



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

➤ An educator talks of the challenges and fears students generally face while attempting maths and how teachers can help them overcome it  
**PAGE 2**



➤ Students look back at the year gone by and the lessons learned as they share their hopes and expectations for the New Year  
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➤ England hope to salvage pride as they gear up for next Ashes Test  
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**STUDENT EDITION**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022



The year 2022 is all set to be a defining year for India on many fronts – technology, space, sports, etc. In politics, the Assembly elections in five states and the Presidential polls, will test Modi's popularity yet again...

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


## Teens get jabbed!

The vaccination for children aged between 15 and 18 years in India began amid a surge in Covid-19 infections on Monday. Two doses of the Covaxin are to be administered at an interval of 28 days...

**1** The Centre has recommended separate vaccination centres, session sites, queues as well as separate health staff for the campaign to avoid any inadvertent mixing of vaccines

**2** Over 16 lakh teens have been vaccinated so far on the first day of vaccination, as per the government's CoWin portal

**3** An estimated 74 million children in the 15-18 years age group are eligible for the vaccination, according to health ministry's estimates. The vaccination process of third precautionary dose of vaccine for health workers, frontline workers and vulnerable senior citizens will begin from January 10


**Quote unquote**

**6** Women are a major reason behind the evolution of Hindi cinema. We have seen an absolute evolution in the way we tell stories on the screen, and it warms my heart that women have been a constant part of this process. I have grown up admiring our cinema but one thing that I have personally noticed is how women have shaped the growth trajectory. They have been an integral part of not just cinema but the overall growth of the nation  
Shraddha Kapoor, actor



## Vaccine, vaccination trended most on social media in 2021

Vaccine and vaccination have topped the list of the most-popular words used on social media this year, media reports said. According to the Medialogia information and analytical system, vaccine

or vaccination were used 63.72 million times in 2021, TASS news agency reported. This was followed by bitcoin or cryptocurrency with 19.59 million references, while the word pandemic was ranked third, having been used 19.58 million times.

The top 10 list also includes the words dose (used 17.14 million times), immunity (13.58 million), Sputnik (13.55 million), QR code (12.05 million), quarantine (11.07 million), migrant (9.44 million), and Olympics (6.14 million), the report said.



# INDIA'S CALENDAR: 12 MONTHS OF ACTION



## UTTAR PRADESH POLLS

**1** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have made a slew of announcements to stop the slide in electoral fortunes in the crucial electoral state of UP, which goes to the polls soon. The BJP's projected tally in the ensuing elections is now holding steady at 210 seats.



## THE RISE OF KEJRIWAL

**2** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has a spring in his step, as he steps out of his comfort zone in Delhi to grab power in Punjab and Goa. The BJP is worried about his dominant presence, as he uses copycat themes to enlarge the scope of his politics, the latest being the appropriation of BR Ambedkar after Lord Ram.



## CHINA'S TERRITORIAL CLAIMS GETS SHRILLER

**3** India's challenge in 2022 is to not only ensure Chinese troops return to status quo as on April 2020 when the aggression at the LAC began, but also to keep the balance in the neighbourhood, where China is making deeper inroads. At the same time, Moscow appears keen to arrange a trilateral summit with PM Modi and President Xi Jinping of China, the two leaders who haven't spoken directly since the standoff began.

## 5G ROLLOUT

**4** The department of technology has announced that 5G internet services will be rolled out in India in 2022. A total of 13 cities across the country will get the technology in the beginning.



## SPORTING BATTLES

**5** While the calendar is packed with marquee events, the big question is will Covid allow the Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Soccer World Cup in Qatar, ICC T20 World Cup in Australia to take place?

## THE PRESIDENT AND VP ELECTIONS

**6** Will PM Modi pull the rabbit out of the bag and appoint Sharad Pawar to neutralise NCP politically and retain Maharashtra or alternatively make a political statement by making a minority Prez or VP?

## INDEX OF OPPOSITION UNITY

**7** It will be truly tested in the President's election in July. West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala polls have shown in 2021 that the Opposition chieftains can keep the BJP at bay, if the entire Opposition spectrum joins hands in the electoral college. The Maharashtra model can be used effectively. As of 2021, the electoral college comprises 776 MPs and 4,120 MLAs.



## CONQUERING THE FINAL FRONTIER

**8** India will launch two unmanned missions in 2022 before the human spaceflight programme 'Gaganyaan' by the end of the year. The Venus mission is planned for 2022 as well.



## SAFFRON FADING?

**9** It will be a true test for PM Modi in 2022 as the prospect of a shrunk lotus emerges. From UP to Goa, from Uttarakhand to Manipur, and from Gujarat to Himachal – the fight to save these forts gets tougher. However, knowing the PM's political sagacity and strategies, he will surely leave everyone surprised, feel political pundits.



## UP, GUJARAT: 2 STATES

**10** The two contests are likely to be very different. Gujarat has had a BJP government since 1998, which makes it the longest running government for a political party in the country at the moment. Meanwhile, Yogi will become the first BJP CM in UP to survive a full term. Both these contests are a litmus test for Modi.



