



TODAY'S EDITION

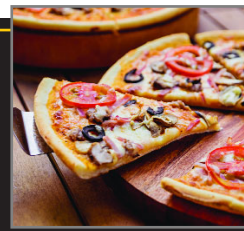
➤ 2020 was full of struggle and innovation for teachers to ensure that learning was not disrupted, as schools remained closed...

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➤ Locked down at home on New Year's eve? Not to worry, make the best out of it with these quick-fix party themes...

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➤ A look at the biggest sporting moments of 2020

PAGE 4



STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020



WEB EDITION

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

2020 will be remembered for the services of the....

THE FRONTLINE Covid Warriors

The person of the year is usually a solitary icon, a larger-than-life hero... However, this year was different for obvious reasons. As Covid-19 lashed the world, the **FRONTLINE WORKERS**—community workers, hospital assistants, nurses and doctors, risked their lives to save US. Also the sanitation workers, the labourers in the graveyards and cremation grounds, who braved infection and worked relentlessly during these tough times, are the people who deserve gratitude. No wonder, these superheroes are **OUR person/s of the year**.

PERSON OF THE YEAR



THE MESSIAH

JOE BIDEN

In November this year, in one of the most-divisive presidential elections in the US history, Joseph R Biden was announced as the United States' President-elect. Biden has his work cut out for him in 2021, as he seeks to rescue a deeply-divided United States from the throgs of the Covid-19 pandemic.



NEWSMAKERS

DR UGUR SAHIN & DR OZLEM TURECI

In Nov this year, Dr Ugur Sahin and his wife Dr Ozlem Tureci, gave the world a new lease of life, when his company BioNTech, in collaboration with Pfizer, announced that its vaccine had proved 90 per cent effective in preventing the Covid-19 infection. Dr Sahin and his wife,

KAMALA HARRIS

Kamala Harris created history by becoming the first-ever female vice-president, as well as the first-ever person of colour to hold the post, since Charles Curtis (under Herbert Hoover's regime). Born to immi-

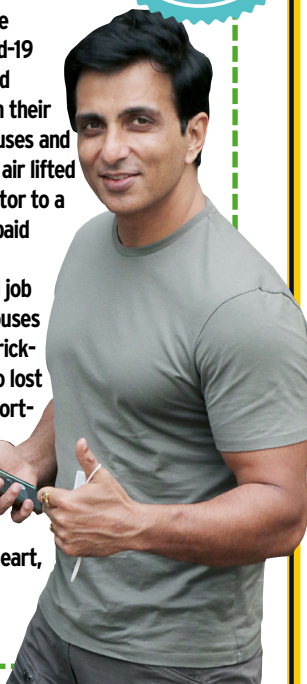
grant parents, Harris has embarked on a stellar career that saw her serve as the District Attorney of San Francisco from 2004 to 2001, before serving as the Attorney General of California for six years.



BILL GATES

One of the be the most-influential private players in global health, Bill Gates, the former Microsoft CEO and philanthropist, has spent billions in his quest to bring vaccines to the developing world. As the pandemic swept across countries, Gates became the unofficial figurehead of the vaccine race. His organisation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, along with the GAVI Alliance, is leading a reportedly \$11 billion effort to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines to over 150 countries, including the participation of the WHO.

Actor Sonu Sood donned a completely different avatar and proved to be a messiah for the needy during the Covid-19 crisis. The actor helped migrant workers reach their homes by arranging buses and train tickets and even air lifted many. He gifted a tractor to a poor farmer's family, paid hospital bills, granted scholarships, provided job opportunities, built houses for the poor, gifted e-rickshaws to the ones who lost their jobs, and even mortgaged his properties to raise funds for the downtrodden. The man with the golden heart, he is the real hero of 2020.



