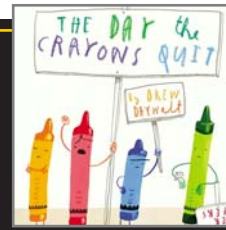




# THE TIMES OF INDIA

[www.toistudent.com](http://www.toistudent.com)
**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

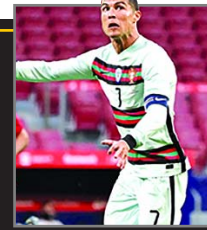
➤ Check out some of the best selling picture books for tiny tots

**PAGE 2**


➤ Students and teachers express their views on issues engulfing the country and the world

**PAGE 3**


➤ Football heavyweights set to collide at European championship

**PAGE 4**

**STUDENT EDITION**

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021


**WEB EDITION**
**CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2**

## TIMES NIE Answers Your Query

**Hina Naela,**  
class XII, G D Goenka  
Public School,  
Lucknow


**ASK THE EXPERT**

### A SHOT OF HOPE

To ask queries regarding Covid-19 and vaccination from our experts,

➤ **'CLICK HERE'**

**OR VISIT**

<https://bit.ly/331RxDn>

**Q** As a teenager, how can one deal with loneliness during the lockdown?

In the present scenario it is but natural for everyone to be anxious and lonely. One should be encouraged to resort to hobbies and think positive. Involve your parents in 20 minutes 'gadget-free time'. Family bonding and support to each other will keep members happy and stronger even in the toughest time.



**Udishia Tiwari,**  
class X, CMS  
GN2, Lucknow

**Q** I am feeling very anxious about the third wave with news that kids may get affected next. What am I to do?

By following all precautions like wearing masks, sanitising, social distancing and most importantly, getting vaccinated, it will keep the third wave at bay. Hopefully, if we are well prepared and follow the Covid protocol rigidly, nothing will affect our health.

**EXPERT ADVICE GIVEN BY**

Dr Tauseef Ahmed, general physician, Nishat Hospital, Lucknow



## NOVELIST DAVID DIOP AWARDED INTERNATIONAL BOOKER FOR WWI NOVEL

**F**rench novelist David Diop has won the prestigious International Booker Prize for books translated into English with his World War I-set novel, 'At Night All Blood is Black'. The Paris-born writer became the first French winner of the prize, awarded for a book translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland, in a ceremony broadcast online from Coventry Cathedral in central England. The book's translator Anna Moschovakis won half the £50,000 (\$70,850) prize, which recognises the major role of translators.

**BOOK**

## Record 63 Indian varsities make it to Times Asia University Rankings 2021, IISc country's best

**A** record 63 Indian universities have made it to the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2021, with three new universities figuring among the top 200. Fourteen Indian institutions debuted in this year's rankings, released by the UK-based publication. India is third overall in terms of representation, behind Japan (116 universities) and Mainland China (91).


**Education**

In the overall rankings, which have representation from 30 countries and regions, mainland Chinese universities - Tsinghua University (1st) and Peking University (2nd) - claimed the top two positions for the second year in a row

■ While Indian Institute of Science (37th) remains the country's highest ranked university for the seventh year in a row, Indian Institute of Technology,

Ropar (55th) and Indian Institute of Technology, Indore (78th) have also made it to the top 100 this year  
■ King George's Medical University

(139th), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (143rd) and Mahatma Gandhi University (154th) figure among the top 200 for the first time

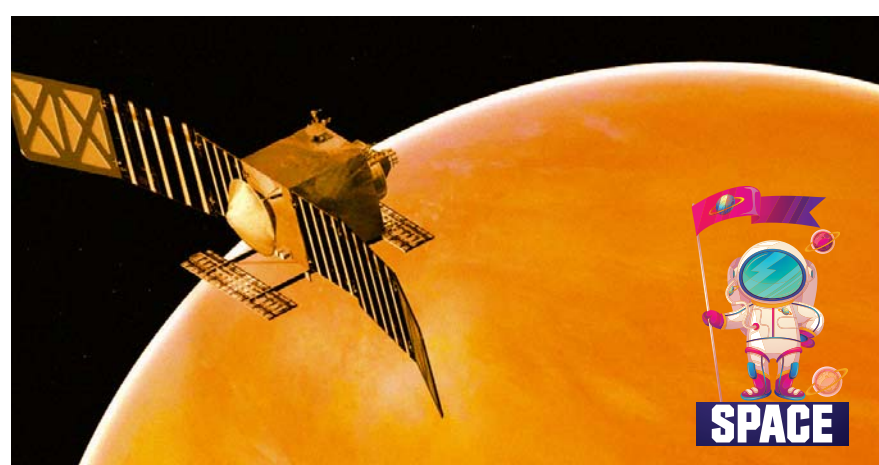
## ICC CONTEMPLATES MOVING 2021 T20 WORLD CUP FROM INDIA TO UAE



**T**his year's men's T20 World Cup could be moved from India to the United Arab Emirates, the International Cricket Council has said. The move appears to have been prompted by the rising number of Covid-19 cases in India, although this was not mentioned directly in a statement issued by the global governing body. The ICC added that a final decision on the host country for the October-November event would be taken later this month.

