



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021



WEB EDITION

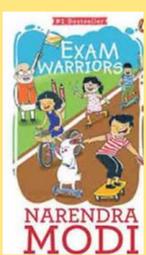
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Spotlight

PM ANNOUNCES UPDATED EDITION OF 'EXAM WARRIORS'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the updated edition of 'Exam Warriors', saying that the fresh edition is enriched with valuable inputs from students, parents and teachers. He also said that substantive new parts have been added in the new edition of 'Exam Warriors', which would especially interest the parents and teachers. "Let us all help our youngsters, as they appear for their examinations!" Prime Minister Modi said in a series of tweets. "How to make exam preparation fun? Is there anything interesting we can do sitting at home while preparing? There is a solution to this...an all new Exam Warriors module on the NaMo App," he said.

Modi will interact with students, parents, and teachers during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha 2021', regarding the upcoming Board exams, and share tips on how to deal with academic stress. The dates of the event will be announced soon



Covid-19 waste is killing animals around the world!



The masks and gloves used by people to stop the spread of Covid-19 are now proving to be a threat to wildlife, a report has found. According to researchers, animals are eating the plastic waste, as a disposed glove was found inside a penguin's stomach recently. Similarly, a bird was noticed entangled in a face mask (see pic). Pets, especially dogs, are at risk from the PPE-related plastic waste, they warn.

JOIN CovidLitter; a website that is urging people to note any sightings of animals affected by Covid waste, to create awareness on this new 'ticking plastic time bomb'

146 tons of bio-medical waste is generated per day in India due to diagnostic activities and treatment of Covid-19 patients, the ministry of environment informed Parliament recently



SAVE THE DATE

'NOMADLAND' TO RELEASE IN INDIA ON APRIL 2

Director Chloe Zhao's multiple Oscar-nominated film 'Nomadland', is all set to release in India on April 2. The film features Academy award-winner Frances McDormand as a woman, who leaves home to travel around the American West, after losing her job.

- The Searchlight Pictures' film has garnered six nominations at the Oscars, including the best picture, best actress and the best director nod for Zhao
- The film is also nominated in seven categories at the BAFTA and won the best picture and best director at the Golden Globes Award 2021

NOTE TO FUTURE SPACE TRAVELLERS: PREPARE FOR A SHRINKING HEART

In space, your heart gets smaller, claims a new study. Scientists have reported that the largest chamber of the heart of Scott Kelly, who spent nearly a year on the International Space Station (ISS) in 2015 and 2016, shrank in mass by more than one-quarter by the time he returned to the Earth. According to scientists, without the pull of gravity, the heart does not have to pump as hard, and like any other muscle, it loses some fitness from less strenuous use. For Kelly, the shrinkage occurred even though he exercised almost every day on the space station, a regimen that has proved effective at limiting the brittling of bone and loss of muscle overall.

The new discovery just adds to the litany of transformations that the human body undergoes without the steady downward pull of gravity. Astronauts also tend to have swelled heads, squashed eyeballs, shrivelled legs and bones that become more brittle

A MATTER OF CONCERN?

A smaller heart could be a concern for future missions to Mars, feel scientists. They say, problems could arise, if astronauts get injured or fall sick and are unable to exercise, or if the exercise equipment breaks. With weaker hearts, they could become light-headed and faint, when stepping foot on the Red planet after months of weightless travel, they add



IN THE NOBEL RACE Myanmar civil disobedience movement nominated for Nobel Peace Prize



The civil disobedience movement that has sprung up in Myanmar since the military coup, has been nominated for the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize, a Norwegian academic said.

- Kristian Stokke, professor of sociology at the University of Oslo, said the movement represents an exemplary peaceful response to the power grab by Myanmar's army on February 1
- "This pro-democracy movement, if successful, can have consequences outside Myanmar, and inspire other non-violent pro-democracy movements elsewhere, especially, at a time when democracy is under pressure from the authoritarian forces," he added
- According to the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP), a local monitoring group, 320 people have been killed and nearly 3,000 arrested since the coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi, a recipient of the prestigious award in 1991
- The 2021 peace prize winner will be announced on October 8. The World Food Programme (WFP) won last year

New edition of 'Lord of the Rings' to feature drawings, illustrations by Tolkien

An upcoming edition of JRR Tolkien's 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy will include paintings, drawings and other illustrations by the British author for the first time since it was published in the mid-1950s. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books & Media have announced that the new version will come out on Oct 19 this year.

