



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

➤ Know more on what experts say about India's new teen chess sensation Pragganandhaa in 'i-Opener'

**PAGE 2**



➤ A student narrates a funny incident ahead of a fancy dress competition, which left everyone scared

**PAGE 3**



➤ UEFA Nations League: Belgium run riot against Poland with thumping 6-1 win

**PAGE 4**


**STUDENT EDITION**

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 2022



## 41 Universities from India in 2023 QS World Rankings List

Forty-one Indian universities — up from 35 last year — have made it to the QS World University Rankings 2023, with seven institutes making their debut in this year's table.



The Indian Institute of Science (155th globally), Bengaluru, has moved up 31 places since last year to secure the first spot among the Indian institutes, followed by IIT, Bombay and IIT, Delhi, making up the trio in the top 200.

India has also come out strongly on the research front, with IISc emerging number one globally in the 'citations per faculty' (CpF) indicator, which higher education analyst Quacquarelli Symonds uses to evaluate the impact of research produced by universities.

IIT, Guwahati (37th for CpF), IIT, Roorkee (47th for CpF) and the new entry, University of Madras (48th for CpF), are also global top-50 research institutions

# RAJYA SABHA POLLS

**WHAT**

The polls to the Upper House or the Rajya Sabha, believed to be India's equivalent to the UK's House of Lords, will be held today to fill 57 seats from 15 states that will fall vacant due to the retirement of members between June and August. Forty-one members have already been elected unopposed from various states, leaving 16 seats to be decided. While the Lok Sabha members are elected by direct voting, i.e., by the voters during the General Elections, the Rajya Sabha members are elected by the members of the legislative assemblies or MLAs.

**HOW**

**MANY MEMBERS ARE THERE IN THE RAJYA SABHA:** According to the Constitution of India, the maximum strength of the Upper House of Parliament

is 250 members, out of which 238 members are elected. Twelve members are nominated by the President from various fields having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art, and social service.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A RAJYA SABHA MEMBER:** To become a member, a candidate should be above the age of 30 years, possessing other qualifications as may be prescribed by the law of Parliament.

**IS IT NECESSARY THAT A CANDIDATE SHOULD CONTEST FROM HIS/HER OWN STATE:** The member does not need to be a domicile of the state from which he stands to be elected to the Rajya Sabha. He/she can be an elector in a parliamentary constituency from anywhere in India.

**WHO**

**HEADS THE RAJYA SABHA:** The Vice-President of India is the chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. Unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha is a 'permanent body' and is never dissolved.

**HOW**

**LONG DO THE MEMBERS SERVE?** While the tenure of the Lok Sabha members is five years, it is six years for a Rajya Sabha MP. One-third of its members retire every two years. However, vacancies also arise due to death, disqualification and resignations. These are filled up through bypolls. As per Section 154 of the Representation of the People Act 1951, a member chosen to fill a casual vacancy will serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term of office.

**WHO CAN VOTE FOR RAJYA SABHA**

Only the members of the assemblies of states and Union territories can vote for Rajya Sabha.

**HOW IS THE ELECTION CONDUCTED**

As per the constitution, since the Rajya Sabha is the Council of States, the allocation of seats for the Rajya Sabha is made on the basis of the population of each state. Voting is conducted in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. In the voting system, MLAs don't vote for each seat. Instead, the MLAs have to list different candidates in order of their preference. If a qualifying number of voters choose a candidate as their first choice, he or she is elected. The remaining votes go to the next candidates, but with a lesser value. So, the MLAs also vote for candidates from other parties.

Each MLA's vote is counted only once. The candidate who gets rank one from an MLA secures a first preference vote. In order to win, a candidate needs a specific number of such first preference votes. This number depends on the strength of the state assembly and the number of MPs it sends to the Rajya Sabha. Known as the quota or preference vote, the formula is: [Total number of votes/(Number of Rajya Sabha seats + 1)] + 1. That is, the total number of MLAs is multiplied by 100. This number is then divided by the number of vacancies plus 1. This total number is added to 1.

In simple term, every candidate in the race requires one-fourth of the total number of votes plus one to get elected. If the candidate who is the first choice of the voter (ranked through preferences) already has enough votes or no chance of being elected, the vote is transferred to the second choice, and so on.

**IS IT A SECRET OR OPEN BALLOT?**

Unlike the Lok Sabha polls, the voting for the Rajya Sabha is carried out through an open ballot system. It has been made mandatory for the MLAs to show his/ her vote to an authorised agent of the party to stop cross-voting induced by corruption. If an MLA does not show his or her ballot to the agent, the vote cannot be counted. Independent candidates cannot show their ballots to anyone. Additionally, there is no NOTA option in the RS elections.

