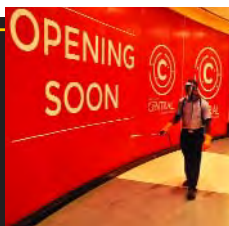




THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ From how Omicron will affect our economy to what major transitions the world saw in 2021, figure out the whys and whats in Your NewsRoom
PAGE 2



➤ Want to soak in the sun and the sea during Christmas vacation? Goa is the perfect holiday destination to enjoy with your family and friends
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➤ Serie A: Roma relieve pressure on Mourinho with win at Spezia
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STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021


**STUDENTS,
PRINCIPALS,
TEACHERS**
[CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2](#)
Spotlight

ELON MUSK

Time's 2021 'Person OF THE YEAR'

Tesla Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk was named 'Time' magazine's 'Person of the Year' for 2021, a year that saw his electric car company become the most-valuable carmaker in the world, and his rocket company soar to the edge of space with an all-civilian crew. According to 'Time', 'The Person of the Year' signifies somebody "who affected the news or our lives the most, for better, or worse."

WHY MUSK?

For creating solutions to an existential crisis, for embodying the possibilities and the perils of the age of tech titans, for driving society's most daring and disruptive transformations, Elon Musk is 'Time' magazine's 2021 Person of the Year, said editor-in-chief, Edward Felsenthal.

'Time' magazine named the teenage pop singer Olivia Rodrigo as its 'Entertainer of the Year', American gymnast Simone Biles 'Athlete of the Year' and vaccine scientists were named 'Heroes of the Year'.



DID YOU KNOW? Last year, the then US President-elect and present prez Joe Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris were jointly given the 'Person of the Year' title. 'Time' began this tradition in 1927. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos have also received the title in the past.



give **BIG THUMBS UP** to TOI STUDENT PRINT EDITION



Students, principals and teachers in Mumbai welcomed the TOI Student Edition in style, on Monday, as they held their favourite print edition after 18 months. Times NIE caught up with some of the excited readers...

Finally, the copy of our most sought-after newspaper is in our hands. Though TOI Student Edition was never away from us and we were reading the newspaper digitally, the pleasure of holding the copy in hand and reading interesting news is just awesome. Students were missing some beautiful content of their lovely newspaper and were really happy to receive and read the same.

NAUSHAD SHAIKH, teacher, Smt R N Sheth Vidya Mandir, Andheri East, Mumbai

The Times of India, Student Edition, helps the young minds to be alert to the changing times and fills them with knowledge and understanding of the global scenario. It provides a forum for interaction, for learning, which was a boon during the lockdown. It helped students and teachers alike by providing innovative teaching techniques and new ideas for connecting with the outside world.

SR MARGARET SEQUEIRA, principal, Canossa High School, Andheri East

Readng a newspaper is an amazing experience but while reading TOI Student Edition, I feel very energetic. It helps me get ideas to explore new things. My family members also read it. I thank the TOI Student Edition team for taking the efforts to send us the digital edition during the lockdown period. The print edition packed with news, views and innovative ideas to try out new things is an added booster.

GAURI PITALE, class VIII, Canossa High School Andheri, Mumbai

It was amazing to have the TOI Student Edition back on the desks of students and teachers in school. It is our most-preferred medium to enlighten children, with latest innovations and events – flora and fauna, climate, sports, puzzles and many more – from all over the world. It is indeed a holistic newspaper. Keep it up TOI Student Edition. Welcome back!

SANJAY ROY, principal, Greenlawns School, Worli, Mumbai

Quote unquote

6 If we meet in a decade, India's influence and part in the global economy will definitely grow. Despite the problems India faced during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is the fastest-growing among the large economies in the world. India needs to go from being the back office of the world and be the country that competes with the US, China and have the same kind of innovation and entrepreneurship [sic].
Borge Brende, president, World Economic Forum

Indian teen Avani Prashanth to receive Global Child Prodigy Award 2022

Fifteen year old student Avani Prashanth has made it to the 'Top 100 child prodigies' across the globe. He has been selected for the prestigious 'Global Child Prodigy Award 2022' for excellence in golf. The award, which will be presented at a gala ceremony in Dubai in February 2022, is given for exceptional talent, capabilities and hard work. According to the organisers, the top 100 child prodigies were selected from 48 different categories from thousands of applications received from across 68 countries.

■ Avani, who hails from Bengaluru, started playing golf when she was around four years old and has significantly improved over the years. The golf enthusiast first played in an US Kids Golf European Championship, in Scotland, in 2013. Since then there has been no stopping her. Avani is also a two-time winner on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, the youngest to achieve this feat in the last decade.



WhatsApp blocks third-party apps from seeing online details

Meta-owned WhatsApp has brought in a new privacy update to prevent unknown contacts to see a user's last-seen and online status. This new feature has been, reportedly, rolled out for both Android-and-iOS-enabled devices. As per a report by WABetaInfo, some third party apps from Google Play Store on Android and Apple App Store on iOS could access data from the app to log 'online' status time and 'last-seen' time. WhatsApp has now introduced safeguards to stop these apps from accessing such data.

