



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ For a teacher, learning is an endless process. A teacher talks on how one evolves as he/she spend more and more years in educating young ones
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➤ From mastering a new language to solving riddles and honing your quiz skills, smarten up by attempting our DIYs
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➤ IPL 2021: With an eye on play-offs spot, MI face SRH in 'must win' game
PAGE 4


STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2021


**EDU MINISTRY
ISSUES POINTERS
TO ENSURE 360°
SECURITY IN
SCHOOLS**
[CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2](#)
**TOP 3 BUZZ
OF THE DAY**
HONOUR
**ABDULRAZAK GURNAH WINS 2021
NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE**


Tanzanian writer Abdulrazak Gurnah won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature, the award-giving body said on Thursday. The Swedish Academy said, the award was in recognition of his "uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of the refugee in the gulf between cultures and continents". "The 2021 literature laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah's fourth novel 'Paradise' (1994), his breakthrough as a writer, evolved from a research trip to East Africa around 1990. It is a coming of age account and a sad love story in which different worlds and belief systems collide," said the Jury. The prize is awarded by the Swedish Academy and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.14 million). (\$1 = 8.7856 Swedish crowns).

■ Gurnah, who grew up on the island of Zanzibar but arrived in England as a refugee in the 1960s, has published 10 novels as well as a number of short stories. The Nobel committee said that "the theme of the refugee's disruption runs throughout his work"

■ His novel 'Paradise' was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1994

ECONOMY
**INDIA'S GDP GROWTH IN 2021-22
SEEN AT 8.3%: WORLD BANK**


India's economy, South Asia's largest, is expected to grow by 8.3% in the fiscal year 2021-22, aided by an increase in public investment and incentives to boost manufacturing, according to the latest report from the World Bank. It backed shifting to a services sector-led growth model for the region to strengthen the recovery.

"Over the next two years, as the base effect fades, growth is expected to stabilise at around 7%, aided by structural reforms to ease supply-side constraints and infrastructure investment. In the medium term, uncertainty around asset-quality deterioration from the pandemic, higher-than-expected inflation, and slow recovery in the informal sector are the main downside risks," according to the report

MEDICINE
**WHO recommends world's first malaria
vaccine for children at risk**

The World Health Organisation on Wednesday endorsed the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine, the first against the mosquito-borne disease that kills more than 400,000 people a year, mostly African children. The decision followed a review of a pilot programme deployed since 2019 in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi in which more than two million doses were given of the vaccine, first made by the pharmaceutical company GSK in 1987.

■ Many vaccines exist against viruses and bacteria but this was the first time that the WHO recommended for broad use a vaccine against a human parasite
■ The vaccine acts against plasmodium falciparum – one of the five malaria parasite species and the most deadly



A 'Whole School' SAFETY approach

Four years after a seven-year-old boy was found murdered in an international school in Gurugram, the Union education ministry has drawn up school safety and accountability guidelines on the orders of the Supreme Court and suggestions of an expert committee. The new 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security' circulated this week to all states for implementation across all government and private schools, list out 11 categories of 'negligence' for which school administration will be held accountable.

The new guidelines are based on three key ideas – accountability and legal framework with all relevant laws; a 'whole school' safety approach with clear demarcated responsibilities for all stakeholders – from teachers to non-teaching staff, school management and parent. Non-compliance will attract fines up to 5% of the total revenue in the preceding year for a private school with bar on fresh admissions and even possible derecognition

THE GUIDELINES

1 The guidelines have specified actionable 'negligences' that include the failure to provide timely medical aid to students, delay in actions in times of disaster or crime, security-related lapses, suppression of facts and not reporting to the appropriate authority

2 Those apart, negligence in establishing a secured infrastructure for the students and children with special needs, negligence in the quality of food and water, laxity in taking action against a complaint reported by a student figure among the categories

3 Corporal punishment, including mental and emotional harassment, failure to prevent bullying, discriminatory actions, substance abuse, lapses in implementation of Covid-19 guidelines will also invite action by the government

