



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

➤ A look at the podcasts that celebrate the wonders of science through expert-led deep dives & storytelling
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➤ Skipper Joe Root will be key for England in the forthcoming Test against India
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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021


WEB EDITION

Quote unquote

Just as India's war against coronavirus became an example for the world, our vaccination programme is also becoming an example for the world. India is conducting the biggest vaccination drive in the world. Do you know what is an even better matter of pride? We are not only running the world's biggest vaccination drive but we are also the fastest in vaccinating our citizens. In merely 15 days, India has vaccinated more than 30 lakhs Covid-19 warrior, while a rich country like the US has completed the same target in 18 days and the UK in 36 days. The Made in India vaccines are not only a symbol of an Atmanirbhar Bharat but they are also a symbol of self-pride. In times of crisis, India is able to serve the world because today India is capable of medicines and vaccine, and is self-sufficient. This is also the idea of a self-reliant India campaign. The more capable India is, the more it will serve humanity, and the more the world will benefit.

NARENDRA MODI, PM, addressing the monthly Mann Ki Baat

100 per cent occupancy will be allowed in theatres from Feb 1: Javadekar



The cinema halls across the country will be permitted to operate at 100 per cent capacity from February 1 in adherence to the Covid-19 safety protocols, Union minister for information and broadcasting Prakash Javadekar announced on Sunday. Digital booking of tickets and staggered show timings will be encouraged, the minister said, releasing a set of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). "Staggered show timings will be encouraged so that the entry and exit of the crowd can be managed better. Sanitisation and all Covid-19 safety protocols must be followed," the minister added. The development comes days after the ministry of home affairs (MHA) allowed the cinema halls and theatres to operate with more people as per fresh Covid-19 reopening guidelines to be effective from February 1.

BUDGET 2021:

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT FROM IT?

All eyes will be on finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as she presents the Budget today, amid the Covid pandemic. Will the annual financial statement boost the already-battered economy? Experts and students hope for a people-friendly Budget as they share their wishlist...

THE STATE OF INDIAN ECONOMY

1 According to the first advance estimates, India's economy is projected to contract by 7.7 per cent in 2020-21. India's economy slipped into a technical recession, after it posted two successive quarters of decline. But the contraction slowed down significantly in the second quarter of FY21, led by pent-up demand and a festive push

2 Experts have predicted the economy to rebound sharply in the next fiscal on the back of a low base effect and continued recovery. The Budget could be a key driver of growth, they add

WHAT IS IN STORE?

➤ The govt has made it clear that it won't shy away from spending to revive the economy. The infrastructure push will have a multiplier effect on the economy

➤ The finance minister has said that the deficit concerns won't hold her back from pump priming the economy by easing the

purse strings

➤ Any further tax sops could be difficult, as the government is already grappling with a difficult revenue situation. The Budget could focus on generating more non-tax revenue and a large-scale asset sale programme could be on the cards

INDIA INC'S WISH LIST

1 FISCAL CONSOLIDATION ROADMAP

➤ Relax fiscal deficit target to boost infra spending

➤ Ensure greater transparency in deficit

numbers

➤ Adopt a rangebound deficit target

2 REVIVING DEMAND & INVESTMENT

➤ Take steps to spur consumer spending
➤ Enhance infrastructure spend
➤ Clear pending dues of industries
➤ Ensure stability of long-term interest rates
➤ Continue with higher allocation for MGNREGA

3 TAX RELIEF FOR INDUSTRY & PAYERS

➤ Do not impose any new tax or cess
➤ Abolish minimum alternate tax
➤ Reduce personal income tax rates

4 PUSH TO EXPORTS-EXTEND TRADE

➤ Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) for another 3 years
➤ Extend interest rate equalisation to all exporters

STUDENTS' WISH LIST

Keeping the pandemic in mind, the FM should exempt taxes from the food and beverage, and the tourism industry. Besides, people, who were infected with Covid-19 and were hospitalised, should be given a tax deduction for this fiscal year.

AADITYA TM, class VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Chennai

At a time when a resurgent India is looking to become self-reliant, I feel Budget 2021 should focus on pumping more money in skill advancement and re-skilling the youth. In the absence of skills, literate rural youth end up working as unskilled migrant workers.

ABHISHEK KUMAR, class IX, AKSIPSS school, Chd

The Budget should focus more on the Human Development Index factors, like education, better life expectancy, etc, along with a focus on improving the per capita income of the common man.