■ In addition, WhatsApp is also working on a feature that will enable users to restrict certain information including their 'last-seen' and profile picture from specific contacts. WhatsApp



recently announced that its users will now have the option to turn on disappearing messages by default for all new chats

■ The Meta-owned platform said that it is adding two new durations for disappearing messages: 24 hours and 90 days, as well as the existing option of 7 days

Make climate change election agenda, urges Aditya Thackeray

Terming it as the "need of the hour", Maharashtra environment minister Aditya Thackeray has called upon political parties to incorporate climate change as an election agenda in the coming days. He said that if climate change indeed takes place, it would impact the people of India most, as it is a thickly-populated nation. It is high time for parties to make it part of their poll planks, he said as he launched a comprehensive school curriculum, 'Majhi Vasundhara' on environment education. The Thackeray scion added that climate change is a critical issue, not just for Mumbai and Maharashtra, but for the whole world, and the state government will discuss the issue with the state legislators in the forthcoming Winter Session of the legislature.

1 Intended to inculcate climate-consciousness and green values among gen-next from a tender age, the state government has launched the new 'green' curriculum, developed by the state department of environment and climate change with UNICEF, for class I to VIII

2 The MV Curriculum will impart application-based awareness on issues of climate change with a balance from traditional and local knowledge with four themes: biodiversity conservation, solid waste management and personal and community health, water resource management, and energy, air pollution and climate change



Q **SHOULD CLIMATE CHANGE BE MADE AN ELECTION AGENDA? SHARE YOUR VIEWS AT TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM**

ADELE'S '30' CROSSES A MILLION SALES AND HOLDS AT NO. 1

Adele holds the No. 1 spot on the Billboard album chart for a third time this week with '30', with no major new releases to challenge it. Her first album in six years, '30' had the equivalent of 193,000 sales in the United States, according to MRC Data, Billboard's tracking arm. That included 58 million streams and 149,000 copies sold as a complete package. '30' has now sold more than one million copies as a full album, the first release to do so since Taylor Swift's 'Evermore' a little over a year ago – though Adele's last LP, '25', sold nearly 3.4 million in its first week out in 2015, when Adele withheld the complete album from streaming services.



MUSIC

Steven Spielberg's 'West Side Story', 'Belfast' lead 2022 Critics Choice film nominations

The film nominees for the 27th annual Critics Choice Awards were recently announced by The Critics Choice Association, with Oscar-winner filmmaker Steven Spielberg's 'West Side Story', and 'Belfast' emerging as leading nominees for the upcoming ceremony. 'West Side Story', and 'Belfast' lead the nominations with 11 awards each, and the Timothee Chalamet starrer 'Dune' and 'The Power of the Dog' followed in second place with 10 nominations, according to 'The Hollywood Reporter'.

■ 'West Side Story', and 'Belfast' both have earned nominations in the categories of best picture, best-supporting actor (female), best young actors (both male and female), best director, best original screenplay, best cine-

Entertainment

matography, best production design and more
■ Leonardo DiCaprio's 'Don't Look Up', 'Dune' and 'The Power of the Dog' have also earned the nomination in the best picture category

The World

this week

WILL

IN THE NEWS FOR

The International Monetary Fund sees 'downside risks' to the global economic rebound it forecasts for this year and next, and is concerned that new coronavirus variants may hinder the recovery, its chief economist said. "Most of the overall risks are to the downside," Gita Gopinath said. Gopinath, who is set to take over as the IMF's No. 2 post, said the world could also see more aggressive variants that further damage the recovery.



Omicron affect the economy?

YOU SPEAK

The threat of Omicron is looming large over the world economy as it may trigger more market volatility in the months to come. Businesses are yet to recover, so any hope of recovery of job market is bleak. All the sectors that had taken a severe beating since the pandemic broke out, are bracing for further jolts.



B MAHITHI REDDY, class X, Edify World School, Hyderabad



WE SPEAK

- Global central banks need to stay 'very vigilant' about inflation pressure and maintain policy independence to anchor expectations, according to experts.
- Accelerating inflation in the US and considerable uncertainties around supply and demand disruptions in the next few months could lead to "a scenario where inflation increases even further," which could result in a negative spillover effect for many emerging economies, especially those that are exposed to foreign-currency borrowing, they believe.
- Countries should tailor monetary and fiscal policies based on their own circumstances, because there are differences in underlying or core inflation from country to country, experts said.

WHY

do you think India should adopt sustainable nutrition practices?

IN THE NEWS FOR

Healthier and nutritious diets are often more environmentally sustainable, according to a new study by the University of Leeds led by Dr Holly Rippin. The research was published in the 'PLOS ONE Journal'. Working towards better accuracy, Rippin and colleagues evaluated existing published research in order to assign greenhouse gas emissions to over 3,233 specific food items listed in the UK Composition Of Foods Integrated Dataset (COFID).



Food production-greenhouse gases link

- Food production is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for about one-third of emissions worldwide.
- Previous research suggested that environmentally-sustainable diets are often also less processed, less energy-dense, and more nutritious. However, much of that work had been conducted using measurements of sustainability for broad categories of food.

What Rippin's Study Indicates

- Statistical analysis of the reported diets showed that non-vegetarian diets were associated with greenhouse gas emissions that were 59% higher than emissions associated with vegetarian diets.
- Men's diets were linked to emissions that were 41% higher than those linked to women's diets, due to greater meat intake.
- People whose intake of saturated fats, carbohydrates, and sodium met levels recommended by the WHO had lower greenhouse gas emissions.
- These findings supported a focus on plant-based foods for policies meant to encourage sustainable diets. It also suggested eco benefits for replacing coffee, tea, etc. with better sustainable substitutes.

