



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

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➤ Can Dutee Chand script history for India at the Tokyo Olympics? Know more about the athlete  
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**STUDENT EDITION**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021


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## PEGASUS SPYWARE

**WHAT** The Pegasus revelations, reported by 17 publications, including 'The Washington Post', 'The Guardian' and 'The Wire' have created ruckus in Parliament. The revelations show how the spyware developed by an Israeli firm, NSO Group, was used by agencies from over 10 nations, including Hungary, Azerbaijan and India, to target journalists, Opposition politicians and others. Pegasus is a spyware that infects devices and spies by transferring data to a master server in an unauthorised manner. Once compromised, the agency using Pegasus can gain access to texts, pictures, documents, calls, GPS location as well as the ability to remotely control the microphone.

**HOW** it works: A hacker, who intends to hack a phone, sends the targeted user a malicious website link, and if the user clicks on it, Pegasus is installed on the phone. Besides, installed through a security bug in voice calls made through apps like WhatsApp, the spyware is so potent and secretive that it could be installed on the phone just by giving a missed call to the user. Once, the software is installed it would delete the call log entry so that the user wouldn't know about the missed call.

**THE IMPACT:** Once Pegasus is on a phone, it can potentially spy on the targeted user completely and thoroughly. Even encrypted chats like the ones made through WhatsApp were accessible to Pegasus

It first came to the limelight in 2016, when an Arab activist got suspicious after receiving a shady message. It was believed that Pegasus was targeting iPhone users. Several days after its discovery, Apple released an updated version of iOS, which reportedly patched the security loophole that Pegasus was using to hack phones. Pegasus in 2021 is a far more evolved avatar of its 2016 version, and can now execute what is known as a 'zero-click' attack, which means it can infiltrate a phone with practically no action from the target



### PEGASUS BUGS INDIA

■ According to reports, 40 journalists, three major Opposition figures, one constitutional authority, and two serving ministers in the Narendra Modi government have been affected by the spyware ■ This is the second such revelation about Pegasus. Previous investigations by Citizen Lab had revealed that the spyware was used to target activists and lawyers across the world, including Indian lawyers and activists related to the Bhima Koregaon case, through a flaw in WhatsApp



## FACTOID 34 LAKH TONS

The amount of plastic waste, which was generated in the financial year 2019-2020, an increase of more than 10 lakh tons compared to 2017-18, the ministry of environment informed Rajya Sabha on Monday. According to the ministry of environment, a multi-pronged strategy has been adopted to phase out identified single-use plastic items in the country, which comprises awareness generation and behavioural change, regulatory regime for phasing out of plastic items having low utility and high littering potential, engagement with stakeholders, and strengthening of institutional mechanism for collection, segregation, recycling and environmentally-sustainable end of life disposal of plastic waste, as envisaged in Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

### Bob Dylan returns to stage through live-streaming platform



**A**fter a year and a half absence because of the pandemic, relentless road warrior Bob Dylan returned to a concert stage on Sunday at least online. He performed for fans, who paid \$25 to watch online through the live-streaming platform Veeps. Dylan hasn't performed live since December 2019. Since 1988, he had kept performing regularly: 78 gigs in 2019 and 84 in 2018

## HARRY FOLLOWS MEGHAN'S STEPS

Prince Harry is writing what his publisher is calling an "intimate and heartfelt memoir." The book by the Duke of Sussex, currently untitled, is expected to come out late in 2022. "Prince Harry will share, for the very first time, the definitive account of the experiences, adventures, losses, and life lessons that have helped shape him," Random House announced on Monday. The announcement comes four months after Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, made worldwide news during their interview with Oprah Winfrey near the couple's home in Montecito, California.



Last month, Meghan published the picture book 'The Bench' through Random House Books for Young Readers

## India bags Best Documentary Award @Cannes film festival

**M**umbai-based filmmaker Payal Kapadia has bagged the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for Best Documentary for her film 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' at the Cannes Film Festival. 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' emerged as the winner on a list of 28 documentaries submitted from around the world. The announcement came through the Twitter account of Cannes Independent movie selection handle Quinzaine Des Real.

'A Night of Knowing' follows a university student in India, who writes letters to her estranged lover while he is away

## Meet the Olympic refugee team, a team with a cause



**T**he Olympic refugee team arrived in Tokyo on Sunday. The team, which will compete under the Olympic flag and comprises people from countries including Syria, South Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iran, is almost three times as big as the inaugural team at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics. Of the 26 athletes, five are originally from Iran, four from South Sudan, and three from Afghanistan. Ten are women.

