



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

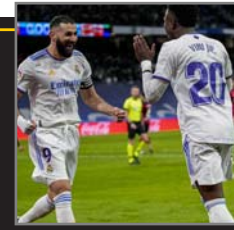
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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022


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Economic risks FOR 2022

Most forecasters, including the Bloomberg Economics, have as their base case a robust recovery, with cooling prices and a shift away from emergency monetary-policy settings. The Big Q: What could go wrong? Plenty, warn economists. Some things might go better than expected too, of course. Governments may decide to keep fiscal support in place...



OMICRON AND MORE LOCKDOWNS

It's early for a definite verdict on the Omicron variant of Covid-19. Apparently, more contagious than its predecessors, it may prove less deadly too. That would help the world get back to something like pre-pandemic normal, which means spending more money on services. Lockdowns and Covid caution have kept people out of gyms or restaurants, for example, and encouraged them to buy more stuff instead. A rebalancing of spending could boost global growth to 5.1% from the Bloomberg Economics base forecast of 4.7%. But we may not get that



lucky. A more contagious and deadly variant would drag on economies. Even a three-month return to the toughest 2021 restrictions — countries like the UK have already moved in that direction — could see 2022 growth slow to 4.2%. In that scenario, demand would be weaker and the world's supply problems would likely persist, with workers kept out of labour markets and further logistics snarl-ups. Already this month, the Chinese city of Ningbo — home to one of the world's busiest ports — has seen fresh lockdowns.

THE THREAT OF INFLATION

At the start of 2021, the US was to end the year with two per cent inflation. Instead, it's close to seven per cent. In 2022, once again, the consensus expects inflation to end the year close to target levels. Another major miss is possible. Omicron is just one potential cause. Wages, already rising at a rapid clip in the US, could climb higher. Tensions between Russia and Ukraine could send gas prices surging. With climate change bringing more disruptive weather events, food prices may continue to rise. Not all the risks are in the same direction. A new wave of the virus could hit travel for example — dragging down oil prices. Even so, the combined impact could still be a stagflationary shock that leaves the Fed and other central banks with no easy answers.



TURMOIL IN EUROPE

Solidarity among leaders who back the European project, and European Central Bank activism to keep govt borrowing costs under control, helped Europe weather the Covid crisis. In the year ahead, both could fade. A fight over the Italian presidency in January could upend the fragile coalition in Rome. France heads to the polls in April with President E Macron facing challenges from the right. If euro-sceptics gain power in the bloc's key economies, it could shatter the calm on European bond markets and deprive the ECB of the political support required to respond.



FOOD PRICES AND UNREST

Hunger is a historic driver of social unrest. A combination of Covid effects and bad weather has pushed world food prices near record highs, and could keep them elevated next year. The last food-price shock in 2011 triggered a wave of popular protests, especially in the Middle East. Many countries in the region remain exposed. Sudan, Yemen, and Lebanon — already under stress — all look at least as vulnerable today as they did in 2011, and some are more so. Egypt is only marginally better-off. Popular uprisings are rarely localised events. The risk of broader regional instability is real.

POLITICS

Any escalation between mainland China and Taiwan — from blockade to outright invasion — could draw in other world powers, including the US. A superpower war is the worst case, but scenarios short of that include sanctions that would freeze ties between the world's two biggest economies, and a collapse in Taiwan's production of the semiconductors that are crucial to global output of everything from smartphones to cars. Elsewhere, Brazil is scheduled to hold elections in October — against a backdrop of pandemic turbulence and a still-depressed economy.



Class XII exams: SC strikes down condition in CBSE policy to consider marks scored in later test



The Supreme Court on Friday struck down a condition specified in a clause in the CBSE's evaluation policy of June last year, which stated that marks obtained in the later examination will be considered as final for assessing class XII students. The apex court, which was hearing a plea filed by some students who had appeared in the CBSE exams last year for improving their marks in class XII, noted that a grievance has been made about the provision in clause 28 of the June 17, 2021 policy, which stated that "....as per this policy, marks scored in later examination will be considered final". "As a result, we have no hesitation in striking down the condition specified in clause 28 that as per the policy, marks scored in later examination will be considered final," the bench said.