NOYONIKA DEV SHARMA, class X, Apeejay School, Nerul, Mumbai

The finance minister should allocate a major chunk for Covid-related issues, including providing vaccines free of cost to the poor and the

needy in the future.
LIKHITH L GOWDA, class X, Delhi Public School, North, Bengaluru

ONE OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST SUPERCOMPUTERS TO STUDY CLIMATE CHANGE AND SEVERE WEATHER

A new supercomputer in Wyoming, US, is all set to be ranked among the world's-fastest and help study phenomena, including climate change, severe weather, wildfires and solar flares. Houston-based Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) has won a bid to provide the \$35 million to \$40 million machine for a supercomputing centre in Cheyenne, the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, has announced.


TECH BUZZ

The HPE-Cray EX supercomputer will theoretically be able to perform almost 20 quadrillion calculations per second, 3.5 times faster than the existing machine at the NCAR-Wyoming Supercomputing Center. The new machine's maximum speed per second will be roughly equivalent to each person on the Earth, completing a math equation every second for an entire month. That power, according to experts, will enable some of the most-sophisticated simulations of large-scale natural and human-influenced events

The facility's current supercomputer, named Cheyenne, is over three times faster than its predecessor, which was named Yellowstone. A contest among the Wyoming schoolchildren will decide the new supercomputer's name



'SOORARAI POTTRU', FIRST TAMIL FILM TO RELEASE ON OTT, JOINS THE OSCAR RACE

It is official. The Suriya-starrer, 'Soorai Pottru' has got an Oscar entry. The movie's co-producer Rajsekhar Pandian, who is a close friend of actor Suriya, took to Twitter to reveal that the 2020 Amazon release has joined the Oscars race. He elaborated that the film is in contention in the best actor, best actress, best director, best original score, among other categories.

ENTERTAINMENT


➤ The Sudha Kongara-directorial, which also feature actors Aparna Balamurli and Paresh Rawal, was the first Tamil film to get an OTT launch last year during the nationwide lockdown imposed in India due to the coronavirus pandemic

➤ The movie, which was released on November 12 last year, is loosely-based on the life of Air Deccan founder Captain GR Gopinath

Last year, India sent Malayalam feature film 'Jallikattu', directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, to the Oscars as its official entry for the International Feature Film category



AN IGLOO CAFE THAT SERVES HOT FOOD ON TABLES MADE OF ICE AND SNOW!



➤ Tourists in Kashmir's Gulmarg ski resort now have a new place to chill out – an igloo cafe that serves hot food and drink on tables made of ice and snow

➤ Inspired from the Arctic shelters, the staff at the Kolahoi Green Heights hotel, which owns this cafe, gave few local touch to it by including an arched door, and patterns on the curved walls

➤ The igloo, 26 feet around and 15 feet high, holds four tables, with enough room for 16 guests



FACTOID

255 MILLION

Full-time jobs were lost in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic, according to the UN. In a fresh study, the UN's International Labour Organisation (ILO) found that a full 8.8 per cent of global working hours were lost in 2020, compared to the fourth quarter of 2019. This has been the most-severe crisis for the world of work since the Great Depression of the 1930s, it added

THE OFFICIAL GLOBAL UNEMPLOYMENT SHOT UP BY 1.1 PER CENT. IN OTHER WORDS, 33 MILLION MORE PEOPLE WERE UNEMPLOYED LAST YEAR

Podcasts about the WONDERS OF SCIENCE

The approval of two COVID-19 vaccines for use in the United States was a much-needed flicker of hope in recent weeks, although that wave of relief has since

been dampened by a slow and stumbling rollout, with inoculation appointments scarce in many states as the ongoing pandemic continues to ravage the nation.

But in the spirit of a gratitude practice, let's focus on

the positive. It is nothing short of miraculous that within a year, scientists have developed multiple vaccines against such an aggressive virus — the previous record-holder for the fastest vaccine ever developed was mumps, which took four years.

This is a triumphant moment, and these seven podcasts celebrate the wonders of science through expert-led deep dives, humorous debates and rich storytelling.

'OLOGIES WITH ALIE WARD'

There's something thrilling about hearing very smart people talk passionately about the things they're smartest about, especially when their area of expertise is unusual. Anchored by the witty and charismatic presence of Alie Ward, a science correspondent for CBS' "The Henry Ford's Innovation Nation with Mo Rocca," "Ologies" puts the spotlight on scientific experts working in fields you may never have heard of — and gives them an entertaining platform to wax lyrical about their particular "ology." Ward's intellectual curiosity is as infectious as her guests' enthusiasm, and she keeps things accessible no matter how esoteric the subject: Recent episodes have focused on desaiology (the science of mortuary makeup), agnotology (the science of ignorance) and pelicanology...

