



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## TODAY'S EDITION

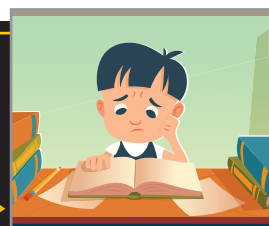
➤ Checkout our wellness resolutions for 2021  
➤ Some tips for your mental well-being

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➤ Students and educators share their views on a variety of issues engulfing the nation and the world

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➤ Why Is Team India reluctant to travel to Brisbane for the fourth Test against Australia?

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021



WEB EDITION

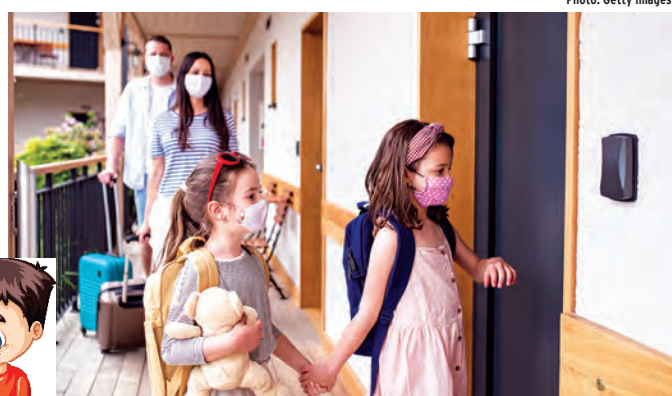
CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

## PANDEMIC TRENDS THAT MAY PERSIST IN 2021

Photo: Getty Images

### Online learning

The education industry was one of the worst-hit sectors at the start of the outbreak. As concerns grew over students losing a crucial year, traditional modes of lecture and schooling gave way to remote learning. In fact, it accelerated the growth of the ed-tech sector, and the trend is unlikely to wane anytime soon, feel experts. The ed-tech sector, already primed to grow in the coming decade, returned to the drawing board to revise their valuation projections. Many of India's online learning portals like Byju's and Eruditus, among others, now offer highly-interactive, customised courses at par with the finest around the world. Therefore, experts believe that even when schools re-open, online learning may remain a significant component of pedagogical practice.



### Focus on cybersecurity

The advancements in technology has also increased the rate of cybercrimes. The lockdowns, which forced the world to get more dependent on technology—as people were forced to work remotely—proved to be a golden opportunity for the hackers to take full advantage of the situation. No wonder, the year 2020 saw an alarming spike in the number of

cyberattacks and cybercams. However, the year also witnessed a greater focus on developing a robust and secure security architecture in cyber space. Experts expect this trend to continue in 2021 and beyond. Cybersecurity experts—even those with limited experience—are likely to be highly-sought after assets in 2021, as companies look to earmark larger budgets towards securing the data of their clients, they predict.

### The gig economy

The unprecedented unemployment crisis, courtesy the Covid-19 outbreak, brought the salaried-class into the limelight. The government's focus, largely on the poor through the stimulus package, came as a blessing in disguise for the salaried employee, who was rendered jobless. The jobless salaried workers refashioned themselves into freelance workers and took up part-time or contractual work. They became their own boss. From content creators to digital marketing specialists to web designers, companies have also come to recognise that outsourcing some parts of their business processes may be more cost-effective than recruiting full-time employees. This pattern, often referred to as the gig economy is expected to get a boost in 2021.



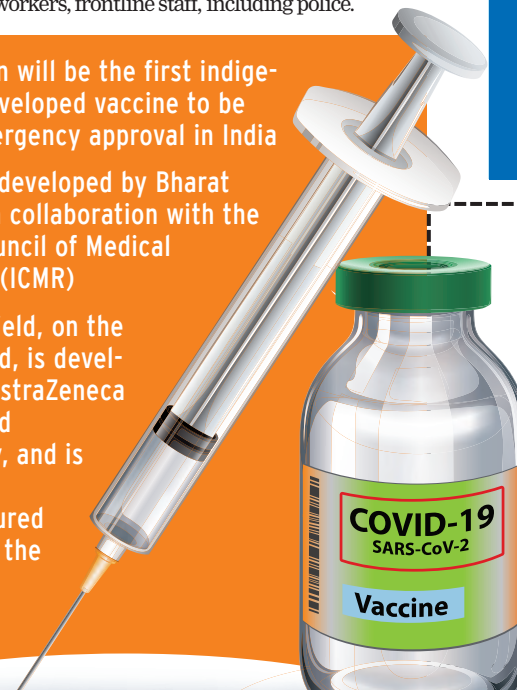
## DCGI approves Covishield & Covaxin for restrictive emergency use

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) on Sunday gave nod to two coronavirus vaccines—one developed by AstraZeneca (Covishield) and Oxford University and the other by Bharat Biotech (Covaxin) for restricted emergency use. The DCGI also allayed concerns over the safety of the vaccines, saying, "we'll never approve anything, if there's slightest of safety concern." The initial immunisation plan aims to vaccinate 300 million people health care workers, frontline staff, including police.

