



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

[www.toistudent.com](http://www.toistudent.com)
**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

► Do you know how the phrase 'Fiddle while Rome burns' became a popular usage? Figure it out in 'Wizard's Corner'  
**PAGE 2**



► As schools get ready for offline mode, a student shares the fun side of virtual classes  
**PAGE 3**



► EPL: Manchester City inch closer to Premier League title  
**PAGE 4**


**STUDENT EDITION**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2021



**Which is the largest cat species in the world?**

**CLUE 1:** Count Malayan, Indo-chinese and Amur among its subspecies.

**CLUE 2:** It's also the third-largest carnivore on land, after the polar bear and brown bear; at full speed it can reach up to 65 km/hr.

**CLUE 3:** Famous fictional depictions of the animal include Richard Parker, Hobbes and Rajah.

**Answer: TIGER.** A total of 124 tiger deaths were recorded in the country in 2021 – the highest in a decade. Data sourced from the National Tiger Conservation Authority till December 29 this year revealed that nearly 50% (60) of the deceased big cats fell prey to poachers, accidents and man-animal conflict outside protected areas. The number in 2016 was almost as high, at 121. Statewise, Madhya Pradesh, with 526 tigers, recorded the highest loss at 41, followed by Maharashtra, which has 312 tigers, at 25, and Karnataka, which hosts 524 tigers, at 15.

**Instagram to 'double down' on video, focus on Reels in 2022**

In a video message, Meta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram's head Adam Mosseri said that the platform will "double down" on video and focus on Reels in the upcoming year. Mosseri said, Instagram will "consolidate all of our video products around Reels and continue to grow that product". Engadget reported on Wednesday, "We are going to have to rethink what Instagram is because the world is changing quickly and we're going to have to change with it," Mosseri was quoted as saying.

Instagram has been making some changes to how it handles videos in recent months. In October, it killed off the IGTV brand to bring longer-form videos into the main feed. However, users need to tap through to Reels to watch the full video.

## NEWSMAKERS OF 2021



2021 GAVE US SOME MOMENTS THAT HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD FOR GOOD, SOME FOR THE BETTER AND SOME FOR THE WORSE...

### Joe Biden and Kamala Harris

Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President and Kamala Harris as the 49th Vice President of the United States on January 20 this year. The duo has many 'firsts' to their credit. For starters, Biden is the oldest US President, the first to have a female Vice President and the first from Delaware. Kamala Harris became the first Indian-American, the first woman, and the first African-American to be sworn in as the Vice President.



### Prince Harry and Meghan Markle

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex made news in March this year with their two-hour sit-down tell-all interview with Oprah Winfrey. The first part of the interview was with Meghan Markle during which she said that she had felt suicidal while living and working as a member of the royal family and that when she tried to seek professional help, she was told it "wouldn't be good for the institution". She further said a member of the royal household had remarked and raised concerns about the colour of their son Archie's skin while she was pregnant with him. In the other part, Prince Harry revealed his non-existent relationship with his brother, Prince William.



### PARAG AGRAWAL

Indian-born techie Parag Agarwal was appointed as the new CEO of Twitter and has become another star in the galaxy of Indian-born CEOs leading top global tech firms. He joins the elite list of Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Arvind Krishna, Shantanu Narayen, Raghu Raghuram, who head Google, Microsoft, IBM, Adobe and VMware, respectively. Parag took over Twitter's reins from its co-founder CEO Jack Dorsey, who was at the helm of the company for 16 years.



### DR SWATI MOHAN

Touchdown confirmed! Dr Swati Mohan's announcement made history on February 19 this year, as it meant that NASA's Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover had landed on the Red Planet's surface. This was significant after the rover had been in the space for seven months, with some tense moments, as it navigated a tricky touchdown after plunging through the Martian atmosphere. Indian-born Swati spearheaded the mission, as she steered the controls and the landing of the rover.



