



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

➤ With remote learning becoming the new normal, an expert dwells on the positive aspects of online learning  
**PAGE 2**



➤ Students and educators share their views on issues engulfing the country and the world  
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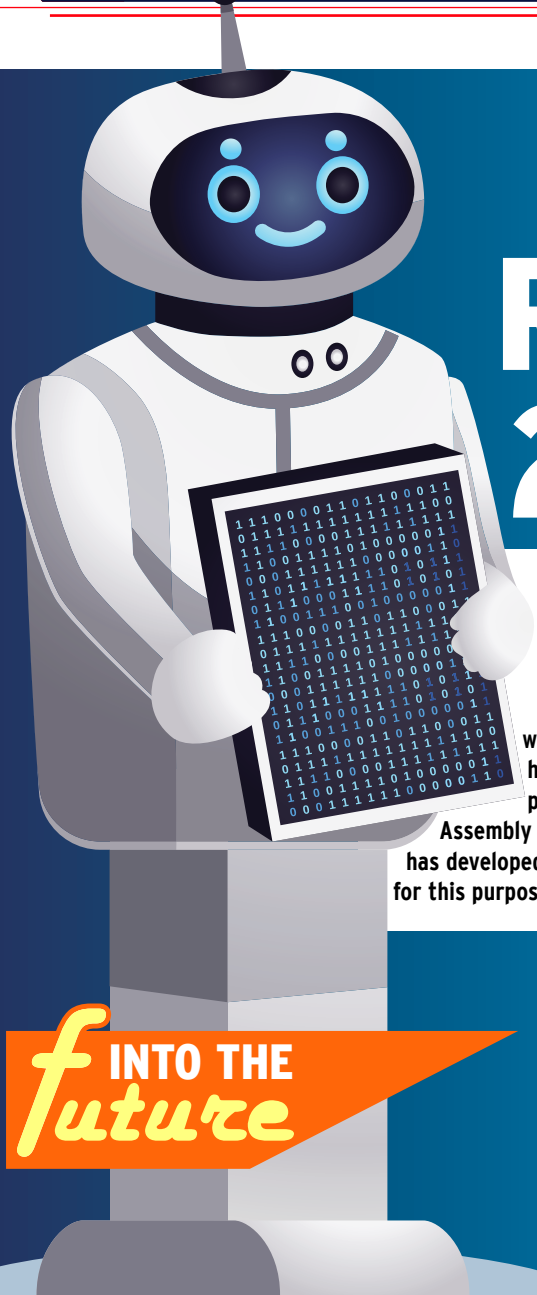
➤ Euro 20: Scotland look to reach knock-out stage for the first time  
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**STUDENT EDITION**

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021


**WEB EDITION**
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## ARE WE GOING TO SEE ROBOT CAMPAIGNERS IN 2022 ASSEMBLY POLLS?


**INTO THE  
future**

### FEATURES

- 'Doot' is set to serve the political parties by reaching out to a limited group of people with their messages amid the pandemic
- "The robot's rover has a large wheelbase, with an all-wheel-drive gearbox, which enables it to move easily even on rough surfaces. Through artificial

**A**s mass public gatherings remain an obvious danger in India amid the lethal Covid-19 waves, you may see humanoid robots holding campaigns on behalf of the political leaders in the 2022 Assembly elections. Onestand India Pvt Ltd has developed a humanoid robot called 'DOOT' for this purpose, which can communicate and

The states that go to the polls in 2022 are Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Goa and Gujarat

deliver the impression of a human being with excellent voice recognition, face recognition and gestures. These robots are likely to be seen campaigning for the Assembly polls next year, and according to the company, they are in talks with the respective political parties to deploy these robot campaigners for the state elections next year. Due to the pandemic, political leaders are unable to meet even their party workers. These robot campaigners will save a lot of time, as multiple humanoids could go to multiple places at the same time, feel experts.

intelligence (AI)-enabled voice recognition, the humanoid robot will address the public on behalf of the politician," Kumar Kanhaiya Singh, Director, Onestand India, said

**3** Questions and interactions will be reviewed periodically by a team that will have an answer to common queries updated after every review

**4** Doot is equipped with a custom-made servo motor, which enables the full upper body to bend and raise with ease

**5** It can also twist itself with 140 degrees of freedom, making it the only humanoid in the country to do so

**6** HD cameras are located in the head of the robot, which enables the operator to have a look at the audience and also record the attendees

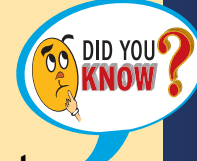


**7** The 4th generation servo motors, which are indigenously manufactured, barely make any noise, and are tested to work in hot Indian conditions for long hours without any breakdown or need for servicing

**8** The humanoids are built on an aluminum frame, with industrial-grade components

**9** The humanoid robot has 10 axes (joints), which enables it to shake hands or wave at people

In the Tamil Nadu Assembly polls in April, a newly-formed political outfit, India Makkal Munnetra Katchi (IMMK) introduced a humanoid robot for campaigning for the first time. Called 'Doozy', the four-foot-tall robot was also the party symbol



**Q** Is it a good idea? Share your views at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)

### Quote unquote



**6** So many trees have fallen, and I would like to request everyone to get involved. Just step outside your home and take care of trees planted outside, water the trees and plants. If someone finds an opportunity to plant some saplings, please do so. It would be great for the entire nation, world and the universe  
**Ajay Devgn, actor, on the need to plant trees**



## HOW ANTI-SCIENCE TWEETS COULD FLAG A COVID OUTBREAK


**CORONA  
UPDATE**

**A**nti-science, partisan tweets like 'do not use mask' or 'vaccines are of no use' could flag a Covid outbreak in a particular region, scientists have found, a discovery that can help policymakers and public health officials.

