



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S  
EDITION

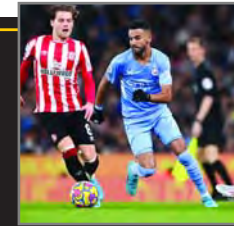
As Wordle becomes a hit among the netizens, take a tour of the puzzle world and its journey over the years  
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How was your first day in school? As schools reopen, a student recounts those old days in the classroom  
**PAGE 3**



Man City beats Brentford to move 12-point clear in the lead  
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STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2022



The students, who have registered for the CBSE Board examination 2022, will appear in the examinations from the allotted examination centres as done during the preceding years

[CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2](#)

## HOPE PoK WILL BECOME PART OF INDIA BY 2024 – Union minister Kapil Patil

# The PoK CONTROVERSY

**WHAT** Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) is that area of Jammu and Kashmir (India), which was invaded by Pakistan in 1947 and has been illegally occupied since then. An area of 13,297 sq km, it was under the control of the Pakistani forces when the ceasefire line came into effect on January 1, 1949.

**HOW** The area came under Pakistan after a 14-month period of hostilities between India and Pakistan, which began with an invasion of Kashmir by Pak tribesmen, and later its Army, to seize Kashmir.

### THE REGION

**1** The capital of PoK is Muzaffarabad, a town located in the Valley of the Jhelum river and its tributary Neelum, called by Indians as Kishanganga, to the west and slightly north of Srinagar

**2** In 1963, Pakistan ceded to China over 5,000 sq km of J&K land under its control, in the Shaksgam area, in northern Kashmir, beyond the Karakoram, through an agreement

**3** PoK is divided into two parts, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), which is illegally ruled by Pakistan indirectly, and Gilgit-Baltistan (referred to as the 'Northern Areas' till August 2009)



X-PLAINED

**SITUATION OF PoK SINCE 1947**

■ Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is part of the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while Gilgit-Baltistan is in the UT of Ladakh in the fresh maps released by the government following the bifurcation in 2019.

■ In a notification, the ministry of home affairs also released the new map of India depicting the two UTs with PoK 'capital' Muzaffarabad within the geographical boundary of the country.

■ As per the new map, PoK remains with Jammu and Kashmir

UT and Gilgit-Baltistan with the UT of Ladakh, according to the maps.

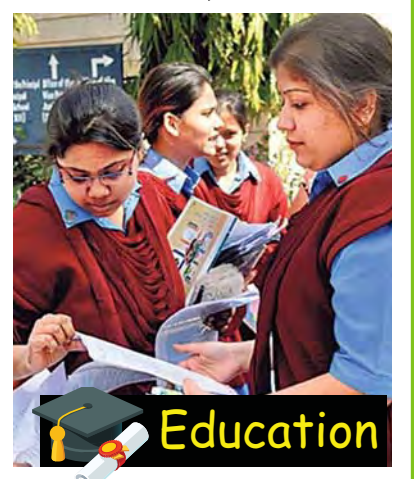
■ The maps prepared by Survey General of India depicting the new UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, as created on October 31, 2019, along with the map of India, are released, the statement said.

■ On the recommendation of Parliament, the President effectively dismantled Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and gave assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.

(SOURCE: PTI)

## CBSE class X, XII term-2 Board exams 2022 to be held offline from April 26

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will conduct the second term Board examination for classes X and XII from April 26, 2022. "The Board after discussion with various stakeholders and taking into consideration the Covid-19 Pandemic situation in the country has decided to conduct the classes Xth and XIIth Board examination offline," said Sanyam Bhardwaj, Controller of Examinations, CBSE.



Education

- "The theory exams will begin from April 26, 2022. The datesheet for classes X and XII will be released soon," he added.
- The CBSE will release the date sheet for class X and XII examination on its official website - [www.cbse.nic.in](http://www.cbse.nic.in) - soon.
- The pattern of the question papers will be the same as that of sample question papers uploaded on the Board's official website.

CBSE has advised candidates to consider the messages/ information spreading on social media only after verifying the facts available on the CBSE's website

## Lata Mangeshkar tribute makes it to Times Square billboard in New York

A tribute to Melody Queen Lata Mangeshkar, who died on Sunday, recently made it to the Times Square billboards in New York. Famous chef Vikas Khanna shared a 54-second-long video, showing Mangeshkar smiling back at the people of NY from the digital hoarding as her song, 'Yeh Kahaan Aa Gaye Hum', from 1981 film 'Silsila', played in the background. In his post, he said that the legendary singer enriched his life and he was grateful to be born in her era.

TRIBUTE

Earlier on Monday, Emmy Award-winning actress Hannah Waddingham, best known for her performance in US sports comedy 'Ted Lasso', also paid a tribute to the 'Bollywood songbird'.

## Bill Gates writes book on how to make Covid-19 the last pandemic

Bill Gates, the billionaire philanthropist whose foundation has focused on efforts to fight the coronavirus, is planning a May 3 release for a book on how to ensure that the Covid-19 pandemic is the last great global plague. The book will cover lessons learned from the pandemic, as well as tools and innovations needed to save lives and stop pathogens early. It will discuss his views on vaccines and on what it has felt like to become the target of conspiracy theories.