### INDIAN MEDALLISTS AT THE TOKYO OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS

After the corona carnage that shook the nation through March, April and May, we were desperately looking for some cheer. That came in the form of the record contingent to the Tokyo Olympics. The Indian contingent surpassed their mark from Rio 2016 and returned home with a total of seven medals – their best tally to date. Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra made history on August 7, 2021, by winning India's first-ever gold medal in athletics at the Olympics. It was Indian girl-power all the way at Tokyo. Salikhom Mirabal Chanu brought home the country's first-ever silver in women's weightlifting and became the first Indian Olympic medallist in the sport since 2000. Lovlina Borgohain bagged the bronze in women's boxing. The hockey team – men's and women's – were no less in their share of accomplishments. The men won the bronze medal – their first Olympic medal since 1980, and the women's team was placed fourth.



## FASHION TRENDS that ruled 2021

While some fashion trends go out of style, some make a comeback, leaving their impact on society, something we have observed time and again. 2021 wasn't quite the triumphant return to normalcy as we all hoped for, but that didn't really stop fashion-lovers to experiment with a slew of new fashion trends...

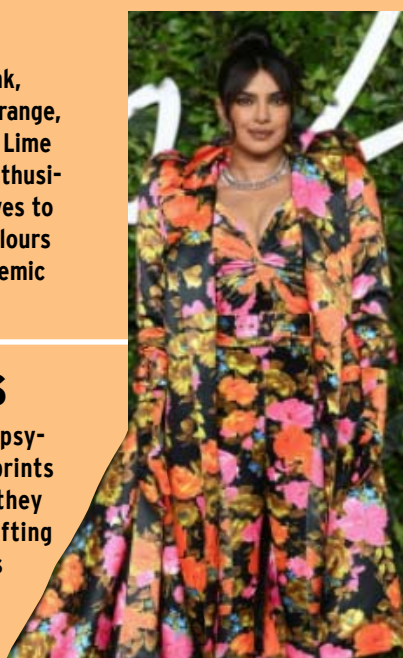


### VIBRANT COLOURS

Sunny hue, Poppin Pink, Purple Red, Vibrant Orange, and not to forget the Lime Green! The fashion enthusiasts goaded themselves to these mood-lifting colours after the jinx of pandemic came to some rest

### BOLD PRINTS

Floral, botanical and psychedelic statement prints surged this year, as they acted as a mood-uplifting way to raise people's spirits amidst the pandemic



### ANIMAL PRINT

Animal print is a trend that never goes out of style. However, it has a certain period when it gets popular – usually during the winter/spring season. The wildlife pattern prints, which include leopard, cheetah, zebra, etc, signify independence



### Customised funky jewellery

Mismatched jewellery, chunky monochrome rings, thick chains, stone necklaces, colourful chunky bangles – became popular in 2021

### Chunky loafers

When it comes to footwear, sneakers and killer heels were almost nowhere to be seen and instead were replaced with chunky and thick chained sandals, also called loafers

### FUNKY PANTS

We said goodbye to the millennial-beloved skinny jeans and welcomed the boot cuts, 70s wide-legged jeans, '90s skater jeans. Bold printed pants also made their structured place in our wardrobes

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**
  
[www.toistudent.com](http://www.toistudent.com)

**ONLINE TOI STUDENT EDITION**

**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**

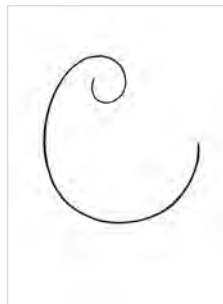


## LEVEL-1

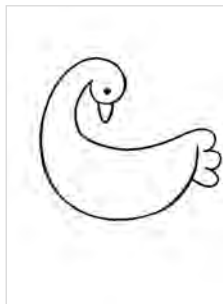


ANAGHA SASTIKAR  
Art Educator  
Bodakdev School For  
Children, Ahmedabad

## Draw the easy way



Step-1



Step-2



Step-3



Step-4



Step-5



Step-6



## 1) EATH

- a. Sweat b. Red  
c. Beat d. Heat

## 2) RECLU

- a. Cold b. Café  
c. Cruel d. Curse

## 3) MSECITJA

- a. Mountain b. Mesmerise  
c. Majestic d. Gigantic

## 4) RUTNB

- a. Burnt b. Ignorance  
c. Attitude d. Nature

Answers: 1) d, 2) c, 3) c, 4) a

## Riding with the Riddle

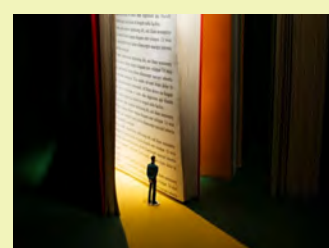
S K, class V, NPS  
Yeshwanthpur

I protect your home when you are away or when you are home alone. In fact, I can protect everything useful. I have one special friend, without whom I cannot do. We are a pair. Others in my clan too have one special friend each, who come in different shapes, sizes and colours. Who are we?