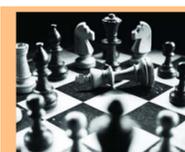


'The Lord of the Rings' books, which include 'The Fellowship of the Ring', 'The Two Towers' and 'The Return of the King', are among the best-selling fantasy novels in history. They were adapted into a blockbuster trilogy of films by director Peter Jackson

BOOK

KIIT, KISS to be first in the country to introduce chess in school curriculum

KIIT and KISS in Odisha will be the first-ever educational institutions in the country to introduce chess in the school curriculum. "This programme will be managed by the International Chess Federation, while KIIT and KISS will provide the required infrastructure. FIDE and AICF will extend all sorts of co-operation," said official sources



Education

➤ The All India Chess Federation (AICF) in association with the All Odisha Chess Association (AOCA) has decided to introduce this in the school curriculum

- According to the policy of the International Chess Federations' (FIDE), chess should be included in the school level study curriculum
- Chess is a part of school curriculum in different countries across the world

Parts of India to see deadly heatwaves in coming decades: Study



Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will likely reduce the impact of deadly heatwaves by half, but the heatwaves will become a commonplace across South Asia, including major crop-producing regions in India, such as West Bengal and UP, says a new study. The findings indicated that these heatwaves will likely become more common in the coming decades, even if global warming is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius.



In 2015, large parts of India and Pakistan experienced the fifth-deadliest heatwave in the recorded history, which caused about 3,500 heat-related deaths



Self-love is numero uno: Katrina Kaif

Celeb talk

Urging every woman to be independent, actress Katrina Kaif says 'self-love is numero uno'. "People will tell us all kinds of things and that is why, self-love is numero uno," she asserts. "Women should know what they are capable of. Sky should be our limit. We should not give anyone any kind of power to bog us down or even under-value ourselves," she adds.

The gap in education, the lack of access to equal opportunities and the deep-rooted belief that women are the weaker sex is a problematic perception. The stereotype that we attach to women should end, and I am glad to see a change taking place as we speak. If you do not have anyone's support, remember that you are self-sufficient. Change should come from within. We need to have a strong sense of self, and not forget that we are made for the greatest things

KATRINA KAIF, ACTRESS

SPACE New bacterial strains found on ISS may help grow plants in space



Discovery of a novel bacterial strains aboard the International Space Station (ISS) suggests the possibility of astronauts growing their own vegetables while in space, says a new study by researchers.

The new bacterial strains discovered from different locations aboard the ISS flights may help in creating the "fuel" to help plants withstand stressful situations, they add

50 per cent say online education led to insurmountable digital divide: Times NIE survey

EXCERPT: In a survey done by Times NIE, 50 per cent of the 536 respondents from Hindi speaking states: Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh think the digital divide is wider than ever and it may lead to serious problems if not addressed immediately

Deebashree Mohanty
Shashi Tharoor, Lok Sabha Member of Parliament, recently said that online learning in its current form is exclusionary and discriminatory. To his claim, the Education Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, shared his concern and said that the Union Government would look into the digital divide in education. "We have started One Class, One Channel to community radio channels initiatives," he said to the House on March 16, 2021.

technology start-up, half of the respondents interviewed felt the current online system of education led to a serious digital divide; while the other half said the issue of a divide cannot be traced back to online learning. Here's a look at the issue of the digital divide and some suggestions by educators pan India.

The problem

The pandemic has exposed a serious digital divide in the country with a section of students not having access to the internet or even learning aids like computers, laptops, tablets and smartphones.



The burning issue of the digital divide in India has become even more intense in the wake of the pandemic. Some suggestions for the government could be:

- 1) Enhanced global digital collaboration.
- 2) Enhanced local digital co-operation, including initiatives that increase bandwidth and provision of electronic devices.
- 3) Subsidy in internet plans.
- 4) Televising of educational programmes.
- 5) Increase public and private partnerships in digital technology and scale up to connect people and cities.

SONAL NARANG, vice-principal, Anand Niketan, Ahmedabad



MANY USEFUL SUGGESTIONS

According to a survey by the National Statistics Office, only 24% of households in India had access to internet, with the number dropping to 12% when considering households with students. This has caused the attendance to significantly reduce during COVID times and measures like subsidised Internet plans/waiving off internet charges should happen. Another option could be televising educational programmes for students with easier accessibility to TV.

