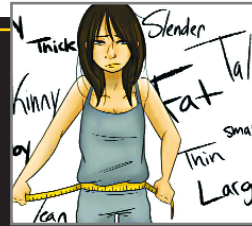




THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

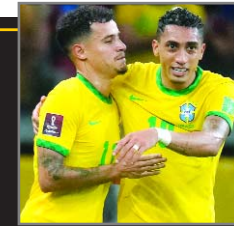
➤ Is your teen suffering from negative body image? Experts share tips on how to deal with it
PAGE 2



➤ Light up your favourite corner of the house with flavoured lamp and enjoy the set up with your friends and loved ones
PAGE 3



➤ Brazil stun Paraguay to make it to top of WC qualifiers
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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022



HOW DOES DIGITAL CURRENCY WORK

[CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2](#)

DIGITAL CURRENCY

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that India will soon have its digital currency. The Digital Rupee is a central bank digital currency (CBDC) that will be launched in 2022-23, the FM said...

WHAT Digital currency is money in an electronic form exchanged for goods and services without the use of physical money such as paper bills or coins. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), a central bank digital currency (CBDC) is the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. CBDCs should be exchangeable at par with cash," according to the RBI website. In simple terms, a CBDC is an electronic record or digital token of a country's official currency, which fulfills the basic functions as a medium of exchange, unit of account, store of value, and standard of deferred payment.

WHAT IS THE NEED FOR CBDC: According to Investopedia, the goal is to provide users with convenience and security of digital as well as the regulated, reserve-backed circulation of the traditional banking system. The central banks, faced with dwindling usage of paper currency, seek to popularise a more acceptable electronic form of currency (like Sweden) through CBDC.

WHY HAS THE GOVT GONE FOR SUCH A MOVE? Introduction of CBDC has the potential to provide significant benefits, such as reduced dependency on cash, higher seigniorage (profit made by a government by issuing currency) due to lower transaction costs, and reduced settlement risk. CBDC would possibly lead to a more robust, efficient, trusted, regulated and legal tender-based payments option. In other words, the adoption of CBDC will improve and make it easier for people to use with the supporting infra provided by the

government. The development will make digital currencies more accessible to the people just as Unified Payments Interface (UPI) made digital cash easier to use. CBDCs would also potentially enable a more real-time and cost-effective globalisation of payment systems. For example, an Indian importer can pay its American exporter on a real time basis in digital dollars, without the need of an intermediary. This transaction would be final, as if cash dollars are handed over, and would not even require that the US Federal Reserve system is open for settlement. Time zone difference would no longer matter in currency settlements. It could lead to a pragmatic shift to a cashless economy.

According to the RBI website, "In modern economies, currency is a form of money that is issued exclusively by the sovereign (or a central bank as its representative). Currency is a legal tender, which is usually issued in paper (or polymer) form, but the form of currency is not its defining characteristic"



What would you name India's digital currency? Post your comments at toistudent.com

WHAT DOES THE BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT MEAN?

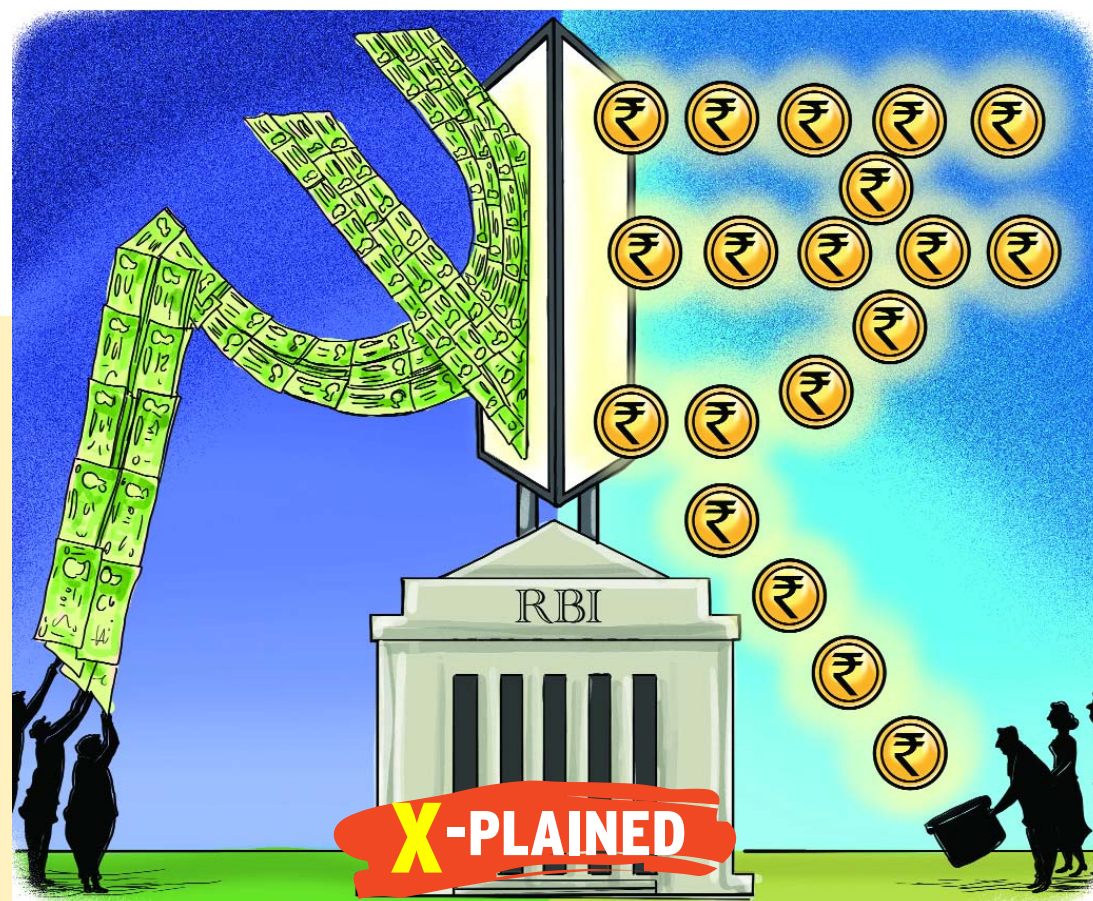
Economists believe that the announcement gives a clear cut view on the government's stand on cryptocurrencies and other virtual currencies. It may be noted that the RBI has on several occasions flagged concerns of money laundering, terror financing, tax evasion, etc, with private cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, Ether, etc, and had planned to announce its own CBDC