The top court noted that the petitioners have the grievance that this condition has been inserted in departure of the earlier schemes where the better of the two marks obtained by a candidate in a subject was to be considered for the final declaration of results

- On June 17 last year, the top court had approved the assessment schemes of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and the CBSE, which had adopted the 30:30:40 formula for evaluation of marks for students of XII standard based on the results of class X, XI and XII respectively
- The CBSE had earlier said it would evaluate class XII students for theory based on 30 per cent marks from class X board, 30 per cent from class XI, and 40 per cent from marks based on the performance in the unit, mid-term, and pre-board tests in class XII


BOOK

Ratan Tata's authorised biography to hit the stands in November this year

HarperCollins has acquired the rights to publish the authorised biography of Tata Sons chairman emeritus Ratan Tata, and the book—"Ratan N Tata: The Authorised Biography", will be published globally in all formats in November this year. Tata's biography will be penned by former senior bureaucrat and retired IAS officer Thomas Matthew. The book will shed light on the story of one of India's best-known industrialists and philanthropists, who overcame many obstacles and whose limitless benevolence took priority over business compulsions.

Ratan Tata turned the Tata conglomerate into a global colossus, daring to acquire the marquee brands of Tetley Tea, Jaguar Land Rover and Corus Steel, among others. Today, the group is India's most valuable brand and amongst the most respected worldwide, with a market capitalisation of over \$250 billion that employs over 750,000 people — who make cars, blend tea, write software, among much else — across 100 countries," said HarperCollins India

FACTOID 1.8 MILLION

That's the number of deaths caused in several cities across the world in 2019 due to urban air pollution, claims a study by Lancet. The global average urban PM2.5 concentration in 2019 was 35 µg/m3, which is over three times the WHO 2005 guideline for annual average PM2.5 (10 µg/m3), resulting in 45 to 77 premature deaths per 100,000 people, the study found. It also said that long-term exposure to unhealthy air quality is associated with premature mortality from a variety of diseases, including cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, lung cancer, and lower respiratory infection.

Leonardo DiCaprio has a tree named after him

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio now has his own type of tree. According to 'People', scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, recently discovered a new type of tree, and decided to name it after Leonardo, who has been a long time advocate for environment-related problems.

- The Leo tree, with the official name of 'Uvariopsis dicaprio' is a small and tropical, evergreen tree that showcases glossy yellow flowers growing from its trunk
- The official naming of Leonardo's tree comes at a time when the actor tried to address environmental problems with fiction drama 'Don't Look Up'

NAMESAKE

'Drive My Car' feted with best picture honour at National Society of Film Critics

Japanese drama 'Drive My Car' has won the best picture from this year's edition of the National Society of Film Critics, continuing its streak of major prizes from major critics groups. The organisation announced its honours on Saturday, reports variety.com. Ryusuke Hamaguchi's sweeping drama also won top honours from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and New York Film Critics Circle. Along with the best picture, 'Drive My Car' also won for director, screenplay and best actor for Hidetoshi Nishijima.

Entertainment

- A prestigious organisation known for its highbrow taste, the National Society of Film Critics (NSFC) boasts members from across top entertainment publications
- Last year, 'Nomadland' took home the top prize, besting 'First Cow' by only two votes

Quote unquote

Women, who are successful in sports, are the beacon of inspiration and hope to women in general because sports level the playing field where the cricket ball doesn't differentiate between male or female player, it just travels at the speed at which it is thrown. Going forward I would be very happy to see young girls taking up this sport. From where I started in the 90s, not knowing about women's cricket, to a point where today not just the young girls but also young boys look up to women cricketers as role models, is some serious progress made

MITHALI RAJ,
captain, India's women team



What is Metaverse?

Imagine it's your son's birthday. But he cannot play with his best friends because of an impending lockdown and the threat of Omicron. What does he do? He celebrates with his friends on 'Roblox' (a global platform that brings people together through play). On this platform he can hang out with his friends, play different games and win points. All in virtual space. But the experience is real because he is hearing his friends' voices, his gaming avatar is playing with theirs, and all of them



are actually having fun. Just because your son isn't physically close to his friends doesn't mean he cannot have a birthday celebration like he wanted. That, in short, is a part of the metaverse world.

The definition

Scott Nover defined 'metaverse' in 'Quartz' like this: "If the contemporary internet experience is two-dimen-

sional – meaning you browse and scroll through it on a screen. The metaverse is 3D. You'll be "walking" through it via connected headsets or glasses." Now, let's get into the details. But not so much that it befuddles the mind. A metaverse is a network of 3D virtual worlds focused on social connection. The term 'metaverse' has its origins in the 1992 science fiction novel 'Snow Crash' as a portmanteau of 'meta' and 'universe'.

Internet in '70s

A recent article in the tech magazine 'Wired' said: To a certain extent, talking about "what the metaverse means" is a bit like having a discussion about what "the internet" meant in the 1970s. So, without getting our heads in a tizzy, let's simplify a concept that everyone is talking about though the scope of metaverse isn't fully realised yet.

We are getting there. To simplify, mentally replace the phrase 'the metaverse' with 'cyberspace'. Ninety per cent of the time, the meaning won't substantially change, says 'Wired'.