BOOK

■ In January 2021, the Microsoft Corp. co-founder outlined an ambitious plan to stop the next pandemic, calling for a global alert system, massive testing, a cadre of 3,000 "first responders" ready to spring into action and tens of billions of dollars of annual spending

■ The Gates Foundation has spent more than \$2 billion helping fund the global response to the Covid-19 outbreak. That money has gone to groups like the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention to boost testing in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to help fund the development of lower-cost vaccines



## Plastic has infiltrated oceans drastically, WWF calls for action

Plastic has permeated all regions of the ocean, according to the WWF, which is asking for urgent steps to form an international treaty against plastics. According to a WWF survey, 88 per cent of marine species studied are harmed by serious plastic contamination in the water. Many animals, particularly those regularly consumed by humans, have swallowed these plastics, according to the findings. In the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, massive "plastic islands" made up of floating fragments of plastic have been discovered.



- The Mediterranean Sea contains a higher density of microplastics than any large marine environment ever measured, said the report
- Some 229,000 tons of plastic are released into the Mediterranean every year, it added

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ONLINE TOI STUDENT EDITION

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- Interesting trivia around the Day
- Fascinating love monuments that you didn't know existed

**Love in school**

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**Be my Valentine, friend**

Celebrate your friendship by making a Valentine's card for your friend. We share the best on toistudent.com