WILL IT MAKE ANY CHANGE FOR CITIZENS?

Though several models have been proposed by technology experts and evangelists on how the Digital Rupee could be transacted, the RBI is likely to issue the details of transactions soon. Till then, it's wait and watch for the citizens

WHICH ARE THE OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE GONE FOR IT

Till December 2021, 87 countries (representing over 90% of global GDP) have explored a CBDC, compared to only 35 countries, who were considering a CBDC in May 2020. Out of these, 9 countries (Bahamas, 7 eastern Caribbean and Nigeria) have now fully launched a digital currency. Nigeria is the latest country to launch a CBDC, the e-Naira, the first outside the Caribbean. However, the major countries with the 4 largest central banks (the US, the Euro Area, Japan, and the UK), are furthest behind. 14 countries, including China and South Korea, are preparing a possible full launch soon


X-PLAINED

TOP 3 BUZZ OF THE DAY

India on course to become \$ 5 trillion economy by FY26: CEA

Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran has expressed hope that India would become a \$5 trillion economy by FY26 or the next year on the back of 8-9 per cent sustained growth. The Gross domestic product (GDP) in dollar terms has already crossed \$3 trillion, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019 envisioned making India a \$5 trillion economy and a global economic powerhouse by 2024-25. With this, India would become the third largest economy in the world



■ Indian economy is estimated to grow at 9.2 per cent during the current fiscal while 8-8.5 per cent for the next financial year
■ Moreover, India is the fastest-growing large economy in the world.

CBSE Term 1 result 2022 update

CBSE Xth, XIIth result expected by first week of February



The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released a notification stating that the CBSE Term 1 result 2021-22 for class X and class XII students will be released only on the official website of the Board — cbseresults.nic.in. The Board has advised students to not follow misleading information doing the round over the internet and follow the official website only.



The CBSE Term 1 result 2022 will most likely be available on the official website of the Board by the first week of February. The mark sheet of the students will also be available online, and students can easily check that out through the official website — cbseresults.nic.in

Denmark says no to masks, to 'live normally' with Omicron

Denmark has waved goodbye to facemasks and health passes on February 1 as it became the first European Union country to lift all its domestic Covid curbs. This is despite a record number of cases of the milder Omicron variant. Only a few restrictions remain in place at the country's borders, for unvaccinated travellers arriving from the non-Schengen countries. Health authorities estimate that 80 per cent of Denmark's population is protected against severe forms of the disease. The strategy enjoys broad support at home



The Schengen Area is an area comprising 26 European countries that have officially abolished all passports and all other types of border control at their mutual borders. The area mostly functions as a single jurisdiction for international travel purposes, with a common visa policy

WhatsApp 'Delete for Everyone' feature may get extension

If reports are to go by, WhatsApp is working on extending the time limit for the 'Delete for Everyone' feature to two days and 12 hours from the existing one hour, eight minutes, and 16 seconds' time. Experts say the extension would help users delete their wrongly sent messages within a longer time frame. Once deleted using the feature, the message will be replaced with a notification saying, "This message was deleted."

WhatsApp introduced the existing over one-hour time limit in 2018. The feature to delete messages for everyone in the chat originally had a time limit of seven minutes



Even the WhatsApp Communities feature has gone for a few changes. The new feature would allow group admins to add and manage their multiple WhatsApp groups from a single place. It would also let admins send important announcements to all members at once

Facebook to launch world's fastest supercomputer

Facebook's parent company Meta has said that it has created what it believes is among the fastest artificial intelligence supercomputers running today. The social media giant said it hopes the machine will help lay the groundwork for its building of the metaverse, a virtual reality construct intended to supplant the internet as we know it today. Facebook said it believes the computer will be the fastest in the world once it is fully built around the middle of the year.