**TOKYO OLYMPICS**

### THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

**1** The refugee team was envisioned by the International Olympic Committee, following the case of marathon runner Guor Marial, a refugee living in the US, who competed at the 2012 London Games as an independent athlete

**2** Four years later, at the 2016 Games, the team made its debut. Ten athletes took part

**3** There are a few stalwarts in the ranks too. Kimia Alizadeh, who defected from Iran to Germany last year, is an Olympic medallist (bronze-taekwondo), while Yusra Mardini, is a refugee from Syria, who competed in Rio

## Julia Roberts lends voice to powerful video on environment conservation

**I**n a bid to create awareness on conservation, actress Julia Roberts has done the voiceover in a video uploaded on the YouTube channel of the organisation Conservative International. In the video, which is one minute and 58 seconds-long, the actress speaks from the point of view of Mother Earth. She goes on to make a powerful statement on behalf of Earth. She says, "But I have been here for eons. I have fed species greater than you, and I have starved species greater than you. My oceans, my soil, my flowing streams, my forests, they all can take you or leave you."

**Some call me nature, others call me mother nature. I have been here for over four and a half billion years – 22,500 times longer than you. I don't really need people but people need me. Yes, your future depends on me. When I thrive, you thrive. When I falter, you falter, or worse**  
Julia Roberts, actress



**STUDENT EDITION**  
 FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2021

**ALL ABOUT THE MOTTO**  
 Trivia and history of Olympic hymn, motto, symbol

**THINK TOKYO**  
 New sports in Tokyo, biggest Olympics ever till now

**HOW IT STARTED**  
 Trivia on Ancient Olympics (Greece), how it started and how it ended with Romans conquering them + quiz and trivia

**HOW IT'S GOING**  
 History of modern Olympics from 1896 to 2021

**ALL ABOUT INDIA**  
 Who all are in the Indian contingent  
 Past Indian glory in Olympics

**OLYMPICS SPECIAL**  
 COMING OUT ON JULY 23

**GREATEST FEATS**  
 Greatest achievements and glories in Olympics till date.



## TIMES NIE EDITORIAL POWERED BY STUDENTS

# THE GROSS MISMANAGEMENT OF PANDEMIC

We need to debate on how and why the govt fumbled during the pandemic

A health crisis was emerging, spreading the disease and economic losses across the globe. Countries were locking down and by the time our Prime Minister announced a one-day Janata curfew the message was becoming clear: Lockdown during such a pandemic was inevitable, but did we lock down too soon? According to Abhijit Banerjee, yes. The Nobel Laureate feels that state governments did not give priority to producing high quality statistics which led to an absence of

**A significant moral blunder was committed when the government could somehow afford to bring back Indians from foreign countries with chartered jets, but could not offer early support to thousands of impecunious migrant workers!**

science-based decision making. This absence of science-based decision making, lack of economic and moral sense, combined with hubris might have led to the failure of the first lockdown.

The lack of respect for science showed when the world's strictest lockdown was triggered at a time when we had only 519 cases. There were no central government ordered regional lockdowns as well – red, orange and green zones were announced only six days into the lockdown. Health experts believe that localised lockdowns would have worked better during the initial stages of the pandemic. **While other countries were pre ordering vaccines last summer, we waited till January 2021 before placing any orders.** A significant moral blunder was committed when the government could somehow afford to bring back Indians from foreign countries with specially chartered jets, but could not offer early support to thousands of impecunious migrant workers. The government closed state borders, buses and trains leaving the workers to attempt dangerous journeys to walk thousands of kilometres on foot in the hope of returning home someday. And the central government has now announced that there will be no compensation for the families of dead migrant workers. The hubris was on full display throughout the crisis starting when the Prime Minister enforced the world's strictest lockdown without any



By **DURGA BASU**  
Class: X, Vasant Valley School, New Delhi

evidence that they consulted the finance and health ministries or even the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Assam and Telangana, to when Modi ji declared victory over the disease last September and this March and also claimed that the BJP victory in Bihar was due to the centre's handling of Covid 19.

Along with the health crisis, came an economic meltdown. Last December,



India, for the first time, fell into technical recession. Unemployment peaked at 27.1% last May. 2020's economic recession also pushed 75 million into poverty and shrunk the middle class by 30% or even higher. Of course, we are not the only country to have mismanaged the pandemic in its early stages. Former

**We wanted 300 million people vaccinated by July, but as of now, the number stands just above 4.3 million (approx). We are now paying the price for our government's refusal to order shots in advance.**

US President Donald Trump refused to endorse masks until July and refused to endorse lockdowns. British PM Boris Johnson initially dismissed Covid 19 as a 'scare story' and based his pandemic management strategy on herd immunity. But, despite this early mishandling, both of them cut deals with vaccine manufacturers early on and ran effective vaccination campaigns. In fact, it is PM Johnson's highly effective vaccination program that has led to his immense popularity in the last couple of months. But unlike the two leaders mentioned above, Mr Modi has not run a successful campaign to vaccinate the nation. We are the only major country which allowed vaccines to be sold to private institutions and state governments for a

larger price, a policy that was questioned by the Supreme Court. The government has allowed manufacturers to hike prices and has left the people to pay for it. Free vaccines for all was only declared on June 21.

