



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ In Your Newsroom, figure out what students have to say about hot issues such as Omicron spread, diversity in hiring, among others
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➤ Take a virtual trip to Amritsar through the lens of a young reporter and know the importance of the Golden Temple, also known as the Harmandir Sahib, and much more
PAGE 3



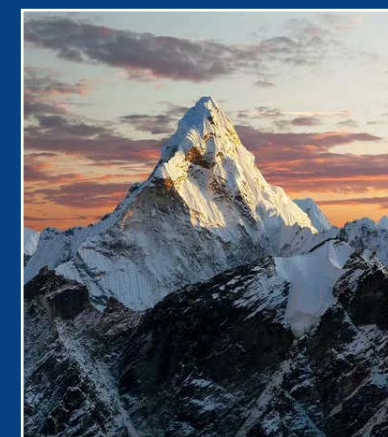
➤ Australia retain the Ashes, as they crush England for 3-0 win
PAGE 4


STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021



Fresh mountain air? No, it still has microplastics



Microplastics can be discovered everywhere—from Mount Everest to the Mariana Trench, according to a recent study. They can even be found high in the Earth's troposphere, where wind speeds allow them to travel great distances. The Pic du Midi Observatory in the French Pyrenees, a so-called "clean station" because of the low influence put on it by the local climate and environment, was sampled by scientists from the French national research institute CNRS. They found microplastics, which originated as far away as Africa or even North America. The particles were able to travel such enormous distances because they were able to reach such high altitudes, according to the study's lead author, Steve Allen of Dalhousie University in Canada. He claims that by releasing plastic into the atmosphere at such a great altitude, it demonstrates that there is no eventual sink for the plastic. It's basically going around in circles in an endless cycle.

■ Microplastics are microscopic fragments that measure less than 5mm and have been found on land, in water, and in the air. They come from packaging, clothing, cars, and other sources

TOP 3 BUZZ OF THE DAY

EDUCATION

IIT-Delhi to start STEM mentorship programme for class XI girl students



The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi is set to launch a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) mentorship programme for girls studying in class XI. The programme, which will include writing papers and internships as well, is likely to be launched on December 30. As a part of the pilot project at the institute level, 10 students from various Kendriya Vidyalayas in the city have been shortlisted. The students will get a chance to interact closely with the faculty members of the institute and even have dedicated mentors assigned to each. Senior IIT Delhi officials said that over time, the programme was likely to be extended to a wider range of students across different schools.

■ Those part of the programme will begin with a winter internship, which will last for about a week or two before the schools reopen. According to officials, between the months of January and April, the students will get to interact with the faculty members while pursuing their regular school curriculum

CORONA UPDATE

Children between 15-18 years can register on CoWin from Jan 1, on-site from Jan 3



Children between 15 and 18 years can register on-line on CoWin from January 1 or on-site at vaccination centres to receive Covaxin shots from January 3. Among the healthcare and front-line workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities, prioritisation and sequencing would be based on completion of nine months or 39 weeks from the date of the second dose as of January 10, the government said in its guidelines issued on Monday.

■ To register on the CoWin site, children can use their school IDs, national health authority chief executive RS Sharma said. They can register themselves online through an existing account or create a new one. The 60-and above recipients will have to mention their comorbidity on the portal while registering and need to produce a certificate from a registered doctor at the vaccination site

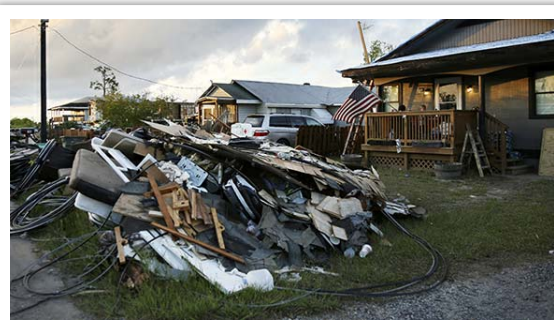
DEFENCE

SAFER SKIES! DRDO TO LAUNCH NEXT GEN ANTI-RADIATION MISSILE SOON



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is preparing for the launch of the new next-generation anti-radiation missile very shortly. Also known as Rudram, it is a tactical, air-launched missile that detects enemy radar positions and then, seeks and destroys them. In other words, the missile, fired from an aircraft about 100 km from the target, will detect it, home on to it, and destroy it. The destruction of radar systems will blind the enemy making it easier for the Indian Air Force to attack other targets.

