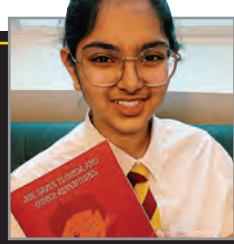




THE TIMES OF INDIA

www.toistudent.com
TODAY'S EDITION

➤ Fourteen-year-old bestselling author talks about her adventures in writing
PAGE 2



➤ Educators and students share their views on various issues engulfing the nation and the world
PAGE 3



➤ Six reasons why India beat Australia 2-1 in the Test series
PAGE 4


STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

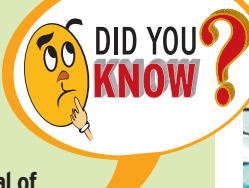

WEB EDITION
[CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2](#)
US REJOINS PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT; BIDEN TO CONVENE WORLD LEADERS TALK ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WILL IT USHER IN A NEW COMMITMENT TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Biden administration is planning to host the world leaders in a climate summit on the Earth Day, according to people familiar with the matter—a sign of the new President's commitment to not just rejoin the Paris carbon-cutting accord but also strengthen it. The US-hosted meeting on April 22 could be virtual, one of the people said, similar to a United Nation's climate summit in December, which featured six

hours of remarks from the world leaders. However, they only offered incremental steps to combat climate change. The US-organised event, which could be announced next week as part of a package of climate-related policies, is likely to focus on major world emitters of greenhouse gases. Biden has made climate change one of his main priorities, and has set a goal of achieving a zero-emission energy grid by 2035, and carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Paris Agreement, a legally-binding international treaty on climate change, adopted in 2015, aims at limiting global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to the pre-industrial levels. India is one of the few countries, which is on track to meet the 2009 goal of limiting the global average temperature increase to not more than 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level



WHY CLIMATE CHANGE SHOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY?

1 RISING TEMPERATURES: The year 2020 was one of the three warmest years on record and rivalled 2016 for the top spot, indicating the pace of the 'human-induced' climate change, which is now as powerful as the force of nature, the UN weather agency has said. All the five data sets surveyed by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) concur that 2011-2020 was the warmest decade on record, in a persistent long-term climate change trend. The warmest-six years have all been since 2015, with 2016, 2019 and 2020, being the top three

2 THE ARCTIC IS MELTING FASTER THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD: According to environmentalists, the Arctic sea ice is melting at an alarming rate, especially during the boreal or the northern hemisphere summer. The trend, which started in the 1980s, is continuing to increase at an alarming rate. The temperatures in the Arctic have warmed twice as fast as the global average. Scientists have warned that it is likely that the Arctic summer sea ice could disappear as early as 2035

3 CO2 LEVELS CONTINUE TO RISE: According to the WMO, despite lockdown-related fall in emissions, the global greenhouse emissions increased in 2020. In May 2020, the CO2 levels hit 417ppm, highest in human history

4 LOSS OF FORESTS: Since 1990, the world has lost 178 million hectares of forest. In 2020, the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest surged to a 12-year high

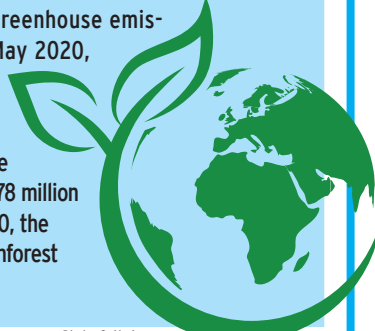
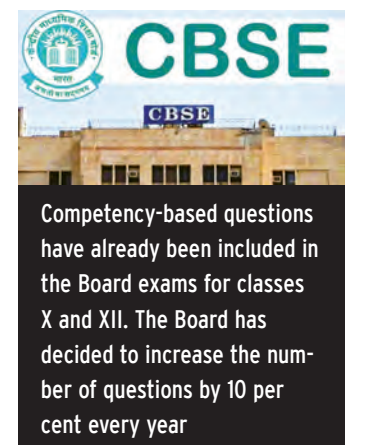


Photo: Getty Images

Spotlight

TWO LEVELS OF ENGLISH AND SANSKRIT FROM 2021-22 SESSION: CBSE

For the academic year 2021-22, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), is all set to introduce English and Sanskrit language papers in two levels. Presently, the Board offers Maths and Hindi at two levels to reduce the stress levels of students. In addition, beginning next academic year, the Board will introduce improvement tests as part of NEP's implementation of the national education policy.



Competency-based questions have already been included in the Board exams for classes X and XII. The Board has decided to increase the number of questions by 10 per cent every year

Ladakh to make debut in Republic Day parade on Rajpath


There is a palpable excitement among the members of the Ladakh contingent for the Republic Day Parade, as the young union territory is all set to make its debut in the extravaganza on Rajpath with a beautiful tableau, depicting the iconic Thikse monastery and its cultural heritage. The tableau prominently depicts the historic Thikse monastery located on the top of a hill in Thikse in Leh district, and is one of the most-visited tourist sites in the region.