We initially wanted 300 million people vaccinated by July, but as for now, the number stands just above 4.3 million. We are now paying the price for our government's refusal to order shots in advance. After the first wave receded in September, a wave of complacency swept India, with states and the centre easing restrictions and telling the whole world about India's incredible victory. It was because of this complacency that the government underestimated demand for vaccines in January. What followed in the second wave is history and hope the history isn't repeated.

Do you agree? Mail us your thoughts on [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)

## Women make up only 28% of the workforce in STEM

The fight against patriarchy has been an ongoing one. Feminist movements have asserted for equal rights for women and equal opportunity when it comes to education, career opportunities, equal pay and more. Despite the tremendous achievements that girls and women have had in education and the workforce during the past 50 years, women make up only 28% of the workforce in STEM. Men vastly outnumber women in most STEM fields in college, and in the upper levels of these fast-growing, high paying professions.



By **GARVITA YADAV**  
class XI, Shiv Nadar School, Noida

Science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) is regarded as a vital sector for the growth of the national economy. This isn't to say we as a society haven't progressed. According to the All India survey of higher education, there has been a sharp growth in girl students pursuing and outperforming boys in subjects like math and engineering, a large concentration of them being in the state of UP. Historically boys have outperformed girls in subjects like math, due to the fundamental difference in their upbringing and the way boys and girls used to be encouraged about education in the past.

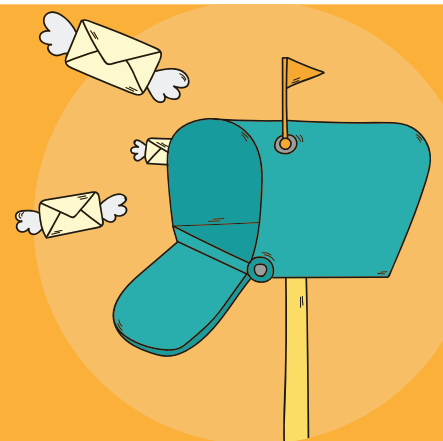
It had established the narrative that fields like STEM aren't suitable for women. But in the past few decades, the gender gap has narrowed, and today girls are doing as well as boys in math on average. Girls and boys take up a roughly equal number of math and science courses in primary, middle and high school.

This shows the importance of culture and learning environments in cultivating interests and honing our abilities. About as many girls as boys leave high school prepared to pursue science and engineering subjects in college. Yet fewer women than men pursue these careers.

And sadly around 80% of all women who receive equal quality of education as boys don't choose STEM careers!



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You can also post your articles, paintings, sketches, debates, concerns and feedback on **WWW.TOISTUDENT.COM**

**WE ARE WAITING**

## Our Word...

### Let's get to know 'Nature'

What is Nature? Does it only mean forest, trees, mountains, lakes? No! It is the phenomena of the physical world. It has its own music, rhyme and rhythm. It listens to us, understands, tells us what we are and connects our body to our soul.

Humans are a part of nature and nature is a part of humans. The rise of technology has distanced us from mother nature. We have so disconnected ourselves from the natural world that we tend to forget what it has given us. It gives us water, shelter, food, medicines and many more things. We should not forget that nature is our solo supplier. The most beautiful part of nature is the flora and fauna.



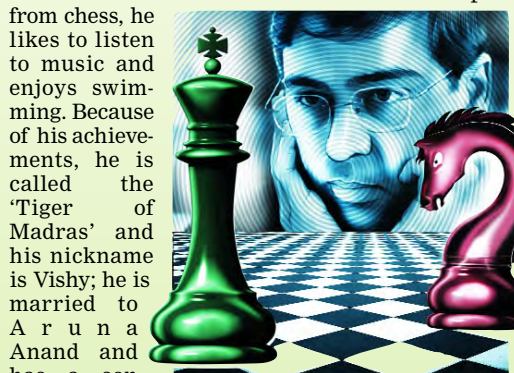
Unfortunately humans are devastating nature. Biodiversity spots are decreasing day-by-day. There are many environmental problems like global warming, ozone depletion, etc. However, these problems have solutions. Using jute bags instead of plastic bags can be helpful, promising yourself to plant a seed on every special day or occasion, going for beach cleaning once a month, promoting the use of biomass energy from waste litter can help us tackle all the environmental issues. These small steps will contribute to a better and happy future.

