



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ Did you know Shakespeare gave us 1,000 new English words? Learn more on 'Language Lab'

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022



Microblogging site Twitter is trying to thwart billionaire Elon Musk's takeover attempt with a 'poison pill' – a financial device that companies have been wielding against unwelcome suitors for decades...

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One Board exam or split terms: CBSE may restore pre-pandemic format for Board exams



If reports are to go by, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is all set to return to only one phase of class X, XII Board exams, like it was in the pre-pandemic era. According to reports, the education ministry is in favour of conducting a single board exam for classes X and XII. Following instructions from the ministry, the CBSE may restore the pre-pandemic format of Board exams from next year. Once the CBSE restores the old pattern of Board exams, neither two phases nor flexible practical pattern will be available for students.

For the academic session 2021-22, the CBSE has bifurcated the board exams into two different phases

■ For the present academic session, the first phase of Board exams was completed in December last year. According to CBSE, the second phase of exams will start from April 26 in offline mode

■ In 2020 and 2021, the Board exams could not be conducted owing to the Covid-19 pandemic

POLLUTION FROM COOKING EMISSIONS MAY STAY IN THE AIR FOR SEVERAL DAYS: STUDY



Organic aerosols, such as those released in cooking, may stay in the atmosphere for several days, because of nanostructures formed by fatty acids as they are released into the air, finds a study. Scientists say, these types of aerosols have long been associated with poor air quality in urban areas, but their impact on human-made climate change was hard to gauge. The latest study goes a step further and says, because of the diverse range of molecules found within aerosols, and their varying interactions with the environment, they increase pollution.

Previous research suggests that gas cooking produces about twice as much PM_{2.5} as electric. It also produces nitrogen oxides (NO_x), including nitrogen oxide (NO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and formaldehyde (CH₂O or HCHO). All of these pollutants are health risks if not properly managed


X-PLAINED

POISON PILL

WHAT ARE POISON PILLS SUPPOSED TO DO?

The ingredients of each poison pill vary, but they're all designed to give corporate boards an option to flood the market with so-much newly-created stock that a takeover becomes prohibitively expensive. In other words, the intent of poison pills is to make the acquisition a costly affair for acquirers, thereby discouraging the takeover decision. The potential acquirer is compelled to negotiate with the target's board of directors, rather than proceed unilaterally. The strategy also gives a company more time to evaluate an offer and can give the board leverage in trying to force a direct negotiation with the potential acquirer.

Points to note

WHAT DOES A POISON PILL ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE?

A poison pill is officially known as a **shareholder rights plan**, and it can appear in a company's charter or bylaws or exist as a contract among shareholders.

Can a poison pill be negotiating ploy?

Although they are supposed to help prevent an unsolicited takeover, poison pills also often open the door to further negotiations that can force a bidder to sweeten the deal. If a higher price makes sense to the board, a poison pill can simply be cast aside along with the acrimony it provoked, clearing the way for a sale to be completed.

When else have poison pills been used?

- Netflix successfully fended off billionaire investor Carl Icahn in November 2012, using a poison pill that would have made it more expensive for Icahn, or any other person or group, to accumulate more shares of Netflix if they acquired 10% of the company without the approval of its board
- The pizza chain Papa John's adopted a poison pill in July 2018 in a rare instance of a company trying to block its founder from taking over
- In September 1985, in the wake of rumours that the consumer goods company Philip Morris was targeting it, the McDonald's Corporation said it had adopted a poison pill plan to prevent "abusive takeover tactics"

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

According to experts, the poison pill has gained prominence in the recent months, courtesy Covid, though it has been used for over four decades in the stock markets. Experts say, as companies are reeling from market carnage due to wage cuts, furloughs, etc, their valuations have eroded. This has made otherwise sound companies vulnerable to hostile takeovers at beaten down valuations by cash-rich rivals or vulture funds. Plummeting stock prices explain the sudden resurgence in the adoption of poison pills

HOW DID ELON MUSK REACT TO TWITTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT?

Musk, a prolific tweeter with 82 million followers on Twitter, had no immediate reaction to the company's poison pill.