**X-PLAINED**

## Now, drones WILL GIVE YOU WEATHER UPDATES



The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is set to deploy drones to gather atmospheric data that is currently collated by sending sensors through weather balloons released from at least 55 locations across the country twice every day. Presently, the sensors embedded in a radiosonde, which is a telemetry instrument carried by a weather balloon, record atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind direction and speed as the hydrogen-filled weather balloon soars up to 12 km height and transmit data to the ground receiver through radio signals. However, these balloons and radiosondes are unretrievable, as they drift afar

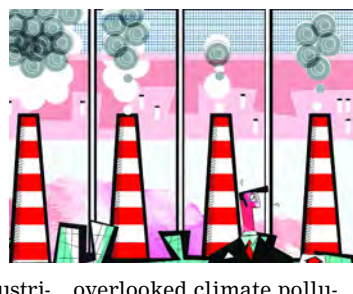
from weather stations that release them in the atmosphere. "We are now exploring the possibility of using drones to gather this atmospheric data which is crucial for weather forecasting," M Ravichandran, secretary, ministry of earth sciences, said.

**WHY DRONES**

- The drones have a key advantage over weather balloons, as they can be controlled and guided to fly at low as well as high altitudes.
- Besides, while the flight of a weather balloon usually lasts for up to two hours, a drone can perform the task during a 40-minute flight.

## Curbing CO2 alone not enough to prevent global warming: Study

Focusing efforts almost exclusively on cutting carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, as most governments currently are doing, can no longer prevent global temperatures from rising above the UN-mandated pre-industrial levels of 1.5 degree Celsius, warns a new study. But if we simultaneously also reduce emissions of methane and other often



overlooked climate pollutants, we could cut the rate of global warming in half by 2050 and give the world a fighting chance, revealed the study.

Cutting carbon alone may not be enough to prevent temperatures from rising by 2 degree Celsius. To slow down warming in the near-term and reduce suffering from the ever-increasing heat-waves, droughts, superstorms and fires, short-lived climate pollutants also must be reduced

## President Ram Nath Kovind's speeches compiled into a book

Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Anurag Thakur released the Hindi and English versions of a compilation of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind at an event organised at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday. The two ministers later called on the President



and presented the first copies of 'Loktantra ke Swar' and 'The Republican Ethic' to him, the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) ministry said. The compilation contains the President's speeches on a wide range of subjects.

## BTS album 'Proof' set as 48-title anthology

K-pop superband BTS has confirmed that its latest album 'Proof' will stretch across three CDs and consist of 48 tracks. It will drop on Friday, reports 'Variety'. The album and the composition of the disks are intended to represent the past, present and future of



the nine-year-old band, agency Big Hit Music said. Within the mix are three new songs: 'Yet To Come', 'Run BTS' and 'For Youth'.

The seven-member BTS has become one of the most-successful pop acts of all time and represents a breakout for Korean music into the international scene

## Wearing masks back for flyers, violators may be on 'no fly list'

The DGCA has taken a strict note of flyers not wearing masks at airports or on aircrafts. In line with the Delhi high court order, the aviation regulator DGCA has directed mandatory wearing of masks at airports and on aircraft. The masks can be removed only in exceptional circumstances, the order says. Those found to be violating the rules will be declared unruly passengers, and can be put on no flying list. Moreover, the Airport Authority of India provides hand sanitisers, dispensers at prominent places in the terminal. Airports have been ordered to increase airport announcement and surveillance for Covid-appropriate behaviour.


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**TRAVEL**

Looking for a short-yet-sweet break? Try these eight destinations that are bound to rejuvenate you

**HEALTH**

Did you know that your food containers can make you obese? PLUS: Why you must do panchkarma in the monsoon

**GOOD TO KNOW**

The rich and sweet history of the subcontinent's favourite summer sipper: Rooh Afza

**#GOALS**

Happy Birthday, Jacques Cousteau — explorer extraordinaire

**ETIQUETTE**

10 dining rules for everyone and dining etiquette from around the world PLUS: Perfume etiquette; Good

**STUDENT EDITION**

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022



grammar is a sign of good manners

**BOOKS & MOVIES**

10 hit movies that inspired 'Stranger Things' writers and directors PLUS: Be a spelling champ; How to select a self-help book

**SPORTS**

All about the game of softball

**Your Weekender**




## KILLJOY CALORIES

Why restaurants tempt you to try their food by telling you how bad it is for you



JUG SURAIYA

Bunny and I were again in London, which was all abuzz preparing to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, for which a brand-new Underground line, the Elizabeth, has been designed.

Samuel Johnson said that when you tire of London, you tire of life itself. Bunny and I always find in London much not to be tired about. The museums and art galleries, many free, the theatres, the pubs.

And the food. London's festal board boasts every cuisine from Indian to Indonesian, Pakistani to Peruvian, Ethiopian to English.

A lot of people decry English food as being dull and stodgy. But Bunny and I have acquired a liking for pub grub, like fish and chips, and savoury pies (veggie options available).

This time, however, London menus have sprung an unpleasant surprise on me. Along with the price of each item they also tell me how many calories each dish contains. If I eat fish and chips, I'll be walloping down a humongous 1,768 calories, add another 108 for green peas. If I opt for a pie I'll be tucking into no fewer than 1,859 calories, and another 160-odd for mashed potatoes.



Photo: SHUTTERSTOCK/STOCKPHOTO.COM

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

The menus also inform me that an average adult's daily consumption is 2,000 calories. So if I eat any of these dishes, I'll have to live the rest of the day on fresh air and water, and I'm not sure about the water.