Starter episode:
'URBAN RODENTOLOGY'

'THE STORY COLLIDER'

The premise behind this decade-old show is simple: We all have science stories to tell, because simply existing in the world means we're interacting with science all the time. The Story Collider is a non-profit group founded by two physicists who wanted to amplify personal

Starter episode:
'CELEBRATING 10 YEARS: OUR FAVORITE STORIES'

stories that "spark emotional connections to science," a mission encapsulated by its podcast. Most episodes present two stories that share a common thread about the human experience behind scientific experiments, interactions with animals or how biological impulses shape our lives. Since November, the show has been dedicated to telling "Stories of COVID-19" from different angles, such as the pandemic's impact on different generations or how society adapts to a new normal.

'STUFF TO BLOW YOUR MIND'

The title might sound hyperbolic, but it's generally pretty accurate. In each episode of this show from iHeartRadio, the hosts, Robert Lamb and Joe McCormick, tackle a different scientific phenomenon, mystery or quandary that will expand your understanding of how the world works. "Deep in the back of your mind, you've always had the feeling that there's something strange about reality," reads the show's official teaser, which might lead you to suspect that you're in for an hour of wacky conspiracy theories. But "Stuff to Blow Your Mind" is always evidence-based and thoroughly researched, whether it's exploring seemingly unremarkable subjects, mythical figures or the question of whether Santa Claus is a god.

Starter episode:
'PSYCHEDELICS: THE MANIFESTED MIND, PART 1'

'THE CURIOUS CASES OF RUTHERFORD & FRY'

If you like your science stories with a side of Sherlock Holmes-esque intrigue, look no further than this charming BBC series. Hosted by "science sleuths" Dr Adam Rutherford and Dr Hannah Fry, "The Curious Cases" sees the duo tackle listener-submitted scientific mysteries, many of which you may have wondered yourself (why do we find noises like a fork scraping a plate so unbearable?) and others you may never have thought of.

Starter episode:
'THE MOSQUITO CONUNDRUM'

'SCIENCE VS'

The sheer volume of misinformation around the coronavirus has become such a liability that it's been referred to as an "infodemic," but it's also a symptom of a bigger and more systemic anti-science movement. In this Gimlet Media show, journalist Wendy Zukerman pits "fads, trends and the opinionated mob" against science — fact-checking falsehoods and delivering the truth in entertaining and authoritative style. Although many recent episodes are devoted to COVID-19 mythbusting.

Starter episode:
'HUNTING AN INVISIBLE KILLER'

'INVISIBILIA'

Listening to its blend of rich narrative storytelling and scientific concepts, it's no surprise that "Invisibilia" shares DNA with "This American Life" and "Radiolab." Created by Alix Spiegel and Lulu Miller in 2015, the show focuses on the invisible forces that shape our world, control our behaviour and — when harnessed — can help us to live better. Although the show has continuously shape-shifted during its six-season run, its very first episode remains a perfect encapsulation of everything "Invisibilia" does best.

Starter episode:
'THE SECRET HISTORY OF THOUGHTS'

'AMERICA DISSECTED: CORONAVIRUS'



Best known for left-wing political hits like "Pod Save America," Crooked Media expanded its horizons significantly a couple of years back and in September 2019 debuted "America Dissected" with the aim of "discussing pressing health questions in America." Six months later, for obvious reasons, it rebranded itself as "America Dissected: Coronavirus," and now dedicates each weekly episode to a different aspect of the pandemic. Hosted by Dr Abdul El-Sayed, a physician and epidemiologist who first rose to prominence as Detroit's director of public health during the Flint water crisis, the show offers both a merciless analysis of the federal government's COVID-19 failures, etc.

Starter episode:
'THE VACCINE EPISODE'

SUPER FOODS to help boost immunity

A healthy immune system begins with what you eat, and adding these ingredients to your diet could do wonders for your health



HANDFUL OF NUTS

Eating a small handful of nuts (at least 20 grams) everyday can cut your risk of premature death by 22 per cent, the journal BMC Medicine reported. It said that nuts protect us against the biggest health killers, including heart disease, cancer and diabetes. In addition to being a good source of unsaturated fat, protein and fibre, some nuts, such as walnuts, also offer a plant source of omega-3. However, it's important to stick to a small, unsalted serving everyday to prevent weight gain.



A great source of fibre, vitamins and minerals, they also contain sulphur compounds, which protect cells from damage. However, adding too much vegetables to your diet suddenly could result in bowel problems, so go easy initially.

GO FOR GRAINS

A study published in 'JAMA Internal Medicine' showed that eating dietary fibre, particularly from grains, could lengthen a person's life. "Fibre remains undigested until it reaches our gut, where it provides food for bacteria that make up our microbiome. Digested by-products help regulate blood sugar levels and cholesterol," says UK-based nutrition counsellor Pixie Turner.

