



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ From the Ukraine crisis to who could win Nobel Peace Prize, know what's trending in 'Your Newsroom'
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➤ Know more about Chilika lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, its flora and fauna, through the lens of a young traveller
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➤ India to begin New Zealand series with one-off T-20
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STUDENT EDITION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022


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WHY ARE OIL PRICES SO HIGH

WHAT

Oil prices are increasing, again, casting a shadow over the economy, driving up inflation and eroding consumer confidence. Crude prices rose more than 15 per cent in January alone, with the global benchmark price crossing \$90 a barrel for the first time in more than seven years, as fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine grew. Many energy analysts predict that oil could soon touch \$100 a barrel, even as electric cars become more popular and the coronavirus pandemic persists.

WHY

The pandemic depressed energy prices in 2020, even sending the US benchmark oil price below zero for the first time. But prices have snapped back faster and more than many analysts had expected in large part because supply has not kept up with demand.

■ Besides, western oil companies, partly under pressure from investors and environmental activists, are drilling fewer wells than they did before the pandemic to restrain the increase in supply.
■ Industry executives say they are trying not to make the same mistake they made in the past when they pumped too much oil when prices were high, leading to a collapse in prices.
■ Elsewhere, in countries like Ecuador, Kazakhstan and Libya, natural disasters and political turbulence have curbed output in recent months.
■ On the demand side, much of the world is learning to cope with the pandemic and people are eager to shop and make other trips. Wary of coming in contact with an infectious virus, many are choosing to drive rather than taking public transportation.
■ But the most immediate and critical factor is geopolitical. A potential Russian invasion of Ukraine has kept the oil market on edge.

HOW RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS IS IMPACTING OIL

1 Russia produces 10 million barrels of oil a day, or roughly one of every 10 barrels used around the world on any given day

2 Any interruption of Russian shipments that transit through Ukraine, or the sabotage of other pipelines in northern Europe, would cripple much of the continent and distort the global energy supply chain. That's because, traders say, the rest of the world does not have the spare capacity to replace Russian oil

3 Even if Russian oil shipments are not interrupted, the US and its allies could impose sanctions or export controls on Russian companies, limiting their access to equipment, which could gradually reduce production in that country

4 In addition, interruptions of Russian natural gas exports to Europe could force some utilities to produce more electricity by burning oil rather than gas. That would raise demand and prices worldwide


X-PLAINED

WHAT CAN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES DO IF RUSSIAN PRODUCTION IS DISRUPTED?

The United States, Japan, European countries and even China could release more crude from their strategic reserves. Such moves could help, especially if a crisis is short-lived. But the reserves would not be nearly enough, if Russian oil supplies were interrupted for months or years.

WHAT IS OPEC DOING?

US President Joe Biden has been urging the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to pump more oil, but several members have been falling short of their monthly production quotas, and some may not have the capacity to quickly increase output

WHAT ABOUT INDIA

In India, domestic oil marketing companies are likely to swiftly raise prices substantially after the elections in order to align domestic prices with international rates and to make up for the losses they may be incurring now. The government had cut duty in November 2021. But higher fuel prices can induce broader inflation, which can affect interest rates and economic recovery

■ Ultimately, high prices could depress demand for oil enough that prices begin to come down. One of the main financial incentives for buying electric cars, for example, is that electricity tends to be cheaper per kilometre than petrol. Sales of electric cars are growing fast in many countries

An 8-year-old writes a book and hides it in cupboard. NOW, IT'S A HIT

When eight-year-old **Dillon Helbig** finished writing his book, 'The Adventures of Dillon Helbig's Crismis', in mid-December, he wanted everyone to read it. The only problem was that he did not have an agent. So, he decided to self-publish. During a visit with his grandmother to the Lake Hazel branch of the Ada Community Library in Boise, Idaho, in US, Dillon quietly deposited his book, signed 'by Dillon His Self', on to a nearby shelf. The 81-page book details adventures that ensue after the star on a Christmas tree Dillon is decorating explodes. Dillon is transported

into a portal and time-travels to the very first Thanksgiving and to the north pole. "Everything about it was a bit crazy," the second-grader admitted. Days later, when Dillon came to check on the book, he noticed it was gone. His mom called the library. It turned out that the Lake Hazel library branch manager, Alex Hartman and his colleagues discovered Dillon's book in the "stories" section and read it.