■ Supercomputers are extremely fast and powerful machines built to do complex calculations not possible with a regular home computer. Meta did not disclose where the computer is located or its cost to build

■ The computer, called AI Research SuperCluster, will help in building "new and better" AI models that can work across different languages simultaneously and analyse text, images and video together

BOOKS

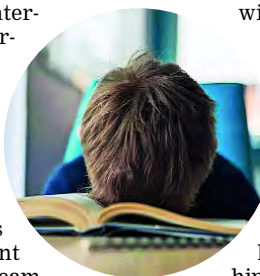
This is why your child is NOT READING

A teen author gives tips on introducing kids to the world of books

Books fuel imagination and creativity. But only if the reader gets hooked to the book – the genre, the story, the characters. If the book feels like a chore or reading it feels like "something that needs to be done", the experience is very different. If a child or an adult finds "their" book, it does not seem tedious, long, heavy, dull or boring.

As a teenager, I can share from my own personal perspective as well as many of my peers. Simply put, most other forms of entertainment today,

such as streaming videos and music, provide as much entertainment without requiring the effort involved in reading a book. In previous generations, books used to be the primary source of entertainment; however, with the rise of low effort, easy to access sources of entertainment like movies, TV, and streamable music, children are often lured away from reading. However, the good



news is that, regardless of the medium, the thirst for a story is still there.

The best way to break the ice is to introduce your children to books that are available in or similar to other forms of media. For example, books like 'Ready Player One' or 'The Lord of the Rings'; books that have movie versions. I, personally, got hooked to the 'Harry Potter' series after watching the first movie. One of the challenges with these novels is that they may seem intimidating at first due to their sheer volume and large word counts. But if your child connects to the genre and can discuss the stories at home or with their friends, the books can become a central part of their lives. Another option for beginner readers is novels in verse such as 'The Crossover' by Kwame Alexander or 'Long Way Down' by Jason Reynolds. Not only are these books not word-heavy, but they also flow like hip-hop music (easing the transition from modern-day mainstream entertainment).

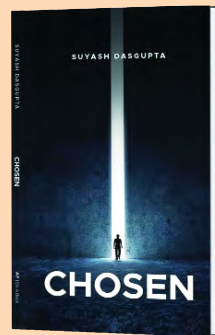
> Some children may not be actively picking up books anymore, but they still love stories. Getting children to read will require some effort and rules.

> First, do not insist on any specific genres, let your child pick up a novel that grabs their attention. A teen who has not read much for 10+ years is unlikely to start with a literary classic; let them engage in the world of novels through something familiar to them (whether that means books with movie adaptations or novels in verse) or a topic/genre of their choice.

> Second, engage with them in discussions about the stories and the characters. Share with them the fact that reading allows them to build their own interpretations of these stories through

their imaginations, without the constricting views of the filmmakers and musicians who have shared their perspectives on stories through their work. Allow them to share these perspectives with you (their parents) through conversations, and let these stories evolve the

same way they did even before they were written down in books.



Suyash Dasgupta is the author of Chosen

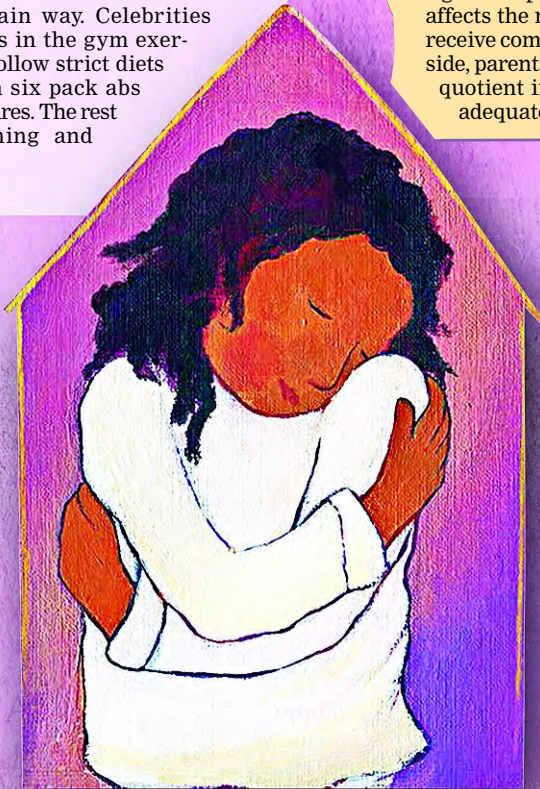
POSITIVE PARENTING

How parents can help teenagers suffering from a NEGATIVE BODY IMAGE

Our body image is how we perceive and feel about the way we look. We all have aspects of ourselves that we don't like and would like to change. It might have to do with our shape, features, size and weight of our body. If we don't hyperfocus on the things we don't like about our appearance and we accept them as is, we are likely to have a more positive self-image of ourselves. A positive self-image leads to healthy life choices and positive thoughts and behaviours.