Think cyberspace

That's because the term doesn't refer to any ONE specific type of technology. It's a broad shift in how we interact with technology. Right

The metaverse is a 3D augmented world. You'll be "walking" through it via connected headsets or glasses. But the concept of metaverse is still being developed even as you are reading this. So, it's

okay to take your time to understand it better



now you may think it's difficult to understand 'metaverse', but as we have learned with technology and social media in the last one and half decades, today's cool verse is tomorrow's everyday lingo, till it becomes obsolete and is taken over by something new.

The term became buzzword with Mark Zuckerberg's decision to rename Facebook as Meta. While that may have been done because of the negative publicity the platform was receiving, the term 'meta' and 'metaverse' both grabbed eyeballs of the whole world.

IT EXISTS

Several components of metaverse technologies have already been developed within modern internet-enabled video games. For instance, the 2003 virtual world platform 'Second Life' is often described as the first metaverse, as it incorporated many aspects of social media into a persistent three-dimensional world with the user represented as an avatar.

Social functions are often an integral feature in many multiplayer online games. Technology journalist Clive Thompson has argued that the emergent, social-based gameplay of 'Minecraft' represents an advanced analog of a metaverse. Similar statements were made for the game



'Roblox', which has since employed significant usage of the term in marketing. Other claims of developing a metaverse include the games like 'Active Worlds', 'The Palace', 'Decentraland', and 'Fortnite' – all in video games.

If you were to understand the term in terms of movies think 'Ready Player One', or even better, 'The Matrix' franchise. With the latest installment out recently, go back to the movies to understand the concept of augmented and virtual reality.

METAVERSES?

It's still unclear whether there will be one metaverse or many different separate metaverses, but this seems to be the one constant: The metaverse is an immersive next-generation version of the internet, likely rendered by virtual or augmented reality technology.

Nover explains further in 'Quartz': The venture capitalist Matthew Ball, whose writing on the metaverse has influenced Mark Zuckerberg, describes the metaverse as a "successor state to the mobile internet" and a "platform for human leisure, labor, and existence at large."

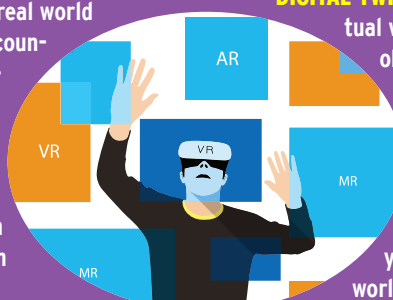
What's Your Avatar?

Terms you need to know about to understand the metaverse

MIRRORWORLD: A mirrorworld is a digitally rendered version of the real world where there are virtual counterparts of real-life people, places, and things. Mirrorworlds are often found in sci-fi works, like Netflix's 'Stranger Things', 'The Matrix' film series, the novel and film 'Ready Player One'.

SKEUOMORPHIC DESIGN: The term means

that virtual objects will be made to closely resemble real-world ones.



DIGITAL TWIN: A digital twin is a virtual version of a real-life object or structure. The term was first introduced in the 1991 book 'Mirror Worlds' by David Gelernter.

AVATAR: An avatar is your persona in a virtual world. This digital rendering of your appearance may look like

you, resemble a cartoon (as popularised by Snapchat's Bitmoji and Apple's Memoji).

VIRTUAL REALITY (VR): VR is an immersive experience where one puts on a headset and sees, and can operate within, a digital world.

AUGMENTED REALITY (AR): AR is a digital overlay projected on the real world. Think of Niantic's 'Pokémon Go', Snapchat's dancing hot dog, or even wearables like Google Glass.

MIXED REALITY (MR): Mixed reality incorporates elements of VR and AR.

source: quartz

METAVVERSE CONCERTS



You could be sitting in your living room, and enjoying a live concert of your favourite band through the metaverse. These virtual concerts in the metaverse, where you just have to put your glasses on, are going to be much more immersive than listening to a live video. You can see yourself moving through the crowd in a little cartoony avatar, going as close as possible to the artistes. It's as if you ARE there. World over, various artists can now do shows on the metaverse to engage a far wider audience than they ever could think of. Possibly, everyone in the world interested in a particular artist's work or band, or music, as there are no physical limitations on the number of people attending. Also, a virtual concept is more financially viable one as artistes and crew don't need to travel and there is no need to set up costly sets for the same. What could be better than that in the times we live in?

LET'S GO TO MARS

Hyundai's visions for this virtual space is quite futuristic. At CES 2022, the company showcased concepts of using Boston Dynamics robots to help humans "overcome the physical limitations of movement in time and space", reports 'Business Insider'.