**Plus**

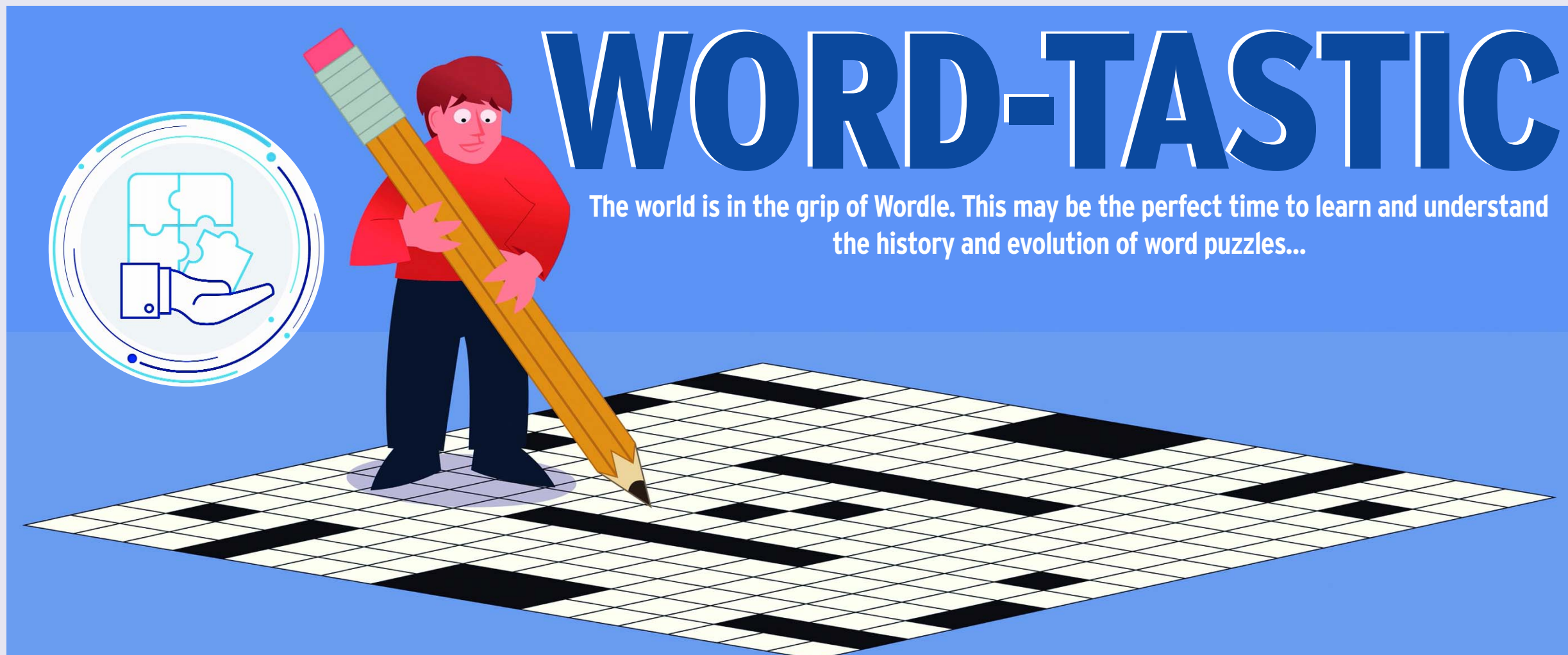
- Art activities
- Your voices

Don't miss the 'Exclusive Edition' on this special occasion

Online activities start from February 7, 2022 onwards

MARK YOUR DATE **FEBRUARY 12, 2022**





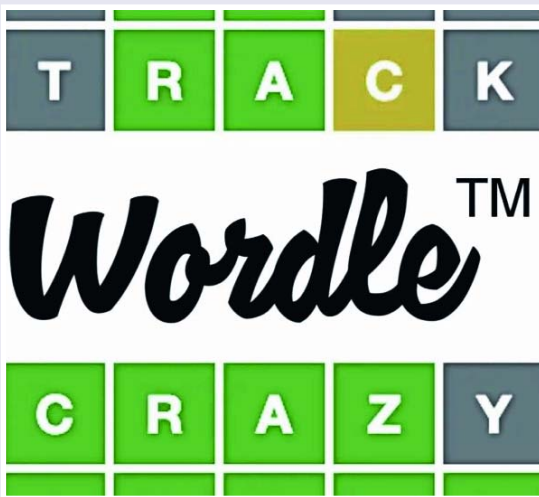
Let's begin with some recent facts. Till November 1, only 90 people had ever played Wordle. Within two months, that number had jumped to 300,000. Social media users helped grow the popularity of the game.

Wordle was created by Josh Wardle, a New York software engineer, for his partner. He decided to release it publicly last October. The rest is history... still in the making. What happens after 'New York Times' bought it from Wardle remains to be seen. But one thing is for sure. There's a renewed interest in word puzzles amongst experts all over the world. And as we saw in the last few months, even first-timers have gotten addicted to playing the word game. Social media has made it easy for people from every sphere of life, all over the world to get into a word-gaming mood. And that's great news because in a world starved of books what with gadgets taking over our lives, a renewed interest in tickling the grey

cells over finding the right word may just be the booster needed for us to get back into the reading habit. Good news for parents. And great news for the young ones, who in today's world, are motivated the most with what's trending and a desire to have a competitive edge to win the trending game, in this case, eventually, a great vocabulary.

#### WHAT'S A SATOR SQUARE?

The Sator Square is a two-dimensional word square containing a five-word Latin palindrome. It features in early Christian as well as in magical contexts. The earliest example of the square dates from the ruins of Pompeii, which some scholars attribute to pre-Christian origins, such as Jewish or Mithraic.



Now, let's go back a bit in time to learn who created the word puzzle, and what

contributed to its popularity over the last century.

#### WHO CREATED THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE?

Editor Arthur Wynne at the 'New York World' in 1913. Like most important inventions and discoveries in the world, it was quite by accident. Or maybe design, but not with the purpose of making it a hit. The story goes like this. In 1913, Wayne needed something to fill space in the Christmas

edition of his paper's FUN supplement. So, he took advantage of new technology that could print blank grids cheaply and created a diamond-shaped set of boxes, with clues to fill in the blanks, smack in the center of FUN.

Nearly overnight, the "Word-Cross Puzzle" went from a space-filling ploy to the most popular feature of the page.

#### FROM THE RUINS OF POMPEII...

However, the crossword didn't arise from nowhere. The ancient Romans loved word puzzles, beginning with their city's name: the inverse of ROMA, to the delight of all Latin lovers, is AMOR (love). The first known word square, the so-called Sator Square, was found in the ruins of Pompeii. The Sator Square is a 5 × 5 square made up of five 5-letter words, thus consisting of 25

#### WHAT IS A PALINDROME?

A palindrome is a word, number, phrase, or other sequence of characters which reads the same backward as forward. For eg., civic, radar, level. Palindrome proper nouns, or people's names can be... Ada, Anna, Bob, Elle, Eve, Hannah. Here are some Indian examples. Kanak, Nayan, Saras.

characters in total, using 8 different Latin letters: 5 consonants (S, T, R, P, N) and 3 vowels (A, E, O).

#### ENGLISH HISTORY

'The Oxford English Dictionary' dates the word puzzle (as a verb) to the end of the 16th century! Its earliest use was documented in a book titled 'The Voyage of Robert Dudley...to the West Indies', somewhere between 1594 to 1595.

## WHY WORD SEARCH PUZZLES ARE GREAT FOR YOU

Word Search puzzles are known to boost brain activity. The more you expose your brain to quick-thinking tasks, like finding hidden words, the quicker the brain will get at it. This can make your brain and thinking patterns more productive. Here are some major benefits of playing word puzzles

#### Sharpens spatial visual intelligence

Spatial visual intelligence is one of the multiple intelligences introduced by American developmental psychologist Howard Gardner. Spatial visual intelligence is the intelligence of thinking and learning with images, understanding the shape of patterns and the space of an object, including thinking creatively.

Studies conducted by the University of Chicago in 2011 showed that regular toddlers who play puzzles have better spatial visual skills than those who do not. This is because the ability to recognize and understand the shape, size,

colour, and space are sharpened through playing the puzzle.

#### Motor skill development

First, what exactly are motor skills? It's the function that involves specific movements of the body's muscles to perform a certain task, like walking, running, or riding a bike. In order to perform any of these, the body's nervous system, muscles, and brain have to all work together.

When playing a puzzle, kids are often asked to pair an image, circle a letter or word, turn the knob, or insert the puzzle piece into a certain hole according to the shape. These exercises when done regularly sharpen motor skills.

