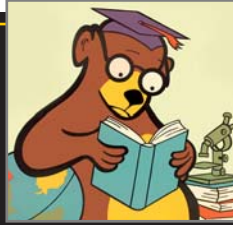




THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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► What are you reviewing this week?
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► Five things to watch out for when Aus face India
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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020


WEB EDITION
CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

Quote unquote

I firmly believe that in the next two decades, India will grow to be among the top three economies in the world. More importantly, it will become a premier digital society, with young people driving it. Our per capita income will increase from \$1,800-2,000 per capita to \$5,000 per capita. Therefore, companies and entrepreneurs in the world have a golden opportunity to be in India, to be part of this economic and social transformation that will accelerate in the coming decades

MUKESH AMBANI, chairman, Reliance Industries Ltd



NOW, CHECK CALORIE COUNT ON RESTAURANT MENU

Eat right

In a bid aimed at regulating the calorie count of food products, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has made it mandatory for the restaurant chains and on-line food aggregators to display the calorie count of food products on their menu cards. The new regulations would be applicable from 2022. As per the new regulations, restaurants having central licenses or out-

The FSSAI was in the process of overhauling the labelling regulations for packaged food products, which have now been notified

lets at 10 or more locations will need to display the "calorific value in kcal per serving and serving size" of food items on menu cards, booklets or boards. Additionally, reference information on calorie requirements shall also be displayed clearly and prominently as "an average active adult requires 2,000 kcal energy per day, however, calorie needs may vary", the notification said.

THE NEW REGULATIONS

- According to the new regulations, E-commerce food business operators shall get the information on calorie requirements from respective food business operators and provide on their website, wherever applicable
- The regulation has, however, done

away with the proposed colour-coded labelling, which was intended to enable consumers to identify products that are high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) products

- The proposal had raised concerns that if implemented, it would require majority of products to display red-colour coding on their labels



Significantly, through these regulations, the food regulator has for the first time defined children for the packaged food industry. It says, "children or child" means a person under the age of 18 years as defined in Juvenile Justice Act, 2015

Q IS IT A GOOD MOVE? SHARE YOUR VIEWS AT TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM

FACTOID



6.9 HOURS

Is the average usage of smartphones by Indians, according to CMR's latest reports, as people depend on these gadgets for work/study from home and entertainment amid the pandemic.

- According to CMR, the average time spent on smartphones in a day has been on the rise, with average usage growing 11 per cent to 5.5 hours in March 2020 (pre-Covid) from about 4.9 hours on average in 2019
- This has grown by another 25 per cent from April onwards (post-Covid)
- There has also been a 55 per cent increase in time spent on social media, and 45 per cent rise in time spent gaming on smartphones
- Interestingly, the average duration of clicking pictures and taking selfies has increased from 14 minutes to 18 minutes in a day

Empty vial of the world's first Covid vaccination to go on display at the Science Museum


ROLL OF HONOUR

Yes, you heard it right. The vial and syringe of the first-ever Covid-19 vaccination will go on display next year at the Science Museum. On December 8, a 90-year-old grandmother in Coventry became the first person in

the world to receive a Covid-19 vaccine outside of clinical trials. The eyes of the world were trained on Margaret Keenan as she got the jab, when a nurse injected her arm with the mRNA vaccine made by Pfizer and BioNTech.

- The vial will form a part of a special collection built to highlight the role scientists played in the Covid-19 pandemic
- Other items include prototype medical technology, NHS home swabs and ventilators
- Early in 2021, the vial will be exhibited in a display called 'Medicine: The Welcome Galleries' at the Museum in South Kensington, London

VIEWPOINT

WITH THE SALIVA BAN, BOWLERS ARE HANDICAPPED: TENDULKAR

Cricket in the post-coronavirus world has come with its share of restrictions. While limitations off the field include players having to stay inside bio-secure bubbles, the biggest challenge on the pitch has been the saliva ban. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, had during the IPL, spoken about how it could be a big factor in Test cricket wherein reverse swing plays a major role. Former Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar has now echoed the sentiments.

With the saliva ban, bowlers are handicapped, if you do not have a substitute for saliva. Cricket was always like it—sweat and saliva were always there. But I would say saliva is more important than sweat. Bowlers rely more on saliva as compared to sweat. Today, we do not have any substitute for saliva. There should have been an alternative



CURRENT RULE ON SALIVA BAN

- Owing to the pandemic, according to the ICC rules, players are not permitted to use saliva to shine the ball. If a player is caught applying saliva to the ball, the umpires will manage the situation with some leniency during an initial period of adjustment for the players, but subsequent instances will result in the team receiving a warning
- A team can be issued up to two



warnings per innings but repeated use of saliva on the ball will result in a 5-run penalty to the batting side

- Whenever saliva is applied to the ball, the umpires will clean the ball before play recommences

Q DO YOU ENDORSE TENDULKAR'S VIEWS? SHARE YOUR VIEWS AT TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

AMY ADAMS SET FOR A NEW 'ENCHANTED' OUTING

Actress Amy Adams will be reprising her role as Princess Giselle in the sequel of 'Enchanted'. The six-time Academy Award-nominated star will return to role in the sequel titled 'Disenchanted'. The series will stream on Disney+. The company shared the news during its Investor Day, reports variety.com.