Going out for a meal becomes like a visit to a cardiologist. What will the next menu I encounter tell me? Apart from how many calories I'm guzzling, will it also inform me by how much my arteries will harden, and by how many percentage points I've increased the risk of a heart attack?

Eating places are meant to tempt you with their food, not frighten you with it. So why do they do this?

It's common knowledge that all food that tastes good is fattening, unhealthy and generally bad for you. And the more no-no the food, the more yes-yes your appetite will say to it.

So by displaying a cautionary calorie chart along with their bill of fare, these menus actually are tempting your taste buds.

Forbidden food, or fruit, is always seductive. Did the serpent hiss "Go on! It's full of a zillion calories!" when it offered the fateful apple to Eve?

Source: TOI EDIT



## ONE WORLD, DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Explore diversity in vision and figure out how the same topic may be viewed differently by different folks. This is a mirror to society and life

READ FULL STORIES ON TOI WEBSITE



JAIDEEP UNADURTI

Last month saw a bridge between two chess generations, from 52 to 16. In Warsaw, at the Superbet tournament, Viswanathan Anand executed brilliance on the board, winning the rapid section with a flourish. Many of his rivals were not even born when he turned Grandmaster, but Anand overwhelmed them with his fearsome tactical skills.

In the placeless ether that is the internet, teenage sensation, Pragganandhaa, stormed into the finals of the Chessable Masters, setting up a clash with China's Ding Liren, a remarkable performance that saw his win over world champion Magnus Carlsen in the qualifying section relegated to a footnote.

On the screen, Ding stares motionless, occasionally taking a bite from an apple or swatting away a mosquito. When it is his turn to think, he leans backwards, head in hands. Pragganandhaa hunches forward much closer, often so close to the camera that only his eyes can be seen, locked in concentration.

Ding has a reputation as a great

As one commentator said, Pragg has "ripped up the script" and "he has also shown that he can play for a technical win".

technician, a master of the phase of the game that most resembles a science, but is slowly ground down by Pragg in the endgame. As one commentator said, Pragg has "ripped up the script" and "he has also shown that he can play for a technical win".

In the end, despite the comeback, Pragg lost the tiebreaks in a heart-breaker, where he lost from a commanding position. The match was a microcosm of his strengths and weaknesses, but at age 16, his strengths can only grow, while weaknesses can be eliminated.

Pragg shot to fame by becoming

## Pragg Vishy & A Revolution

Our latest teen chess sensation is one demonstration of the Indian chess wave



the youngest Grandmaster in the world in 2018, at the age of 12. Chess didn't suffer because of the pandemic, as it can be played online, an ideal sport for a planet under lockdown. So, Pragg's career wasn't interrupted.

He is one of the wolfpack of young Indian talent, with others like Nihal Sarin and Dommaraju Gukesh also making great strides. All of them were born in the years 2004-2006 and it is tempting to see the connection to the chess boom that was triggered when Anand took the world championship for the first time in 2000.

Like others, Pragg was introduced to the game very young because his parents thought he was watching too much television. In a way this was full circle. For players of Anand's generation, chess was an

escape in a resource-scarce environment, while by the 2000s it was already a refuge from distractions, with anxious parents resorting to a millennia-old game as an antidote to mindlessly watching TV.

Pragg, like the rest, has spent hours online playing thousands of blitz games. Nihal, for example, on his public account has played over 35,000 games in the last few years (the real number will be much higher). Rather like deep learning neural net-

works, these players seem to constantly improve – by testing new ideas, learning from failures and then incorporating improvements in their next game.

This approach is an iteration of a much older process; in the 1930s, Indian player Sultan Khan shook the European chess world. Unlettered, he played without book knowledge, relying on his immense understanding of the game. In the Orientalist

Like others, Pragg was introduced to the game very young because his parents thought he was watching too much television

view, he was seen as a "natural", who played by intuition without the scientific approach, presumably the domain of the Western mind.

Early on there was an attempt to fix the same label on Anand, but he quickly demolished the stereotype with the incredible depth of his preparation and being one of the early adopters of computers and opening databases.

Indian chess players of a certain vintage grew up reading the famous The Soviet Chess School by Alexander Kotov, which proclaimed a new dialectic approach, supposedly the hallmark of the land of Scientific Communism.

Now with India ascending to the world stage, can we predict the emergence of an Indian school? Pragg's success is built on the base his coach, Grandmaster RB Ramesh,

constructed over the years through his Chess Gurukul. Professor Barry Hymmer, summarising Ramesh's approach, identifies certain markers, including work ethic and an ability to learn. He quotes Ramesh saying, "In my view hard work is the willingness to learn things that do not come easily to you."

The writer is a chess columnist and a graphic novelist. Source: TOI Edit

## ONLY THE GOOD DIE YOUNG

A mix of tenderness and power, KK was his own voice



AVIJIT GHOSH

It starts with banter, as it usually does. And then, slowly and slyly, it changes as the girl confesses, and turns into that bewitching, dizzying feeling we refer to as love. But she has already been pledged elsewhere. And he, a student of music who has come from a faraway, foreign land, must pay his dues, his guru dakshina, which demands his departure and a promise never to meet her again. Now when he is leaving, their bewildered, broken hearts are breaking into fine crystals.