➤ The Union Territory of Ladakh was created in 2019, after the central government bifurcated the state of Jammu and Kashmir into UTs

➤ A total of 17 states and UTs will be represented on the Rajpath in this year's parade through their vibrant tableaux, besides that of various ministries and the three Armed Forces.

DISCOVERED


A NEW SPECIES OF ORANGE AND BLACK BAT

A new species of orange and black bat from the Nimba mountains in West Africa has been discovered by scientists from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The finding of the orange bat was described as striking, as the species is believed to be critically-endangered.

Bats play critical ecological roles in West Africa, dispersing seeds, pollinating plants and keeping insect species in check. Yet, they are persecuted throughout the region because of superstitions, and these ideas have been compounded by the animals' association with Ebola and other diseases, say experts. Like many other species, they are also threatened by habitat loss

Social influence may induce people to follow Covid rules

People are more likely to follow Covid-19 restrictions based on what their friends do, rather than their own principles, a new study suggests. The findings indicated that the best predictor of people's compliance to the rules was how much their close circle complied with the rules, which had an even stronger effect than people's own approval of the rules.



1 The researchers found that people didn't simply follow the rules, if they felt vulnerable or were personally convinced. Most-diligent followers of the guidelines were those whose friends and family also followed the rules. Close circle's compliance had an even stronger effect than people's own approval of the rules, the researchers said

2 This discovery applied to all the age groups, genders, countries, and was independent of the severity of the pandemic

3 The study also revealed that people, who were particularly-bonded to their country were more likely to stick to the lockdown rules – the country was like a family, someone for whom, one is willing to stick their neck out

4 The findings also suggested that including experts in human and social behaviour is crucial when planning the next stages of the pandemic response, such as how to ensure that people comply with extended lockdowns or vaccination recommendations

VIEWPOINT



FACIAL RECOGNITION TECH DEPLOYED IN UP TO HELP WOMEN IN DISTRESS

The Lucknow police have deployed facial recognition technology backed by security cameras that will read expressions of women in distress and alert their nearest police station.

➤ The technology will use artificial intelligence (AI) to read the facial expressions of women

➤ The new project is being helmed under the 'Mission Shakti' programme that was launched in October 2020. It is projected to help reduce cases of harassment of women, who are subjected to stalking and threat in the city

➤ The facial recognition technology is touted to alert the nearest police station even before the victims dial the police helpline. It will activate the cameras upon detecting facial expressions of women, and trigger the system to notify the police

Q Is it a good move? Should other cities follow suit?

Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com You can also post your comments at toistudent.com

TOUCH ID COULD RETURN WITH IPHONE 13

If reports are to go by, Apple could be bringing back its touch ID technology in its 2021 iPhone, in the form of an on-screen fingerprint reader to help users unlock their smart-

phones without having to remove their masks. Rather than being a replacement for face ID, the touch ID would be an additional method of unlocking the iPhone, according to the report.

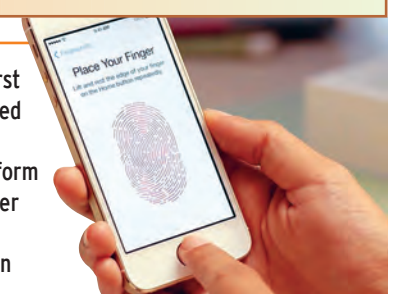
➤ The report, by Bloomberg, indicates that changes to this year's iPhone will be minor

➤ However, one of the biggest changes is expected to be the addition of an on-screen fingerprint reader, which would be offered alongside the current face ID and passcode options

➤ According to Bloomberg, instead of reintroducing a home button, the touch ID technology would be embedded within the new iPhone screen



Apple first introduced Touch ID in 2013, in the form of a fingerprint reader integrated into the iPhone's home button



NEWS IN CLUES

Which Indian politician authored the books 'An Era of Darkness', 'Show Business' and 'Riot'?

CLUE 1: He also served as the minister of state for external affairs (2009-10) and HRD minister (2012-14) in the UPA government

CLUE 2: In 2006, he lost to South Korea's Ban Ki-moon for the UN secretary general post

CLUE 3: He was India's most-followed politician on Twitter, until he was overtaken by PM Narendra Modi in 2013

ANSWER: SHASHI THAROOR. At a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology, headed by the Congress leader, Facebook, which owns WhatsApp, clarified that it had not "functionally-changed" the privacy policy, and that it was the same as what it had been in existence, since 2016

Meet 14-yr-old bestselling author and her adventures in writing

malini.menon@timesgroup.com

Ashna Dua published her book 'Joe Saves Florida and Other Adventures', which became a bestseller on OTT the very first day. She is a student of Symbiosis International School, Pune and is in IG1. Dua talks to Times NIE on skills, dreams and focus that one needs while penning a book and charting your life story.