It is a known fact that most of us

are constantly bombarded with images of perfectly toned and fit bodies. The glamour world sets a benchmark of what's "attractive" and "acceptable" and many teenagers try to achieve these set standards not realising that some of the images in magazines and billboards are shot and enhanced to look a certain way. Celebrities spend hours in the gym exercising and follow strict diets to maintain six pack abs and slim figures. The rest is airbrushing and cosmetics.



ENCOURAGE OPEN HONEST COMMUNICATION

Teenagers, at times, feel that their parents don't understand them. They feel that either their parents are always looking at them from their lenses or are lecturing them. Then there is always a feeling of a generation gap. Teenagers are quick to go into a shell and limit their conversations with parents if they feel unheard, disrespected or misunderstood by their parents. It is important that parents take a neutral stand and give teenagers the space to vent and to share their point of view. Encourage your teens to have an unfiltered conversation with you. Don't interrupt them when they speak and take genuine interest in what they have to say.

DON'T EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF LOOKING A CERTAIN WAY

It is important that parents walk the talk and not set expectations from their teenagers to look a certain way. Some teenagers love to shop for branded clothes or certain types of clothes and it becomes a challenge for parents to stop their children from doing so. How do you tell a teen that a certain type of top or dress will not look good on them? How do you pre-warn them that if they wore a dress, top or jeans it may open them up for ridicule from their friends or classmates? Talk about the importance of dressing for comfort over dressing for only style.

STOP PROJECTING YOUR OWN INSECURITIES ON YOUR CHILD

If you are a parent who has grown up in an environment where looks have been given a lot of importance then you may unknowingly be transferring your views to your children. In our society, lean and thin people are considered attractive, as are light complexioned ones. These notions are societal but it affects the morale of people. It's imperative for many teens to receive compliments on one's looks to feel confident. From your side, parents, don't discuss looks too much about looks and style quotient in front of your children so that they don't feel inadequate. Also, praise their appearance from time to time.

TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH AND EXERCISE

Teenagers these days have so many tools of distraction like their smartphones, social media, OTT (Netflix) and gaming to keep them occupied and distracted from exercising. It is important to encourage teens to maintain an exercise routine. Make them pick up a new sport, to continue with a sport they are familiar with (like cricket, squash or tennis).

LOOK FOR SIGNS OF BDD

BDD or Body dysmorphic disorder is where a person becomes overly anxious over a physical aspect of themselves. Often, people hyperfocus on one area or a perceived defect in their physical appearance, a scar or even a mark on their skin. They then tend to obsess over this defect. At times these thoughts are so intense that they find it difficult to think of anything else. This can then impact their daily life and studies.

SOME OF THE COMMON SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF BDD TO LOOK FOR ARE:

- Being preoccupied with flaws in their physical appearance. Sometimes these flaws are too small to be noticed by others.
- Repeatedly looking in the mirror and being self-conscious of ones' appearance.
- Always consulting cosmetic surgeons and dermatologists to enhance ones' features.
- Being hyper critical of one's appearance. Spending too much time speaking about one's flaws in appearance.
- Looking for external validation and being worried that their flaws are not visible by others and are well concealed.
- Always being alert and self-conscious. They may even avoid crowded places and avoid socialising with the fear of being judged by others about their looks.



ASK THE EXPERT

My kids hate each other!



QUERY: My kids (16 and 18 years) hate each other and I have tried on several occasions to make them sort out their differences but it just doesn't work. I don't know what happened that they hold so much angst and resentment against each other. What do you think can help bring them close again?

It is usually very distressing for a parent to see their children not getting along well, since we know how important it is for siblings to share a great bond with each other.

I can understand how difficult it must be for you to try and help sort their differences out without it being of any use. Since, you have tried to make them sort their difference, following are some other ways that might help you:

It would be better to try talking to both of them separately, making them understand that whatever they will share with you, you will not be revealing it to the other sibling without informing them. Try to understand what their issues might have been, which have remain unresolved and they may have become worse over time due to lack of proper communication and understanding.

Try understanding their point of view without holding judgement about how an elder or a younger one should be behaving or doing rather giving them both a safe space to share their concern

where they feel heard.

You can give them both a chance to write letters or notes to each other instead of making them confront each other with you being present.

It is also very crucial as a parent to introspect and ask children if at any time they felt like the other was being given more attention or affection and thus developed some resentment for the other sibling.

Try not to forcefully make them engage in conversation or activities.

If you feel like as a parent, you are not able to do much about this situation, it is best to seek help from a family therapist who may be able to address the concerns better since one or both might be struggling with some issues that they don't share or are unable to understand on their own.

Hope this helps. If you still have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.