4 The guidelines also call on states to include conditions for fixing responsibility of safety and security on school management/principal/head of school in private schools among the conditions for recognition of schools as mandated under Section 18(2) of the Right to Education Act

BOND GETS A GRAND welcome



The latest James Bond movie took a mighty \$121 million at the international box office over its opening weekend, Universal Pictures said on Monday. The British and Irish box office led the way with a total of \$35 million, making 'No Time to Die' the biggest movie release during the coronavirus pandemic and the highest opening three-day weekend ever in the UK and Ireland for a Bond movie.

The film, which marks actor Daniel Craig's fifth and final outing as the British secret agent, was delayed three times from its planned April 2020 release date because of the pandemic

The action movie, which cost an estimated \$200 million to produce, won warm reviews, with many film critics saying it was worth the wait

**TELEGRAM GAINS 70 MN NEW USERS
IN ONE DAY AFTER FB OUTAGE**

As Facebook experienced a nearly six-hour outage across its services this week, messaging app Telegram gained over 70 million new users. Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and



In January, Telegram crossed 500 million monthly active users

Messenger went down for millions of users, including in India, on Monday evening, as they were unable to send or receive messages on social media platforms. According to DownDetector, a website that tracks WhatsApp outages, 40 per cent users were unable to download the app, 30 per cent had trouble in sending messages and 22 per cent had problems with the web version.

**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN HANDWRITTEN
LYRICS, HARMONICAS SET FOR AUCTION**

Handwritten lyrics by rock legend Bruce Springsteen songs 'Thunder Road', 'For You', and 'Night' are set to hit the auction block later this month. The sale will also include two harmonicas which were used on the original recordings of 'Thunder Road' and 'Johnny 99', when bidding kicks off on October 28 via Bonhams.

Written by Springsteen, the four-page 'Thunder Road' manuscript is in pen on ruled notebook paper, and features two different drafts of the opening verse. It is estimated to sell for somewhere between \$50,000 and \$70,000.

CHARITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA
RETHINK

Are you an intellectual bully? Or at the receiving end of one? Know what can be done to stop being one or to counter the bully too

WELLNESS

Do it the "write" way – how Chinese calligraphy is now being hailed as a great physical, mental and emotional healer

**WORLD MENTAL
HEALTH DAY**

Interesting facts about mental health in India and globally. **PLUS:** Celebs who shared their stories to inspire others to seek help

ETIQUETTE

How to converse on politics without getting


STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021



into a confrontation. **PLUS:** How to handle awkward moments with grace; take our Manner Quiz. **NEW SECTION:** Dress Etiquette – this week, how to follow the colourful socks trend

FILMS, BOOKS

8 works of fiction that changed the world. **PLUS:** 12 movies to get you hooked to journalism

SIMPLY SPORTS

Watch out for these teen sensations in various sports

FLORAL FIESTA

The screens on the computers of the Pre-Primary children of Gitanjali Devshala were brought to life with the festive spirit and vibrant colours of Navratri.

The festivals of Bathukamma and Dussehra were celebrated with gaiety where the children came dressed, each in a different colour, carrying brilliant and beautiful smiles and infectious joy-ful faces.

The art and craft activity involved drawing of Raavan and flower dabbing activity in the making of dazzling Bathukamma pyramids. The children listened intently to the story of Mahishasura, the demon who was killed by goddess Durga.

The day concluded with the most awaited activity, Dandiya and Garba dance. The children accompanied by their mothers merrily danced to the popular tunes making the celebration one to remember. Dussehra and holiday greetings were exchanged warmly between the children eliciting their affection towards each other.

Gitanjali Devshala
Hyderabad



Happy Dussehra

And

Bathukamma



Delhi World School

Shadnagar

The management of Delhi World School Shadnagar held Bathukamma celebrations with great devotion. Bathukamma is a floral festival celebrated predominantly by women of Telangana. Every year this festival is celebrated as per Shathavahana calendar for nine days starting Bhadra-

pada Pournami (also known as Mahalaya Amavasya or Pitru Amavasya) till Durgashtami.