In Sanjay Leela Bhansali's flamboyant but tender romance, 'Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam' (1999), the leaving of Sameer (Salman Khan) from Nandini's (Aishwarya Rai) household is a scene of significance. The film needed a special



song, hummable and with heft, to nail that moment into the audience's hearts. The apt lyrics of Mehboob, the minimal orchestration of composer Ismail Darbar played their parts. But it was KK's rendition that turned the song, 'Tadap tadap', into an emotional memento. It evoked the image of a wounded eagle in flight, oozed with the ache and passion of unrealised love, and yet, was remarkably self-assured.

That number became a defining moment in the life and career of Delhi-born Krishnakumar Kunnath, whom we all know as KK. Till then a popular jingle singer, with that pathos-driven track he caught the ear of many who mattered in Hindi film music. Many Hindi film singers who came to prominence in the 1980s or after couldn't shake off the shadow of the greats who preceded them. But from the very beginning, KK was free from such influences. He was his own voice.

Post 'Tadap tadap', KK gave us dozens of varied tracks in both Hindi films and Indi-pop that stamped the personality of his vocals. The multi-language singer could be power-packed or softly seductive. And he was at absolute ease with complex tunes and the higher notes: 'Main Khuda' (Paanch), 'Aashayein' (Iqbal), 'Alvida' (Life in a Metro), 'Khuda jaane' (Bachna Ae Haseeno) and more. Listening to 'Pal', one of the finest Indi-pop tracks ever, and 'Kal hi ki baat hai' (Chhichhore) makes you think about the unpredictability of life. Now both the singer and the actor, Sushant Singh Rajput, on whom 'Kal hi ki' was filmed are gone. Mukesh, Rafi, Kishore – all tragically died in their 50s. KK too was only 53.

## REMEMBRANCE OF SANTA BARBARA PAST

Rolling back the years to teenage fandom, how a 'lowbrow' TV soap can be an intellectual stimulant-cum-memory-generator



JAI ARJUN SINGH

Last week, I set the alarm for 3 a.m. to attend a 2-hour-long Zoom session. It featured a group of actors whom I had first become acquainted with a long, long time ago, and many of their other fans, all in more manageable time zones. This was an unusual thing for me to do. Though I have had many idols in various fields, I have never felt a burning need to meet my favourites in person. And yet here I was at this Zoom event – by a Shakespearean theatre group in Dalton, Georgia, US – which began with some very talented performers reciting passages from the Bard's work.

Shakespeare wasn't my main reason for being there, though. I was there because of a TV show in a category that's often regarded the most 'lowbrow' of forms: the American daytime soap opera. And an ancient fandom from three decades ago, with a daily ritual that lasted a few years: my mother and I sitting together for an hour every weeknight, watching 'Santa Barbara', and crushing (in different ways) on its witty, tragi-comic anti-hero Mason Capwell, played by Lane Davies.

Davies, now in his 70s, was one of the hosts of the session, a fundraiser for his upcoming production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. The title of that play aptly describes my experience – I could scarcely believe that my tiny head was on the same live screen as his, and that I got a few seconds of direct interaction with him and other cast members.

Any Anglophone Indian with cable TV during the early 90s knows about the buzz around the American soaps, telecast on prime-time slots here. They were so ubiquitous that at the famous 1994 Miss India contest a question posed to Aishwarya Rai was whether she preferred Mason Capwell or 'The Bold and the Beautiful's' Ridge. 'Mason,' replied the soon-to-be-Miss World, 'he has a great sense of humour.' I don't know if

teen Abhishek Bachchan was watching and taking notes. But this answer remains the one unqualified moment of fondness I have had for Ms Rai as a public figure. I could present my own 'Santa Barbara' and – Mason love as an excitable childhood phase, something one outgrows. But that would be untrue. In any case I was almost 16, not a cultural naïf, when I first watched the show. During the same time, I was devouring Kurosawa and Godard films, and Maugham and Burgess.

Speaking with hindsight, this intense period helped blur my ideas about high and low art. It showed that rigour and depth could be found, even if in small doses, in what wasn't outwardly respectable. At its best 'Santa Barbara' was a wonderful show that transcended its category anyway: sharply written, often very funny, brilliantly performed by the central cast (including the teenage Robin Wright, who later won a Golden Globe for 'House of Cards', though in my head she is still only Kelly Capwell).

Of course, nostalgia is another important factor. Now that my mother is no longer around, it has hit home that the most sustained period in our relationship – when we sat together and spoke every day – was during the 'Santa Barbara' years. And we really did talk... about the characters and their motivations, about the politics of rape and extramarital relationships, and topics covered in other storylines.

Watching Mason being funny-drunk, we chuckled. But my mother – who had gone through a bad marriage to an alcoholic – also sighed and wished aloud that real-world drinkers were this charming. Both of us being very reserved introverts who also relished caustic humour, we were well equipped to appreciate some aspects of Mason's character: the cutting wit and Greek chorus-like asides, as well as the emotional reticence below the character's suave surface. Watching him, I felt like I was glean- ing things about my own personality and my engagement with the world. Thirty years later, some of his lines – spoken in Davies's eloquent voice – are still entrenched in my head. During the session, when that same voice read out and answered questions I had sent in advance by email, I reflected that my mother wouldn't have missed this meeting for the world. Though she would probably have stayed off camera, watching hesitantly from the side. We shy types are like that.