The cost of this year's 10 worst climate disasters: \$170 BILLION



Ten of this year's most destructive weather events cost a combined \$170 billion in damages, according to a new study.

Hurricane Ida, a tropical storm that pummelled much of the eastern US with lashing rain in August, killed at least 95 people and cost the economy \$65 billion. A



month earlier, floods in Europe caused 240 deaths and an economic loss of \$43 billion, according to

According to experts, it is the sixth time that the global natural disasters have cost more than \$100 billion. All six of those disasters have happened since 2011

research published by the UK charity Christian Aid. Floods in China's Henan province in July killed more than 300 and cost in excess of \$17 billion.

The report's authors estimated damages based on insured losses, meaning the true costs of these disasters are likely to be even higher. Calculations are usually costlier in richer countries due to higher property values and insurance, while some of this year's deadliest weather events hit poorer countries that contributed little to global warming.



THE TOP 10 EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS IN 2021 COST MORE THAN \$1.5 BILLION EACH

The Paris Agreement on global warming, which aims to hold the increase in global temperatures to below 1.5 degrees Celsius, will not achieve its goals unless more urgent action is taken, according to the report. More needs to be done in 2022 to provide financial help to vulnerable nations, including a fund to deal with the damage caused by climate change – something that was not delivered at this year's global climate talks in Glasgow, according to the study

(SOURCE: BLOOMBERG)

**YEAR
IN
REVIEW**


Dancer Charlie D'Amelio is the most-followed person on which social media platform?

CLUE 1: Shou Zi Chew was appointed its CEO in May this year.

CLUE 2: On its most popular videos, you're likely to see hashtags such as

#Foryou, #ForYouPage and #FYP.

CLUE 3: Initially released in September 2016, a separate version in China is called 'Douyin'.

Answer: **TIKTOK.** The popular short video-sharing platform has surpassed tech giant Google as the most-popular website of the year, says a report by Cloudflare. According to the American IT security company, the viral video app got more hits than the US-based search engine. The rankings show that TikTok knocked Google off the top spot in February, March and June this year, and has held the No 1 position since August.

Alia Bhatt named PETA's 2021 Person of the Year



Actress Alia Bhatt has been named as PETA's 2021 Person of the Year for her work in support of an animal-friendly fashion industry. The actress had recently invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which makes vegan leather out of discarded temple flowers. In addition, her vegan kidswear line, Ed-a-Mamma, also won a 2021 PETA India fashion award for helping to nurture kids' love for animals and nature.

Alia is known to advocate support for cats and dogs and often uses her voice to call for stronger animal protection laws. The actress has also starred in a pro-adoption People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India campaign to help felines and canines

■ Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year Award include Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor, former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, cricketer Virat Kohli, comedian Kapil Sharma, actors John Abraham, Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, R Madhavan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Hema Malini, and Sonam Kapoor Ahuja, for helping animals in different ways

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NEW YEAR, NEW DAWN

Welcome 2022 with a dollop of hope

WHAT TO EXPECT

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SHARE WHAT THEY ARE HOPEFUL FOR
 LESSONS OF 2021 FOR '22
 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
 MOST-ANTICIPATED MOVIES
 BOOKS BUZZ FOR 2022
 MUSIC NEWS
 THE BIG TRENDS IN HEALTH, LIFESTYLE, TRAVEL, ENVIRONMENT AND MORE
 TRIVIA

Happy New Year 2022

Don't miss the 'Exciting Festive Edition' on this special occasion

MARK YOUR DATE
JANUARY 1, 2022

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

The World

this week

HAS

IN THE NEWS FOR

Government has said that there is no official estimation of how much of black money is lying in foreign accounts over the last five years, though ₹2,476 crores have been collected as tax and penalty under the one-time three months compliance window during 2015. Bringing back black money stashed abroad was one of the key poll planks of the BJP government, which assumed power in May 2014.



black money chase lost its pace?

YOU SPEAK

Demonetisation was the first major step by the government to check black money. Though it is said to have failed, it boosted digitalisation of money transactions. I feel this will help keep the momentum of the drive against black money. The government should be fair in its drive and not target honest people.