The festivities terminate on Saddula Bathukamma, Pedda Bathukamma festival on Ashwayuja Navami, popularly known as Durgashtami which is two days before Dussehra.

Storytelling, an effective teaching tool

"The human species think in metaphors and learn through stories"

Children love stories. Stories are magic. They can create other worlds, emotions, ideas and a sense of wonder world. Storytelling is the oldest form of teaching. It bonded the early human communities, giving children the answers to the biggest questions of creation and life. Stories teach us about life, about ourselves and about others.

Stories convey the culture, history, and values that unite people. The art of storytelling has been and will always be a highly effective teaching strategy. Telling a story creates more vivid, powerful and memorable images in a listener's mind than does any other means of delivery of the same material.

Storytelling helps in promoting a feeling of well-being and

D V Sudha, Geography
Faculty-Middle School, Johnson Grammar School, ICSE
Habsiguda, Hyderabad

relaxation, encourages active participation, imagination and creativity, increases verbal proficiency, willingness to communicate thoughts and feelings.

As an effective story teller, a teacher can help in the development of a child's brain, ability to focus, concentration, social skills and communication skills. We at Johnson had a workshop on storytelling recently which we feel is really helpful and can be implemented in primary and middle school classroom.



At the peak of one of the tallest mountain ranges on the planet, I was born millions of years ago. I started small and streamed downwards. I gained energy and became excited, maybe too excited at times. I flowed down the mountain and along my course, got much bigger. I eroded the earth beneath me and left behind a gorge, tearing through the rocks. And with the rapids behind me, I moved on.

I then became a lot older. I lost much of my vitality but I was still determined. My speed drastically decreased. I curved myself left and right, as the sand and silt chose to shape me. I created children, the ox bow lakes, but I abandoned them, as I went ahead on my own path.

Now, I am very old. My excitement is at an all-time low. But now, I have found the eternal sea stretching out to the horizon and beyond. I rejoice as I merge into the almighty ocean. Mighty and ever flowing, I am the river.

PANSHUL REDDY KAMBHAM, class IX,
Ganges Valley School, Hyderabad

IF I WERE A RIVER



GANDHI TO GANDHIGIRI

Anjali Karunakaran, Homeroom Teacher,
Silver Oaks International School
Oakdale Campus, Hyderabad

Come October 2nd and everyone goes gaga behind Gandhi.

A person born 152 years ago, has he got any relevance in this 21st century?

The times have changed! The world is running at a faster pace!

We have surpassed reaching the moon and are ready to land on Mars.

The generation that is all set to march on Mars, will they be able to connect to Mahatma? Hmm..

Point to ponder !!!

In a country where the Bhagavad Gita is a sacred book, where Quran is read with clean hands and clean mind, where Bible verses are read and shared as a healing power, a country where we still love, respect and care

the books written thousands of years ago, in that country why can't we still value and walk on the path of **Truth and Non-violence**.

How can it be irrelevant to have **Sarvodaya** - the universal welfare?

How can we not do our **Swadharma** - my work, I have to be responsible?

How can we not walk on the path of **Satyagraha** - speak the truth and have moral courage?

How can we not have **Swaraj**- self control and self discipline?

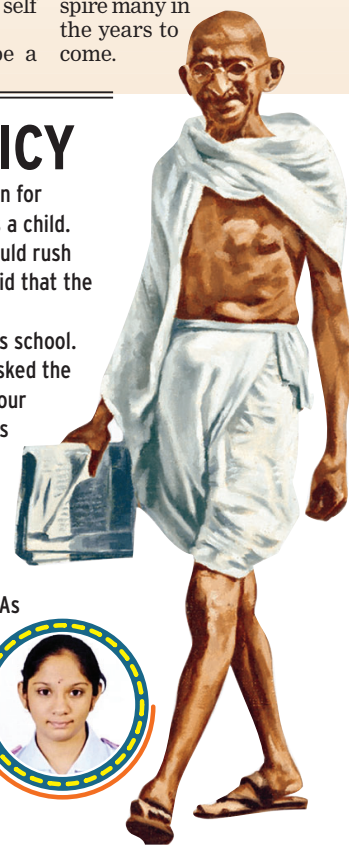
How can we not be a

Swadeshi- self sufficient?