**TANVI SHINDE, class VIII, Bombay Cambridge International School**

## Inspirational Sport

(About Vishwanathan Anand)

When we hear the word 'chess', some people think that it is a game which was invented in India and some may think about the first Indian chess grandmaster, Vishwanathan Anand. He was born on December 11, 1969, in the state of Tamil Nadu. Anand started learning chess at the age of six and his mother was his first teacher. Apart from chess, he likes to listen to music and enjoys swimming. Because of his achievements, he is called the 'Tiger of Madras' and his nickname is Vishy; he is married to Aruna Anand and has a son named Akhil Anand. Anand was the undisputed World Chess Champion from 2007 to 2013; he got the rare honour to be awarded Padma Shri at the age of 18 and later also got the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan Award, Padma Vibhushan, Arjun Award and Chess Oscar. He published his collection of games under the title 'Vishy Anand: My Best Games of Chess'. Anand was the first Asian at the age of 17 to win the World Chess title at the FIDE (The International Chess Federation) Junior Championship, 1987. He is also the five-time World Chess Championship winner. Vishwanathan Anand brought great honour to India due to his many achievements in chess.



**S SRISABARIVEL, VII A, Essar International School**

## TEACHERS HAVE THEIR SAY

# Delhi Board Secondary Education 2021: Reactions and Expectations

The Delhi Government has started the process of setting up its independent state board – Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE). Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier announced (this year in March) that to begin with, nearly 21-22 state government schools will be affiliated to DBSE, and in the next four years all the schools will be brought under the new Board. Presently, there are around 1,000 Delhi government schools and 1,700 private schools, affiliated to the CBSE, in the city

Will this new education Board bring about a paradigm shift in the education sector in the Capital? We found out reactions from educators and principals across the city. A special report by **TIMES NIE**.

### Brilliant move; must include application-based learning

The idea of having a State Education Board that caters specifically to Delhi students and its functioning in close alignment with national and international Boards is a brilliant move. We hope to witness a shift in teaching-learning practices across Delhi. The other thing that the Board must include is application-based learning and assessment.

**MONIKA KOUL SULTAN, HOD English, Khaitan Public School, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad**

### Hope it brings instrumental changes to curriculum

Delhi holds a very high regard within our country's educational ecosystem. The govt has been constantly bringing constructive changes within the education system of Delhi. Introduction of DBSE is a welcome addition. On the one hand, it affirms the commitment of the govt towards improving education, while on the other, it seems to cater to the needs of students ready for critical thinking. I hope it brings innovative and instrumental changes to curriculum and attitude of students. **Punam Gupta, principal, Maharaja Agarsain, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi**

### Separate Board will divide, not unite!

Unity has always been our strength. CBSE as a standard Board adds to that unity and weaves us in a common national thread. Creating a parallel Board (for which there is no need) would not just confuse but would also divide. I don't see the need for a separate Board.

**NAMITA SHARMA, teacher, Queen's Valley School, Dwarka**



### Look forward to new paradigm of continuous learning

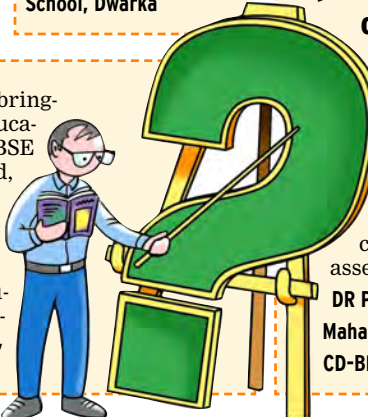
With the new Board for Delhi schools, encompassing entrepreneurship and self-reliance, it appears to be a novel initiative. We look forward to the new paradigm of continuous learning and assessment.

**DR PTAIBHA KOHLI, principal, Maharaja Agrasen Model School, CD-Block Pitampura, New Delhi**

### May help to narrow skill-set gap

This is a welcome step as it can allow the Delhi govt to plan and devise strategies based on the demographic, cultural and social background of students in the state. The curriculum can be detail oriented which is great. Also, addition of skill-set can vary in every state and hence, this narrowing will go a long way in bridging the gap that we feel today.

**Latesh Chaudhary, principal, Lancer Convent, Rohini, New Delhi**





# SCHOOL IS COOL

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

It's not just a place where you get to learn Einstein's Theory of Relativity. It's also a place where you can think beyond the classroom. Hence we say, **SCHOOL IS COOL!**

03



## Remembering Durgabai Deshmukh

**D**r Durgabai Deshmukh was an Indian freedom fighter, lawyer, social worker and politician. She was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and of the Planning Commission of India. A public activist for women's emancipation, she founded the Andhra Mahila Sabha in 1937.