■ A parody of Disney classics, the first film featured princess Giselle being catapulted into modern New York, where she rejects Prince Edward (James Marsden) and finds her true love in divorce-lawyer Robert Phillip (Patrick Dempsey)

■ 'Enchanted' earned three Oscar nominations in the Best Original Song category for 'Happy working song', 'So close', and 'That's how you know'—all from Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz. Adams also

earned a Golden Globe nomination for her portrayal of the princess

■ The film was a global hit, and registered business of over \$340 million in worldwide box office



BAAHUBALI

The success of the magnum opus 'Baahubali' film franchise gave way to the opportunity to explore the story through a spin-off series titled 'Baahubali: Before the Beginning'. It will explore life on the streets of the fictional city of Mahishmati. Slated to release on Netflix

LEGACY OF HOLLYWOOD HITS GETS OTT REBIRTH

For many, the success of a film directly translates into a chance to cash on it by spinning a new series. It is in fact a win-win for the audience and the filmmakers, as while the fans get to live with their favourite characters, makers continue to reap on with the benefits of the box office hits, and create a multiverse franchise. As producers plan new series on their hits, we take a look at some big-ticket spin-offs, which are either winning fans all over the globe or are in works

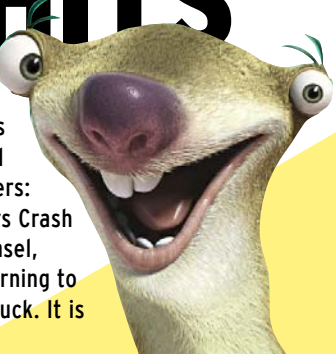
THE BATMAN

The show will be set in the world that Matt Reeves is creating for 'The Batman' film. It will build upon the film's dissection of the anatomy of corruption in Gotham City, and go on to launch a new Batman universe across multiple platforms. It is being created for HBO Max



STAR WARS

The saga from a galaxy far, far away continues to live on through various films and spin-off series. The list of 'Star Wars' stories for Disney's streaming platform keeps on growing. It already includes 'The



ICE AGE

Titled 'The Ice Age Adventures of Buck Wild', the spin-off will revolve around three characters: the prankster possum brothers Crash and Eddie, and the titular weasel, Buck. Simon Pegg will be returning to lend his voice to the role of Buck. It is slated to release in 2022.

Mandalorian', and two other previously-ordered series—one based on Cassian Andor prior to the events of 'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story', and another following the adventures of Obi-Wan Kenobi between 'Revenge of the Sith' and 'A New Hope'



The Princess and The Frog

The spin-off titled 'Tiana', which was released in 2009, is about an aspiring chef Tiana, who kisses a prince-turned frog, and turns into a frog. They then embark on a journey to defeat a witch to get back to their human form. It is one of the four animated spin-offs, which is expected to launch on Disney+ in 2022

HAVE YOU READ THESE AWESOME NYT BESTSELLERS?



Watch out for our exclusive selection for Young Adults in the upcoming issue!

FOR THE TINY TOTTERS

5 MORE SLEEPS 'TIL CHRISTMAS

by Jimmy Fallon Illustrated by Rich Deas
A young boy anticipates the arrival of Christmas.

(Ages 3 to 6)

THE CRAYONS' CHRISTMAS

by Drew Daywalt Illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
Duncan's crayons prepare for Christmas.

(Ages 3 to 7)

THE WORLD NEEDS WHO YOU....

by Joanna Gaines Illustrated by Julianna Swaney
An inspirational message of acceptance and celebrating uniqueness.

(Ages 4 to 8)

HOW TO CATCH A UNICORN

by Adam Wallace Illustrated by Andy Elkerton
Children attempt to capture the mythical creature.

(Ages 4 to 8)

THE OFFICE: A DAY AT DUNDER....

by Robb Pearlman. Illustrated by Melanie Demmer
A kid-friendly adaptation of the workplace comedy.

(Ages 4 to 8)

PETE THE CAT'S 12 GROOVY DAYS....

by Kimberly and James Dean
Pete's spin on the holiday classic 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'.

(Ages 4 to 8)

HOW TO CATCH A MERMAID

Adam Wallace Illustrated by Andy Elkerton
A young girl attempts to catch a mermaid and befriend her.

(Ages 4 to 8)

SHARE SOME KINDNESS, BRING SOME LIGHT

by Apryl Stott
Coco and Bear attempt to share kindness throughout the forest.

(Ages 4 to 8)

DASHER

by Matt Tavares
The origin story of Dasher, the first of Santa's flying reindeer.