VIVEK AKKI, class XI, Hyderabad Public School, Hyderabad

₹11,010 cr

Sustained probe conducted in the cases revealed by Int'l Consortium of Investigative Journalists have led to detection of the above amount of credits in the undisclosed foreign accounts so far

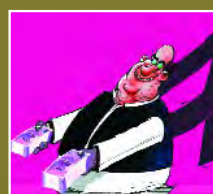


WE SPEAK

Black Money is the money on which income tax is not paid. This money is earned through corrupt practices and not declared fearing legal action. Black money is collected by corrupt individuals trying to evade taxation. Thus, black money is one of the major drawbacks in a nation's growth.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF BLACK MONEY:

Collection of black money damages the economic growth of the nation, as the money is hidden from tax agencies. The government can use crores of rupees of tax for public welfare schemes like building schools, colleges, hospitals, and roads, etc. Black money not only weakens the economy of a nation but also widens the economical gap by making rich richer and poor poorer.



HOW

can Omicron spread be contained?

IN THE NEWS FOR

With Omicron cases rising steadily in several parts of the country, states have started reimposing Covid restrictions to curb the spread of the highly transmissible variant. The Union health ministry said the world is witnessing a fourth surge in cases and cautioned people against lowering their guard during the year-end festivities.



WE SPEAK

Be cautious: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reviewed the Covid-19 situation in the country amid fresh concerns sparked by the outbreak of Omicron variant and stressed on the need to be 'satark' (vigilant) and 'saavdhan' (cautious).



'2022 must be year to end Covid-19'

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), has called on the world to pull together to end the Covid-19 pandemic within the next year. Tedros said the 'fastest way' to get back to normal is to make 'hard decisions,' this festive season amid the Omicron Covid-19 variant's quick spread. "Cancelling an event is better than cancelling a life. It is better to cancel now and celebrate later than to celebrate now and mourn later," he added.



DO

you think firms are looking for more diverse hires?

IN THE NEWS FOR

The luxury fashion house Chanel has chosen Leena Nair, an industry outsider from India and longtime executive at Unilever, to be its new CEO. Nair tweeted that she was "humbled and honoured to be appointed the Global CEO".

YOU SPEAK

With Leena Nair heading Chanel now, the list of Indian CEOs has expanded. Amid Covid, her appointment affirms that firms are moving to inculcate diversity and provide opportunities to deserving talent without the barriers of race and ethnicity.

PURNIMA, class XI, SBOA Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Coimbatore



WE SPEAK

■ Nair's appointment is "a welcome change from the kind of formulaic model of the executives that tend to run major luxury brands," said Imran Amed, CEO of the Business of Fashion, a news website.

WILL

India see more usage of drones?

IN THE NEWS FOR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the officials concerned to prepare a concrete action plan for setting up a drone manufacturing unit in the state. The chief minister proposed the drone manufacturing unit, given the importance of unmanned aircraft in various fields such as disaster relief, agriculture, and law and order, the spokesperson said.



WE SPEAK

■ Unmanned Aerial Vehicles commonly known as drones, have great potential to revolutionise Indian agriculture and ensure the country's food security. ■ The national drone policy has been notified and the Drone Rules 2021 have been made significantly easier for people and companies to now own and operate drones. They are equipped with multi-spectral and photo cameras.

YOU SPEAK

With the ongoing technology, yes we do see a rise in the usage of drones, but this will also manifest into unchecked and insecure data being leaked to hackers. Although with the territorial geographical ranges in our country, India will benefit from the drones. Disaster management, and agriculture sectors will reap profits from its usage. For the non-reachable areas and terrains, we need drones, but this should be done so without any threat to security.



GURKEERAT KAUR, class X, La Martiniere Girls' College, Lucknow

WHAT

is your wishlist for Budget 2022?

IN THE NEWS FOR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with chief executives of leading companies across sectors ranging from banking to telecom, to health and electronics, for inputs for the next year's Budget. Last week, he had met with leading private equity/venture capital players to seek suggestions on making India a more attractive investment destination. The upcoming Budget would focus on accelerating growth hit by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.



WE SPEAK



1 Ahead of the Union Budget, economists advised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and ministry officials to avoid a sharp fiscal correction and maintain focus on public investment in infrastructure to further revive consumption and demand.

2 Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has chaired pre-budget consultation meetings for Budget 2022-23 (April-March) between 15 and 22 December 2021. Sitharaman held 8 meetings during this period, where she met 120 invitees representing 7 stakeholder groups.

YOU SPEAK

The past two years have been tough on the Indian economy due to the pandemic. As we usher in 2022 and talks on the 2022 Budget garner attention, we must not forget the main lesson we have learnt from the pandemic: nothing can compromise public health. We are truly in times where health insurance is an everyday need. Therefore, it is imperative for the reduction of GST on health insurance from 18% to 5% to be included in the 2022 budget. This will encourage people to opt for better health coverage rather than lower coverage owing to premium pricing. Even though it will put pressure on government finances, the long-term benefits will be far more advantageous and should therefore be taken into consideration.