They are looking into the possi-

bility of people experiencing what it's like to be on Mars without actually being there. The report further stated that in a video showcased by Hyundai, a father and daughter are seen experiencing the red planet through a Boston Dynamics Spot robot that's physically present there. Spot scans the planet collecting real-time data and imagery for your digital avatars to experience. Soon, the company will use the metaverse technology to let you experience how a sandstorm feels with real-time wind data collection and even touch rocks!



SHOP FOR YOUR META AVATAR



Swedish clothing brand H&M has jumped on the metaverse bandwagon with panache. Here's what's happening... The brand has opened a new virtual store in the metaverse CEEK city.

WHAT'S CEEK CITY?

It's a VR-based metaverse known for its virtual worlds that are meant to connect players (your meta avatars), with music artistes, athletes, and other digital content creators. The new CEEK City universe offers customers to navigate through the store, select the goods they desire and make a purchase – all in the metaverse, a 3D virtual reality world similar to the physical world.

Your avatar will be able to walk through its new store in the metaverse and choose the clothes you want, and even purchase it! These will be digital-only clothes meant for the players' avatars though. But here's the twist. The fashion brand plans to extend the functionality to real life. For instance, when your meta avatar buys something in the virtual store, you will be able to collect it from the physical store nearest to you. How about that?

META-MOVIES

As the article above pointed out, metaverse has been explored in books and movies for a while. Let's look at a few of them to understand how creative these movies got with the concept of metaverse.

In the 2009 sci-fi flick, 'Gamer', a computer programmer invents self-replicating nanites that replace brain tissue and allow humans to control other humans' actions.

The plot of 2012 movie, 'Wreck-It Ralph', revolves around various video game characters leaving their in-game roles. It tells the story of a video game vil-

lain who rebels to become a hero.

'Ghost in the Shell: Standalone Complex' is a classic anime movie spanning the TV show and a Hollywood movie starring Scarlett Johansson. The story grappled with the idea of the nature of identity in a future where humans can transfer their consciousness into cyborg bodies.

Johansson also starred in the Oscar-nominated movie, 'Her', where she played an AI named Samantha bought by Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix), an intro-

verted writer, who is lonely and lost after his divorce. In the recently-released film, 'Free Guy', Ryan Reynolds' character Guy is a bank teller who discovers he is actually a non-player character in an open-world video game!



VIDEO GAMES

The metaverse has been a part of video games for a while now. But with the metaverse becoming an official 'reality', pun intended, we are going to see games that are far more immersive. Here are a few

SANDBOX

It offers a virtual world in which you can create, take ownership and capitalise on monetisation prospects with their gaming experience. The most striking highlight is that it allows players to develop games of their own in the metaverse.

AXIE INFINITY

Axie Infinity is a unique creature with specific features. You can also battle with another Axies in the game and use your experience for winning and earning rewards.

SORARE

It's a football NFT game.

Most important of all, over 180 real-life football clubs are officially registered on Sorare!

Source: @blockchaina.com





NCC instills discipline to make students future ready

Oasis School, Raidurg, held an impressive ceremony on the inauguration of its NCC Unit. The school believes in developing in its students the spirit of comradeship, discipline, leadership skills, secular outlook and selfless service and the units are set up to advance these ideals.

The ceremony was presided over by Laxman Singh Gusain. The programme started with an invocation song followed by lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries. Principal Usha Karumatil in her address mentioned about the qualities the students

imbibe when they join the NCC. Punitha Valli, VP, spoke about the importance of social responsibility of every citizen like saving water, waste disposal, etc.

**Oasis School
Raidurg**



Laxman Singh Gusain encouraged the students with his motivating speech. He said military officers are placed in NCC to inspire youth with a sense of purpose while giving a disciplined approach to life. Officers bring their experience and expertise, just like teachers in school, to help the youth with skills that will help them for life.

Conceptual understanding over rote learning

THE EDUCATIONIST

LEARNING HOW TO LEARN

Two important goals of all types of learning include retention and transfer. Retention is the ability to remember the material at a later time. Transfer is the ability to use prior knowledge to solve new problems. Students achieve meaningful learning when both of these goals are fulfilled.

Conceptual understanding is active, constructive, and long-lasting, but most importantly, it allows students to be fully engaged in the learning process. The knowledge gained through meaningful learning applies to new learning situations. This type of learning stays with students for life.