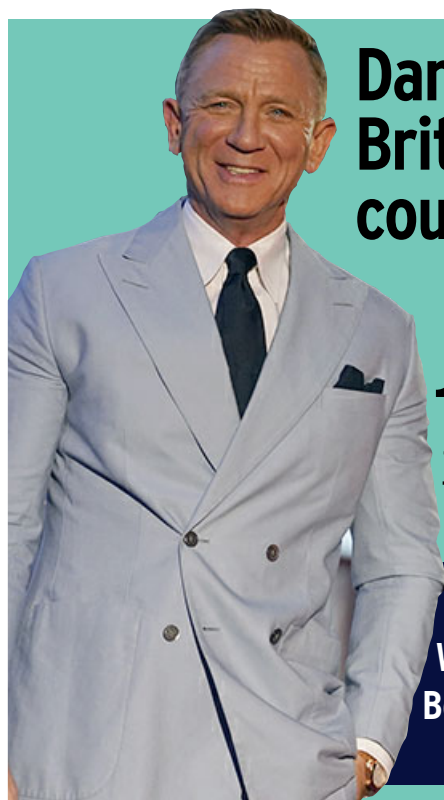
## MSP: PLATE TO PLOUGH

**11** After the climbdown on three farm laws, will Modi and BJP give in to the demand for Minimum Support Price (MSP)? The electoral battle in Punjab and UP will determine the future of the farmer pot which remains on the boil.

## PANDEMIC POLITICS

**12** Covid is the big unknown of the year. The third wave has set in already in the beginning of the year, for the first time in the Indian winter. The Union Budget and Assembly elections in five states will have to contend with this factor.

## Daniel Craig receives same British honour as his fictional counterpart James Bond



Actor Daniel Craig, who is known for playing the British spy James Bond in films, has recently received the same title as his fictional counterpart in the UK's annual New Year Honours List. According to Deadline, Craig has been made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG), for his contribution to film, including portraying Bond five times. The same honour has been bestowed upon author Ian Fleming's 007 fictional character in his books.

Along with him Barbara Broccoli and Michael Wilson, the producer/caretakers of the James Bond movie franchise, were also honoured

## New Year's asteroid larger than Big Ben will shoot past Earth - and four more will follow it



An asteroid larger than Big Ben is going to scorch past the Earth this month. The space rock, dubbed Asteroid 2013 YD48 by NASA, is 104 metres tall and will pass within 5.6 million kilometres of Earth on January 11.



OBSERVE, QUESTION AND  
SEEK ANSWERS IN SCIENCE

## PAPER SET BY INDU PUNJABI, UDGAM SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, AHMEDABAD

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- i. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. There is no overall choice.
- iii. Read the question paper thoroughly before attempting it.
- iv. The question paper consists of 40 objective type questions and three sections.
- v. Section A- Question no. 1-14 are multiple choice questions and carry one mark each. Answer them as instructed.
- vi. Section B- Question no. 15 -28 are Assertion- Reason type and multiple-choice questions and carry one mark each.
- vii. Section C- Question no 29 -40 are to be answered after reading the paragraphs given. Each question is of one mark.

## PART-A

Choose the correct options for the following:

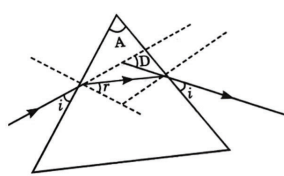
- Q1. When coal burns in air it is an:  
(a) Endothermic reaction  
(b) Oxidation reaction  
(c) Exothermic reaction  
(d) both (b) and (c)
- Q2. In a double displacement reaction such as the reaction between sodium sulphate solution and barium chloride solution:  
i. Exchange of atoms takes place  
ii. Exchange of ions takes place  
iii. Precipitate is produced.  
iv. A soluble salt is produced.  
The correct option is:  
(a) (ii) & (iv)  
(b) (ii) & (iii)  
(c) Only (ii)  
(d) Only (iii)
- Q3. Classify each of the following reactions:  
1)  $\text{Zn} + 2\text{AgNO}_3 \rightarrow \text{Zn(NO}_3)_2 + 2\text{Ag}$   
2)  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2 \xrightarrow{\text{Heat}} \text{CaO} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$   
3)  $\text{Pb(NO}_3)_2 + 2\text{KI} \rightarrow \text{KNO}_3 + \text{PbI}_2$   
4)  $2\text{H}_2\text{S} + \text{SO}_2 \rightarrow 3\text{S} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
(a) 1. Displacement 2. Neutralization  
3. Decomposition 4. Redox reaction  
(b) 1. Redox reaction 2. Decomposition  
3. Combination 4. Double Displacement  
(c) 1. Displacement 2. Decomposition  
3. Double Displacement  
4. Redox reaction  
(d) 1. Decomposition 2. Redox reaction  
3. Double Displacement 4. Displacement

- Q4. Baking powder is a mixture of A and a mild edible acid such as B; when it is heated, C is produced which makes bread and cake soft and spongy. A, B and C are respectively  
(a) Sodium carbonate, acetic acid,  $\text{CO}_2$   
(b) Sodium hydrogen carbonate, tartaric acid, and  $\text{CO}_2$   
(c) Sodium hydroxide, acetic acid,  $\text{H}_2$   
(d) Sodium chloride, oxalic acid,  $\text{H}_2$
- Q5. When three unknown colorless solutions P, Q, and R are dropped on pH paper one by one they change to blue, violet, and orange colours respectively. The decreasing order of the pH values of these solutions are:  
(a)  $\text{Q} > \text{R} > \text{P}$   
(b)  $\text{R} > \text{Q} > \text{P}$   
(c)  $\text{Q} > \text{P} > \text{R}$   
(d)  $\text{P} > \text{Q} > \text{R}$