MANEEZA KHAN, class XI, The Heritage School, Kolkata

LEARNING THE ROOTS OF TELUGU LANGUAGE

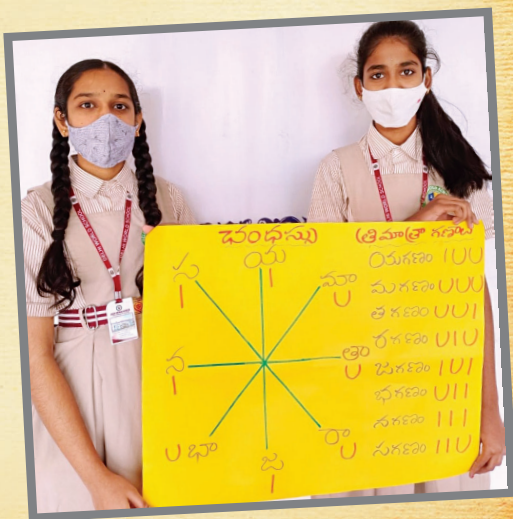
Metrical poetry in Telugu is called 'Chandassu' or 'Chandas'. Ya-maa-taa-raa-ja-bhaa-na-sa-la-gam is called the chandassu chakram.

Utpalamala, Champakamala, Mattebha vikreeditham, Sardoola Vikreeditham, Kanda, Aata veladi, Theta geethi, Sragdhara, Bhujangaprayata, etc., are some metrics used in Telugu poetry. In Telugu language, 'Chandas' is constructed based on the number of 'aksharaas' (syllables) in each line of the poem.

There are Telugu equivalents for English word and syllable. The first one is 'varnamu'. This is the basic letter of 'Telugu' in the alphabet, and is called 'varna samaamnaayamu'. There are fifty six 'varna samaamnaayamu' in Telugu. The equivalent for 'syllable' in Telugu is 'aksharaamu'. These 'aksharaas' (syllables) are divided into 'laghuvu' and 'gurvuvu' based on the time period of pronunciation. These 'aksharaas' or syllables are the fundamental aspects in constructing the 'chandas' in Telugu.

Meters of the same length are distinguished by the pattern of laghuvu (light) and gurvuvu (heavy) syllables in the paadam. Pattern of laghuvu and gurvuvu in a sequence of three is called Ganam (group). The word ya-maa-taa-raa-ja-bhaa-na-sa-la-gam is called Gana Suchi. The Ganas are same as in Sanskrit Chandas. The students of Delhi World School Shadnagar conducted a special assembly based on Telugu Chandas.

Delhi World School
Shadnagar, Hyderabad



Hearts filled with Xmas spirit

Students of classes III, IV and V of Unicent School celebrated Christmas by conducting a special assembly in the virtual mode. The celebrations started with a regular assembly and progressed with varied programmes including a speech, dance and Christmas carols. The speech given on the occasion by one of the students threw light on the significance and the message of Christmas. Christmas is a time for joy, love, caring and sharing of gifts. The highlight was Santa who danced to the melodious tunes and regaled the children.

K Sahasra, class V-A, Unicent School
Nagole, Hyderabad



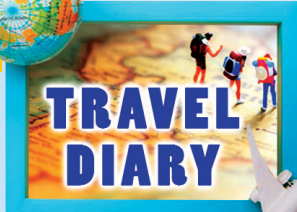
FUN TRIP

Every summer holidays I along with my mother and brother go to Mumbai to meet our relatives. This year's trip was unforgettable. We went to a place called R A City in Mumbai with all my relatives to celebrate my cousin sister's birthday.

It was a two-day trip to a villa there. The journey to RA City by car was tiresome and boring, but the moment we reached the place we began to feel the excitement. The place was amazing and the view from the balcony was marvellous. The villa had everything - a swimming pool, backyard, spacious living area, a furnished dining area, clean washrooms, equipped kitchens and much more. There were many paintings there, too.

On the first day, we played games, had great food and celebrated my cousin's birthday. We even had a live performer who played the guitar and sang. There was a small shed in which we celebrated this special occasion.

On the second day, we enjoyed



splashing in the pool. On both the days, we had fruits for breakfast, cup noodles for lunch and fast food for dinner. It was a memorable and pleasant trip.