Rote learning is the memorisation of information based on repetition. It doesn't allow for a deeper understanding of a subject and no connection between new and previous knowledge. Indeed, with the quickly changing employment landscape and global ecosystem, it is becoming increasingly critical that children not only learn, but more importantly learn how to learn. Education thus, must move towards learning, about



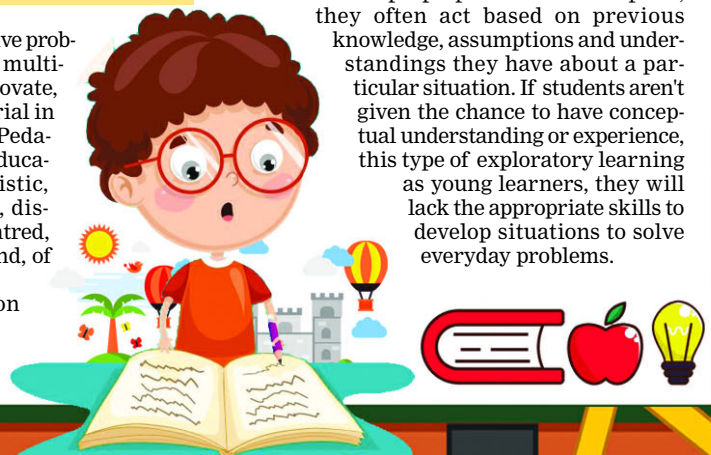
SUREKHA NAYANI,
Vice Principal,
Delhi Public School,
Nacharam,
Hyderabad

how to think critically and solve problems, how to be creative and multidisciplinary, and how to innovate, adapt, and absorb new material in novel and changing fields. Pedagogy must evolve to make education more experiential, holistic, integrated, inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible, and, of course, enjoyable.

The National Education Policy lays emphasis on the development of the creative potential of each in-

dividual. It is based on the principle that education must develop not only cognitive capacities, both the 'foundational capacities' of literacy and numeracy and 'higher-order' cognitive capacities, such as critical thinking and problem solving - but also social, ethical, and emotional capacities and dispositions and this can be achieved through conceptual understanding and co-relating the learnt subjects.

When people perform in a workplace, they often act based on previous knowledge, assumptions and understandings they have about a particular situation. If students aren't given the chance to have conceptual understanding or experience, this type of exploratory learning as young learners, they will lack the appropriate skills to develop situations to solve everyday problems.



Express YOURSELF

FRIENDS FOREVER

Friendship can be built with people of any age. Some of us may be friendly with either mom or dad or both of them. They are our best friends with whom we can share many things.

Often small disturbances and petty fights are common between friends. These infact make the bonds of friendship stronger. Friends are the people who stand with us during difficult times. They are with us during both happy and sad times.

True and stronger friendship will last for a long time in our life and sometimes for our whole life too. Every person will have at least one true friend. So, do not break friendship for silly reasons.



G ABHIRAM, class VIII-Sunflower, Sister Nivedita School, Ameerpet

TEACHERS

Teachers are like lamps for us
They show correct way of life
Sometimes they are like best friends
Sometimes they are like parents
In both ways they try to make us understand
So, we can choose the correct way
Of our life, and we can take the correct decision in life.
At every point, they are ready to guide us
And to help us
They try their best
To make us understand
And they are ready to repeat a word
Thousands of times
Until we understand
Teachers are like a lamp for us
They show us the correct way of life.

ASHISH RAJ, Shantiniketan Vidyalaya, Shamirpet, Thumkunta



MANAGING ANGER



It is important to have anger-management skills as anger can affect relationships. Here are a few anger management tips that I feel can be followed in one's life to build healthy relationships.

1. Always follow the principle of forgive and forget.
2. Try to understand the person to whom you are talking.
3. Be helpful rather than being self-centric.
4. Always have empathy towards others.
5. First listen and then speak.
6. Be as courteous as possible to everyone.
7. Don't have the habit of always complaining about others.

PALLAVI, class VIII, Gautami Vidya Kshetra, Hyderabad

DANCING ALL THE WAY

I have been learning Bharatanatyam from six years. I started dancing when I was two and a half years old. Being a Tamilian, I wanted to learn our regional dance form.

I love to exercise and believe that dance is the best way to stay fit. I always loved watching people perform Bharatanatyam and became fascinated with it. I am now a senior artiste in our academy. My gurus are Nagavolu Anuradha and Nagavolu Sree Kavya. The manner in

which they teach encourages me to showcase my love for Bharatanatyam. I have given many stage performances in temples, at the Shilparamam and also in different communities. I love it when I dance perfectly. I encourage myself every day to practice dance and decided that, in the future I will become a professional Bharatanatyam dancer and will start my own academy. Dancing is my passion. *What's yours?*

HANSHINI GOVINDARAJ, class V, Blossoms International School of Excellence

Painters' Gallery



PERCHED: NIPUN GARG, class IX-C Mahar Regiment, Silver Oaks International School, Mighty Oaks Campus, Hyderabad



