THE TIMES OF INDIA

TODAY'S

Can we protect the tigers? Will there be vaccine parity? Our newsroom is flooded with questions from you. **Enter your newsroom**



From Panna forest reserves to the Khajuraho temples , a UNESCO Heritage site in Madhya Pradesh, a young traveller describes the beauty and adventures associated with it



Australian Open: Indefatigable Murray wins Basilashvili thriller to reach second round



■The Earth's core, made up

of hot molten mass, churns

around at tremendous

speed, which helps the

Earth to rotate, creates

netic field that protects terrestrial beings like

humans and animals from

sun's harmful UV rays

being fried alive due to the

■If that molten metal cools

down, it will affect the rate

at which the Earth rotates,

days will get longer as

months will get shorter

imaginable version

■More importantly, climate

change will be at its worst

gravity, and an electromag-

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022



CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

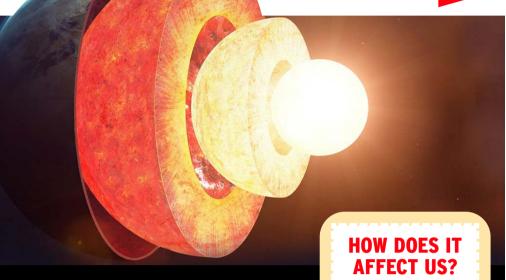
IIT-Delhi to mentor young girls in STEM



o encourage young girls to pursue a career in science and related fields, IIT-Delhi has recently launched a free STEM(science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Mentorship Programme for girls studying in class XI in government schools irrespective of their economic status. Candidates have been shortlisted by the selected schools based on students' inclination towards STEM disciplines. According to IIT-Delhi, candidates must have scored more than 85% marks in class IX and X in science subjects. The mentoring will be offered to girls in class XI when most students decide the stream of their choice. "Giving a prop er guidance to girls through the three-level programme on how research is done at labs, what kind of discussions take place among scientists and research scholars at an early age can provide an impetus for a career in science and technology," said Pritha Chandra, associate dean, Academic Outreach and lew Initiatives, IIT-Delhi.

Under this initiative, participants will be mentored by an IIT-Delhi faculty along with his/ her research scholars ■The three-level programme is divided into a two-week winter project- from Dec end to early Jan ■An online lecture series, consisting of modules in chemistry. physics, biology, mathematics, and some engineering branches, will be taught by the faculties of IIT-Delhi

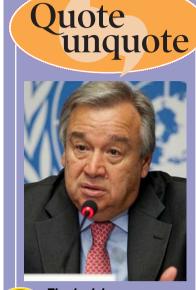
■ The lecture series will be conducted between Feb and April 2022. During this period, the students will also be interacting with their mentors on their specific projects. There will be a three-four weeks summer project, where the students will get hands-on experience in labs, and finalise their project reports with their mentors



Earth's interior cooling faster than we thought

study has found — meaning our planet will become inactive like Mercury and Mars sooner than though Researchers studied the thermal properties of bri ite, the primary mineral that makes up the boundary between Earth's mantle and outer core. They developed a measurement system and found that the thermal conductivity (the ability of a given material to conduct/transfer heat) of bridgmanite is about 1.5 times higher than assumed. Interestingly, the thermal conductivity of bridgmanite determines how much energy can flow from the molten iron-nickel core to the much cooler, viscous mantle above it. It, remains unclear, however, exactly how long this process will take.

The evolution of our Earth is the story of its cooling: 4.5 billion years ago extreme temperatures prevailed on the surface of the young Earth, and it was covered by a deep ocean of magma. Over millions of years, the planet's surface cooled, enough for organisms to survive, to form a brittle crust, which remains the surface we walk on today, while the matter underneath our feet continues to exist in the molten state



The last two years have demonstrated a simple but brutal truth - if we leave

anyone behind, we leave everyone behind. If we fail to vaccinate every person, we give rise to new variants that spread across borders, and bring daily life and economies to a grinding halt. Nations must prepare for the next pandemic through common sense investments in monitoring, early detection and rapid response plans in every country and by strengthening the authority of the World Health Organisation. We need to come together across countries and across sectors - to support those countries, who need the most help **Antonio Guterres,** secretary-general,