(Ages 4 to 8)

HOW TO CATCH AN ELF

by Adam Wallace Illustrated by Andy Elkerton
A tiny narrator dodges traps while making the Christmas rounds.

(Ages 4 to 8)

FOR THE MIDDLE GRADERS

THE ICKABOG

by J K Rowling
A fearsome monster threatens the kingdom of Cornucopia.

(Ages 8 to 18)

THE COMPLETE COOKBOOK FOR YOUNG CHEFS

by America's Test Kitchen Kids
Over 100 kid-tested recipes.

(Ages 8 and up)

ROWLEY JEFFERSON'S AWESOME ADVENTURE

by Jeff Kinney
Roland and Garg embark on a quest to save Roland's mom from the White Warlock.

(Ages 8 to 12)

THE COMPLETE BAKING BOOK FOR YOUNG CHEFS

by America's Test Kitchen Kids
One hundred plus kid-tested baking recipes.

(Ages 8 to 12)

THE ONE AND ONLY BOB

by Katherine Applegate and Patricia Castela
Bob sets out on a long journey in search of his lost sister.

(Ages 8 to 12)

THE BIG FUN KIDS COOKBOOK

by Food Network Magazine
Over 150 fun, easy recipes for young cooks.

(Ages 8 to 12)

ESSENTIALLY CHARLI

by Charli D'Amelio
The TikTok personality shares intimate details of her life.

(Ages 9 to 12)

MAX AND THE MIDKNIGHTS: BATTLE...

by Lincoln Peirce
Bodkins, foes from another dimension, take on the form of Byjovian residents.

(Ages 8 to 12)

WONDER

by R.J. Palacio.
A boy with a facial deformity starts school.

(Ages 8 to 12)

BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI

by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander
A biographical novel of the prolific boxing champion.

(Ages 8 to 12)

A MEMORY CHAMPION'S TIPS ON IMPROVING CONCENTRATION



ADITI SINGHAL
Memory champion

Aditi Singhal co-author of 'How to Improve Your Concentration' has featured in 'The Limca Book of Records' thrice for memory and fast calculation. Here, the memory expert shares some of her best tips on how you can improve your memory

Apply traffic control

Before starting any task, sit in silence for a minute and observe the traffic of thoughts coming in your mind. Acknowledge all the thoughts, including the ones which are not relevant to the present task and tell yourself that you will address them later.

In a world full of distractions, concentrating on work at hand seems to be a daunting task. Especially so for the students. Distractions may not be your fault, but managing them is your responsibility. Here are a few tips that can help you to concentrate better in any given task or situation.

Ten minutes morning focus

In the morning, plan and visualise your day. See yourself concentrating on each task and completing them on time. This visualisation helps to give your brain a blueprint of your day and programs it accordingly to improve your focus while doing that task.

thought will be attended to later, it will not bother you again.

Be very organised

Keep all necessary things required for the task available near you so that getting up for small things every now and then don't disturb your focus. But if you are using your computer to do your task or to study, then keep your mobile phone out of the room. If you have to use your phone for your work then turn off all the notifications to avoid distractions of

being tempted to check the messages every now and then.

Visualise while learning

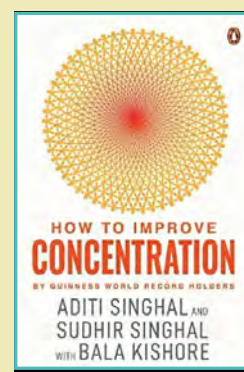
While studying something, do not just read or listen, visualise it in your mind. This helps mind to focus on what you are studying because mind understands the language of images.

What you read or listen, if you can visualise the same thing in our mind, that is concentration. But if you are listening one thing and some other images are coming in our mind not related to what we are listening, then that is distraction. Visualising while studying works as a great memory tool to register things properly in brain. Do follow this to improve your memory skills.

Mono-tasking

Switching your attention from one task to the other does not allow you to concentrate deeply on one thing. It divides your attention,

which is required for deep learning, deep reflections and thus reduces your efficiency to come up with solutions to problems. Concentrate on only one task at a time as multitasking is a myth.



Electronic-Free Sleep

Sound sleep plays a very important role on your concentration levels of the next day. One very important habit that most of us need to change is of using your phone as an alarm clock.

Keep your phone out of your room, turn off all your gadgets, be it TV or laptop at least one hour before bedtime. This will increase the quality of your sleep manifold, which will further help in increased focus throughout the day.

WHAT'S NEW

When it comes to workouts, fix a time

It is important to do at least 30 minutes of exercise every day, but it is equally important to stick to a routine. Fixing your time for workout and punctually sticking to it can actually help you lose more weight.

afternoon or evening. In the study, researchers took a total of 375 healthy adults who were successful in maintaining their weight by engaging in regular moderate to vigorous physical activity.

FINDINGS

Those who worked out at the same time of the day logged 4.8 workouts per week on average, compared with 4.4 among people who varied their workout times. This meant that those who had a fixed time of working out were able to work out more than those had different times.