What do you think made your book a best-seller? Share with us some experiences of yours while building the plot/creating the novel:

I'm so amazed that my book became a bestseller on Amazon on the first day itself! I think that the reason my book achieved this title is because of the amount of overwhelming support from people all around the world. My family and I had shared the release date of the book beforehand, and people from around the world started sending me encouraging messages. I am very grateful to everyone.

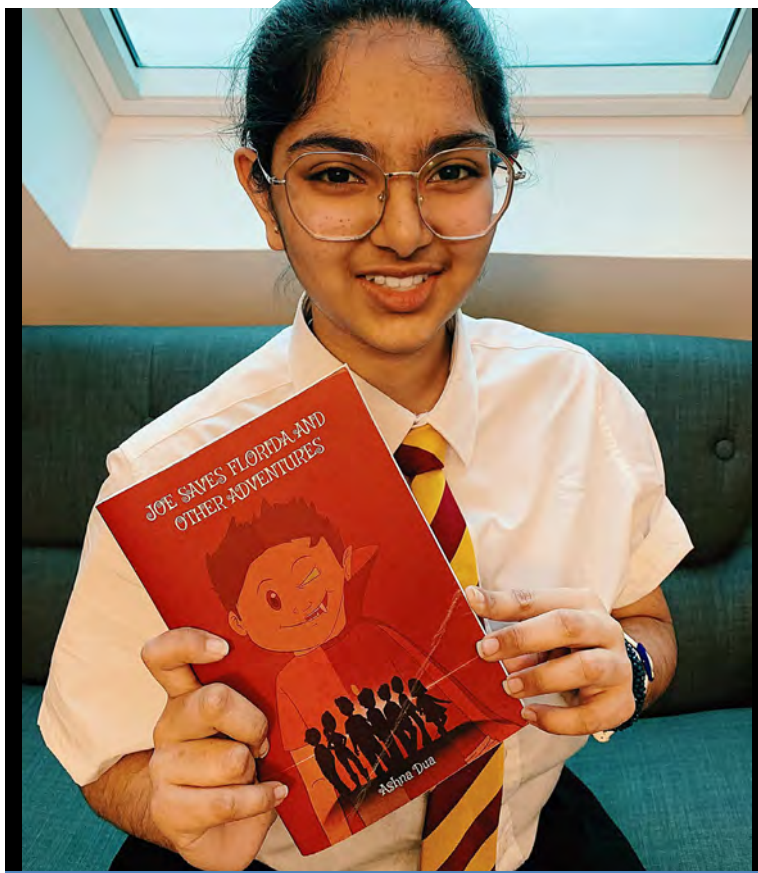
Your journey of writing:

My journey has been quite interesting. There were a lot of times that I rewrote scenes that I really liked but didn't fit in with the plot well. I also deleted a few characters and multiple adventures that weren't written right.

On one such occasion, I had been editing a chapter into which I had put in a lot of effort. And when I say, 'a lot of effort', I mean this chapter was one of the most edited, most time-consuming chapters I'd written. It was a fun, light-hearted chapter with a small amusement park mystery, a different sort from my usual. Joe and one of his friends had to discover who was sabotaging an amusement park and why? Unfortunately, when I went over the book one more time, I realised that this story didn't really fit in. It stuck out like a sore thumb and eventually, I chose to delete it.

Amid your studies, how did you take out time for your book and how many hours did you put into it?

At the time when I was writing the book, I was in a much lower grade, so I didn't have a lot of homework. This gave me time to write. I was too young for a phone,



WRITING INVOLVES MORE THAN LANGUAGE SKILLS. DO YOU AGREE? ACCORDING TO YOU, WHAT QUALITIES ARE NECESSARY TO BE A GOOD AUTHOR?

I agree that writing involves more than language skills. What those skills are, however, depends on what you intend to write. For example, if you are writing a biography, you need to know about the person's life. If you are writing an encyclopedia or any other non-fiction book, you need factual knowledge about the topic at hand. For a book like mine, or any other fictional book, skills you require other than good language, are, first and foremost, creativity. You need to have the ability to think beyond the regular plots and think of something that interests you as well as the reader. Besides that, I think you need to know how to communicate through your writing and need to be able to see things open-mindedly, from different perspectives. You also need to be dedicated to your writing and have to adapt easily to various situations (This could come in handy when writing about different cultures, eras, problems.)

so there were no technological distractions. I found it rather easy to make time in my schedule to write. This was also just a hobby for me back then and I didn't expect to get it published.

'Joe Saves Florida and Other Adventures' took months of work just to write. I think it went up to a year in total. After that, once I decided to get it published, it took another eight months. It was edited several times. This book was a very long project.

Every writer faces a block. What did you do when you faced such a situation?

Writer's blocks are normal. What matters is that you don't give up on your hard work because of this.