SHAILAJA CHANDAR, eminent educationist

The digital divide can be addressed if citizens work towards equity in education. Enhanced collaborative activities through community centres equipped with public digital libraries and resources can really help in reducing the digital gap.

MANJULA RAMAN, CEO, Academics & Innovation, Royale Concorde International, Bengaluru



Part from community radio channels initiatives, the government should adopt appropriate policy intervention for the expansion of digital infrastructure and services. The government can encourage cost-effective solutions such as the use of satellite



devices, drones and the like that are appropriate for rural areas. The government should also narrow down the gender gap in internet usage.
RADHAMANI C, Senior section in-charge, Blooming Buds Bethania Sr Sec School, Thrissur

The Indian Government should take the necessary steps to provide affordable and robust broadband internet services to the rural education sector. Most of the online educational content is given in the English language, which may cause hin-



drance in the teaching-learning process in rural areas. The learning content should be made available to students in all regional languages for better results in the education sector. Even dependence on home-based internet connectivity should be reduced.
MEENAKSHI YADAV, SUPERVISOR, Zebur School For Children, Ahmedabad



To reduce the digital divide, government needs to ensure that every family has a smart device, gets a low-cost internet facility and a strong bandwidth. Apart from that, regular training needs to be given to faculty on digital content and pedagogy to engage students in different languages. Different companies must be encouraged to provide such facilities to students and faculty.

BRATATI BHATTACHARYYA, Secretary General, Shikshayatan Foundation, Kolkata

The government should adopt a two-pronged approach - empower the students to access digital content and reduce complete dependence on online teaching. It would help to strengthen the rural and semi-urban sectors with infrastructure (electricity and stable bandwidth). Gadgets should be made available at subsidised cost and most importantly, teachers should be trained to balance between asynchronous and synchronous teaching modules.

ANUPAMA RAMACHANDRA, Principal, DPS Electronic City, Bengaluru

The digital divide is primarily the issue when it comes to delivering on the education front especially in this pandemic situation. Indian villages do not get adequate electricity supply, many are disconnected from the world wide web and more of such technological hindrances have kept the digital divide in India between the urban and rural students intact. Government will have to tackle this issue on a war footing and actually hand out devices and resolve connectivity issues in real time at the grassroots level if they want to do something truly worthwhile for rural students.

SOBHA NAIR, Sr Coordinator, Guardian High School and Jr College, Mumbai



TO CONCLUDE

If the government continues online education with necessary supportive measures, the prevailing disparity in the virtual world could be resolved and the widening educational inequalities among learners can be bridged.

Survey credit: prashnam.ai

STAY HEALTHY

Have these anti-inflammatory foods

There are many ways to manage inflammation in the body and one of the easiest is by adding anti-inflammatory foods to your diet. These foods are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, lean protein, healthy fats, and spices. Check them out...

Berries

All kinds of berries: strawberries, blueberries, raspberries or blackberries, have anti-inflammatory properties. Berries are packed with antioxidants called anthocyanins. These compounds have anti-inflammatory effects that may help your body produce natural killer cells (NK cells) and keep you safe from lifestyle diseases.



Cruciferous veggies

Broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and kale, all belong to the mustard family (Brassicaceae). Commonly known as cruciferous vegetables, these green vegetables are loaded with great nutrients like folate, vitamin K, and fibre. Besides, they also contain antioxidants that may have anti-inflammatory effects on the body. Research has shown that eating cruciferous vegetables can reduce the risk of heart disease.



Green tea

The famous tea that is known for its antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties is a great addition to the list. It is one of the healthiest beverages you can have to protect yourself from heart disease, cancer, obesity and other conditions. Green tea gets its goodness from a substance called catechins; drink it up.



Tomatoes

Eating healthy does not have to be expensive. Sometimes even common foods present in your pantry can help in protecting you from diseases, provided you eat them the right way. Tomatoes are commonly used to prepare curries in Indian households, but only a few people know how nutritious it is. The red fruit is rich in vitamin C, potassium, and lycopene, which has an antioxidant with powerful anti-inflammatory properties. Lycopene is more effective on your body when cooked; add it to bakes, curries.