- Q6. Identify the correct statements about photosynthesis.  
i. Mesophyll cells in leaf are the principal center of photosynthesis.  
ii. Splitting of water molecules into hydrogen and oxygen ions in the presence of light is called photolysis.  
iii. Conversion of glucose into starch is called photolysis.  
iv. Reduction of carbon dioxide into carbohydrates is the last event in the process of photosynthesis.  
(a) (i) and (iv) (b) (i) and (iii)  
(c) (ii) and (iii) (d) (iii) and (iv)
- Q7. Which blood vessel does not carry any  $\text{CO}_2$ ?  
(a) Vena cava (b) Hepatic vein  
(c) Pulmonary vein  
(d) Pulmonary aorta
- Q8. Glomerular filtrate does not contain:  
(a) Protein (b) Glucose  
(c) Salts (d) Water
- Q9. A needle placed 45 cm from a lens forms an image on a screen placed 90 cm on the other side of lens, focal length and type of lens is:  
(a) 10 cm, convex lens  
(b) 30 cm, convex lens  
(c) 30 cm, concave lens  
(d) 10cm, concave lens

- Q10. A student performs an experiment on tracing the path of a ray of light passing through a rectangular glass slab for different angles of incidence. He measures the angle of incidence  $\angle i$  angle of refraction  $\angle r$  and angle of emergence  $\angle e$  all his observations. He would find that in all cases:  
(a)  $\angle i$  is more than  $\angle r$  but nearly equal to  $\angle e$ .  
(b)  $\angle i$  is less than  $\angle r$  but nearly equal to  $\angle e$ .  
(c)  $\angle i$  is more than  $\angle e$  but nearly equal to  $\angle i$ .  
(d)  $\angle i$  is less than  $\angle r$  but nearly equal to  $\angle e$ .

- Q11. In the following ray diagram, the correctly marked angles are:



- (a)  $\angle i$  and  $\angle r$  (b)  $\angle i$  and  $\angle r$  and  $\angle D$   
(c)  $\angle A$  and  $\angle D$  (d)  $\angle r$  and  $\angle A$  and  $\angle D$

- Q12. The danger signals installed at the top of tall buildings are red in color. These can be easily seen from a distance because among all other colours, the red light:  
(a) Is scattered the most by smoke or fog.  
(b) Is scattered the least by smoke or fog.  
(c) Is absorbed the most by smoke or fog  
(d) Moves faster in air.

- Q13. Twinkling of stars is seen due to the:  
(a) Regular emission of light from the stars  
(b) Weather changes  
(c) Stars are far away  
(d) Refractive index of air in the given region goes on changing randomly.

- Q14. Which of the following colour of light undergoes the maximum deviation while passing through a glass prism?  
(a) Violet (b) Red  
(c) Green (d) Blue

## PART-B

- Question No. 15 to 18 consist of two statements - Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Answer these questions selecting the appropriate option given below:  
(a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A  
(b) Both A and R are true, and R is not the correct explanation of A  
(c) A is true but R is false  
(d) A is false but R is true

- Q15. A: Some metal oxides, such as aluminium oxide, zinc oxide shows both acidic as well as basic behavior.  
R: Acidic or basic behavior depends upon the temperature of the oxide.

- Q16. A: Walls of ventricles are thicker than the auricles.  
R: This helps in preventing the backflow of the blood.

- Q17. A: Concave mirrors are used to concentrate sunlight to produce heat in solar cookers.  
R: Concave mirrors converge the light falling on it to a point.

- Q18. A: Tyndall effect is an optical phenomenon of light used to explain atmospheric refraction.  
R: The tiny particles of dust disperse the sunlight falling on it through foliage in a forest.

- Q19. Solid calcium oxide reacts vigorously with water to form calcium hydroxide accompanied by heat. This process is called slaking of lime. Calcium hydroxide dissolves in water to form lime water. Which among the following is/are true about slaking of lime and the solution formed?  
i. It is an endothermic reaction.  
ii. It is an exothermic reaction.  
iii. The pH of the resulting solution will be more than seven.  
iv. The pH of the resulting solution will be less than seven.  
(a) i and ii (b) ii and iii  
(c) i and iv (d) iii and iv

- Q20. Sodium carbonate is a basic salt because it is a salt of:  
(a) Strong acid and weak base  
(b) Weak acid and weak base  
(c) Strong acid and strong base  
(d) Weak acid and strong base

- Q21.  $\text{Zn} + \text{H}_2\text{O (Steam)} \rightarrow \text{A} + \text{B}$ , In the equation A and B are:  
(a) Zn, H only (b)  $\text{ZnH}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$   
(c)  $\text{ZnO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$  (d)  $\text{ZnO}$  and  $\text{H}_2$

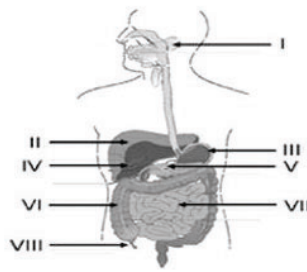
- Q22. Which of the following metals can displace hydrogen from acids?  
(a) Silver (b) Mercury  
(c) Magnesium (d) Copper

- Q23. Aluminium is used for making cooking utensils. Which of the following properties of aluminium are responsible for the same?  
i. Good thermal conductivity  
ii. Good electrical conductivity  
iii. Ductility  
iv. High melting point  
(a) i and ii (b) i and iii  
(c) ii and iii (d) i and iv

- Q24. Which of the following non-metal is lustrous?  
(a) Sulphur (b) Oxygen  
(c) Nitrogen (d) Iodine

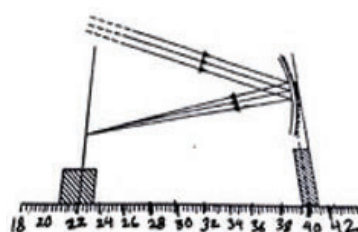
- Q25. What type of nutrition is carried out by Amoeba and Paramecium?  
(a) Holozoic (b) Pinocytosis  
(c) Absorptive (d) Saprophytic

- Q26. The diagram shows the human gut. Which numbered structures secrete digestive enzymes?