If they see anti-science sentiment on Twitter growing in one region of the country, they can tailor messages to mitigate distrust of science while also preparing for a potential disease outbreak. "Now, we can use social media data for science, to create spatial and temporal maps of

public opinions along ideological lines, pro- and anti-science lines," said Kristina Lerman, lead author and a professor at the Viterbi School of Engineering at University of Southern California. "We can also see what topics are important to these segments of society, and we can plan proactively to prevent disease outbreaks from happening." The study's machine-learning assisted analysis of social media communications offers policymakers and public health officials new tools to anticipate shifts in attitudes and proactively respond.

- Resistance to science, including the efficacy of masks and vaccines, poses a challenge to conquering the coronavirus crisis
- The goal of achieving herd immunity won't happen until a society achieves consensus about science-based solutions, feel experts

## Natalie Reyes to lead sci-fi thriller 'Tomorrow Before After'

'Terminator: Dark Fate' breakout Natalie Reyes will next headline post-apocalyptic sci-fi thriller film, 'Tomorrow Before After'. Filmmaker Alfonso Quijada will write and direct the movie, which will be shot in Colombia later this month, according to Deadline.

■ In the movie, Reyes will play an unnamed woman, who struggles to survive on her own in a post-apocalyptic world, searching for others, with only a stray dog by her side. ■ In her quest, she collides with a world that is collapsed and utterly destroyed, and it seems, for a long time, that she is the only survivor in the world – until she discovers one day that she is pregnant. Not understanding how this could be possible, she then begins to question her own existence

**Entertainment**


## World Yoga Day amid the pandemic

**T**he International Yoga Day was observed across the country and the globe on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, the ancient Indian discipline remains a "ray of hope" and a source of strength for the people in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. Addressing a Yoga Day programme, Modi also announced that in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO), India has taken another important step, as the world is going to get the power of 'M-Yoga' application, which will have many videos of yoga training based on Common Yoga Protocol available in different languages.



## Film on New Delhi's pollution menace part of Cannes Film Festival's new sidebar

**F**ilmmaker Rahul Jain's Delhi pollution documentary 'Invisible Demons' is part of the Cannes Film Festival's new sidebar on climate issues. Titled 'Cinema for the Climate', the new section, will feature one fiction movie and six documentaries, focusing on the issue of climate change, the festival has announced. Jain's 'Invisible Demons' is described as a "shocking documentary" about pollution in New Delhi and the "invisible demons" that are the fine particles.


**MOVIES**

- The five documentaries in the sidebar section are, 'Marcher sur l'eau' (Above Water) by Aissa Maiga (Niger-France); 'Animal' by Cyril Dion (France); 'I Am So Sorry' by Zhao Liang (France - China); 'Bigger Than Us' by Flore Vasseur (France); and 'La Panthere des neiges' by Marie Amiguet (France)
- Alongside the new programme, Cannes has announced an environmental action plan to reduce waste and decrease the festival's carbon footprint
- The 74th edition of the Cannes International Film Festival will be held from July 6 to 17



# Sail into yet another year of online classes

Firstly, big congratulations to each and every parent! The last year presented a lot of challenges, especially in our personal lives, and you adapted. Not only did you adapt, you nurtured your children, fed them, guided them, sorted fights, handled tantrums, entertained them and more! Do not take this accomplishment as a trivial one. As we enter into yet another year of online classes, here are some tips that may make this sail a smooth one.

'Netiquettes', 'Routine management', 'Time management' etc., are some words we kept hearing over the last year. I am not again telling 'what' they are, but instead, wish to emphasise on WHY they are important for the child's personal growth.

## A ROUTINE

Children crave familiarity. They feel secure, have a sense of safety and automatically behave better - because they know what to expect. Routine creates a form of conditioning in their minds; and most importantly (for us), it makes our job easier. Yes, there could be

one-off tantrums or other struggles along the way. Try giving them options, like: 'which outfit do you wish to wear?', 'You can decide the story' etc. Getting their participation or giving choices (on what is flexible) makes them feel respected, empowered, and facilitates better cooperation.

## NETIQUETTES

A 'digital footprint' is a permanent one. What footprints are the students leaving behind? On their social media? In comments? In articles?

Do we ensure our children follow class timing correctly? This is the age habits and attitudes are being imbibed. Do we stick to timing that we set between them? Remember, children learn best through modelling.

Once in a class, parents must refrain from nudging or compelling the child to say a right answer or speak up.

Yes, encouragement and prompts are indeed good, but let us ensure it does not cross over to a place where negative emotions are generated inside the little hearts. When we encourage and emphasise more on their effort rather than just the results, their attitude switches to a 'growth-oriented' one rather than 'a temporary results' oriented one.

A growth oriented attitude is a resilient and optimistic one; it urges them to pick themselves up from small failures and try again.