PM Modi introduces 'P3 movement' for India's climate change commitments at Dayos

rime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the 'P3 (Pro-Planet People) movement' that underlines India's climate change commitments at the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Davos Agenda 2022. He pointed towards the challenges that our lifestyle causes for the climate. "Throw away culture and consumerism has deepened the climate challenge. It is imperative to rapidly move from today's 'take-make-use-dispose' economy to a circular economy", he stressed. Reiterating India's commitment towards climate change, PM Modi also said that with 17 per cent of the world's population, India contributes only five per cent to global carbon emissions. However, the commitment to tackle the climate challenge is 100 per cent, he added

In today's 'take-make-use-dispose economy, it is very important to rapidly move towards a circular economy. This is the spirit at the core of our mission LIFE idea-Lifestyle for Environment, the vision of a resilient and sustainable lifestyle, which will be useful in dealing with climate crisis as well as future unpredictable challenges. Therefore, it is important for mission LIFE to become a global mass movement. We can make a campaign of public participation like LIFE and P-3(Pro-Planet People) Narendra Modi, PM



NEWS IN

WHICH WAS THE FIRST-EVER **GRAND SLAM TO BE WON BY** THE LEANDER PAES-MAHESH **BHUPATHI DUO?**

CLUE 1: The Musketeers' Cup, is awarded to the winner of the men's singles event.

CLUE 2: Czech Republic's Barbora Krejcíková is the current women's singles champion.

CLUE 13 Until 1975, it was the only major tournament not played on grass.

Answer: French Open. Novak Djokovic could be barred from playing in the year's second Grand Slam as things stand now after the French sports ministry said that there would be no exemption from the country's new vaccine law. World No 1 Djokovic arrived in his native Serbia on the day after being deported from Australia on Sunday because he is not vaccinated against Covid-19

A postal stamp to mark 1 year of Covid vax drive

500

nion health minister Mansukh Mandaviya has released a commemorative postal stamp on India's achievement in developing the indigenous Covid vaccine, as the nation marked the first anniversary of its Covid vaccine drive, which

began on January 16 last year. The stamp shows a health worker inoculating a senior citizen with Covaxin

Covaxin is one of the two mainstays of India's immunisation programme against Covid-19, along with Covishield. It was developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Ltd in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research

India's collective fight against Covid pandemic, which began with the vaccination drive, was later expanded to citizens and people with comorbidities, and finally all above 18 plus

Bayern striker Lewandowski awarded Best FIFA Men's **Player of Year** 2021

Oscar

Isaac is

Marvel's

newest

Knight'

ayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski has been crowned 'The Best FIFA Men's Player of Year 2021', winning the award for the second year in succession. Lewandowski, 33, won the most points from coaches, captains as well as media representatives, taking the reward ahead of second-placed Lionel Messi and third-placed Mohamed Salah.



Marvel Studios has unveiled the first trailer for its Disney Plus series 'Moon Knight', and it has a new superhero played by actor Oscar Isaac...

In 'Moon Knight' premiering on March 30, Isaac plays Marc Spector, a former soldier with a profound case of dissociasuperhero tive identity disorder that manifests as fully distinct individuals. He becomes the with 'Moon conduit for the Egyptian moon god Khonshu, which only further exacerbates Marc's anxiety over his mental illness



Making his Marvel comics debut in 1975, Moon Knight initially had superpowers based on the phases of the moon, but more recent iterations have kept his abilities mortal, aided by sophisticated gadgetry



YOUR NEWSROOM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

cricket make Indo-Pak ties better?

T20I format.

kistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja is set to propose an annual quadrangular series involving India, Pak-

istan, England and Australia in the next Interarch-rivals national Cricket Council (ICC) meet-Pakistan and India ing in a bid to play regular internahave not played tional cricket cricket due to worsagainst India. According to Code ening political condi-Sports Australia, tions. They last the four-nation tournament will be proplayed series in posed by the former 2012/13 Pakistan captain in the

YOU SPEAK

here needs to be more ways to open channels of communication and engagement between India and Pakistan - cricket, of course, being one of them. Not just through one series, but through music, film collaborations, opportunities to build bridges. It is

important to create a conducive and comfortable climate by the governments so that the younger generation can interact and embrace the similarities, while respecting the differences.