Source: ET EDIT



BUT WILL THEY EVER SHOW SEASON 1 EPISODE 238 ON NETFLIX, MASON?

### MEME'S THE WORD



## YOU ARE A CULTIST, EVERYBODY IS

A podcast about knowing when it's time to break free

Group affiliations make up the scaffolding upon which we build our lives, writes linguist Amanda Montell in her 2021 book 'Cultish'. She also cohosts the 'Sounds Like A Cult' podcast with Isabela Medina, a stand-up comedian and documentary filmmaker.

They see cults as thriving in periods of sociopolitical tumult. When a pandemic has pulled us away from traditional sources of community, seeking to fill the void by stanning Elon Musk or marathons or astrology or veganism or 12-step programmes is understandable and zeitgeist-y. The podcast is attentive to red flags for when it tips over into dangerous brainwashing.

**The Cult of Instagram Therapists:** People dispensing what should be bespoke mental health advice to a mass audience would not easily seduce people who are lucky enough to have good therapists in real life. But a lot of people who need one have actually never had a therapist of their own. Then the pandemic created both a big new mental health crisis and waiting periods running into months for a bona fide professional. If on a social media platform, therapy just walks up to you and you save big bucks. But you don't know if an intern or catfish is behind the account. It's not like they are

selling eye cream or you're collecting a free sample at the supermarket. It's mental health advice. The danger is that at a low place in your life the red alert will not go up, and you will be incredibly susceptible to harmful judgments and terrible advice.

**The Cult of Flat Earthers:** The 2018 documentary 'Behind the Curve' shows how the community has conducted multiple experiments to prove that the earth is flat, and time and again the experiments have proved that it is round, but at the end of the experiments they keep saying, well, this wasn't the right experiment.

It's so outlandish that it's easier to just ignore it. What harm can it do? Once again, the algorithm can push one into a more extreme version of oneself, into a conspiracy ideology that is bigger than believing in a single conspiracy theory. And all of this always ends up in scapegoating.

For instance, many flat earthers are anti-semitic. Holocaust-denial is big in this cult. Confirmation bias and dog whistles, that's not a harmless combination but an incredibly insidious one. To the podcasters, it represents everything wrong with our culture right now, where a small group of people can get together to recruit many more people, based on fiction instead of truth.

Source: TOI EDIT

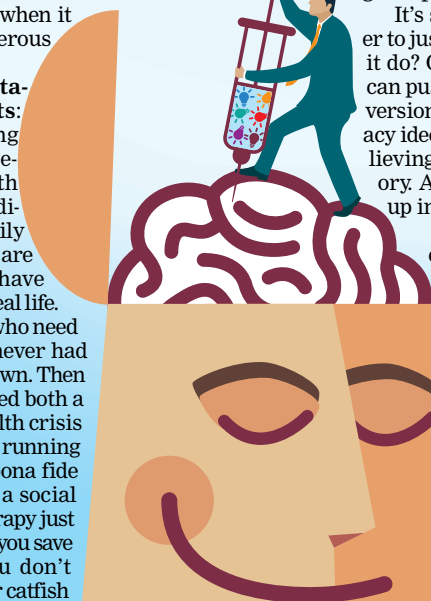


Photo: GETTY IMAGES



## Green events build ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS



**G**itanjali Devashray celebrated World Environment Day to imbibe in the nascent minds the importance of conserving the environment and the need for sustainable development. Two events were conducted for students of classes VII to X.

A Slogan Writing Competition was organized for the students of classes VII and VIII, titled 'Save the environment.' The top three slogans from each class were awarded with certificates, after a careful scrutiny by the judges. Not only were the slogans audibly captivating, but also spoke volumes about the earnestness of the students towards this global cause. It made them more aware of the apocalyptic effect of environmental degradation that humanity is head-

ing towards, if not curbed now.

The two senior classes, IX and X, had a more hands on approach towards commemorating this universal event - titled Vriksharopan. The leaders of the institution, along with students planted saplings in and around the school campus, to make it a better place for the future. The impact of this gesture immensely motivated the students to understand and implement their role in saving the greatest natural resource that we live in, our environment.

The two events, bearing far reaching consequences, are just some of the ways the school is teaching its students to be responsible citizens of our country and to serve the cause of greater good.

**Gitanjali Devashray**  
**Hyderabad**

## STAFF MEET BOOSTS SPIRITS

**T**he Gitanjali Group of Schools held the general staff meeting for its ICSE schools recently on the primary school campus. Founder Principal and Director of Gitanjali Group of Schools Gita Karan and Associate Director and Principal of Gitanjali Devshala Madhvi Chandra were present on the occasion.