Dr Rachna Khanna Singh is HOD – Holistic Medicine, Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon

GO FOR SUSTAINABLE GIFTS

ECO-FRIENDLY FARE

For the sake of environment and creativity, making gifts with eco-friendly ingredients available around us is a great idea. Upcycle, recycle and make the best out of waste. Here are some gifting ideas



GROWABLE GIFTS: Plants and flowers are the most beautiful creation of nature. So, gifting a potted plant is a nice option for many special occasions. While choosing a plant to give, pick one in a beautiful and attractive pot so that can be used for home embellishment. You can also paint an old pot, plant a herb and gift it to someone.

HANDMADE GIFTS: If you are good at craft and know how to utilise raw materials into something beautiful, then hand-made gifts are a perfect option. Such hand-made gifts can be made with inexpensive raw materials or also by recycling anything you find suitable for the same like jute bags, beaded jewellery, DIY cards, etc.



REUSABLE COFFEE MUGS: Traditionally, coffee cups were made of paper and they were of one-time use. They used to be plastic laminated and also had a plastic lid and so they couldn't be composted. Therefore, switching to reusable coffee cups can be a great way to reduce plastic waste. There are reusable cups available in steel, ceramic, or tempered glass. All these materials are recyclable, and don't contribute to waste production.

AROMATHERAPY CANDLES: This is non-toxic and makes for a great eco-friendly gift. Buy them from weekly haats or online after doing some research on the kind of aroma candles the person you intend to gift it to likes. Not everyone likes all kinds of fragrances – so it's best to know those details and then go for it.

By Ruchita Bansal, founder & creative director of a gift store



MOVIE: SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME

The third film of Tom Holland's Spider-Man, Spider-Man: No Way Home, is action packed and emotionally gripping. Spider-Man fans will feel nostalgic watching this movie. The story revolves around Peter Parker (Tom Holland) whose superhero identity is revealed by Mysterio. Peter seeks the help of Dr. Strange but the spell gets tampered with and opens the multiverse. Villains and heroes of



previous Spider-Man movies come into the picture. There are cameos of other MCU heroes. There are a ton of mind blowing scenes. The film is very inspirational and gives you many life lessons. It is a must watch.

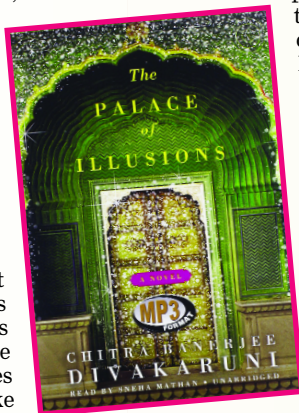
MANDEEP BODDU, class IX-C, Mahar Regiment, Silver Oaks International School, Mighty Oaks Campus, Bachupally, Hyderabad



Book: 'The Palace of Illusions' by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Our Indian culture is famous for its mythology and literary works such as the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and The Gita. Owing to their threshold of values, flamboyant stories, and applicable life lessons, these chronicles have been translated into many different languages like the Razmanah - a translation of the Mahabharat in Persian and have gained critical acclaim across the globe.

It's worthy to note that out of all these religious works, the Mahabharata is the most 'human story' we can find. Based on contraries as diverse as possible, like



morals and deceptions, love and hatred, vengeance, and forgiveness, it covers all the situations we imperfect mortals can come across. But when we cross the bridge of morals present in the Mahabharata, one can't help but notice that most of these ideologies have been presented by the

male characters in the story. 'The Palace of Illusions' is a marvellous novel, a contemporary Mahabharata. Penned by the magical hand of Dr. Chitra Divakaruni, it opens a new door, a novel perspective on the age-old saga. Here, the narrating voice has been shifted to Panchaali. Born from fire, with a fierce character, she tells her own story - neglected, rare, and just as precious. She fills in the gaps of the epic with her feelings and views that aren't considered. From her secluded childhood, where her brother and Krishna were the only beacons of light, to her marriage with five of the greatest warriors of her time, to the devastating war



- the result she had to reap of her actions, and at last, to the ultimate end she faced, this story covers all that she has been through. Hence, by giving primacy to her feelings, it's proved that women have their morals, their hatred, and yes, their vengeance too.

This is a must-read novel for the years 13 and above, a woman's take on a domain dominated by men and gods. An event that took place when the world was shifting into the grip of the Kali-Yuga.

NIDHI RAJAKUMARA, class VII-C, Delhi Public School, Miyapur

DO IT YOURSELF

WOOLLEN LOVE BIRDS WALL DECOR

Wall décor gives a special look to the walls and without them the walls seem empty. Let's learn how to make this cute woollen bird for room decorations

MATERIAL USED: Yarn-3 colours, scissors, cardboard, glue, paper, 2 black beads (medium size) and one wooden stick