At least one-half of those exercising at the same time of day got 350 minutes of



physical activity a week, compared with 285 minutes being the median amount of exercise for those who varied workout times. This too meant that

those who exercised at a fixed time could stretch their workout timings more than those who exercised at different times.

It is believed that working out at the same time helps exercise become a habit, which further helps people automatically set aside time for working out.



QUIZ TIME (INDIA)

Q.1) Who declined the 1964 Nobel prize in literature because he had consistently declined all official honours?

A. Jean-Paul Sartre
B. Roald Dahl C. Dan Brown
D. George Orwell

Q.2) In which 'Die Hard' movie does McInane barely survive when a helicopter gunship rams into the building?

A. Die Hard

B. Die Hard with a Vengeance
C. Die Hard 2: Die Harder
D. A Good Day to Die Hard

Q.3) Which Nobel Prize winner said, 'Peace begins with a smile'?

A. Malala Yousafzai
B. Mother Teresa
C. Nadia Murad
D. Barack Obama

Q.4) Name the only woman who won the Nobel prize twice in two different fields?

A. Marie Curie
B. Betty Williams
C. Mother Teresa
D. Betty Williams

ANSWERS

1. A) Jean-Paul Sartre 2. D) A Good Day to Die Hard 3. B) Mother Teresa 4. A) Marie Curie

KNOWLEDGE BANK

Screw pine craft

This traditional occupation in Kerala has got the GI tag. The craft made with screw pine leaves by artisans, especially women, is believed to be more than 800 years old. Visitors were invited to be seated on the mats

in traditional customs. Children used little bags to pluck flowers for Onam and the mats in weaves of varying sizes were used to pack things; finer varieties of these mats were used for sleeping. Today door mats, wall hangings, bed mats and prayer mats are in demand.

Distinctive DECEMBER

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher,
Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

Answer each question on the last month of the year by choosing correctly from the four options.

1 WHO AMONG THESE DECEMBER-BORN PERSONALITIES WAS A MATHEMATICIAN?

A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
B. Srinivasa Ramanujan
C. Raj Kapoor
D. Dhirubhai Ambani



2 FROM THE RULE OF WHICH COLONIAL POWER WAS GOA LIBERATED ON DECEMBER 19, 1961?

A. British B. Danish
C. French D. Portuguese

3 WHICH OF THESE IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ARMED FORCES OBSERVANCE ON DECEMBER 7?

A. Flags B. Flowers C. Fields D. Firearms

4 IN WHICH YEAR DID AN INDIAN OCEAN EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OCCUR ON DECEMBER 26?

A. 1984 B. 1994 C. 2004
D. 2014



5 WHICH OF THESE SPECIAL DAYS IS NOT IN DECEMBER?

A. Christmas Day
B. Human Rights Day
C. Nobel Prize Day
D. World Wildlife Day

ANSWERS:

1) B. Srinivasa Ramanujan
2) D. Portuguese
3) A. Flags
4) C. 2004
5) D. World Wildlife Day



BLOOM

An ugly, hairy, monstrous beast made me sick and ill at ease. But, the charming butterfly, a phoenix of the monstrous beast made me realise the beauty of the least. A gloomy, diggy dark night made me yellow and dull. But, the sunshine which followed the light made me realise the beauty of wait. After every storm the sun will smile So if you, your problems will run a mile. If a tiny key can open a gateway, A good thought can bring success in your way

PRANAVEE, class VIII A, Delhi Public School, Nacharam

IMAGINATION

Imagination is something, that has an everlasting roof, And goes forever and never ends.

Imagination is like a sky, without an end, And vast. Imagination is without any limit, Enjoy it, There's none to stop it, It's just long lasting.

SHAZIA ANAM RAZA, class X B Literary Secretary, Madina Public School, Himayathnagar

LIFE OF MATHS

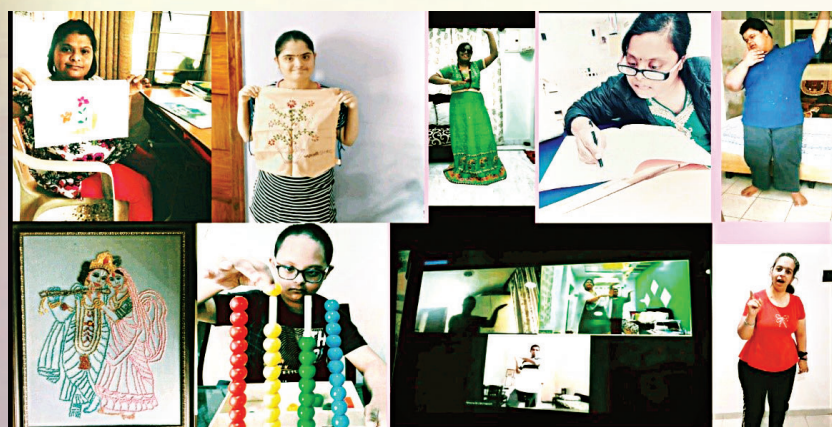
Some feels it's a boring subject, Some feels it's an interesting one, But the world of maths is completely different one, The world of maths is full of tricks and formulas, Some read the formulas as $\cos 0 = \text{BASE} \dots / \text{HYPOTENUSE} \dots$

While some read it assuming it, Maths is full of theorems and calculations, Which is difficult to understand,

But if you know the tricks to do the sum, Maths becomes easy to understand, Maths is necessary in life, Without it, it is difficult to survive.