- (a) I, II, III, and IV (b) I, III, V, and VII  
(c) I, II, III, IV, and V (d) II, III, VII and VI

- Q27. The focal length of the concave mirror in the experimental set-up shown below is:



- (a) 10.2 cm (b) 18 cm  
(c) 11.4 cm (d) 12.2 cm

- Q28. At noon the sun appears white as:  
(a) Light is least scattered  
(b) All the colours of white light are scattered away  
(c) Blue color is scattered the most  
(d) Red color is scattered the least

## PART-C

- Read the following paragraph and answer question no. 29-32  
An acid reacts with a base to form corresponding salt and water. Some important corresponding salts are common salt, bleaching powder, baking soda, washing soda and Plaster of Paris. These salts are useful in our daily life. Common salt acts as a raw material for many compounds.

- Q29. Sodium hydrogen carbonate solution was placed on a strip of pH paper. The color of the strip is:  
(a) Blue  
(b) Did not change  
(c) Green and turned yellow  
(d) Light pink

- Q30. Match column I with column II and mark the correct option  
I II  
1.  $\text{NaHCO}_3$  i) Used for disinfecting water  
2.  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  ii) Used for making toys  
3.  $\text{CaOCl}_2$  iii) Used for removing permanent hardness  
4.  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$  iv) Used in soda-acid fire extinguishers

- (a) 1-iv, 2-iii, 3-i, 4-ii (b) 1-iii, 2-i, 3-iv, 4-ii  
(c) 1-iii, 2-ii, 3-i, 4-iv (d) 4-i, 2-ii, 3-iv, 4-iii

- Q31. A milkman added a small pinch of baking soda to fresh milk which had pH close to 6. As a result, pH of the solution becomes:  
(a) Close to 2  
(b) Close to 4  
(c) Do not undergo any change  
(d) Close to 8

- Q32. Which gas is produced at the cathode during chlor-alkali process?  
(a)  $\text{H}_2$  (b)  $\text{Cl}_2$   
(c)  $\text{O}_2$  (d)  $\text{N}_2$

- Read the following paragraph and answer the questions 33-36.  
Naren was participating in a marathon. He was running at position two, right from the beginning. Just when he was near the finishing line, he started running even faster to stand first. And when he was about to win the marathon, he got a severe muscle cramp in his leg. This cramp prevented Naren from running any further and shattered his dream of winning the marathon.

- Q33. The process which provides most of the energy to Naren for running the marathon is:  
(a) anaerobic respiration

- (b) aerobic respiration  
(c) breathing  
(d) fermentation

- Q34. The substance which gets accumulated in the leg muscles of Naren that causes muscle cramp is:  
(a) pyruvate  
(b) ethanol  
(c) carbon dioxide  
(d) lactic acid

- Q35. During respiration, exchange of gases takes place in:  
(a) Trachea and larynx  
(b) Alveoli of lungs  
(c) Alveoli and throat  
(d) Throat and larynx

- Q36. During the respiration of an organism X, one molecule of glucose produces 2 ATP molecules whereas in the respiration of another organism Y, one molecule of glucose produces 38 ATP molecules. Select the correct X and Y.

	X	Y
(a)	Cockroach	Fish
(b)	Yeast	Human Being
(c)	Green plant	Yeast
(d)	Yeast	Bacteria

- Read the following paragraph and answer the questions 37-40.  
The refraction of light on going from one medium to another takes place according to two laws which are known as laws of refraction of light. These laws are:  
1. The incident ray, refracted ray and normal all lie in the same plane.  
2. The ratio of sine of angle of incidence to the sine of angle of refraction is always constant for a given pair of media. This law is called Snell's law of refraction.

- Q37. In which medium speed of light is minimum?  
(a) Glass (b) Diamond  
(c) Air (d) Water

- Q38. If the refractive index of glass is 1.5 and speed of light is  $3 \times 10^8$  m/s. The speed of light in glass is:  
(a)  $2 \times 10^8$  m/s  
(b)  $2.9 \times 10^8$  m/s  
(c)  $4.5 \times 10^8$  m/s  
(d)  $3 \times 10^8$  m/s

- Q39. Observe the given table and consider two pairs of medium pair A (1 and 2) pair B (3 and 4) with the help of a table point out in which medium light speeds up as it moves in pair A and in pair B respectively.

Sr.No.	1	2	3	4
Medium	Water	Benzene	Turpentine	Alcohol
RI	1.33	1.50	1.47	1.36

- (a) Pair A (b) Pair B  
(c) Both (d) None of the above

- Q40. Refer the above table and find out refractive index of benzene with respect to water  
(a) 1.12 (b) 1.25  
(c) 1.02 (d) 1.13

These questions are meant for practice purpose only. Students are advised to check format, syllabus and marks for Board test papers with their teachers. Questions have been given by teachers and NIE is not responsible for them.

SOLVING THE  
FEAR OF NUMBERS

"Fear makes us human, overcoming it takes us closer to the person we dream of becoming."  
-Anonymous

"I am good at all subjects except math!"

"Why are there so many numbers?"

"Do I have to remember all these formulas?"

"I wish we didn't have to learn math. Will I ever use this in the future?"