Answer: Lock and Key

## OLD AND NEW

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru



3 Dickens' 'The Old Curiosity Shop' features virtuous

- A) Rosa B) Nell  
C) Edith D) Betsy

4 After LM Montgomery's 'Emily of New Moon' comes 'Emily'

- A) Cares B) Calls  
C) Clings D) Climbs

5 Joseph Kesselring's 'Arsenic and Old Lace' is a

- A) Play B) Memoir  
C) Novel D) Essay

6 John Irving's 'The Hotel New Hampshire' is about people called

- A) Terry B) Kerry  
C) Jerry D) Berry



## Quiz TIME

Complete these statements on books with Old / New titles...

1 'The Old Man and The Sea' is by

- A) Faulkner B) Hemingway  
C) Hawthorne D) Fitzgerald



2 Aldous Huxley is the author of 'A Brave New'

- A) Earth B) Country  
C) World D) Nation

Answers: 1) B. Hemingway 2) C. World 3) B. Nell  
4) D. Climbs 5) A. Play 6) D. Berry

## LEVEL-2

## Idiom-etrics

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

(Choose the idiom that best suits the situation)

Ajay planned to study aeronautical engineering after he finished school. He had been fascinated with flying ever since he was a child and was eager to learn all that he could about aircraft. Unfortunately, Ajay did not do well in his final examination and was unable to pursue his dream. He had to settle for a college course in which he had no interest.

- A. Storm in a teacup  
B. Not (one's) cup of tea  
C. As good as a chocolate teapot

Answer: B



Unconcerned about a test she had the following morning, Sonia spent most of Sunday at a mall with friends.

- A. Fiddle while Rome burns  
B. Rome was not built in a day  
C. All roads lead to Rome

Answer: A



## TRIVIA

In 64 AD, a fire swept through Rome. By the time it was extinguished, 10 of the city's 14 districts were destroyed. Some historians held Emperor Nero responsible for this conflagration. Instead of taking action to stop the fire, Nero played his lyre and composed a song about the destruction. 'To fiddle while Rome burns' is to carry on happily as usual rather than dealing with something that needs attention.

## EDITOR IN THE MAKING

## WEAVE A STORY WITH IMAGES

Observe these images below carefully, then weave a story around them in not more than 150 words and give it a title. Ensure, reference of all images is there in the story. Mail the story to us at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com). The interesting one will be published in the edition. Watch out for this space!!!

## Tell Tale



And the winner is...

SUHAANI HALDAR,  
class VII, Julien Day School,  
Kolkata, West Bengal

## WHERE CAN I GO?

Mom! Can we go to the pet store today?" I shouted. "Well, you can go straight to the White House in US," said my mom. "Why?" I asked. "Joe Biden has welcomed a new puppy called Commander to the White House so you can go there as you want a pet," my mom said. "That's great! Then can we go to the movie theatre today? Because Bajranghi Bhaijaan is back once again. Hurrah!!" I yelled. "Today you are staying at home because I will prepare your favourite Joomou pumpkin soup for lunch, which has got cultural heritage tag!" said my mother. "Wow! Thanks for the lovely treat, Mom," I exclaimed. During lunch as I was drinking the mouth-watering soup, I asked my mom "Mom, do you think Mamata can do her magic in Goa?" "Time will tell us dear. How is the soup?" "Awesome Mom! You are superb," I shouted.