■ It also said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) would remain the hosts of the tournament, regardless of where it is played

■ The statement came days after Indian cricket chiefs announced that the Indian Premier League T20 franchise tournament, suspended after a new Covid-19 wave hit India, would be finished in the UAE in September and October



## NASA GETS READY TO HEAD TO VENUS

**N**ASA has announced plans to launch two new scientific missions to Venus between 2028 and 2030, its first in decades, to study the atmosphere and geologic features of the Earth's so-called sister planet. The US space agency said it was award-

ing about \$500 million for the development of each of the two missions, dubbed DAVINCI+ (short for Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble Gases, Chemistry and Imaging) and VERITAS (an acronym for Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography and Spectroscopy).

➤ DAVINCI+ will measure the composition of the dense Venusian atmosphere, seeking to improve understanding of how it evolved, while VERITAS will map the planet's surface from orbit to help determine its geological history, and why it developed so differently than the Earth, NASA said

➤ DAVINCI+, consisting of an orbiter and an atmospheric descent probe, is also expected to return the first high-resolution images of unique geological characteristics on Venus called "tesserae." Scientists believe those features may be comparable to Earth's continents and suggest that Venus has plate tectonics, according to NASA's announcement

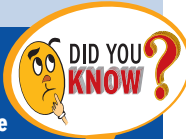
**1** Earth's closest planetary neighbour and the second planet from the sun, Venus is similar in structure but slightly smaller than the Earth, with a diameter of about 12,000 km

**2** Above its foreboding landscape lies a thick, toxic atmosphere consisting primarily of carbon dioxide with clouds of sulphuric acid droplets. The consequence is a runaway greenhouse effect that bakes the surface of Venus at temperatures as high as 471 Celsius, hot enough to melt lead

**3** Venus has lately received less scientific attention than Mars, Earth's next-closest planetary next-door neighbour, and other solar system destinations

■ NASA's Magellan spacecraft, which reached Venus in 1990, made the first global map of the Venusian surface as well as global maps of the planet's gravity field

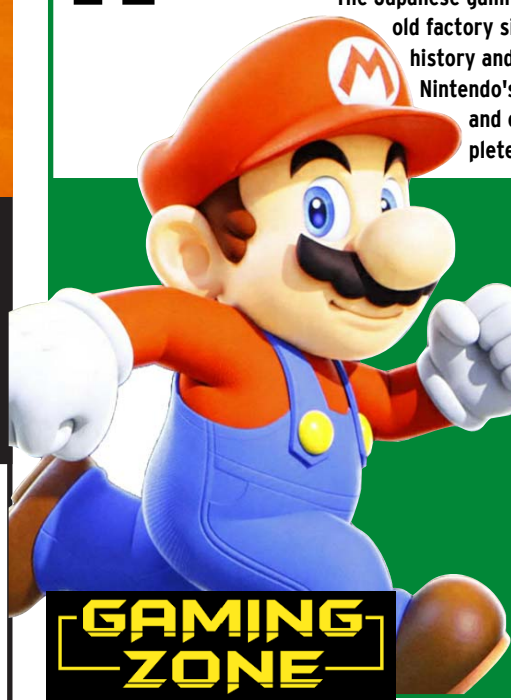
■ In 1994, the Magellan spacecraft was sent to plunge into the surface of Venus to gather data on its atmosphere before it ceased operations



## Fans can meet Super Mario at 'Nintendo Gallery' museum in 2024

**A**fter opening its first-ever theme park this March, Nintendo is giving fans something else to get excited about: a planned 'Nintendo Gallery' museum set to open by spring 2024.

The Japanese gaming giant has announced that it plans to repurpose an old factory site in Kyoto, where the firm is based, to exhibit its history and beloved gaming products. The facility "where Nintendo's historical products will be showcased and exhibits and experiences will be available" is expected to be completed by March 2024



■ Nintendo began life in 1889 as a manufacturer of hanafuda cards and launched its first home video game machines, known as TV Game 15 and TV Game 6, in 1977

■ The Super Mario Bros games were launched in 1985, two years after the company began selling its Nintendo Entertainment System console

■ Super Nintendo World, the company's first theme park, opened in March after months of pandemic delays. It is part of the Universal Studios Japan complex in Osaka, and features a Mario Kart ride with a real-life Bowser's Castle

## Twitter rolls out 'Birdwatch' fact checks inside tweets

Twitter has announced that it is rolling out the Birdwatch notes inside tweets for pilot participants across iOS, Android and desktop platforms

■ Birdwatch is a community-based programme that allows people to identify information in tweets they believe is misleading, and write notes that provide informative context