But on Thursday, he indicated that he was ready to wage a legal battle. Musk has publicly said that its \$43 billion bid is his best and final offer for Twitter, but other corporate suitors have made similar statements before ultimately

upping the ante. With an estimated fortune of \$265 billion, Musk would seem to have deep enough pockets to raise his offer, although he is still working out how to finance the proposed purchase

Moscow bars PM Boris Johnson, top British ministers from visiting Russia

Russia has barred PM Boris Johnson and other senior British officials from entering the country over their support for Ukraine, the Russian foreign ministry said on Saturday. The full list of 13 British politicians on the so-called "stop list" issued from Moscow includes Indian-origin ministers – UK chancellor Rishi Sunak, home secretary Priti Patel and attorney general Suella Braverman – as well as deputy PM Dominic Raab, foreign secretary Liz Truss and defence secretary Ben Wallace. The Russian foreign ministry said the list will be expanded in the "near future" to include more British politicians and parliamentarians.



Britain has supplied Ukraine with new anti-ship missile systems, armoured vehicles and other military equipment. Besides, Johnson made a surprise visit last week to Kyiv, where he promised to send more military equipment and missiles

Last month, Russia said it had placed President Biden, PM Justin Trudeau of Canada and a dozen top US officials on a "stop list" that barred them from entering the country

WhatsApp launches 'Communities' to help users organise group chats



In a bid to make chats safer, Meta-owned WhatsApp has announced a new feature called 'Communities' that will enable users to bring together separate groups under one umbrella and manage these busy conversations in a secure and private way. The company said that 'Communities' are protected with end-to-end encryption.

- With the new feature, people can receive updates sent to the entire 'Community' and easily organise smaller discussion groups on what matters to them
- "Communities will also contain powerful new tools for admins, including announcement messages that are sent to everyone and control over which groups can be included," said WhatsApp. For example, a school principal can bring all parents together to share must-read updates and set up

groups about specific classes, extra-curricular activities or volunteer needs

➤ The company said, it is also making improvements to how groups work on WhatsApp, whether or not they are part of a Community

World's coral reefs may disappear in 3 decades

Environmental scientists have warned that the world's coral reefs – the 'canaries in the coal mine' of climate change – may vanish in the coming 30 years. Forecasts show that coral reef eco-systems around the globe are likely to become functionally degraded by 2050, if the goals of the Paris Agreement are not met. Even with drastic emission reductions to ensure that global warming is kept within 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, up to 90 per cent of the world's corals could still vanish in the next three decades, leaving behind a reef structure that will lose many of its functions, they added.



Coral reefs are home to over a quarter of all ocean life. They are also a source of food, livelihoods, and cultural heritage for 500 million people, and protect coastlines and communities from storms and erosion

HAPPINESS WORDS from around the world

We bring 10 untranslatable words spreading joy and well-being that the world could really do with right now...

Lecturer at the University of East London, Tim Lomas specialises in a field known as positive psychology, the study of what makes human beings happy. In 2015, Lomas started the Positive Lexicography Project, a crowdsourced treasury of global terms of well-being. With the help of far-flung strangers on the internet, he's since mined 140 languages to come up with a whopping 1,200 words. Each has its own unique shades of meaning not fully captured in English translation. He argues that engaging with these "untranslatable" terms can help us imagine, and

ultimately experience, more types of well-being.

1 Shinrin-Yoku (Japanese): Forest bathing (or shinrin-yoku) broadly means taking in, in all of one's senses, the forest atmosphere. Not simply a walk in the woods, it is the conscious and contemplative practice of being immersed in the sights, sounds and smells of the forest.

2 Tarab (Arabic): Musically induced ecstasy or enchantment. In Arabic, this sense of losing yourself in the music is called Tarab. Though the specific songs, emotional reactions, and reasons behind those reactions may vary from person to person,



son, being moved by music is a universal experience — even babies sometimes cry when they hear certain songs.

4 Charmolypi (Greek): It is a mixture of the words "happiness" and "sadness". Thus, charmolypi is a feeling that combines sorrow and joy. It does not simply mean having mixed feelings about something, however. The feelings are integrated, in that joy springs from right in the middle of sorrow.

5 Sprezzatura (Italian): It's "studied carelessness," a character of effortless fashion, leadership style, or charm, it's an inherent grace that makes the complex or difficult look — appear to be — simple. Sprezzatura is an Italian word that first appears in Baldassare Castiglione's 1528 'The Book of the Courtier', where it is defined by the author as "a certain nonchalance, so as to conceal all art and make whatever one does or says appear to be without effort and almost without any thought about it".

6 Orka (Swedish): Completing a task isn't always just about having enough physical energy for it — you also have to care enough to actually expend that energy. You might have orka to throw a surprise birthday party for your best friend, but you might not have orka to study for a quiz that probably won't affect your final grade.