## MATH MAGIC

## NUMBER SERIES

1 How many zeros are there in One Trillion?

- A) 12 zero B) 10 zero  
C) 15 zero D) 19 zero

Answer: A

2 What comes after a Trillion?

- A) Million B) Billion  
C) Trillion D) Quadrillion

Answer: D

3 Name the Polygon that has 15 Sides?

- A) Octagon B) Decagon  
C) Pentadecagon D) Polygon

Answer: C

4 What is the other name of the Perimeter of a Circle?

- A) Circumference B) The Constant Pi  
C) Radius of the circle D) Diameter

Answer: A

5 Riya ranked 8th from the top & 26th from the bottom in a class. How many students are there in the class?

- A) 44 B) 33 C) 55 D) 88

Answer: B



## Learn a NEW LANGUAGE GERMAN

1) Nett, Sie kennen zu lernen

Meaning: Nice to meet you

2) Tisch für zwei bitte

Meaning: Table for two, please

3) Wo ist die Toilette?

Meaning: Where is the bathroom?

4) Wie geht es dir? Haben Sie noch Zimmer frei?

Meaning: Do you have any rooms available?

5) Auf Wiedersehen

Meaning: Goodbye

## Work sheet

Q:1 How will you say Goodbye?

Q:2 How will you ask for a bathroom?

Q:3 How will you say, "Table for two please"

Q:4 How will you ask if there are rooms available?

Answers: 1) Auf Wiedersehen 2) Wo ist die Toilette? 3) Tisch für zwei bitte 4) Haben Sie noch Zimmer frei? 5) Auf Wiedersehen



## REVISITING INDIA'S GLORIOUS PAST

**G**yan Mahotsav was organized by students and staff of Sri Sri Academy, Hyderabad, to commemorate Amrit Mahotsav, 75 years of Indian Independence. In line with the theme of national celebrations, a fair was organised to give a glimpse into India's glorious past, prominent rulers, dynasties, leaders that emerged from time to time.

This fair took everyone on an amazing journey of India, covering almost 4500 years, from 2500 BCE to the current era and future scenario (up to 2035 CE). Students were sensitised about the past glory of India which invoked pride in them.

A country that was once prosperous, rich in education,

**Sri Sri Academy  
Hyderabad**

sculpture, rule of law, nation above self, peace loving and spiritually elevated. Then the covetous foreign invasions stoked by evil intent of conquest were depicted. The Indian heroes and heroines who stood up against the marauders were extolled in the Gyan Mahotsav.

The European traders who annexed our land and used trade to build their territory were depicted very well by our students. We also brought attention to the current day scenario where trade can be used to influence countries and their decisions. The children as well as parents

understood the interdependence and coexistence of countries through this show.

The whole audience was moved with the cries of "Vande Mataram" and the theatrical representation of the Independence movement.

Effects of rapid industrialisation/urbanisation on the environment like Global Warming and climate change and impact on our life, natural resources, agriculture etc were also shown. The need to contain it through global orders was also exhibited.

This exercise was a journey of discovery of India's glorious past and her struggles, her thriving existence and a wish for her golden future.



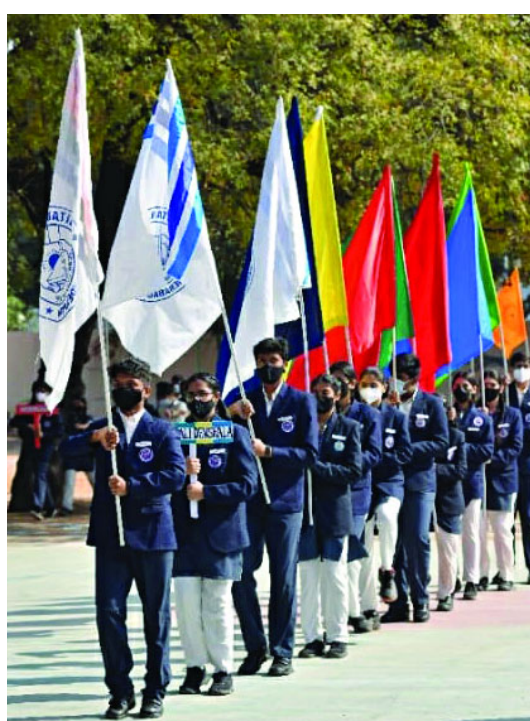
## IF I WERE A BIRD

If I were a bird, I would have the freedom to fly from one country to the other without paying bundles of notes to the airways. I would feel the beauty of nature and see the different streets of different cities in every country. I would even help people to send messages to each other. I would have the pleasure to eat freshly grown fruits and not those adulterated, packaged food. My fantasy of talking to trees and animals would be gratified. I would be able to remember the routes to travel across the world without a GPS map. Most importantly I would learn the bird language and crack what is behind that chirping of swallow and cooing of doves. Being a bird could also be stressful if few cruel minded people put me in a cage. But overall a bird's life is quite intriguing.