■ The micro-blogging platform launched a pilot version of the programme in January this year with select users in the US

■ Birdwatch wants to help people stay informed by adding helpful context to Tweets

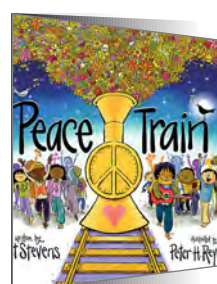
➤ If a Tweet has a Birdwatch note that is "currently rated helpful", then you'll see that note right there on the Tweet, and you can rate it to help elevate the most helpful notes  
➤ "If the Tweet has multiple notes that are 'currently rated helpful', the card will rotate between these 'currently rated helpful' notes at periodic intervals, and you can tap to rate those notes on the Birdwatch site," Twitter explained  
➤ If a Tweet has notes but none are yet "currently rated helpful", you'll see the number of notes written, and you can tap to rate those notes on the Birdwatch site



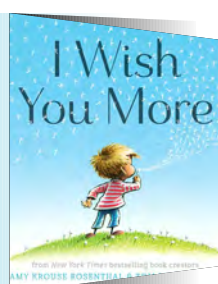
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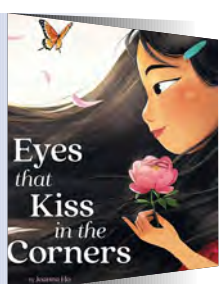
## BESTSELLING PICTURE BOOKS FOR TINY TOTS



**PEACE TRAIN**  
by **Cat Stevens**  
Illustrated by **Peter H Reynolds**  
A visual interpretation of the classic 1971 song.  
(AGES 4 TO 8)



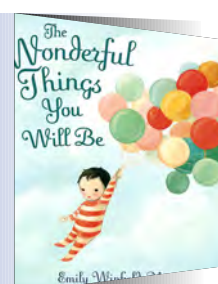
**I WISH YOU MORE**  
by **Amy Krouse Rosenthal**  
Illustrated by **Tom Lichtenheld**  
A bounty of good wishes.  
(AGES 5 TO 8)



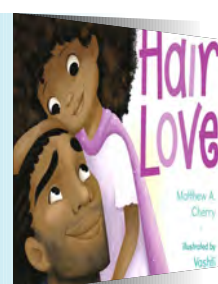
**EYES THAT KISS IN THE...**  
by **Joanna Ho**  
Illustrated by **Dung Ho**  
A tale of self-acceptance and respect for one's roots.  
(AGES 4 TO 8)



**WE ARE WATER PROTECTORS**  
by **Carole Lindstrom**  
Illustrated by **Michaela Goade**  
Standing up for environmental justice.  
(AGES 3 TO 6)



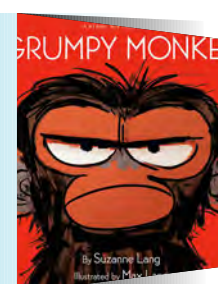
**THE WONDERFUL THINGS YOU...**  
by **Emily Winfield Martin**  
A celebration of possibilities.  
(AGES 3 TO 7)



**HAIR LOVE**  
by **Matthew A Cherry**  
Illustrated by **Vashti Harrison**  
A father and daughter work together on an extra-special hairstyle.  
(AGES 4 TO 8)



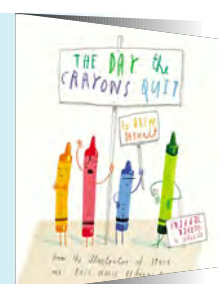
**DRAGONS LOVE TACOS**  
by **Adam Rubin**  
Illustrated by **Daniel Salmieri**  
What to serve your dragon-guests.  
(AGES 3 TO 5)



**GRUMPY MONKEY**  
by **Suzanne Lang**  
Illustrated by **Max Lang**  
Jim Panzee is having a bad day.  
(AGES 3 TO 7)



**THE ONE AND ONLY SPARKELLA**  
by **Channing Tatum**  
Illustrated by **Kim Barnes**  
Ella embraces her individuality.  
(AGES 4 TO 8)



**THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT**  
by **Drew Daywalt**  
Illustrated by **Oliver Jeffers**  
Problems arise when Duncan's crayons revolt.  
(AGES 3 TO 7)

## Etiquette around globe

# Unique food traditions followed in Japan



### SEATING STYLE

Traditional Japanese meals are taken by sitting on the ground in a 'seiza position' (on heels with your legs tucked underneath). Low tables are arranged and a mat called the tatami is laid down for people to sit. You may have seen this in Japanese movies, where everyone sits down together on the ground for eating.



### NEVER REST CHOPSTICKS ON THE BOWL

While eating food, Japanese never keep chopsticks on the bowl. If they wish to pause for a few minutes while eating, the chopsticks are kept on the side of the bowl or on a separate plate, but not on the bowl.