GENDER EQUALITY GOT ITS DUE

From the Oscars to the Booker prize, the year saw a positive approach towards gender equality. While the Oscars introduced new guidelines to improve diversity and inclusion for its most prestigious award, the six-strong shortlist for the 2020 Booker prize—one of the most-prestigious literary awards in the English-speaking world—included four women. Moreover, the UN World's Women 2020 report showed that women's representation in parliament has more than doubled globally.

CLIMATE PLEDGES CLIMB

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) declared that the commitments to net zero emissions from the local governments and businesses have doubled in less than a year, as more countries made net-zero pledges. South Korea became the first Asian country to set a 2050 net-zero emissions goal, followed by Japan and China, which committed to reach the goal by 2060.



HELPING HUNGER

In October, the World Food Programme, which helped close to 100 million people in 88 countries in 2019 to fight hunger, won the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. The prize recognised the World Food Programme's efforts to combat hunger, improve conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas, and help prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of conflict.



GOOD NEWS STORIES THAT GAVE US HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Despite a surge in the consumption of plastics globally, the renewed efforts by countries like Ghana, Indonesia and Vietnam to take action on plastic waste as part of a global partnership to tackle plastic pollution, came as a glimmer of hope for the environmentalists. While Indonesia has pledged to reduce marine plastic debris by 70% by 2025, Ghana has committed to achieve a 100% circular economy for plastics. Vietnam has committed to a 75% cut in marine plastics by 2030.



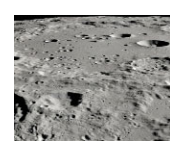
COVID VACCINE DEVELOPED

While the coronavirus led to the loss and heartbreak all over the world, it also prompted a wave of unprecedented global collaboration. Within the space of a year, several vaccines have not only been developed, but has also been authorised for use, and have begun to be administered.



MOON WATER DISCOVERY

NASA's announcement that water on the Moon is more widespread than previously thought, and could help sustain future missions as drinking water or fuel, is believed to be a significant discovery, and according to astronomers, give hope to future missions and human settlements on the Moon.



PLASTIC ACTION

IN MEMORIAM: STARS WHO FADED AWAY

Irrfan Khan:

The talented actor, who breathed life into a bewildering variety of roles, and was recognised abroad just as much as he was at home, lost his battle with a rare form of cancer on April 29



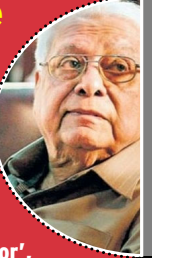
Rishi Kapoor:

On April 30, just as the entertainment world was coming to terms with the death of Irrfan Khan, actor Rishi Kapoor succumbed to cancer. He was 67



Basu Chatterjee

The veteran director, who chronicled the everyday lives of middle class India with humour and empathy in films, such as 'Rajinigandha', 'Baaton Baaton Mein' and 'Chitchor', died on June 4



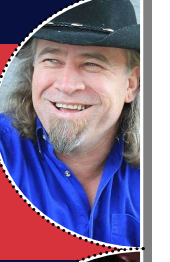
Sushant Singh Rajput

On June 14, the 34-year-old star of 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story' was found hanging in his Mumbai home—a tragic, untimely death that shocked all and led to a debate on mental health issues. However, it soon took another dimension, with allegations on nepotism, structures of power in Bollywood



Doug Supernaw

The country music star died on Nov 13, after battling lung and bladder cancer.



Sean Connery

The actor, best known for playing James Bond, and the man who made the words 'The name's Bond... James Bond' immortal, died at the age of 90 on Oct 31



Chadwick Boseman

Chadwick Boseman, best known for his role as T'Challa/Black Panther in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, died at the age of 43 in August after a four-year battle with colon cancer.



Pranab Mukherjee

Former President and Congress stalwart, Pranab Mukherjee, who served as the President of India (2012-17), died on August 31.