RUPKATHA CHAKRABORTY, class X, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad

EMBRACING SPECIAL ABILITIES



International Day of persons with Disabilities is celebrated on December 3 all over the world. The theme of this year 'Not all Disabilities are Visible' focuses on spreading awareness and understanding of disabilities that are not immediately apparent, such as mental illness, chronic pain or fatigue, sight or hearing impairments, diabetes, brain injuries, neurological disorders, learning differences and cognitive dysfunctions, among others.

According to a study, during the Covid-19 pandemic, isolation, disconnect, disrupted routines and diminished services have affected the lives and mental well-being of people with disabilities around the world. A differently abled child loves to play and learn like his counterparts and to attend online classes every day.

Niraj Public School Ameerpet

International Day of Persons with Disabilities was celebrated virtually this year at Niraj Public School. A plethora of activities were conducted for the students of a Special section like dance, singing, yoga, art and embroidery which showcased their excellent motor skills and put them on a par with normal children. The students attended the online sessions with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. Today they can complete all their tasks with perfection because they are trained in self-care, motor skills, academics, interactive, cognitive skills and relaxation techniques effectively. Such activities help to boost the student's self-esteem and confidence.

Gitanjali Devashray Hyderabad

Gitanjali Devashray celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities with great fervour. The Special Education Section at the school was the brainchild of Gita Karan, founder principal/director of the school. Being a visionary, Karan envisioned the need for education of the differently abled students and the importance of inclusivity. The main goal being the inclusion of these special children into the mainstream.

At the school, they have constantly been equipped and empowered so they can be on their own, self-sufficient and capable individuals. To celebrate their special day there was an enthusiastic presentation organised by the prefects of class VIII to help highlight and commemorate this significant day.

Various activities were taken up with the Special Education class to showcase their different abilities and their triumphs extolled. Addressing the parents and children, Gita Karan appreciated the efforts

put in by all and asked them to be more compassionate and inclusive in their thoughts in the future also.

The celebrations included different activities such as the prayer song and dances. The prefect made a collage of all their achievements and highlighted it with a song sung by them as a tribute to their efforts. They also played an online game 'Simon Says' which brought lots of laughter

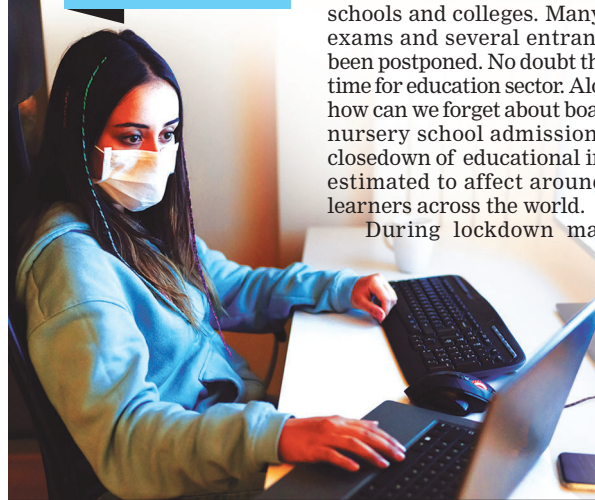


and a big smile on their faces.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the prefects of class VIII to interact with them and thus help in promoting the underlying message that encompassed the entire event: 'Together We Are Special'.

Covid-19 and its impact on education

Shivam Pandey, class VIII A, Army Public School Golconda



FIRST PERSON

As per today's coronavirus pandemic situation, many actions have been taken by the government towards shutting down of schools and colleges. Many competitive exams and several entrance tests have been postponed. No doubt this is a crucial time for education sector. Along with them how can we forget about board exams and nursery school admissions. Due to the closedown of educational institutes, it is estimated to affect around 600 million learners across the world.

During lockdown many students

missed their education. Schools and colleges take surveys for asking parents to open school and col-

leges, but the situation makes the parents helpless and they are against sending their ward to school and colleges.

But education has still not stopped. Faculty and teachers are continuing to provide quality education on virtual platforms. But the worst thing is that many students, specially the financially backward children who reside in rural areas, face the most difficulty as they don't own the required gadgets and connectivity. As a writer of this article, I praise the hard work and determination of teachers and students on a virtual platform rather than being in physical class. It's my humble request to parents that they should help their child to understand concepts better and help them. Cooperate with your child and we can build a better future for the child and subsequently the country.