## CLEAR COMMUNICATION

It is important that we are in touch with their teachers and express our expectations with each other right from the start and follow up. Greater clarity in communication will help the school serve the child much better.

## COVERING UP MISTAKES

Most of us are tempted to do this; we don't want them to get hurt, so we cover up for their faults. I cannot reiterate how important it is that children learn to take responsibility for their actions. They need to learn how to handle a situation confidently and respectfully.

Creating accountability is very important and that can be fostered only when they are taught to acknowledge their mistakes. Please remember correcting a child can be done respectfully (and by implementing consequences) without shaming and condemning the child.

Hannah Masood, Counsellor,  
The Choice School, Ernakulam



# IS UTOPIA POSSIBLE?

MY THOUGHTS FROM THE CHAPTER  
RISE OF NATIONALISM IN EUROPE,  
HISTORY, CLASS X, CBSE

Utopia is a vision of society that is so ideal that it is unlikely to exist. We all like to wander away in our dreamland where everything is perfect and there are no worries. More likely than not our dreams are subjected to personal desires and interests. But Frédéric Sorrieu was no such man, he dreamt of a world of only democratic and social republics while aristocracies were just starting to cripple.

*This got me thinking what would a utopian world look like for a millennial like myself in a socio-political sense?* In my eyes, the government was made to parent

us. Making rules, making sure we follow the said rules and if not penalising us and disputing riots among siblings sound very much like the three organs of the government. But what if they grow up and are mature enough they don't need to be parented? In other words, what if everyone just followed and never broke the

law? The legislature would just make the laws and the citizens would follow it. This eliminates the requirement of the executive and judiciary to quite an extent, saving resources and decreasing taxes. A fair and transparent media would still exist to keep the legislature in check. It is true that such a world will

probably not exist anytime in the near future but that's probably what Frédéric Sorrieu also thought. But he stands corrected as Democracy becomes the norm in today's world. It is practically impossible for everyone to stay lawful all the time, but maybe it is something to hope for?

TANISHKA WAGH, class X, Ganges Valley School, Hyderabad

## QUICK REVISION

(a) In each of the following items, sentence A is complete, while sentence B is not. Complete sentence B, making it as similar as possible to sentence A. Write sentence B in each case.

EXAMPLE:

(O) (A) All nooks and corners were checked.

(B) No.....

Answer: (O) No nook or corner was left unchecked.

1 (A) He is so old that he cannot remember events of the past.

(B) He is too.....

2 (A) As soon as the bell rings, the children run out to play.

(B) No sooner.....

3 (A) No other planet is as big as Jupiter.

(B) Jupiter.....

4 (A) He is forgetful as well as careless with his work.

(B) Besides.....

5 (A) It is probable that the ship will reach the shore.

(B) In all.....

(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence.)

1 She turned \_\_\_\_\_ the offer to work at the factory.

2 To everyone's surprise, he turned \_\_\_\_\_ at the party.

3 He broke \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of his speech at

the function.

4 The burglars broke \_\_\_\_\_ the house when the family was away.

5 He agreed to carry \_\_\_\_\_ the manager's

orders.

6 Sita's daughter carried \_\_\_\_\_ the family business when Sita went abroad.

7 He ran \_\_\_\_\_ from home at the age of ten.

8 I ran \_\_\_\_\_ my old friend in the market place.

9 Her aunt looks \_\_\_\_\_ her aging grandparents.

10 The Principal looks \_\_\_\_\_ matters of complaint from teachers and students.

(c) Fill in the blanks in the passage given below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not write the passage, but write the verbs in the correct order. [5]

One day I \_\_\_\_\_ (1)(be) in the lunch line, and there I saw a pile of apples. The teacher-in-charge \_\_\_\_\_ (2)(stare) at me and said, "Just \_\_\_\_\_ (3)(take) one. God \_\_\_\_\_ (4)(watch)". So, I \_\_\_\_\_ (5)(take) an apple, and the line \_\_\_\_\_ (6)(move) along. At the next table there \_\_\_\_\_ (7)(be) a pile of chocolate chip cookies. I \_\_\_\_\_ (8)(not know) what to do. "Psst," the kid behind me \_\_\_\_\_ (9)(whisper). "\_\_\_\_\_ (10)(take) all you want. God's watching the apples."

# Aim for a higher-order Fluency in English

By the time students reach the senior secondary section, they are expected to have acquired a reasonable degree of language proficiency in English language. The course at this level aims at promoting the higher-order language skills, required for academic study as well as the language skills required for the workplace.

The techniques used for teaching the senior graders should promote habits of self-learning and reduce dependence on the teacher.

So, CBSE recommends a multi-skill, learner-centred, activity-based approach, of which there can be many variations.

## SILENT READING

The core classroom activity is likely to be that of silent reading of prescribed/selected texts for comprehension, which can lead to other forms of language learning activities such as role-play, dramatisation, group discussion, writing, etc., although many such activities could be carried out without the preliminary use of textual material.

## READ INDEPENDENTLY

It is important that students be trained to read independently and intelligently, interacting actively with texts, with the use of reference materials (dictionary, thesaurus, etc.) wherever necessary. It is important to remember that students should be encouraged to interpret texts in different ways. Group and pair activities can be resorted to when desired, although many useful language activities can be carried out individually.