If you're a math teacher or professor, you've probably heard some version of these statements over the course of your career. My own son has said these to me and the irony is that I teach mathematics to 10th graders. Some children grasp the subject like free candy while others detest it like bitter cough syrup; usually, there are no in-betweens. It goes without saying that math is the most feared subject among high school students and this fear often leads to a strong dislike and sense of hatred towards the subject. A good teacher already knows that not every child learns



at the same pace or in the same way. In this article, I explain why this particular subject is unique and some students excel while others carry it like a burden.

## What makes mathematics unique?

Sometimes a class can be divided into students that like Math and those who don't and it is almost impossible to understand why this rift exists, but we can understand what this subject demands from learners.

- Unlike other subjects that require a

decent grasp on the English language, Mathematics demands a thorough understanding of numbers, language, and symbols. Simply put, students cannot just remember the English definition of a mathematical statement but need to interpret the impact of the signs used.

- Every problem is different from the last, sometimes just changing the numbers and asking a student the same question can leave them banging their heads for an answer.
- Many websites claim that math is abstract. This is a very vague statement since math can also be very naturalistic meaning many concepts can be explained using real-life examples.
- A student cannot proceed to learn advanced concepts without completely understanding the basics. Learning math is like constructing a building, as the number of floors increase, the stronger each other previous levels need to be.

## What can teachers do to help students overcome their phobia?

As teachers, it is not our duty to simplify a concept, we must make it easier for a student to understand a concept for what it is. It is near impossible to cater to the individual learning styles of each student, but identifying the ones that are struggling and making them comfortable enough to ask you even the simplest of doubts will make you as a teacher and the subject more approachable. Math teachers have a tough task on their hands since many students begin with a mindset that it is difficult, breaking through this stereotype will help every student struggling to get a grip on the subject. Nonetheless, teachers have the creativity and teaching skills to help every student in the classroom overcome their fear of numbers.



Masapeta Radha, Math HOD, Delhi Public School, Nacharam, Hyderabad



## SCHOOL IS COOL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022

It's not just a place where you get to learn Einstein's Theory of Relativity. It's also a place where you can think beyond the classroom. Hence we say, **SCHOOL IS COOL!**

03



Each year that has gone by marked its own grace with cherished memories, lessons to grow and be stronger. I know that my tumour couldn't pull me down and I am certainly hoping for a healthy 2022. Lockdown came as a blessing as my mom was there for me. She never let me feel sick nor did she leave any stone unturned to see me as normal as any kid. I will face this year with more courage and promise to do my best in all

### NOTHING CAN PULL ME DOWN

MARIA SAMANTHA, class V-C, Pallavi Model School, Alwal, Hyderabad

The lessons I have learnt from 2021 are many, one of them being patience. During the lockdown, I waited patiently with the hope that things would get back to normal and one day I would go out and play with my friends. I waited for the evening when I could walk freely again on the streets to run errands. The second wave of Covid-19 which was severe during April and May taught me that not things, but people are most important, as I lost an uncle and aunt to the viral infection. When I used to meet my cousins every now and then, I nev-

### KEY LIFE LESSONS

D S VIJAYA KARTHIKEYA, class IX-B, Gitanjali Devshala School, Hyderabad

er realised the joy of their company. But as I got to meet them in October, a year and half after the lockdown started, I was delighted more than ever. The year also taught me to work hard, which struck me after my dismal report card. I realized that it is the result of not paying attention during online classes. It made me think about how to use time efficiently. I want to carry these life lessons into 2022.

My hope for 2022 is to see the Covid situation coming to a complete end so that schools can re-open, and people can live the life they were living before. I am looking forward to boosting my career in badminton, to understand my responsibilities better and fulfill them. I would like to approach the year with a resolution and a positive

### POSITIVE MINDSET

mind. In my opinion making resolutions make life more fruitful. My resolution is to study at least for an hour a day. One should always start the year with a positive mind because as they say "A positive mind leads to a positive result." I hope 2022 leads us to a jovial and fruitful life.

LAASYA SHUKLA, Delhi Public School, Miyapur

# 2022

## HERE WE COME...

It is in our hands to make our future better or worse. I greatly look forward to sitting in a real classroom with my classmates and teachers, and interacting with them in person. I also hope to become more consistent with every effort, be it in academics or art, so that all my hard work sums up to a better human. The past year has made

### STAND OUR GROUND

us realize that when we continue to stand our ground against the hardships thrown at us, we can still have a chance to triumph. It is a simple idea to wrap our heads around, but I truly believe it will aid us in finding the 'tomorrows' we want.

SHARANYA BASU, class IX-E, AMS P Obul Reddy Public School, Venkatagiri, Jubilee Hills

New year is the perfect time to leave all the negative thoughts and start afresh with positivity. The year 2021 taught me to focus on health. Exercising daily, balanced diet, yoga and meditation helped me to improve my mental as well as physical health. I spent time with my best friends, ie., books. Reading teaches me lessons for lifetime. I also learned to focus on myself. Walking, listening to music, dancing, spending time with nature and with family were all unforgettable moments of 2021. I hope to take these learnings and try to make 2022 the best year of my life.

PARI TIWARI, class XI-B, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School

### START AFRESH



### UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS

Stuck alone at home was anything but therapeutic for me. Being a very social person, I seek human interaction and attention a lot. Staying up late at night and talking to my friends through social media was the only thing that kept me sane. But soon social media pulled me into its clutches and I spent months getting out of this addiction. During this process, I learnt the importance of spending time with myself. I became emotionally aware of myself, which eventually led me to understand the emotions of people around me easily. My resolution for 2022 is to be happy and provide happiness to the people around me. I aim to achieve this by sparing time for myself and be self-reliant.