### DRINK WITH BOTH HANDS

Japan is famous for its popular culture of tea ceremonies. During these ceremonies, they are expected to drink the tea by holding the bowl with both hands. This method helps in warming up hands and makes you look more refined.



### DON'T USE YOUR HAND AS A SAFETY NET

Many times while eating, we usually cup our hands below the spoon while bringing it from the plate to our mouth. In Japanese culture, this practice is considered to be rude. If you use your hand to catch the falling food, it is bad manners!



### TABLE MANNERS

Once done with lunch or dinner, Japanese are expected to return everything back to the initial position. This means replacing the lids of the serving bowls and keeping the plate, bowls and chopsticks neatly together. One thing you need to remember while eating with the Japanese is to never leave a messy plate behind.

### SLURPING=APPRECIATION



In Japanese culture, slurping is equal to the sign of appreciation. You can either slurp the noodles by grabbing them with the chopsticks or slurp the soup by drinking it directly from the bowl. The idea behind this method is that slurping cools down the noodles and enhances the flavours by combining them with air.

Chopsticks come with a number of rules attached to them and there are certain chopstick manners that the Japanese follow rather seriously.

Firstly, don't tap the chopsticks against the bowls or

plate. Also, don't stick them straight in your bowl of rice or noodles.

You should also be careful while picking up food with

chopsticks. Don't stab your food with them, the movement of picking up food should be smooth and gentle.

Never chew on your chopsticks and also keep them back in the wrapper after finishing your meal.

## At-home Hair-care routine this summer

### Perform a hot oil massage

Utilise your time at home and massage your scalp with lukewarm oil, but, avoid applying too much oil on tresses as cleaning it may again lead to dryness and if left oily after wash, your hair will attract more dust, leading it to be greasy. A slow massage provides much-needed nourishment and hydration for your scalp; you will be rewarded with healthy hair follicles as well. A bhringraj and onion-based hair oil is a good option for deep nourishment of your hair follicles as it boosts blood supply and leads to good hair growth. Also, wrap your hair with hot towel for 10 minutes before shampoo for best results.

or dry hair. Conditioner increases shine and strength while creating a protective layer. Dry hair can also be benefitted by reverse hair washing or pre-wash conditioning method wherein conditioner is applied before you wash your hair and without rinsing the conditioner, directly apply shampoo and wash. If your hair is extremely frizzy, dry and damaged, hair mask is your go-to solution as it can be applied from root-to-tip to provide deep nourishment and repair. Masks should only be used once or twice a week unlike conditioner, which can be used after every wash.



### Gentle wash

Always remember to use a mild shampoo, preferably paraben and sulfate-free, to wash your hair as it reduces the damage to hair. An ideal shampoo for daily wash should not have pH exceeding 5.5.

### Use hair mask once a week and a conditioner regularly:

Using a conditioner can significantly repair the damaged hair but the frequency of using it, depends on whether you have oily

### Avoid hair styling products

It is better to avoid using hair styling products like gel, sprays, etc. to reduce damage to hair. These styling products tend to attract more dust and does not allow your hair to breathe. Air dry your hair naturally post hair wash. Go for styling products only on very special occasions like a wedding or big party - it should be an occasional indulgence and not a part of your regular hair care regimen. TNN

Tips from ADITYA SINGH, brand-head, Atulya Herbals

## QUIZ TIME (MIXED BAG)

SAMARTH JAIN, Class XII, BGS National Public School, Bengaluru

### Q.1) Who wrote Ramcharitmanas?

- A. Tulsidas B. Kabir  
C. Valmiki D. Vedvyas

### Q.2) Who was the first Vice President of Independent India?

- A. Zakir Husain  
B. Dr S Radhakrishnan  
C. Dr V V Giri  
D. C Rajagopalachari

### Q.3) Which of the following is not a department of the ministry of finance?

- A. Economic Affairs  
B. Expenditure  
C. Revenue  
D. Foreign Investments

### Q.4) Which Indian film of 2017 was nominated for the Oscars?

- A. Dangal  
B. Kabali  
C. Pink  
D. Newton



### ANSWERS

1. A) Tulsidas  
2. B) Dr S Radhakrishnan  
3. D) Foreign Investments  
4. D) Newton  
5. B) Norman Pritchard

## KNOWLEDGE BANK (NATURE)

SHREYA RAVI, CLASS VIII, THE BRIGADE SCHOOL, MALLESWARAM, BENGALURU

### Hammerhead sharks

They get their name from the unusual structure of their heads - flattened and laterally extended into a 'hammer' shape. They have white bellies, which help blend into the ocean and sneak on prey. Hammerheads swim in groups during the day, but go solitary during the nights to hunt. These sharks also have the ability to see at 360 degrees.



## FOOD TIPS THAT HELP IMPROVE MEMORY

Exam time brings a lot of stress for students as they have to stay up till late studying and retaining loads of information to perform well. To prevent exhaustion and keep your brain agile and sharp, nutritionist Ambika Tyagi shares tips on good eating habits.