BEAN STALK

The world's longest living people rarely eat meat, less than five times a month. "Their diet is 95 to 100 per cent plant-

based, and they even substitute beans for meat," says Turner. "Meat free days can help you get more fibre and less saturated fat into your diet. And all of this can potentially reduce your risk of heart disease."

TURN UP THE HEAT

Research from the US discovered that people who regularly eat hot chillies live longer than those who don't like spice at all. Besides having anti-inflammatory effects, the substance that gives chillies their heat, capsaicin, appears to have a role in boosting heart health. — Daily Mirror

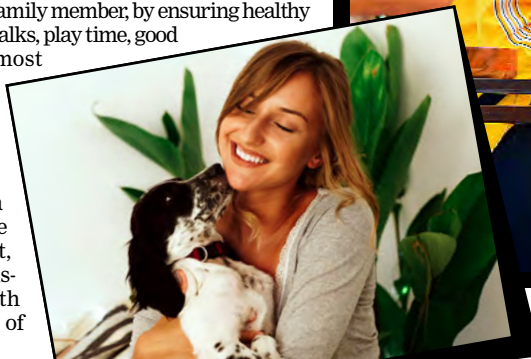


Just became pet parents?

Read on to learn how to get it right

As the pandemic restricted regular social interactions and staying at home emerged as the new normal, people adopted different ways to uplift and cheer their lives. Among the many things that peaked during the lockdown, included pet ownership and adoption.

As people looked to pets to help alleviate fear, anxiety and loneliness, it became one of the top things. Even influencers and celebrities backed the initiative and didn't shy away from showcasing and promoting pet parenting and adoption on their social media. But pets come with their own set of responsibilities. We need to take care of them as we take care of ourselves or any other family member; by ensuring healthy diet, timely walks, play time, good health and most important, a hygienic living environment. Maintaining pets and a clean home environment, simultaneously, comes with its own set of challenges.



For many pet owners, the frustration of

constantly clearing up hair is an everyday problem, particularly as one has started to spend more time indoors. But spotting the hair is half the battle. Beyond the locks left behind is a world of microscopic mess consisting of skin, hair and dirt.

Why is pet hair such a big issue? Animal hair stops growing as soon as it reaches a certain length and shed to be replaced by new hair. Frequently, pet hair embeds into carpeted surfaces or electrostatically "sticks" to a hard floor.

Beyond the pet hair and food, there is a host of microscopic life that pets bring in with them that's invisible to the naked eye. Pet dander is just one of those things.

Composed of tiny, microscopic, skin particles shed by pets with fur or feathers. It can be shed onto surfaces or transported through the air in household dust. Once air-borne, dander and the dust mites that live on it can be inhaled, triggering allergies.

Beyond the pet hair and food, there is a host of microscopic life that pets bring in with them that's invisible to the naked eye. Pet dander is one of those things

YOU CAN FOLLOW THESE EASY TIPS, CURATED BY AN ENGINEER, FOR MANAGING PET HAIR AND ENSURING A CLEAN AND HEALTHY HOME

1 Groom the source of the problem: Pets shed much more regularly than humans do, so grooming your pet frequently will avoid hair being deposited in your home. Groom your pet in the same area and spot clean this with slow vacuuming using a mini-motorised tool, designed with fine nylon bristles to remove embedded pet hair and dander. It is important to maintain hygiene.

2 Clean from top to bottom: Like dust, pet hair and dander can become airborne when disturbed and fall onto lower surfaces, so start cleaning up high and finish on your floors. Don't miss out armchairs and sofa, especially if your pet spends time there.

3 Wash pet blankets and remove covers: Washing blankets, cushions and bedding, wherever your pets spend the most time, at 60 degrees Celsius will help to break down allergens.





THE EDUCATIONIST

Managing Emotional Intelligence of students

Emotional intelligence otherwise known as Emotional Quotient (EQ) is the ability to perceive and use one's own emotions in an effective way to overcome stress, show empathy, solve conflicts, communicate better and win challenges.

Having a great understanding of other's emotions as well as being aware of their own emotions, enables an individual to work better especially in groups. Managing a student's emotional intelligence allows for greater outcomes. How to improve the EQ of the students?

1 According to the well-known psychologist, Daniel Goleman "The basic premise that children must learn about emotions is that all feelings are okay to have; however, only some reactions are okay.

2 Making them feel empathy - Students need to be encouraged to view life from another person's perspective.

3 Teaching them to handle delayed gratification. Delayed gratification involves the ability

to wait to get what you want. The ability to override the impulse to seek instant pleasure needs to be nurtured in children.

4 Teaching them to volunteer and give back to society - it makes them feel that they are doing something that really matters.

5 Allowing them to make mistakes - we can make them understand that every action has a consequence to it and we can learn from our mistakes.