#### Improves eye-hand coordination

All types of puzzles require coordination between the eyes and hands. Through the puzzle game, the ability to connect what the eye sees and how the hand responds are honed well from an early age.

#### Solution-oriented approach

Puzzles have clear goals. When a child plays a puzzle, he/she will learn that to solve a problem there are steps that must be taken. Getting used to solving problems with a creative mindset from an early age comes in handy as an adult.

#### Trains social skills

Some word puzzles are group games, and some require cooperation with others to solve it. This will make your child learn to work and play with others. It will also hone social skills needed desperately in our times, like patience and cooperation. Also while taking turns to finish a game, the child learns about the advantage of team spirit.

## WHAT'S A CROSSWORD?

Crossword puzzle is a popular form of word puzzle. It consists of a diagram, usually rectangular, divided into blank (white) and cancelled (black, shaded, or crosshatched) squares. This diagram is accompanied by two lists of numbered definitions or clues, one for the horizontal and the other for the vertical words, the numbers corresponding to identical numbers on the diagram. Into each of the blank squares of the diagram a certain letter of the alphabet is to be inserted, forming the words fitting the numbered definitions or clues. The words cross each other, or interlock, which gives

the puzzle its name.

#### KINDS OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES

There are three major types of crossword puzzle: fill-in, hints, and cryptic. A fill-in crossword puzzle provides a list of words that must be fitted into the given grid. For an extra challenge, try number fill-ins! A hints crossword puzzle provides a list of hints (such as trivia).

Though the majority of puzzles have the form of symmetrical patterns of shaded or blacked-out squares within a rectangle, there are many variations. These include: (1) an asymmetrical scattering of squares; (2) a plain diagram with no squares canceled and the ends of words marked simply by a thick line; (3) pictorial designs, either in outline containing the diagram or in line inside the diagram, or a combination of both; and (4) diagramless puzzles, with no squares cancelled and no word ends marked.

— Source: Britannica.com

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WORD PUZZLE?

The main objective of the game is to consult with a list of words supplied with the grid, and find all the words on that list. The puzzle is usually given a theme, and the words on the list typically fit in with this particular theme.



#### FACTCHECK

According to the (non-affiliated) account @WordleStats, the number of people sharing their Wordle scores was roughly doubling each week in January: from 137,586 on 12 January to 280,622 on 19 January. This is just the people who are sharing their scores; there are perhaps millions more, Wordling in private. Not since the Sudoku-mania of the mid-00s, or perhaps even the first crossword craze of the 1910s, has a novel puzzle so captured the zeitgeist.

— Source: guardian.co.uk

#### WHY THE WORD-GAME CRAZE IS GROWING?

Alan Connor, author of 'Two Girls, One on Each Knee, a history of the crossword', told 'The Guardian' that the pandemic has provided the perfect conditions for an upsurge of interest in word games of all kinds. "It's no surprise that those who have had more time alone should see the appeal in losing themselves in a puzzle for a spell, but it also works for those who've been run off their feet: a puzzle is, at least, something you can feel you've finished." That's quite an achievement in a time when everything in our lives seem to be in a state of flux, when we cannot see ourselves reaching specific goals on a day-to-day basis, or in the longer run. Finishing a task under such circumstances is exactly the kind of morale booster that people are looking for every day.

#### CROSSWORD CRAZE GROWING FOR A WHILE...

Did you know that publications like 'Sun', 'The Telegraph' 'New Yorker' have all upped their puzzle content in recent months? In fact, a recent YouGov survey

on the popularity of the crossword found that three in 10 British adults attempted a crossword each week and more than one in five made their decision to buy a newspaper based on the particular crossword culture of the publication.

## GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

#### JIGSAW PUZZLE

A jigsaw puzzle is any set of varied, irregularly shaped pieces that, when properly assembled, form a picture or map. The puzzle gets its name because the picture, originally attached to wood and later to paperboard, was cut into its pieces with a jigsaw (which cuts intricate lines and curves). Jigsaw puzzles may be very complicated vis-à-vis the number of pieces and the number of different cuts and thus take many hours to complete.

#### ORIGIN

Puzzles originated as educational devices to teach geography (dissected maps) in 18th-century England. Dissected pictures followed, covering such subjects as history,

alphabets, botany, and zoology. The use of popular pictures began in the 1860s and '70s, in both Great Britain and the United States. The puzzles became extremely popular in the early 1900s and had a revival in the Great Depression of the 1930s as an

#### CRAMBO

It's what we call dumb charade today. It's a game in which one player gave a word or line of verse to be matched in rhyme by other players. Crambo was, reportedly, played in England as early as the 14th century. It is frequently mentioned in the literature of the 17th and 18th centuries.



inexpensive, reusable amusement. Another revival began after World War II, and jigsaw puzzles have remained a popular entertainment since then.

#### ANAGRAM

An anagram game is about transposing of the letters of a word or group of words to produce other words that possess meaning. Their invention is often ascribed to Jews, probably because the later Hebrew writers, particularly the Kabbalists, were fond of them, asserting that "secret mysteries are woven in the numbers of letters."