### Take frequent and small meals

Instead of having a traditional breakfast, lunch and dinner, eat five or six light meals to increase concentration level. A



large meal will slow you down physically and mentally as the process of breaking down and digestion of a large meal takes time. However, don't skip your meals.

## BONUS TIP

Many students have the habit of studying late at night in order to pack more information into their already overworked brains. However, the night before your exam, go to bed on time and get enough sleep to feel fresh the next day and also to retain information.

### Foods to avoid

Some food items like cookies, burgers, cakes, and muffins should be avoided before or during exams as they are brain blocking foods that require more time and energy to digest. Intake of too much carbs like rice and potato can also make you sleepy. Also, avoid consuming rich food from takeaways until your exam is on as it makes the body sluggish and less agile.

### Stay hydrated

Drink enough water before and during your exam. Dehydration

can make you lose your concentration and lower your energy levels.

### Eat brain-boosting foods

Protein-rich foods that help in mental alertness are eggs, nuts, yoghurt, cottage cheese. For breakfast, take almonds, walnuts, raisins, orange, banana, whole-grain cereal with low-fat milk, porridge, oatmeal.

### Omega-3 for the brain

Have a diet rich in omega-3 fats that play an important role in boosting concentration. Good sources are salmon, tuna, flaxseeds, chia seeds and so on.



## REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE

In continuation to our World Environment Day coverage, we bring you some more of the recycling ideas shared by students and teachers.

Recycling turns things magically into something useful. At home, I try this magic with empty glass jars. I love making nice flower vases that spread happiness across all the corners of my home. Most importantly, I create my own 'happiness jar'. I fill my jar with happy memories with little notes throughout the year. Start one today and share love with your environment.

Madhuparna Mitra, Teacher of Class IV, Gitanjali Devashray

Our daily newspaper once read, gets stacked in dry waste bin. Newspaper dustbin liners are a great substitute to plastic garbage bags. Such simple family activities are amazing and enriching to inculcate in my children the importance of recycling.

Fauzia Shamim Siddiqui, Biology Facilitator, Birla Open Minds International School, Kollur

The adage 'one man's trash is another man's treasure' is gospel to my father who understands the power of recycling like none other. Growing up, he taught my siblings and me how to recycle clothes by stitching them together to make gorgeous quilts. I think twice before throwing any rag away, it could be a part of something beautiful.

Sunitha Makam, TGT- Department of English, Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills

I recycle food waste at home and convert it to compost which is nutritious for plants and gets them revitalised. With this, pollution in the form of garbage too decreases, and our habitat becomes beautiful and safe.

Shubh Verma, class VIII B, Meridian School, Kukatpally

I made a candle stand using old bangles, cardboard and colourful ribbons. We use these lamps during Diwali to light up our house. I made a few extra ones to gift it to my family and friends. I also made a frame using ice cream sticks. It is a poster colour painting and is very attractive to look at. I gift these to my friends on their birthdays. The gifts get a personalized touch.

Leher Amit Karia, class V C, Gitanjali Devshala

To let our future generations breathe we need to plant trees. Have you ever thought of planting saplings in a milk carton? Open the bottom of a used milk carton and plant a seedling inside it. The carton will protect your seedling from weather and pests, and when planted, it will degrade as the tree grows.

G Sai Jitha Vaishnavi, class X, Silver Oaks International School, Hyderabad

When life gives you a wardrobe full of old clothes, what can you do? Well, a lot. You want things around you to be fashionable and harmless to the environment, then recycling is the best option. I have made colourful patched curtains and gowns out of old sarees. I really enjoyed the process and the outcome. It helped me fight against boredom during lockdown, got lots of appreciation from near and dear ones.

Pravinya Skanda Kuruganti, class X A, Gitanjali Devakul

Flowers play a vital role in our culture, especially for offering it to God daily or during festivals. These flowers after two days dry up and become floral waste. The best way to utilise the floral waste is by converting them into compost at home and using as manure for plants. They can be mixed with spices and citrus peels and be used as room freshener as well.

Vasavi M, Geography Facilitator, Middle School, Johnson Grammar School ICSE, Habsiguda

I convert kitchen waste into compost. Vegetable waste is purely organic, and the compost made out of it is a valuable resource for plants. It is simple and natural process; it is an environmentally friendly method.

D Hanvitha Reddy, class III, Daksha School

This summer I decided to make some handicrafts with used items. So I took some big, old plastic bottles, cut them horizontally and put some soil in them. I then planted seeds and after a few weeks the seeds grew into beautiful plants.

I was very happy to witness this. Hasitha Reddy, class III D, Niraj Public School, Ameerpet

The one item that I recycle are old glass bottles that can be melted at relatively low temperature. Once melted, I shape them into various animals and keep it up for display.