WE SPEAK

Sustainable nutrition means ensuring wholesome, nutrient-dense foods are accessible, affordable and culturally relevant while also preserving environmental resources and supporting local communities

YOU SPEAK

With the rapid growth of industries and attempts to capitalise every field, we are not thinking about our environment. Sustainable nutrition is no more an option, but a necessity. The emission of all the greenhouse gases to produce industrial goods, including FMCG food, is warming up our environment, in turn leading us to the cusp of destruction. Economists, ecologists and nutritionists need to develop a plan to combat this situation and they need to jettison everything that harms our environment. Adopting sustainable nutrition would mean avoiding packaging and thus, contributing to a plastic-free environment. We need to maintain environmental conditions for the future generations to live. Moreover, indulging in local produce, which are a part of the nutrition, also helps our economy and this is a win-win situation for almost everyone.

MAYANK MUNDHRA, class X, Apeejay School Park Street, Kolkata



WHAT

major transition did you see in 2021?



IN THE NEWS FOR

At the onset of the pandemic, the job market was full of uncertainty and mass lay-offs: millions of people lost their jobs, and those lucky enough to remain employed remained put in their roles for survival. However, as we now turn towards recovery, workers in privileged positions who don't live paycheck to paycheck are now finally moving on. Most in non-developed economies with the absence of social security and unemployment benefits cannot afford this luxury but may still be undergoing duress and pent-up frustration from the disruption caused by the pandemic.

WE SPEAK

- The Great Resignation is an idea proposed by Professor Anthony Klotz of Texas A&M University that predicts a large number of people leaving their jobs after the Covid-19 pandemic ends and life returns to 'normal.'
- Managers are now navigating the ripple effects from the pandemic, as employees re-evaluate their careers and leave their jobs in record numbers.
- There's been a lot which has been discussed relating to healthcare worker exodus after facing the brunt of the pandemic. However, service industries such as retail, hospitality, food service, etc. are continuing to see the highest number of workers quit in any sector.
- Industries with low location and time independence were among the industries that suffered the most. Example: restaurants, cruises, sporting events, passenger airlines, etc.

YOU SPEAK

This year, too, has been a tumultuous one. The year saw the 'Great Resignation' phenomenon, which was an outcome of people getting into an introspective mode about work-life balance, passion, what they should tolerate and what not. It was also about outgrowing fear of losing a traditional 9 to 6 workplace for a passionate endeavour.

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



WHO

do you think will be newsmaker of the year?



IN THE NEWS FOR

The 'Year in Review 2021' released by the web services Yahoo! reports that the late reality television star and actor, Siddharth Shukla, who breathed his last on September 2, 2021, has been the most-searched male celebrity of the year. Among the most searched female celebrities of 2021 was Kareena Kapoor Khan with her news of second pregnancy.

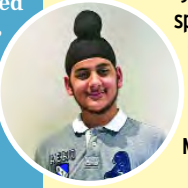
WE SPEAK

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi reclaimed India's most-searched Personality title, a position he has held consistently since 2017. PM Modi had lost the title last year to late actor Sushant Singh Rajput.
- Cricketer Virat Kohli, who had a chequered year with highs and lows, came in at no 2.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee grabbed the top 3 slot with her decisive win in the state assembly election.

YOU SPEAK

Parag Agrawal, Twitter's new CEO, proved that with hard work and passion, anyone can reach the top. Jack Dorsey, the former CEO, also welcomed him to take charge. Now, the spotlight is on India talent, and I would vote him as the newsmaker of the year.

RIZAK SINGH, class IX, The Millennium School, Lucknow



HOW

do you think

Meta tightening security measures will help women?

IN THE NEWS FOR

Meta (formerly Facebook) announced a slew of steps to protect woman users on its platform, including the launch of StopNCII.org in India that aims to combat the spread of non-consensual intimate images (NCII).

WE SPEAK

- Meta has also launched the Women's Safety Hub, which will be available in Hindi and 11 other Indian languages, that will enable women users in India to access information about resources that can help their social media experience a safe one.
- This initiative by Meta will ensure women do not face a language barrier in accessing information.
- The social media platform has said it will now count activists and journalists as 'involuntary' public figures and so increase protection against harassment and bullying targeted at these groups.

YOU SPEAK

Meta has created a Safety for Journalists Guide to help journalists gain knowledge about using two-factor authentication, oversee privacy settings, moderate comments, block harassment, handle location sharing, report abusive content and impersonation, and react to being hacked. I think this is a great initiative towards building a safe online experience.

BRINDA THAMMAN, class X, St Kabir Public School, Chandigarh



Abyss of emotions

It was as if I was familiar with the sky and then I was asked to thrive on the ground. On the other hand, it felt as if the world finally took a breather. Everyone's first reaction to the pandemic was curiosity which quickly turned into fear. It felt as if I was living a fairytale life. The number of cases and deaths reported everyday just kept on increasing and the situation did not seem to get better any soon.