Exploring the science around us

Delhi Public School

Mahendra Hills

With the objective of developing skills of scientific inquiry and investigation using practical techniques, the students of pre-primary wing of Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills observed science week and demonstrated few concepts through simple experiments. The school believes

in nurturing children's natural sense of adventure and curiosity and help them to develop their own understanding of the natural world. "We encourage our children to be a persistent problem solver," a teacher stated. Science Week celebration was a great learning experience for the children.

Salt water and Food colour experiment by Pre-Nursery



DRAWN INTO THE WORLD OF BOOKS



"A room without books is like a body without a soul." Marcus Tullius Cicero.

Delhi Public School Nadargul

National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.

Delhi Public School, Nadargul celebrated Library Week 'Pick-a-Book Time' through various programmes to enable students to know about the importance of a library. This event was the first of its kind and witnessed the participation of students from pre-primary to class X.

Various literary competitions had set the tone for Library Week day wise. The celebrations started with the alluring work of art in the form of a poster for school library wall. It was followed by enthralling bookmarks designing competition and roleplay of characters from

books, paintings by students and many more.

'Flash Book Talk Corner' had students enthusiastically discussing books they had recently read or had been moved by, in some way. The students

were delighted and encouraged while podcasting their stories on various themes and morals. The students came up with innovative ideas which aroused curiosity among the students such as 'Reading Nook', reading time with family.

The Library Week was a great learning experience for the students. It not only engaged them in several fun-filled activities, but also reminded the children that books are indeed a man's best friend!



LEARNING THE TRAFFIC RULES

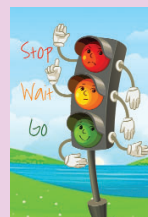


CLASS:3A

Road signs and their importance.

The class III students of Gitanjali Devshala performed an activity on road signs as part of safety and first aid. Traffic signals are the silent speakers on the road. Traffic signals give information about the road conditions ahead, provide instructions to be followed at the major crossroads or junctions, warn or guide drivers, and ensure proper functioning of road traffic.

Gitanjali Devshala Hyderabad



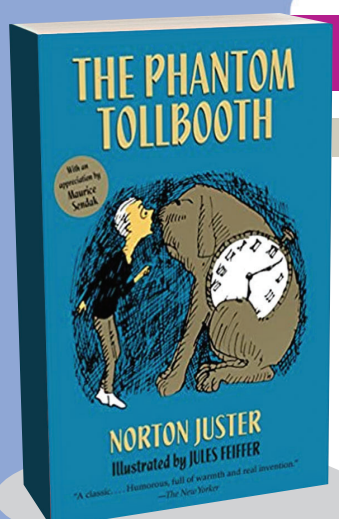
WEEKEND PLAN

JUNK FOOD AND MOVIE AFTERNOONS!

Weekends are always special though I am forever indoors as there is Covid fear outdoors. Saturdays start with a round of badminton at home with my sister. Evenings are special as I ask my mom to make French fries, chicken nuggets and pasta for dinner. I call this 'Junk Nights' because my parents allow us to eat junk food only once a week. Sundays are spent with family and we watch a Hindi comedy movie in the afternoons. We then indulge in our favourite hobby, gardening on our terrace. At night we play cards and then go to bed where my sister and I chat for some time, making plans for the next weekend.



VARSHINI MUTHYALA, class VI C, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad



BOOK: THE PHANTOM TOLLBOOTH

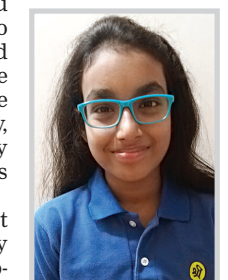
By Norton Juster

The Phantom Tollbooth is a wonderful book for all ages and people, both adventure and fantasy lovers.

The protagonist, Milo, thinks life is useless. One day, he finds a parcel containing a toy tollbooth, sets it up, and drives straight into an unforgettable adventure.

Norton Juster symbolises what can happen if you stopped thinking. Milo lands in a dull place called the Doldrums where the lesser you thought, the slower you went. Luckily, Milo discovers that the only way to get out of Doldrums is to start thinking hard.

My favourite excerpt in it is: "Oh, don't worry about that, we use the broken ones for fractions."



What fascinated me is that everything in it is unexpected and the opposite of what I expected would happen. This kept my interest in the story. Surprisingly, Milo's adventure, which in the world of the Tollbooth seemed like days, is actually just an hour in the real world!

On the whole, the book is simply wonderful. At first it may seem to be hard to comprehend, but soon you get the hang of it.

The way words are 'played around' with, and the wonderful description, sarcasm and humour added flavour and made the read gripping. I felt undoubtedly sorry when the book ended.