Irrespective of which generation, era or millennium one belongs to, the values of humankind will always be relevant.

Undoubtedly the times have changed and it will continue to change but the love for nature, respect for elders, care for everyone, should not fade away.

The journey of Mohan to Bapu and Bapu to Mahatma and Mahatma to Gandhigiri, will continue to inspire many in the years to come.



HONESTY IS BEST POLICY

Mahatma Gandhi or Bapu as we call him is a inspiration for many across the globe. But Gandhiji was very shy as a child. As soon as the school bell rang, it is said that he would rush home while others stayed back to talk and play. He was afraid that the boys might stop him and make fun of him.

One fine day, the Inspector of Schools came to Gandhiji's school. The inspector read out five English words to the class and asked the students to write them down on their slates. Gandhi wrote four words correctly, but could not write the fifth word which was 'Kettle' as he did not know how to spell it. Seeing this, his teacher made a sign from behind that he should copy the word from his neighbour's slate. But Gandhiji ignored the signs. The other students wrote all the five words correctly; but Gandhiji wrote only four. After the Inspector left, the teacher scolded him. All the other students laughed at him. As he went home that evening, Gandhiji was not unhappy. He knew he had done the right thing. What made him sad was that his teacher had asked him to cheat. This shows that Gandhiji had a different mindset and was a honest from childhood.

BHAVYA LAKKIMSHETTY, class IX, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad



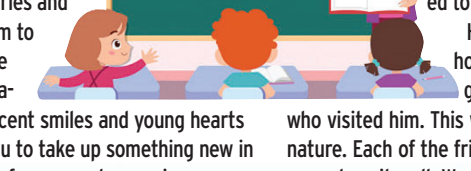
GIFTING SEEDS OF HOPE

The teaching profession is blessed with live and lovely moments wherein the interactions with the children make the teachers forget their own worries and transport them to the land of the child's imagination.



The innocent smiles and young hearts can inspire you to take up something new in your life. Out of many such experiences, I would like to share an interesting incident that happened in my virtual classroom. The class assembly was being presented by the children. We were now about to celebrate the birthday of one of our students. We asked the student to come on the camera with his parents and his younger brother. The celebration overjoyed the child and the parents appreciated our efforts of

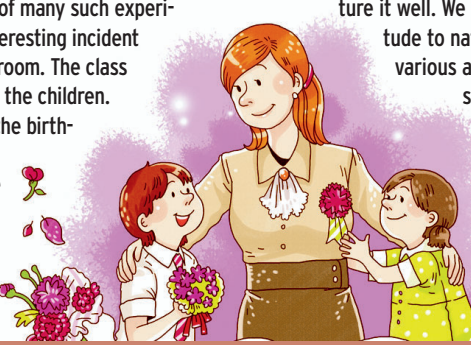
CLASSROOM ANTICS



making the moment special for the child even in the virtual times. Out of curiosity, I asked the child what his plans for his birthday were and whether there was anything different he wanted to do.

He said he would celebrate his birthday at home with his friends and had planned to gift a sapling to each one of the friends who visited him. This was his way to pay gratitude to mother nature. Each of the friends will plant that sapling and will nurture it well. We at GITS always imbibe the virtue of gratitude to nature and environment conservation with various activities and celebrations of events. A small idea sown in the hearts of children was giving fruits and it was an inspiration for us that our teachings have made an impact!