Then came the acceptance that at least for some time we have to live like this: away from our friends and family. Soon after this the routine became cyclic. Looking at social media everyone seemed to be doing something or the other that was productive. In this time I began my trip going through countless typhoon of emotions. Sadness, loneliness and helplessness were the emotions that engulfed me more often than others. All of this new reality was difficult for me and I felt as if I was doing nothing. It felt as if the world was too bright and moving way too fast for me to catch up with. During these emotions and devastations, I

felt that I could not share this with anyone. In reality anyone I would have talked to would have helped me at that time.



Being locked up in a house, I decided that I would change my mindset simply because all the overwhelming sadness was just keeping me away from the happiness, I could have felt in those moments. It was nowhere near easy and I still struggle with those emotions, but at some point, I understood how to deal with them. I took a deep breath and

looked up at the sky because no matter what, the sky seemed to be my constant that supported me and it is very important for us to have some constant that does not change. I did things little by little and on days I felt I could not do anything else, I simply started to read. Over time, I started to enjoy the beauty of all the little things like how the sun shines and lingers on the plants as if giving it permission to use its sunlight. I can focus more and more on what I feel. Even now when my emotions overpower me, I simply think about the little constant things in life that make me happy.

The change of mindset does not happen within a day or month. It takes a long time but one thing it has taught me is that everybody fights their own battles, some are louder than others. We should try and lend a helping hand so that at least someone finds it easier. All of us are warriors in our own way, there is no need for others to recognise us as long as we do recognise ourselves. Even if we lose our battles today, we must get back again tomorrow because it is not our victory that defines us, rather it is our effort that does.

GAURRI S NAIR, class IX, Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute, Subroto Park

RASHTRIYA POSHAN MAAH CELEBRATED AT SACHDEVA

Sachdeva Public School, Pitampura organised Rashtriya Poshan Maah, a flagship programme of the Government of India that created awareness about the importance of nutrition in our life.

A virtual assembly was organised which included a fancy dress show for the students of primary wing. The little children dressed up as various fruits and vegetables and looked impressive. They spoke about the importance of eating healthy food and staying away from junk food items.

A special plantation drive was also organised where the students planted seeds of different vegetables in their kitchen garden. The



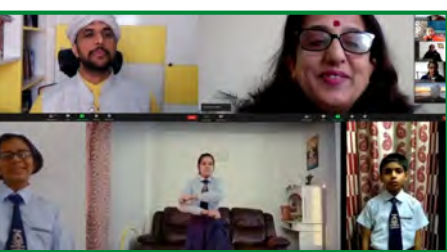
students were also encouraged to participate in the e-quiz organised by the Government of India through MyGov portal. They participated in the discussion on healthy eating habits and table manners enthusiastically.

The plethora of activities conducted during this month created awareness amongst the students about various aspects of health and nutrition. It proved to be a great learning experience for the children.

Award ceremony held at Ryan Vista

Ryan International School, Sector 31, Gurugram have widespread interest in 'Excellence in Education'. Keeping this interest in mind, the school followed the vision in academics of chairman Dr A F Pinto and organised an award ceremony, Ryan Vista for the students of class V from the academic year 2020-21 on December 4.

The presence of the renowned guest Aashish L Vyas made the event memorable. She was welcomed by the Ryanites by welcome speech spoken by the students in different languages.



The ceremony showcased the efforts of the school in making future leaders by instilling in them confidence, discipline and leadership qualities. It was a proud moment for all the achievers as they received certificates and badges for their excellence in various fields.

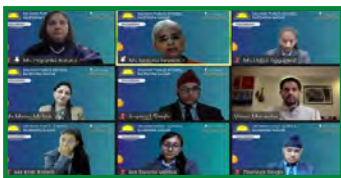
The event was wonderful award show as the students showcased their creativity on the most concerned part in today's time that is they prepared skit on 'online classes'. School head Geetha Srinivasa congratulated all the awardees and motivated them to excel in all spheres of life with the same spirit of integrity and the will to touch the zenith.

The ceremony showcased the efforts of the school in making future leaders by instilling in them confidence, discipline and leadership qualities. It was a proud moment for all the achievers as they received certificates and badges for their excellence in various fields.

In conversation with Vivan Marwaha

A webinar on 'In Conversation with Vivan Marwaha' was conducted by **Salwan Public School, Rajendra Nagar** on November 28. Vivan Marwaha is the celebrated author of the book 'What Millennials Want' and his book was the focus of the webinar. The aim of the interactive online event was to connect Salwanians with an accomplished author and inspire them to develop divergent thinking.

In an enriching and intriguing session, Mr Marwaha shared his views on varied topics such as education, politics, marriage and employment

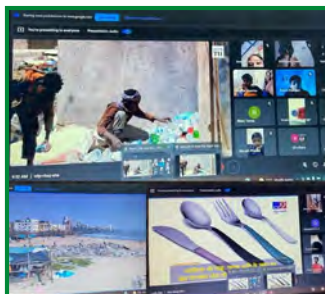


opportunities with the panelists - Priyanka Barara, principal, Salwan Public School, Jyotsna Grover, vice principal, Manu Mehra, HOD English and the student moderators - Kriti Bhatia (XI D), Sanchi Verma (XI D), Udit Agarwal (XI E), Jaspreet Singh (XI B) and Pavneet Singh (XI E).