Olive oil and coconut oil

Healthy sources of fat like olive oil and coconut oil also possess some anti-inflammatory properties. You can add both of them to your diet depending on the kind of dish you are preparing. Both oils have great health benefits and are good for the gut, heart, skin and hair. Olive oil is



even linked with reducing the risk of heart disease, brain cancer, and other serious health conditions. On the other hand, adding coconut oil to the diet may reduce markers of oxidative stress and inflammation. Have both and stay healthy.

DIY LIFE

Homemade green tea & aloe vera shampoo



If you love sipping green tea and have aloe vera plants in your garden, you have stellar ingredients to make your own shampoo at home. A shampoo that will be completely organic and sulphate free. Here's the DIY recipe:

- Keep the used green tea bags in 200ml of water and boil for 25 minutes.
- Remove the mixture from the stove and let it cool down.

- Once cooled, add another 200ml of liquid soap, some aloe vera gel and one tablespoon of olive oil.
- If you want to give it a fragrance, you can even add a few drops of essential oil like lavender, ylang-ylang or rose.

- When washing your hair with green tea shampoo, you won't need to use a conditioner, as the mixture is chemical-free. Just rinse it through your hair and wash off with cool water. TNN

Celebrating the festival of colours



Holi is a special time of the year to unite and paint the hearts with the colours of happiness. To celebrate the colourful festival virtually, the pre-primary wing of Delhi Public School, Nacharam planned different art and craft activities with colourful confetti.

As this festival also marks the coming of the happy spring season, children in their traditional best danced to the tune of a peppy Holi song. As part of the celebration children were taught the importance of using organic colours, saving water and the safety measures that they should follow during this festival. Children enjoyed the activity of making the Holi card and wishing 'Happy Holi' to the family.

Delhi Public School Nacharam



Holi, the festival of colours, is one of the most important festivals of India and is celebrated with great pomp and fervour. A day before Holi, Holika is burnt to remove negativity and bring the colours of positivity into our lives. The idea behind Holi is to spread the message of harmony.

To celebrate this festival, a special assembly was conducted

Delhi Public School Nadergul

by the students from classes I to III wherein they participated in a painting competition. The importance of Holi and the safety measures required while playing were explained to the students.

Principal Jyothi Turaga praised the efforts of the students by saying that Holi is the day to express love with colours and she also requested them to play a safe Holi by avoiding artificial colours which are dangerous for their skin.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Overcoming challenges with a smile

"Life as a teacher begins the day you realise that you are always a learner"- says Robert John

Meehan. The pandemic and the lockdown that followed proved this adage true to its core. If there is anyone who has faced the lockdown head-on, and emerged a winner, it is the teacher community.

The teacher, who was in her comfort zone with her 'chalk n talk' method, her teaching learning aids, her emotional bond with the students - suddenly felt lost in the world of Zoom, PowerPoint slides, screen sharing and what not. So, what did she do? As a true learner, she learnt the nuances of technology, aced the additional demands of the new normal, managed her work from home schedule like a pro, and did all this with élan.

Not only did she achieve the learning objectives she had set for her stu-

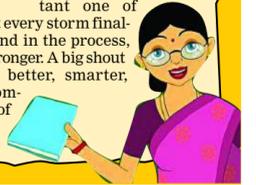
dents, she did this in front of the scrutinising eyes of the parents, all thanks to lockdown.



SUDESHNA MARIYAL, Principal, Pallavi Aware International School, Saroor Nagar

The path wasn't easy. There were worries - about job security, about salaries, about work-life balance, about health concerns; but then, who said being a teacher is an easy task? That is what makes a teacher different from others. She doesn't pursue a profession, she pursues a vocation.

The year 2020 has taught us many life lessons - an important one of them is that every storm finally passes, and in the process, makes us stronger. A big shout out to the better, smarter, stronger community of teachers!



MESMERISING SIGHTS OF OOTY



L. ALA SAMHITHA, class X, Sister Nivedita School, Ameerpet

Last year in mid-summer, my family planned a vacation to Ooty. We reached Mettupalayam station by train at around 7 am. Then we boarded the local vintage train, which was a special attraction for the tourists. The train passed through the hills and as we were passing, we could smell the fragrance from the Eucalyptus trees. Finally, we reached Ooty, around 1 pm.

The place was covered with dense fog. It was so cool that we couldn't stay without wearing sweaters, even during the peak summer time.