Gita Karan's vision, foresight and pathbreaking initiatives have always had Gitanjali Group of Schools at the helm. She is the recipient of many awards and accolades. Gita Karan addressed an audience of 250 teachers and staff of her 4 ICSE schools; -Primary School, Senior School, Devshala School and Vedika. She began her talk by reading out the 10-point oath of teachers from the citation she received from Dr. Abdul Kalam on her National Best Teacher's award. The key ingredients of her talk were on planning, motivation and positive attitude.

These were shared with snippets of stories and plenty of humour. Under her robust educational stewardship, the teachers were inspired and invigorated to take on the new academic year with vigour and confidence.



**Gitanjali Devshala**

## ZOMBIFIED!

**T**his incident occurred when I was in class VI. It was just another ordinary day in school. A class was going on and we were busy studying. There wasn't any test that day, so as they say in student language, "it was a good day".

The lunch break too came with no hint of anything unusual. We all had our lunch. Then suddenly, we spotted something or somebody. The thing or whatever it was, was walking just three meters ahead of us. It was pale and dull. It looked more like a corpse.

We at that time believed in all absurd things like aliens, zombies, Godzilla, etc. We took that 'whatever thing' to be a zombie. I realise now how unrealistic we were!

We kept a

track of that being and tried to watch it at close quarters. We started planning on how to react if it attacked us. It was best to keep a social distance from it, we decided.

The next day during the short break we went to the washroom and that thing appeared right in front of us as if it had dropped from the sky! We were terrified by its sudden appearance and started screaming. Slowly the thing turned its head, and peeled it off! It was a mask! With the mask off, we saw it was a human! I-I...I mean a student. We sighed in relief and asked him why in the world would he dress like that. He replied that it was for the

fancy dress competition to be held in two days and he wanted to show it to the teacher. That triggered

another alarm in us, for we had quite forgotten that we too had to get busy making our costumes. There was silence in the air and then we all gave out a loud guffaw.

Fortunately, my friends and I got our costumes ready on time and the competition went off well.

But what if there really was a zombie in our school and we had got the wrong guy!



**SOM MUKHERJEE,**  
class IX, Marigold,  
Sister Nivedita  
School, Hyderabad

**CLASSROOM ANTICS**



## IF I WERE A MONSTER

**I**f I were a monster, I would make friends with mothers and scare their children so they go to bed early. In return, the mothers would give me chocolates. I would save some of these chocolates for the children who are good!

If I were a monster, I would help prevent deforestation. I would take all the tools humans use to chop down trees and throw them in outer space. I would plant entire forests with my big strong arms.

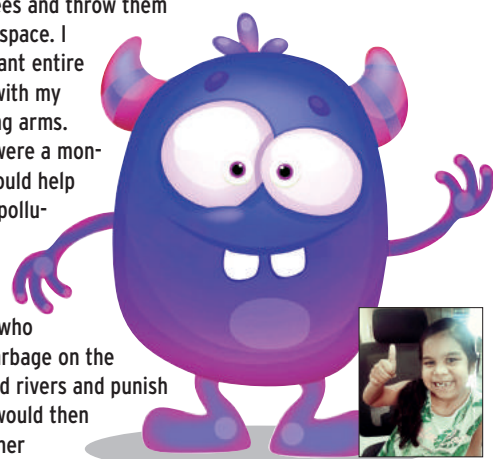
If I were a monster, I would help prevent pollution. I would pick up humans who throw garbage on the roads and rivers and punish them. I would then scare other

humans with the same fate if they litter the earth.

If I were a monster I would help the police. I would catch the thieves red-handed and hand them over to the police.

*I would be a good little adorable monster.*

**ISHANI PADHY, class II-E,**  
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans  
Public School, Hyderabad



## Stepping into a new session with Zumba!



**Jubilee Hills Public School**  
**Hyderabad**

**J**ubilee Hills Public School organised a two-day zumba session on the school premises. The staff were trained by expert zumba trainer S Nareesh and his team.

Zumba is a fitness programme that lowers risk of heart diseases and helps reduce high blood pressure. All the teaching and non-teaching staff participated in the ses-

sion with great enthusiasm. It was a real stress buster and a perfect beginning for the new academic year. The class saw everyone spiritedly matching steps to the catchy, peppy and highly energetic music.

### My inner voice says...

It's time to bounce back  
From distress and despair  
Towards faith and trust  
Be sportive... be upbeat  
Abstain from bewildered thoughts  
Foster tone conducive to tolerance  
My inner voice says...

Tough times come and they go  
Walk towards freedom, not slavery  
Release imprisoned thoughts  
Seek the path of morality, not sin  
Pursue joy in others happiness  
Deluging with purity and pliancy  
My inner voice says...

Be ready... agree to disagree  
Do not dig into degenerating past  
Leap towards bright future  
Construct new thought from broken wish  
Your deep conscience is your strength  
Rise from depth of pain to mound of bliss  
My inner voice says...



Tap the mystic power hidden within  
Cut the veils of ignorance  
Unlock the box of perception  
Liberate the feeling of animosity  
Tear down your inhibitions  
With the sword of wisdom  
My inner voice says...

Awaken the divinity within  
Strive for realization from nature  
Immerse in meditation  
Elevate towards exuberance

Conquer fear with mindfulness  
Your inner strength is your armour  
My inner voice says...