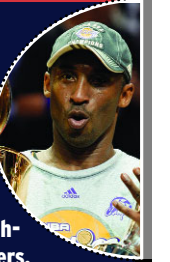
Diego Maradona

World soccer great Diego Armando Maradona, who died on November 25, less than a month after his 60th birthday, was worshipped like a god for his genius with the ball.



Kobe Bryant

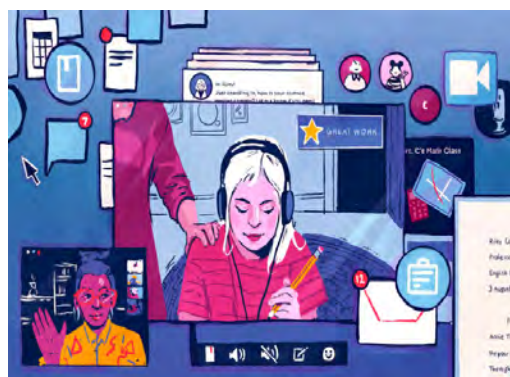
One of the NBA's all-time greatest players, Bryant was killed at age 41 on January 26 in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles, along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others.



2020 was of struggle, innovation for teachers

From turning walls of mud houses into blackboards to taking classes through loudspeakers on moving carts, from 'mohalla' classes to using public announcement system of panchayat bhawans, 2020 was full of struggle and innovation for teachers to ensure learning was not disrupted as schools remained closed due to COVID-19. The over 10-month-long shutdown inspired creative ways to teach thousands of students who

could not log on to online classes because they did not have access to smartphones and computers.



1 Government school teachers in Dumka's Dumarthar village, Jharkhand found a new way to impart education to students who do not have access to smartphones. They created blackboards on the walls of students' houses to teach them with social distancing. "We started with an initiative called 'shiksha aapke dwaar' (education at your doorstep) to provide education to children who did not have access to smartphones," says Tapan Kumar, a teacher in the village.

2 Teachers in Chhattisgarh conducted Mohalla (neighbourhood) classes in areas with low infection rates. "We set up mini classrooms, with small groups of students, in community spaces. The teachers spent a couple of hours in each room, engaging with all students at least twice a week," says one of the teachers.

3 Ghanshyambhai, a teacher in Gujarat's Janan village, used the public announcement system of the village panchayat to share stories, songs, guidelines for parents on how to deal with children during the lockdown period, importance of exercising and much more. "I also announced when I will be at Panchayat Bhawan so students or parents who want to clear any doubts or to interact can see me there, while maintaining social distancing," he adds.

4 Another teacher in Chhattisgarh, Rudra Rana, used his motorcycle to conduct classes. "The children were not able to go to study as schools were closed. So I thought why not bring the school



to them. Even though schools continue to be shut, online classes are not viable for most rural students. I used a portable umbrella and a chalk board to take classes when I went to the village," says he.

In Haryana's Kanwarsika village, the morning bell announcing the start of a teaching session used to ring, not in the local school, but from a van equipped with a loudspeaker.

5 Every day, Indra Mukhi Chhetri, a maths and science teacher in Sikkim's Ravangala, visited homes of several students she identified and reached out to around 40 students in a week from class 1 to 5. "Even if I take online classes, these students either do not have devices or Internet connectivity. Some of them may have access but then how do I maintain equality, others might feel left out. So I used to spend about 20 minutes with each student in a week. I collected their notebooks and wrote lessons for them," says she.

PTI

New Year traditions in different countries

New Year is a great time of merriment, but New Year traditions in different countries vary widely. Before the advent of yet another New Year, let's take a look at some of the most interesting traditions...

DENMARK

Denmark redefines the idea of a unique New Year celebration where they simply smash plates. Yes, you read that right. While most countries host New Year parties to spend quality time with family, in Denmark you are required to pick up your unwanted crockery and smash them.



CHINA

The Chinese New Year is a much-celebrated event, which is colourful and exciting. In China, you can partake in the many traditions of Chinese New Year. One particular tradition is handing out cash in red envelopes. Elders usually hand out various sums of money to the young people in red envelopes.