Keerthana Lakshmi Krishna, class IX, Oakridge International School

# Express YOURSELF

## LET US TRY TO HEAL NATURE TOGETHER

### NURTURE THE FLORA AND FAUNA



World environment day is celebrated on June 5 every year. It was started by the United Nations environmental program in the year 1973 and has been continuing since then. The main purpose of celebrating this day is to spread awareness about the environment.

Environment provides us with essential resources to sustain life on earth. To conserve and preserve it are our moral duty. Every forest must be nurtured with its fauna and flora, every farmland should be cultivated organically, every water body should be protected, and toxic elements should not be released into the air.

SHASHANK VARMA, class III C, Niraj Public School

### STAND UP FOR MOTHER EARTH

Covid-19 brought the world to a standstill. Lockdown was imposed at several places. For many people it was a distressful experience, but for the environment it turned out to be a huge blessing. It showed how much we humans impact the environment. If humans don't start taking the environment seriously, the consequences would be severe, especially for the future generation. It is estimated that within 100 years there will be no rainforests. Due to global warming the Arctic sea, icebergs and glaciers will melt, causing widespread coastal flooding.

Increasing global temperature is likely to cause the extinction of many species and this is just a small glimpse of the future!

But, we can still make a difference with a few small steps such as using public transport as much as possible, growing more plants and trees, using reusable bags instead of plastic bags. So, let's render our responsibilities now because there is no planet B.

BHAV AGASTYA KARRA, class VI, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



## TEST 'POSITIVE' FOR HAPPINESS

Negative emotion is such a fickle thing. Sometimes it feels more of a logical approach to life than being a pessimist. For a pessimist, being negative is not a choice but the one and only option. But for a positive person being optimistic is not an option but a way of life.

It is the art of appreciating the little happiness that life gives us - the trees, breathing fresh air, watching TV shows, tasty food, there are so many things around us which are probably waiting to get noticed as a form of happiness.

In the case of Covid patients, the will to live is what keeps them going. 'It is going to be fine!' I

will get through this! maybe a little thought, but they create a massive difference in one's emotions; one's emotions change their outlook on life. If you test "positive" for happiness, unless and until you let go of it, it will forever stay with you.

However, sometimes life forces you to evaluate your choices, and a positive approach may not always work out. This is when you realise the difference between being 'realistic' and being 'pessimist.' Think about it, is the glass half full or half empty, or someone just drank the water?

SAHANA JAYAKRISHNA, class XII, Jubilee Hills Public School, Hyderabad

## Painters' Gallery

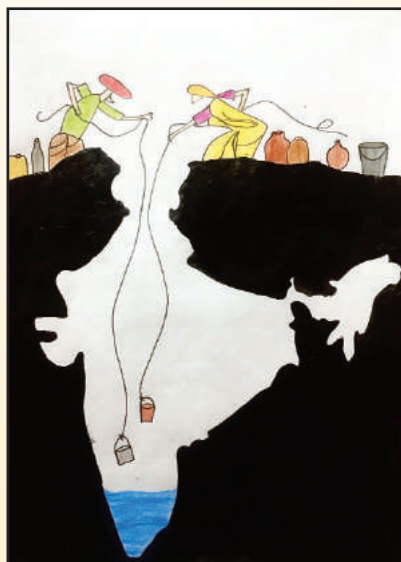


IN OUR HANDS: LAKSHMI AKANSHA, class V G, Pallavi Model School, Bowenpally



SAVE TO SURVIVE: NILANJANA SINGH, class X, Delhi Public School, Nacharam, Hyderabad

RENEWABLES: SAI SHARANYA GUNDA, class X A, Unicent School, Nagole



## Learning to embrace learners

A class often includes learners with different needs and as such, teachers are required to understand various barriers to learning and the impact of learning differences on school experience and the learning process.

There are some key elements teachers embrace to support every learner. Here are some of the fundamental elements for teachers.

NIRMALA PATRO, HOD, French department, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



### 1 FOCUS ON RELATIONSHIPS

Tuning into individual learners, seeing things from their perspective through establishing nurturing relationships is fundamental to learning.

### 2 UNDERSTAND COMMUNICATION

All behaviour is communication. Being careful about the labels we give when describing behaviour is important. A problem is a problem, not a person.

### 3 COLLABORATING

Consider where you can seek support from colleagues to come together to focus on identifying and collaboratively solving the problems that are rooted in the learning needs of your learners. This may be with other teachers, education professionals or colleagues from other professional disciplines.

### 4

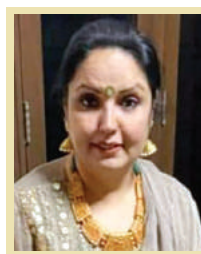
### PARTNERSHIP WITH FAMILIES

Families know their children best. Work together to identify what works, then do more of it, and plan to do something different for anything that is not working. Recognise that there is probably more than one answer and there is always something that can be done differently.