## INTERACTING WITH TEXTS

In general, teachers should encourage students to interact actively with texts and with each other. Oral activity (group discussion, etc.) should also be encouraged to build proficiency in speaking, confidence and stall away fear.

The board has suggested a few sample activities to help teachers in conceptualising an effective teaching model and strategy complementing the objectives laid out in the curriculum.

1 Short review/dramatisation of the story, commentary on the characters, Critical evaluation of the plot, storyline and characters.

2 Comparing and contrasting the characters within the story, with other characters in stories by the same author or by different authors.

3 Extrapolating about the story read or life of characters after the story ends defending characters actions in the story.

4 Making an audio story out of the novel/text to be read aloud.

5 Holding a literature fest where students role-play as various characters to interact with each other.

6 Role playing as authors/poets/dramatists, to defend their works and characters.

7 Symposiums and seminars for introducing a book, an author or a theme.

8 Creating graphic novels out of novel or short stories they read.

9 Dramatising incidents from a novel or a story.

10 Creating their own stories.

11 Books of one genre to be read by the whole class.

The students who are the future of the nation should be well versed in writing formal reports about events or occasions and express opinions, facts, arguments in the form of speech or debates, using a variety of accurate sentence structures.



Sriekala Nair, PGT English, DAV International School, Kharghar





## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

### TORCHBEARERS OF THE NATION

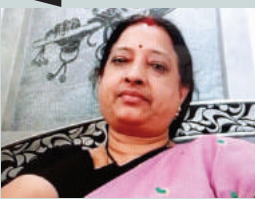
The year 2020, which toppled the whole world, brought about a significant change in the field of education. Things that once seemed to be impossible have found many possibilities this year.

When the whole world was thinking about ways to combat boredom during the lockdown, the only sector that was constantly working to find innovative ways to keep going ahead was the education sector. Though it was quite challenging for the staff and students to adapt to a new Teaching & Learning Process, we, at Gitanjali Devakul were successful in imparting the knowledge and skills to students throughout the year without compromising on the standards of education.

Yes, at the beginning we all felt it was a Herculean task. But "Nothing will stop the Gitanjalians" became our motto for the year.

Our teachers attended various webinars and were trained to use the technology to conduct regular classes. They took this pandemic as an opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn. They were on their toes to deliver the best to

**Sreelekha Suresh,**  
Principal, Gitanjali  
Devakul  
Hyderabad



the students virtually. Instead of the routine lecture method, our classes were made exciting with the videos and PPTs prepared by the teachers, with group discussions and debates, roleplays, hands-on activities, and so on.

Competitions, celebrations, and morning assemblies were also a part of the virtual classes. All this wouldn't have been possible without the support of the management for guiding the teachers and choosing the best virtual platform to conduct the classes. Appreciation from the parents also was encouraging. I would like to salute the torchbearers of the nation, our TEACHERS.



## IMBIBING ENGAGING LEARNING TECHNIQUES

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." - Benjamin Franklin

Teachers of Army Public School Bolarum attended a week-long training workshop conducted under the guidance of principal Smitha Govind. The teachers imbibed the expertise of resource persons who took several workshops on diverse topics. Every day the educators kick-started their session with yoga for mental and physical wellness by their in-house yoga instructors, Abha Rao and Jayashree SH, who are expert yoga practitioners and faculty members at the school.

The 10-day long training programmes ranged from topics such as 'Leader in me' by Dr Kannan Girish, an established Psychiatrist, Founder & CEO of Live Life Education Private Ltd., 'Cyber Security' by Group Captain P A Naidu (Retd.), with three decades of experience in the IAF and now a transactional legal practitioner,



and 'Unleash the Unstoppable' by Nadeem Kazi, a noted motivational speaker, author and corporate trainer. These sessions engaged the teachers with insightful readings, fun activities, and productive discussions while guiding them to adapt themselves effectively to the

changing and present-day scenario in education.

Furthermore, academic workshops which helped hone teaching skills were also organised.

Sessions on 'Blended Learning-Online Teaching' by Sai Leela and Shilpa M, 'Competency based Learning'

**Army Public School**  
Bolarum

by Vaishali Dhabe, 'Artificial Intelligence/Robotics' by Pritesh Jain, 'Digi-camp' by Jayashree Parakkatil, were conducted successfully. These sessions by skilled academic mentors provided teaching strategies to make learning both interactive and productive. 'Reimagining the English Classroom' by Preetika Venkatakrishnan, vice president of product and training from Karadi Path Education Company, had interactive exercises where the host emphasised on the skills and effective teaching methodologies which the teachers must employ for an impactful teaching-learning to take place in an English classroom.

The faculty conveyed their gratitude to the school management, principal and all the hosts and participants who helped to engage them in an enriching and meaningful dialogue through the workshops.



### Fitness on Two Wheels

Students of Gitanjali Devshala celebrated the World Bicycle Day with much enthusiasm. The young cyclists learnt the essence of simplicity, good health and conservation of resources and also the sheer joy of riding.

The houses and the verandas echoed with the sound of the cycle bells and laughter of the little ones as they rode together online during the event.

The parents

**Gitanjali Devshala**  
Hyderabad

were encouraged to show them images of unique cycles from around the world and talk about their own cycling experiences with the children. Some of the parents also cycled along with their children, encouraging the use of the environment friendly mode of transport.