**DDMS P Obul Reddy**  
**Public School**  
**Hyderabad**

DDMS P Obul Reddy Public School, it has been a blessing to be a part of this institution founded by Deshmukh. Though the classes are being held online, students and

teachers made this day memorable by dressing up like their role model Deshmukh and sharing incidents of her life proudly. It was a treat to watch the children perform. The teachers of the pre-primary wing along with the sub staff stepped in to pay a tribute to Durgabai Deshmukh through a video depicting her journey.

## Finding beauty in diversity

**Niraj**  
**Public School**  
**Ameerpet**



**T**he students from the pre-primary wing of Niraj Public School celebrated 'Diversity in India' activity with much excitement. They were dressed in myriad costumes that left an indelible impression in the minds of the audience.

Such activities teach the young children to respect and celebrate the differences in people. Learning about different cultural offers new experiences to children. It also helps them comprehend the

differences in how we look or dress, or what we eat or celebrate.

The activity introduced a fun element as they learned the concept of diversity. Differences in race, religion, language, traditions, and gender can be explained and introduced this way.

Globally, India is known for its Unity in Diversity. The different cultures in India promote National Integration and Brotherhood.

# PLEDGING TO BRING GLORY TO THEIR SCHOOL

**T**he 10th investiture ceremony 'Padarohan' for the newly elected student council of Delhi School of Excellence, Attapur was held recently. The virtual election process had an array of events such as nominations, campaigning, voting, counting and announcement of the new leaders.

The ceremony began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and prayer. The invocation dance that followed, sought the blessings of lord almighty. The occasion was graced by chief guest, Col. AK Kulshrestha, Group Commander, NCC Group, Hyderabad and the members of the management, principals and headmistresses of sister concerns along with students and parents.

The leaders of the new Student Council -2021 were badged by sec-



**Delhi School of Excellence**  
**Attapur**

a resurgent India through the young leaders. He also emphasized the idea of teamwork. Chairman, P Madhusudan Rao congratulated the students while principal, Augustine Thomas advised the students to be the best at whatever they do.

The head boy and head girl pledged to discharge their duties with integrity and loyalty. They expressed their gratitude to the DSE fraternity for electing them as leaders. A virtual shadow play that portrayed Mahatma Gandhi's qualities, inspired the students to remain rooted to the principles like honesty and sincerity. The cultural secretaries proposed the vote of thanks and the ceremony ended with a rendition of the national anthem.

retary of DSE group of institutions, K.Rama Devi, administrator; Reshmi, principal, Augustine Thomas, vice-principal Bharti and headmistress Lakshmi Gowri. The oath of office to the Student Council was administered by the chief guest

who addressed the virtual gathering and urged the students to uphold the pride of the country and live up to the expectations of the parents and teachers. He sermonized the idea of 'Being Indian and Believing Indians' and hoped to see

**Delhi Public School**  
**Nadergul**

**'L**eadership is having a compelling vision, a comprehensive plan, relentless implementation and talented people working together." Embarking on this vision and ideology, Delhi Public School, Nadergul conducted the Investiture ceremony for the newly elected student council on a virtual platform.

The ceremony commenced by invoking the blessings of the almighty which was followed by a welcome address by vice-principal Kiran Khanna introducing the chief guests to the audience. Anil Kumar (IPS), additional commissioner of police, traffic Hyderabad and JV Madhusudan, head of the department of education and education technology, University of Hyderabad graced as chief guests. The former administered the oath-taking ceremony for the elected prefects. Both the



dignitaries lauded the school management for meticulously executing the investiture ceremony via the virtual platform for the second year in a row. They also delivered highly motivational speeches addressing the elects, stress-

ing on the importance of dedication and discipline which go into the making of true leaders. Principal, Padma Jyothi Turaga took the audience down the memory lane, highlighting the achievements and best practices conducted. Chairman, M Komaraiah enlightened the students with his vision of leadership.

The tiny tots of pre-primary wing delivered a well-articulated speech on 'Seven Habits of Leadership'. The prefects of primary wing also went through a rigorous election procedure and came out winning in flying colours. Similarly, the high-school prefects set the benchmark for everyone and proved themselves as the leaders to look forward to.

The occasion was graced by Malka Yashasvi, COO of DPS Nadergul. He is one of the youngest to achieve this position and is a true role model for all aspiring leaders. The ceremony had its fair share of co-curricular virtual events as well like Skating, Karate and Dance.