JAPAN

The Japanese have their own unique set of traditions. New Year's Eve is also known as Omisoka, and the tradition is ringing bells in Buddhist temples, and that too exactly 108 times. The reason for 108 is that this is the number of human desires, which means the causes of suffering.



THAILAND

Known as Songkran, the Thai people celebrate New Year by splashing water onto each other. You will find lots of people walking the streets with buckets of water, ready to attack each other with a lot of water. Off-beat but interesting - isn't it...



Say goodbye to these 2020 decor trends

The year 2020 was a havoc as the pandemic took over the whole world. Many trends evolved during the lockdown, from Dalgona coffee to Bollywood gossip... and people spent every moment inside their homes realising the need to re-decorate and rearrange their interiors...

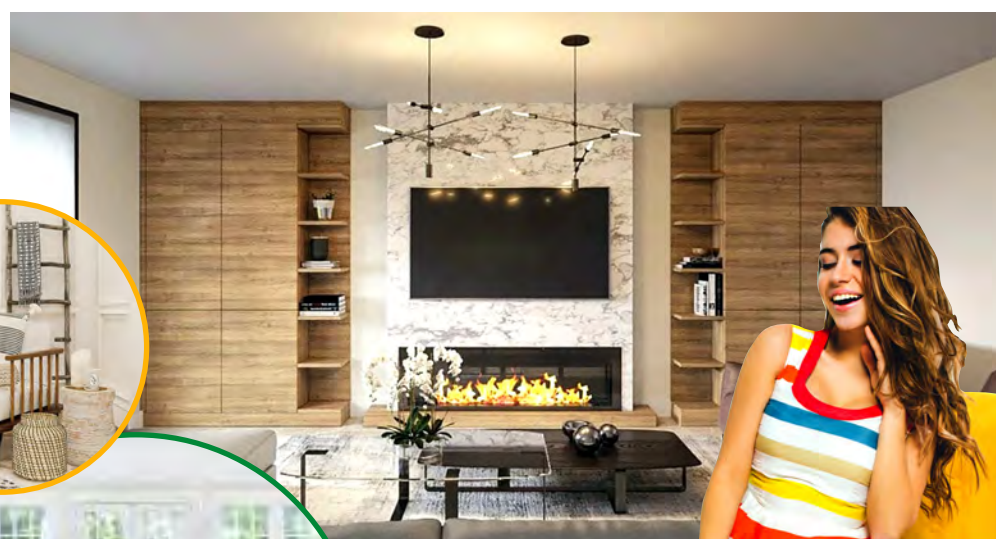
WHITE-ON-WHITE: White furniture and white paint was preferred to showcase being posh and opulent; yet, it's grown quite old and outdated.

PIN OR FORK LEGS TABLE TABLES: While industrial designs have been a well-liked option for several years, it's already out of fashion and one could opt for classic table designs.

EXPENSIVE FURNITURE CLUSTERS: Many homes use various sorts of costly and exorbitant decor items to show off price and luxury. This concept worked earlier but it doesn't portray any character. Every home should reflect the style and personality of its times or of its owner.

THEMED SPACES: Refrain from using themes to embellish rooms, especially for your children, because it's often used for limited time and then you have to redecorate. So, it's better to think about a topic which will be relevant for your child for a long enough time.

FAKE DECOR: Sometimes, for the sake of giving a natural touch to the decor we frequently display



CHORUS RATHER THAN COLOURED WALLS: Choose accent colour walls. It creates a captivating design and everything within the room gets attention.

CONTRAST DIFFERENCE: Playing with contrast is often a tricky idea, especially if you're considering an equivalent colour. However, it's already outdated, so try and avoid it.

our drawing rooms. This concept worked magic for a considerable period over the past decade but it will be out next year. The same applies to ornate mirrors and stuffed animals.