## INITIATING VACCINATION DRIVE



**Pallavi Model School**  
Boduppal

Pallavi Model School, Boduppal in collaboration with Rainbow Hospitals brought the coveted Covishield vaccine to its doorsteps to help teachers, staff, parents and the people in the vicinity of the campus to get vaccinated. Almost 1500 people registered themselves for the first dose as well as the second dose. The registered people reached the school based on the time slots given.

The vaccination drive was conducted by following the Covid norms like social dis-

tancing and sanitization. Extensive arrangements were made to ensure all those who reached the school would be administered the vaccine without any waiting time.

The parents, teachers and sub staff expressed their gratitude to the management and the principal for making such elaborate arrangements to provide the vaccine without

any hassles.

Director Sushil Kumar said that they would always be at the helm of affairs to fulfil their responsibility towards society. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Tanuja thanked the parents for registering and using the opportunity to get themselves vaccinated.

Expressing gratitude, the teachers also said that as soon as the pandemic started the management provided insurance to all of them and ensured their well-being.

Pallavi Group of Institutions in partnership with Apollo Hospitals organised a vaccination drive recently at Pallavi International School, Gandipet. All the staff who had registered were vaccinated for free while the others were provided a paid service.

There were over 1300 registrations. The drive started at around 10 am and continued until 5 pm. All those who had registered were allotted time slots to avoid any crowding.

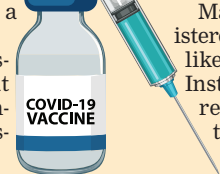
There were even considerations given to the senior citizens for whom it is difficult to wait in long queues. People were instructed to make their registrations on the Cowin app as well.

It was strictly ensured that no body without a mask was allowed into the premises and social distancing

**Pallavi International School**  
Gandipet

was also maintained throughout the programme.

Mano Israel, one of the registered persons, stated, "I would like to thank Pallavi Group of Institutions for taking up this responsibility and starting the vaccination drive."



## ELON MUSK INSPIRING ICONS

### LAUNCHING BIG DREAMS!

When I heard Elon Musk's name in the news I was curious to know about him. I started reading about his life and work and it inspired me. His life was not at all easy, he worked hard to reach this position. He loved books very much, developed many games in his childhood and even launched rockets inspired by the books.

Elon Musk is the CEO of two big companies, Space X and Tesla Motors. Today Tesla is a leading motor company, it also set up a branch in Bengaluru last year.

Space X launched many rockets in series, some of them failed but others scripted major stories. It has developed technology to reuse disposed parts of rockets. Elon Musk now has dreams of living on Mars. I want to be a great person like him.



**SHRITEJ KOPPULA,** class V, Little Flower High School, Hyderabad



## Express YOURSELF

### LET THEM FLY HIGH!

Once, I noticed few boys separating bundles of newspapers on the pavement. I overheard one of them saying how important it was to remember which papers to go to which house leaving no scope for making any blunders. Suddenly, a thought struck my mind. If these friends of mine were so systematic and responsible at such a tender age, what wonders would they do if sent to school!

We often see children working at bakery shops, book stalls, ration shops, as domestic helpers, newspaper distributors and doing many other odd jobs. There has been a significant rise in the percentage of children who have

been compelled to work due to financial crisis caused by Covid-19 pandemic and closure of schools. This has harmed children physically, socially and morally.

Every year, June 12 is celebrated as World Day against Child Labour. To mark the significance of this day, let us take an oath to eradicate child labour in whatever way we can.

Every child has a dream to pursue. Let us give them their rights and allow them to fulfil their dreams.



**GITESH GOTIPILLI,** class VI 'C', Gitanjali Primary School

### Know What's on Your Plate

Did you know that of the 1,06,459 food samples analysed by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Lab in 2018-19, 28.56% showed signs of adulteration? Food adulteration is contaminating food by adding impure, cheap, or unnecessary ingredients. Despite various actions and penalties, adulteration thrives in India.

Generally, products such as milk,

spices, dals are adulterated to increase quantity and make profits for the manufacturers. Having such food is toxic and leads to several health issues. A 2012 study conducted by the FSSAI found that milk in India was contaminated with chalk powder and urea, which can cause cancer and heart issues. Consumers need to be aware of the



food they purchase. We should wash fruits and vegetables, store food products properly, and never buy products unless they have certification mark on the wrapper. At the industry level, strict laws and checks need to be enforced to prevent adulteration.

**AMULYA N,** class X, Ganges Valley School

### The other friend

During quarantine, or as I like to call it 'The Great Quarantine,' I read many books. I am the book-worm of my class. I have many fantasy books, some crime and mystery novels. I also got a Kindle e-reader as one of my birthday gifts. Sometimes, reading makes me forget time. A good example of this is me reading my Kindle in a dark room from 11 pm to midnight. Sometimes I add 30 minutes more to my reading time. Sometimes I feel alone as no one is there to discuss the books I have read or books which I have heard about. So, I downloaded some very user-friendly apps. Over there I have found many people who discuss the books I have read.