STEPS: Start with rolling the colour of wool of your choice around the length of the cardboard. Make sure you wrap it at least 40-50 times. Follow the same with the other two colours.
After you finish rolling all 3 colours, make them of the same length and cut one end of the wool of all three colours and separate it from the cardboard.
Next, hold any two colours and interlock them like a chain. Tie a small portion of the first colour from the interlock with the same coloured yarn. Do the same for the other colour.
Then, take a white paper ball of 2-3 cm in diameter; for the head. Keep this paper in the centre of the interlock and rollover the pattern following one colour over another.
Now, take the 3rd colour yarn and keep it horizontal beneath this arrangement. Roll it up sideways from beneath over the

head in a cross pattern.
Next, tie this arrangement with a strand of the third colour and cut the extra portions to make it even.
Now, stick the eyes, that are the beads and its beak.
Now, for the pom-poms, wrap some of the wool around your three fingers for 20 times, tie a knot in the middle and cut the two ends. Stick the pom-poms to a string and tie it with the wooden stick. Decorate it as you wish. Your amazing yet cute wall décor is ready!

VAIBHAVI MEHTA, class VIII, Tulip, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad

The glory of our rich history



Army Public School, Bolarum celebrated Republic Day with patriotic zeal. The celebration commenced with the hoisting of the national flag by Principal Smitha Govind. The chief guest on the occasion was Major General Cyrus Pithawalla AC, VSM (RETD). He addressed the students and urged them to study the rich cultural Indian history during their spare time, focus the mind on six essential points to acquire knowledge and become academically competent - use your time purposefully, work hard, build impeccable character, imbibe in yourself qualities of integrity, respect truthfulness and discipline. He further added that these qualities will make one an acclaimed leader and a good human being. Students showcased a colourful and vibrant programme which included songs, dance, poem and speech by Head Girl Mehar Singh.

Army Public School Bolarum

Army Public School, Golconda, celebrated the 73rd Republic Day with immense patriotic fervour, zeal and enthusiasm in the school and virtually. A plethora of activities were organized to infuse the spirit of unity, brotherhood and patriotism among the students.

The celebrations commenced with the unfurling of the tricolour by Principal Vidya Muralidharan. She acknowledged that everyone is going through a tough period, but with peace in mind and pride in heart we would certainly see the light at the end of the tunnel.

As India celebrates "Azadi Ka Mahotsav" to commemorate 75 years of Independence, the students expressed what they envision India to be in the year 2047. They visualized India as the world's tech and economic superpower, where the timeless ancient wisdom and progressive modern science go hand in hand. This was followed by a beautiful rendition of the song "Teri Mitti" by the school choir.

Army Public School Golconda, Hyderabad

The students presented a dance drama on the significance of Republic Day and entertained the audience with graceful dances from different states of India. The rendition of a self composed poem "Veero Ko Salam" by the students evoked the feeling of patriotism in all. The spirited rendition of the poem "Mere Sapno Ka Bharat" by the primary students was appreciated by all.

The event ended with a video of the various activities the students had participated in through the month to commemorate this momentous occasion. Snippets of debate, poetry, essay, fancy dress competitions were showcased along with activities of "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan". The event ended on an optimistic note with students pledging to contribute towards building a progressive nation.



SRINIKA V, class IV, Blossoms International School of Excellence, Hyderabad



NEEL GUPTA, class II, Global Edge, Kokapet, Hyderabad

Let's gain independence from Covid!



We have just celebrated our 73rd Republic Day in a grand way, but I realised that due to Covid, we have lost our Independence. We children have not been to school since 20 months. Our childhood has been impacted as we are unable to go outside to public places like parks, temples, malls, playgrounds, etc.

We all are stuck at our homes, not even able to meet our own extended family members or friends. We are unable to spend time and visit our grandparents due to the fear of Covid. Above all, we are not even able to breathe freely as we need to wear masks always and use a lot of medical equipment to keep ourselves safe and healthy. It is almost like life before independence from Britishers. I pray that we get independence from this pandemic and a lead a free and a normal life.

NIKUNJ G, class VI, Blossoms International School of Excellence

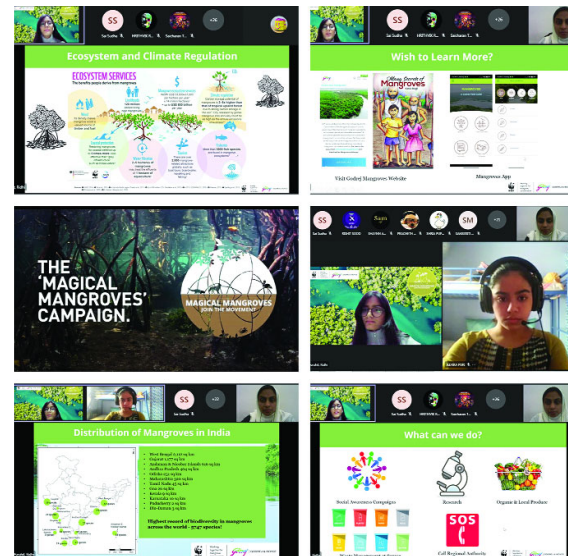
Moms, always a sport!