We spent the first day of our vacation at the Botanical Garden. It had a variety of species of flora. The garden is situated on the Doddabetta Peak, the highest peak in Ooty. The sight was so beautiful that I couldn't turn my eyes away from it.

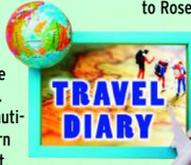
We also saw the various spots where film shootings take place. We bought fresh carrots from there, which were so delicious.

On the second day, we went to

Ooty lake where we had a thrilling boating experience. Next day we went to Rose Garden. We saw roses of every colour and were mesmerised by their sweet fragrance. We visited the tea factory and saw the machinery used there. We bought the most bought things like tea and olive oils. Last but

not the least, we visited the trade fair and bought few accessories.

We returned home, filled with a lot of memories which will always remain fresh in my mind.



Keeping us active & engaged

My school is a fun place. It gives me opportunities to read, write, learn new things every day and make new friends. My teachers are amazing. They are very energetic in online class, they make learning interesting by showing us various videos and also organising online parties for Halloween, Christmas and New Year.

My school has a big playground. I like to play in it with my

friends. My school had taken me for picnics in the past to Plabo, Sudha Cars Museum and zoo where I had enjoyed a lot. My school also organises various activities and competitions throughout to keep us engaged.

In the last academic year, I have dearly missed my school and realised its importance even more. I love my school a lot!!!

SUHANI JODHANI, class I IB, Niraj Public School, Ameerpet

The bravest thing I have ever done!

Nanditha Gunja, class III C, The Global Edge School, Kokapet

I was in my village during summer vacation in 2019. The village is so green and there are many fields and trees around my grandparent's house.

One afternoon, after playing for some time, I headed to the washroom to get refreshed. It was a scary moment as I found a dangerous snake inside. I realised immediately that I needed to step back. So, I slowly got out of the washroom and called my grandfather. I showed him where the snake was hiding and explained how it looked like. But it escaped when my grandfather tried to hit it. This is one experience I will never forget!



A new start with new approach

Gitanjali Devshala Hyderabad

At Gitanjali Devshala, the new academic year of 2021-22 was met with a breath of fresh air, a roar of applause and excitement so intense, that it percolated into each one's lives bringing laughter, positive vibes and hope for a better year ahead. Several workshops were conducted by every department and teachers shared bright ideas that one could take-away from their extraordinary journey last year. The staff proudly showcased their work and their plan for the new academic year 2021-2022.

This start was further propelled by 'Convergence' - an activity aimed at not only welcoming the students to another year of learning and growth but also transitioning them with smooth

finesse into their new class environment!

The students from classes I to III dabbled with multiple activities like talking about their school memories, their favourite toy, prop making and activities with shapes. It was an explosion of colours.

The students of class IV echoed the same energy and thrill with their myriad activities that regaled the students. Their creative teddy bear activity which had to be completed in less than 10 minutes revealed the artist within each child.

The students of class V had an activity that pumped

up their morale by making them speak two good things about themselves and one thing that they wanted to improve upon. They loved the goal-setting activity and doubled over in laughter when they used one adjective to describe themselves.

A healthy dose of wellness was also part of Convergence. Meditation and mindfulness helped them focus and blow away any negative thoughts. This laid the foundation to a sense of holistic wellness. The Big Fish, Small Fish activity and an impromptu Scavenger Hunt kept the students thoroughly engaged and a short insight into phonetics with fun words to pronounce and speech sounds sealed the deal for a fresh start!



BONDING WITH MY PARENTS

The strongest bonding is with your parent
Even in hard times they are present
This lockdown has given me more time
To bond with my parents all the time
Anything except family is exchangeable
And my mother is a walking miracle
Life lessons, you have taught me, Which maybe I did not see
Hey dad! I feel safe when you are with me
A parent is not just a word
It is a feeling, a josh which neither seen nor heard
When everything is added
Nothing comes more or above
Or even has more value
Than your parents' love
Parents are the greatest boon
And for you they would go till the moon
While doing the service for your parents
Even GOD will wait
For that work GOD will love and not hate
For your parents' wish
You can go till the end of the universe
Even if you should carry them in a balance
Then GOD will give you many talents
You can buy many things, From chocolates to diamond rings
But can you buy a true mother or father?
Who holds your hand when you learn to walk as a toddler
Like the earth and all planets revolve around the sun
The parents move around their daughter or son