TIMES NIE gives you this fortnight's news capsule - a 360 degree perspective of major events that

WE SPEAK

akistan's legendary bowler Wasim Akram said it's only the fans and media which hypes the contest as a battle between the two but the reality is different from what it seems as both teams have a lot of respect for each other.

happened

around the world. But, this is

not it. This is a platform

to present your news, your

way. OWN YOUR NEWSROOM!

can we protect tigers?

IN THE NEWS FOR

of the endangered big cats died in 2021, the most since it began compiling data a decade ago, said India's tiger conservation body recently. The previous highest number of deaths per year before the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) began compiling data in 2012 was in 2016, when 121 perished.

■India is home to around 75 per cent of the world's tigers.

t is believed there were around 40,000 tigers at the time of independence in 1947 but hunting and habitat loss has slashed the population to dangerously low levels.

In 2010, India and 12 other countries Signed an agreement to double tiger numbers by 2022.

Last year, the government said it had treached the target ahead of schedule, with an estimated 2,967 tigers in 2018 versus a record low of 1,411 in 2006.



WE SPEAK

TIGER POPULATION IS RECEDING: NTCA

Over the past decade the biggest reason for deaths recorded by the NTCA was "natural causes", but many also fell victim to poachers and "human animal conflict". Human encroachment on tiger habitats has increased in recent decades. Kartick Satyanarayan, founder of Wildlife SOS, told AFP, deaths due to human-animal conflict were driven by "the fragmenta-

tion of the tiger's natural habitat."

"Tigers range over large jungle areas and find it impossible to migrate to other forests without crossing human habitations, increasing chances of conflict," he said.

Critics say that the government has also loosened environmental regulations for projects including mining.

Satyanarayan also said increasing demand for tiger skins and use of tiger body parts in traditional Chinese medicine were some of the major reasons for poaching. ■ The government has made efforts to manage the tiger population better, however, reserving 50 habitats across the country for the animals.

YOU SPEAK

believe it's time that we collectively strive towards restoring the glory of tigers. The government needs to reserve more wildlife sanctuaries than we already have. We must try to enable breeding tigers in labs and then release them into the wild so that it does not disturb the ecological cycle. We must also modify our laws in such a way that it unites the local communities to save our national animal. On the ground root level, we, as students and civilians, can also donate and volunteer to work for organisations that protect tigers.

class IX, Fitjee, Hyderabad



have magic formula for UP?

IN THE NEWS FOR

he BJP is expected to win a comfortable majority on the 403-member Uttar Pradesh Assembly, a pre-poll survey conducted by Times Now said. According to the opinion poll, BJP seems to be returning to power in UP by winning 227-254 Assembly seats. Samajwadi Party and its alliance partners are likely to win 136-151 segments. Yogi Adityanath is the most

preferred chief ministerial candidate in Uttar Pradesh, 53.4 per cent of the total respondents of the Times Now survey said. While 31.5 per cent wanted Akhilesh Yadav to rule the state, 11.5 felt Mayawati is the best choice to head the next UP government. Notably, only 2.5 per cent wanted Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as the CM of UP.

the world failed

in vaccine equity? Will 2022 be different?



2022 approaches, with near ly nine billion vaccine doses administered worldwide, public cine equity have fallen woefully short. Not only has ramped-up vaccine production failed to address shortages in ow-income countries, but there renains a long way to go in addressing ting vaccines from tarmacs in low-income countries into residents' arms, as per Al Jazeera.

YOU SPEAK

es, I do believe that Covid cannot be contained without equal distribution of the vaccines around the world. Many countries are hoarding vaccines, leaving the poor nations vulnerable. This gap would only lead to the virus reemerging in new variants until everyone gets immune. MAYANK MUNDHRA, class X, Apeejay School Park Street, Kolkata



WE SPEAK

■ In a November report, COVID GAP found that G7 countries, the informal grouping of the world's most advanced economies, and European Union countries are projected to have in excess of 834 million high-quality vaccine doses by the end of the year, even when accounting for providing boosters to 20% of the population and rollouts to kids.

it fair to Djokovic?



ovak Djokovic's final bid to avoid deportation and play in the Australian Open despite being unvaccinated for Covid ended on Sunday when a court unanimously dismissed the No. 1ranked tennis player's challenge of a government minister's decision to cancel his visa. Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia, said he was "extremely disappointed" by the ruling but respected it. He has won a record nine Australian Open titles, including three in a row, but this time

WE SPEAK

■ The visa cancellation effectively means the world's number one tennis player would be barred from obtaining a new Australian visa for three years, except under exceptional circumstances. Djokovic, an avowed Covid-19 vaccine sceptic, Melbourne Park courts just hours before Immigration Minister Alex Hawke's bombshell decision was announced.