➤ Covaxin will be the first indigenously-developed vaccine to be given emergency approval in India

➤ It was developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

➤ Covishield, on the other hand, is developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, and is being manufactured locally by the Serum Institute



It would make every Indian proud that the two vaccines that have been given emergency use approval are made in India! This shows the eagerness of our scientific community to fulfil the dream of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, at the root of which is care and compassion

NARENDRA MODI, PM



➤ Meanwhile, a nationwide dry run to assess the preparedness on the field for the vaccination process was conducted on Saturday

➤ The exercise was held in all the state capitals in at least three session sites

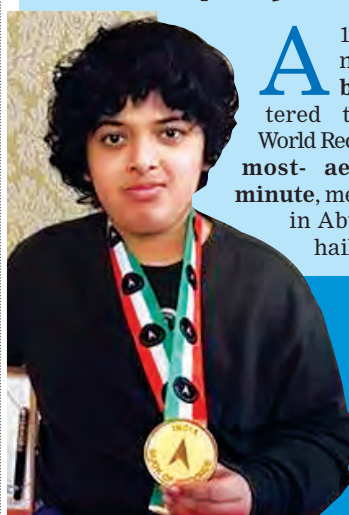
➤ Earlier, the Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said that Covid-19 vaccines will be provided free of cost to all Indians

## FACTOID

2,000

Year-old frescoed hot food and drinks shop, serving the ancient street food to Roman passersby, have been discovered in Pompeii, a city in south of Naples. Known as a 'ter-mopolium', a Latin word for hot drinks counter, the shop was discovered in the archaeological park's Regio V site, which is not yet open for the public. Archaeologists say the front of the counter was decorated with brightly-coloured frescoes, some depicting animals that were part of the ingredients in the food sold, such as a chicken and two ducks hanging upside down

## 12-year-old in Guinness World Record for identifying most-aeroplane tails



A 12-year-old Indian boy named Siddhant Gumber in the UAE has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for identifying the most aeroplane tails in a minute, media reports said. Based in Abu Dhabi, Gumber, who hails from Haryana, identified

### IN THE RECORD BOOKS

39 aeroplane tails in 60 seconds. He achieved the Guinness world record last month. According to reports, Gumber is also the youngest Indian to identify top 100-tallest buildings. He was recognised by the 'India Book of World Records' for this feat.

"I have been a lego buff since I was a toddler. My father and I, spent a lot of time creating a variety of models – rockets, aeroplanes, buildings and vehicles. I was able to recognise a lot of the aeroplane tails. My mother helped me compile them in PowerPoint slides, and that helped me to identify them quickly"

### ENTERTAINMENT

IRRFAN KHAN-STARRER 'THE SONG OF THE SCORPIONS' WILL RELEASE IN THEATRES THIS YEAR



Actor Irrfan Khan's last film 'The Song of Scorpions' will release in cinema halls in 2021, makers have announced. Panorama And 70mm will be presenting the film—a Feather Light and KNM production—in cinemas across India in early 2021.

➤ The film is written and directed by Anup Singh, who also directed Irrfan in the post-Partition drama, 'Gissa'

➤ The film revolves around an independent young tribal woman (Iranian actor Golshifteh Farahani), who tries to overcome a brutal betrayal to find her voice

## NEW SPECIES OF INDIAN MURAINGRASS

DISCOVERED



Researchers from Pune have discovered a species of Indian Muraingrass along the Western Ghats. *Ischaemum janarthanamii*, named after M K Janarthanam, a professor of Botany at the Goa University, the new species, belonging to Genus *Ischaemum*, was identified after undertaking thorough morphological studies of the samples collected from the laterite surfaces on the outskirts of Goa's Bhagwan Mahavir National Park.

Apart from being of economic significance, as it is commonly-used as fodder, this species has fought harsh conditions to survive in this ecologically-sensitive region, say scientists



India is home to around 61 out of the 85 species of *Ischaemum* known globally. Incidentally, the Western Ghats are abundant with approximately 40 species belonging to this genus

## Spotlight

### TIME SQUARE'S NEW YR BALL DROPPING TRADITION RECREATED IN SPACE

The astronauts aboard the International Space Station (ISS) brought a little bit of Earth tradition into space as they welcomed the New Year 2021. The ISS-astronauts from NASA recreated the iconic ball dropping tradition of New York City in their own zero gravity way.



Since the astronauts were in zero gravity, they gave the ball dropping tradition a tweak. The team of five astronauts did a countdown to welcome the New Year 2021, and suspended a ball that looked like Earth, which floated upwards.

In the wake of a year like 2020, putting together an events' calendar for 2021 seems like tempting fate. But it's a risk we have decided to take, with the caveat that all the dates are subject to the pandemic's progress and immunisation efforts. ...

## Calendar 2021

### JANUARY

**JAN 11-14:** The world's largest tech conference, CES, will commence online. It is slated to return to its usual venue of Las Vegas only in 2022

**JAN 20:** Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. Kamala Harris will take oath as the first female, South Asian, and Black vice-president

**JAN 14-APRIL 30:** Kumbh Mela will begin in Haridwar. According to an estimate, usually over 3 million people take a dip in the Ganga during the course of the event. Needs to be seen how it will commence this year

### FEBRUARY

**FEBRUARY 1:** Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the Union Budget. After a year ravaged by the pandemic, all eyes will be on the FM's road map to get the India story back on track

**FEBRUARY 8:** Australian Open, the year's first grand slam, will begin three weeks later than the usual schedule. Players will likely have to quarantine for three weeks.