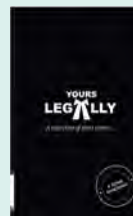
TOP YEAR-END READS by women authors

From what keeps women out of the workplace, to stories that connect law and humanity, here are some female authors to end your year with...

'YOURS LEGALLY'

by Sonia Sahijwani

Yours Legally' is a collection of six short stories related to the interesting and unusual field of law narrated through the eyes of Sia, the protagonist. These are independent yet connected stories with the common elements of law and humanity. "The book is inspired by real life incidents and events which I was fortunate enough to experience and witness," says Sania.



'LINES OF FATE'

by Neelam Saxena Chandra

Lines of Fate' is a short story collection consisting of selected, distinctive and unique tales from different walks of life set in the Indian diaspora. When the dice is rolled, one does not know what the outcome will be. Similarly, whenever there is an encounter between people; the aftermath is simply indefinite and unidentifiable.



'HAVE THE WOMEN LEFT VENUS?'

by Geet Mala Jalota

For many women today, there are no role models at home to learn how to navigate the workplace. Women learn to copy their male bosses, subverting their strengths. The book aims to correct this gap. It points out leadership behaviours practised by women confident in their femininity.



RING IN THE New Year WITH THESE COOL IDEAS

WE LOVE NEW BEGINNINGS AND ALWAYS WELCOME FRESH IDEAS! HERE, TEACHERS & STUDENTS SHARE WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO READ MORE ABOUT...

1 SET UP YOUR OWN PHOTOBOOTH



Add a touch of creativity to your New Year themed party. Of the several fun ideas, one can be to set up a photo booth. Just run to a local stationary store and buy a nice colourful roll of craft paper. Carefully stick the same to the room wall using a tape and boom! your fun backdrop is ready! You can also make a cut-out of your favourite super hero, funky glares, moustaches, funny quotes and use those to click some amazing pictures!

BY ANKITA RATH

2021

has to be one of the most-awaited New Years ever! Looking back at the year gone by, more than the happy reminiscences, our minds are overshadowed by the memories of all the turmoil and challenges that the global pandemic has brought in our lives. Terms like lockdown, quarantine, social distancing, sanitizers and masks took prominence and soon became a part of normal parlance. However, after a tumultuous 2020, we are now ready for a fresh start.

Though the dynamics of celebrations changed in 2020, that in no way means that the New Year party has to be sans any fun and festivity.

As we bid adieu to the leap year tonight, instead of heading out, why not welcome 2021 with some of the best in-house party ideas? Let's begin the year with positivity and the hope of getting our old lives back where we can breathe freely and explore the beautiful world around us without any worries.

3 DIY PARTY CRACKERS



This can be an interesting activity for children at home. Organise an 'Art Attack' corner in the house and arrange some coloured or plain papers and sparkles to make the crackers. Follow some easy tutorials on YouTube and make your own crackers using the paper and putting the sparkles inside it to add that extra glitz to the party.

4 ORGANISE A BRUNCH BASH



Any party is incomplete without a celebratory meal. Help your parents in deciding the menu and preparing the meal for the day. You can throw a New Year brunch party for your close friends and family. You can also add a festive dish like cheesecake or cupcakes to the menu.

5 THEME PARTY

You can pick a theme such as super-heroes, fairytales or even corona warriors and dress-up accordingly for the party. Use your old outfits to create the look for the character that you will be dressing up as. Add on some props and you are good to go!

LANGUAGE CORNER

I would like to see a column where students can express themselves in different languages. There is a wealth of readership for regional language literature in India, but doesn't get importance. We must give respect to our own language.

NOORJAHAN, Urdu teacher, Springfield International School, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad

SPREAD AWARENESS

Make people aware of issues such as cleanliness, manners, pollution, etc. Another column can be on children talking about lessons learned in 2020 and what they expect in 2021.