KHUSHBU SINGH,
educator, Global Indian International School, Ahmedabad



Painters' Gallery

CLICK HERE TO VIEW ONLINE



AN UNBREAKABLE CAGE

I sat at a corner, Penetrating through the light,
Of something, a wonder.
It was divine and hard to sunder.

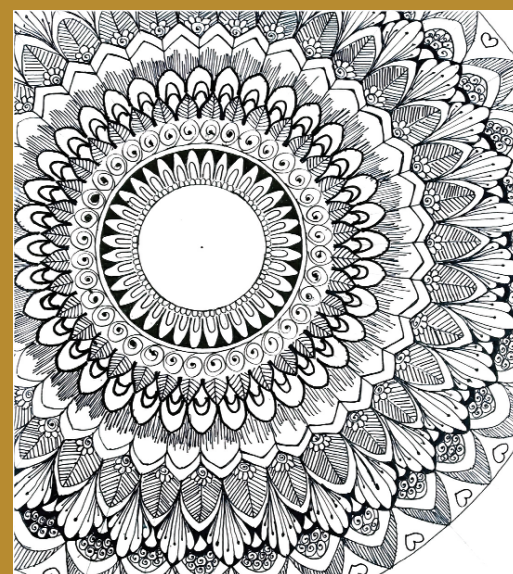
It built a hefty cage,
Thee I cannot break.
It rived me from my dwell,
And took me to a buffoonery world even if I rebel.

I was then thrown into a vast world,
With many people, a forceful hurl.
I closed my eyes, begged for departure,
A phone, I was enforced to capture.....

LASYA PALLA, class VIII B, Delhi Public School, NACHARAM



CHARGING AHEAD: ROHAN.PARIT, class V, Gautami Vidya Kshetra, Hyderabad



DESIGN DETAIL: PIYUSH KUMAR, class IX B, Army Public School, Bolarum

LIFE AT A PAUSE

From micro-organism to pandemic, From free to confined
The life has come to a halt, Indeed, we need to mind.

Gone the noises of trains, planes and cars,
At first, it looked just 'Flu' or another round of 'SARS'.
No meeting, no love, not even a good bye!
This virus made us watch our loved ones horribly die.

"Everything suddenly paused....
Places seem deserted everywhere at all."
Doctors, nurses, cops and health workers
Struggling night and day,
Oh! ALMIGHTY, please keep this pandemic away.

Cough, sneeze or clear your throat,
But make sure you do all that in your elbows.
Hugs, kisses and handshakes.....NO! NO! NO!
'Namaste', blow kiss or wave hand to say 'hi' or 'hello'.

No schools, no teachers, no friends and no screams,
But thanks to my BVVPS teachers to make it happen through 'Google meet' as a team.

As we enter into this new normal, we all have a heavy heart and mind
But, together we all stand and it's more important to be generous and kind.