THE EDUCATIONIST

## An estranged heart bellows out for help

There is sadness lurking around, the fear of losing a Loved one, the apprehension to step out to meet your Mom Oh! Destiny we are so close, Yet so far away. Every time the phone rings. My heart skips a beat What tragic news will it bring? Are my near and dear safe Will they survive this pandemic? The struggle to find a bed in a hospital is a nightmare, ICU and ventilator are a ghastly sight, And then I hear a wailing from far away, oh! No another life has been taken away, the clock stopped ticking and the heart stopped beating Merciless Corona is everywhere, playing hide and seek, I can see it in the Air It's time God showers his mercy and heals mother Earth Oh! Humans remember stay home, stay safe.



SUNIR NAGI, Principal, Pallavi Model School, Alwal



# HEAVYWEIGHTS SET TO CLASH AT EURO 2020

While four of the best third-placed teams are set to qualify for the quarter-finals, Euro 2020's Group F remains full of intrigue as reigning champions Portugal, World Cup holders France and Germany all face off, while Hungary could have their say too



Karim Benzema

Photo: REUTERS

**T**he much awaited rescheduled European Championships is all set to kick off on June 11 in Italy with 24 teams in line to be crowned the kings of the continent. Portugal are reigning European champions and have reached at least the semi-finals in four of the last five Euros. They came second behind Ukraine in qualifying and, at 36, Cristiano Ronaldo is not getting any younger. However, Portugal also won the Nations League in 2019 and Ronaldo has arguably never been surrounded by so much talent: from Ruben Dias at the back to Bruno Fernandes, Bernardo Silva, Diogo Jota and Joao Felix. If they click, they could take some stopping.

## Ronaldo set to create history

Given the talent in Portugal's ranks, perhaps it is unimaginative to single out Ronaldo, but it will be fascinating to follow his progress. At 36 this is probably his penultimate major tournament. Portugal's captain and most-capped player has 103 international goals, with 11 coming in the qualifying campaign. He is now just six shy of the all-time international scoring record of 109 held by Iran's Ali Daei.

## Benzema recalled

"All the other countries envy us," shouted the front of French sports daily L'Equipe this week underneath pictures of Kylian Mbappe, Karim Benzema and Antoine Griezmann. In France they are understandable confident about their prospects of following

their 2018 World Cup triumph with Euro glory. Coach Didier Deschamps has a squad full of world-class talent. Competition for places was already fierce up front even before the decision to recall Benzema. Most countries would be delighted to have just one of Mbappe, Benzema or Griezmann, and maybe over-confidence is the biggest danger for France. At 33, the Real Madrid striker was recalled after an international exile of five and a half years. He had not been called up since a blackmail scandal over a sextape involving his former teammate Mathieu Valbuena broke in 2015. But Deschamps could no longer ignore Benzema's form after a season in which he scored 30 goals for his club.

## Joachim Loew to step down

Germany are three-time European champions and have reached at least the semi-finals at each of the last three Euros. However, since their disastrous showing at the 2018 World Cup, when they went out in the group stage, Germany's fortunes have not improved much. They topped their qualifying group ahead of the Netherlands, but in recent matches they were trounced 6-0 in

Our performance at the tournament will also depend on what everyone brings. The midfielders, the full-backs. I don't want to dissociate the three forwards from the rest of the team.

**DIDIER DESCHAMPS, France Coach**

Spain in the Nations League and suffered a 2-1 home defeat by North Macedonia in World Cup qualifying. After 15 years in charge, coach Joachim Loew will step down after the tournament. He has recalled Thomas Mueller and Mats Hummels, who had previously been discarded after the last World Cup. Playing group games at home in Munich gives them an advantage, on paper at least.

## All eyes on Mueller

Germany will rely heavily on the quality of players like Joshua Kimmich and Toni Kroos but a successful Euro may also depend on Mueller. The 31-year-old has been too good for Bayern Munich to be ignored any longer by his country and is back after two and a half years in the international wilderness.

## Home advantage for Hungary

The Magyars reached a second straight European Championship via the Nations League play-offs -- they finished fourth in their qualifying group but won play-off ties against Bulgaria and Iceland to qualify. Coached by the Italian Marco Rossi, Hungary will get to play their first two matches at home in Budapest but their best player, RB Leipzig midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai, is out injured. It would be an enormous surprise if they finished anywhere other than bottom of their group. Given the calibre of Hungary's opponents, Gulacsi could be a busy man. The 31-year-old, once on Liverpool's books, has gone on to be a fixture in goal for RB Leipzig in the German Bundesliga. His recent experience of the latter stages of the Champions League could come in handy. **AFP**



Cristiano Ronaldo

Photo: AFP

# FEDERER WITHDRAWS FROM FRENCH OPEN

The Swiss player, targetting his 21st Grand Slam title at Wimbledon, says he needs to take one day at a time, not rush back into competition and listen to his body instead

**F**ormer world number one Roger Federer, who is targeting a record 21st Grand Slam title at Wimbledon, withdrew from the French Open on Sunday, a day after winning a tough third-round match, opting to save himself for the grass-court season. "After discussions with my team, I decided that I should withdraw from the French Open," Federer said in a statement released by the French Tennis Federation. "After two knee operations and more than a year of rehabilitation, it's important that I listen to my body and not rush back into competition."