### APRIL

**APRIL 25:** The tentative date for the Oscars announced by the Academy. But the nature of the event and even the date will ultimately depend on the pandemic

**APRIL-JUNE:** The 14th edition of the IPL may commence

### MAY

**MAY 11-29:** The 74th edition of the Festival de Cannes is scheduled for May, though there are also contingency plans with backup dates for July and August.

**MAY 17-JUNE 6:** This will be the 125th edition of the French Open, the ultimate clash on the clay court

### JULY

**JULY 23-AUGUST 8:** After multiple postponements, the summer Olympics will be hosted in Japan, which is estimated to have spent over \$12 billion in preparations

### JUNE

**JUNE 11-JULY 11:** The UEFA Euro Championship will take place after the 60th edition skipped a year due to the pandemic. It's slated to be held in 12 cities, with the final match in Wembley.

**JUNE 28-JULY 11:** Wimbledon fans can look forward to their favourite tournament once more, after it was cancelled in 2020 for the first time since World War II

### OCT-NOV

India is set to host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with the finals likely to be held on November 13

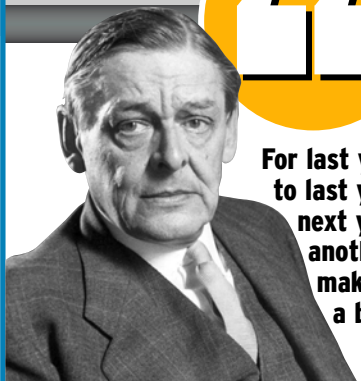
**NOVEMBER 1:** The three-month Kochi-Muziris Biennale is set to open. The previous edition had attracted over 6 lakh visitors



## QUOTES BY FAMOUS AUTHORS THAT WILL INSPIRE YOU THIS

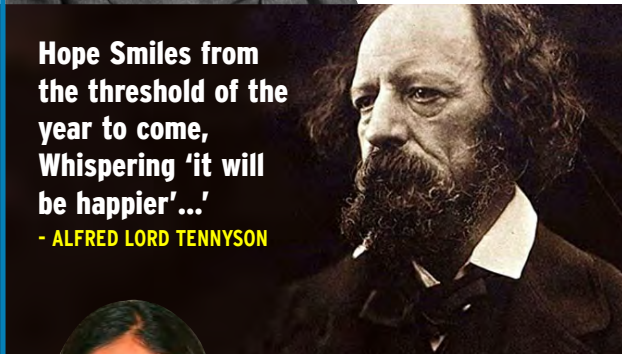
# NEW YEAR

As 2020 came to an end (finally) and we are settling into a new year, here we share some quotes by famous authors that will inspire you to begin 2021 on a hopeful note. Read on



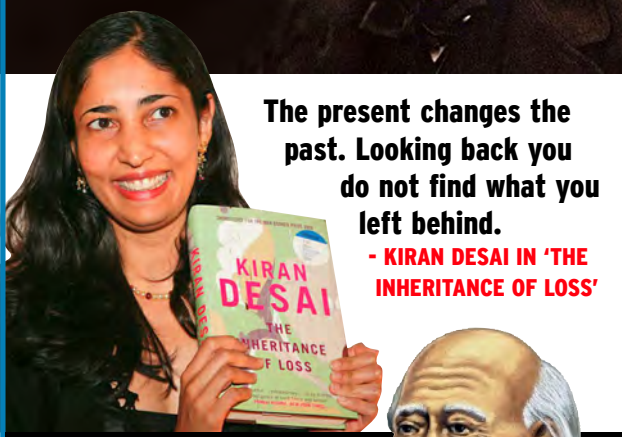
For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.

- T.S. ELIOT



Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'...

- ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

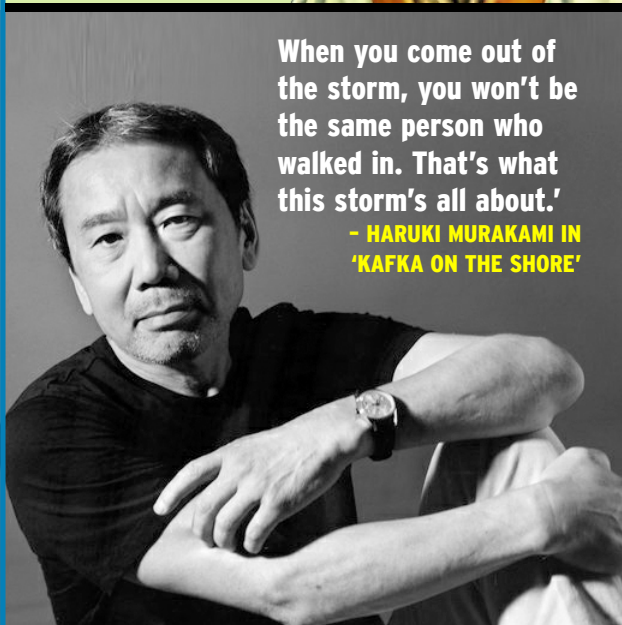


The present changes the past. Looking back you do not find what you left behind.