V. TARUNYA SREE, class IX D, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

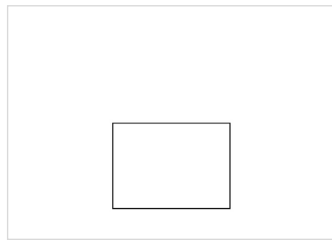


LEVEL-1

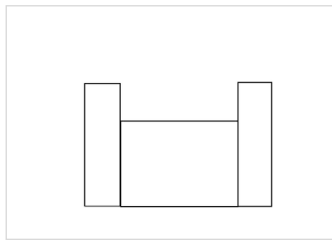


ANAGHA SASTIKAR
Art Educator
Bodakdev School For Children, Ahmedabad

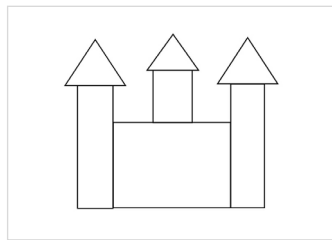
Draw the easy way



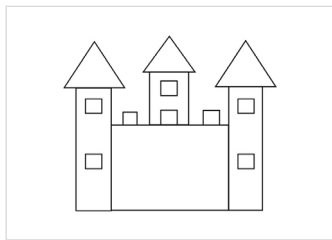
Step-1



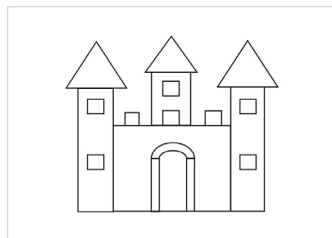
Step-2



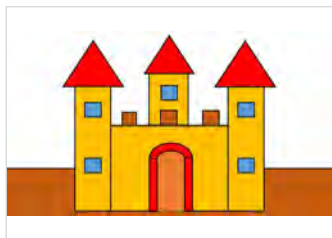
Step-3



Step-4



Step-5



Step-6



SAEOSN

- a. Scissor b. Section
c. Season d. Silly

ACCTH

- a. Arch b. Catch
c. Act d. Axe

RFACS

- a. Scarf b. Raft
c. Lack d. Face

RITNEW

- a. Rent b. Winter
c. Renew d. Risk

Answers: 1) c, 2) b, 3) a, 4) b

Riding with the Riddle

I speak without a mouth and hear without ears. I have no body, but I come alive with wind. What am I?

Answer: An echo

MONTH OF THE MAHATMA

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

3 Born on October 2 was ---

- A) Lal Bahadur Shastri
B) Morarji Desai
C) Rajiv Gandhi
D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee



4 Acclaimed by the UN on October 5 are---

- A) Farmers B) Doctors
C) Lawyers D) Teachers



5 In common years, October starts on the same day as-----

- A) January B) March
C) May D) August

6 A PM was assassinated on October 31 in

- A) 1994 B) 1984
C) 1974 D) 1964

Quiz TIME



Choose correctly to complete these statements...

1 In the old Roman calendar, October was --- month number

- A) 4 B) 6
C) 8 D) 12

2 A Zodiac sign for October is---

- A) Aries B) Aquarius
C) Leo D) Libra

Answers: 1) C, 2) B, 3) A, 4) D, 5) A, 6) B, 7) D, 8) C, 9) A, 10) B, 11) C, 12) D

LEVEL-2

Idiom-etrics

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

(Choose the idiom that best suits the situation)

Sohrab and Sharad were not on speaking terms. If a teacher told one of them to convey a piece of information to the other, the message was unlikely to be delivered. Three months earlier, the boys had argued about some trivial matter, and, ever since, they had ignored each other. Finally, Sohrab and Sharad heeded the Principal's advice to forget the past. They shook hands and made peace.

- A. Get the axe
B. Cross swords
C. Bury the hatchet

Answer: C



Leela found that the beautiful dress she wanted was beyond her budget. She declared, "Anyway, I don't like the colour."

- A. Sour grapes
B. Apple of (one's) eye
C. Plum job

Answer: A



TRIVIA

In 'Aesop's Fables', we read about a fox who jumps high to get at a bunch of grapes on a vine. They are, however, beyond his reach. Disappointed, the fox mutters, "Oh, you aren't even ripe yet. I don't need any sour grapes." If someone pretends to disdain something that he/she actually wants, we call it a case of 'sour grapes'. The idiom has been used since the 15th century.

EDITOR IN THE MAKING

WEAVE A STORY WITH HEADLINES

Include some of these headlines to make a story and give it a title. Mail the story to us at toinie175@gmail.com. The interesting one will be published in the edition. Watch out for this space!!!

The headlines:

- 1) The 'Shooting' Star
- 2) Soon, horn your way to Indian musical instruments
- 3) First movie to shoot in space
- 4) Astronaut Barbie jets off on zero-gravity flight



And the winner is...
ANNMARIYA S

class VII, The Bethlehem International School, Vazhakulam

SATURDAY MORNING!