Gitanjali Devshala Hyderabad

A passion for a dream, a will to work hard and a vision creates champions. The little champs of PP2 Gitanjali Devshala, geared up for an exciting "The Mom 'n Me' sports day. The online event was vitalised by the presence of the little athletes along with their mothers. Fun games were played together and individually. The children participated with a lot of enthusiasm and sportsmanship. They also had a talent display and showcased what they had learnt during the pandemic.

SPREADING AWARENESS ON THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM



The Science and Eco Club in collaboration with WWF (World Wildlife Fund for Nature) organised an interesting and informative session on The Magical Mangroves. This session emphasised on the need for awareness and importance of the mangrove ecosystem and its spread across the eight states of India.

Godrej along with the WWF is tackling problems related to science and nature to promote awareness on a larger scale. Ridhi from Godrej Mangrove was the key speaker for the session along with Sai Sudha, Education Officer, WWF Hyderabad.

The sessions helped students to understand that mangroves are tidal forests, a type of rainforest, chiefly tropical coastal swamps having numerous tangled roots which form above ground and are dense. Mangroves serve as Arborescent standing between bodies of water and populated areas by protecting them from hurricanes and other natural disasters. It was fascinating to know that in India there are about 4921 square kilometres of mangrove forests. Indian Mangroves represent 3.3% of mangroves globally and 56% of species globally.

Human activities pose a threat to mangrove forests in the form of fishing farming, untreated sewage, waste dumping, tree cutting and encroachment.

In India, mangrove systems are legally protected. We as citizens can try to create social awareness, produce locally and organically, maintain waste management, and help conserve the mangrove forests.

Sanskriti Maduri, class IX-A, Birla Open Minds International School Kollur, Hyderabad

BRAZIL STUN PARAGUAY

Cement position at the top, end Paraguay's hopes of qualifying for World Cup

Brazil scored twice in the last four minutes, including a first international goal for Real Madrid striker Rodrygo, to cap a comfortable 4-0 win over Paraguay in Tuesday's World Cup qualifier in Belo Horizonte. The defeat ended Paraguay's hopes of qualifying for Qatar and further cemented Brazil's position as one of the favourites to lift the trophy in December. Brazil topped the South American qualifying group with no defeats in 15 games and the win extended to 61 matches their unbeaten home record in World Cup qualifiers.

NOT TASTED VICTORY

Paraguay, who have yet to win any of their first five games under coach Guillermo Barros Schelotto, are second from bottom of the 10-team group with 13 points from 16 games. It was a successful but frustrating night for Raphinha, who scored one, had another chalked off, and also hit the post. The Leeds United winger thought he had put Brazil 1-0 up after just 93 seconds only to see the goal ruled out after a lengthy consultation with the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

COMMANDING PERFORMANCE

However, with 28 minutes gone he superbly controlled a long ball from Marquinhos and wriggled between two defenders to put Brazil 1-0 ahead. He was unlucky not to get another early in the second half as he saw his volley come back off the post. Philippe Coutinho got a deserved second for the home side just after the hour when he placed a sumptuous shot into the top corner of the net from 30 meters out. Antony made the scoreline more reflective of the play with four minutes left when he curled a left-foot



Rodrygo

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

shot past a helpless keeper. And Rodrygo tapped home a minute later to round off a commanding performance from the five-times world champions.

NEYMAR INJURED

Vinicius Jrn, Matheus Cunha, and Lucas Paqueta also came close for Brazil, who, with qualification already guaranteed, fielded a much-changed side. Talismanic striker Neymar was out injured and there were rare starts for goalkeeper Ederson, midfielder Fabinho, left back Alex Telles and captain on the night Dani Alves. New Newcastle signing Bruno Guimaraes made a substitute appearance in the second half. AGENCIES



Antony

Photo: AFP



Brazil's Philippe Coutinho, left, celebrates with teammate Raphinha after scoring his side's 2nd goal against Paraguay

Photo: AP

ICC U-19 WC: ENGLAND BEAT AFGHANISTAN TO ENTER FINAL

End 24-year long wait to reach the title clash

Fancied England kept their nerve to reach the ICC U-19 World Cup final after prevailing over Afghanistan by 15 runs in an exciting last-four clash here, ending a 24-year wait for the side. Spinner Rehan Ahmed became the hero for the Young Lions, taking three wickets in the penultimate over when their opponents needed just 18 runs from 10 balls.

It was a remarkable turnaround for England from the previous tournament just two years ago in South Africa when they finished ninth. As for Afghanistan, they will head to the Coolidge Cricket Ground for the third-place playoff.

Rain delay

Rain delayed the first of the two super league semi-finals at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Ground after England won the toss and chose to bat. Once both sides were eventually able to take to the field, it was Afghanistan who made

the stronger start. Jacob Bethell, who lit up the quarter-final tie with 88 against South Africa last week, was trapped LBW by Naveed Zadrin, an early sign England faced a difficult task.

Prest's early exit

Skipper Tom Prest then joined vice-captain Bethell in making an early departure, reducing them to 2-56, as the Young Lions struggled to command with the bat. George Thomas did steady the ship with an excellent 50, but was later beaten by a fine delivery from Noor Ahmad. Qhen William Luxton was clean bowled by Izharulhaq Naveed, Prest's team were five wickets down with 100 runs on the board. However, rain delayed play.