- KIRAN DESAI IN 'THE INHERITANCE OF LOSS'

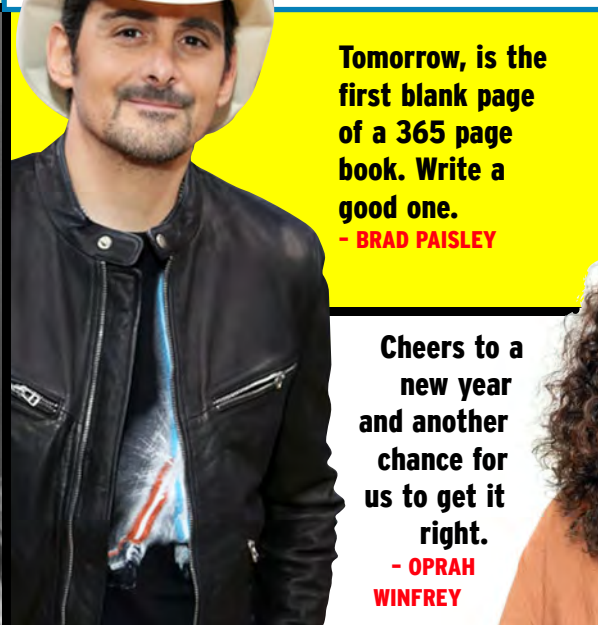
New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings.

- LAO TZU



When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm's all about.

- HARUKI MURAKAMI IN 'KAFKA ON THE SHORE'



Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.

- BRAD PAISLEY

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.

- OPRAH WINFREY

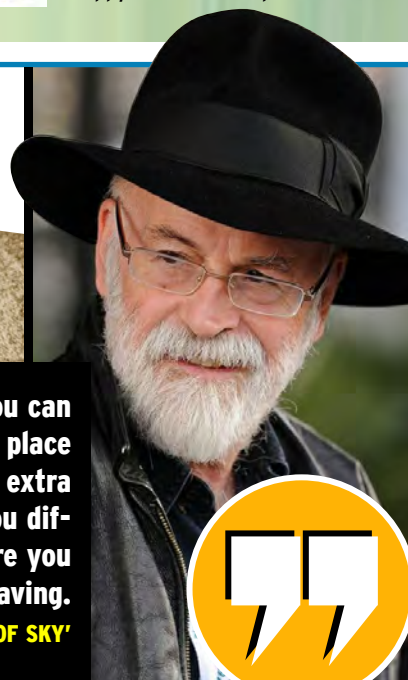


It's never too late to become who you want to be. I hope you live a life that you're proud of, and if you find that you're not, I hope you have the strength to start over.

- F SCOTT FITZGERALD

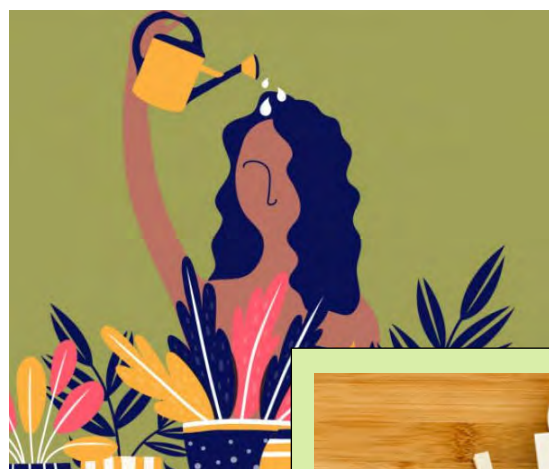
Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colours. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.

- TERRY PRATCHETT IN 'A HAT FULL OF SKY'



# Wellness resolutions you must make

2020 has come to an end which means, we must make some new wellness resolutions for 2021. Globally speaking, we were too stressed out, burnt out and worked up last year. This gives us all the more reason to look forward to what's in store for this year rather positively. So, in 2021, embrace some new habits that will improve your well-being and happiness levels



### UP YOUR SELF-CARE GAME

First and foremost, you need to up your self-care game in 2021. The last year was traumatic for a lot of people out there. So many lost their jobs, mental health, friends and family members. If there's one thing that you must learn, it is to take good care of yourself above all in the next year. It could be something very small that you do for yourself once in the entire day, but making time for yourself is all that you need to focus on.

### DIGITAL DETOX

We cannot emphasise enough on how important it is for your peace of mind to take a detox day from the digital world. The last year was spent mostly on digital mediums. This year, change this for yourself and take a day off or even more from all social media platforms and see how good and relaxed it makes you feel on the inside.



### CHOOSE BRANDS WITH ECO-FRIENDLY PACKAGING

We know how plastic enters our oceans with devastating consequences for marine life. You can help make a difference in 2021 by choosing brands that use environmentally conscious packing. Whether it's glass bottles or ocean-made plastic, make a conscious decision of buying things with eco-friendly packaging.



### EAT WELL

You must know that there is a direct link between the food you consume and your mental well-being. It is always good to eat right and in the correct proportions to not only keep your body



shape in check but your mind and heart healthy. 2021 should be the year for you where you focus on eating foods that reduce feelings of anxiety, stress and depression. Try eating fresh seasonal produce as it is not just better for you but also for the planet as your food has less far to travel thereby reducing its carbon footprint.

### GO CRUELTY-FREE

You can very much pamper your skin without harming animals in the process. There still are so many brands that test their products on animals worldwide. In 2021, you should start shopping responsibly and think of the animals. Invest in brands that are cruelty-free.