V ARJUN, class IX D, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans Public School, Jubilee Hills

Painters' Gallery



IN FULL BLOOM: AVIGHN VIMAL, class VII C, Gitanjali Devashray

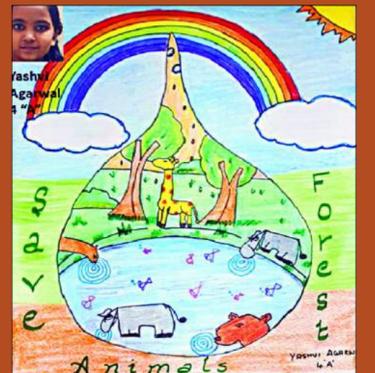


ALL DAY & NIGHT: RISHITA, class VI, FIITJEE World School, Hyderabad

SCENIC: PRIYA HANSITA, class VIII F, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



UNIVERSAL MIND: MOHD AYAAN, class VII A, DDMS P Obul Reddy Public School



GO GREEN: YASHVI, class IV A, Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills



5 NEW RULES IN IPL 2021



Shreyas Iyer, who dislocated his shoulder in the first ODI against England, is set to miss the first half of the IPL where he is the captain of the Delhi Capitals

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made a few changes in the rule-book for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021 season

Minimum Over Rate

One of the biggest changes made in the rules is the length of the match, which now would see the 20th over also concluding in the 90-minute deadline. "As a measure to control the match timings, the 20th over in each innings is now included in 90 minutes, earlier the 20th over was to start on or before the 90th minute."

"The minimum over rate to be achieved in IPL matches shall be 14.11 overs per hour (ignoring the time taken by time-outs). In uninterrupted matches, this means that the 20th over should finish within 90 minutes (being 85 minutes of playing time plus 5 minutes of time-out) of the start of the innings. For delayed or interrupted matches, where an innings is scheduled to be less than 20 overs, the maximum time of 90 minutes shall be reduced by 4 minutes 15 seconds for every over by which the innings is reduced."

Soft Signal

The next big change came in the form of soft-signal. It was the dismissal of Suryakumar Yadav in the T20I series that created a huge uproar over the validity of soft-signals in cases where the on-field umpires don't even have a clear view of the acts. In IPL, hence, the soft-signal will have no bearing on the decision that the third umpire is to give.

"Should both on-field umpires require assistance from the third umpire to make a decision, the bowler's end umpire shall firstly take a decision on-field after consulting with the striker's end umpire, before consulting by two-way radio with the third umpire. Such consultation shall be initiated by the bowler's end umpire to the third umpire by making the shape of a TV screen with his/her hands. The third umpire shall determine whether the batsman has been caught, whether the de-

YES TO UMPIRE'S CALL

Despite questions over the validity of umpire's call in DRS reviews, the BCCI has stuck with it for IPL Season 14. There were suggestions that the decision should be out if any part of the ball is hitting the stumps but the Indian board has decided to persist with the current system, at least for the upcoming season.

Umpire's Call is the concept within the DRS under which the on-field decision of the bowler's end umpire shall stand, which shall apply under the specific circumstances where the ball-tracking technology indicates a marginal decision in respect of either the Impact Zone or the Wicket Zone.

livery was a bump ball, or if the batsman will fully obstructed the field. In case of a fair catch, the third umpire will use all the technological support available to him/her. The third umpire shall communicate his/her decision."

Short-run

In case of the short run, the third umpire will now check the short run and can overturn the decision made by the on-field umpires. This short-run point became a huge point of debate last year after the match between Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) and Delhi Capitals (DC). The Preity Zinta-co-owned franchise also made an official complaint after her team ended up on the losing side.

No-ball

As per the updated guidelines, now the third umpire can overrule the no-ball decision made by the on-field umpire.

Super-Over

There is another updated clause in the playing conditions and according to it, in an interrupted match, subsequent super overs can be played till an hour's time from the actual finished time of the tied matches (Clause 16.3.1).