AVOID PLASTIC

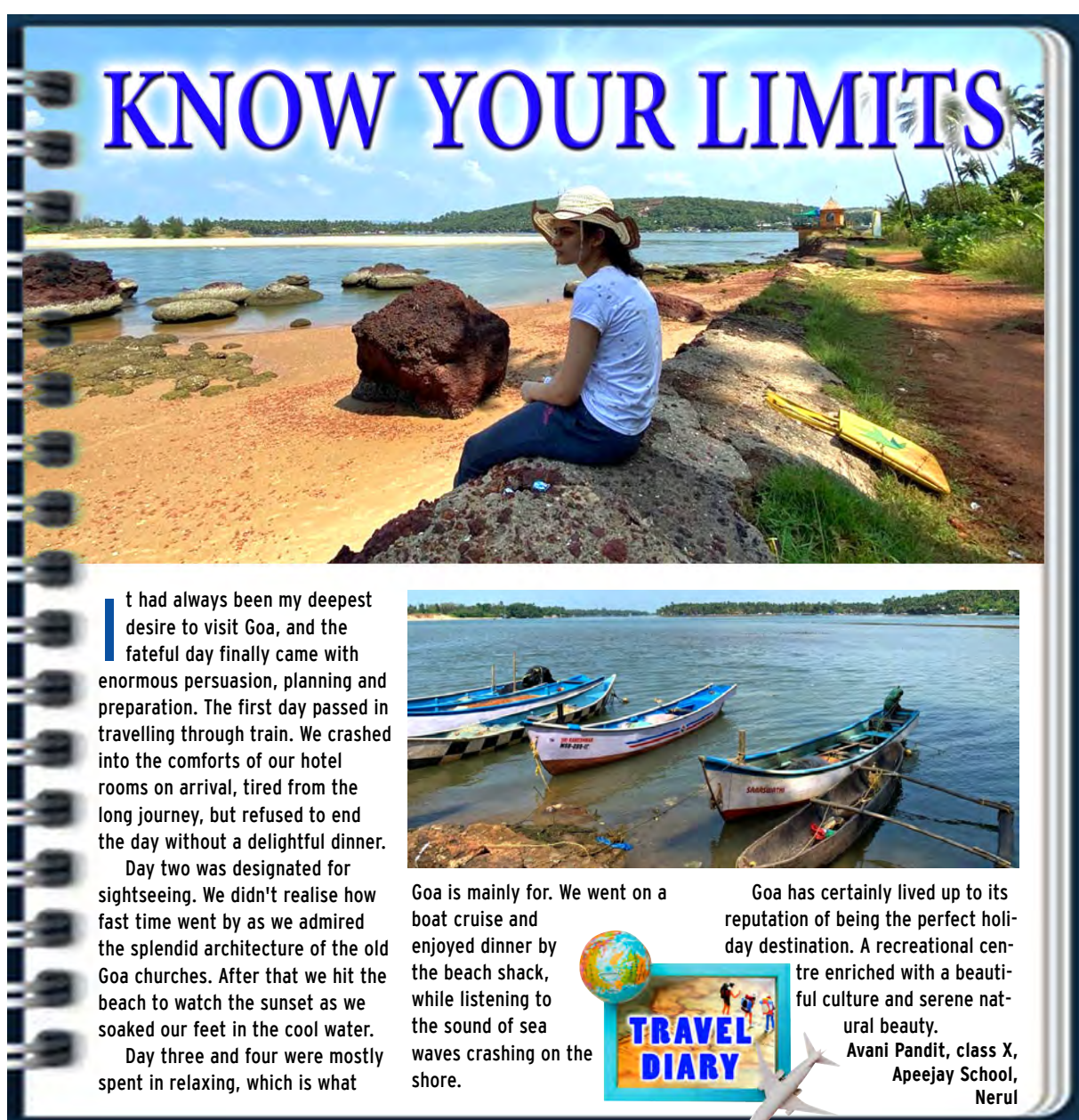
The students of **DAV Public School, R K Puram** encourage you to live more sustainably and to say no to plastic when possible.

Philippe Cousteau, Jr couldn't have phrased it any better when he said 'It was one of the stupidest ideas in the world. It requires so much resources to make, used only once, then discarded.' I hope this will encourage you to avoid disposables and single-use plastic when you can. Many scientists, environmentalists, eco-warriors, and concerned citizens continue to speak up about plastic pollution. Through their words, they encourage us to make changes in our lives and to ultimately



live plastic-free.

Students and parents of DAV RK Puram were made aware about avoiding single use plastic products.



It had always been my deepest desire to visit Goa, and the fateful day finally came with enormous persuasion, planning and preparation. The first day passed in travelling through train. We crashed into the comforts of our hotel rooms on arrival, tired from the long journey, but refused to end the day without a delightful dinner.

Day two was designated for sightseeing. We didn't realise how fast time went by as we admired the splendid architecture of the old Goa churches. After that we hit the beach to watch the sunset as we soaked our feet in the cool water.

Day three and four were mostly spent in relaxing, which is what



Goa is mainly for. We went on a boat cruise and enjoyed dinner by the beach shack, while listening to the sound of sea waves crashing on the shore.

Goa has certainly lived up to its reputation of being the perfect holiday destination. A recreational centre enriched with a beautiful culture and serene natural beauty.