SOMNYA J, class X, Gitanjali Devakul



### TIME TO BE FIT



witnessed lockdowns, work-from-home scenarios, online classes and more. We realised how important it is to be healthy. When people were infected by the virus and felt weak, they realised how important it is to be fit. Home-made meals were consumed instead of high-calorie junk food. People started exercising and practising yoga to stay fit. Although 2021 was rough, it taught us a crucial lesson that we should be mentally and physically fit. Hope this continues this year too.

PRAVEENYA P, class VIII-H, Johnson Grammar School, ICSE, Habsiguda

### NOTHING IS PERMANENT



WILL get rid of my lazy self and emerge into a responsible person. 2021 was kind of a dark year for me. But that's just life, with its many ups and downs. I learnt several important things too. That you must clap for yourself, you must be your biggest fan. Nothing is permanent, every situation in life is temporary. So when life is good, make sure you enjoy it and receive it fully, and when life is not so good, remember it will not last forever. I plan to move on, move out, move up, move smarter.

JASWANT SRINIVASAN, class VIII-Rose, Sister Nivedita School

### NO EXPECTATIONS

The one lesson 2021 taught me was to not hope for too much because when the expectations keep on building up and things don't match our level of conjecture we are crestfallen. So instead of lingering on the outcomes we should just give our best and leave out all the rest. We can't control everything. Live in the present and enjoy it to the fullest.

AYESHA, class X-C, Oasis School, Raidurg



### HAPPIER DAYS

My New Year starts with resolutions that will not only help me to eliminate bad habits and adopt good habits but also make my future bright and make me successful. We have to welcome 2022 with new goals and new thoughts. But, not like cutting cakes, partying and drink and drive. We have lost many lives due to Covid 19, hoping this year is better and happier for all.

PRANAY, class VIII, Gayatri Grammar High, School, Adarsh Nagar

### QUARANTINE LESSONS

I love being in my small bubble, a world that includes my phone, my books and me. That's my world. When both my parents got Covid, it hit me hard. Literally positive become the most negative word. I did not know how to react. I think it was for the first time I connected with God, and when they eventually recovered I thanked Him for putting my life back on track. I always thought my hardest lesson would be from Physics or Biology, but no, life taught me lessons that "life is unpredictable" and the importance of "Healthy life, Happy family".

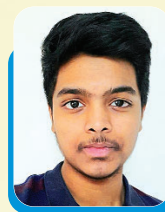
G HARI PRANAVI, class X, Lotus Lap High School, Kamalanagar



### BEING RESILIENT

Of all the important traits I imbibed in 2021, the game changer was 'Resilience.' Being resilient helped me reflect, to grow mentally as an individual. The year 2021 defined my transformation from a mentally fragile to a matured and robust teen. It began with fighting the exhausting lockdown which helped me to understand myself. I became mentally fit to fight my invisible devils and the negative aura around me.

SRIKAR BALAJI C, class XI-B, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School



### DO NOT PROCRASTINATE

I am looking forward to the end of this pandemic. I am also hopeful of the reopening of schools, playing with my friends, attending parties and extra-curricular classes without all the safety protocols like wearing a mask. With so much to look forward to, I approach 2022 with enthusiasm, confidence and excitement. One of the most important lessons 2020-2021 has taught me is not to postpone things. Postponing things might seem easy but when you near the deadline the work seems larger than it is. I hope to imply this lesson in 2022.

INIKA JAIN, class V-C, Gitanjali Primary School



### BEING TRUTHFUL

Lockdown has taught us many things, most importantly, the value of close ones and family. Hoping this year we lead a normal life, go to school, play with friends and interact with teachers directly in classrooms. My resolution for this year is to be truthful in all situations. Most of the time, I speak the truth but in some instances when I don't want to do my homework or go to my dance class, I do hide a few things. So I have decided to change this habit of mine.

K DHRUVIKA, class V-E, Gitanjali School



### LESSONS LEARNT

I hope and pray for less pain and loss, for more normalcy, joy and happiness. I hope this terrible pandemic which has sapped us over the past two years just goes away and never returns. I hope the lessons learnt during this pandemic period will be carried forward by all. The lesson I learnt is never waste your precious and valuable time. There is never any guarantee that we will have tomorrow. This year I wasted a lot of time without proper planning which affected my studies. I promise myself that I will never repeat this again and try to make my New Year a better one.

PRAGNA NARISSETTY, class X-A, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills



### NORMALCY ONCE AGAIN

Year 2021 was a roller coaster of emotions. I was also mostly sitting before the laptop, without any emotional bonds with friends. Year 2022 I hope will bring us all together like how we were in the past. I want to see the smiles back on faces. I want to go to school, with my van driver talking to us all the way to and fro, I want to greet my teachers good morning in a sing-song rhythm with friends, I want to participate in school activities and come back to the house, sit on my mum's counter and tell her what happened in school and again tell my father when he's back from work. I don't want anyone to lose their loved ones due to the pandemic and I don't want to be stuck in any lockdown.

MAHITI REDDY, class X, Edify World School, Hyderabad



### RELEARNING MODE

Pandemic has taught me to bring back some of the important habits which I learnt during my kindergarten days which is washing hands regularly, cleanliness, eating good food, sleeping well, etc. It also taught me to multi-task, work through different schedules, get used to the online school, etc. But I missed my two years of childhood which is playing with friends, going to school, field trips, eating pizza and lots of fun! In 2022, I hope and pray for normal life, joy and happiness.