There was a point while I was writing my book, I was stuck on what to write about and completely lost interest in the book. When this happened, I took a break from writing the book. I wrote other things when possible to make sure that I was still practising my writing skills and did not get rusty. I also took this time to read books. This gave me ideas on what would interest readers.

Who is your favourite author and why?

I read a lot so it's very tough for me to choose one author who is my favourite. I also read a great variety of fictional

books. (eg. Adventure, Fairytale retellings, Mystery, Horror, etc.)

However, I like a few of these authors very much:

➤ **JK Rowling** (I love 'Harry Potter' and her other books are really good too)

➤ **Melanie Cellier** (Fairytale retellings are some of my favourite types of books to read and Ms Cellier's books – all of them – are amazing reads)

➤ **Enid Blyton** (A childhood favourite, her books still make me smile whenever I read them)

➤ **Carolyn Keene** (The 'Nancy Drew' Series are very well known and the mystery in them is very intriguing and keeps

INTERVIEW

you interested till the end)

KM Shea (Again, like Ms Cellier, her books – Fairytale retellings or otherwise – are sweet and heartwarming)

➤ **Robert Thier** (His 'Storm and Silence' series and 'Warning! Fairy tales' are hilarious. His other books are also some of the best stories ever)

One of my favourite books also happens to be 'In 27 Days' by Allison Gervais.

What do you plan to pursue in life?

I'm not sure which career I want to pur-

sue when I grow up. For now, my plan is to keep all my options open so I can decide what exactly I'm interested in becoming. In the meantime, I will continue writing!

If you were to describe yourself just in one line ...

Fourteen-year-old bestselling author, who likes to read, dream and explore the world.

What other hobbies do you have besides writing?

I adore listening to music and you'll always find me listening to some song or another. I play the guitar, love to read and skate in my free time. I also like learning new languages or playing with my younger siblings. I have recently started a blog on my website ashnadua.com.

Your favourite character from any book and why?

My favourite character would probably be Hermione Granger from 'Harry Potter', or Lillian Linton from 'Storm and Silence'. These two girls fight for themselves and don't let anyone walk over them. They're some of the best female characters I have read about in any books.

YOUR TIPS TO YOUNG AUTHORS ON HOW THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY WORKS AND HOW TO PEN A BOOK?

The first thing about writing a book is to jot down your thought before you forget it. This could be a story idea, an idea for a plot twist, an idea for an ending, just one scene in particular or even just a character you want to write about. You then elaborate and base your story around that. The story eventually comes together as you keep writing it. Once you are done, you can always go back and edit your writing, so you don't need to have everything planned out before starting out. When publishing your story, make sure people know about your book and when it will be released. It's important to build an interest for the reader. Tell your friends and family to spread the word about your book and make sure that you enjoyed writing your story as much as the readers will enjoy reading it.

Fashion and beyond

BRAND NEW COLOURS TO DAZZLE SPRING SUMMER 2021

Every season throws some interesting colours that bring freshness to the world of fashion and creativity through clothes. Check out the colours that are ready to take this year by storm



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Trend Color
Spring/Summer
2021

Good Gray
122 - 66 - 02

GOOD GRAY
Labelled as the counterbalance colour, it is about minimalism and balance. Good Gray also has a sustainable outlook, illustrating the raw hue of recycled materials combined. With subtle blue tint, it is grounding and calming.

Trend Color
Spring/Summer
2021

Lemon Sherbet
040 - 85 - 28

LEMON SHERBET
This colour is all about the feel-good factor of the sun, yet calming and not too loud. Lemon Sherbet will have broad appeal across genders and product categories.

A.I. AQUA

This is our tech-inspired hero colour for the season with a digital quality that's set to have key relevance. A.I. Aqua will offer true versatility, working brilliantly in summer and in winter too. It can look both sporty and trend forward, making it perfect for designs that inhabit the blurred space between active and fashion.

Trend Color
Spring/Summer
2021

Quiet Wave
072 - 68 - 24

QUIET WAVE

Greens have been gaining ground for several seasons – and in a broader range of hues – the freshest tones will gravitate towards cooler levels. Quiet Wave has an optimistic and futuristic quality, making it a perfect mood-setter for the start of a new decade.

COLOR
OF THE YEAR
2021

A.I. Aqua
098 - 59 - 30

OXY FIRE

The extrovert colour for the season – a fiery, saturated hue is guaranteed to spark reactions. It builds on the commercial success of red and orange, with a complexity that fuses elements of both. It energises and enlivens products and collections. Many brands are working on this colour.

Trend Color
Spring/Summer
2021

Oxy Fire
015 - 50 - 36

BREAD BROWN

The pandemic inspired many of us to dabble in baking bread and use our cooking skills in the kitchen for unwinding our passions. The au-



tumn colour palette has kickstarted the season, but it seems to go on to a lighter shade of brown for spring-summer, depicting chocolate milkshake and cake tones.