CLICK
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VIEW
ONLINE

ENVISION:
RUTHVIKA,
class IV-B,
Santinos Global
School,
Hyderabad

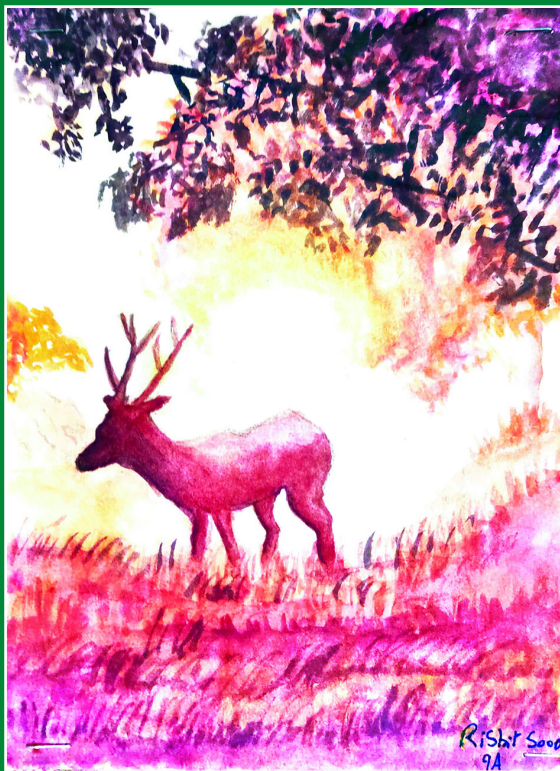
BLOOMS IN THE VALLEY



Down the valleys of great,
Joyous morning blooms,
looped in gentle breeze,
welcomed the dawn light.
Marvellous, vibrant mirth,
drenched in sprays of drizzle
with stretched showy scales.
Beauty hidden in the florets
unwrapped in the daylight.
Dispensing their fragrance
in the vast estates,
whisking behind the bushes
like bashful brides,
Peeping out of boughs
like mischievous kids,
Playing peek-a-boo
with bumble bees, swaying in delight
to the tunes of larks,
nectar filled blooms, lent delicious treats.
Hail the splendid glory, for enchanting visual feast

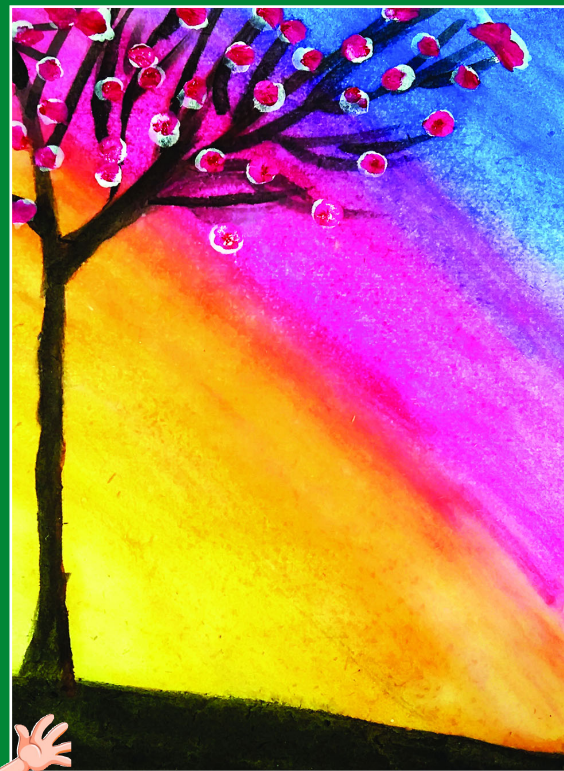


USHA KRISHNA, Senior Wing, Pallavi Model School, Bowenpally



WATCHFUL:
RISHIT SOOD,
class IX, Birla
Open Minds
International
School, Kollur

COLOURS OF LIFE:
MOHD AYAAN,
class VIII, DDMS
P Obul Reddy Public
School, Hyderabad



ENGLAND CLING ON FOR DRAW



Australian players react as England's Stuart Broad (C) plays a shot on day five of the fourth Ashes cricket test between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground

Photo: AFP

Dramatic 4th Ashes Test denies Australia a series clean sweep

England's tailenders resisted Australia's bowlers in fading light Sunday to clinch a draw on a dramatic final day of the fourth Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Jack Leach, Stuart Broad and then Jimmy Anderson batted out the final 10 overs under immense pressure, after Pat Cummins and Scott Boland took three quick wickets in the final session before Steve Smith removed Leach with two overs remaining to set up a nervous finale to a gripping test match.

ENGLAND'S BEST IN SERIES

At stumps, England finished 270-9 with Broad unbeaten on eight and Anderson not out on zero to give England its best result of the five-match series, which Australia leads 3-0.