6 Teaching resilience and to have a look at the bigger picture - Students need to experience disagreement and conflict.

7 Let them feel frustration. They must find ways to look at problems from different angles and solve it on their own.

8 Teaching them optimism and gratitude.

Each student is a combination of their IQ and EQ as both are equally important in developing a strong healthy individual.



SRIVIDHYA SRINIVASAN,
Teacher, Blossoms
International School
of Excellence,
Hyderabad

SOAKING IN THE PATRIOTIC FERVOUR

Republic Day is an auspicious day that gives us an opportunity to unfold the patriotism that we have towards our country. The national flag is hoisted by our President, who is accompanied by a chief guest from another country. It is celebrated with a traditional ceremony starting with the unfurling of the tricolour, swaying to the national anthem. Soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country are re-

Hadassah Joy Putchakayala,
class X, Silver Oaks
International School
Hyderabad

membered and paid respect. There is distribution of awards followed by a plethora of synchronised marches and fierce stunts. Overall, Republic Day is a day of self-reflection for all citizens.



OUR PRIDE:
ASRITHA E,
class VI C,
Bharatiya
Vidya Bhavans
Jubilee Hills
(Vidyashram)



Jubilee Hills Public School
Hyderabad

Jubilee Hills Public School celebrated the 72nd Republic Day of India on campus. It was the first celebration in school after a long wait due to the Corona pandemic. The patriotic fervour and the excitement were evident in the preparations. The welcome address initiated the programme and chief guest A Murali Mukund, chairman, Jubilee Hills Public School, hoisted the National Flag to mark the occasion. In his address, he spoke about the development and role of the In-

dian Constitution in the formation of the Republic of India. How the Indian Constitution has slowly evolved to suit the change of time and today's need to have people ponder over it.

The programme concluded with a rendition of the national anthem.

Express YOURSELF

January 26, 1950 marks the day when the Indian Constitution was first adopted and brought to effect. This is a significant day in the history of our nation, depicting the attainment of true independence or Purna Swaraj, nearly three years after Independence.

India was under the rule of the British for over 200 years before the nation became independent and until the formation of our Constitution, the Indian laws were based on a modified version of the British established, Government of India act in 1935. The drafting committee of the Constitution was headed by Dr B R Ambedkar, who had consulted various Constitutions

from other nations to aid in forming of an ideal Constitution for our nation with its diverse cultures and practices to ensure all citizens of India could enjoy equal rights pertaining to their religions, culture, caste, sex and creed.

It took 166 days of work to form and successfully implement this. We became a sovereign, secular, socialist, democratic republic

country on January 26, 1950 and we as the youth of the nation, must honour this and be thankful for being born into a free country where we get to choose for ourselves, and we will forever be indebted to all those who aided, and sacrificed their lives for making ours an independent and self-sufficient nation.

All over India, people celebrate this national holiday with patriotic fervour and pay their respects by hoisting the flags within their organisations. The President of India hoists the tricolour in Delhi with a regal parade by the soldiers, boy scouts, girl guides, NCC and many others. Republic Day evokes a strong emotion of patriotism in the hearts of every Indian citizen and serves as a day that reminds us of our duty to the nation.

In 2021, the post-pandemic year, India celebrated its 72nd Republic day with grandeur.

SAANVI NAGAVARAM, class XI D,
Delhi Public School, Nacharam

Anation can stand tall and proud as a desirable model only if its citizens are productive and patriotic. Being a true patriot as an institution, Ganges Valley takes pride in instilling in its students the true meaning and essence of patriotism. For the students and staff, India comes first. The school song, themes of events and celebrations and class activities reverberate patriotism, the national spirit and culture and heritage of India. The 72nd Republic Day of India was celebrated with much fervour.

The students of classes V, VI and VII left no stone unturned to display their patriotism and love for their motherland.

On this occasion, the songs they sung, the speeches they delivered, the dance they performed and the sketches and the solos of instrumental music they did, gave them a chance to know and experience India's rich heritage and culture.

Ganges Valley School
Hyderabad

The students from primary wing took an initiative in the mentor period to celebrate the day on which the most sacred document of our nation, the Constitution, came into effect. They exhibited the shades of our country in the forms of art and craft virtually.

In mentor period, children develop a relationship of trust with their mentors and learn how to set healthy boundaries and relationships. By spending time with an adult outside their families, they improve their communication and interpersonal skills - both of which help with building relationships. This aspect was clearly seen when they spoke about our Constitution.

Students together recreated the era of freedom fighters and presented their views about the Constitution.