7 Flâner (French): Perhaps one of the most Parisian of all French words, the verb "flâner" was defined in the 19th century by the

Paris literary crowd. It refers to the art of leisurely strolling the streets of Paris without any goal or destination simply for the pleasure of soaking up the city's beauty. These aimless pedestrians are known as "flâneurs."

8 Merak (Serbian): The Serbian word merak is a wonderful little word that refers to a feeling of bliss and the sense of oneness with the universe that comes from the simplest of pleasures. It is the pursuit of small,



daily pleasures that all add up to a great sense of happiness and fulfilment.

9 Mir (Russian): Mir is a short and beautiful word that holds two very different, yet equally important meanings in modern Russian: "World" and "Peace."

10 Fika (Swedish): Fika means 'a sociable coffee break', but it's no coffee break as we know it. Fika is an opportunity to 'pause and reconnect each day'.



3 Fjaka (Croatian): The sweetness of doing nothing. In a world that prioritises the ability to multitask above all else, not trying to check the next item off your to-do list can seem overindulgent or even counterproductive. But if you do manage to surrender your whole mind and body to not doing anything at all, it can feel almost euphoric. Croatians call this all-encompassing relaxation fjaka.



5 Fun facts about the ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. 'E' IS EVERYWHERE!

The most common letter in English is "e". According to 'Readers Digest', "In an analysis of all 240,000 entries in the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, editors found that the letter E appears in approximately 11 per cent of all words in the common English vocabulary, about 6,000 more words than the runner-up letter, A. What's more: E is the second most popular key after the space bar. It's one-third of the single most-used word in English — "the" — and appears in the most common English noun ("time"), the most common verb ("be"), in ubiquitous pronouns like he, she, me, and we, not to mention tens of thousands of words ending in -ed and -es.

4. A WORD FORMED BY JOINING TOGETHER PARTS OF EXISTING WORDS IS CALLED A 'BLEND' (OR, LESS COMMONLY, A 'PORTMANTEAU WORD')

Many new words enter the English language in this way. Examples are "brunch" (breakfast + lunch); "motel" (motorcar + hotel); and "guesstimate" (guess + estimate). Note that blends are not the same as compounds or compound nouns, which form when two whole words join together, for example: website, blackboard, darkroom.



5. SHAKESPEARE GAVE US 1,000 NEW ENGLISH WORDS

English language wouldn't be the same without William Shakespeare. The Bard invented over 1,000 words, which he incorporated into his writing. Just some of the fantastic words and phrases invented by this famous poet include: ■ **Addiction:** Being psychologically or physically dependent on something, usually a drug. ■ **Bedazzled:** Blinded by something incredibly wonderful. ■ **Cold-blooded:** Either an animal with cold blood (like a reptile) or a way to describe someone who's cruel and indifferent to emotion. ■ **Swagger:** To walk in a way that shows you're boasting or disrespectful. ■ **Break the ice:** To relieve the tension or silence in a conversation by talking.

2. THE LONGEST WORD YOU CAN MAKE USING ONLY FOUR LETTERS IS 'SENSELESS'

The letters B, A, and N can spell BANANA, which is six letters long, and the letters S, E, and D can spell SEEDDED, which is six letters long. The longest words with no repeated letters are "dermatoglyphics," "misconjugately," and "uncopyrightables" (but we're probably not going to use any of those words in a sentence anytime soon!).

3. THERE ARE NINE DIFFERENT WAYS TO PRONOUNCE 'OUGH' IN ENGLISH

This sentence contains all of them: "A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."



WHAT IS AN OXYMORON?

An oxymoron is a figure of speech, usually one or two words, in which seemingly contradictory terms appear side by side. This contradiction is also known as a paradox. In speech, oxymorons can lend a sense of humour, irony, or sarcasm. The word is derived from two ancient Greek words: oxys, which means "sharp," and moronos, which means "dull" or "stupid."

SOME EXAMPLES OF OXYMORON IN LITERATURE:

"I do here make humbly bold to present them with a short account of themselves..."
Jonathan Swift

"The bookful blockhead, ignorantly read, / With loads of learned lumber in his head..."
Alexander Pope

"He was now sufficiently composed to order a funeral of modest magnificence..."
Samuel Johnson

"O anything of nothing first create! / O heavy lightness, serious vanity! / Misshapen chaos of well-seeming forms! / Feather of lead, bright smoke, cold fire, sick health!"
William Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet, Act 1, scene 1

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." **Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities**

SOME COMMON EXAMPLES:

- Same difference
- Friendly fire
- Virtual reality
- Controlled chaos
- Freezer burn
- Silent scream
- Terribly good
- Wise fool
- Close distance
- Stiff drink
- Black light
- Clearly confused
- Genuine fake

IMPERFECT PERFECTION

Queries relating to language skills

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve your communication skills? Times NIE is here to help you to master the intricacies of the English language. Just shoot us your queries on toinie175@gmail.com



LANGUAGE QUIZ

1. What do you call a native of Kenya?
2. What is the official language in Kosovo?
3. Which weekday is domingo in Spanish and dimanche in French?
4. What is another word for wall painting or mural?
5. What does the Latin proverb - Errare Humanum est - mean?
6. What word is used in Hawaii both to greet and to say goodbye?
7. Which is the world's second largest French-speaking city?
8. What is the meaning of the Arab word Habibi?