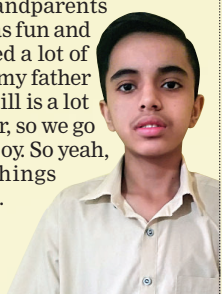
RUTVIKA, class V-A, Meridian School, Kukatpally



### FAMILY TIES

2021 taught me lot of things but most importantly it taught me the importance of family. Before the pandemic, my father was in Africa for his job, we (my sister and I) were at school half the day and life wasn't the best. Due to lockdown, we went to our grandparents house for one and a half months. It was fun and we had a lot of interactions and played a lot of board games. Fast forward a year and my father comes to India and again it was and still is a lot of fun. And then my cousins came over, so we go out on weekends, have fun, and just enjoy. So yeah, 2021 taught me pretty significant things which I hope to carry forward to 2022.

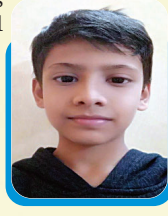
AIMAN WADHWANIA, class VIII, Diamond Jubilee High School, Hyderabad



### IMPROVE SELF

The year 2021 taught us a lot of new skills and strategies and gave us new ways to look at the little things in life. In 2022, I will try not to repeat the mistakes which I did last year and try to improve myself in every way possible. Maintain a healthy and proper diet to be fit. Obedience to parents and God. The pandemic also inculcated in us some good habits, that will make us better human beings, more effective and efficient professionals.

MD TOUSEEF AHMED KHAN, class VI-B, Springfield International School





# ENGLAND LOOK TO SALVAGE ASHES PRIDE

As covid hangs over Sydney Test, Aus looks to clean-sweep the series

**A**demoralised England have vowed to salvage some pride when their shambolic and Covid-hit Ashes tour resumes in the fourth Test at Sydney on January 5, with the hosts 3-0 up in the series having retained the urn at the MCG.

Joe Root's men face another difficult clash against a rampant Australia, who crushed them by an innings and 14 runs inside three days in the third Test at Melbourne to retain the Ashes with an unassailable 3-0 lead. It followed heavy defeats in Brisbane and Adelaide, where batting collapses, poor fielding and questionable selections cost the tourists dearly. They are facing a 5-0 whitewash, although rain forecast for Sydney could come to England's rescue.

## VETERANS MUST STEP UP

Veteran seamer Jimmy Anderson admitted that "the lads are pretty flat at the minute if I'm being brutally honest". "It can be difficult, especially for guys experiencing the Ashes for the first time," he told English media. "That's where the more senior players come in. We have to rally round, make sure everyone is in a good place and a good headspace to compete. "We've just not been at the races. We've now got two games to do something about that," he added.

## SHOWERS MAY PROMPT LINE-UP

With Head missing, Australia called up Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis into the squad as cover, but the experienced Usman Khawaja will almost certainly replace him for his first Test since the 2019 Ashes. "Hopefully I can go out there and score a hundred and do well for the team in the absence of 'Heady'," Khawaja said. "I'm in the best cricket conditioning I've been."

There was talk that the home team could hand leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson a debut on what is traditionally the most spin-friendly of the Australian Test venues. But with showers forecast for the first four days, that now appears less likely, with the strong grass cover expected to make the pitch more fast-bowler friendly.

If recovered from a side strain, Josh Hazlewood will return to bolster Australia's already strong bowling stocks. If he isn't quite ready, Scott Boland could retain his place after a remarkable 6-7 on debut in the Boxing Day Test, or Jhye Richardson -- who grabbed a five-wicket haul in Adelaide -- will return after being rested for Melbourne. "I've got pretty good faith that if Hoff's (Hazlewood) confident and he says he's right to go, I think we back him in, he's earned that trust," said chief selector George Bailey. **AFP**



## THE ASHES

Both sides have been hit by the coronavirus, which is surging in Sydney, with more than 20,000 cases being reported daily in New South Wales state. Australia will be missing number five Travis Head after he tested positive in Melbourne.

England's under-pressure coach Chris Silverwood -- whose job is on the line -- is also out of the Sydney clash after he reportedly tested positive too, the seventh to do so among the touring party. They include three support staff -- fast-bowling coach Jon Lewis, spin coach Jeetan Patel and strength and conditioning boss Darren Veness. Batting coach Graham Thorpe is expected to take charge in the interim, and faces selection headaches.

## ENG OPENERS FAIL

England's openers -- Rory Burns, Zak Crawley and Haseeb Hameed -- have all flopped this series, failing to give Dawid Malan and Root a platform to work off. Their highest team total so far is just 297 and there have been no individual hundreds, with Malan and Root the only players to make half-centuries. Thorpe admitted the batsmen have been given a "wake-up call", reflected in their paltry 68 in the second innings at Melbourne.

"We are still trying to educate some of the younger guys into the rhythm of Test-match batting; playing situations in the game and doing it for long periods of time," he told reporters. "Some of them haven't been able to do it yet."

## WON'T BE DISTRACTED, SAYS CAPTAIN ROOT

Joe Root's position as England captain has been the subject of much debate since the tourists suffered a third straight defeat in the ongoing Ashes series but the 31-year-old does not want to "waste energy" talking about it in the run-up to the fourth test. England cricket great Geoffrey Boycott has been among those calling for Root to step down from the leadership role. Root said he wanted to keep the focus on salvaging some pride from the remainder of the tour, starting with the fourth test in Sydney, beginning on Wednesday. "At the end of the day ... I don't think as a distraction that should be around the group or I should be wasting energy on right now. I need to make sure to throw everything I can into these two games. I think I owe that to this team and to the players and give us the best chance of getting the results that we desire."