## MUST DOs in 2021 for your mental well-being

### TOP TIPS TO UP YOUR MENTAL HEALTH...



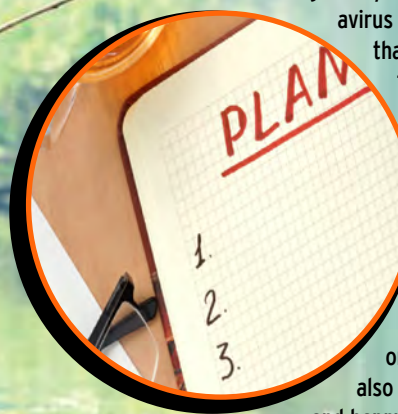
**T**o say 2020 was harsh on people would be an understatement. The pandemic claimed millions of lives all over the world leading to morbidity and mortality. It not only affected the physical but mental well-being as well. For some it was nightmare, as people had bouts of depression, anxiety, stress, loneliness, and fear lingered on in the minds. Consultant psychotherapist Dr Shivangi Pawar says, "Now, in the

New Year, 2021 see to it that you prioritise your mental health, and boost it with the vital strategies. Life did return to normalcy after the unlock phases, but, still, the

pandemic continues to haunt people. It is the need of the hour to see to it that you make 2021 the year of good mental health and take care of yourself."

#### ➤ Be close to nature:

Throughout 2020 we spend a lot of time on computers, smartphones, laptops, and other gadgets. Try to spend some time with nature and limit your screen time in 2021; maybe take a walk in the nearby garden or open area. But, make sure that you follow those social distancing norms and wear a mask. This will ensure a happy state of mind.



#### ➤ Organise yourself

Organise yourself, shift focus from coronavirus to your health: 2020 taught us that eating right, staying stress-free, and spending quality time with family are big priorities. 2021 should be about improving immunity, exercising, and staying in top shape. Instead of panicking about the virus, try to exercise on a daily basis as it will also help you stay healthy and happy. Also spend time with people to stay cheerful.

#### ➤ Socialise with like-minded people:

Be socially active to take care of your mental well-being. Become a part of a group or a community where one can share thoughts, concerns, and even problems. Look for the company of like-minded people. You can discuss your issues with them and feel connected.



#### ➤ Find a hobby:

Doing what you like will ensure that you stay happy and healthy. Painting, gardening, listening to music, dancing, baking, cooking, reading or playing any instrument can be a stress-buster and can help you relax. It releases the happy hormone - dopamine.



## MORE TO READ IN NEW YEAR

Teachers & students share what they would like to read more about this year...

### STAR INTERVIEWS

Interviews of star students on how they achieved their goals would be a great read. Also, every day is known for something... be it Wear a Gaudy Dress Day or Milkshake Day, it's always fun to find out trivia about such days.

**NEHA SREE ARVAPALLI**, class IX, Jubilee Hills Public School, Hyderabad

### FASCINATING STORIES

The edition has everything that would spark interest in the readers. I would also like to see interesting short stories of different genres.

**B SHRIYA RAO**, class X, Sister Nivedita School

### LANGUAGES OF THE WORLD

Information on sign language and languages spoken in various parts of the world will widen our sphere of knowledge and be of immense help too.

**CHARITHA CHOWDARY KONGARA**, class VIII, Sadhana Infinity International School

### MUSIC TO RELAX

A column on music will help as I believe music has a therapeutic effect. It has been proven that music makes one feel relaxed and is a stressbuster in many situations.

**P MADHAVI SANSKRITI**, class IX, Hillside School

### PRACTICAL & CREATIVE

Project based learning would be interesting, fun and productive and majority of students would enjoy it. A creative writing corner will improve our writing skills and grammar.

**SAI SAANVI NAIDU**, class VII, Filitee World School

### CAREER GUIDANCE

As a student of class XII, I think one of the crucial things is choosing an ideal course to pursue in college. I would like to read a column where students are guided over different career paths instead of the established ones.

**RENU KUMARI**, class XII, Army Public School, Golconda

### KNOWLEDGE OF SCRIPTURES

A corner that educates children about scriptures. People will get to know about the greatness of our past which is important for the growing young minds.

**PRANAVI DWIVEDI**, class VII D, Army Public School, Bolarum, Hyderabad

### COMICS BY STUDENTS

A comics section written by students will be interesting. We can get to be creative as well as see other's creative works.

**PARNIKA MIRTHIVADA**, class VI C, The Shri Ram Universal School, Hyderabad

### ADVENTURE TALES

I wish to see a book column where we can read excerpts from adventure books. I love Arabian Nights and Sindbad the Sailor.

**LAKSHMI SAHITHI**, class V, Pudami School, Hyderabad

## Learning the art of Maths

**Pallavi International School Keesara**

**M**aths week was celebrated at Pallavi International School, Keesara virtually. Mathematics is more of arts than science and the art lies in how skillfully an educator can teach a Math concept to students. The students proved it by integrating their concepts with arts.

The celebrations began with a special assembly on Math and its importance to human life. Students of various classes participated in the assembly by coming up with a special new word, amazing facts and many more activities. Students also paid tributes to the scholars of ancient times like Aryabhata, Bhaskara, Brahma Gupta and Srinivasa Ra-

manujan who made their contributions to Mathematics. An online quiz was conducted classwise to add up to the celebration.

The second day of math week began with the birth anniversary of legendary Indian Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan Iyengar. He was born on December 22, 1887 and to honour this great Mathematician for his immense contributions to Mathematics, the government of India in 2012 declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day.

Students paid their tribute

to the maths genius by presenting poems, skits, role-plays, songs and dance on Mathematical concepts. The skits included the concepts such as Bodmas, mean median mode and types of triangles. Art integration was depicted throughout the Math week celebration.