Answer: 1. Kenyan 2. Albanian 3. Sunday 4. Fresco 5. Err is human 6. Aloha 7. Montreal Canada 8. Sweetheart

GAME FOR SOME FUN?

Word games: Games offer a break from tedious work, but not a break from learning. There are thousands of language games to make education fun. Expand your children's vocabulary with word games. It can be as simple as pointing out items at home or during a road trip e.g. "I am now mixing the butter into the batter" or "Tall buildings are also called skyscrapers". You might even give the definition or share background information about these words. Games like Scrabble, Twenty Questions, Pictionary or a round of Charades also encourage vocabulary development and communication skills.

Jokes: Telling age-appropriate puns also help foster good humour and creativity in children. This encourages wordplay and imagination. You can read through kid-friendly joke books and take turns telling witty stories. Avoid being too critical of their gags, speech, or articulation.



Riddles: Riddles are fun ways to use words and paint pictures of scenes or situations. Read or say riddles aloud to each other and explain to your children the different definitions of a single word e.g. school as in a place of learning or school as in a group of fish to help them understand the riddle better.

Rhymes: The repetitive chanting, reading, writing, or hearing of rhymes promotes good listening skills and memory retention, aside from developing speech. You can also let your children tell you about their favourite toys using rhyming words.

Storytelling: Sharing stories - whether real or make-believe - can provide a good bonding time with your children while

helping develop their communication skills. Exchange stories about daily events. Broaden their imagination with fantastical stories and let their creativity grow as you make up stories about anything and everything around them.

Songs: Aside from harnessing their musical abilities, songs also help children learn new words. Lyrics have a sense of rhyme and rhythm so it will be easy and entertaining for them to sing along.

Tongue twisters: Tongue twisters are an excellent and fun way to teach children correct pronunciation and enunciation of words. It is a fun way to train their tongue to pronounce words. Start with simple ones and work your way up.

Make your happiness a priority

"You can't pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself first."

In the hustle and bustle of life, we tend to forget to look after someone who plays an important role in our lives -- ourselves.

In schools, I see teachers and students running around, trying to keep up with their work, responsibilities, expectations, managing friendships, colleagues, and the newly added social lives. They manage to raise themselves to new standards and sometimes end up on the scrap heap. In the midst of all of this, they forget to check in with themselves and notice how they are feeling or doing

for real.

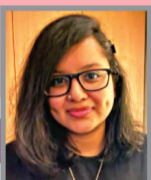
We are accustomed to answering "I am fine" every time someone asks how we are doing or feeling. But have you ever answered honestly to anyone or yourself?

As the flight attendants announce, "secure your mask first and then help someone", it is important for you to be healthy before you show up for something.

A few things you can do to show up for yourself

- Keep a mood journal and check in with your feelings using words.
- Take a break if you are exhausted or burned out.
- Delegate tasks, draw boundaries and say "no" when you can.
- Make space for "me time" in your day.
- See a therapist if required.
- Do things you enjoy doing, like walking in a park or painting.
- Stretch in between tasks, eat nutritious meals, and stay hydrated.
- Include mindfulness, grounding techniques, and exercise in your routine.

Remember that you will always be your constant. As Mandy Hale says, "It's not selfish to love yourself, take care of yourself, and to make your happiness a priority. It's necessary."



M S SRI KAVYA, Counseling Psychologist, Niraj Public School, Hyderabad

THE EDUCATIONIST

AN EPISTLE TO SOIL

O' the bestowal of thee,
How far have you gone in hindrance?
Being annihilated through detritus and filth

O' the treasure of nature,
How can I find your whereabouts?
To send my words of concern.

O' the proponent of entity,
Tainted by brutal thuggish acts,
Are you fading away into oblivion?

O' the saviour of subsistence,
Bystander to human greed and negligence.
Bearing your pain in silence?