TRENDSETTING

Fermented foods set to rule 2021

With the focus on healthy and immunity-boosting food this year, fermented food is topping the list of 2021 culinary trends. 'This is the year of sourdough bread, yoghurt, apple cider, kimchi salad, and kefir, global polls have stated, due to the many nutritious benefits, these foods offer, including being rich sources of probiotics. Check out the list of fermented foods you can make at home:



Kefir

Add milk kefir grains to a bowl/jar of milk. You can either boil it on a gas stove or heat it in a microwave. Wait till the milk is cultured and its texture changes. Once done, remove the grains and refrigerate the kefir.

Yoghurt

Heat some milk for a prolonged time. Remove from the stove and add some yoghurt maker or leftover yoghurt. Cover it and keep it in a warm place overnight.



Sauerkraut

A cousin of kimchi, sauerkraut is easy to make. Chopped cabbage, salt and caraway seeds are added to a jar and fermented for 3 to 10 days.

Kimchi salad

In a bowl, add salt to chopped cabbage, then add water. Cover it and leave for 1-2 hours. Drain the water and add grated garlic, peeled and chopped ginger, granulated sugar, red pepper flakes, chopped radish. Mix well and store it in a jar for 1-5 days.

Pickled veggies

Thinly slice cucumbers, summer squash, ginger, cut red onion, peeled carrots. Boil vinegar and water and add salt. For flavours, you can add herbs like dill, oregano, whole spices, etc. Put all the veggies in a jar, add boiled vinegar and seal them.



Lassi

Take plain yoghurt, crushed ice, water, sugar and salt. Blend all the ingredients in a blender and serve in a tall glass.

Apple Cider

Smash ripened apples within a big container, using a rolling pin. Filter the juice from pulp using a fine cloth. Add dry and liquid brewing yeasts to the juice for it to ferment.



TNN



A captivating annual fete

Jain Heritage A Cambridge School celebrated its 12th Virtual Annual Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. This year the theme for Annual Day was 'Beyond 2020' which was presented exuberantly with spectacular performances by the students.

The programme commenced with the formal function. Principal Mona Mehdi extended a warm welcome to all and read out the annual report of the school. Academic director K Lakshmi Rao enlightened the audience by delivering a capti-

vatating and informative speech. This was followed by an inspiring speech by CEO Chandrashekhar DP who enthused the audience with his words of wisdom. Academic Excellence Awards and Outstanding Student Awards were also virtually presented. The chief guest for the day was Vishal Roychand, an eminent personality and a man of wisdom whose inspiring words motivated everyone on how we can keep our hopes alive during these challenging times.

The programme was followed by spectacular performances in the form of a recording comprising skits

and dances by students. The programme was centered around the current scenario where digital education using gadgets has become the new normal. Every student requires a gadget to connect with the teachers using virtual platforms to join classes. This required learning new means of communication, technology, and new learning material which were disseminated via electronic means like email or hosted on websites.

The performances delivered a positive message to the audience.

The programme concluded with the vote of thanks given by head girl Aarohi.

Importance of a healthy environment in school

There should be an environment in school which teaches children respect and tolerance for each other. Making students comfortable in class and developing respect will teach them how to deal with the people outside.

Once we have opened the door for students to let the world know who they are and what they believe, something almost magical happens. In an encouraging environment, students will blossom. The most challenging part is creating an environment, a classroom and a school, where it is safe for students to do so.



FATHIMA AFROZE, Academic Coordinator, Springfields International School

THE EDUCATIONIST

A Beautiful Journey Online

A new change in education has been witnessed in recent times with classes being conducted online using technology. Replacing the traditional method, teachers delivered lessons in virtual classrooms.

Children took their lessons in the comfort of their own study room at home. Parents were nostalgic while giving company to their children in virtual labs. They, however, enjoyed being a student, entering the classes using tabs.

Learning was made colourful and exciting using many apps and various modalities. This way of studying opened doors to innumerable opportunities.

Teachers had earlier never imagined they would ask the students to use gadgets in the class. In fact, in the present scenario, if a child is without a gadget, he is out of the class!

Though the change shook the roots of the whole mankind during this drastic revolution, teachers proved themselves to be the warriors, adapting and surviving this great evolution.



AAISHA IMRAN, Teacher, Springfields School, Tolichowki



Awareness on road safety

"PREPARE AND PREVENT, DON'T REPAIR AND REPENT"

Delhi Public School
Mahendra Hills

With the aim to raise awareness on traffic rules and to reduce the number of road accidents that occur daily, Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills (feeder school of DPS Nacharam) celebrated Road Safety Week.

During the week-long campaign, a variety of educational banners, safety posters, safety films and pocket guides were prepared by the students.

Principal Sunitha S Rao explained to the children about road safety and the rules that need to be followed. She also made them understand the necessity of helmets and seat belts.

The safety week inspired students to act responsibly on the road and make the roads in India the safest in the world.