**YOUNG
ACHIEVER**

■ Dillon has been awarded the library's Whoodini Award for best young novelist, a category created for him and named after the library's owl mascot ■ The young author has announced that a sequel is in the works, this time about a visit from the Grinch and also featuring Dillon's dog, Rusty ■ He is also writing a book about a jacket-eating closet, based, Dillon said, on a true story from his kindergarten days

Scientists discover supermountains four times longer than the Himalayas

Mount Everest, at its towering height of 8,848 metres, is the tallest in the Himalayan range, but scientists have revealed that there were ranges that stretched across the continent. Longer than the Himalayas, these mountain ranges helped in the evolution of the planet. Researchers have tracked the formation of these supermountains throughout Earth's history.



THE SUPERMOUNTAINS

➤ The first supermountains are being called **Nuna Supermountain**, which coincides with the likely appearance of eukaryotes, organisms that later gave rise to plants and animals ➤ The second that evolved around 650 and 500 million years ago is the **Transgondwanan Supermountain**, which coincides with the appearance of the first large animals and the Cambrian explosion 45 million years later when most animal groups appeared in the fossil record

HOW DID THEY CONTRIBUTE IN THE EVOLUTION OF EARTH

■ Researchers said that when the mountains eroded, they provided essential nutrients like phosphorous and iron to the oceans, supercharging biological cycles and driving the evolution to greater complexity. The supermountains may also have boosted oxygen levels in the atmosphere, needed for complex life to breathe
■ Researchers attribute a decrease in evolution rate on the planet between 1,800 and 800 million years to the absence of these supermountains. This period is known as the **Boring Billion**

NO DIGITAL DETOX: INSTA MAY ROLL OUT NEW FEATURES

Instagram is ramping up things to keep its young user base interested, although only three months ago, it had promised to introduce an app that nudges users to 'take a break' after they had been online for a certain time. A slew of new features are likely to be introduced on the photo-sharing app that ranges from 3-D avatars to screen sharing while video calling, and to giving a better flow to the home feed, by making it chronological. According to a report in Gadgets Now, the app, which is wildly popular in India, and saw the highest number of downloads in the previous year, is currently working on introducing a new feature that would make the users' home feeds more personalised.



Instagram is likely to offer two options as a part of this feature. The first one is the 'Following' option, which will allow you to view the content of those you are following on your home feed in a chronological order, and the other option is the 'Favourites' which will allow you to see contents of the accounts you have 'added to your favourites' on your feed. This too shall appear in a chronological order, by default

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**ONLINE TOI
STUDENT EDITION**

**A LOT MORE THAN
JUST LOVE**

Happy Valentine's Day

Celebrate the season of love differently

What to expect

What is the meaning of love

- How the word has moved beyond its traditional association and is all about family, friends, gratitude, self-love, compassion and MORE

Crazy Little Thing Called Love

- Unique and bizarre Valentine's Day traditions from around the world
- Interesting trivia around the Day
- Fascinating love monuments that you didn't know existed

Love in school

- How it is when your friend who gave you confidence, a teacher who gave you hope or a chat with your parents - Love is all that and so much else

Love is success

- How it is when one loves what they do. It changes the way they approach it. Featuring real-life stories of those who converted their passion into success

PLUS : Trivia | Voices | Opinions | Books & Movies And MORE

ONLINE

Celebrate your pet

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- Your voices

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The World

this week

CAN

sanctions stop Putin's ambitions?



IN THE NEWS FOR

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has accused the US of trying to draw his country into a war in Ukraine. He said America's goal was to use a confrontation as a pretext to impose more sanctions on Russia. Putin also said the US was ignoring Russia's concerns about the expansion of Nato, the Western military alliance which Ukraine is seeking to join. The US and its allies accuse Russia of planning to invade Ukraine, something Russia has repeatedly denied.

YOU SPEAK

Sanctions will not stop President Putin from his ambitions for Ukraine for 3 main reasons: ■ Russia is not excessively dependent on foreign markets. ■ Past sanctions have not been very effective and it may now aggravate the situation.

■ Russia is a nuclear super-power. In the likely case of a full-fledged war, Russia will be able to hold base competently. Also, world power countries like China are more likely to back up Russia's ambitions than Ukraine's.



T NIMISHA, class XI, Flitjee, Hyderabad

WE SPEAK

Experts say it's unlikely the US and its allies would agree to something as sweeping as a complete ban on trade with Russia or an embargo. Rather, industries and individuals probably will continue to bear the brunt of sanctions as the crisis deepens.

The US and its allies have threatened Russia with financial sanctions carrying "severe consequences" if it invades Ukraine

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around the world. But, this is not it. This is a platform to present your news, your way. OWN YOUR NEWSROOM!