ANUTARA OJHA, class VI,
Jain Heritage A Cambridge School,
Kondapur

The Learning Pattern

We find patterns in math and patterns in nature, art, music, and literature as well. Patterns provide a sense of order in what might otherwise appear chaotic. It is found that understanding and being able to identify recurring patterns allow students to make educated guesses, assumptions and hypothesis. It helps them to develop important skills of critical thinking and logic.

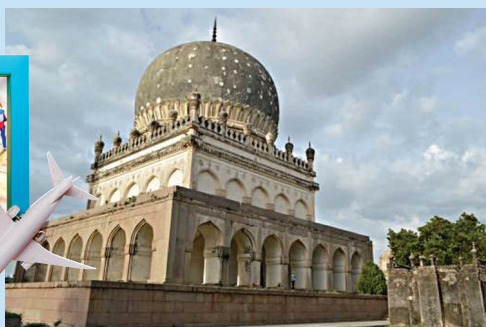
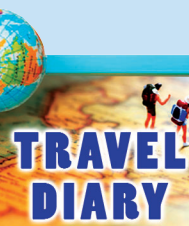
When we make kids create patterns with various objects available around, it helps them build the basic foundation of learning.

Delhi Public School
Nadergul

In order to attain this objective, students of class I were made to create bracelets using different colours of straw pieces showing patterns. They also used vegetable dabbing, leaves and pencil shavings to create patterns with great excitement.



TOWERING TOMBS



Iwent to Qutub Shahi Tombs, which is also known as the Seven Tombs. The place was so peaceful and very well maintained. I got to learn about the Qutub Shahi dynasty and the history of Hyderabad. Next to each tomb is a board giving details of the king and queens. The columns of the tomb are really high and magnificent. There is a pool built in a big room which we can see from the top.

I liked it. I imagined how these tombs were made and the life of the royalty. It was such an enjoyable moment for me.



IMROSE
TAHNIYATH, class
VII-A, Scholars
Academy Alkapur
Township,
Neknampur

FORMER SPORTSPERSONS MAKE GOOD POLITICIANS

Sportspersons know the game well and have the ability to bring everyone together. They understand the challenges and roadblocks. They are best suited to head the sports ministry as they can groom young talent in a better way that will fetch the country laurels at the international level. Also, having played for the country, they will be more familiar with the end goal, which is the progression and ultimate success in all fields for the country's progress.



ANJALI IYER, class IX, Silver Oaks International School,
Mighty Oaks Campus, Hyderabad

Sportspersons are democratic and know that they can't play against the rules. They also have many followers, hence their opinion matters. Their stand on controversial issues is crucial. Take for instance the recent Indo-Pak match during the T20 World Cup when cricketers of a particular community were blamed for India's dismal loss. Captain Virat Kohli spoke up and stood by his teammates. Such is the experience they gain on the ground that can translate into sound political future.



SURAH KOTICHA, class XI, Silver Oaks
International School, Mighty Oaks
Campus, Hyderabad

FOR

Ibelieve sportspersons make good politicians as they have first-hand experience of working within the system. Having faced struggles, having come from humble beginnings, these sportspersons have strong ideas of change they want to see in the country. To be a good politician, one requires resilience, determination and hard work which happen to be the basis to succeed in sports as well.



DHANVEE THAKKER,
class IX, Silver Oaks
International School,
Mighty Oaks Campus,
Hyderabad

AGAINST

No, former sportspersons do not make good politicians according to me. Of course, some sportspersons enter into politics due to their massive fan following, but cannot survive and cannot become good politicians. The first thing is that they don't know how to handle a position in politics. If they try to play their sports tricks, then it will be their first mistake and failure in politics. People expect a lot from them which may be difficult to handle. Their sports career will be affected a lot too. So, it will be a big loss for them. So, it's better if sportspersons do not enter politics.