VARNIKA VAISH, class VII B, The Shri Ram Universal School, Hyderabad

Ind vs Aus, 1st Test

FIVE THINGS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Australia and India renew their fierce rivalry in a four-Test series that begins with a day-night game in Adelaide on Thursday. India won a Test series for the first time Down Under when the sides clashed two years ago and Australia are determined to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Here are five things to watch out for in the highly anticipated series

1 Kohli's lone shot

India captain Virat Kohli will be desperate to make a winning contribution in his only chance of a Test victory against Australia this series, having decided to return home after Adelaide to be with his Bollywood actress wife, Anushka Sharma, who is expecting their first child. After India lost 2-1 in the recent one-dayers, Kohli showed his importance to the side during the Twenty20 series victory. And pundits, including Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar, believe his departure will leave a "void" in the batting line-up. But other India veterans have suggested Kohli's absence could enable a new star to emerge in the side, which will be led by vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane once Kohli leaves.

2 Smith returns

Steve Smith is playing down calls for him to become Australia's captain again, insisting he is just "excited" to feature in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy clashes after missing out two years ago. The prolific 31-year-old batsman was left powerless on the sidelines as India won their first series in Australia in 2018-19 while he and David Warner served out bans for ball-tampering. Smith, who amassed 774 runs, including three centuries as Australia retained the Ashes in England last year, said "I will do what is best for the team" despite former players such as Adam Gilchrist calling for him to step up for a second crack at the captaincy.

3 Hard day's night

Australia start as overwhelming favourites in the opening Test, having never been beaten in their seven day-night matches to date, while Virat Kohli's India play their first overseas game under lights after their maiden pink-ball outing in Kolkata last year against Bangladesh. India long resisted twilight encounters, but Tendulkar told AFP he believed their players would be ready, having played warm-up games and having had intensive net sessions with the pink ball this week.

4 Pitch battles

India's fast-bowling attack, led by Mohammed Shami and Jasprit Bumrah, are ready to fight fire with fire in Australia's own den. The pacy pair shared five wickets as they bundled out Australia A for 108 and signalled their intent to enjoy bowling on wickets Down Under that are renowned for providing extra pace and bounce. Australia's three-pronged attack of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood "can surpass any era" of quicks, according to former paceman Brett Lee, but India coach Anil Kumble countered that his attack was their equal. "We probably match our fast bowling to their fast bowling," he said.

5 Send in the crowds

Australia and New Zealand have been the first countries to welcome back spectators to cricket since the pandemic - the Adelaide Oval will be half full for the first Test while 30,000 should be allowed into the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the Boxing Day. Indian cricket chief Sourav Ganguly tweeted a picture of a full house as New Zealand played a Test last week against the West Indies at Basin Reserve, Wellington, writing "the game needs this". But players, with a lucrative series on the line, will be wary of sticking to coronavirus prevention protocols after other tours were disrupted this month.

Laxman questions Kohli's constant chop and change policy

Couple of things I think Virat Kohli can improve. There were certain times when I felt that he becomes little defensive, especially with his field changes. The second thing is chopping and changing the playing 11. With experience, I can say that any player, whether experienced or a newcomer, wants that stability, security, so that he can focus on performing to the best of his abilities for the team. That's something which Virat Kohli can definitely improve on.

VVS Laxman, former Indian cricketer



Jasprit Bumrah is all set to play a pink-ball Test for the first time

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Lionel Messi's salary at Barca 'unsustainable': prez candidate

Messi was named the top-earning footballer in the world by French newspaper L'Equipe earlier this year, claiming an estimated 8.2 million euros (\$9.97 million) per month from Barca

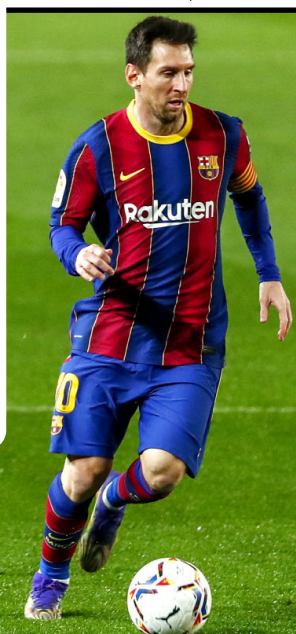


Photo: AP

Lionel Messi's salary is too big for Barcelona due to their financial predicament, presidential candidate Emili Rousaud has said, adding that he wishes to keep the club's all-time top scorer on a reduced contract. Messi, who sought an exit from Barca in the close season, has less than seven months remaining on his deal with the club where he has spent his entire career. He is free to negotiate with rival clubs from January. REUTERS

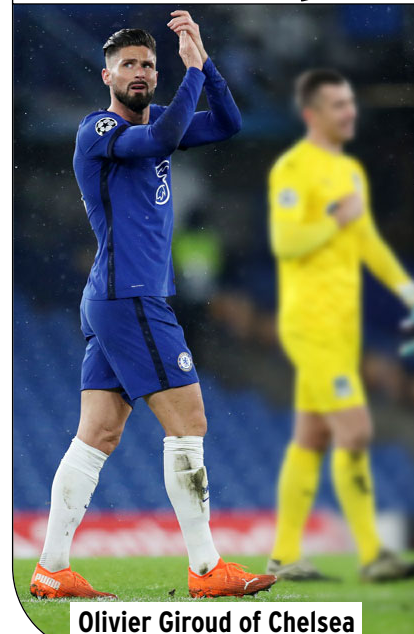
If India bowl short at Steve Smith, they'll play into his hands