## OH, MY DEAR FRIEND

Oh, my dear friend, Oh my dear friend  
You delight us with your voice  
But you aren't doing it now, What happened to you

I paced upon the mountains and searched for you

But I couldn't find a sight  
of you,  
Oh, my dear friend,  
Oh my dear friend

Why have you faded  
away from me?  
I searched across  
the stream  
But I didn't find a sight  
you,

Oh, my dear friend, Oh my dear friend  
What have I done wrong to you,  
New neighbours have come,

But to my grief they cannot sing as well as you,

As they are humans who speak,  
Your shelter is gone and now you are gone  
Who will help me to fight against the mankind?  
Oh! my dear lord stops cutting the trees and the nature.

**SAHASRA KANAGALA**, class VIII D, Vista  
School, Hyderabad



## Laws against animal cruelty in India lack teeth

**H**uman beings live on this earth with such luxury as if this planet is only designed for them by the divine power. Why aren't strict rules framed against the usage of plastic, for instance, when we are aware that it's a threat to all creatures? Dogs are the common victims; they are left to die of disease or old age. There is no strict law to punish such people as these dogs can't claim their master. Cockfight and bull fight are still prevalent in the name of tradition.

Law seems to be strict only when it comes to national animal or bird but not for other animals. Do any of us think about the trauma that horses and other animals go through while being trained for movies like Bahubali. Most of us are so insensitive to animals that we forget the very evolution of human is from ape.

**M SRI NAGA**  
**CHAITANYA**, class VII M,  
Johnson Grammar School,  
ICSE, Hyderabad



**B**laming the law, every time does not work. Long back, the 1960 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972 were put in place by the government, understanding the fact that even animals are living beings like us. Even at the state level, cattle protection and cow slaughter prohibition legislations are there. Criticising our government about a significant issue for which a law is already punishing the offender by fining a compensation of thrice of the animal's cost and a sentence of almost five years, seems futile. Even people of the country refuse to be sensitive and videos of animal cruelty are viral every now and then. What will work more is awareness among people as a vigilant society. It can prevent crime in a far better manner as compared to stringent laws.

**SOMYAA SINGH**, class X, St  
Kabir Public School,  
Chandigarh

**AGAINST**

**FOR**

**DEBATE**

# HISTORY SHINES IN MAHABALIPURAM

**M**ahabalipuram is a town in Chengalpattu district in Tamil Nadu.

It is best known for its temple monuments. It is one of the famous tourist sites in India. Many tourists come here, attracted by the historical beauty of the temple architecture. It is best known for the UNESCO World Heritage Group of Monuments.

On my way back to Hyderabad from Kochi, I, along with my parents and brother, visited my aunt in Sholinganallur, Chennai. After reaching Sholinganallur, the next day, we set out to visit Mahabalipuram. We started our journey around 9.00 am. It is about 36 km from our residence. We reached there at 10.20 am.

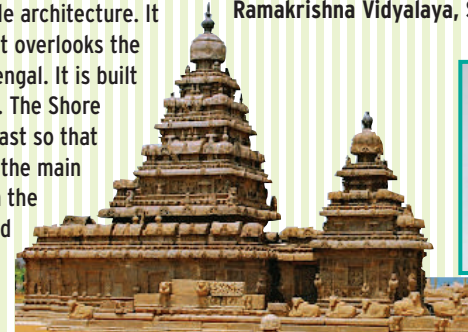
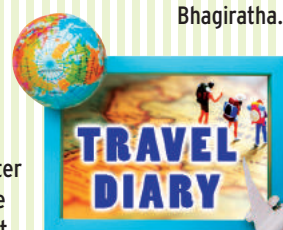
The first monument we visited was the Shore Temple. It is a fine example of the medieval period temple architecture. It is so named because it overlooks the shore of the Bay of Bengal. It is built with blocks of granite. The Shore Temple, which faces east so that the sun rays shine on the main deity of Shiva Linga in the shrine, is a five-storied structural temple.

Next, we visited

Krishna's Butterball. It's a gigantic granite boulder resting on a short incline in the town. It is about 6 m high. We also visited the Descent of the Ganges. It is an open-air rock relief carved on two monolithic rock boulders. The legend depicted in the relief is the story of the descent of the Ganges to earth from the heavens led by Bhagiratha. We also visited the Panch

Ratnas. We then took a walk around the streets. There were many shops selling handicrafts and other items. We had lunch and headed back to our residence. What I found interesting about this place was its history and the many ancient stories to tell the visitors.

**ABHJITH KS**, class IX F, Bhavans Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Sainikpuri



# LEARNING ALL ABOUT COLOURS

*"Colour is a power which directly influences the soul. It is the only thing that gives a spectrum of life."*

**Renuka Balivada**,  
**In-charge, The**  
**Play School**

**T**he nursery students of The Play School, exclusive wing of Sister Nivedita School, Ameerpet made their virtual learning colourful by taking part in Colour Day celebrations. Red Day, Green Day, Yellow Day, Orange Day & Purple Day were observed over a period of two weeks.

