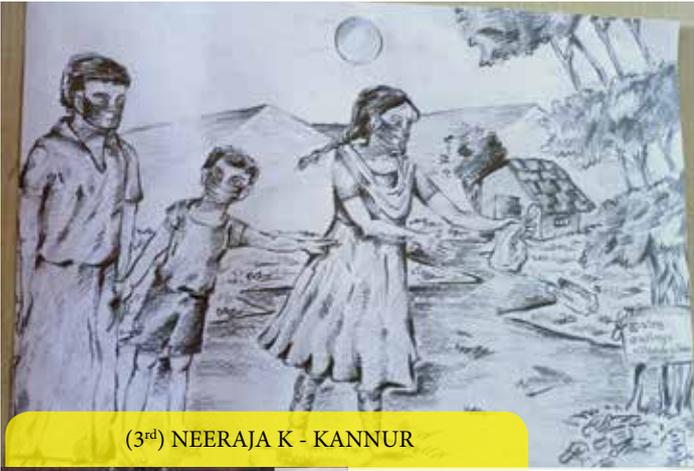


(2nd) AKSHAY T P - PALAKKAD



(2nd) JYOTHISH G P - PATHANAMTHITTA

WINNERS ENTRIES



(3rd) NEERAJA K - KANNUR



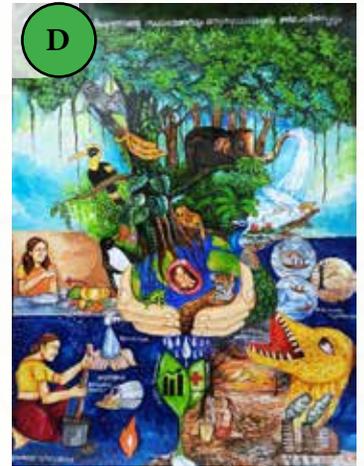
(3rd) ANITSALU - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



A



B



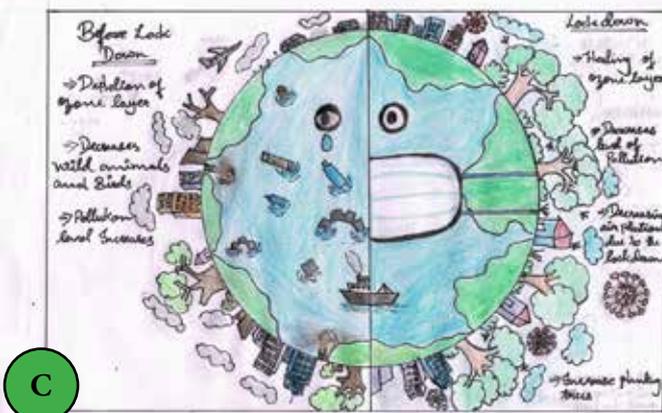
D

JUNIOR

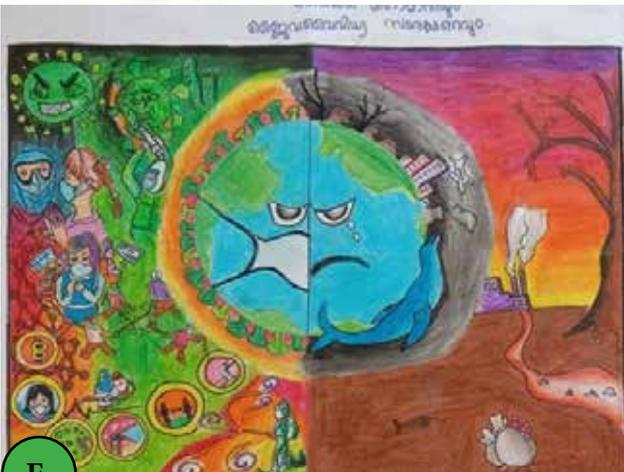
- (1st) DHRUV P - MALAPPURAM (A)
- (2nd) BHAVYA PRASAD - KOLLAM (B)
- (3rd) P KRISHNA - KOLLAM (C)

SENIOR

- (1st) AADITH RAJESH - KANNUR (D)
- (2nd) HIBA FATHIMA AJMAL - KOTTAYAM (E)
- (3rd) NADHIRA C - MALAPPURAM (F)



C



F



E

Dr. C. George Thomas
Chairperson
Smt. Reney.R.Pillai
Member Secretary

MEMBERS (Ex-officio)

1. Agriculture Production Commissioner
2. Principal Secretary, Fisheries Department
3. Principal Secretary, Forest & Wildlife Department
4. Executive Vice President, KSCSTE
5. Adl.chief Secretary, Environment Department

KSBB MEMBERS (Unofficial)

6. Dr. K Satheesh Kumar
7. Sri. K.V Govindan
8. Dr. T.S Swapna
9. Dr. K.T Chandramohan
10. Sri.A.K Dharni, IFS (Retd)