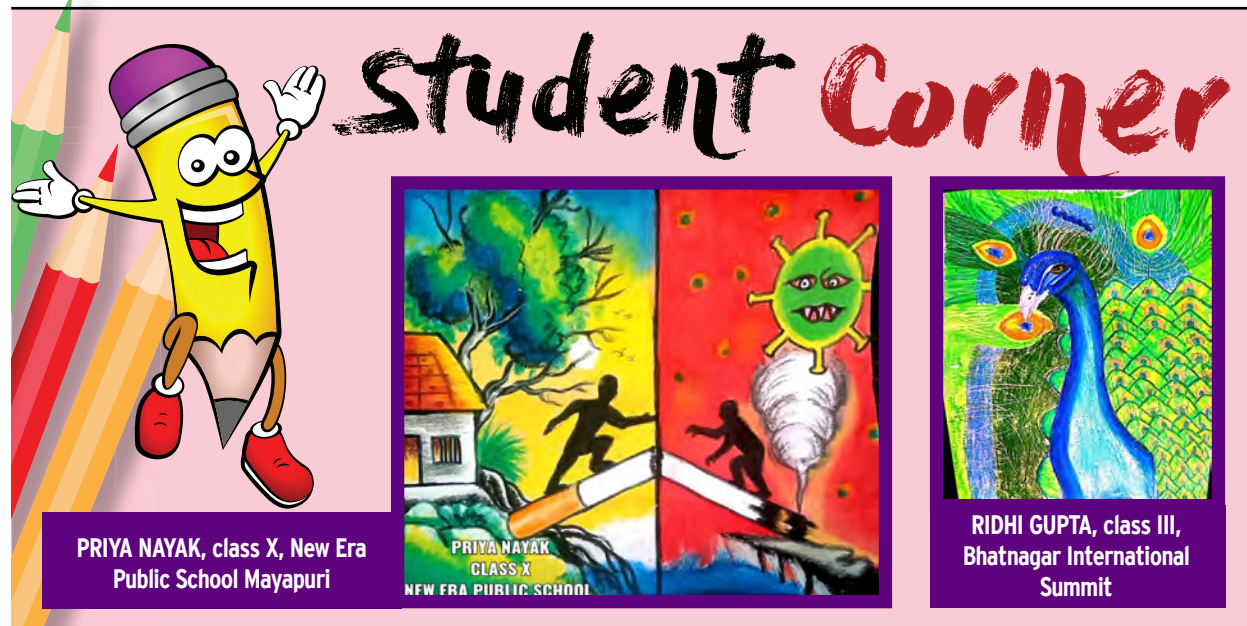
Avani Pandit, class X, Apeejay School, Nerul

MAPS celebrates human rights

Maharaja Agarsain Public School, Ashok Vihar celebrated Human Rights Day by taking pledge to protect and promote the individual's rights.

Students of class VI raised concerns on deprivation of human rights while class VII students drew cartoons with a

powerful message on human rights. Class VIII students watched a short movie on human rights and compared the three most striking things within their groups. Children of class IX were sensitised through a video and wrote their family's hopes for our world on paper in the shape of a dove.



Kids must learn coding at an early age

Coding has caught on in recent days may be because of lockdown. One can easily learn how to code sitting at home because of the various course available. Learning how to code helps children to develop their problem-solving capacity. Through coding, one can also increase their creativity. Learning how to code, I mean the basics is not a very difficult task and every child after 6th std can easily learn to code. Though the child may not take up the field which requires to code, it is pretty fun to learn and once the basics are clear anyone can take further courses and make a lot of progress in it. Coding also increases the aptitude and the ability of logical thinking. If children learn how to code from an early age, it will be very beneficial for them and they will also develop various computer skills.

Radhika Chopra, class X, Fr Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi

Coding is much in vogue these days and while it may be useful in developing important skills in children at a young age, it is not the prime need of the hour. At present, all of us are heavily dependent on computers, so it may seem like in the future the ability to communicate with computers will become essential. But present dependency on computers only reveals that in a future where artificial intelligence can take over most activities, things that cannot be replicated artificially will gain importance. Emotions, ethics, decision making through instinct and not solely reason, are things that are most likely to gain significance. Children should have hobbies to develop these skills in their formative years. So while it is good as a fruitful pastime, it should not be considered a must.

Avani Pandit, class X, Apeejay School, Nerul

Loving yourself is secret to happiness

What is self love? Does it mean being self-obsessed? Or is it something related to personal ego? Self love is when you accept and love yourself for who you actually are. Since childhood we are taught to love each other but how can I love others, if I don't love myself first? Because I am who I have been looking for. Life gives us new challenges every day, some people find it easy to get out of it and on the other hand there are some people who can't



find a way out even if they try hard. And do you know what's common in those people? They don't know their true worth, they believe that they are not enough and that is where we need to understand the notion of self love. Once you start loving yourself, your life becomes brighter and your problems get lighter. So start today. Take a long look into the mirror and say that I am perfect.

RAINNA SETHI, class XII J DAV Public School, sec - 14, Faridabad

TEACHING KIDS WHAT COUNTS

Shaheed Bishan Singh Memorial Sr Sec School, New Delhi, has organised a fun day at school for our preschool kids and their parents on December 3 with numerous fun activities like games, dance, magic show, and refreshment etc.

At the event, kids were engaged in multiple brainstorming games that were planned in an innovative way to keep them engrossed in one or other activity. Dancing is considered to be a way of refreshing ourselves, our juniors danced to the rhythm of music with their open wings touching the sky,



wearing a costume of smile on their faces. The magic show was another cheerful activity which was loved and enjoyed by our little guests. On the side of the corner, a photo-shoot podium was built to capture these happy memories in a frame for life-time.