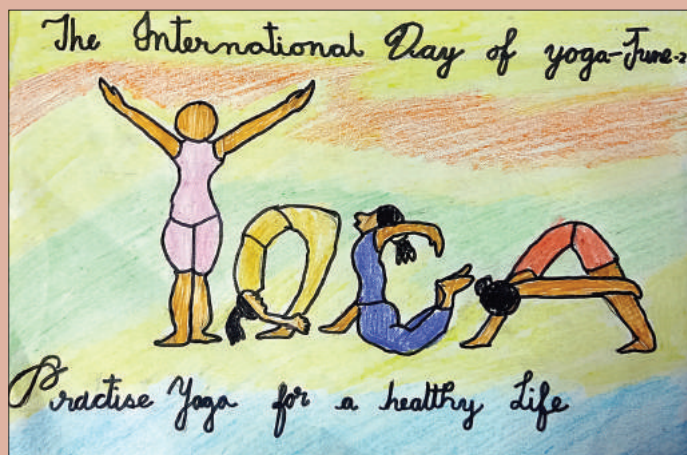
I also bought a tabletop role playing fantasy game called Dungeons and Dragons. It is a board game which requires a lot of reading, so that was good as well.

During quarantine, I couldn't meet my friends, but I certainly made a different type of friend; books. I used to read books before quarantine, but I have not read these many books before. So, to those non-book readers out there, do try some great books. I am sure you will fall into the trap that is reading books. Here are some great book series, The Shiva Trilogy, Harry Potter, Percy Jackson. I wish to publish a book in the near future.

**JASWANT SRINIVASAN,** class VIII, Sister Nivedita School, Hyderabad



## Painters' Gallery

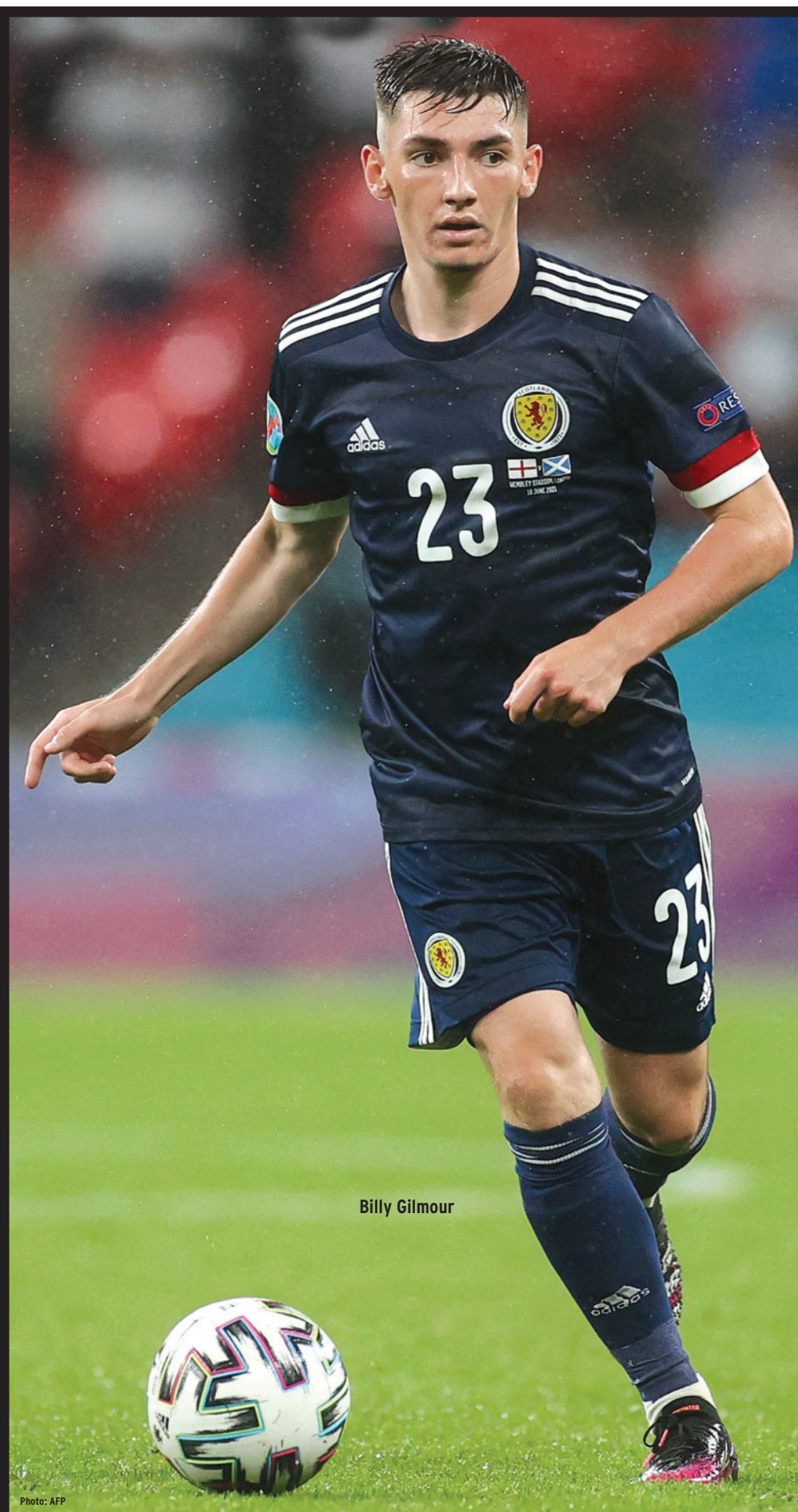


**HEALTH FIRST:**  
ELUPARAMBIL  
RANJIT EESHWAR  
NAIR, class IV, Sister  
Nivedita School,  
Ameerpet

**ENCHANTING:**  
GURU SIRI, class VIII  
A, Pallavi Model  
School, Alwal







Billy Gilmour

# SCOTLAND TURN TO GILMOUR TO BEAT MODRIC

After a 23-year wait to even reach a major tournament, more history beckons for Scotland on Tuesday if they can beat Croatia at Hampden to reach the knockout stage for the first time at Euro 2020