The final day included activities based on geometrical shapes. The tangram puzzle was taught to students so that they could use it to make various shapes.

The headmistress appreciated the efforts of the students and parents for their active participation. She advised students to love the subject and the only way they can learn Mathematics is by practicing it every day.



## A virtual show of talent

**Meridian School Madhapur**

**I**nnovative thinking and collaborative working are the mantra for success and it is this team effort that leads to the immense satisfaction of achievement.

This statement was proved by Meridian School, Madhapur through 'Kreedashala,' a virtual Sports Day celebration. Exercise results in good health, long life, and happiness.

A healthy body needs a healthy mind and that in turn influences society. The keen wish to build a robust society resulted in Kreedashala-The dawn of Health in the Body, Mind, and Community. More than 1000 students participated in the virtual event and showcased their skills in the various innovative, interesting, and exciting games that were conducted.

The principal and staff celebrated their commitment towards the happiness, physical, and emotional well-being of their students through this novel idea. Children of all classes took part in the fun and sporting activities from the safety of their



home while being connected online. The competitions were conducted in the most professional manner and judged by the teachers.

The programme included the opening ceremony, lighting of the lamp, declaration of sports meet followed by the grand finale. The closing ceremony was held over the Zoom and MS Teams platform.

The occasion was graced by Renuka Butta, (ex-MP) co-founder of Meridian Schools, Usha Reddy, CEO of Meridian Schools, and Snigdha

Sachdeva, principal of Meridian School, Madhapur.

Vice-principal Sai Sathyaki said that the day proved to be a great stress buster for children as they are mostly indoors due to the pandemic. The event was appreciated by parents and students of the school alike. She thanked the entire team from the school for their tireless efforts and innovative thinking. The team assured to give their best in all academic and non-academic areas for the holistic development of the students.

## BOOKS AND BEYOND

**The Shri Ram Universal School Hyderabad**

**T**he Shri Ram Universal School celebrated book week 'Books and Beyond' to celebrate books as well as authors and sensitise students about the importance of reading.

Through productive brainstorming sessions and group discussions about different genres and authors, it was heartening for the educators to see young learners getting excited about books and exploring their creativity through curiosity and imagination.

Right from improving their reading speed to donning the roles of authors and lyricists through fanfiction and songfics, to reporters conducting press conference with their favourite characters and authors, to role playing their favourite characters/authors, to virtual nukkad natak, to reading different genres, the week was buzzing about books.

Students were engaged in various pre and post-reading activities.

The school also organised an interactive session for its students with



author Anupama Jain whose books include 'When Padma Bani Paula' and 'Masala Mix: Potpourri of Shorts' a short story collection.

She gave important tips to students on how to develop effective reading skills for becoming a good writer.

For budding writers, she also emphasized on the importance of proof

reading and critiquing one's own work from a neutral perspective. She suggested turning on the learning radar and deriving from people and situations around one's own surrounding to imbibe in our writing.

The weeklong celebration witnessed many literary activities in all language subjects that provided ample number of opportunities to the students to interact and express their views on various topics and sharpen their language skills.

## Cell phones ring in changes, good & bad

THE EDUCATIONIST

Does it matter if someone is born with a silver spoon? In the present scenario all that matters is whether your child has a desktop, a laptop or at least a cell phone.

**T**he wealth of school education is at the reach of a mobile. Yet, there has been always a debate over the access of cell phones to children. A recent survey found that 92% of world population has mobile phones today. In lieu of some potential risks such as vision problem in children, sleep deprivation, brain tumours and psychiatric diseases experts are raising concern over exposure to screen. Here are few tips to minimise these risks. Eat healthy, limit screen time by observing digital quarantine, involve and engage children in hobbies such as music, painting, stitching, gardening, read story books, indulge in house hold activities such as cleaning, washing and kitchen work, take a bio-break, do some stretches and walk around. Cell phones are being used as tools for education, the pandemic has changed the classroom dynamics and let us cope with this change.

**USHA KRISHNA**, Senior Wing, Pallavi Model School, Bowenpally

## COMICS AND ROLE PLAY SUPPORT LEARNING

**Kavitha V, English Teacher - Primary School, Johnson Grammar School, ICSE Habsiguda**

**C**hildren love to explore, investigate and learn. The students from class V of Johnson Grammar School, ICSE, Habsiguda discovered a new aspect of learning through role play.

All the innovative minds gathered together to perform a role play named 'Who is to Blame?' They shared different roles among themselves according to their capabilities, memorised the dialogues and made masks to perform the play. The spirit and enthusiasm of the students spread magic and they imparted the essence of

the lesson to their friends with ease. Learning reached the students through role play and the magicians were none other than their friends who lived in the characters.

When the elements of a



comic strip were introduced and explained, these young minds leaped to write and create colourful, characters and stories of their own to present it in the class. Role play should be used to explain difficult topic in the simplest way.