But at an emergency court hearing, the tennis ace challenged the decision.

won't even get the chance to try.

YOU SPEAK

he decision to detain Djokovic's visa may have seemed to be an extreme step, but looking at the current Covid scenario, it was called for. Australia is swamped with cases due to Omicron, and the pressure on

hospitals is high. The Australian government has been extremely strict and vigilant when it comes to the vaccine, making it unfair for them to grant Djokovic an exemption, as his carelessness could negatively impact many at the Australian Open. PIUSI AJWANI, class XI, Jamnabai Narsee School, Mumbai



WE SPEAK

rive years ago, the BJP had welcomed turncoats from other parties and flaunted it as an achievement. The same turncoats are now living up to their reputation and changing loyalties when elections are round the corner. Whether it is Swami Prasad Maurya, Dara Singh Chauhan, Bhagwati Sharan Sagar or Avatar Singh Bhadana, all these leaders had hitched on to the saffron bandwagon to enter the Vidhan Sabha. Their exit in a series may not impact the BJP so much on the ground but it will definitely mount psychological pressure on the party managers and demoralise the cadres. What is even more worrisome is the fact that almost all the deserters belong to various OBC groups and have levelled similarsounding allegations against the party leadership.

YOU SPEAK

P is all set for the 2022 polls, wherein we shall see four prominent parties contesting, namely the BJP, Congress, SP and BSP. With various reforms, chief minister Yogi Adityanath is a strong contender to win, but he is faced with the task of keeping his MLAs together. Many of them have quit recently, spoiling the perfect picture that the ruling party has been painting. Meanwhile, SP chief, Akhilesh Yadav is also going to give a fight. Recently, he tweeted, 'Mela Hobe', drawing from 'Khela Hobe' slogan of Trinamool Congress during the West Bengal assembly polls, which the BJP lost. SANVI RASTOGI, class VIII, The Millennium School, Lucknow

Global harmony is when people learn to co-exist

Peaceful Co-existence for Global Harmony was the project taken up by the students of Manav Sthali School, Rajendra Nagar class XI under International Dimension to **Education Curriculum Activity 1** from July-Nov 2021.

No doubt war is an evil, the greatest catastrophe that befalls human being. It brings death and destruction, disease and starvation, poverty and ruin in its wake and the only possible way to promote Global Harmony is when people learn to co-exist valuing each other's culture, caste, creed, opinions etc.

The primary aim of this activity was to study the factors that led to war in India, Japan and Germany, to study their impact on human civilisation, trying to find ways to struction but also on the psycholoattain peace in society for a peaceful co-existence of mankind.

The students were given an orientation talk in a team's meet to familiarise them about the devastating impact of war, to promote peace, respecting the need for global peace.

history of the countries selected (India, Germany, Japan) for the project was discussed, their involvement in wars and the impact war had on the governing bodies which became not only the economy, climate, dea major cause of war.

MANAV STHALI SCHOOL

gy of the people as a whole. students were then divided into groups to research on the history of countries like India, Germany, and Japan. The students displayed a great zeal and enthusiasm in find-

brainstorming their views with their peers, parents and teachers involved discussing the weakness of

The extensive research work and knowledge was presented in To provide a deeper insight the the form of e-magazines which were displayed online, exhibiting the student's creativity in the form of articles, speeches of great leaders, poems, real life stories, newspaper headlines etc. The entire activity led to thought provoking dis-

cussion and the need to promote global peace to make the world a better place to live in.

Going ahead, our students acted out as ambassadors of peace and shared e-messages with their friends on the topic, 'What peace means to me', reflecting that people can find peace in their own thoughts, views and ideas. It is indeed too much to expect so many nations to live in a state of eternal peace so e-messages were shared wherein the students shared about what peace for them is.