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WHO

could win Nobel Peace?

IN THE NEWS FOR

Pope Francis, British nature broadcaster David Attenborough, the World Health Organisation and Belarusian dissident Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya are among the nominees for this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Also among the candidates for the accolades are Greta Thunberg, the Myanmar National Unity Government formed by opponents of last year's coup and Tuvalu's foreign minister

Simon Kofe, last-minute announcements showed on Monday. Thousands of people, from members of parliaments worldwide to former winners, are eligible to propose candidates.

WE SPEAK



Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya

Exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya was nominated for the second year running for her "brave, tireless and peaceful work" for democracy and freedom in her home country, said parliamentarian Haarek Elvenes. The Belarusian human rights activist and politician ran in the 2020 Belarusian presidential election as the main opposition candidate after her husband Sergei Tikhanovsky was arrested by Belarusian authorities.



Sir David Attenborough

Attenborough is best known for his landmark TV series illustrating the natural world, including Life on Earth and The Blue Planet. He was nominated jointly with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, which assesses the state of biodiversity worldwide.



Environmentalists have won the Nobel Peace Prize in the past, including Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai and former US VP Al Gore



Pope Francis

Pope Francis was nominated for his efforts to help solve the climate crisis and his work towards peace and reconciliation, by Dag Inge Ulstein, ex-minister of int'l development.



The World Health Organisation (WHO)

The coronavirus pandemic has been front and centre of people's concerns over the past two years and this year the international body tasked with fighting it, the WHO, has again been nominated.

YOU SPEAK

Even though all the nominees have had a big impact on our society, I think David Attenborough deserves to win the Nobel Peace Prize this year. Most of us know him from his work on the famous broadcast network, BBC, as a presenter but he is also an active environmentalist and has helped in raising awareness for natural preservation. His work has brought about significant changes in climate change, planetary biodiversity, renewable energy and much more. For the better part of 30 years, he has dedicated his life for the advancement of environmental conservation and it should be recognised.

LIKHITH L GOWDA, class XI, Vyasa Int'l, B'luru



DID

FM do

enough for education sector?

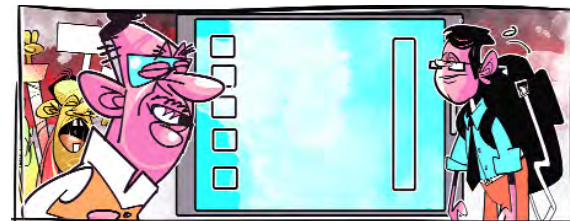
IN THE NEWS FOR

The Union Budget gains applause for digitalization of education and making it accessible at the grassroots level. Still, many believe more could have been done to elevate the quality of education as well.

The sector appreciated the budget being in line with promoting human capital through digital tools such as the 'one class one TV channel' programme proposed under the PM e-Vidya scheme.



WE SPEAK



It laid out a progressive vision the Government holds for capitalizing on India's demographic advantages by suggesting a digital university, creating a conducive environment for inter-university collaborations, and introducing a number of skill development programmes. The Budget has allocated ₹63,449.37 crore to the Department of School Education and Literacy, an increase of about 6.6% over the current financial years.

YOU SPEAK

Rather than focusing on digital revolution in education, the government should bolster the existing public schooling first. Even when students have Internet access, the quality of online education remains poor.

POORNA GHOSH, class XII, Anand Niketan, Ahmedabad

The Budget has focused on bridging the digital divide among students, which will help in killing the 'digital apartheid'. Setting up of virtual labs and digital university will definitely help the sector.

MANAS KAPUR, class XI, Sri Venkateshwar Int'l, Delhi

DO

you think Boris Johnson should quit after 'PartyGate'?



IN THE NEWS FOR

Senior Conservative lawmaker Tobias Ellwood said he would submit a letter of no confidence on British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, saying so-called 'partygate' was distracting the government at a time of international crisis. Johnson is facing calls to resign after weeks of a steady drip of reports alleging his aides, and he himself, had staged and attended parties in his Downing Street office and residence at a time when millions of Britons were under Covid-19 lockdown.

YOU SPEAK

I think Boris Johnson should resign or at least face severe consequences for his actions. Leaders must abide by the regulations laid out for the security of citizens. In fact, in such situations they should be role models for others and cooperate willingly with the protocols.