O' the symbol of benevolence,
Has your soul been desolated?
By the disappearance of micro companions.

O' the knight of mortals,
Are you surrendering in defeat?
Baffled by the deeds of earthlings.

O' the patron of life,
Can I exist without your presence?



I confess my imprudence.

O' the embodiment of purity,
How can I leave you enrobed in junk?
I take an oath to unwrap you from grime.

O' the vault of fortune,
I join hands to endure your composition.
And take forward the act of preservation.

USHA KRISHNA, Senior wing, Pallavi Model School, Bowenpally



Express YOURSELF

Russia must stop this war against humanity!



Russia has invaded Ukraine with an aim to merge both the countries. Nevertheless, Russia already has so much land. It has a major stock of weapons and is simply misusing its power. I really like how the Ukrainians are not letting their motherland go into the hands of its powerful neighbour, even if it means losing their lives. Their dedication and the loyalty of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy must be lauded. He is not giving up and the country is putting up a brave fight.

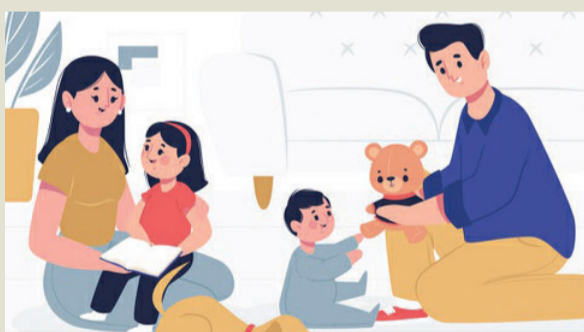
So far talks have been unsuccessful. Not only humans, even animals are suffering. They are freezing cold and going hungry. In addition, this war is leading to the hike of petrol, cooking oil and diesel rates across the world.

I am scared that this may cause World War III. This is not just a war between two countries. From every big tree to the smallest baby plant, everything is being harmed. This is a war against humanity, animals, nature and small kids.

It is our responsibility to stop this bloodshed and save lives. We need to live in harmony and move forward and show everyone that friendship is possible. Jai Hind!

DEVACHANDRA SWAYAMPAKULA, class VI-A, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans Public School, Vidyashram, Jubilee hills

MY LIFE IN THE WAKE OF CORONA



The global Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly entered our lives and everything came to a halt. It affected the lives of people around the world bringing a flood of tension and worries followed by negative thoughts and piles of boredom. But I took it as a challenge to handle this situation with determination and positivity thereby taking advantage of the lockdown.

My parents motivated me to face the challenge. I also had the best experience of my life by participating in online classes. I learned a new way to give exams online. But I missed talking and playing with my friends. I missed visiting the local temple and other holy places.

In this situation I along with my family, tried our best to follow the guidelines issued by the government thus taking full precautionary measures. I learnt to maintain proper hygiene and also urged everyone to follow the same. The best outcome of this situation has been that the virus has made us aware of valuing food, water, fruits and other essential items along with benefits of yoga and exercises followed by intake of herbs and healthy food. It has also taught us the importance of spending time with one's family and exploring our interests. I was happy to get time to follow my hobby of reading books and to learn new languages like Spanish on a website called Duolingo along with co-curricular activities via online platforms. I pray to God that soon the day comes when we get the news that there is no more coronavirus cases in the world.

AKHIL SURYA, class IV, Taiwan, Silver Oaks International School, Mighty Oaks Campus, Hyderabad



The right decisions

We often see in videos that when somebody is making a decision, two characters, an angel and a devil, appear. Well, those are not real, they're just the phases of our mind. Whenever we want to make a decision, we get two ideas in our minds - one which can be done in the right way and the other in the wrong way.

Any of these decisions can be life-changing. It's clear that we must always choose the right way. But, we might not always do that. Sometimes, we often go the wrong way due to impatience, greed, ego, vanity, jealousy, etc. And that's what we need to check!

If we take the wrong path once, we might repeat that on many occasions. And that's what we need to focus on. I once read that, while making a decision of your life, listen to your heart but take your brain with you. This is true. When we listen to our hearts, we sometimes do not realize the consequences and hence may go the wrong way. Similarly, when we listen only to our brain we forget that we are humans, and to live in this world we need to be kind and empathetic. So, we must always remember - listen to your heart but think before you act; and remember that you still have a life that needs to be lived and a family waiting for you. I hope that from now onwards, we all strive to make better decisions in our life.

BHAVYA MANGRAUTHIA, class IX, Delhi School of Excellence, Attapur



SO GLAD TO BE BACK ON CAMPUS!