Change is dynamic in nature  
Behold! The repository of grants  
Feel the ecstatic vibrations  
Believe in internal shift  
Nurture fabulous perseverance  
Realise the potency of oneness  
My inner voice says...

Set aside contrived impression  
Work earnestly and intrepidly  
Perform duties sans expectation  
Conduct the act of empathy  
Accept imperfection unprejudiced  
Build a bridge of humanity  
My inner voice says...

**USHA KRISHNA,**  
Senior wing, Pallavi Model  
School, Bowenpally



### Healing

"Time heals", they said  
But it's not the same anymore  
Nothing's the same as it used to be  
All time has done is  
Give hollow hearts  
Blackened minds  
And meaningless words  
The colours bled out like my  
name on the sand by the cool  
tides  
Now it's a world just black and  
white  
And I am a broken china doll  
sitting on a broken swing  
Adorned with paper flowers  
Looking for my future in fortune  
cookies.

A little bird once told me,  
"You know it's not the same as it was"  
But the hummingbirds still sing their song in harmony  
The March breeze still blows with a tinge of sweet  
memories  
And the butterflies still flutter from daisy to daisy



Careless and free  
So the midnight sun reminds me,  
"You're still whole no matter what phase you're in"  
And that's the beauty in it all  
Even as this head of mine keeps falling apart  
And the world feels like a kaleidoscope

I close my eyes and fill that void deep inside  
of me;  
Sow it with seeds of bitter sweet  
memories;  
And wait patiently for a beautiful oak  
tree to grow;  
One as old as time  
And I'll smile as I sit with my back  
towards its big, old trunk  
The calluses in it telling stories and  
words unsaid  
And I'll know then,

Healing takes time,  
As tears trickle down my cheeks  
And everything goes back to as it was.

**MAANYA ARORA, class X-B, Army**  
**Public School, Bolarum**



### Painters' Gallery



**LOVING EMBRACE: KRITIKA VARADA,**  
class XII-I, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



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# BELGIUM TEAR POLAND IN NATIONS LEAGUE

## DOMINATE TO FINISH THE GAME WITH FIVE GOALS IN 30 MINUTES

**B**elgium tore Poland apart to win their Nations League match 6-1 in Brussels on Wednesday. Belgium lost their opening game to neighbours Netherlands but responded with an increasingly dominant performance and finished the game with five goals in just over 30 minutes.

### EARLY SETBACK

Belgium suffered another early setback on Wednesday as the visitors took the lead after 28 minutes as star striker Robert Lewandowski struck with his 22nd goal for club and country in 2022. The Bayern Munich attacker controlled a pass from Piotr Zielinski in mid-air and then poked it past the on-rushing Simon Mignolet with the outside of his left boot. The hosts levelled three minutes before half time. Kevin de Bruyne cut through the Polish de-



Lois Openda



Leander Dendoncker

fense. After his drive was parried, Timothy Castagne rolled the ball back to Axel Witsel who swerved a drive inside the post. Belgium took the lead after 59 minutes on the counter-attack. Captain Eden Hazard found De Bruyne free in the box and he slid a shot past Bartlomiej Dragowski. Hazard, who struggled with injury at Real Madrid this season and was an unused substitute in the Champions League final, came off after 66 minutes. "I am extremely happy that it could be important to the team, especially after my season," he said.

Axel Witsel

### STRUCTURE IN PLACE

Leandro Trossard replaced Hazard and scored twice in seven minutes. Defender Leander Dendoncker then struck his first international goal from long range. Lois Openda, who came off the bench to make his international debut with six minutes left, rounded off the rout in added time. "It was a match that will give us a lot to think about, a lot of question marks in various parts of our game plan and overall strategy, but also a lesson on how to play against such teams," said Liewandowski. Belgium, who lost their Group 4 opener to the Netherlands, sit second behind their neighbours and ahead of Poland on goal difference. "Nobody should be worried about the future of Belgian football. We have immense talent, but we have to be patient," said Martinez. "We finally have the structure in place. The rest will follow, but the talent is definitely

**It brings extra emotion when you lose against your rivals so that was definitely a motivator tonight**  
**Belgium coach ROBERTO MARTINEZ**



there." In the World Cup in Qatar in November, Belgium were drawn in a group with Canada, Morocco and the 2018 losing finalists Croatia. Poland face Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Argentina. "I told the players that they should use it as a reminder of how opponents play at the very highest levels in the world," said Poland coach Czeslaw Michniewicz. AGENCIES



Kevin de Bruyne

Photo: AFP

# INDIA DEFEAT CAMBODIA

## CHHETRI GIFTS VICTORY WITH THREE POINTS IN ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

**I**ndia grabbed all three points in their first game of the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers 2023 as they comfortably defeated Cambodia by a margin of 2-0 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium on Wednesday. A brace from captain Sunil Chhetri (14', 59') gave India the victory for the night.

As soon as the referee blew the whistle, with the crowd behind them the Indian National Team showed that they were up to the task as they pressed the Cambodia team high in their own half and gave the opposition no time to breathe.

The first shot on target for India came in the second minute itself as Roshan Singh tried to hit one into the back of the net from long range.