AVANI PANDIT, class X, Apeejay School, Nerul



WE SPEAK

British PM Boris Johnson will probably hold onto his job for now despite a scathing report about government coronavirus lockdown parties, but his long-term future is out of his hands as police probe claims of rule breaking, analysts said. His position has been hanging by a thread because of the steady drip of revelations since last year.

WILL

'delete all' help?



IN THE NEWS FOR

We all have sent text messages that we have regretted instantly, however, Meta owned WhatsApp allows us to remove unwanted messages through its 'Delete' feature. The extension would help users delete their wrongly sent messages within a longer time frame. The feature would allow group admins to add and manage their multiple WhatsApp groups from a single place.

WE SPEAK

WhatsApp has developed a beta version for Android where the app suggests extending the time limit for 'Delete for Everyone.' ■ In this, the users will get a notification saying 'This message was removed' after a text gets deleted. ■ The date of implementation of the new feature has still not been announced by the app but it will definitely happen soon.

YOU SPEAK

In recent years, WhatsApp has brought in a flurry of new updates and features to make their platform more secure and user-friendly. However, the recent decision to give the group admin the power to delete messages seems to be a bit far-fetched. It is extremely tedious to keep track of conversations and have a concrete record of them, especially when any person can be anonymous and potentially dangerous on an online platform. Yes, but extending the time limit is a good move.

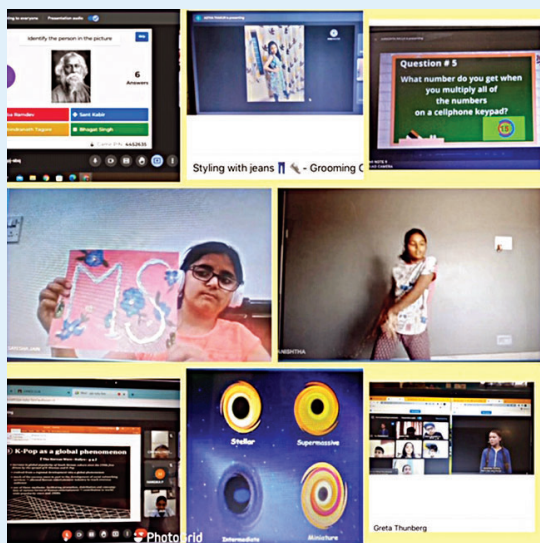
MANEEZA KHAN, class XI, The Heritage School, Kolkata



CLUBBING TO CONNECT WITH LIKE-MINDED ENTHUSIASTS

Gitanjali Devashray

Hyderabad



'ALL WORK AND NO PLAY MAKES JACK A DULL BOY'

Well, there are no dull boys or girls at Gitanjali Devashray. The school management lays a lot of emphasis on the holistic development of its students. Academics and sports are given their due importance while accommodating the need for leisure and amusement as well.

With the pandemic rearing its ugly head, it has been observed that students do not have sufficient opportunities to interact with their peers giving rise to a sense of loneliness and lack of social skills. To address these issues in a timely manner, Gitanjali Devashray has initiated club periods for students on a weekly basis.

The club hours that began this academic year offer a wide array of activities for their primary students. The 'Junior Wordsworths' have the option of 'Book Reading Club'-or the 'Scrabble Club'. For the aesthetic pleasure of our budding artists, we have the Arts, Craft, Grooming and Photography Clubs'. Our future astronomers are

part of the 'Space Club'. Those inclined towards gastronomy delight in the 'Culinary Club'. The innovators of tomorrow are making their start at the 'Techovation Club'. Our 'World of Games Club' remains wide open for all young gamers. Then there are the 'Singing, Music and Dance Clubs' for the lovers of the arts. The athletes challenge themselves at 'Sudoko Club'. Worth a special mention is the 'INTACH Club' of the school. Its members have made the school proud on various occasions by getting their articles published in the prestigious Young INTACH magazine and winning prizes. We also have the 'Green Team Club'. 'Go Green Club' where they discuss issues relating to climate change and sustainable development.

All in all, the children are enjoying themselves immensely. The clubs provide them with an outlet to connect with like-minded enthusiasts and to share and hone their skills and interests. "Balancing their work and play in a healthy way makes every Gitanjilian a bright one."

A one-on-one with civic chief on greener & smarter city

Gitanjali Devshala
Hyderabad



Gitanjali Devshala calls attention to stories of students' achievements and successes, as well as innovative projects that enable students in their growth, career, and beyond. Gitanjali Devshala gives students the opportunity to learn, grow, and achieve to their fullest potential.