**BHAVYA LAKKIMSHETTY**, class IX, Sister Nivedita School, Ameerpet, Hyderabad



## CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE ON SPORTS DAY



**G**itanjali Devshala conducted its Annual Sports Day as a recognition of the sporting excellence of the school which was live streamed from the school grounds.

Founder Principal and Director, Gitanjali Group of Schools, Gita Karan, was the chief guest for the celebration. The occasion was graced by Managing Director, Gitanjali Group of Schools, Jai Karan, Associate Director and Principal, Gitanjali Devshala Madhvi Chandra and Committee Member Naval Chandra. The colourful Guard of Honour was presented by the tiny tots of Pre - Primary welcoming the guests.

The programme commenced with a prayer dance by the students of classes III and IV. The march past by the four houses was led by Head Boy Janith Ra-

**Gitanjali Devshala  
Hyderabad**

juri and Head Girl Pranathi Vemuri.

Investiture Ceremony every year is the induction of the newly elected school leaders into the Student Council. Deputy Head Boy Naman Kutteri and Deputy Head Girl, Siri Reddy along with the members of the Deputy Student Council took oath, promising to uphold the high standards of the school. Gita Karan addressed the gathering and emphasized on the vision of the school and the need to focus on sports and games.

The School Report by Madhvi Chandra highlighted the achievements and the growth of the school from strength to strength. The Sports Report by

Sports Captain Nandika, summarized all the sports events conducted.

Staff awards were presented for the outstanding contribution by the teachers during the academic year. Prizes were given to the winners of classes I - X and the Special Class for their best performance in sports events. Shields were presented to the winning houses for their march past, cultural excellence and sports championship. The most captivating aspect was the vibrant display of aerobics by classes VII and VIII, Fun Relay Races by Classes I, II, III and Special Class students. Classes V and VI showcased a grand display of Jumpfit exercises. The audience was treated to a spectacle of the Inter House relay race which proved to be thrilling and had everyone on the edge.



## MERRIMENT MARKS XMAS CELEBRATIONS



**G**autami Vidya Kshetra School celebrated Christmas with the primary students attired as angels welcoming the dignitaries. The event began with a prayer song followed by a speech on the tradition of Christmas tree and star. Melodious Christmas carols were sung by Primary and high school students. Graceful dances were performed by them and a skit on "Who is important" conveyed the spirit of the celebrations. Principal Sarada gave an informative speech about Jesus Christ and the need to spread positivity and live in harmony and peace. The arrival of Santa Claus thrilled and cheered the audience. The principal, the coordinator and teachers danced with Santa Claus and graced the occasion.

**Gautami Vidya  
Kshetra School  
Hyderabad**



It was all cheers and joy during the Christmas celebrations in Sri Gurudatta High School.

The school celebrations' coordinator, Sudha, gave a gift of surprise to the school by bringing the Angels (Lakshitha and her friend of class IX), mother Mary with a baby toy (Sindhua of class IX) and father Joseph (Haarika of class IX) in costumes, on to the terrace.

The class X students Anila Sangeeta, Lavani, Praharsha spoke about the significance of Christmas, mass, carols etc., while the students listened in rapt attention.

They enacted a skit on the birth of Christ, and then came the Showers of Blessings songs by Salomi and Joyce of VII class while Nishok Dhiren of class X played the guitar.

The students had all the fun when San-

**Sri Gurudatta High School  
Hyderabad**

ta Claus suddenly appeared dancing in their midst with a bag of gifts. His dancing and showering of chocolates on all were enjoyed by the students and teachers alike. When the Jingle Bells song was sung by a student of class X, it became a chorus of the school. Everyone clapped and joined the singing.

The principals of the school, Dixit and Padmaja, thanked the participants for a good show and exhorted them to be compassionate with everyone and said that 'love thy neighbour as thyself' is the message to be followed.

The students resumed their regular classes by taking a chunk of butter chocolates.