The children, dressed in colours according to the dress code instructed, sang songs, played games and participated in different creative activities. They displayed different objects pertaining to various colours and spoke about them and tried to overcome their fear of speaking in front of an audience. The little ones showed the audience that if guided right they can do wonders, not only offline, but also online.

Principal T Lalitha Kumari appreciated the tiny tots and blessed them to do wonders and reach the pinnacle of success.

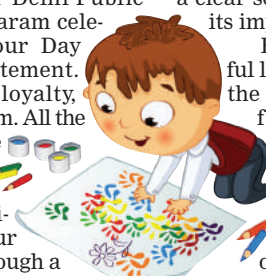


**Delhi Public School**  
**Nacharam**

**T**he students from the pre-primary wing of Delhi Public School, Nacharam celebrated Blue Colour Day with a lot of excitement. Blue signifies loyalty, strength and wisdom. All the children came dressed in different shades of blue. The significance of blue colour was reiterated through a

series of activities like handprint peacock, bottle aquarium, sponge dabbing and a science experiment. An array of blue coloured objects was shown thus providing the students with an opportunity to have a clear sense of the colour and its importance.

Blue Day was a wonderful learning experience for the children. Early identification of colours helped to create a cognitive link between visual clues and words which is an important part of a child's development.



*Little Leap*

## Little Leap Olympiad

Little Leap congratulates all the final round winners.

**Age Group 4-6**

**Age Group 7-10**

**Age Group 11-13**

Aishani Misra

**1st**

Siyona Joyce Tennela

**1st**

Thejaswini

**1st**

Yuvaan Bopche

**2nd**

Ishita Das

**2nd**

Gunank Raj Mishra

**2nd**

Sadyant Bal

**3rd**

Rehat Kaur

**3rd**

Sampurna Gope

**3rd**

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# WON'T BE BOGGED DOWN DESPITE COVID-19: STIMAC

Football team coach's contract extended till September next year

**H**is contract as the men's football coach extended till September 2022, national team head coach Igor Stimac on Tuesday said that Covid-19 dented the plans of the Indian senior side, but they would not be bogged down. The All India Football Federation's (AIFF) Technical Committee on Monday decided to extend Stimac's contract till September 2022, keeping in mind the Asian Cup qualifiers, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has said.

## AFC Asian cup in view

■ AIFF Technical Committee under the chairmanship of Shyam Thapa met via a video conference on Monday. AIFF interim technical director Savio Medeira, and AIFF general secretary Kushal Das were also present. "The committee deliberated at length, and reached a consensus that in view of the external factors which has had

a huge impact on the footballing world in general, and with the national team all set to begin their campaign in their quest to qualify for the AFC Asian Cup China 2023, head coach Igor Stimac be given an extension of his contract till September 2022," the AIFF said in a statement.

■ The AFC Asian Cup qualifiers are scheduled to be played from February to September next year. One of the most high-profile coaches to manage the Indian men's national football team, Stimac was appointed to the top post in May 2019 for a two-year term, and has had mixed results since. The previous contract of Stimac, who had coached Croatia to the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, was valid till September after getting an extension in May 15.

## Opened up opportunities

■ While the team may not have won many games under the former West Ham United defender, Stimac has given opportunities to many promising youngsters in the team with

the freedom to express themselves on the field. The Croatian was in charge of the team's 2022 World Cup and 2023 AFC Asian Cup qualifiers where they were drawn in Group E.

■ While they could not advance to the next round of World Cup qualifiers, India finished third in the group with seven points to make the third round of the Asian Cup qualifiers.

■ Thapa, chairman of the technical committee, asked Stimac to "come up with a detailed long-term plan to take Indian football forward together".

■ According to AIFF, Stimac made a presentation on the performance graph of the Senior Men's National Team wherein he highlighted about the change in football philosophy and the emergence of the future generation of the Blue Tigers in the national team set-up. Stimac has been on contract as head coach since May 2019. The AFC Asian Cup qualifiers will be played from February 2022 to September 2022. ANI

It's been a pleasure having worked with Indian football since 2019 and I'm more thrilled to have gotten this opportunity to continue working with these wonderful people for another year. Our job is far from being done but we are on course to achieving our target.

IGOR STIMAC

# MARY KOM HOPES FOR A MEMORABLE SWANSONG

Six-time world champion sets sights on elusive gold in her final Olympics

**"M**y goal is to win the elusive Olympic gold medal," came the reply from India's most decorated boxer while preparing for her final Games fling in the Italian town of Assisi, before reaching Tokyo on Sunday. She added, "And I hope my last Olympics turns out to be the most memorable one and I can inspire people and bring some joy in these challenging times."