This is all about Parnika, a student of class III C and it started with a class project in which the students of class III were asked to do some research and write down various tasks on "When I become a mayor of my city".

Parnika had a conversation with her family and decided to speak to the Deputy Mayor of our city. After finding out about the duties for the Mayor, she picked up a few topics such as the concept of 5R's (Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Rot, Recycle) and cleanliness. She was extremely excited to meet

city cleaner and greener. She listened to all the points and promised that she would implement some of the suggestions from Parnika's article too and congratulated her with a bouquet and sweet box. She also took a photocopy of her project and autographed the project. The Deputy Mayor was impressed with the ideas that Parnika had jotted down and later

posted the interview on her Twitter page.

The school congratulates Parnika for her achievement. Your dedication, enthusiasm, and insight are inspiring. Your today's success is the beginning of tomorrow's achievement.

Deputy Mayor Mothe Sri-latha Shoban Reddy and prepared a questionnaire for interviewing her. The Deputy Mayor explained to her all the innovative activities on waste management and many other steps they are implementing to make the

URBAN LIFE IS BETTER THAN RURAL LIFE

Yes, in my opinion, urban life is better than rural life. Undoubtedly, we get good employment and job opportunities in urban areas. Even hospitals, schools, malls, and various clothing shops are available at our doorstep. Urban life also gives us a deep insight into technology and development. Even the continuous power and water supply are available in urban areas. In addition, many people have moved from rural areas to cities in search of better standards of living. Thus, we see that we enjoy many privileges and facilities in urban areas.



M BHAVAGNA, class VIII, Gautami Vidya Kshetra School, Hyderabad

FOR

Rural life offers less noise, beautiful natural landscapes, less pollution, fresh air, and fewer traffic jams. However, the transportation systems in urban areas are generally well-organized and link all parts of the city. The main modes of transportation include road, rail, and air. Residents of cities, therefore, have access to a range of transportation options. The individuals may travel by personal vehicles, taxis, or trains on the roads, or they may board an airplane to travel to another city. In addition, police patrol the streets twenty-four hours a day. Besides that, CCTV cameras



MANYA ANAND, class VII-D, Birla Open Minds International School, Kollur, Hyderabad

are everywhere in the city, making it easier to catch criminals. Furthermore, there are many career options and business opportunities in the city. It is for this reason that most people are abandoning villages in favour of cities. The city is essentially a hive of activity in terms of commerce. As a result, the prospects of prosperity are higher in the cities than in the villages. Skilled and unskilled people have numerous opportunities for employment. It is generally perceived that city life offers the convenience required for modern-day living and hence gets preferred over the traditional village life.

DEBATE

This is a hard question to answer, as both have their own advantages and disadvantages. However, in urban life, we have all the comforts to live happily but we face problems like pollution, overcrowding, and traffic. We can travel anywhere easily and can have better education Institutions, hospitals, and employment opportunities. But I don't fully agree with the statement "Urban Life is better than rural life". We may not have all these facilities in rural life but health is more important than any other thing. We can enjoy the fresh air in a pollution-free environment and can consume freshly harvested vegetables and fruits. Nature in

AGAINST



BHAVIN SURYA P, class III, Congo, Silver Oaks International School, Oakdale Campus, Hyderabad

rural areas gives us a peaceful and happy life. Even though we don't have better educational institutions in rural areas, we can learn everything with the help of developed technology or online. The expenses are very low so we can live a peaceful life with less earnings. To conclude, if the government focuses on developing rural infrastructure with good education and health care facilities combined with employment opportunities, then it makes rural life even better compared to urban life.



ADWITA PATEL, class IV-C, Gitanjali Primary School

Urban towns or cities are cool to live in. Rapid growth of technology and exchange of ideas mostly happen in urban places. However, the cost of living is lower in rural areas than in either urban or suburban ones. Compared to busy cities, there is more land available in the countryside, which helps keep housing costs low. Rural living offers the opportunity to reconnect with nature. More trees and less traffic mean cleaner air. Fields, forests, and streams make for

great outdoor living and a healthier lifestyle. Food generally costs less in rural areas than in cities, as well, so one can actually enjoy the high-quality organic food all the way from farms. Village life is the representation of a rural lifestyle, whereas city life represents an urban lifestyle. The air and water in the village are less polluted and the village has a cleaner environment, less noise, and fresh air compared to the cities.

Igniting the spirit of patriotism



"Let this Republic Day remind us of the work done by our leaders for our safe and happy lives".