Saturday morning, I was quite ecstatic to drink coffee in my new cup, on which a quote is printed "Healthy at Heart" in red ink near a heart shape! I went to the balcony and I heard my mom shout 'why can't you start small?' I went down to see what had happened. Seeing me, my mom said 'Your sister wants to start a library. I told her start a small one ' after a pause, mom continued 'you will receive dad's letter today, don't forget'. 'Are you having your salad, right?' 'What?' I asked mom. 'Sorry. Are you having your breakfast now?' I said 'No'. Then, I picked up dad's letter and ran to my room to check if dad had responded to my query. On the envelope, it was written "To Daughters, With Love". Dad had responded "forest schools are here to stay, with hostel!" I was relieved.



NUMBER SERIES

- 1 The greatest number of four digits which is divisible by 15, 25, 40 and 75 is:
A) 9000 B) 9400
C) 9600 D) 9800

Answer: C

- 2 The least number which should be added to 2497 so that the sum is exactly divisible by 5, 6, 4 and 3 is:
A) 3 B) 13 C) 23 D) 33

Answer: C

- 3 The least number which when divided by 5, 6, 7 and 8 leaves a remainder 3, but when divided by 9 leaves no remainder, is:
A) 1677 B) 1683
C) 2523 D) 3363

Answer: B

- 4 The smallest number which when diminished by 7, is divisible 12, 16, 18, 21 and 28 is:
A) 1008 B) 1015
C) 1022 D) 1032

Answer: B



Learn a NEW LANGUAGE SPANISH

- 1) Yo quiero un menu (yo kee-eh-ro oon me-noo)
Meaning: I want a menu
- 2) Soy vegetariano/a (soy beh-heh-tah-ryah-noh-nah)
Meaning: I'm a vegetarian
- 3) La cuenta, por favor (lah kwen-tah, por fah-vor)
Meaning: The check, please
- 4) Sopa (soh-pah)
Meaning: Soup
- 5) Postre (pohs-tray)
Meaning: Dessert

Work sheet

- Q:1 How will you ask for menu at a hotel?
Q:2 How will you inform that you are vegetarian?
Q:3 How will you ask for a bill?
Q:4 How will you ask for soup?

1) Yo quiero un menu 2) Soy vegetariano 3) La cuenta, por favor 4) Yo necesito sopa

IPL 2.0

WITH AN EYE ON IPL PLAY-OFFS SPOT, MI FACE SRH IN 'MUST WIN' GAME

Five-time champions MI will need to outclass bottom-placed SRH in the last league match in IPL

Courtesy their eight-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals, the defending champions are currently at the fifth spot, with 12 points from 13 games, with a net run rate of -0.048. Ishan Kishan played an unbeaten knock of 50 runs off just 25 balls with the help of five 4s and three 6s to help Mumbai Indians defeat Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets with 70 balls to spare at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. The match results between KKR and RR has further altered the net run rate. In this scenario, MI may find it very difficult to qualify for the play-offs even if they beat SRH as the gap in their NRR with KKR is not small. A win will not be enough for MI to seal the fourth play-offs spot as they still will be left with just 14 points.

MI'S TROUBLED MIDDLE ORDER

In any case, Rohit (363 runs) will have to lead from the front again. He has got starts but has not been able to convert them, and the great white-ball exponent would be itching for a big score. And so would be his opening partner Ishan Kishan (157 runs), whose confi-



dence would have been boosted from his unbeaten fifty against RR. MI's horribly out of form middle order, comprising the supremely talented Suryakumar Yadav (235 runs), all-rounders Hardik Pandya (117 runs), Kieron Pollard (232) and Saurabh Tiwary (115 runs), will have to come good. On their day, they can take any opposition attack to the cleaners and SRH's would be no exception. MI team management would, however, be pleased with the performance of their bowlers, who had restricted RR for a meagre 90 and are unlikely to tinker with the combination. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (19 wickets) was exceptional and would be raring to bowl his yorkers again. He would need support from Trent Boult, Nathan Coulter-Nile, who grabbed four wickets in the last game, and spinner Jayant Yadav.