Different dynamic

England's back-end partnership of 95 from George Bell and Alex Horton then managed to put a different dynamic on their innings. The duo attacked the Afghanistan seamers

fiercely to lift the final total to 231.

Weather interruptions meant Afghanistan had a revised DLS target to match this score and chasing their first ever U-19 World Cup final, they knew a good start was needed to seize control. Opener Nangeyalia Kharote was put out by English seamer Josh Boyden. Kharote's replacement, Allah Noor produced a marvelous knock including eight boundaries. Along with wicketkeeper Mohammad Ishaq, the pair got their team past 90, with Noor making a valuable half-century. AGENCIES

- England's crucial breakthrough came from a run-out for Ishaq with wicketkeeper Horton reacting quickly to a loose throw
- The 44th over turned the game for England with two no balls giving the opponents eight runs, before Abdul Hadi (37 not out) smashed a six.
- Ahmed's late flurry and a nerveless final over from Boyden carried England over the line.



Rehan Ahmed

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

MITCHELL WINS ICC SPIRIT OF CRICKET ACCOLADE

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell has been named recipient of the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award after his gesture in the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-final against England in Abu Dhabi. Mitchell has become the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.

"It's an honour to receive the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award," Mitchell said in an official release. "To be part of that T20 World Cup in UAE was an amazing experience, and to receive an award like this is pretty cool. It's something that we pride ourselves on as New Zealanders, the way we go about playing our cricket, and yes, the Spirit of Cricket side. Personally, I felt I got in the way and we wanted to win on our own terms, and didn't want to be controversial in such a big game," he added.



Daryl Mitchell

Photo: REUTERS

Mitchell wins the award for refusing to take a single in the high-pressure semi-final. England had posted 166/4. New Zealand were on the chase. On the first ball of the 18th over, bowled by Adil Rashid, with the score at 133/4, Neesham bashed the ball down. Mitchell, at the non-striker's end, refused to take the run, conceding that he had impeded Rashid. Mitchell's gesture oozed class. **ANI**

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Who was the first male tennis player to win Grand Slam singles titles on grass, red clay, and hard courts?

- Andy Roddick
- Andre Agassi
- Chris Evert
- Arthur Ashe

Q2: Which athlete retired, and had his number-99 jersey retired along with him, in '99?

- Wayne Gretzky
- Steve Yzerman
- Pavel Bure
- Tim Horton

Q3: Which US gymnast completed her final vault with a sprained ankle to clinch Olympic gold for her 1996 team?

- Aly Raisman
- Betty Okino
- Alicia Sacramone
- Kerri Strug

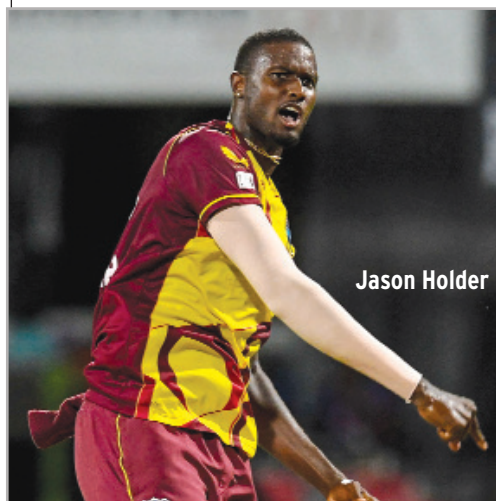
Q4: Which basketball team snagged the first four WNBA crowns?

- Miami Heat
- Chicago Bulls
- The Houston Comets
- New York Knicks

Q5: Jason Holder took four wickets in four balls which

included two golden ducks of

- Chris Jordan and Sam Billings
- Adil Rashid and Saqib Mahmood
- James Vince and Moeen Ali
- Liam Livingstone and Jason Roy



Jason Holder

Photo: AFP

Q6: Who holds the record for most goals in a calendar year?

- Lionel Messi
- David Beckham
- Kaka
- Neymar da Silva Santos Júnior

Q7: Who has won all 4 Grand Slams twice?

- Alexander Zverev
- Rafael Nadal
- Novak Djokovic
- Daniil Medvedev

Q8: Who was the first person to score a touchdown in the Super Bowl?

- Zlatan Ibrahimovic
- Zinedine Yazid Zidane
- Paolo Cesare Maldini
- Max Mcgee

Q9: Which team won the first Professional Baseball League?

- New York Knicks
- Brooklyn Nets
- The Pelicans
- Boston Celtics

ANSWERS: 1. b. Andre Agassi
2. a. Wayne Gretzky 3. d. Kerri Strug
4. c. The Houston Comets
5. b. Adil Rashid and Saqib Mahmood
6. a. Lionel Messi 7. b. Rafael Nadal
8. d. Max Mcgee 9. c. The Pelicans