ABHIRAM G, class VIII-Sunflower, Sister
Nivedita School, Ameerpet

DEBATE



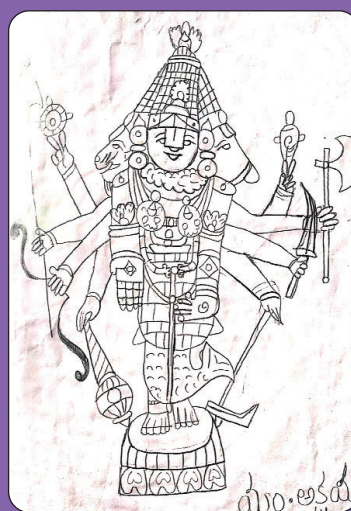
CLICK HERE TO
VIEW ONLINE

Painters' Gallery



HO HO HO!!
SOM
MUKHERJEE,
class VIII-Tulip,
Sister Nivedita
School,
Hyderabad

GIFTS GALORE!
P SAI SREE,
class IV, Little
Flower High
School, Abids



DIVINE: MADADI AKSHAYA
REDDY, class VII B, P Obul
Reddy Public School



DASHING THROUGH THE SNOW: SANJANA G, class VII-C,
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills

AUSTRALIA RETAIN ASHES

CRUSH AN ALREADY HUMILIATED ENGLAND TO WIN THIRD TEST BY AN INNINGS



Australian players celebrate their win over England on the third day of their cricket test match in Melbourne, Australia

A relentless Australia spearheaded by debutant Scott Boland skittled England for an embarrassing 68 on Tuesday to win the third Test by an innings and 14 runs and retain the Ashes with two matches still to play.

Just when a demoralised England thought their tour could not get much worse, they folded in the morning on day three in Melbourne and will now be desperate to avoid a series whitewash. England resumed at the MCG on 31 for four, still 51 runs behind, after a disastrous final hour on Monday against some outstanding fast bowling that left their Ashes dreams in tatters.

Their survival rested on skipper Joe Root, but when he fell for 26, it was just a matter of time before the rest fol-



Player of the match Australia's paceman Scott Boland celebrates with the Mullaugh Medal

lowed -- all over before lunch in an embarrassing chapter for English cricket.

FASTEST FIVE-WICKET HAUL

Boland, called up as injury cover, was invincible on his home ground, taking 6-7 off four overs, equalling the record for the fastest five-wicket haul in 19 balls. "I'm speechless. Coming here today, I thought we had a pretty good chance of winning, but I had no idea it'd be over before midday." Mitchell Starc ended with 3-29 as England's misery was complete. "It is pretty insane. Just an awesome few weeks, everything clicked and everything worked out," said Australian skipper Pat Cummins. "Thrilled for Scott Boland. We have been relentless. The bowlers have just turned up and owned their areas outside off-stump. There have been big

partnerships, everyone's performed, everyone's contributed -- it's a great feeling."

Ben Stokes resumed on two but his poor tour continued when he was clean-bowled by Starc for 11. Jonny Bairstow made five and when Root was out it was all over, with the tailenders quickly following. "It is what it is," said a dejected Root, who is facing growing calls over his captaincy. "Credit to Australia, they blew us away last night and they have outplayed us in this Test match -- in fact the series so far. We have a lot of hard work to do now and come back strong in the last two games."

THE ASHES

Whether there would be play at all at the MCG was in doubt after four members of the England party -- two support staff and two family members -- tested positive for coronavirus on Monday. But all players from both teams underwent PCR tests after stumps and returned negative results Tuesday morning, with the

first ball bowled on schedule.

England had headed to Melbourne knowing they must win to keep the five-Test series alive after heavy defeats in Brisbane and Adelaide, with Australia only needing a draw to retain the urn as holders. And they fleetingly hauled themselves into contention on the back of a vintage bowling effort from veteran seamer James Anderson, which restricted Australia to 267 in their first innings in reply to the tourists' 185. It was only an 82-run lead but any dreams England had of staying in the Test -- and the series -- fell apart in the face of an intense fast-bowling blitz on Monday from Starc, Cummins and Boland.

In an hour of mayhem, they removed hapless openers Zak Crawley (five) and Haseeb Hameed (seven), Dawid Malan for a golden duck and nightwatchman Jack Leach (0), leaving England staring into the abyss on 31 for four after another stunning collapse. AGENCIES

INCREDIBLE YEAR FOR ROOT, DESPITE LOSS

England's hopes had rested with Root, who resumed on 12, but took a nasty blow in the groin area off Cummins on 23 and eventually went for 28, caught by David Warner on slip off Boland. Despite the dismissal it capped an incredible 12 months for Root with the bat, ending the calendar year with the third most Test runs (1,708) in history, surpassed only by Pakistan's Mohammad Yousuf (1,788 in 2006) and Viv Richards (1,710 in 1976). "I feel like I'm playing nicely at the minute," Root said. "I feel like my game is improving and I am evolving still as a player."