TAKING INSPIRATION FROM SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man - Swami Vivekananda

Students and staff of Gitanjali Devashray school paid homage to Swami Vivekananda on the occasion of his birth anniversary by organising a special assembly in his honour.

Swami Vivekananda is considered a great Indian youth icon and his birth anniversary is celebrated as National Youth Day. The students of class V took charge of the proceedings. Swami Vivekananda's role as an activating force in the movement to

Gitanjali Devashray

promote Vedanta philosophy, his appearance in 1893 at Chicago as a spokesman for Hinduism at the World's Parliament of Religions where he captivated the assembly and was called as 'an orator by divine right and undoubtedly the greatest figure at the Parliament' were highlighted on this occasion. The students were truly inspired by the session.

Learning turns biscuity!

Gitanjali Devshala

Hyderabad

SCIENCE PROJECT

Phases Of The Moon



Class-VA

The students of class V of Gitanjali Devshala had a fun and delicious learning activity with cookies called STEM. The eight phases of the moon were demonstrated by twisting and separating the frosting from cream biscuits. Right from the first quarter, waxing gibbous, full moon, waning gibbous, third quarter, new, waxing crescent - children learnt everything with loads of enthusiasm and had a feast of knowledge.

Express YOURSELF

A SOLDIER'S LIFE



A special assembly was organised by the school showcasing the life of soldiers and their love towards the country.

Every country requires defence systems in place to protect itself, not only from enemies but also in rescue operations during conflicts and natural calamities. This great job is done by the soldiers. Soldiers are considered to be the life-line of the country. For soldiers, the country is everything. When a soldier dies on field, he/she is proud of giving up life as a martyr.

If we are sitting safe in our homes, it is because of the soldiers who fight at the border to protect us. The country is safe because of the soldiers. Only a soldier's family can feel the pain of losing their loved one.

The assembly's aim was to create a feeling of respect for soldiers in students as they empathised with the families that sacrificed their son and daughter for the country's sake. In conclusion, I would like to say that without a soldier a country is incomplete.

ANJALI, class VII B, Pallavi Model School, Alwal

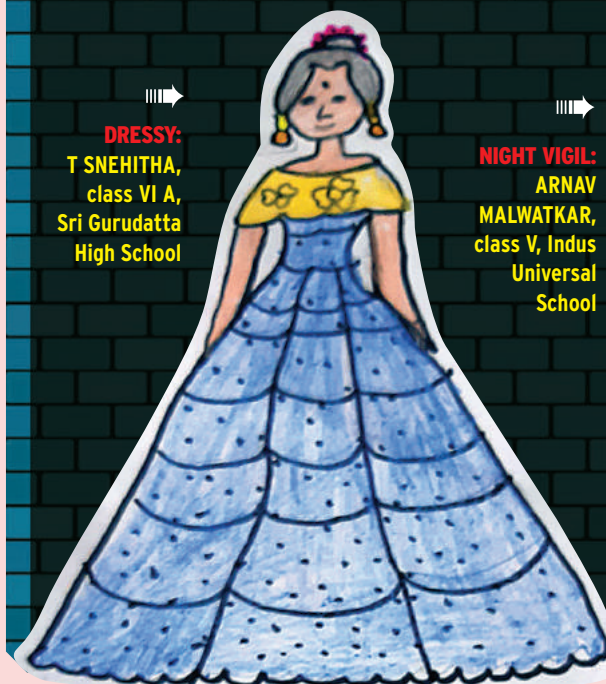


PIKACHU: M BHARKAVI, class V D, P Obul Reddy Public School, Hyderabad

Painters' Gallery



ADIPU AISHWARYA 12E



DRESSY: T SNEETHA, class VI A, Sri Gurudatta High School



NIGHT VIGIL: ARNAV MALWATKAR, class V, Indus Universal School

THE BRIGHTEST STAR

Don't wait for tomorrow, Do it all today.
For if tomorrow never comes,
You will never regret a day.

The richness of India
The sculptures and its cultures,
Will carve its way for a much more
brighter day.

However, it is my hope,
That this country is wide awake
How it handled the pandemic,
and showed a better way.

It's better to leave behind the hunger and unemployment,

The colours of corruption
Hope the country stays United
And holds its flag high up,
So that others can see
The Brightest Star, Right up in the sky.

SHAALINI MURALI, class IX P, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



FEAR

I started feeling so lifeless,
In my room was no brightness.
To have some; I waited for people,
But then, I saw from them was coming mere evil.
I saw life, from a step back,
That time beauty never used to lack.
But now all people have their run behind money, gold,
silver and treasure,
It is just causing them pressure.
No human I see has intentions clear,
I think the day of judgment is near.
Now all I have is fear!