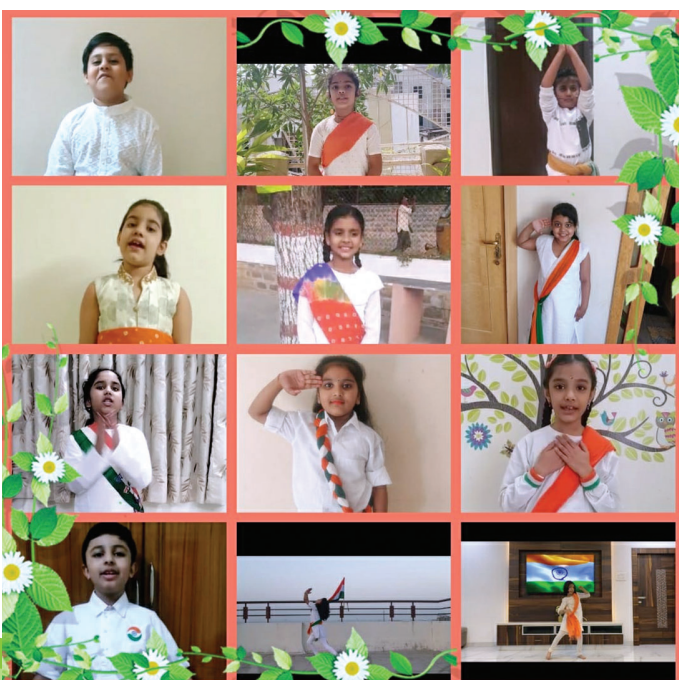
Gitanjali Devshala
Hyderabad

The 72nd Republic Day of India was celebrated virtually at Gitanjali Devshala by the students of class II. It commemorated the inception of the Indian Constitution, the world's largest democratic nation's lengthiest Constitution. The children highlighted the fundamental duties and rights of the citizens defined in Bharatiya Samvidhan with a skit, patriotic songs and dance to mark the triumphant moment in the Indian freedom struggle. Children also paid their tribute to the soldiers which filled the air with patriotic fervour.

The students of class VI A impersonated the great freedom fighters and delivered the powerful slogans that the leaders invoked among people leading the national movement.

They proudly talked about their rights and how they would put in all efforts to fulfil their duties as they envisage an emerging powerful nation. The students' energy was at their best dancing to the tunes of the patriotic songs 'Vande Mataram', 'I love my India'. A gripping instrumental music played with violin was commendable.

The students projected images and talked about how they supremely love the rich culture, traditions, diversity and geography of India. The programme concluded by paying a tribute to our National Anthem by the teachers and staff.

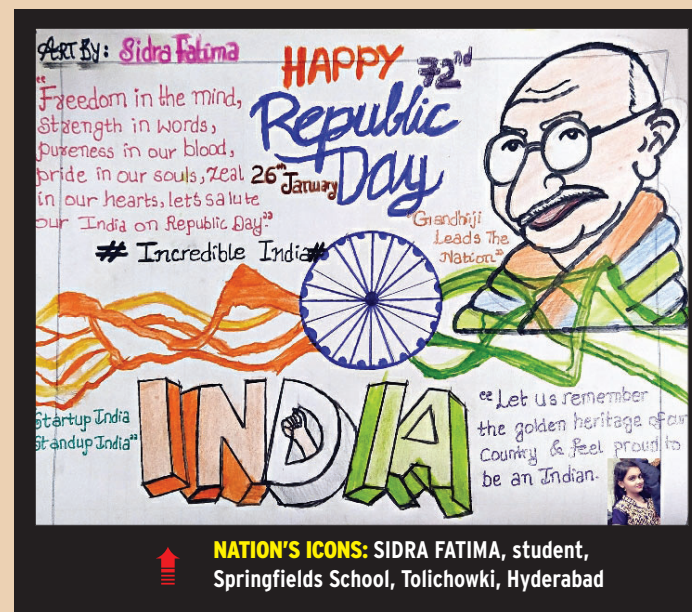


Shuchi Doshi, class X,
Gitanjali Devashray
Hyderabad

Gitanjali Devashray celebrated India's 72nd Republic Day with full patriotism and fervour to commemorate the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect and the country became a republic.

The programme started with a prayer thanking the almighty followed by a speech on the significance of this auspicious day. A patriotic song was sung by the students and a super energetic dance was also performed

Students and staff also conducted a TRI-Colour Bonanza where the students and teachers virtually shared a TRI-Colour snack prepared by them. Lastly the assembly concluded with national anthem bringing great pride and patriotism in everyone.



NATION'S ICONS: SIDRA FATIMA, student,
Springfields School, Tolichowki, Hyderabad

THE SECOND START, THANKS TO THEM

We delete our depressions on the first of January,
Gain memories and overtake our mistakes.
We wish to achieve things in the sky which is starry,
And dance with heavy clothes along with the snowflakes.