ENGLAND SERIES GAINS

All-rounders Shardul and Washington, Surya and Kishan

The shining stars once again shone brightly but a few who have made real statements include Mumbai's Shardul Thakur, who, in the coming days, could be the all-rounder Indian team requires on foreign shores with his incisive swing bowling and powerful batting built around decent technique. People waited for Suryakumar Yadav's debut and the player, perhaps, waited even more. When it happened, the Almighty conjured to help the Mumbai maverick write the most brilliant prologue of what would be a "lovely book to read" in the coming days. A player like Ravindra Jadeja wasn't missed as Axar Patel, in his first series, looked like a veteran of 50 Tests, who was ready to play havoc with the minds of English batsmen. He bowled straight undercutters and they played for turn. The result was 27 wickets in three Test matches as he matched the magician Ravichandran Ashwin, strike for strike.

Options galore for Team India

India's T20 team has options in all departments with Rahul, Rohit and now skipper Kohli as openers. If Shreyas Iyer gets fit in time, he and Surya will be slogging it out and so will be Kishan, who is good but comes in the pecking order after Pant. In bowling, Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar and Shardul are fixed entities for the time being and Deepak Chahar, who had a six-wicket match haul before the COVID-19, is no longer a certainty as T Natarajan, with his yorkers, comes into the picture along with Prasad Krishna's searing pace.

FOUR GOALS ACCOMPLISHED BY INDIA

1 The all-format assignment against England saw India accomplish a few specific goals. Firstly, ensuring a spot in the World Test Championship final was non-negotiable and despite the blip in the Chepauk opener, India were ruthless in their approach, cooking the English goose with Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel.

2 The second goal was to check out the core group of players who will be travelling to England to play six Test matches, including the WTC final against New Zealand, followed by five Tests against the home team.

3 During the five matches in the shortest format, the third aspect was exploring various combinations before the T20 World Cup in October.

4 The fourth and final point in the check-list was to try out extra options during the ODI series. It goes without saying that the Indian team management were able to tick all the boxes and as Ian Chappell pointed out, this team has the ability to match the great West Indies side of the 1970s or the Australians in the 90s to mid 2000.

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Tokyo was scheduled to host the Olympics once before but the Games had to be cancelled. In which year was this?
a) 1940 b) 1916 c) 1944 d) 1968

Q2: Cricket has been an Olympic sport only once. In which year was it played?
a) 1932 b) 1964 c) 1900 d) 1980

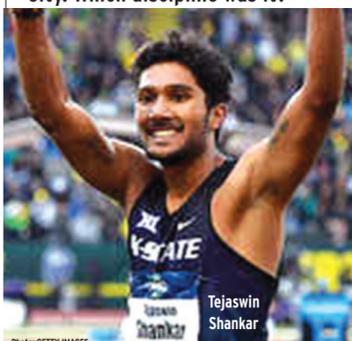
Q3: Five new sports are being included in the Tokyo

Olympics: surfing, sport climbing, skateboarding, baseball & _____
a) Karate b) Polo
c) Bowling d) Darts

Q4: Who won the Italian Open Women's Tennis Singles title, 2019?
a) Karolina Pliskova b) Johanna Konta
c) Naomi Osaka d) Serena Williams

Q5: Which team has been ranked top in the recently released Test rankings by ICC?
a) England b) Australia
c) India d) Pakistan

Q6: High jumper Tejaswin Shankar broke the national record in his first attempt at another discipline, at DeLoss Dodds Invitational, Kansas City. Which discipline was it?



a) Long Jump b) Heptathlon
c) Discus Throw d) Sprint

Q7: Who recently became the highest goal scorer in football history with 770 goals?
a) Cristiano Ronaldo b) Lionel Messi
c) Romario D d) Joseph Bickan

Q8: Which batswoman has scored the fastest fifty in T20 Internationals?
a) Nida Dar b) Smriti Mandhana
c) Alyssa Healy d) Sophie Devine

Q9: Susi Susanti, Joko Suprianto and Hendrawan

all won singles titles at the Badminton World Championships representing which country?

a) Thailand b) Malaysia
c) Philippines d) Indonesia

Q10: Who bagged the FIFA Award?
a) Neymar b) Lionel Messi
c) Cristiano Ronaldo d) Luka Modric

ANSWERS: 1 a) 1940 2 c) 1900 3 a) Karate
4 a) Karolina Pliskova 5 c) India
6 b) Heptathlon 7 a) Cristiano Ronaldo
8 d) Sophie Devine 9 d) Indonesia
10 b) Lionel Messi