SRH TO FINISH ON HIGH

The Sunrisers, who are already out of reckoning for a play-offs berth, will look to finish the tournament on a high. Skipper Kane Williamson was back among the runs and would be keen to start from where he left on Wednesday. But the Kiwi will need support from others like Jason Roy and relatively inexperienced guys like Abhishek Sharma, Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad and aggressive Wriddhiman Saha. With the addition of pace sensation Urman Malik, SRH have one of the best bowling attacks and the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Rashid Khan and Sidarth Kaul would have to be at their best to contain MI's explosive batting line up. Also, the contribution of West Indian all-rounder Jason Holder, both with the bat and ball, could be decisive. **MI**

All eight teams are capable of beating each other. But the good thing is that KKR plays before us, so we will know what to do.

MI captain ROHIT SHARMA



Ishan Kishan

Photo: ANI

RCB EYE WIN AGAINST FORMIDABLE DC BEFORE HEADING INTO PLAY-OFFS

Royal Challengers Bangalore will look to quickly recover from their loss in the previous game



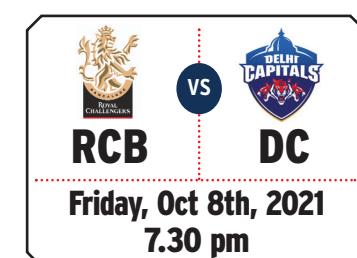
Harshal Patel

Photo: ANI

While the Delhi side (20 points from 13 matches) has made sure of a top-two finish, a defeat at the hands of Sunrisers Hyderabad on Wednesday night has dented RCB's chances of ending second in the points table. With 16 points and an inferior net run-rate to second-placed Chennai Super Kings, RCB's hopes of a top-two finish has reduced after losing to SRH. Skipper Virat Kohli, however, will get a clear idea on how to go about in their final match to snatch the second spot, which appears a tough task to say the least. Despite possessing a formidable batting line-up that includes AB de Villiers, Glenn Maxwell and Devdutt Padikkal apart from Kohli, RCB couldn't chase down a below-par 141-7 against SRH and they would need to sort out their batting before entering the knockout stage.

RCB'S IMPRESSIVE BOWLING UNIT

Maxwell has been in scintillating form for RCB after a moderate run in 2020 and can turn things around single-handedly as can de Villiers. The Australian power-hitter has 447



runs with five 50s and will want to continue the good run, while de Villiers hasn't quite had the impact he would have liked to. If Kohli can get off to a strong start at the top alongside the impressive Padikkal, the powerful middle-order can do a lot of damage. RCB's bowling unit too have done well with the likes of Mohammed Siraj, Harshal Patel and George Garton doing the job in the pace department. In spin department, Yuzvendra Chahal has overcome his past struggles with some very impressive spells this season, while Shahbaz Ahmed too has kept things in check for his team.

DC'S STRONG BATTING LINE-UP

The Rishabh Pant-led Delhi team, on the other hand, has been in formidable form, winning four of the last five matches and will look to end things on a high in the league phase before going into the qualifier. Skipper Pant has come in for criticism for being over-aggressive and it has to be seen if he shows a sense of restraint and makes bigger contributions. DC has a strong batting line-up despite the inconsistency of Prithvi Shaw, who most often seems to blow hot and cold while Shikhar Dhawan (501 runs from 13 innings) has shown his value at the top. Shreyas Iyer and Pant too have rescued the team few times but they will seek more consistency. Delhi has a potent bowling attack. While South African pacer Anrich Nortje is a constant threat, his compatriot Kagiso Rabada and Avesh Khan (22 scalps) have been at the batsmen all the time. The spin duo of R Ashwin and Axar Patel (14 wickets) also have not been easy to get away. **MI**

Looks like he's (Chahal) back to his best after a layoff. We want him to bowl well. This tournament throws up talent every year, good to see a guy (Umran Malik) bowling at 150 clicks.

RCB captain VIRAT KOHLI