Anagrams were known to the Greeks and Romans. They were popular throughout Europe during the Middle Ages and later, particularly in France, where a certain Thomas Billon was appointed "anagrammatist to the king". In the 20th century, anagrams frequently have been used in crossword puzzles, in both the clues and the solutions.





## Nurturing young cricket talent

**A**rka Sports and Brainiacs Bee on Friday launched the M S Dhoni Cricket Academies (MSDCA) in Telangana at Delhi Public School, Nacharam. The registrations are currently open.

The launch was graced by Ch Mal-la Reddy, Minister for Labour & Employment, Subhas Bethi Reddy, MLA Up-pal, Venkateshwar Reddy, Chairman SATS, Mihir Diwakar, Managing Di-rector Arka Sports, MSDCA, Malka Ko-maraiah, Pro-Vice Chairman DPS and Pallavi group of Institutions, Robin Ja-cob, Director Brainiacs Bee, Uma Shankar, Chairman, Brainiacs Bee, Yasasvi Malka, COO DPS and Pallavi group of institutions, Sushil Kumar, Di-rector Pallavi Group of Schools, Sunitha Rao, Principal DPS Nacharam, Tanu-ja, Principal Pallavi Model School Boduppal, and Rose, HM Pallavi Inter-national School Keesara.

Performance and Residential Center has been set up at Delhi Public School Nacharam and Academies at Delhi Public School Nadergul, Pallavi International School Gandipet, Pallavi International School Keesara, and Pallavi Model School Boduppal.



**Delhi Public School  
Nacharam**

maraiiah for his endeavours in estab-lishing MSDCA in Hyderabad. "With high standards training at MSDCA, we should give India a star sportsman like MS Dhoni in future", he quoted.

M Komaraiah announced the launch of MS Dhoni Cricket Academy and said that children who aspire to make it big in cricket will have the best of the in-frastructure and world-class coaching facilities to pursue their dreams. Delhi

Public School Nacharam and Nadergul and Pallavi Educational Institution's Chairman Malka Komaraiah exchanged the two years co-operation agreement documents with Mihir Diwakar.

Speaking on the occasion, A Venkateshwar Reddy, Chairman of SATS, said the aim is to provide a 360-degree training approach with the help of the best techniques and technology to sharpen the skills. He thanked Mihir Diwakar for starting the academy in Telangana at DPS Nacharam.

Diwakar opined his views. He said, "MSDCA is formed with the sole objective of providing a platform to aspiring cricketers in the country through a structured program that equips our play-ers with the skills they need to succeed in cricket and life. Our unique and ground breaking coaching program is built around the core values with which our mentor M S Dhoni lives and plays by; integrity, teamwork, enjoyment, professional-ism, and adaptability.

Yasasvi, COO of Pallavi group of schools, said that they are offering Pallavi Franchise along with MS Dhoni Cricket Academy in all districts of Telangana.



## HONOURING THE GREATEST MATHEMATICAL GENIUS

**A**famous mathematician Stefan Banach said, "Mathematics is the most beautiful and most powerful creation of the human spirit".

India is celebrating National Mathematics Day to commemorate the 144th birth anniversary of ace mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan who was born on December 22, 1887. To celebrate the spirit of mathematical learning, Delhi World School celebrated National Mathematics Day on 22nd December 2021.

Mathematics can be tough sometimes, so can many things in life. Mathematics is the only subject that shows that all problems have solutions. Mathematics can be fun, challenging, hands-on, and applicable in real life.

Backed by rigorous planning, the DWS Math Team successfully conducted fun-filled and concept-oriented Mathletics: Math activities for all students.

Students gathered for the assembly and were made to sit in geo-

metrical symbols like squares, tri-angles, circles, and rectangles representing the math day celebra-tions. The Word "Philomath", a love of learning and studying math, was introduced. Students displayed beautiful dance, covering math con-cepts, and Ramanujan's contribu-tion towards mathematics was de-picted as a small play wearing Ra-manujan's face mask. Activities like brain teasers, sudokians, math climbers, race the numbers, click the clocks, stack the equation, etc. were also conducted.

The main objective behind the celebration was to raise awareness among students about the impor-tance of mathematics. We can't ignore that several initiatives are taken to motivate, enthuse, and in-culcate a positive attitude towards learning mathematics among the younger generation of the country.

**Delhi World School  
Chintal, Hyderabad**

## LEARNING TO SHOW GRATITUDE



**T**he sub-staff of DDMS P Obul Reddy Public School fosters positive and trusting relationship with students, ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment. Giving them their due, a Gratitude Day was celebrated on the school premises.

The event was an initiative planned by the Student Council members and the students of Classes XII and X under the guidance of Principal Latha Shankar. The day commenced with various competitions for the sub-staff like the Rangoli and the Musical Chairs. As a token of appreciation and gratitude, special gifts curated by the students were given to all the sub-staff members by Chairman S V Rao. Lunch was organized and the event concluded on a happy and an emotional note.