With the final hour approaching, Cummins removed Jos Buttler and Mark Wood in the space of three balls to turn the test on its head after it was looking increasingly likely that England would earn a draw after its most determined bat-

ting effort of the series.

Scott Boland then continued his incredible start to test cricket by having first-innings centurion Jonny Bairstow caught at bat pad by Marcus Labuschagne for 41. It was Boland's 14th wicket in just his second test after making his test debut at Melbourne's 3rd test where he was named man of the match.

But Broad and Leach saw out the remaining 10 overs despite Australia

THE ASHES



having all its fielders around the bat in catching positions as the fading light meant Australia had to bowl spinners Nathan Lyon and Steve Smith in the final three overs.

Earlier in the session, Stokes, no stranger in proving to be an immovable object for Australia after his heroics in the 2019 Ashes series in England, did not appear to let the pain of his left side injury curtail his attacking shots as he crushed ten boundaries and a six as part of his 60 runs, to go with his 66 in the first innings. But Lyon

eventually made the vital breakthrough as he caught Stokes in two minds as to whether to play at the ball or leave it. In the end he did neither and guided a simple chance to Steve Smith at slip. It was the ninth time that Lyon has taken Stokes' wicket, including twice in this match.

As the final hour loomed, Cummins (2-80) made a big breakthrough trapping Jos Buttler lbw for 11. On-field umpire Paul Reiffel initially rejected the appeal before Cummins referred to the TV umpire, who reversed the decision. Two balls later Cummins dismissed Wood with a vicious in-swinging delivery that hit the tail-end on the foot for a much easier lbw decision for Reiffel to confirm.

SURVIVAL GAME ON

Boland then had Bairstow caught at bat pad to expose England's tail, but Leach and Broad and then Anderson found a way to survive despite up to nine fielders in close catching positions. Before tea, Joe Root and Stokes combined for a 60-run partnership from 26 overs before Scott Boland had the English skipper edging through to wicket-keeper Alex Carey for 24 to give Australia renewed optimism it may be able to bowl England out.

Needing to bat out the day to draw the Test after being set an improbable 388 to win, the tourists lost a very defensive-minded Hameed (9) and Malan (4) in the morning session, but Zak Crawley decided that attack was the best form of defense as he unleashed eight boundaries on his way to a 69-ball half-century. Hameed was dropped by Carey off Pat Cummins, but only survived a few overs more as he again edged through to Carey, who made the catch, to give Scott Boland yet another wicket in his bright start in test cricket.

Lyon (2-28) was introduced into the attack and in his third over found a way through Malan's defenses to have England at 74-2 after the first hour of play.

Crawley's enterprising innings was halted at 77 after 13 boundaries when Cameron Green (1-38) captured the 23-year-old opener leg before wicket. **A**

Great game of Test cricket. We got close. Bitless weather might have got us there. Obviously would've loved 4-0, but good match. The forecasts are hopeless, I learned that this week. Getting close to 400, I felt we needed that. The wicket wasn't playing too many tricks. And I thought there was enough time. **AUSTRALIA SKIPPER PAT CUMMINS**

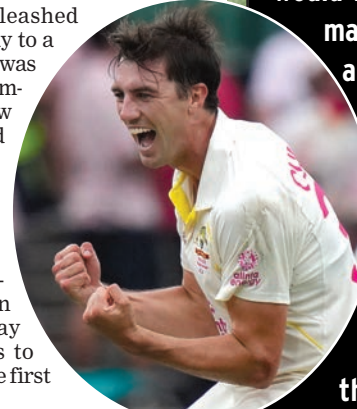


Photo: AFP

VINICIUS, BENZEMA SCORE BRACES



Karim Benzema

Photo: AP

Real Madrid thrash Valencia 4-1, extend lead in La Liga

Real Madrid strike duo Karim Benzema and Vinicius Jr both scored a brace to give the La Liga leaders a 4-1 home win over Valencia on Saturday, putting them back on track after last weekend's disappointing loss to Getafe.

Benzema opened the scoring shortly before halftime from the penalty spot, his 300th goal in all competitions for Real. He is the fourth player in the club's history to reach the milestone after Alfredo di Stefano (308), Raul (323) and Cristiano Ronaldo (450).

It's an honour and I'm proud to reach 301 goals with Real Madrid because they are the best club in the world. We played a great game for ourselves but also for the fans, who deserved it after the loss to Getafe. **KARIM BENZEMA**

Fan favourite Vinicius, who missed Real's last two games after testing positive for COVID-19, came back with a vengeance and scored twice early in the second half. Goncalo Guedes scored Valencia's consolation goal in the 76th minute with a header on the rebound after Thibaut Courtois had saved his penalty kick. Benzema sealed the emphatic win two minutes from the end with a low shot from inside the box.