Federer suffered physically in his four-set, late-night victory over German Dominik Koepfer on Saturday and decided to end his Roland Garros campaign. "I need to decide if I keep on playing or not, or is it not too much risk at this moment to keep pushing or is this just a perfect way to just take a rest." **REUTERS**

## NAOMI OSAKA THANKS FANS FOR SUPPORT

**F**our-time Grand Slam winner Naomi Osaka posted her first social media comments since pulling out of the French Open after a dispute over news conferences. Osaka, who also had revealed her ongoing battle with depression and anxiety, thanked her supporters in a brief message on Instagram. "Just want to say thank you for all the love. Haven't been on my phone much but I



wanted to hop on here and tell you all that I really appreciate it," she wrote. French tennis officials fined Osaka \$15,000 and threatened to remove her from the tournament for not honoring mandatory media commitments, prompting the 23-year-old to withdraw on her own. French Open officials said they tried unsuccessfully to speak with Osaka before she pulled out. **AFP**

# MO FARAH FAILS TO QUALIFY

**F**our-time Olympic champion Mo Farah's hopes of ending his track career at the Tokyo Games suffered a huge blow as he fell short of the qualifying mark for the 10,000 metres in Birmingham. The 38-year-old finished eighth, behind fellow Briton Marc Scott, in the European Cup, which doubled as British Olympic trial. Farah's time in his first race at this distance for four years was 22 seconds short of the required standard of 27 mins 28 secs to qualify for the Games. He blamed a foot injury for his poor showing, which had prevented him from training over the last two weeks.

He has another three weeks to make the qualifying time and could also turn his attention to the 5,000 metres in which he won gold at London 2012 and Rio 2016. **AFP**



Mo Farah

Photo: REUTERS

## QUIZ TIME!

### Q1: Who is the youngest F1 driver to win a race?

- a) Max Verstappen ☐ b) Sebastian Vettel ☐  
 c) Lewis Hamilton ☐ d) Kimi Raikkonen ☐

### Q2: Who holds the record for most consecutive English Premier League appearances?

- a) Frank Lampard ☐ b) Brad Friedel ☐  
 c) Ryan Giggs ☐ d) James Vaughan ☐

### Q3: Lewis Hamilton won his first F1 world championship title with which team?

- a) Mercedes ☐ b) Renault ☐

- c) McLaren ☐ d) Sauber ☐

### Q4: What American sister and brother won the mixed double championship at Wimbledon in 1980?

- a) Marat and Dinara Safina ☐  
 b) Tracy and John Austin ☐  
 c) Byron and Cara Black ☐  
 d) Nancy and Cliff Richey ☐

### Q5: Who was the first female driver to score points in a Grand Prix?

- a) Maria Teresa de Filippis ☐  
 b) Giovanna Amati ☐ c) Lella Lombardi ☐  
 d) Rolf Stommelen ☐

### Q6: Italian Benedetta Pilato set a new world record in 50m breaststroke at European Swimming Championships 2021. Whose record did the teenager better?

- a) Abbie Wood ☐ b) Lilly King ☐  
 c) Katinka Hosszu ☐ d) Anastasia Gorbenko ☐



Photo: AFP

### Q7: Who won the LMA Manager of the Year after steering his team to the Premier League title?

- a) Marcelo Bielsa ☐ b) David Moyes ☐  
 c) Pep Guardiola ☐ d) Brendan Rodgers ☐

### Q8: When was mixed doubles in a medal sport at the Olympics?

- a) 2000 Sydney Olympics ☐  
 b) 1992 Barcelona Olympics ☐  
 c) 1996 Atlanta Olympics ☐  
 d) 1998 Sydney Olympics ☐

### Q9: Which team has the most wins in F1?

- a) Ferrari ☐ b) McLaren ☐  
 c) Mercedes ☐ d) Williams ☐

### Q10: Which country has won the ICC Women's T20 World Cup the most times?

- a) West Indies ☐ b) England ☐  
 c) Australia ☐ d) New Zealand ☐

### Q11: Who was All England 2020 Men's Singles Champion?

- a) Viktor Axelsen ☐ b) Kento Momota ☐  
 c) Chen Long ☐ d) Srikanth Kidambi ☐

**ANSWERS:** 1 a) Max Verstappen, 2 b) Brad Friedel, 3 d) McLaren, 4 b) Tracy and John Austin, 5 c) Lella Lombardi, 6 b) Lilly King, 7 c) Pep Guardiola, 8 c) 1996 Atlanta Olympics, 9 a) Ferrari, 10 c) Australia, 11 a) Viktor Axelsen