**DDMS(AMS) P. Obul  
Reddy Public School  
Hyderabad**



### FARMERS



When there is no rain,  
Farmers groan in pain,  
And with unseasonal rain,  
Their produce flood the drain,  
But shouldn't we find a solution,  
To stride over this miserable situation,  
Some sort of emancipation,  
So as to build a prosperous nation.



**MAHITHA KANAKAMEDALA**, class VI, Jain Heritage A Cambridge School, Kondapur

### WATER

Oh, how you flow silent and calm,  
unbothered by people's alarm.

The beauty of your lies in your blue,  
and the reflection you make,  
when the sun falls on you.

Oh, the way you flip our hair in a way,  
show them how strong you can be with the tide you make.

Nothing can stop you volcano or earthquake,  
Beautiful as you can be during night or day.

River or a stream, lake or a sea,  
Pretty as a picture, you can be.

Flow your way through silently,  
while people play with you.

Childlike manners, graceful flow,  
strong as ever you can be.

A mystery to me unsolvable you are,  
so beautiful and yet so fierce.

Solid, liquid or gas,  
you go your way without any fears.

Happiness around you is what I feel,  
sadness is what you take away.

You do it so easily,  
as if you are a mystery unsolvable to me.

**HIYA SAMRIDHI**, class VII-D, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Public School, Vidyashram, Jubilee hills



## IF I WERE INVISIBLE

**I**f I were invisible, I would do so many things, which I cannot do if I am visible. Being invisible would give me the liberty to visit different places and do anything without anyone seeing. I wish to see my favourite film star, so if ever I become indivisible for one day, I would straight away catch a flight, that too free of cost, and would visit super stars' houses.

I would also stay with them for one week or so, and when I am bored, I would scare their kids or pets just for fun. While everyone would be asleep during the night, I would take some of their money and donate it to the needy person. Once I am bored, I would leave for vacation and travel everywhere without paying for any services. All of us have different plans to execute, most of us would plan to take revenge on our enemies, but I want to enjoy my life to the fullest. I would use this opportunity wisely by traveling the world, meeting film stars, and helping people.



**A KESAV SAI**, class IX, Aravinda Model School, Mangalagiri

## A DAY OF MONKEY BUSINESS

**T**his incident happened when I was in grade VI. It was a usual day at school. As usual, we had an assembly of fifteen minutes and after that, our classes started. After two periods, we had our recess period and the teacher had collected all our notebooks and kept those books on a bench right outside of our classroom. Our classroom is situated near a balcony. We went out of our classroom to have our snacks. Right at that time, a barrel of monkeys got into our school premises, and being amused by the kids, started jumping here and there. Then I along with my friends decided to lay out some cream biscuits for the monkeys. We were so surprised to see that they were behaving just like the human kids. They just took those biscuits and cracked them open, licked the

cream, and threw the rest of the biscuits. Out of nowhere, a monkey sprang upon the railing of the balcony. Terrified, we ran to the classroom and while running I picked up the bundle of those notebooks and entered the classroom. Then we kept those books in a safe and unnoticeable place. Then I along with my friends laid out a plan to prank one of our friends. When he came into the

class from the washroom, we just informed him that a monkey had taken his notebook, scrambled it into pieces, and then threw it from the balcony. After hearing this, he was neither shocked nor terrified. He just gave a broad smile and just pulled out his notebook that was supposed to go for correction. We looked at each other's faces and understood that we were pranked by him. We started laughing, then the teacher came into our classroom and our class resumed.



**CLASSROOM  
ANTICS**

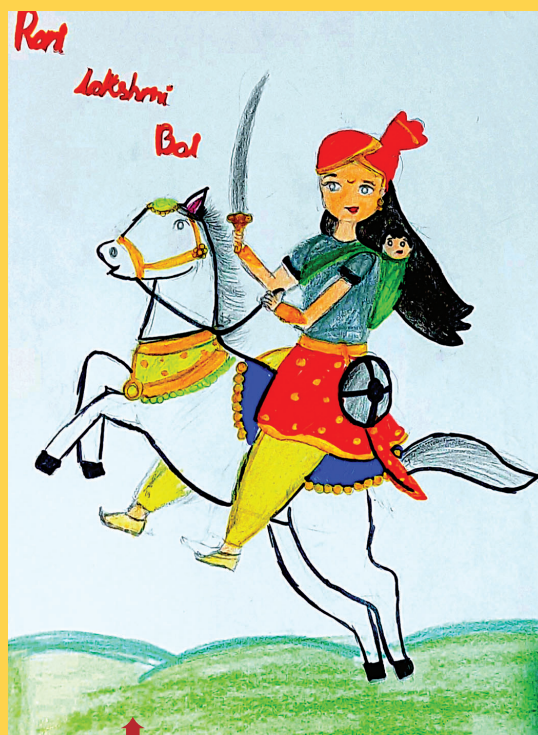


**SOM MUKHER-JEE**, class VIII, Tulip, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad



## Painters' Gallery

CLICK  
HERE TO  
VIEW  
ONLINE



**EPITOME OF POWER:**  
**RUTUJA SANJIV SINGAL**, class V, Army Public School, Bolarum, Hyderabad

**DIVINE:**  
**SRI KRISHNA**, class VII, Sri Gurudatta High School, Hyderabad



**OUR PRIDE:**  
**SHIVASREE**, class IV-O, Delhi Public School, Nacharam

**MYTHICAL:**  
**MANOGNA**, class VII, Shantiniketan Vidyalaya, Shamirpet





# MAN CITY BEAT BRENTFORD

Premier League champions move into a 12-point clear lead

Kevin De Bruyne



Photo: AP



Photo: AP

The important thing is we won the game and in three days we go to Norwich and have to win again. This type of thing about who is the best, I don't care. Just be happy and try to play better every day.  
**PEP GUARDIOLA**