TOP SCORERS

Real Madrid extended their lead at the top of the standings to 49 points from 21 games, eight points ahead of Sevilla, who have two games in hand, and host Getafe on Sunday. It took a while for Carlo Ancelotti's team to warm up on a freezing winter night at Santiago Bernabeu, where the fans are becoming used to gathering between scaffolding as Real

Madrid continue the 800-million-euro (\$908.72 million) renovation of their home.

After a flat beginning, Real found their rhythm late in the first half as Luka Modric struck a shot that rattled the crossbar. The hosts kept pressing until they found the opener after Casemiro fell inside the area when challenged by defender Omar Alderete. Benzema stepped up and rifled the ball into the top right corner beyond Jasper Cillessen.

Real kept up their pace after halftime and Vinicius scored twice in nine minutes, first after a beautiful combination with Benzema, clearing two defenders before finishing all alone in the box.

Benzema's goals meant he stayed clear at the top of the scoring charts in La Liga this season with 17, followed by Vinicius on 12. Together they have scored 29 of Real's 45 league goals this campaign. **REUTERS**



Vinicius Jr

Photo: AFP

BOPANNA AND RAMKUMAR WIN ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL

Teaming up for the first-time on the ATP Tour, India's Rohan Bopanna and Ramkumar Ramanathan won the Adelaide International doubles trophy with a hard-fought 7-6 (6) 6-1 win over top seeds Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo on Sunday.

Bopanna's excellent service returns at crucial times and Ramkumar's all-round game tilted the match in their

favour. In the one hour and 21 minutes contest, the Indians saved all break points and broke their rivals twice.

It was Bopanna's 20th ATP doubles title and first for Ramkumar. The win would be a huge confidence booster for Ramkumar ahead of the Australian Open Qualifiers, where he will aim to make the singles main draw of a Grand Slam once again. **PI**



Rohan Bopanna of India and Ramkumar Ramanathan of India Mens Doubles winner hold up the trophy

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

QUIZ TIME!



Q1: Which cricket team has won the 2019-20 Vijay Hazare Trophy?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Tamil Nadu

Q2: In context of the Indian awards and honors in sports, which among the following is given as a lifetime achievement award?

- a) Dronacharya Award
- b) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award
- c) Dhyan Chand Award
- d) Arjuna Award

Q3: Who among the following served as India's first Test Captain?

- a) Nawab of Pataudi Senior
- b) Nawab Mansoor Ali Khan
- c) C. K. Nayudu
- d) Lala Amarnath

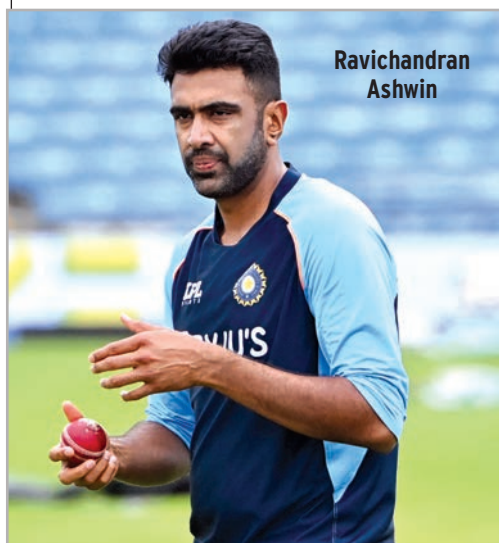
Q4: What does the globe in the ICC World Cup Trophy symbolise?

- a) World
- b) All participating nations
- c) Cricket Ball
- d) Unity

Q5: Ravichandran Ashwin holds the record for the Indian

with the most Player of the Series awards in Test matches. How many times has won the award?

- a) 6 b) 9 c) 5 d) 7



Ravichandran Ashwin

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Q6: When was the first UCI Mountain Bike World Cup held?

- a) 1999 b) 1996 c) 1989 d) 1985

Q7: When was the Olympic Flame first introduced in the Winter Olympics?

- a) 1904 b) 1924 c) 1936 d) 1900

Q8: Which player is given the Golden Glove Award?

- a) Best player
- b) Best Goal-keeper
- c) Top Goal-scorer
- d) Best Striker

Q9: Which among the following is the first country to win

the World Cup on home soil?

- a) Australia
- b) India
- c) England
- d) West Indies

Q10: Which country won the 1st FIFA Football World Cup held in 1930?

- a) England
- b) Uruguay
- c) Argentina
- d) Yugoslavia

ANSWERS: 1. a Karnataka
2. c Dhyan Chand Award 3. c C. K. Nayudu
4. c Cricket ball 5. b 9 6. c 1989
7. c 1936 8. b Best Goal-keeper
9. b India 10. b Uruguay