### DANGEROUS TACKLE

Akash Mishra tried to pile on the pressure as he put on a beautiful shot in the 4th minute, but Cambodian goalkeeper Hul Kimhuy was able to come forward

and collect it. India dominated the opening stages but there was potential danger as Sandesh Jhingan was cautioned for a dangerous tackle. Cambodia created a chance in the seventh minute. They attacked down the left flank and the ball was laid off on the edge of the box but the shot from Orn Chanpolin was over the bar.

India maintained possession and never looked in doubt after scoring the opening goal. Chhetri had an opportunity to get his second goal in the 22nd minute when he found himself unmarked in the

### THIRD TIME LUCKY

Right before the break though, Cambodia got some hope to bring the game back to level terms when they had a free-kick on the edge of the box. The shot from Keo Sokpheng was on target but easily saved by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu.

In the 50th minute, Brandon put in a cross towards Chhetri but again his header was off target.

However, it was third time lucky for the Indian skipper as in the 60th minute, another cross came in, this time from the

**Skipper Sunil Chhetri stepped up and slotted the penalty into the left corner in the 14th minute to settle the nerves and give India the lead**

box, but his header went off target.

In the 41st minute, Akash Mishra came up with a stupendous effort as he cut in from the left and unleashed a swerving shot but it was parried away by the goalkeeper.

left towards the far corner and Sunil Chhetri leapt up to hit a pin-point header towards the top right corner and into the back of the net.

His second goal gave India the breathing space they needed. ANI



Sunil Chhetri

Photo: ANI

# SEN EASES INTO QF AFTER WIN OVER GEMKE IN INDONESIA MASTERS

**W**orld No. 9 Lakshya Sen stormed into the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Masters 2022 after defeating Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in straight games in Jakarta on Thursday.

Playing on Court 2 against Gemke, Sen did not have too much trouble, except in the opening set where the two players went toe-to-toe before Sen stepped up and took the first game by 21-18.

In the second game, Gemke took the lead at 11-10, playing fierce cross-court rallies before Sen once again recovered and moved forward to seize the match 21-18, 21-15, and march into the quarterfinals of the Indonesia Masters 2022.

Later in the day, PV Sindhu will play against Gregoria Mariska Tungjung for a spot in the quarterfinals in the



Lakshya Sen

Photo: AP

women's singles.

In the doubles, Ashwini Ponnappa-Sumeeth Reddy will take on second-seeds Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong of China for a place in the last eight. ANI

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** Which Indian Grandmaster won the Sunway Formentera Open chess tournament?

- Raja Rithvik
- Harshit Raja
- Sankalp Gupta
- D Gukesh

**Q2:** Who has become the first Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic at the same clay-court event?

- Carlos Alcaraz
- Alexander Zverev

- Andrey Rublev
- Stefanos Tsitsipas

**Q3:** Who has been given the Diamond Championship belt?

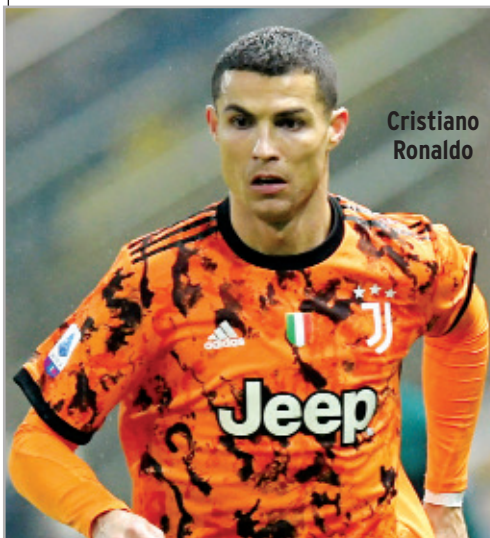
- Cyril Thomas
- Miguel Cotto
- Manny Pacquiao
- Bernard Hopkins

**Q4:** Which female athlete has the most Olympic gold medals so far?

- Birgit Fischer
- Marit Bjørgen
- Larisa Latynina
- Jenny Thompson

**Q5:** When did Cristiano Ronaldo join Juventus Football Club?

- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2016



Cristiano Ronaldo

Photo: REUTERS

**Q6:** Which sport is Valentino Rossi associated with?

- Swimming
- Cycling
- Motorcycle racing
- Formula One

**Q7:** When was the first FIFA World Cup held?

- 1930
- 1925
- 1934
- 1818

**Q8:** Which is the largest football stadium in the world?

- Salt Lake Stadium
- Rungrado Stadium

- AT&T Stadium
- Melbourne Cricket Ground

**Q9:** Which Indian swimmer holds the record for the shortest time in 50m freestyle in the 2018 Asian Games?

- Virdhawal Khade
- Sajan Prakash
- Srihari Nataraj
- Sandeep Sejwal

### ANSWERS:

- d. D Gukesh
- a. Carlos Alcaraz
- c. Manny Pacquiao
- c. Larisa Latynina
- b. 2018
- c. Motorcycle Racing
- a. 1930
- b. Rungrado Stadium
- a. Virdhawal Khade