With freedom in mind, faith in words, and pride in our hearts, let us salute the nation on Republic Day. The Constitution of India came into force with effect from this day. It is a day of national rejoicing. The Global Edge School - KPHB celebrated the 73rd Republic Day virtually on the zoom platform with great élan. The event started sharp at 9 a.m. The teachers and the students took pride in glorifying and celebrating the spirit of unity.

GES Principal R Sreevalli highlighted the significance of the day and made the children aware that

Global Edge School
KPHB, Hyderabad

the future of our country lies in their hands. She emphasized the need to inculcate good values in life, which will help them to be good citizens of the country.

The students celebrated with zeal and spirit with patriotic songs, dance, and some stirring speeches by the school teachers and students. The programme was executed admirably under the able guidance of the teachers. May we continue celebrating this day forever!

A Constitution is a set of rules and regulations formed to run a country smoothly. Simply put, it is what prevents the nation from going into anarchy. The Indian Constitution is the largest written Constitution in the world and rightly so, for to govern such a vast nation with such magnificent traditions and cultures requires an equally vast rule book. We can only imagine how the constitutional assembly, under Dr B R Ambedkar, must have toiled to deliver a constitution that successfully establishes law and order; being mindful of the numerous religious and cultural sentiments of our people, as well as the progress and modernization of our dear motherland. The work of our ancestors continues to bestow peace and stability to generations of Indians.

The Indian Constitution is nothing short of perfect. To keep up with modern times, one-hundred and four amendments have been made, as of December 2021. The Constitution of India, which came into force on January 26, 1950, provides for a parliamentary and federal form of government. It gives Indian citizens the power to have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. January 26, is annually celebrated as Republic Day all over India with zeal and enthusiasm, to reminisce how India became a republic country due to the immense blood, sweat, and tears spent by our ancestors.

The glory of the peace and freedom we live in every day is whole because of the constitution, and the current government living by it. Every day should be Republic Day, because every day we live in the warm embrace of our constitution, fearless and free, for we know it will protect us, and we shall respect and serve it forevermore.

ERINA FARAZ FARISHTA, class VIII, Nasr School, Khairatabad

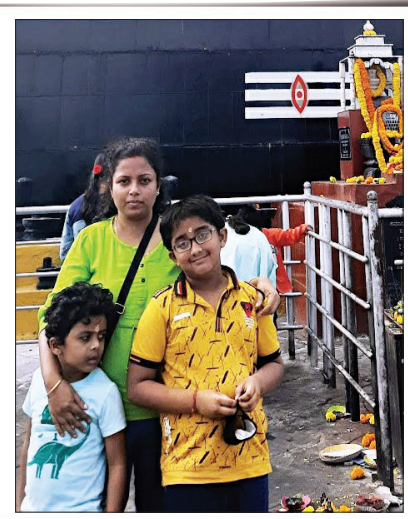


Pallavi International School
Keesara Campus

The 73rd Republic Day celebration was held virtually at Pallavi International School, Keesara. Versatile intellectual Shanthi Modaali was the chief guest at the event. The event, which was held virtually in accordance with the Covid rules, was attended by the school students, their parents, teachers, Rose Greilda, Principal of the school, and Sushil Kumar, Director. First, the national flag was unveiled and saluted. Later the children performed patriotic songs and dances. Chief guest Shanthi Modaali said that all the children of today are the leaders of the future of India and the future of

the country depends on their hands. Therefore, she hoped that everyone would work hard to reach a better position and consolidate their role in the development of the country. Director Sushil Kumar said that everyone should work towards sustainable goals to achieve greater heights in life. He also asked the students to make use of the services of Dhoni Cricket Academy in school to ensure that all students excel in education as well as sports.

Unplanned trip creates the best memories



On a pleasant morning, I along with my family members were sitting together in the living room having some chirpy conversations. Just then, the telephone rang. Well, it was none other than my cousins who were planning a trip to Kerala and wanted us to accompany them. They came over to discuss about the plan and packing arrangements. Our parents did the packing for the trip and meanwhile, my elder sister, two younger brothers searched and googled more about our destination, Kerala.

The next day we set off for our long journey to the beautiful and historic state. As it was a long journey we chit-chatted, watched movies, and also slept for some time. The lively family

moments and our conversations opened up the doors of curiosity like where to go, how to go, so on and so forth. The list just became endless, going on and on.

When we reached our destination, we had fun staying in a resort, thrilling experience under the waterfalls, visiting temples, and exploring mountains. We also enjoyed the traditional mouth-watering local food, enjoyed the fairs and swings in the resort, and played board games till late at night. Truly this was a lifetime memorable experience for a week with the family.