Ian Chappell

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Chelsea could be suffering from fatigue, admits Lampard



Olivier Giroud of Chelsea

After suffering a 2-1 defeat against Wolves in the Premier League, Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said that his side is suffering from fatigue. In the match against Wolves, Chelsea got the first goal as Olivier Giroud got among the scoring charts but Daniel Podence first scored the equaliser for Wolves before Pedro Neto netted the winner. Chelsea are currently at the fifth position in the Premier League 2020-21 standings with 22 points from 13 games. ANI

There could be some fatigue. I hate to say it after a defeat because it could sound like an excuse but even the first 60 minutes when we were the better team we didn't have a zip about us.

Frank Lampard, manager Chelsea

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Q1: Who became the first male skier born in the new millennium to win a World Cup race?

- a) Gino Caviezel ☐ b) Henrik Kristoffersen ☐
c) Marco Odermatt ☐ d) Lucas Braathen ☐

Q2: Which country has qualified for the Football World Cup the most times, without winning it?

- a) Cuba ☐ b) Pakistan ☐ c) India ☐
d) Mexico ☐

Q3: In which year was the inaugural match of the ICC T20 World Cup played?

- a) 2003 ☐ b) 2005 ☐ c) 2007 ☐ d) 2009 ☐

Q4: Who is the current holder of ICC Champions Trophy?

- a) Bangladesh ☐ b) Australia ☐
c) Pakistan ☐ d) India ☐

Q5: In which year was the Badminton Association of India formed?

- a) 1934 ☐ b) 1935 ☐ c) 1936 ☐ d) 1937 ☐

Q6: Against which country did India first win a Test series abroad, in 1967-68?

- a) Australia ☐ b) England ☐

- c) New Zealand ☐ d) Pakistan ☐

Q7: Which player holds the record of most appearances as captain in FIFA World Cup?

- a) Iker Casillas ☐ b) Pele ☐ c) Diego Maradona ☐ d) Zinedine Zidane ☐

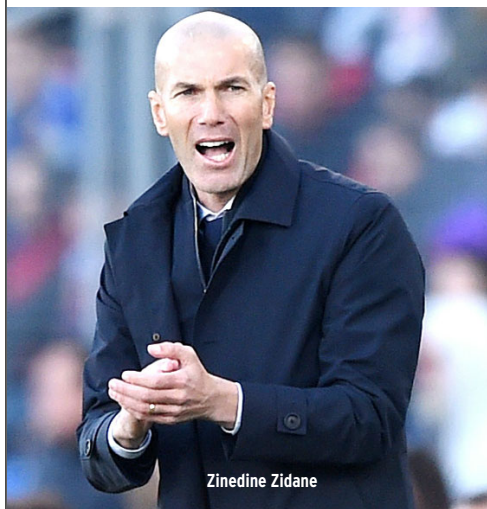


Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Q8: In which year did London host the Olympics, commemorating the 30th Olympic Games?

- a) 2016 ☐ b) 2000 ☐ c) 2010 ☐ d) 2012 ☐

Q9: Who is the first Indian woman to win a WTA title?

- a) Rutuja Bhosale ☐ b) Sania Mirza ☐
c) Karman Kaur Thandi ☐ d) Ankita Raina ☐

Q10: Which Indian pair became the first to win a Grand Slam doubles title?

- a) Yuki Bhambhani and Saketh Myneni ☐
b) Leander Paes and Sania Mirza ☐ c) Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi ☐ d) Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza ☐

Q11: Who is the youngest to score a goal in the history of FIFA World Cup?

- a) Salomon Olembe ☐ b) Pele ☐
c) Norman Whiteside ☐ d) Samuel Eto'o ☐

Q12: Who is the founder of the modern International Olympic Games?

- a) Baron Pierre de Coubertin ☐ b) Juan Antonio Samaranch ☐ c) Demetrius Vikelas ☐ d) Thomas Bach ☐

Q13: Which Indian javelin thrower won the gold medal at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, setting a national record of 88.06 m in the process?

- a) Neeraj Chopra ☐ b) Shivpal Singh ☐
c) Devendra Jhajharia ☐ d) Vipin Kasana ☐

ANSWERS: 1 d) Lucas Braathen 2 d) Mexico 3 c) 2007 4 c) Pakistan 5 a) 1934 6 c) New Zealand 7 c) Diego Maradona 8 d) 2012 9 b) Sania Mirza 10 c) Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi 11 b) Pele 12 a) Baron Pierre de Coubertin 13 a) Neeraj Chopra