"Only a caged bird values freedom!"

How true it seemed as I got back to school. Being on the school premises, I was nothing but glad. School, for me, is the sweetest memory stored. I remember telling myself before the lockdown that how good it would be if we had more summer vacations. But now, I think that I wouldn't like my life at school be taken away for temporary happiness.

Going to school after the lockdown was hard. I was anxious and didn't know how to interact. Many of my friends were socially awkward. There was cold atmosphere in the class, many were self-conscious, and they didn't want to be seen by others. Many including me suffered from stage fear. However, nothing is permanent. As time went by, everyone start-

ed interacting, enjoying studies, and did not feel nervous. They learned it's okay not to be okay and also that it's okay to tell someone their problem and last but not least, no problem in the world is permanent and unsolvable.

Something I learned from all this is that every step you take teaches you something important. I think the best place that teaches you

how to combat a problem is school. My school and the teachers made me feel comfortable. With all the safety precautions being stringently followed, we start-

ed enjoying our school life once again. Learning, as was meant to be, has become easy and fruitful. With friends around, everything seems to be getting back to normal and hopefully, the pandemic shall end soon.

PRAHLEEN KAUR, class VIII-C, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



Excessive screen time affecting mental health

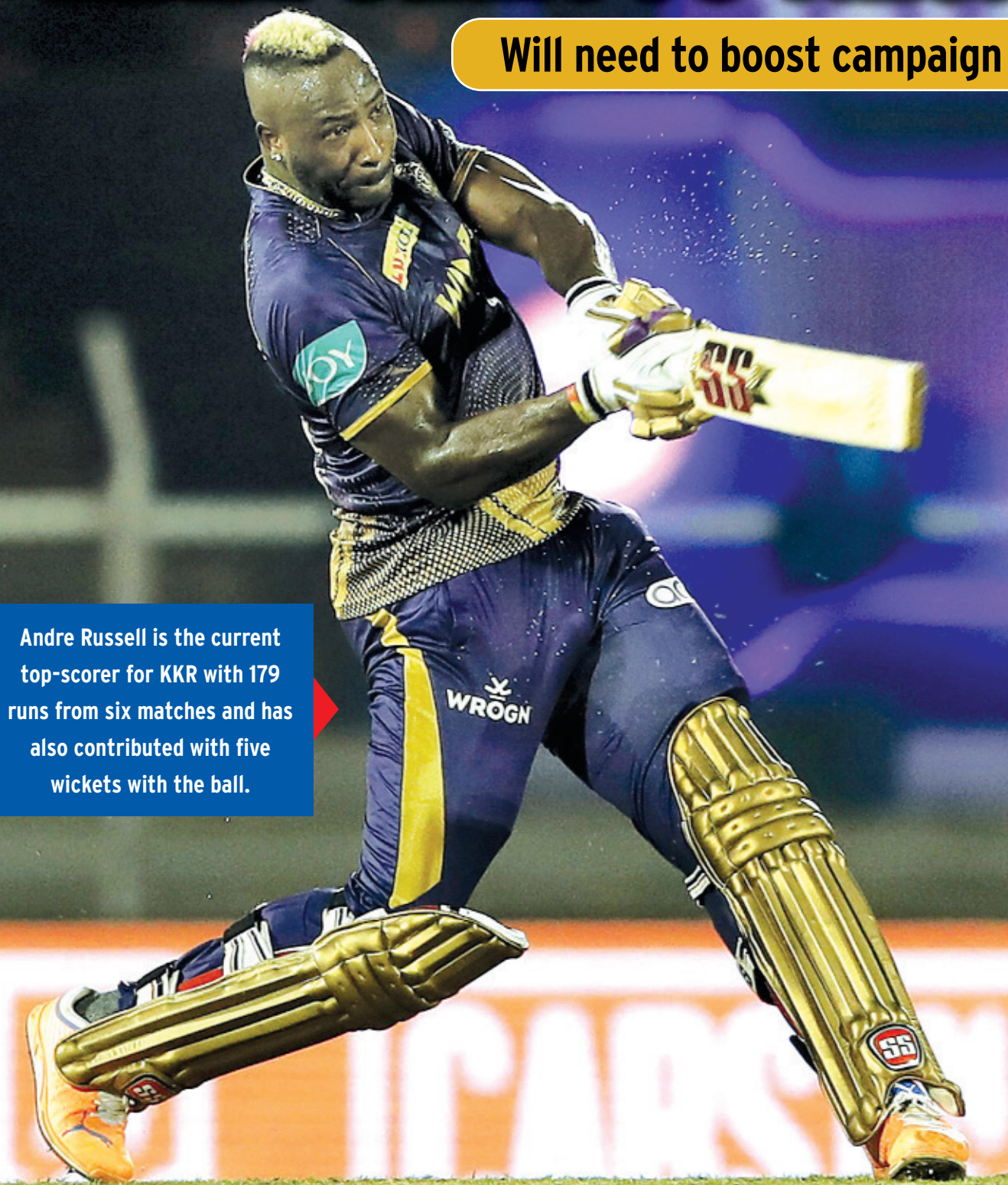
Screen addiction is very common in children nowadays because of the easy availability and access to gadgets. An addiction to anything is bad. Screen addiction is especially reducing the ability to concentrate. The mind is preoccupied all the time, so the person loses interest in other activities. Excess screen time results in lack of sleep which affects mental health. This in turn makes one's mind less active and less imaginative. Moreover, watching screen before bed results in headaches and eye pain which affects both physical and mental health. The visual effects in video games, television and online sources are very appealing but reduce one's creativity. In conclusion, one should limit screen time and engage in different activities to improve concentration.