The second start, the day when the book of laws was made
Benefiting with lots of coziness
By following the precious and helping rules that had stayed
Till now under the country of people in millions
which prevents us from making a mess.

We can't guess who made it and how did they make it,
Because without knowing about them,
The future would have not lit, As they are the country's stem.

Having made a constitution of a country of many races and religion,
Working hard under their desk
Taking three years, for the people- men and women,
Brought them to success, by completing their task.

Crossing their adversities, They brought us here.

Happy Republic Day

SATHVIK KALAKONDA, class IX B, Delhi
Public School, Nadergul



ENGLAND'S KEY MAN

Joe Root will become the 15th English cricketer to play 100 Test matches when he takes the field at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on February 5. Among the batsmen considered the cream in contemporary cricket – Root, Virat Kohli (87), Steve Smith (77) and Kane Williamson (83), the England captain is the first to get to 100 Tests

NOT IN THE SAME LEAGUE AS KOHLI, SMITH AND WILLIAMSON: ROOT

➤ Having played more Tests he is also the first to get past 8,000 runs among the four although unlike the other three his average is below 50. Root will be England's key in the forthcoming series. He showed the ability to play against spinners in the recent Test series in Sri Lanka, scoring 426 runs across two Tests, which included a double century and a score of 185.

➤ "It is a great achievement, the longevity. You need a good sense of humour. He (Root) has had a lot of highs but there will be moments when you have lows. You have to show character and resilience, tinker technique. Playing 100 Tests is no mean feat. He has always remained humble. Great student," said England batting coach Graham Thorpe, who also played 100 Test matches.

➤ Root though had recently said that he doesn't consider himself to be in the same league as Kohli, Smith and Williamson. "You're looking at three of the greatest players the game has seen. They're three brilliant people to watch play and learn from. I'm not sure I'd put myself in their bracket, to be honest," Joe Root told ESPNcricinfo recently. However, if he leads England to even a draw in this series after racking up big scores he will surely be counted among that bracket of the top four batsmen.

ROOT HAS A BRILLIANT GAME AGAINST SPINNERS: BUTTLER

➤ Teammate and wicketkeeper batsman Jos Buttler spoke on how crucial Root will be in India. "Joe was in fantastic form in Sri Lanka. He has always had a brilliant game in playing spin bowling. One of the best exponents of sweeps shots which is obviously a big strength when playing against spin. It is obviously very hard to keep dot balls away. He has so many options to score. He scores quickly and rotates strike," said Buttler. "I think the biggest thing when he batted against Sri Lanka was that he showed great application. Mentally, tactically and physically batted for so long. That is a great place for him to be at the start of the year."

➤ The series against Sri Lanka earlier this month has provided a glimmer of hope to him to work back among the elite batsmen. Before the Sri Lanka tour, he had just one century in 17 Test matches since the start of the English summer in 2019.

➤ Over the last three years he has averaged just over 42 which is lower than his career average of 49.39. And if the recent series against Sri Lanka is removed then the average in the period (since January 30, 2018) slips further to 37.89. Root has found a new lifeline in the tour of Sri Lanka and he will hope to continue the rich vein of form on the current tour.

OVERALL RECORD

MATCHES	99
RUNS	8249
AVG	49.39
50s	49
100s	19

VS INDIA

MATCHES	16
RUNS	1421
AVG	56.84
50s	9
100s	4

IN INDIA

MATCHES	6
RUNS	584
AVG	53.09
50s	5
100s	1

Root is currently the fourth-highest scorer for England in Test cricket. Root needs 251 runs more to register the mark of 8,500 in Tests. He could become only the third England batsman to achieve this mark after Alastair Cook (12,472) and Graham Gooch (8,900)

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Kohli, Ashwin and Ishant on the cusp of huge records

RECORD 1: Kohli can overtake MS Dhoni to become the most successful Indian captain at home

Under Virat Kohli's captaincy, India have won 20 Test matches so far in India, while Dhoni holds the record for most wins as captain on Indian soil (21). With two more victories, Kohli will become the most successful Indian captain at home.

RECORD 2: Virat Kohli 14 runs away from surpassing Clive Lloyd in an elite list

If Kohli scores 14 or more in the opening Test against England, he will move past two-time World Cup-winning skipper Lloyd to become the 4th highest run-getter in the purest format as captain. The only players above Kohli and Lloyd in the list currently are Graeme Smith (8,659),

Allan Border (6,623), and Ricky Ponting (6,542).

RECORD 3: Kohli could become only the third Indian with 2,000 Test runs against England

Kohli has tallied 1,570 runs from 19 Tests at an average of 49.06 against England. This is the sixth-highest by Indian batsmen against them in Tests after Sachin Tendulkar (2,535), Sunil Gavaskar (2,483), Rahul Dravid (1,950), Gundappa Viswanath (1,880) and Dilip Vengsarkar (1,589).