B AASHRITHA, class VII, TNR Excellencia Academy

JOB TRENDS

A column on trending jobs that a student can aspire for after class XII, giving detailed information about it, so that they can understand the latest job trend and also the new ones arising.

SAARTHA SAGAR BHANDARI, class X, Sentia the Global School, Hyderabad

MORAL LESSONS

Children need to know moral values and use them in their life. The edition can contain a column of interesting activities that teach moral values to the readers.

MANASVI DESHPANDE, class V, Sri Aurobindo International School, Hyderabad

FUN & FACTS

I would love to see more cartoons, word hunt, joke corner, etc., which would take the edition to a whole new level. Especially in this pandemic, we all need some fun in our lives.

B SAI JYOTHIRADITYA, class VI, Gitanjali Primary School, Begumpet

INFO CORNER

A good review of latest books, toys and gadgets along with their price tags will help us make an informed choice while shopping for them.

JATHIN KALEPALLI, class VI A, The Global Edge School, Vasanth Nagar

EAGER BEAVER

A column called Eager because we should be eager to learn new things. Being eager to learn things is also a very good habit. But remember we should not be eager always in some situations. Hey, and don't forget to be eager about Covid-19 vaccine.

MOKSHITH ANANDA BESTHA, class VIII, Meridian School, Kukatpally

SMILE WITH CARTOONS

Cartoons are funny and witty and also teach us life lessons. I want to see more cartoons in the edition as readers will get to smile and laugh more every day!

PRITHVI RAJ PAUL, class V B, Jain Heritage A Cambridge School, Kondapur

SLOKA TIME

A column dedicated to the Bhagavad Gita slokas along with their meaning so that we can know more about our tradition which will inculcate values in us. This can also help us learn important morals to follow in our daily life.

U V SRUTHI, class VII, Gitanjali Devshala, Hyderabad

HELPFUL TIPS

We are all braving the pandemic, sometimes grappling with it, sometimes giving up hope, most of us are showing resilience too. I would appreciate if we can come up with a column where a doctor/psychologist gives us tips about keeping fit mentally and physically too during the pandemic. We can have one tip every day, we can encourage schools to share one best practice of online classes, how they made it interesting for students that students say my heart desires for more.

SUNIR NAGI, Principal, Pallavi Model School, Alwal

SHARING EXPERIENCES

A small column on good things that came out during the time available to children while attending classes from home would certainly be timely and interesting. Teaching origami or paper craft to create images of animals, furniture, etc., and similar crafts will be a column followed by craft work enthusiasts.

LAKSHAY AGRAWAL, class IV A, Gitanjali Vedika School

TESTING IQ

Albert Einstein said, "Pure Mathematics is in its way, a poetry of logical ideas". Very true, irrespective of the age, everyone loves figuring out puzzles. A "Tantalizing puzzles" column will make curious minds become great thinkers. Solving puzzles is a great weapon against stress and also improves IQ.

NEERAJAKSHI, Teacher, Silver Oaks International School, Hyderabad

GUIDANCE SECTION

Students can be encouraged to post their queries related to mental health and well-being on a selected day of the week. There could be many students who may be going through a tough phase due to the pandemic and their fears can be resolved by renowned psychologists and counsellors.

G SHRIYA, class VII G, Delhi Public School, Nacharam

HOBBIES AT HOME

Tips on gratitude and maintaining a journal, info on Indian heritage and also hobbies that can be cultivated at home are some of the articles I would like to see more of in the new year.

DHRUV DEVINENI, class V H, Delhi Public School, Miyapur

Q&A STUDENT HUB

A column which says CHIT CHAT WITH ME or CHIT CHAT WITH _ (the person's name). One or more students can be chosen to answer emails from other students who would wish to share their thoughts and queries on any topic. It will make interesting reading as both question and answer would be from the students' point of view. This will be read by many students and will help them come out of similar dilemma they may be facing. They will know what is the right thing to do and get to know others' opinion too.