HANEEFA KHAN, class X B, Madina Public School, Hyderabad

SIX REASONS WHY INDIA BEAT AUSTRALIA IN TEST SERIES

India defeated Australia for the second successive time in a Test series in two years, with both the series wins coming in Australia. Here are the six main reasons that helped the underdogs and injury-stricken India beat host Australia 2-1 in the four-match series that ended on Tuesday:

1 INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

The T20 has removed the Indian players' inhibitions against Australians while giving access to top Aussie brains in dressing rooms at nets. All four teams that made the IPL play-offs this season – Delhi Capitals (Ricky Ponting), Mumbai Indians (Andrew McDonald), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB, Simon Katich) and SunRisers Hyderabad (David Warner as captain) – had Aussies at the forefront to guide them. Most of these persons were also part of the Aussie team in some position or the other during the just-concluded series. That apart, the presence of top Aussie players in different teams have also helped. Shubman Gill, who hit 91 on the last day, has faced Pat Cummins regularly at the KKR nets while Josh Hazlewood and Shardul Thakur, who picked seven wickets and hit 67 in first innings, have also shared the ball at the Chennai Super Kings nets.

4 COVID-19

The Indian squads for all three formats reached Australia together. The Test team benefited the most as they arrived in Australia over a month before the series was to start. The one-month long stay helped the team get acclimatised to the conditions. They also played a couple of warm-up games ahead of the series. T Natarajan, Shardul Thakur and Washington Sundar who stayed back as net bowlers too got time to get used to the conditions.

2 STRONG BENCH

Since 2010, India A have played 52 first-class matches, the most by any team in the world. Pace bowler Mohammed Siraj has played 16 first-class matches, batsman Shubman Gill eight, Hanuma Vihari 12 and Rishabh Pant four for India A and toured overseas also. Pace bowler Shardul Thakur, who too has played a few games for India A, credited those games for ensuring proper preparation for the senior team. This is apart from the List A games. That apart, Rahul Dravid's policy of letting one batch play only one under-19 World Cup has ensured there is a regular flow of young players with a taste of some form of international cricket. Dravid has been grooming the second string quite well, providing them exposure.

5 COMPETITION WITHIN THE TEAM

The intense competition for places in the squad has helped players grab opportunity with both hands. When Prithvi Shaw was dropped after the first Test, youngster Shubman Gill walked into the squad and grabbed the opportunity with both hands and returned with 259 runs at 51.8. Rishabh Pant's place was also questioned due to his poor wicketkeeping skills but he performed with the bat to cement his spot.

3 FREQUENT TOURS TO AUSTRALIA

The Indian team has toured Australia four times in the last 10 years. This is apart from the 'A' tours that the Indians have undertaken to the country. India's last tour to Australia came in 2018-19, just two years ago. The frequent trips have ensured that the players have become used to the conditions Down Under – weather as well as pitches and did not need much time to get acclimatised to the conditions.

6 DOMESTIC CRICKET

India's well laid out domestic cricket structure, comprising Ranji Trophy, Duleep Trophy, and Irani Trophy in multi-day format, allowed a lot of players to get plenty of cricket under their belt before they made their Test debut. Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, T Natarajan, Navdeep Saini, who all showed no nerve while playing their first full Test series, all made their first-class debut at least five years ago and have been frontline bowlers for the state sides. The Indian domestic cricket has also provided flat, batting-friendly pitches and that has helped batsmen get confidence to play shots and bowlers to bowl tight, something that helped on the flat Australian pitches.

Washington Sundar was one of the 5 youngsters who made their Test debuts for India during the Border-Gavaskar series



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Should England rethink the call to rest Bairstow for 1st two India Tests?

Former skippers Nasser Hussain and Michael Vaughan are not happy with England's squad selection for the first two Tests against India in which they have rested wicketkeeper-batsman Jonny Bairstow. After the culmination of the ongoing second Test against Sri Lanka, England will be touring India for four Tests, five T20Is and three ODIs beginning February 5. Bairstow, Mark Wood and Sam Curran have been rested for the first two Tests against India, while Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer and Rory Burns — who are not part of the Sri Lanka series — have been recalled.

"The only player in England's Top 3 that's playing the sub continent conditions with any control or calmness is resting for the first 2 Tests against the best Team in world at home #India!!! The world is officially mad," tweeted Vaughan. The first two Test matches are set to be played in Chennai, before the series moves to Ahmedabad for the final two Tests. The third Test will be a day-night encounter, beginning on February 24.

I would say it's a concern that one of England's best three players of spin – I would say Bairstow is alongside Joe Root and Ben Stokes in that – has been given a boarding pass home and the others are going to Chennai. I'd have to rethink. England fans switching on when it is turning and England are 20/2 may well have the argument, 'I want to see our best batsman against spin, or one of them, in Bairstow.'