RECORD 4: Ashwin can become the fastest Indian to reach 400 Test wickets

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin needs 23 scalps to reach 400 Test wickets. The bowler currently has 377 wickets in 74 Tests at an average of

25.53. If he does so, Ashwin will become the fastest Indian to reach 400 Test scalps. Presently, Kumble holds this record for India, having achieved it in 85 Tests. He is followed by Harbhajan Singh (96) and Kapil Dev (115).

RECORD 5: Ishant Sharma could become India's second-highest wicket-taker among pacers

Ishant is just three wickets away from becoming the 6th Indian bowler and 3rd Indian pacer to bag 300 Test scalps. Ishant will join the likes of Kapil Dev and Zaheer Khan if he gets to 300 Test wickets in Chennai. However, Ishant will be the slowest to reach this milestone among Indians, after R Ashwin (54), Anil Kumble (66), Harbhajan Singh (72), Kapil Dev (83) and Zaheer Khan (89).

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: The heaviest total weight lifted in the men's 105 kg category is 437 kg by.....

- a) Lasha Talakhadze ☐ b) Gor Minasyan ☐
c) Irakli Turmanidze ☐ d) Ilya Ilyin ☐

Q2: Which of the following players hold the record of most international caps for football by an individual (female)?

- a) Abby Wambach ☐ b) Julie Foudy ☐
c) Kristine Lilly ☐ d) Mia Hamm ☐

Q3: Till date, 13 players have recorded bowling hat-tricks in international Twenty20

matches. Who was the first player to take hat-trick in T20I?

- a) Lasith Malinga ☐ b) Brett Lee ☐
c) Jacob Oram ☐ d) Tim Southee ☐

Q4: Who is the oldest female boxing world champion?

- a) Alicia Ashley ☐ b) Chevelle Hallback ☐
c) Elena Reid ☐ d) Marcela Acuna ☐

Q5: Who won the first Grand slam title by winning the Australian Open women's singles title in the year 2020?

- a) Naomi Osaka ☐ b) Ashleigh Barty ☐
c) Garbine Muguruza ☐ d) Sofia Kenin ☐

Q6: Who is the oldest goalscorer in a football

(soccer) FIFA Women's World Cup?

- a) Abby Wambach ☐ b) Lucien Laurent ☐
c) Homare Sawa ☐ d) Miraildes Maciel Mota ☐

Q7: Yasir Shah is the fastest cricketer to claim 200



Photo: AFP

Yasir Shah

wickets in Test cricket (male). In how many Tests, he reached that landmark?

- a) 33 ☐ b) 36 ☐ c) 37 ☐ d) 39 ☐

Q8: Who was the first Indian badminton Player to hold number one rank in World Rankings?

- a) Saina Nehwal ☐ b) PV Sindhu ☐
c) Pullela Gopichand ☐ d) Prakash Padukone ☐

Q9: Which of the following players hold the record of fastest goal in Premier League history?

- a) Christian Eriksen ☐ b) Shane Long ☐
c) Ledley King ☐ d) Alan Shearer ☐

Ronaldo doesn't always have to score for Juventus: Pirlo



Photo: REUTERS

Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo said his side can cope when Cristiano Ronaldo does not score after the Portuguese failed to net in their win at Sampdoria on Saturday to go three league games without a goal for the first time since August, 2019. Three matches without a goal is hardly a scoring drought, but by Ronaldo's standards it represents a dry spell of sorts and he has registered only once in his last five Serie A starts. "Ronaldo's goals are not always important for us," Pirlo told reporters. "He made a good assist for the second goal and it's okay to score without his goals. We do not rely on him." Goals from Federico Chiesa and a late strike from substitute Aaron Ramsey earned champions Juve the win that moved them within seven points of leaders AC Milan and above AS Roma into third place in the standings. REUTERS

Q10: Which of the following ball bowled record in a Test match?

- a) Shaun Tait ☐ b) Brett Lee ☐
c) Shoaib Akhtar ☐ d) Mitchell Johnson ☐

Q11: The most gold medals won at a Winter Olympics by a snowboarder is three, by which of the following athletes?

- a) Tony Hawk ☐ b) Kevin Pearce ☐
c) Mark McMorris ☐ d) Shaun White ☐

ANSWERS: 1 d) Ilya Ilyin 2 c) Kristine Lilly 3 b) Brett Lee 4 a) Alicia Ashley 5 d) Sofia Kenin 6 d) Miraildes Maciel Mota 7 a) 33 8 d) Prakash Padukone 9 b) Shane Long 10 c) Shoaib Akhtar 11 d) Shaun White