## Express YOURSELF

### THE JOY OF GIVING

**W**e all know how great it feels to receive gifts. However, the joy of getting is short-lived. Our lives are richer when we share, and that great inner joy comes from helping others to better their lives. Truly giving from the heart fills your life with joy and nourishes your soul. Giving provides an intrinsic reward that's far more valuable than the gift. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "To find yourself, lose yourself in the service of others." And this saying is truly lived by DPS Nacharam. Every year our school organises this programme to inculcate the habit of "giving" in students. Giving takes you out of yourself and allows you to expand beyond earthly limitations. True joy lies in the act of giving without



an expectation of receiving something in return. If young minds truly swear by evolving from materialistic possessions, then only will they follow the practice of expanding their love. Academic research and thousands of years of human history confirm that achieving meaning, fulfilment, and happiness in life comes from making others happy, and not from being self-centered. I truly believe that the act of giving kindles self-esteem and brings happiness and swear by celebrating the true spirit of Christmas with others. But don't take my word for it - try it out for yourself.

**ISHITA SHUKLA**, class XI B, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



**OF THE SAME BRANCH: TAMANNA KAPOOR**, class VII A, Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills, Hyderabad



**ARTISTIC: YASHASHREE GOPS**, class VII, Scholar International School, Hyderabad



**FLORAL GRATITUDE: NAVYA CHOWDARY PONUGUMATI**, class VIII A, Sentia The Global School, Hyderabad

## Painters' Gallery



# WHY IS INDIA RELUCTANT TO TRAVEL TO BRISBANE FOR THE 4TH TEST?



Ajinkya Rahane will look to replicate his form in the 3rd test

While reports have emerged that the Indian team is reluctant to play the fourth Test of the ongoing series at the Gabba in Brisbane due to harsher bio-security protocols they will be subjected to there, the Australian team confirmed it will go ahead with the schedule even if it means making sacrifices and enduring strict conditions

## INDIAN VIEWPOINT

### WE WERE IN A HARD BUBBLE FOR NEARLY A MONTH BEFORE COMING OUT

The third Test in the four-match series is slated to start at Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday after Cricket Australia decided not to move the match in the wake of an outbreak of Covid-19 cases in the city's northern beaches. On Monday, both squads will fly to New South Wales, which reported eight new locally transmitted cases of the virus and ramped up social distancing measures on Sunday.

Reports in the Australian media, citing sources within the touring party, said India's players, many of whom have been in some form of quarantine or other for six months, would refuse to travel if they were going to be subjected to a hard lockdown.

India's cricket chief Sourav Ganguly said way back in July that the team would tour Australia but called for shortened quarantine periods for players. "We don't want the players to go all that far and sit in hotel rooms for two weeks. It is very, very depressing and disappointing," he had said at the time.

That is supported by the report from Cricbuzz, with a source inside the Indian team telling the news site that they are not keen on travelling to Brisbane in the current environment. "If you look at it, we were quarantining for 14 days in Dubai before landing in Sydney and doing so for another 14 days. That means we were in a hard bubble for nearly a month before coming out. What we don't want now is to quarantine again at the end of the tour," the source told Cricbuzz.

We aren't keen on going to Brisbane if it means being stuck in the hotel again, except for going to the ground. Instead we don't mind being in some other city, playing both Test matches there to complete the series and returning home," he added. "All we're saying is the boys have been in various states of lockdowns and bubbles for nearly six months now. And it's not been easy for anyone."

But Queensland government (Brisbane is the capital of Queensland) members hit back at team India. The state's Health Shadow Minister Ros Bates bluntly said: "If the Indians don't want to play by the rules, don't come."

## AUSTRALIAN VIEWPOINT

### THE SCHEDULE HAS BEEN ROLLED OUT, WE WILL STICK TO IT

The Gabba in Brisbane has been a fortress for Australia, who haven't lost a Test there in 30 years. India have a poor record at the Gabba, losing five of the six Tests they have played while drawing one in 2003, which too was curtailed by rain.

While the schedule was rolled out well before the start of the series and the BCCI accepted it, reports of them boycotting emerged over the last 24 hours after Cricket Australia announced an investigation into a possible breach of Covid-19 bio-security bubble protocols by five Indian players who had gone out to eat in a Melbourne restaurant.

Australia batsman Matthew Wade was on Sunday told about the possibility of India boycotting the Gabba Test. He said they are looking forward to the Gabba Test and willing to make sacrifices to follow the schedule. Asked if he would like to play back-to-back Tests in Sydney due to harsher quarantine in Brisbane, Wade said, "No. Obviously we would prefer not to. The schedule has been rolled out, we stick to that. There was speculation about staying in Melbourne. Cricket Australia was firm that we will stick to the schedule that we rolled out at the start of the summer."

The 33-year-old, who has been turned into a makeshift opener for this series, felt that shifting the last Test from Brisbane would hurt Australia. "It could do. It is no secret that we all like starting the season there exactly for that reason as our record is very good there and we tend to play good cricket there. India has got a great bowling line-up and great team...we certainly won't take it for granted when we get there and play them but yeah we would love to play at the Gabba. Two games at SCG, we wouldn't want to do that. No secret there. We love Gabba and we want to get there."

Though Australia have traditionally opened their Test season, especially with a four or five-Test series, at the Gabba and drawn early advantage, India have in recent times not been given the series opener at the Gabba unlike on previous tours. The leeway to India has attracted criticism from Australia cricketing icons like Allan Border and Matthew Hayden.

VS

## WHERE SHOULD ROHIT SHARMA BAT?

Rohit Sharma's elevation as a Test opener in the home series against South Africa last year was a huge success but lack of match practice and the circumstances in which he has arrived in Australia, means Rohit is not a certain starter at the top of the order

It will be a toss-up between Mayank and Vihari. Dropping Mayank will be a tough call since he has scored hundreds and double hundreds over the last 18 months. I am still not sure about Rohit opening because he is coming after a long break. Will he prefer to open or bat in the middle order? That is another question. And what kind of role is the team management expecting from Rohit. That is also a factor. Whether they want Rohit to give the team a flying start or anchor the innings in the middle?