Photo: AP



Jimmy Anderson

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

# DE JONG HEADER GIVES BARCELONA 1-0 WIN

Coach Xavi says win historic given the team was without many seasoned players

**B**arcelona striker Luuk de Jong's first-half header and a stunning stoppage-time save by Marc-Andre ter Stegen secured a 1-0 win at Mallorca on Sunday in a match where the Catalans were missing 14 players due to COVID-19, injuries and suspensions.

Barca climbed two places to fifth on 31 points from 19 matches, one point behind Atletico Madrid in fourth and 15 adrift of leaders Real Madrid, who have played a game more.

## Vindication time

It was vindication time for striker De Jong after several media reports that Barca want to move him on this month. He got his second goal since arriving from Sevilla in the close season - his first for more than three months. The Dutchman was Barca's best player on Sunday as he also hit the post twice in the first half, once with a bicycle kick. The goal came just before the break when he headed home from close range after a cross by Oscar Mingueza.

Barca dominated the game until the final minutes when Mallorca started pressing for an equaliser and almost got it. Ter Stegen saved

## CHELSEA-LIVERPOOL DRAW

The only winner Sunday was Manchester City. And Romelu Lukaku certainly lost out. What a pulsating, entertaining encounter for Lukaku to miss -- not out of his own choosing -- as Chelsea recovered to draw 2-2 with Liverpool without the temporarily exiled striker. It left City 10 points clear from Chelsea at the top of the Premier League with Liverpool a further point back. The sky blue ribbons look like remaining on the trophy for another year thanks to the fading challenge from the chasing pack. "It is a big gap," Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk said. "They have the title, maybe, to lose but anything can happen."

Barca in added time with an unbelievable handball-style reflex save with his right arm, denying Jaume Costa whose close-range strike looked like a sure goal.

## Points worth gold

"It was an historic win for us, I'm not exaggerating," Xavi told reporters. "Missing so many players, to go back home with a win - it's three points worth their weight in gold. "The young players showed up and Ter Stegen made a stop for the ages. I'm thrilled that we manage to win." Coach Xavi Hernandez, who said on Saturday that it was "ludicrous" the game was going ahead, had to call on nine players from Barca's youth academy, starting two of them, Ilias Akhomach and Ferran Jutga, up front alongside De Jong.

But it was the Dutchman's night as he led the visitors to victory and back into European spots for the first time since Xavi replaced Ronald Koeman as coach in November. "It was important to win on a Sunday when Real Madrid, Betis, Rayo Vallecano and Real Sociedad all lost points," Barca defender Eric Garcia told reporters. **AGENCIES**



Luuk de Jong

Photo: REUTERS

# BAUTISTA AGUT, MAJCHRZAK TAKE SPAIN, POLAND FORWARD IN ATP CUP

**S**pain and Poland remained perfect at the ATP Cup with 3-0 wins in their matches Monday, their second consecutive victories in the team event.

Robert Bautista Agut clinched the match for Spain by beating Casper Ruud of Norway 6-4, 7-6 (4) after Pablo Carreno Busta defeated Viktor Durasovic 6-3, 6-3. Bautista Agut improved to 9-2 in singles at the team event.

"Casper is playing unbelievable tennis, (he did) an unbelievable performance last year, and today I played very good," Bautista Agut said in his on-court interview. "I returned very well, I made very few unforced errors and I played aggressively."

Kamil Majchrzak gave Poland the early lead over Georgia with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Aleksandre Bakshi before Hubert Hurkacz clinched it with



Roberto Bautista

Photo: AP

a 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-1 win over Aleksandre Metreveli. "He (Metreveli) played well in the first set and things were not going my way. But I got better with each set and am happy to get the win," Hurkacz said.

Spain and Poland later both won their doubles matches to make it 3-0 scorelines.

Poland can book a place in the semifinals if it defeats Argentina on Wednesday in its next group game. **AP**

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** What is the maximum permitted length of the cricket bat?

- a) 36
- b) 38
- c) 40
- d) 42

**Q2:** In which year did Mary Kom win the bronze at the Olympics?

- a) 2008
- b) 2012
- c) 2016
- d) 2004

**Q3:** Narain Karthikeyan was the first \_\_\_\_\_ from India?

- a) Speed walker
- b) Cyclist
- c) MotoGP Racer
- d) Formula One Driver

**Q4:** How many umpires are there in a cricket match?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4

**Q5:** After how many minutes does half time starts in a football match?

- a) 30 Mins
- b) 39 Mins

c) 45 Mins  
d) 40 Mins

**Q6:** Which racing sport does Sebastian Vettel perform in?

- a) Formula One
- b) MotoGP
- c) Rowing
- d) Skiing



Sebastian Vettel

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

**Q7:** Who has the highest number of gold medals in Olympic history?

- a) Larisa Latynina
- b) Mark Spitz
- c) Michael Phelps
- d) Saina Nehwal

**Q8:** Which was the first sport played on the Moon?

- a) Golf
- b) Tennis
- c) Badminton
- d) Archery

**Q9:** What does the blue colour represent?

- a) Asia
- b) Europe
- c) Africa
- d) Oceania

**Q10:** Who is the only person to win 6 Olympic gold medals in Archery?

- a) Justin Huish
- b) Park Kyung-mo
- c) Kim Soo-Nyung
- d) Hubert Van Innis

**ANSWERS:** 1. b. 38 2. b. 2012  
3. d. Formula One Driver 4. b. 2  
5. c. 45 Mins 6. a. Formula One  
7. c. Michael Phelps 8. a. Golf  
9. b. Europe 10. d. Hubert Van Innis