Photo: AFP

CAVANI RESCUES MAN UNITED

Draw at Newcastle in sloppy display

Edinson Cavani came off the bench to salvage a point for Manchester United from a sloppy display in a 1-1 draw at Newcastle in the Premier League on Monday. Playing its first game in 16 days after coronavirus cases in the squad led to two games being postponed, United was outplayed in the first half and Allan Saint-Maximin gave Newcastle the lead in the seventh minute following a swift break after Raphael Varane was dispossessed.

Cavani entered as a half-time substitute, injected some urgency and pressing into United's attacking play, and scored an equalizer in the 71st minute by poking home a rebound after his initial shot was blocked.

Rangnick unhappy

Newcastle, which hit the post in the final minutes through substitute Dwight Gayle, was denied just a second win of the campaign and stayed in next-to-last place, while seventh-place United missed a chance to jump to fifth with a display that showed the team still has plenty of work to do under recently-hired coach Ralf Rangnick. His team was so off the pace

in the first half -- perhaps due to the extended COVID-enforced break -- that Rangnick opted to make two substitutions at half time, with Fred and Mason Greenwood coming off. Any of the outfield players could easily have been replaced.

Squandered chance

United, back playing after having games against Brighton and Brentford called off, was lucky to go to the break only 1-0 down. That goal came after Sean Longstaff pressurized Varane, picked him off and played in Saint-Maximin, who cut inside Maguire and poked a finish into the corner. Saint-Maximin then squandered a brilliant chance from point-blank range to make it 2-0 in the 47th minute, mismissing a finish from Emil Krafth's cross to allow David De Gea to claw away the ball when he should have been well beaten.

From then on, United had the better of the chances, with Cavani shooting wide with the goal at his mercy before eventually equalizing at the second attempt.

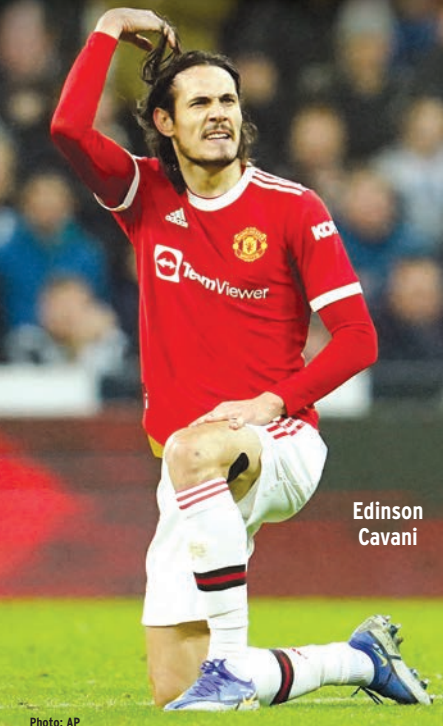
However, a late flurry from Newcastle saw Gayle curl a shot against the post before Miguel Almiron regained the ball and

had a curling shot tipped over the bar acrobatically by De Gea.

Newcastle lost forwards Callum Wilson and Saint-Maximin to injuries, and manager Eddie Howe said his team was "dangerously close" to having so many absentees that its game at Everton on Thursday will be under threat. Still, he was delighted with Newcastle's display, possibly its best of the season.

Fernandes collected a fifth yellow card of the season and will miss United's next game, against Burnley on Thursday when Cavani might expect to start after his game-changing performance as a substitute. AP

I didn't like it all. We are trying to get better at controlling the game. Today we didn't control the game. It's a question of rhythm but we shouldn't look for excuses. We need to get more physical and more precise with the ball.
Manchester United coach, RALF RANGNICK



Edinson Cavani

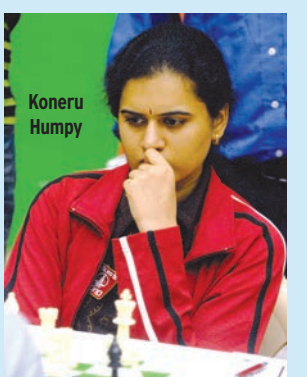
Photo: AP

WORLD RAPID CHESS: HUMPY IN JOINT SECOND SPOT

Defending champion Koneru Humpy bounced back in style after a slow start, posting three wins and a draw to jump to joint second spot with six points in the women's section of the FIDE World Rapid Chess Championship 2021 at Warsaw, Poland.

With three victories in a row and a draw against Polina Shuvalova in the eighth round, Humpy has reached the top board and will be facing leader Alexandra Kosteniuk on the final day of the rapid event. The chess ace beat Julia Movsesian (Czech Republic), Marta Michna (Germany) and Ekaterini Pavlidou (Greece) on Monday.