Trusting them, by letting them do what they like doing while learning was the aim of this event, which was successfully achieved by looking at the heartfelt smiles on all our blossoming kids. At the end, the programme was concluded with an exceptional response from parents and kids and was appreciated by all.

KOHLI SET TO MISS ODI SERIES

Has requested BCCI for break in January, VC not named as yet

India Test skipper Virat Kohli is set to miss the upcoming three-match ODI series against South Africa. Kohli has asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for a break in January to spend some time with his family. It is important to note that Kohli and Anushka Sharma's daughter Vamika will turn one on January 11, 2022. Sources in the know of developments confirmed that Kohli has indeed asked the board for a small break in January next year.

"Yes, Kohli has asked for a small break in January to spend some time with his family. It effectively means that he would miss the ODI series against South Africa," the source said.

Last week, Rohit Sharma was appointed as the white-ball skipper and it was confirmed that Kohli would just lead the Test side. The BCCI President Sourav Ganguly also spoke about how he spoke to Kohli and he also revealed how he had asked Kohli to not step down as the T20I skipper.

"It's a call that the BCCI and the selectors took together. Actually, the BCCI had requested Virat to not step down as the T20I skipper but obviously he did not agree. And the selectors then did not feel it right to have two different captains for two white-ball formats," Ganguly said.

"So it was decided that Virat will continue as Test captain and Rohit will take over as the white-ball captain. I as President personally spoke to Virat Kohli and the chairman of selectors has also spoken to him. We have full faith in Rohit Sharma's leadership abilities, and Virat will continue as the Test captain. We as BCCI are confident that Indian cricket is in good hands. We thank Virat Kohli for his contributions as captain in the white-ball format," the BCCI president added.



ROHIT RULED OUT

India's Test vice-captain Rohit Sharma was on Monday ruled out of the entire three-match Test series against South Africa as his old left-hamstring injury resurfaced during the team's net session in Mumbai where he also took a hit on his hand. India A captain Priyank Panchal will be Rohit's replacement opener in the Test series.

The 34-year-old Rohit also sustained a hit on his hands at the Mumbai nets while taking throwdowns from Raghavendra (Raghu).

The BCCI is yet to share the details of his scan report which will ascertain the degree of the injury.

"Any hamstring injury, even the lowest grade takes a month to heal with rehabilitation sessions. In Tests we have Mayank Agarwal ready to open with KL Rahul, who could potentially be the vice-captain.

"And now we have Priyank Panchal also as cover. We would be hoping that he is fit and ready for the ODI series," the source added. It is learnt that Panchal reported at the team hotel this evening.

"Panchal has been asked to report at the Mumbai team hotel tonight. He is there as a cover for Rohit. Also because he recently played in South Africa and scored runs, he was asked to join," an official associated with the India A team informed.

Panchal is no greenhorn as he has 100 first-class matches under his belt with 7011 runs, including 24 hundreds. He has been a part of a very successful Gujarat team that won the Ranji Trophy under Parthiv Patel and has been an India A captain. He was fighting for the reserve opener's slot with Abhimanyu Easwaran but pipped the Bengal man as the latter batted at No.3 in the A series. AGENCIES

RAHUL, PANT IN FRAY

The Board has not announced a stand-in vice-captain but it is expected that KL Rahul is the front-runner for being Virat Kohli's deputy during the Tests. Other contenders could be Rishabh Pant and Ravichandran Ashwin, considering that Ajinkya Rahane has been removed from the role with his place in the eleven not being assured. If sources are

to be believed, Ashwin, who will be the lone spinner in all Tests, is also in the fray to be the vice-captain. A section in the BCCI believes that he needs to be accorded respect for his stupendous international career. The Tests will wind up on January 15, followed by three ODIs, scheduled to begin on January 19 in Paarl.



Yes, Rohit did suffer an injury on his hand but even after that he had batted. So we can presume that hand injury isn't serious. But thereafter, it seemed the old hamstring problem resurfaced once again and it might take some time before he is fully fit and available. They are trying to sort it out. Hamstring injuries normally take four weeks, which could effectively rule him out of the Test series.

Senior BCCI source

Photos: AP

ROMA halt mini-slump

Relieve pressure on Jose Mourinho with win at Spezia

Roma put an end to their worrying recent run of form in Serie A by beating struggling Spezia 2-0 and gaining ground in the race for European football. Goals from corners in each half from Chris Smalling and Roger Ibanez put Jose Mourinho's side back on track following a defeat at Bologna and a home hammering at champions Inter Milan last weekend.

CL still far

Roma are up to sixth on 28 points, two points behind Fiorentina who hold the Europa League qualification spot and level with Juventus, in seventh after drawing at Venezia on Saturday. However they are some way away from their true objective of Champions League football as they sit eight points behind fourth-placed Napoli, and missing some key players failed to convince at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome.

"I was pleased with the goals because we spent 25 minutes working on corners yesterday," Mourinho said. "I'm pleased with the result but I didn't like the way we played... even when we were two goals

ahead I didn't feel like the match was over."

An 11th defeat for Spezia leaves Thiago Motta's team just two points and one place above the relegation zone, despite a spirited display which probably deserved at least a goal.