Nasser Hussain, former England skipper

ENGLAND SQUAD (FOR THE FIRST TWO TESTS)

Joe Root (c), Jofra Archer, Moeen Ali, James Anderson, Dom Bess, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Ben Foakes, Dan Lawrence, Jack Leach, Dom Sibley, Ben Stokes, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Phil has to be Phil and not be Kevin De Bruyne: Guardiola

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola played down expectations on young midfielder Phil Foden to fill the void left by injured playmaker Kevin De Bruyne, after the 20-year-old inspired them to a 3-1 FA Cup victory over Cheltenham Town on Saturday. City looked to be heading out of the competition after Alfie May put fourth-tier Cheltenham ahead. But Foden equalised in the 81st minute before Gabriel Jesus and Ferran Torres struck to secure the team's passage to the fifth round. Guardiola's side were without De Bruyne, who picked up a hamstring issue in Wednesday's 2-0 Premier League win over Aston Villa.

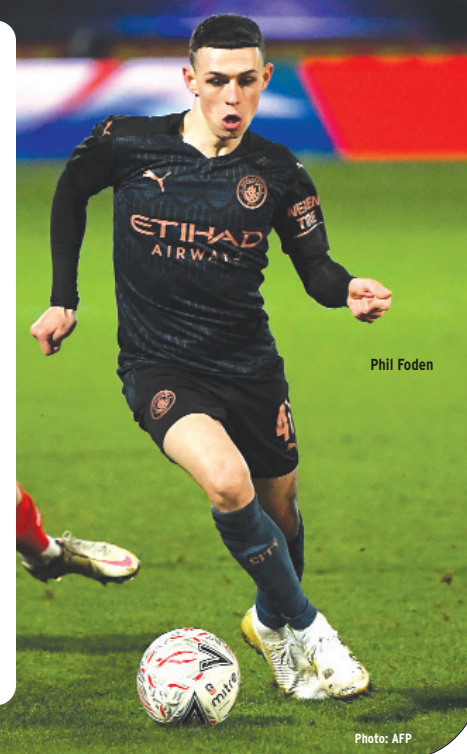


Photo: AFP

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which of the following players made maximum runs in IPL 2020?

- a) KL Rahul ☐ b) Shikhar Dhawan ☐
c) David Warner ☐ d) Shreyas Iyer ☐

Q2: The first French Open Championship was held in 1891. Which male player won the first title?

- a) William Hamilton ☐ b) H Briggs ☐
c) Wilfred Baddeley ☐ d) John Hartley ☐

Q13: In the year 1881, which tennis player won the first US Open men's singles title?

- a) William Renshaw ☐ b) Herbert Lawford ☐
c) Richard D Sears ☐ d) John Hartley ☐

Q4: Which athlete won a record 14 medals in individual events at the Olympic Games between 1956 and 1964?

- a) Polina Astakhova ☐ b) Vera Caslavskaya ☐
c) Larisa Latynina ☐ d) Natalia Kuchinskaya ☐

Q5: The most gold medals won at the Winter Olympics by a snowboarder is three and was achieved by _____

- a) Danny Kass ☐ b) Scotty James ☐
c) Shaun White ☐ d) Tony Hawk ☐

Q6: Who is the oldest Olympic individual swimming gold

medalist (male)?

- a) Jason Lezak ☐ b) Anthony Ervin ☐
c) Nathan Adrian ☐ d) Gary Hall Jr. ☐

Q7: Martin Guptill holds current record for highest individual score in ICC Cricket World Cup. What was his score?

- a) 237 not out ☐ b) 237 ☐
c) 215 not out ☐ d) 214 ☐



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Q8: In the year 1897, which tennis player won the first women's French Open title?

- a) Juliette Atkinson ☐ b) Charlotte Cooper ☐
c) Elisabeth Moore ☐ d) Françoise Masson ☐

Q9: Who is the youngest football manager to reach 100 UEFA Champions League matches?

- a) Jose Mourinho ☐ b) Pep Guardiola ☐
c) Ole Gunnar Solskjær ☐ d) Jürgen Klopp ☐

Q10: Which fielder holds the record of most catches in ICC Cricket World Cup?

- a) Chris Gayle ☐ b) Ricky Ponting ☐
c) Sanath Jayasuriya ☐ d) Joe Root ☐

Q11: Which tennis player won the 2019 Wimbledon men's singles title?

- a) Roger Federer ☐ b) Novak Djokovic ☐
c) Dominic Thiem ☐ d) Rafael Nadal ☐

Q12: London is the first city in the world to have hosted Summer Olympic Games three times. They were held in the city in 1908, 1948 and _____

- a) 2008 ☐ b) 2004 ☐ c) 2016 ☐ d) 2012 ☐

ANSWERS: 1 a) KL Rahul 2 b) H Briggs
3 c) Richard D Sears 4 c) Larisa Latynina
5 c) Shaun White 6 b) Anthony Ervin
7 a) 237 not out 8 d) Françoise Masson
9 a) Jose Mourinho 10 b) Ricky Ponting
11 b) Novak Djokovic 12 d) 2012