KASHVI YADAV AVULA, class VIII, D.D.M.S (A.M.S) P Obul Reddy Public School

POSITIVITY

A quote a day on positive thinking and articles that develop 'positive thinking' in students in every aspect of life will be interesting to read.

A HAVISH KUMAR, class V B, CRPF Public School

PICTORIAL MESSAGE

A pictorial display which tells a story and also carries a strong message. Topics like global warming, anthropogenic waste, deforestation, nuclear explosion, etc., can make a strong impact on the young readers' mind. For instance, the illustrations can depict industrialisation which has its pros and cons. We can show pollution and deforestation and the solution too - workers planting 10 saplings for every sapling that is cut. This will start a change in the world.

SANIYA, class X B, Diamond Jubilee High School

TOP SPORTING MOMENTS

From Rafael Nadal demolishing Novak Djokovic to win his record 13th French Open title to Bayern Munich clinching its sixth Champions League cup, we bring you some of the biggest sporting events that hooked fans in 2020



Photo: AFP

MOURNING KOBE BRYANT

The helicopter crash outside Los Angeles on January 26 that claimed the life of Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others sent shockwaves through the basketball fraternity and the US. A five-time NBA champion, Bryant played for the Los Angeles Lakers throughout his 20-year career before retiring in April 2016. His death prompted a tempest of tributes. "When Kobe Bryant died, a piece of me died," said Michael Jordan.



Photo: REUTERS

CRICKET IN THE TIME OF CORONA

When coronavirus first struck it looked as though all summer sport would be written off but on July 8 at the Rose Bowl in Southampton, England and the West Indies, who had been in a bio-secure bubble for a month, emerged to play a thrilling Test behind closed doors. West Indies edged the opener, thanks to fine performances by Shan-non Gabriel and Jermaine Blackwood but England came back to take the three-match Test series. The real winner, though, was the England and Wales Cricket Board who managed this and a further series against Pakistan, as well as ODI series against Ireland and Australia, impeccably.

POGACAR'S POWER PEDALLING

Photo: AFP



A virus-delayed Tour de France took place in September, which was in itself a massive achievement. That it produced an incredible race, and saw Slovenian Tadej Pogacar come from nowhere to become just the seventh man to win it at his first attempt, raised it to a higher plane. The then 21-year-old had won two stages but was 57 seconds behind countryman Primoz Roglic going into the penultimate stage time trial. As Roglic choked, Pogacar burned up the road to win his third stage and take the yellow jersey for the first time.

DJOKOVIC'S SENSATIONAL DISQUALIFICATION

World number one Novak Djokovic went into the US Open looking for an 18th major triumph in the knowledge that Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal were absent. Going into his fourth round match against 20th seed Pablo Carreno Busta, the Serb had not lost a singles match in 2020. It all went wrong though when the 33-year-old vented his frustration after dropping his service by hitting a ball behind him, striking a female line judge in the throat. Djokovic immediately apologised but after a lengthy discussion, he was disqualified, leaving the field open for Dominic Thiem.



Photo: AFP

BAYERN MUNICH SWEEP TO CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TITLE

When the pandemic forced UEFA to transform the final stages of the Champions League into a mini-tournament in Lisbon, Bayern looked the best team from the start. Hansi Flick's accomplished side won their sixth European crown, thanks to Kingsley Coman's header against Paris Saint-Germain.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

DHONI'S LYRICAL RETIREMENT

On the evening of August 15, the entire cricket fraternity was left stunned as Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who last played for India in July 2019, announced his abrupt retirement from international cricket. "Thanks a lot for ur love and support throughout from 1929 hrs consider me as Retired," the former India captain posted on his official Instagram account. Social media was abuzz with tributary posts for the legendary Indian captain, with fans expressing their heartfelt thanks to MS Dhoni and wishing him luck for his future endeavours.