**R**iyad Mahrez scored for the seventh straight game for Manchester City in its 2-0 win over Brentford on Wednesday that moved the Premier League champions into a 12-point lead. Kevin De Bruyne also netted for the fourth home game in succession in the league as City extended its unbeaten run to 14 matches in a title defense that is on course to finish in a sixth championship in 11 seasons.

## CREATING CHANCES

Second-place Liverpool does, though, have two games in hand on City and play at home to Leicester on Thursday. City wasn't at its fluent best up against a Brentford team that defended deep and in numbers at Etihad Stadium. "We had to be patient, make no mistakes," City manager Pep Guardiola said.

However, after a tight opening half-hour, City started to create a flow of chances and eventually went ahead after Raheem Sterling was tripped by Mads Roerslev near the byline. Mahrez, back on domestic duty after playing for Algeria at the African Cup of Nations, converted the penalty in the 40th minute to continue his stunning run of scoring for his club.

## MAHREZ PROVES HIS METTLE

Starting against Leipzig in the Champions League on Dec. 7, the right winger has scored in every game he has played for City, with four penalties included in a haul of eight goals. With City having no out-and-out striker this season, Mahrez

is proving to be the team's most reliable source of goals. "Riyad is now a guarantee," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "He is so clever. He can shoot on both sides and effectively to the corners."

## KILLED THE GAME

City goalkeeper Ederson had to be alert to keep out a couple of shots on Brentford counterattacks, but De Bruyne killed the game off with the second goal, which stemmed from a mistake by Brentford keeper David Raya.

His pass out from his area went straight to Sterling, whose shot was saved by the sprawling Raya. The ball came out to De Bruyne, who stroked it low into an unguarded net in the 69th.

All of the Belgian's recent goals have come at the Etihad, including a winner against Chelsea last month.

City has 14 games left to play in its title defense that has a growing air of inevitability about it. "We are not the best team in the world — the best team is Chelsea, who won the Champions League, or River Plate, who won in South America," Guardiola said.

## FIFTH LOSS IN SUCCESSION

The loss was Brentford's fifth in succession in the Premier League and the team is six points above the relegation zone. However, manager Thomas Frank is backing his players to reverse the slump.

"It is very important we look at the work ethic and the attitude — a top attitude — and performances have been really good," he said.

"We have to keep the performance and the mentality and stay positive, then we will be fine." "I hope so, fingers crossed," said Frank. "We will assess him every day." AGENCIES

Riyad Mahrez



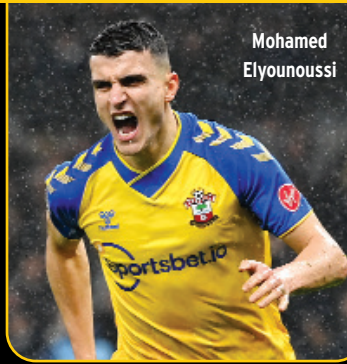
Photo: AP

## TOTTENHAM LOSES 3-2 TO SOUTHAMPTON

**T**ottenham conceded two goals in a chaotic three-minute period late in the game to lose 3-2 to Southampton on Wednesday in a blow to its top-four ambitions in the Premier League.

Southampton appeared to be driven by a sense of injustice after Son Heung-min's goal in the 70th minute that put Tottenham ahead. In the build-up, Emerson Royal looked to have fouled Armando Broja in the air, and it led to some heated exchanges among players and coaches.

The visitors poured forward and after Mohamed



Mohamed Elyounoussi

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Elyounoussi equalized in the 79th, Che Adams headed in an almost identical goal for the winner in the 82nd.

Broja had earlier cancelled out Tottenham's opening goal that was scored by a Southampton player, as Jan Bednarek slid in to deflect a cross into his own net under pressure from Son.

Substitute Steven Bergwijn had an equalizing goal disallowed in the final minutes as Tottenham stayed seventh, four points off the Champions League places. West Ham occupies fourth place but has played three more games than Tottenham.

# ROHIT-LED SIDE LOOK TO SWEEP SERIES

All eyes will be on Virat's form as wait for century grows

**A**fter having gained an unassailable 2-0 lead in the ongoing three-match series, Rohit Sharma-led Team India would look to win the final ODI to register a series sweep.

India and West Indies will lock horns in the third and final ODI at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, on Friday. Heading into the final game, all eyes would be on Virat Kohli's form.