Smalling put Roma ahead with his first league goal of the season in the sixth

PSG TO PLAY REAL MADRID

Paris Saint-Germain were pitted against Real Madrid when the CL round of 16 draw was held a second time after the first was held void. Manchester United had been paired with Villarreal in the initial draw, but the two clubs advanced from Group F. The 'Red Devils' were then mistakenly left out of opponents' pool for Atletico Madrid, which forced the redraw. United and Atletico were duly paired second time around. AP

minute when, completely unmarked at a corner, he casually met countryman Tammy Abraham's headed effort from a corner with a header of his own that Ivan Provvedel had no chance of saving.

Abraham was also involved when the hosts were unlucky to not double their lead in the 25th minute, the England international cleverly flicking a pass to Matias Vina who then watched his goal-bound effort well tipped away by Provvedel.

However Roma did have their second 10 minutes after the break, following a brief burst of Spezia dominance, when Ibanez met Veretout's corner with a thumping header amid more sloppy set-piece defending from Spezia. Roma were more or less assured of the points by VAR shortly afterwards, with Rey Manaj's clearly off-side goal ruled out after the on-field officials had initially allowed the Albanian's close-range strike to stand.

Later, talented teen Felix Afena-Gyan rattled home what he thought was Roma's third in added time after obviously handling in the build up and received a second booking while still celebrating. AP

SINDHU, SEN ADVANCE

Defending champion PV Sindhu breezed past Slovakia's Martina Repiska 21-7 21-9 to make a resounding start in the BWF World Championship here on Tuesday.

The fast-rising Lakshya Sen prevailed over 15th seeded Japanese Kenta Nishimoto 22-20 15-21 21-18 and also progressed to the third round.

In men's doubles, Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan 27-25 21-17 in 43 minutes.

World number seven Sindhu _ seeded sixth in the tournament which she won in 2019, when it was last held _ took just 24 minutes to beat the unseeded at opponent court number 3 of Palacio de los Deportes Carolina Marin Stadium here.

Repiska tried to make a comeback with two points, but the fancied Indian did not let her go ahead, leading 11-4 at the mid-break. She continued her dominance and kept accumulating points to widen the lead, eventually pocketing



PV Sindhu

the first game in only 10 minutes. The script remained the same in the second game as well, with Sindhu maintaining her firm grip over the proceedings.

Sen was made to toil hard for his victory by the Japanese as he took one hour and 22 minutes to emerge winner.

Saurabh Sharma and Anoushka Parikh suffered a defeat to Malaysians Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing in the mixed doubles event. PTI

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which Kenyan long-distance runner won bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics and silver at Beijing 2008?

- a) Mo Farah
b) Eliud Kipchoge
c) Kenenisa Bekele
d) Joshua Cheptegei

Q2: At which Olympics did Michael Phelps win eight golds, breaking world records in seven of them?

- a) Sydney 2000
b) Rio 2016
c) Beijing 2008
d) London 2012

Q3: Who is the first Indian badminton player to clinch an Olympic medal. She won the bronze at the London 2012 Games?

- a) Jwala Gutta
b) Ashwini Ponappa
c) PV Sindhu
d) Saina Nehwal

Q4: Which Indian tennis player had been a six-time grand slam champion, a former world no. 1 in doubles and a three-time Olympian?

- a) Sania Mirza
b) Karman Thandi
c) Ankita Raina
d) Rutuja Bhosale

Q5: In which year did Vinesh Phogat win a gold in the Commonwealth Games, her first major international title?

- a) 2011 b) 2012 c) 2013 d) 2014

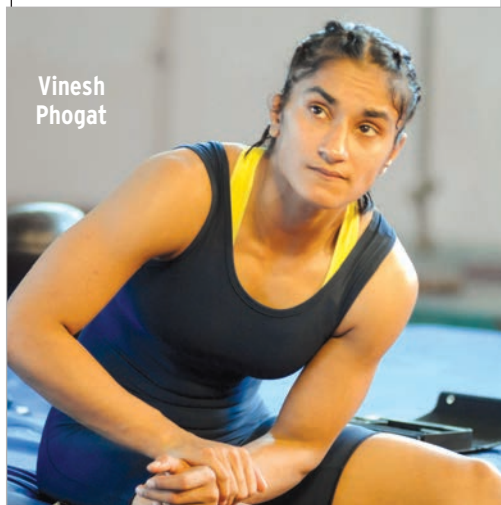


Photo: TOI

Q6: Abhinav Bindra is India's first individual gold medallist at the Olympics. In which year did he win it?

- a) 2007 b) 2008 c) 2009 d) 2011

Q7: How many Olympic medals has athlete Norman Pritchard won?

- a) Five b) Four c) Three d) Two

Q8: At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, he became the first Indian boxer to win a medal. Who is he?

- a) Vikas Krishan Yadav
b) Vijender Singh

- c) Shiv Thapa
d) Amit Panghal

Q9: At which Olympics did the Indian hockey team have to settle for silver after losing to Pakistan?

- a) Amsterdam 1928
b) London 1948
c) Rome 1960
d) Melbourne 1956

ANSWERS: 1 b) Eliud Kipchoge
2 c) Beijing 2008, 3 d) Saina Nehwal
4 a) Sania Mirza, 5 d) 2014, 6 b) 2008
7 d) Two, 8 b) Vijender Singh
9- c) Rome 1960