NIKA JAIN, class VI-C, Gitanjali Primary School, Hyderabad



KKR SEEK TO REGAIN AGAINST RR

Will need to boost campaign to get back on track after back-to-back losses



Andre Russell is the current top-scorer for KKR with 179 runs from six matches and has also contributed with five wickets with the ball.

Photo: PTI

Their confidence severely dented after two comprehensive defeats on the trot, last edition's runner-up side Kolkata Knight Riders would seek to get their inconsistent campaign back on track when they face Rajasthan Royals in an IPL match on Monday. KKR were beaten by Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad by 44 runs and seven wickets respectively in their last two matches. They had earlier lost to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

With three wins and three losses, KKR are at the mid-table while the Royals have won three matches and lost two games till now.

NEED TO BOUNCE AGAIN

KKR had an impressive start to the league with three wins from four matches but the back-to-back losses had taken them down below the top-4 and they would look to regain that slot. But to do that they will have to pull themselves up in both batting and bowling. None of the batters, except for Andre Russell, has been consistent so far while the likes of spinner Varun Chakravathy and pacer Pat Cummins have dished out average performances.

Russell is the current top-scorer for KKR with 179 runs from six matches and has also contributed with five wickets with the ball. Captain Shreyas Iyer has not been in the best of form with just one half-century in his name for a total of 151 runs in six matches, Nitesh Rana and Venkatesh Iyer have been lacking in consistency, while Sam Billings is struggling to get runs.

NEED TO STEP UP

In the bowling department, none, except pacer Umesh Yadav (10 wickets from 6 matches) has been up to expectations. Chakravathy, KKR's highest wicket-taker last season, has been struggling big time with just four wickets from six matches. Chakravathy's

Upcoming IPL Matches

APRIL 18
7.30 PM

Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai



Sanju Samson

Photo: PTI

senior spin colleague Sunil Narine is also in the same boat with just four wickets. Australia Test captain Cummins, who joined late due to national commitment, also needs to step up and do better than his current figures of three wickets from as many matches.

TO START AS FAVOURITES

The Royals, on the other hand, will start as favourites in Monday's match with the tournament's highest run-getter and wicket-taker in their ranks in Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra Chahal. Chahal has been in top form with 12 wickets from five matches, also with a fine economy of 6.80 and he would fancy to add more scalps to his name, especially against a struggling KKR batting unit. Veteran New Zealand pacer Trent Boult (7 wickets from 4 matches) is the other Royals bowler who has been doing well. But senior India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is terribly out of form. He picked up just one wicket from five matches while conceding 143 runs and it remains to be seen how long the team management will persist with him.

FAILING TO CLICK

The Royals, however, have not fired as a batting unit with the likes of captain Sanju Samson (117 from 5 matches) and the hugely talented Devdutt Padikkal (114 from 5 matches) failing to click so far. Their batting has revolved mainly around Buttler, who has set the IPL on fire with 272 runs from five matches with one hundred and two fifties. Shimron Hetmyer has been the only other Royals batter who has done well so far with 197 runs from five matches with the help of one half-century. **PTI**

VILLARREAL SQUEEZE GETAFE

GERARD SCORES ONE GOAL, SETS UP ANOTHER; SUBSTITUTED DUE TO INJURY

Gerard Moreno scored one goal and set up another before the Villarreal striker was substituted because of injury during his team's 2-1 win at Getafe in the Spanish league on Saturday.