SAMARTH SINHA, class IV, Philippines, Silver Oaks International School, Mighty Oaks Campus, Hyderabad



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INDIA BEGIN NZ SERIES WITH ONE OFF T20

WITH FOCUS FIRMLY ON ODI WORLD CUP

The Indian women's cricket team will get to fine tune its ODI World Cup preparations in a six-game limited overs series against hosts New Zealand, beginning with the one off T20 on Wednesday. The one off T20 is scheduled ahead of the five ODIs starting February 12. Though the team will be looking to win, it will also be approaching the 20-over game to get used to the conditions with the bigger goal for World Cup in mind. To reduce the COVID-19 threat, all games have been moved to the scenic Queenstown. The Indian squad arrived here after completing a 10-day quarantine in Christchurch.

MITHALI NOT PLAYING

ODI skipper Mithali Raj, who won't be playing the T20, said on Tuesday all the six games will be used to figure out their core players who will feature in the ICC event in March-April.

"It is a different format. The team will be looking forward to winning the game. Having said that, this T20 will also give a fair idea about the wickets, how the players are coping with an open ground," Raj said in a virtual media interaction referring to the windy conditions.

LOOKING TO LEAD

T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who ended her lean run with the bat with a successful Women's Big Bash League, will look to lead from the front on Wednesday. Though workload management has

gained significance in COVID times, Mithali made it clear that it will be a secondary issue for them in the six games as it is important for fast bowlers to get used to the conditions. "It will take them at least two or three games to get used to the conditions," she said.

PUTTING IN OUR BEST

"We are here to use this series as preparation for the World Cup because it is the best way we get to know about the wickets and composition we will have next month. We want to put in our best standard of cricket so the team derives a lot of confidence when we get into the World Cup.

New Zealand skipper Sophie Devine also stressed on testing out a few players in the series against India. Both teams are sailing in the same boat as far as finalising their combinations are concerned.

SLEEPING GIANTS

On the eve of the game, Devine called India the "sleeping giants" of women's cricket and said playing them will be an ideal preparation for the ICC showpiece. "It is an interesting one (how to approach the series). It is about getting that balance right; the results are important but building momentum into the World Cup is going to be extremely important.

"We also know this is an opportunity to test people out in different positions. Whether the results go our way or not we want to play the style we want to play. We want to be attacking and play to our strengths." The series will be played without spectators due to the COVID-19 threat.



We play to win but I look forward to giving some game time to the core players. It is important they find their rhythm before the World Cup.

MITHALI RAJ



T20 skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who ended her lean run with the bat with a successful Women's Big Bash League, will look to lead from the front on Wednesday

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

SQUADS:

INDIA: Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia, Deepti Sharma, Richa Ghosh, Sneha Rana, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Taniya Bhatia, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Poonam Yadav, Ekta Bisht, Simran Bahadur, Sabbhinini Meghana.

NEW ZEALAND: Sophie Devine (captain), Amy Satterthwaite(vc), Suzie Bates, Lauren Down, Maddy Green, Brooke Halliday, Hayley Jensen, Fran Jonas, Jess Kerr, Melie Kerr, Frankie Mackay, Rosemary Mair, Katey Martin, Hannah Rowe, Lea Tahuhu.

SINDHU, MIRABAI TO GET TOP HONOUR

Sindhu, Mirabai among five nominees for BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award

Two-time Olympic medallist badminton star P.V. Sindhu and Tokyo silver winner weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu were among the five nominees for the BBC Indian Sportswoman (ISWOTY) of the Year award announced on Tuesday.

Besides Sindhu and Mirabai, star golfer Aditi Ashok, multiple medal winner at Tokyo Paralympics in shooting Avani Lekhara, Tokyo bronze winner boxer Lovlina Borgohain were the other three nominees, shortlisted by a distinguished jury of sports journalists, experts and sports writers.

Hard work pays off

"Success doesn't come easy, it's not just few months of hard work, but years of hard work. Every day is a process, that's how you come up to a certain level," Sindhu, who won a bronze at Tokyo Olympics to go with her silver five years ago at Rio de Janeiro, said in a release.