MSK Prasad, former chief selector

I will have Mayank - Rohit opening, Gill in middle order, and Vihari goes out for the third Test.

Sunil Gavaskar, former India captain

We will have a chat with him to see where he is placed physically because he has been in quarantine for the last couple of weeks. Also got to see how he feels before we take the call.

Ravi Shastri, head coach

Shubman Gill was very impressive. He is a huge talent. He showed excellent skills and temperament in both the innings. In Agarwal's place, I would put Rahul in and Rohit in place of Vihari. Rahul has to play as he is your in-form player and has been in Australia for a while. Agarwal is a good player but looks short on confidence.

Dilip Vengsarkar, former chief selector

## Real Madrid see off Celta Vigo to return to La Liga summit



Real Madrid beat an in-form Celta Vigo 2-0 at home, thanks to a goal and assist apiece from Spanish pair Lucas Vazquez and Marco Asensio, putting the side above city rivals Atletico Madrid at the top of La Liga. The win took the Spanish champions to the summit on 36 points, one ahead of second-placed Atletico. Real were smarting from a surprise 1-1 draw at struggling Elche in their last match and were missing captain Sergio Ramos, who was out with a stomach bug.

REUTERS

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

**Q1:** Which was the first team sport for female athletes introduced in the Olympic, at the 1964 Tokyo Games?

- a) Futsal ☐ b) Softball ☐ c) Volleyball ☐ d) Handball ☐

**Q2:** Who is the first cricketer to make 100 Test match appearances as captain?

- a) Herschelle Gibbs ☐ b) Graeme Smith ☐ c) Ricky Ponting ☐ d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni ☐

**Q3:** The longest tennis grand slam match was played between which two players?

- a) Julien Benneteau and Mike Bryan ☐ b) Max Mirnyi and Nenad Zimonjic ☐ c) John Isner and Nicolas Mahut ☐ d) Marcelo Melo and Henri Kontinen ☐

**Q4:** Who holds the record of debut in One Day Internationals?

- a) Shikhar Dhawan ☐ b) David Warner ☐ c) Rohit Sharma ☐ d) Fakhar Zaman ☐

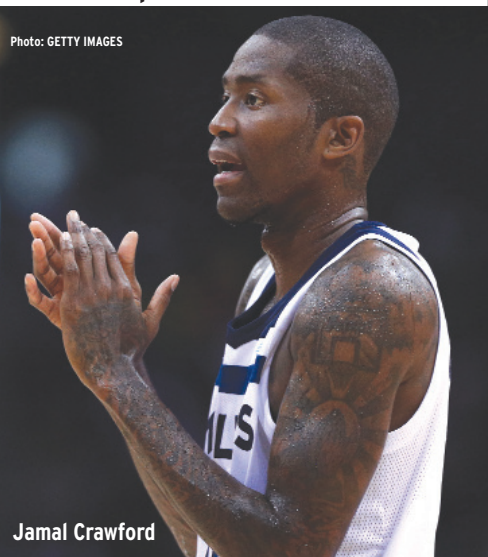
**Q5:** Who was India's first woman Olympic medal winner, taking a bronze at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games?

- a) PT Usha ☐ b) Karnam Malleswari ☐

- c) Mary Kom ☐ d) Anju Bobby George ☐

**Q6:** In the year 2019, Jamal Crawford became the oldest player to score 50 or more points in an NBA game. Whose previous record did he surpass?

Photo: GETTY IMAGES



Jamal Crawford

- a) Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ☐ b) Kobe Bryant ☐ c) Magic Johnson ☐ d) Michael Jordan ☐

**Q7:** Who is the first woman since 1932 to win individual gold medals in different sports at a Winter Olympics?

- a) Christa Luding-Rothenburger ☐ b) Ester Ledecká ☐ c) Marit Bjørgen ☐ d) Claudia Pechstein ☐

**Q8:** The fastest long course butterfly (female) was completed in 55.48 seconds. Which of the following athletes achieved this?

- a) Sarah Sjöström ☐ b) Katie Ledecky ☐ c) Simone Manuel ☐ d) Penny Oleksiak ☐

**Q9:** Who is the first male tennis player to defend 10 Grand Slam singles titles?

- a) Novak Djokovic ☐ b) Andy Murray ☐ c) Roger Federer ☐ d) Rafael Nadal ☐

**Q10:** Which badminton-playing country holds the record of most consecutive wins in Sudirman Cup?

- a) Denmark ☐ b) Indonesia ☐ c) South Korea ☐ d) China ☐

**Q11:** Who is the oldest Olympic gold medalist?

- a) Oscar Swahn ☐ b) Åke Lundeborg ☐ c) Per-Olof Arvidsson ☐ d) Walter Winans ☐

**ANSWERS:** 1 c) Volleyball 2 b) Graeme Smith 3 c) John Isner and Nicolas Mahut 4 d) Fakhar Zaman 5 b) Karnam Malleswari 6 d) Michael Jordan 7 b) Ester Ledecká 8 a) Sarah Sjöström 9 c) Roger Federer 10 d) China 11 a) Oscar Swahn