The only boxer in the world with eight World Championship medals, MC Mary Kom's status as an inspiring sporting icon is not accurately reflected in the well-known but poorly-made Bollywood biopic. Instead, her influence looms large in the steady churning out of

women boxers in the country, three of whom will accompany her in Tokyo.

Yet, as the six-time world champion was making the most of the final leg of her preparations in an Italian commune strewn with Roman remains, she was aware of the warrior-like effort she has had to put up in the last one and a half years against an opposition as formidable as Covid-19. "It was a tough time in general with the second wave rampant and everything happening so quickly. The training camp had to be stopped temporarily but we were in touch with each other through video calls and we devised a new plan," Mary Kom said, describing the period when she was without her personal coach, Chhote Lal Yadav, who

had contracted the virus in mid-April.

Coach Yadav gave more details of that plan. "Sumya (Halder, her physio) was in touch with her and made sure that all the good work that we did in the past months continued. After a few weeks, we went to SAI, Pune, and trained there. We took it as another challenge and did everything possible," said Yadav.

"I was doing my best with whatever was possible, keeping myself fit and training and brushing up on my techniques," added Mary Kom. "My experience also helped me in such tough circumstances as I knew it wouldn't be long before things changed again for the better. With Asian Championships and Olympics around, I had enough motivation to train hard." It was this optimism and constant support of her family that kept her mentally strong even when she was devoid of training and sparring.

## OLYMPIC WATCH

# BALA DEVI, MANISHA KALYAN WIN ANNUAL AIFF AWARDS

**I**ndia women's forward Bala Devi has been named as the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year 2020-21, with young gun Manisha winning the AIFF Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year 2020-21 Award. On receiving the honour, the 31-year-old Bala, in an official AIFF release said: "I'm so happy to have won this award. A big thank you to the AIFF and all the fans for their support. I'd also like to thank my coaches, both at my club in Rangers, and in the national team, and also all the coaches that I've played under in the past. A big thank you also to my family and all my teammates for all the support."

Both the winners were chosen by the national team



Bala Devi

head coach Maymol Rocky in consultation with AIFF Interim Technical Director Savio Medeira. Meanwhile, the AIFF Award for the Best Referee 2020-21 went to Tejas Nagvenkar while Sumanta Dutta was adjudged for the Best Assistant Referee award. ANI

## QUIZ TIME!

### The Olympians

#### DUTEE CHAND

##### Athletics

**D**utee Chand has been creating history ever since she entered the Indian athletic scene. She is the first woman to qualify in 100m for the second time in a row. The 25-year-old scripted history at the 2019 World Universiade in Naples when she became the first Indian to clinch gold in a 100m event at a global meet. She also holds the national record in the women's 100m and became only the fifth Indian to participate in the women's 100 metres at the Olympics when she qualified for the 2016 Rio Games. Hailing from a family of weavers she was inspired to take up running because of her sister, and this year she is all set to make a mark at the Games this year.



PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

**Q1:** In which year did Dutee Chand clinch silver in women's 100m at the Jakarta Asian Games?

a. 2015 b. 2016 c. 2017 d. 2018

**Q2:** In 2019, Dutee Chand became the first Indian sprinter to win gold at the Universiade. What time did she clock in the 100m race?

a. 11.32 seconds b. 11.12 seconds  
c. 10.23 seconds d. 10.21 seconds

**Q3:** How many gold medals did she win at the Asian Junior Athletics Championships in 2014?

a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4

**Q4:** In which event did Dutee Chand participate at Rio 2016 Olympics?

a. Women's 100m b. Women's 200m  
c. Women's 400m d. Women's 1000m

**Q5:** Dutee Chand was the third Indian woman to qualify for the Olympics in the 100m category. Who was the first woman?

a. Hima Das b. PT Usha  
c. PU Chitra d. Tintu Luka

**Q6:** In which competition did she win a bronze in the Women's 200 metres event in the year 2013?

a. Asian Games  
b. Japan Championships in Athletics  
c. Asian Athletics Championships  
d. World Athletics Championships

**Q7:** Dutee Chand currently holds a national record in 100m. In which other category is she a national champion?

a. 1000m  
b. 800m  
c. 400m  
d. 200m

**Q8:** Dutee Chand hails from which state in India?

a. Maharashtra  
b. Jharkhand  
c. Odisha  
d. Madhya Pradesh

**ANSWERS:** 1. d. 2018 2. a. 11.32 seconds  
3. b. 2 4. a. Women's 100m 5. b. PT Usha  
6. c. Asian Athletics Championships  
7. d. 200m 8. c. Odisha