Online voting for the award will remain

■ Besides Sindhu and Mirabai, star golfer Aditi Ashok, multiple medal winner at Tokyo Paralympics in shooting Avani Lekhara, Tokyo bronze winner boxer Lovlina Borgohain were the other three nominees, shortlisted by a distinguished jury of sports journalists, experts and sports writers

■ Online voting for the award will remain open until February 28 and the winner will be revealed on March 28 at a ceremony

open until February 28 and the winner will be revealed on March 28 at a ceremony here.

Good year

Aditi Ashok, who finished fourth place at the Tokyo Olympics said: "I am grateful and thankful because this was a good year for me, and I

had some great performances. I am happy that golf is becoming more popular in India."

The awards ceremony will also honour a legendary sportswoman with the BBC Lifetime Achievement award, and a young female player will be named as the BBC Emerging Player of the Year.

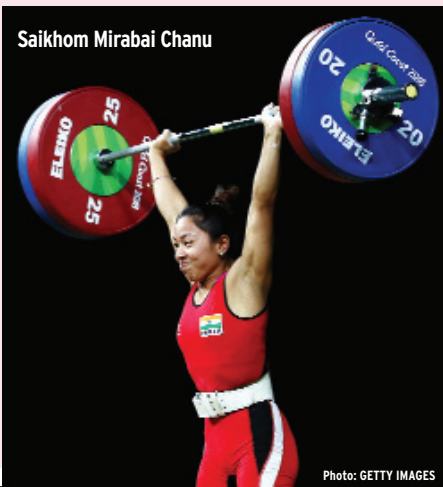


Photo: GETTY IMAGES

ATHLETIC BILBAO DEFEATS ESPANYOL 2-1 TO MOVE CLOSER TO EUROPEAN SPOTS

Athletic Bilbao moved closer to the European qualification places in the Spanish league after beating Espanyol 2-1 on Monday.

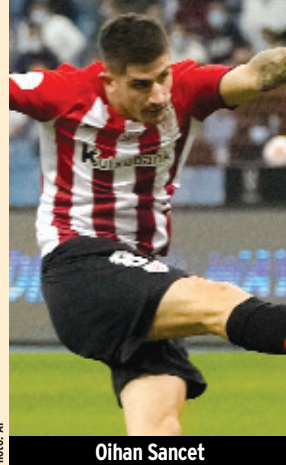


Photo: AP

b) 15.5 miles
c) 18 miles
d) 17.9 miles

Q9: Who won the first men's FIFA World Cup?

a) France
b) Spain
c) Uruguay
d) Czech Republic

ANSWERS: 1. a 1992 2. b Brian Deane
3. d 1966 4. c Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr.
5. b 15 6. a Football 7. b Andy Murray
8. a 26.2 9. c Uruguay

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: In what year was the Premier League started?

a) 1992 b) 1985
c) 1900 d) 1970

Q2: Who scored the first ever Premier League goal?

a) Cristiano Ronaldo
b) Brian Deane
c) Pele
d) Neymar

Q3: When did England win the men's FIFA World Cup?

a) 1992 b) 1980
c) 1903 d) 1966

Q4: What was Muhammed Ali's real name?

a) Mike Tyson
b) Tyson Fury
c) Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr.
d) Holyfield

Q5: How many rugby players make the starting lineup of a team in Rugby Union?

a) 20 b) 15
c) 19 d) 16

Q6: What sport does Tom Brady play?

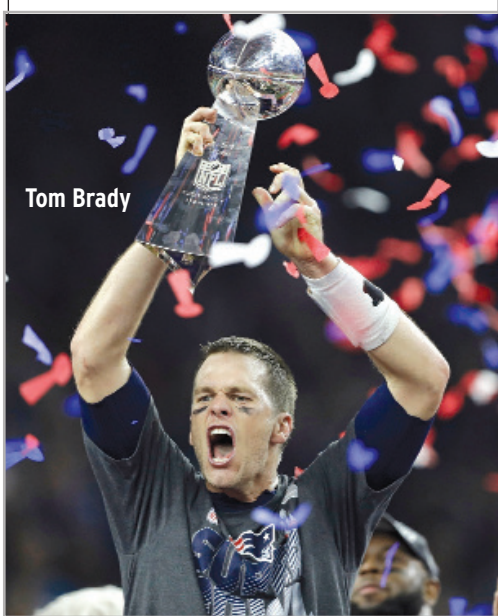


Photo: AP

a) Football
b) Cricket
c) Tennis
d) Table Tennis

Q7: Who won the men's single gold in tennis at the 2012 Olympics?

a) Rafael Nadal
b) Andy Murray
c) Novak Djokovic
d) Andre Agassi

Q8: How far is a marathon race?

a) 26.2 miles