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

Francesco Caputo, a forward for Italian football club Sassuolo, spoke for the whole world when he lifted his shirt to reveal the message: "It will all be fine, stay at home" as Covid-19 ravaged Italy on its way to taking hold in Europe.

Photo: GETTY IMAGES



SWIATEK TAKES POLE POSITION AT ROLAND GARROS

Iga Swiatek was ranked 54th in the world when she travelled to Roland Garros. Two weeks later, after seeing off Sofia Kenin in the final, the 19-year-old had risen to number 17 and had become the first Pole to win a Grand Slam singles title. It was a breathtaking fortnight for Swiatek who capitalised on the absence of world number one Ashleigh Barty and the early exit through injury of Serena Williams to become the youngest female singles winner since Monica Seles in 1992.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

HAMILTON JOINS THE F1 LEGENDS

When Michael Schumacher bowed out of Formula One, few thought his record of 91 Grand Prix wins and seven world championships would ever be matched. In 2020, Lewis Hamilton did just that, winning 11 of the 17 races to take his tally beyond Schumacher's record to 95, and equalling the German's seven titles. The 35-year-old Briton certainly benefitted from the outstanding Mercedes car at his disposal but there is little doubt he has etched his name firmly among the greatest of his sport.

LUCKY 13 FOR NADAL

Rafael Nadal skipped the US Open but there was no way the Spaniard was going to miss his signature event, the French Open which took place at a blustery Roland Garros in a rearranged late September/early October slot. Inevitably, and without dropping a set on the way, Nadal bulldozed his way to the final where he met Djokovic who was keen to atone for his mishap at Flushing Meadows. It was barely a contest with Nadal winning 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 to claim a 13th French Open title and match Federer's record of 20 major wins.

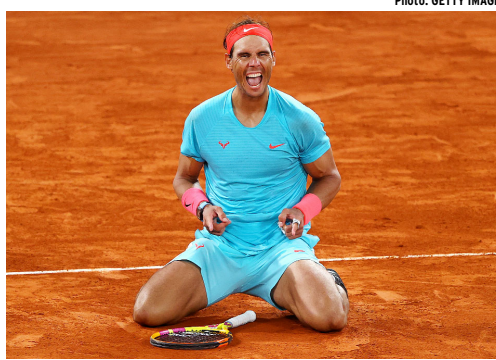


Photo: GETTY IMAGES

LIVERPOOL WIN PREMIER LEAGUE

Under Jurgen Klopp, the Reds had threatened for two years to finally land their first domestic title since 1990. Strengthened by the addition of goalkeeper Alisson and centre-back Virgil van Dijk, in 2019-20 they galloped to an almost unassailable lead, only for the pandemic to halt football. When the season resumed, they didn't miss a Mersey beat and lifted the trophy on an empty Kop as their supporters defied coronavirus warnings to gather in a haze of red flares outside.

36 ALL OUT

Any cricket team can have a bad day at the office but few have suffered a batting meltdown to compare with India, captained by the great Virat Kohli, when they were bowled out for just 36 by Australia in the first Test in Adelaide in December. India had been in a decent position after the first innings but Josh Hazlewood (5-8) and Pat Cummins (4-21) ripped through them. It was the fifth lowest score in Test history and India's lowest ever.

THE MATCH THAT NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN PLAYED

Liverpool's defeat to Atletico Madrid in the Champions League last 16 on March 11 was notable less for the result than for the fact that 50,000 people gathered at Anfield at a time when coronavirus was already rampant. Scientists have pinpointed the match as one of the key superspreader events in England.



Photo: AFP

ATHLETICS FINDS A NEW STAR

When pole vaulter Armand Duplantis set a new world record of 6.18m in an indoor meet in Glasgow in February a week after clearing 6.17m, the sport of track and field had a new star. The US-based Swede with the teen movie looks then produced the highest outdoor vault of all time (6.15m) and finished the year undefeated in 16 competitions.