Despite struggling with injuries this season, Gerard has been a key player in Villarreal's impressive run to the Champions League semifinals after ousting Juventus and, this week, Bayern Munich in the knockout rounds.

CLEAR TO BEAT

Gerard gave Villarreal the lead in the seventh minute and helped to make it 2-0 in the 16th when he stole the ball in midfield to start a counter-attack. The Spain striker, who also set up Samuel Chuk-



Manuel Trigueros

wueze's late winner to topple Bayern on Tuesday, again made the key pass by playing Manuel Trigueros clear to beat David Soria. Gerard had to be substituted in the 61st after he was attended by team doctors. He touched the back of his right thigh before walking off gingerly.

UNLUCKY WITH INJURY

Emery said Gerard had a muscular injury but team doctors had yet to determine how long he would be out, leaving in question his availability for the European semifinals against Liverpool in two weeks. "He has not been unlucky with injuries this season. We hope this is not serious and that he recovers quickly because we really need him," defender Pau

Torres said. Enes Unal pulled one back for Getafe three minutes later with his 15th goal, second only to Karim Benzema's league-leading 24.

But the end came for Getafe's unbeaten run of 10 consecutive home games. The previous loss was in late October at Alfonso Perez Coliseum in Madrid.

Villarreal remained in seventh place, while Getafe slid into 15th. **AGENCIES**

VALENCIA LOSES

Valencia lost to Osasuna 2-1 in its second-to-last league game before it played the final of the Copa del Rey

Valencia plays Villarreal on Tuesday then faces Real Betis in the Copa final next Saturday

Photos: AFP



Gerard Moreno

BJK CUP: SWIATEK POWERS POLAND TO FINALS, CZECHS PREVAIL AGAINST BRITAIN

New No. 1 Iga Swiatek powered Poland into the Billie Jean King Cup Finals for the first time and they were joined by other newcomers Italy and Kazakhstan. Other winners included the Czech Republic-six-time winners since 2011 - Spain, Canada and the U.S. The finals are in November at a venue yet to be decided.

Swiatek overpowered Romania's Andreea Prisacariu 6-0, 6-0 in the first reverse singles to secure Poland's unsailable lead. She's won 19 straight matches, two as the world No. 1 after Ash Barty's retirement. "It took us a few years, step by step, to progress and qualify," Swiatek said.

"Hopefully in the finals we're going to show even more progress. I'm really proud of us." Poland eventually won 4-0. France has lost



Iga Swiatek

Photo: USA TODAY SPORTS

three times since winning the 2019 final. Kazakhstan upset visiting Germany in Nur-Sultan when Elena Rybakina overhauled Angelique Kerber 4-6, 6-3, 7-5. Kerber, trying to keep Germany alive, broke for 5-3 in the decider but Rybakina produced her best tennis in front of raucous support and won the last four games.

The Kazakhs won 3-1. The Czechs were taken the distance by Britain and prevailed 3-2 in Prague. **AGENCIES**

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: When was the Fed Cup launched?

- a) 1955 b) 1966
c) 1977 d) 1988

Q2: Who is the only female British athlete to have won titles in Olympics, Commonwealth Games, European Championships, and World Championships?

- a) Jessica Ennis-Hill
b) Sally Gunnell
c) Katarina Johnson-Thompson
d) Dina Asher-Smith

Q3: In a 400m hurdles race, how many hurdles do athletes have to jump over?

- a) 8 b) 10
c) 20 d) 6

Q4: Which cricketer scored 175* against Zimbabwe in 1983?

- a) Sunil Gavaskar
b) Kapil Dev
c) Ravi Shastri
d) Rahul Dravid

Q5: The regulation goal in basketball is __ feet high.

- a) 15 b) 10
c) 5 d) 12

Q6: What kind of bow does archer Deepika Kumari



Deepika Kumari

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

specialise in?

- a) Compound Bow
b) Longbow
c) Recurve Bow
d) Recurve Barebow

Q7: In a badminton game, the winner is the first one to reach ____ points.

- a) 11 b) 16 c) 21 d) 40

Q8: The national game of China is ____

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

Q9: Who broke Pete Sampras's record of maximum Grand Slams in tennis?

- a) Rafael Nadal
b) Roger Federer
c) Daniil Medvedev
d) Stefanos Tsitsipas

ANSWERS:

- 1 b. 1966
2 b. Sally Gunnell
3 b. 10
4 b. Kapil Dev
5 b. 10
6 c. Recurve Bow
7 c. 21
8 b. Table Tennis
9 b. Roger Federer