Young WGM R Vaishali is the next best Indian in the 12th spot, while Padmini Rout is 23rd. While Vaishali got the better of Ukraine's Inna Goponenko in round eight, Rout defeated Russia's Baira Kovanova.



Koneru Humpy

In the Open event, Mitrabha Guha and D Gukesh, have six points after nine rounds and are placed 22nd and 23rd respectively. GM Abhimanyu Puranik lies in 48th spot while the highest rated Indian in the fray -- P Harikrishna (seeded 18th) languishes at 122nd position with four points. Young GM Harish Bharathakoti, who started well, has dropped to 29th spot with 5.5 points. **PH**

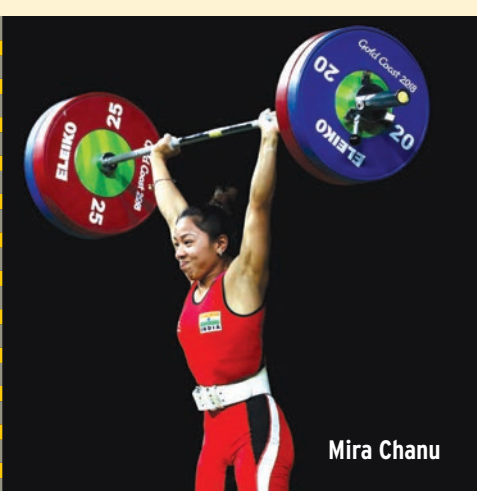
2021 ROUND UP

TOKYO SILVER LIFTED INDIAN SPIRITS, BUT WEIGHTLIFTING FACES UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Mirabai Chanu's heartwarming tale of redemption at the Tokyo Olympics was the defining moment for Indian weightlifting in a reasonably successful 2021 but the sport itself faced an uncertain future globally with long-standing governance and doping-related problems threatening its place in the Olympics going forward.

MIRA CHANU: Iron lady of clean and jerk

Chanu, a former world champion, had left the 2016 Rio Olympics in tears after failing to log a legitimate lift but five years on, she displayed brilliant composure in Tokyo for a historic silver medal to bury the ghosts of the past. This despite her schedule going haywire amid the COVID-19 pandemic. She set a new world record in the clean and



Mira Chanu

jerk section and also bettered her own national record en route winning her first Asian Championship medal, a bronze in April. The 27-year-old lifted 86kg in snatch and a world record of 119kg in clean and jerk for a total of 205kg. Chanu now has medals in all big tournaments barring the Asian Games.

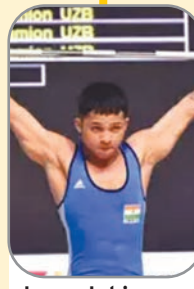
Chanu, who was one of India's brightest medal hopes heading into the Olympics and she lived up to that top billing. She opened the country's tally on the opening day, an unprecedented feat that sent the entire nation into a frenzy.

Sporting Olympic-ring-shaped earrings, the diminutive Iron lady clinched the 49kg category silver. Chanu's year ended as the Manipuri pulled out of the World Championship and Commonwealth Championships which were held simultaneously.

LALRINUNGA: Future hope

Jeremy Lalrinnunga, touted as the one for the future in the sport, endured a bittersweet year. He missed out on an Olympic spot in the 67kg category due to a knee injury suffered during the Asian Championships, which also compromised his performance at the Junior World Championships a month later.

However, the teenager from Mizoram, who is a 2018 Youth Olympics champion, was able to end the year with a gold medal at the Commonwealth Championships earlier this month. With a top of the podium finish at the event, Jeremy also booked a spot for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.



Jeremy Lalrinnunga

Juniors shine

Achinta Sheuli (73kg), who also bagged a silver medal at the Junior World Championships in May, has qualified for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Ajay Singh (81kg) and Purnima Pandey (+87kg) too won gold medals at the event.

The country's lifters, despite capping off the year by winning 18 medals in the Commonwealth Championships and smashing several national records, weren't competitive at the Worlds, which was pretty much expected.

Olympic future uncertain

In the global scheme of things, the fate of the sport at future Games hangs in balance. Dismissed by decades of rampant doping, bribery, vote-rigging and corruption at weightlifting's highest levels, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) threatened to drop the sport from the Olympic roster. It was left off the initial list for the 2028 Los Angeles Games, with a future decision awaited. **PH**



Achinta Sheuli