## DISCOVERING INDIA



### A QUEST TO EXPLORE CULTURAL, SOCIAL ASPECTS OF COUNTRY

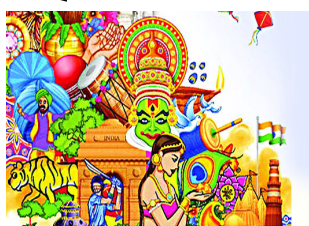
**P**allavi Aware International School celebrated its Annual Day, Anveshana, a quest taken up by the students exploring the many cultural as well as social aspects of the country.

The dignitaries of the day included M Komaraiah, chairman, Pallavi and DPS Group of Schools, chief guest Rakesh Shukla, Sr. Scientist & Engineer, ISRO, and Anita Reddy, Director, Pallavi Aware International School.

Anveshana presented an opportunity to the students to research the many stories of India and present their findings to the audience through dance performances. Before the start of the show, the students presented a 'yearbook' displaying their achievements of the academic year 2021-22.

The life of soldiers guarding our borders, the different cultures in various parts of India, etc, were meticulously researched. Students also presented their findings on the sad state of the Indian rivers and forests, contrasting their pres-

**Pallavi Aware  
International School  
Hyderabad**



ent state with the way they used to be before industrialisation.

The students went on to present the stories of the suffering of farmers and the sorry state of the girl children of India. Each of these stories was followed by the students presenting solutions to the problem and encouraging people to change their ways and create a better India.

The students' 'anveshana' concluded with the students dancing, hoping for the start of a fresh, bright perspective of Indians, the start of an end of the sad stories of India, hoping for the start of a brand-new India.

## BLOOPERS IN ONLINE CLASSES KEPT US ENTERTAINED



Pic : Getty Images

**D**ue to Covid-19, teaching-learning process has undergone a drastic change as digital platforms replaced physical classrooms. Online classes have never failed to provide the best learning experience, though sometimes due to technical glitches, the classes become a bit irritating but at the same time they become entertaining with funny instances too. One such incident was during our history lecture when the teacher, who is very strict, was not very happy with the class as the children were not listening to her and not turning on their cameras even after many repeated reminders. Slowly everyone started turning on their cameras and one of our classmate did not turn it on. The teacher

furiously gave him a warning to turn on his camera and so the poor fellow without thinking twice turned his camera on while he was in the washroom. The whole class burst into laughter and so did the teacher. It was an embarrassing moment for him and one of the most hilarious ones for us. For the next two days he did not attend any class. Now that the schools have opened up, we still talk about those funny moments and have a hearty laugh.



**GURARPAN SINGH  
SAWNEY**, class IX,  
Strawberry Fields High  
School, Chandigarh



# FODEN EXTENDS LEAD FOR MAN CITY

Guardiola's champions tighten grip on EPL title with eight points clear after win at Brentford

**M**anchester City beat Brentford 1-0 on Wednesday to extend their lead at the top of the Premier League to an ominous eight points as title rivals Chelsea conceded a last-gasp equaliser at home to Brighton.

Phil Foden's first-half goal was enough to give Pep Guardiola's champions a 10th consecutive league win as they took full advantage of injury-hit Chelsea's slip-up at Stamford Bridge.

The defending champions now have 50 points after 20 matches, putting them eight clear of second-placed Chelsea. Liverpool, who lost to Leicester on Tuesday, are a further point behind.

Brentford created some good scoring opportunities in the opening stages in west London, but it was City who went ahead in the 16th minute when Foden cleverly tucked in a cross from Kevin De Bruyne.

Foden and Jack Grealish had been benched for City's wins over Newcastle and Leicester after they were pictured on a night out following the 7-0 home win over Leeds. Foden's fifth league goal of the season, a silky finish from Kevin de Bruyne's exquisite pass, capped a fine display by the forward



Danny Welbeck

## CHELSEA STUMBLE TO BRIGHTON

Thomas Tuchel's Chelsea, who kicked off 45 minutes before City, looked poised for victory after Romelu Lukaku gave them a first-half lead but Brighton substitute Danny Welbeck struck in stoppage time for a 1-1 draw.