Sofar in the series, Virat has been below-par as he recorded scores of 8 and 18 and the wait for century number 71 is growing day by day. The batter needs to stay true to his instincts. In the ongoing series, he seemed to be in a rush. This has never been the case with Virat but probably lack of a big score is now getting to the former skipper as well. A good talk with head coach Rahul Dravid and captain Rohit might just be the need of the hour for Virat as the Men in Blue definitely



Photo: PTI

need their star batter at his best.

In the second ODI, India promoted Rishabh Pant as an opener, the move might not have worked, but it is a positive sign as the team finally showed an aggressive mindset. KL Rahul and Suryakumar Yadav were impressive with the bat but the overall score remained below-par as the team posted just 237 on the board.

The bowling side of things took care of itself and Prasidh Krishna bowled a probing spell and broke the back of Windies chase. The hosts would expect the same to happen in the final ODI.

West Indies' batting has been lacklustre so far in this series, and they have not been able to help out their bowlers. Kieron Pollard missed the second game due to a niggle and it is not known whether he would return for the final ODI on Friday. AGENCIES



Photo: ANI



File pic: Jugraj Singh

# JUGRAJ SINGH STARS FOR INDIA

Good attack and strong defence ensures 10-2 win against hosts South Africa

**T**he Indian Men's Hockey team rode on a blistering attack to beat hosts South Africa 10-2 in their second match at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22 at Potchefstroom on Wednesday.

Newcomer Jugraj Singh (4', 6', 23') starred in India's high-scoring victory as he contributed three brilliant goals to the scoreline with his impeccable drag flicks. His effort won him the Player of the Match award. Harmanpreet Singh (2'), Abhishek (12'), Gursahibjit Singh (24', 36'), Dilpreet Singh (25', 58'), Mandeep Singh (27') were the other goal scorers for India.

The Tokyo Olympics bronze medallists began with a lethal attack that exposed the South African defence. They earned a penalty corner as early as in the first minute of the game. Harmanpreet's first attempt was blocked by South African rusher Keenan Horne, the vice-skipper was perfect in his second attempt with a fiercely struck flick that beat South African goalkeeper Estiaan Kriek.

The opening goal for India set the pace for their attack as they went on to score three more goals in the first quarter. India's second and

third goals were courtesy Jugraj Singh who impressed with his ability to dragflick.

An error by the South African defenders saw Abhishek intercept the ball inside the circle only to take a successful shot on goal in the 12th minute. With four goals on board, India ended the first quarter in a dominant fashion with eight shots on goal.

Though the second quarter witnessed South Africa create some inroads into the striking circle with Horne taking a potential shot on goal in the 22nd minute, India's defence held sway to avoid conceding a goal. With a strong lead, India seemed to drop the momentum a tad bit in the third quarter. India ended up conceding at least three PCs, out of which they converted one when Daniel Bell pushed the ball past Sreejesh's left foot in the 44th minute. The goal did good to the hosts' confidence as they struck another fine field goal via Richard Pautz in the 45th minute. Though India continued to enjoy a 9-2 lead, the two goals scored by the hosts made them more upbeat. Though the Indian attack earned a PC in the dying seconds of the match, South Africa defended well to end the match with 10-2 on the scoreboard.

India take on France on February 12. ANI

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** Ezra Cup is related to which of the following sports?

- a. Polo
- b. Tennis
- c. Lawn Tennis
- d. Cricket

**Q2:** Who won a gold medal in Artistic gymnastics in the 2016 Rio Olympics?

- a. Simone Biles
- b. Madison Kocian
- c. Aliya Mustafina
- d. Mao Yi

**Q3:** Where are the headquarters of FICP located?

- a. Rome
- b. Berlin
- c. Luxembourg
- d. Paris

**Q4:** How many Continental federations are working in co-operation with the Badminton World Federation?

- a. 3 b. 5 c. 4 d. 7

**Q5:** Which male athlete emerged the winner in shot put at the 2018 Diamond League games?

- a. Tomas Walsh
- b. Darrel Hill
- c. Fredrick Dacres
- d. Brandon Starc

**Q6:** Prasidh Krishna recently got his best career figures in ODIs. What were the figures?

- a. 3/28 b. 4/12 c. 2/10 d. 5/12



Prasidh Krishna

Photo: AFP

**Q7:** Who is the current manager of Manchester United?

- a. Ralf Rangnick
- b. Marco Silva
- c. Claude Puel
- d. Roy Hodgson

**Q8:** Who is the coach of Indian Women's cricket team?

- a. Mithali Raj
- b. Ramesh Powar
- c. Ravi Shastri
- d. Greg Chappell

**Q9:** Which country is the place of origin of tennis?

- a. Canada
- b. England
- c. France
- d. Spain

**Q10:** From which stadium in Athens is the Olympic flame transferred to the current year's host city?

- a. Panathenaic Stadium
- b. Toumba Stadium
- c. Pampelop Stadium
- d. Pankiritio Stadium

**ANSWERS:** 1. a. Polo 2. a. Simone Biles  
 3. c. Luxembourg 4. b. 5  
 5. a. Thomas Walsh 6. b. 4/12  
 7. a. Ralf Rangnick 8. b. Ramesh Powar  
 9. b. England 10. a. Panathenaic Stadium