**A** hard-earned 0-0 draw against England at Wembley has restored belief in the Scottish support that had been shaken by a 2-0 defeat to the Czech Republic in their opening match. Victory against the World Cup finalists should be enough to seal Scotland's place in the last 16 as one of the four best third-placed sides from the six groups, should they not pip England into second place in Group D.

## Inspired move to back Gilmour

Steve Clarke's decision to throw Chelsea midfielder Billy Gilmour in for his first international start on the biggest stage proved inspired as the 20-year-old outshone the Three Lions' plethora of Premier League stars to walk away with the man-of-the-match award. At just 5ft 7in (1.7m), Gilmour has had to use his speed of thought and fleetness of foot to become a rising star for club and country. "Scotland have found a playmaker to build around for the next decade," former Scotland captain Graeme Souness wrote in The Times. "A proper footballer who can keep the ball in tight areas and does not give it away."

## Modric not best placed

That description fits perfectly with Croatia's own pass master Luka Modric.

Now, 35, the Real Madrid midfielder still carries his country's expectations on his shoulders. His starring role in Croatia's run to the World Cup final three years ago saw Modric become the only man since 2007 to break Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo's grip on the Ballon d'Or. However, Modric has so far cut a frustrated figure at the European Championship.

**Nothing fazes him, and that's why I believe he can get as many caps as he wants for Scotland. He's got a huge future ahead of him but the here and now is pretty good as well.**

**CAPTAIN ANDY ROBERTSON, on Gilmour's emergence**

## Croatia lack balance

Like Scotland, Croatia also need to win at Hampden to have any chance of progress to the last 16 after taking just one point from their opening two games. "We're far from how we used to play," said Modric after a 1-1 draw with the Czech Republic on Monday. Without the energy of Ivan Rakitic in midfield and the cutting edge provided by the bulldozing presence of Mario Mandzukic up front, both of whom have since retired from interna-

tional football, Croatia have appeared one-dimensional in their opening two games. "Right now we're not the Croatia we all want," added Modric, who has already played 61 games for club and country this season. "We all have to improve, from the first player to the last."

## Prospects bright for Scotland

Scotland may not have Croatia's experience when it comes coping with the rigours of three energy-sapping tournament games in eight days. But they will have 12,000 of the Tartan Army on their side at Hampden in their quest for history. More importantly, Gilmour's emergence is the latest case of Scottish players having the technical quality on top of the tenacity to compete with the likes of Modric. The future may look bright for Scotland, but after so long away from the top table of international football, there are no guarantees an opportunity like this will come around again.

Before a ball was kicked at Euro 2020, Clarke remarked that his players were already "heroes" but could become "legends" by making the last 16. Many of legendary figure of Scottish football's past such as Souness, Kenny Dalglish and Denis Law, tried and failed to make it beyond the group stage of a major tournament. Less than a month after lifting the Champions League, Gilmour can write himself into national folklore on his first appearance at Hampden. **AFP**

# INDIA PROTEST 'UNFAIR' TOKYO RULES

IOA says Japanese govt's measures for athletes from Covid-hit nations will mean athletes will lose crucial training days

India's Olympic body has slammed as "unfair" strict rules imposed by the Japanese government on athletes from several Covid-hit nations for the Tokyo Games starting next month. Tokyo 2020 organisers said Monday that additional measures will be used to reduce infection risks from several countries, including India, that have seen "significant impact from variants" of Covid-19. The protocols will involve daily testing of athletes for a week before they depart for Japan and for them to "refrain from coming into contact with other teams for three days after they arrive" in Japan.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) said the rules would cause athletes to lose three crucial training days. "Athletes are allowed to arrive in the Games village only five days before their

event," IOA president Narinder Batra and secretary Rajeev Mehta said in a joint statement released on Saturday. "Now three days will be wasted, this is the time the athletes need to be moving towards their mode to peak... highly unfair for Indian athletes, who have worked hard for five years, to be discriminated against just five days before the Olympics."

## Training will be impacted

The sports administrators said 11 countries, including India, Pakistan and the UK, would be affected. Where can athletes train? it asked, because "practice/training areas are never empty and athletes and officials of other NOCs are present all the time. Where and when will the athletes have their breakfast, lunch, dinner during these three days, as everyone has food in the

Games village food hall where all athletes and officials of other NOCs (National Olympic Committees) are present all the time," the statement added.