Chelsea wing-back Reece James limped off in the 27th minute with an apparent hamstring injury, to be replaced by Marcos Alonso. The home side went ahead immediately, when Lukaku shook off the attentions of Neal Maupay after a tussle to power a header past goalkeeper Robert Sanchez from a Mason Mount corner. But Graham Potter's side came back strongly, with Adam Lallana and the

impressive Yves Bissouma testing Edouard Mendy either side of half-time. It looked as though it was going to be a familiar story for Brighton, who have struggled to score this season, but Welbeck headed home Marc Cucurella's cross in the 91st minute. Tuchel counted the cost of injuries to the stretched squad "Very frustrating, very disappointing because we gave everything and we had enough big chances," Tuchel said.

who was at the heart of City's best moments. The fact a player of such quality could be left out at a crucial stage of the season highlights the attacking riches Guardiola has at his disposal. But Foden showed his quality and earned some warm words from his manager after a 1-0 win at Brentford - City's 10th in succession in the league to leave them eight points ahead of Chelsea and nine in front of Liverpool.

But the England pair were back in the starting line-up on Wednesday and Foden's goal made it a perfect 10 out of 10 for City. The visitors dominated possession but struggled to produce shots on target and Guardiola looked edgy in the latter stages as his team attempted to see out the victory. They thought they had sealed the three points in the dying minutes when Aymeric Laporte rose to head home but his goal was ruled out by VAR for a marginal offside.

With a huge lead heading into the new year, City are beginning to look odds on for a fourth title in five seasons. But Guardiola cautions against suggestions that the title race is now looking like a one-horse race.

"There are 54 points to play for," he told Amazon Prime. "Thank you for the nice words because we win but I am not going to believe you if you say it is already done."

"Chelsea and Liverpool are more than exceptional. One is the champion of Europe and Liverpool have been our big rival in recent years. We won a game but we are at the end of December with many games to play." AGENCIES



Manchester City's Phil Foden celebrates after teammate Aymeric Laporte scored a goal that was later disallowed by VAR during the English Premier League soccer match between Brentford and Manchester City at the Brentford Community Stadium in London

Phil has always been outstanding since he came up with us to start to train and play. He is a guy who can play in different positions and at an exceptional level. He is always a good player and we had no doubt about that. He does not need to prove anything to me. He needs to enjoy football like he used to as a little boy.

PEP GUARDIOLA

# NEERAJ CHOPRA ALL SET FOR 2022

Hopes to participate in CWG, Asian Games, World Championship this season

**I**ndia's Olympic gold medalist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra wants to participate in the full season in 2022 including the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, World Championships, and the Diamond League.

The World Athletics Championships, postponed from 2021, is scheduled to be held at Oregon (USA) from July 15-24, 2022. The Commonwealth Games in Birmingham will start on July 28 and will continue till August 8. The Asian Games will be held at Hangzhou, China from September 10-25 while the Diamond League will comprise 14 events to be held from May 13-September 8, making it quite a busy schedule ahead for Chopra.

If he goes ahead with this plan, Chopra will participate in three major events in three months, which will leave him with

## AIMING FOR 90-METRE MARK

For Chopra, crossing the 90-metre mark remains his aim for the upcoming season and Chopra said he wants to achieve the feat this season. It is a psychological barrier that Chopra wants to cross at the earliest but the bigger task will be to hurl the spear continuously beyond 90 in the next few years. However, Chopra said he is not obsessed with crossing the 90-metre mark. "I want to cross the 90-metre mark this season, I am very close to it. However, I am not obsessed with it and do not think continuously about it," said Chopra in response to the question.

very little time for preparations due to travel restrictions over Covid-19 protocols.

Having just started training at Chula Vista Elite Athlete Training Centre in California, United States following a lengthy break after his Olympic gold, Chopra said things are going well at the camp. He is currently there for a three-month camp with his German coach Klaus Bartonietz.

"My training is going well and I am getting back my fitness. Initially, it was very difficult and I experienced some pain and stiffness as I started my physical training, but now things are better," Chopra said. "I have shed some weight. I will soon sit down with my coach and support staff and decide my schedule for the season. As all these events are very important, I am planning to participate in all of them," he said. IANS

# INDIA BEAT SA BY 113 RUNS IN HISTORIC WIN

**I**ndia wasted no time to bowl out hosts South Africa for 191 to register a 113-run win, the first Test ever at the SuperSport Park, Centurion on Thursday to take a 1-0 lead in 3-match Test series.

Resuming the post-lunch session at 182/7 Mohammed Shami dismissed debutant Marco Jansen caught behind by wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant for just 13. Shami got his third wicket in the second innings and eighth overall.

Ravichandran Ashwin dismissed tailenders Kagiso Rabada and Lungi Ngidi to wrap up the Proteas for a paltry 191 for the first-ever win at Centurion. This is Virat Kohli's second Test win in South Africa, the first in Johannesburg in 2018.

Earlier, South Africa started at 94 for 4 and reached the triple-figure mark with skipper Dean Elgar hitting a boundary to Mohammed Sha-



Ashwin celebrates after taking the wicket of South Africa's Lungi Ngidi with teammates to win the match

mi. In the 46th over, Shami dropped a caught and bowled chance of Dean Elgar on 63. But Bumrah dismissed Elgar lbw for 77. Quinton de Kock along with Temba Bavuma took the hosts total past the 150-run mark. Mohammed Siraj got the prized scalp of de Kock. Shami dismissed Wiaan Mulder for just 1. ANI

2021  
ROUND UP

# WHEN KING KOHLI BECAME A LESSER MORTAL

**V**irat Kohli's watertight grip over Indian cricket loosened significantly in a mixed bag 2021, when the team's winless run at ICC events continued but the 'Men in Blue' cherished a historic Test series triumph in Australia.

When M S Dhoni left white-ball captaincy in 2017, Kohli became the undisputed king of Indian cricket with his rule unchallenged for three years. In the absence of a strong administration at BCCI, Kohli called the shots and not many seemed to mind it with India performing well across formats though the ICC title eluded them.

However, Sourav Ganguly and Jay Shah filled the power vacuum in the board in 2019. The Alpha males of Indian cricket did not come in each other's way. Cracks in their relationship could only be seen after Kohli decided to step down from T20 captaincy at the end of the 2020 World Cup. He had no plans to



Virat Kohli

leave the ODI captaincy but India's premature exit led to the inevitable. The mighty Kohli did not see that BCCI bombshell coming.

Following his sacking as 50-over skipper, dirty linen was washed in public. Kohli is used to the spotlight with cameras following his every move on the field but now that space will be shared by new white ball skipper Rohit Sharma.

With 70 international hundreds under his belt, the charismatic cricketer has nothing left to prove but after a quiet two years with the bat by his high standards and his feud with the BCCI, Kohli will be more fired up than ever to show he is the best in the business.

The early exit at T20 World Cup was a big disappointment but it marked the end of a successful era under Kohli and Ravi Shastri, es-

New young team needs shaping up to retain Test dominance

pecially in the longest format. But the defeat in the World Test Championship final against New Zealand was a big letdown. India had played remarkably well to reach the final and would have been worthy winners but New Zealand once upstaged them.



Rohit Sharma

## Australian high

However, nothing can take sheen off India's second consecutive series win in Australia with an injury-ravaged team struggling to even field a playing eleven in the decider in Brisbane.

The win at the Gabba will be talked about, not just because it was Australia's first loss at the venue in 33 years but the way India overcame an injury crisis and the 36 all out debacle at Adelaide to script a comeback.

Kohli went back home after the first Test for the birth of his child. The way Ajinkya Rahane led the side also played a major role in India's monumental achievement Down Under.

Later, India were set for another overseas series win but the fifth Test in England was cancelled due to a Covid outbreak in the visitors. India lead the series 2-1 with the final Test to be played next year.

If India manage to win that series in 2022 and the ongoing battle against Proteas, Kohli will become the first Asian captain to win Test series in England, South Africa and Australia.

## Work cut out for Rohit, Dravid

India look in good shape to extend their dominance in Tests but Rohit and coach Rahul Dravid have work to do to turn the team's fortunes in white-ball cricket with T20 World Cup and ODI World Cup scheduled in 2022 and 2023 respectively. A bunch of young players will be getting opportunities ahead of the two ICC events and the team would be hoping to plug gaps in the power hitting and bowling department. ANI



Ajinkya Rahane