The Tokyo 2020 organisers said in a statement, "For participants from areas such as India that have seen significant impact from variants, it is necessary that they follow more stringent rules than those outlined in the (athletes) Playbook, and are similar to the existing border control measures." The organisers did not clarify whether athletes from the affected countries would be allowed to train in the three days after their arrival. Batra said last week that Indian athletes will be fully vaccinated before the Games, starting July 23. The country has eased some lockdown restrictions in recent weeks as it emerges from a brutal surge in infections and deaths in April and May. **AFP**

## SPONSORSHIP POURS IN

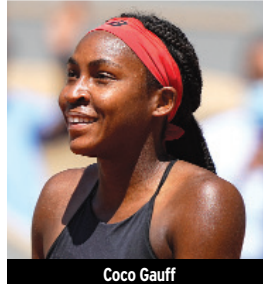
India's cricket board (BCCI) has offered \$1.35 million in financial support to the country's National Olympic Committee, which dropped Chinese sportswear maker Li Ning as its official kit partner citing public sentiment ahead of the Tokyo Games. The BCCI said it hoped the "monetary gesture" would help Indian athletes bring home a record number of medals from Tokyo. Chinese companies have faced a backlash in India since 20 Indian soldiers were killed in a clash with Chinese forces in a Himalayan border dispute last year. Earlier this month, the Indian Olympic Association

(IOA) ended its ₹ 60 million deal with Li Ning two months before it was due to expire after the Tokyo Games. The IOA also received support from MPL Sports Foundation, which came on board as principal sponsor in a deal worth ₹ 80 million that covers the Tokyo Olympics, and Asian and Commonwealth Games next year. The IOA also welcomed JSW Group and dairy product brand Amul as its Tokyo partners last week, each bringing in ₹ 10 million. "We have been negotiating with different firms not just for Tokyo but also for the future events," IOA President Narinder Batra said. **REUTERS**

# GAUFF RELAXED AS SHE PREPARES FOR WIMBLEDON RETURN

Coco Gauff returns to the scene of her Grand Slam breakthrough at Wimbledon later this month but the American says she is not feeling any pressure to repeat her heroics of 2019 when she reached the fourth round as a 15-year-old. Gauff will play at the Eastbourne International as she prepares for another tilt at Wimbledon, cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now 17 and ranked world No. 23, Gauff said her Wimbledon debut felt like "a long time ago".

"People might expect me to feel pressure going into it, but I don't really feel any pressure," said Gauff, who reached the quarter-final at the French Open ear-



Coco Gauff

lier this month before losing to Barbora Krejickova. "I'm just going to have fun and enjoy it. I don't really want to push myself to compare my result. 'I want to do better than when I first went there. I'm thankful for that experience and it definitely helped me as a player and a person.'"

Wimbledon begins on June 28. **REUTERS**

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** Which team beat Croatia 1-0 in the European Championship for the first time in nine attempts?

- a) Germany ☐ b) England ☐  
c) Denmark ☐ d) Finland ☐

**Q2:** Which Indian cricket legend was inducted into the illustrious ICC hall of fame?

- a) Vinoo Mankad ☐ b) Pankaj Roy ☐  
c) Polly Umrigar ☐ d) Lala Amarnath ☐

**Q3:** Which cricket team currently tops in the ICC

test rankings, overtaking India?

- a) England ☐ b) Australia ☐  
c) Pakistan ☐ d) New Zealand ☐

**Q4:** Who holds the current world record of 57.45 seconds?

- a) Regan Smith ☐ b) Taylor McKeown ☐  
c) Kaylee McKeown ☐ d) Emma McKeon ☐

**Q5:** Name the Men's doubles pair who became the first French pair to win their home Grand Slam twice.

- a) Benoît Paire and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga ☐  
b) Nicolas Mahut and Pierre - Hugues ☐  
c) Richard Gasquet and Nicolas Mahut ☐  
d) None of the above ☐

**Q6:** Czech Tennis star Barbora Krejickova completed singles - doubles title sweep at the French Open 2021. Name her doubles partner.



Barbora Krejickova

Photo: AP

- a) Katerina Siniakova ☐ b) Petra Kvitová ☐  
c) Karolína Plíšková ☐ d) Barbora Strýcová ☐

**Q7:** Who won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2021?

- a) Pierre Gasly ☐ b) Lewis Hamilton ☐  
c) Max Verstappen ☐ d) Sergio Perez ☐

**Q8:** Which player won the inaugural edition of the 2021 Belgrade Open Tennis Tournament?

- a) Stefanos Tsitsipas ☐ b) Rafael Nadal ☐  
c) Novak Djokovic ☐ d) Dominic Thiem ☐

**Q9:** What is the rank of the Indian women's Hockey team in the latest International Hockey Federation world rankings?

- a) 5th ☐ b) 9th ☐ c) 6th ☐ d) 10th ☐

**Q10:** Which Indian boxer won her 2nd Asian Boxing Championships gold in the 75kg final in Dubai?

- a) Pooja Rani ☐ b) Diksha Arora ☐  
c) Mahira Verma ☐ d) Nikita Sen ☐

**Q11:** Which Indian Olympic-bound wrestler has failed his dope test?

- a) Anshu Malik ☐ b) Sandeep Singh Mann ☐  
c) Sumit Malik ☐ d) Satyawart Kadiyan ☐

**ANSWERS:** 1. b. England 2. a. Vinoo Mankad  
3. d. New Zealand 4. c. Kaylee McKeown  
5. b. Nicolas Mahut and Pierre - Hugues  
6. a. Katerina Siniakova 7. d. Sergio Perez  
8. c. Novak Djokovic 9. b. 9th 10. a. Pooja Rani  
11. c. Sumit Malik