All these messages were creatively displayed in the form of ewall of peace. The thought and feelings thus shared enhanced the confidence of the students on public speaking, critical thinking skills, co-operative learning skills and writing skills. It also broadened their perception towards global ace and harmony.

The students were asked to watch movies on war and peace from the suggested list of movies provided by the teachers involved. The research information and knowledge thus acquired was further beautifully promoted in the group discussion.

All the three activities opened new vistas of learning and helped in uncovering the fact that peace is more than just an absence of war .True peace is justice, true peace is freedom, and true peace dictates the recognition of human rights.

'Meraki', Annual Cultural Fest

abad organised another milestone event, 'Meraki- Performing Arts Cultural Fest from the January 5 to 8, 2022.

means 'doing something with passion, love, and creativity.'

To celebrate and share the joy of creations, 'Meraki' was one of the platforms at KPS where the Performing Arts Society, manifested the talent and skills of students and celebrated the festival to showcase the creativity in different facets of dance, the-

atre, and music on ture and integration of Sustainable Development Goals'.

The event was graced by the presence of the education director Mamta Kapoor, the head of operations Sucheta Arora, and was supported by the vice chairman Anirudh Khaitan.

On January 5, the PA fest began with the inauguration ceremony and

haitan Public School, Ghazipanel discussion with the greats with Padma Shri Guru Chitra Vishweswaran, a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Kailash Kumar, theatre director, Dr Monika Dewan, advisor Physi-'Meraki' is a Greek word which cal Education, Anuradha Nirala, renowned Gadwali singer and Gunjan

> Tripathi Subject Matter expert, Shiv Nadar School, Noida. The event was conducted through the ZOOM platform and streamed live on YouTube. The discussion was informative and in-

On January 7, the day after the inauguration, the soulstirring perform-

spirational.

the theme, 'Connection of man and na- ances by the Khaitanians were streamed live on YouTube. 'Meraki' on January 8, 2022, culminated with performances with learning from Sustainable Development Goals summarising the man-nature relationship with sequences like an 'Ode to nature', 'Naad Aura', 'Paani', 'Chup Katha' etc.

The event ended with a vote of thanks by the cultural head of the school, Anusuya Ghosh Banerjee.

To define the scope of study, the ing out the factors that led to war,

pholding the visionary values of chairman, Dr Augustine F Pinto, students of class VI of Ryan International School, Sector - 31, Gurugram spoke On the occasion 'National Youth Day' which is celebrated on 12 January every year with the



Indian National Youth Day at Ryan India since 1984 to celebrate the birthday of great Swami alist leaders, who were fighting Vivekananda, as National

Youth Day every year. Young Ryanites shared with their marvellous oratory and presentational skills. They also highlight- sandfold'. ed the importance of this day in nurturing the youths India. Also, Swami and teachings had an im- mi Vivekanand in day-to-day life.

against the colonial rule. Subhas Chandra Bose called Vivekananda 'the maker of modern India' all these valuable points and Mahatma Gandhi credited Vivekananda's with increasing his 'love for his country a thou-

School head, N Geeta Srinivasa also appraised the young Ryanites for their skills and motivated them Vivekananda's writings for inculcating teachings of Swa-

Gurdyal Singh, Raw powerlifting world champion

ishnanians are always ec- Mem Sr Sec School, Mansarover

of activities whether it's inter class, inter school, national or international level competitions as she believes these activities play an eminent role in their holistic de-

velopment.

static as principal Puja Garden as our class XII student Gur-Singhal encourages them dayal Singh participated in Raw to participate in an array Powerlifting World Championship

held in Moscow, Russia from December 16

to 19 with the blessings of Satguru Uday Singh. He not only displayed an exemplary performance but bagged gold medals also by se-

So it's once again a proud mo-curing first rank in both deadlift and ment for Shaheed Bishan Singh bench press events.



ASN's annual prize distribution ceremony

SN Senior Secondary School, Mayur Vihar-1 conducted virtual Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony for the Academic Achievers of the session 2020-2021. The eprogram was graced by Ashwini Kumar Choubey, minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Environment, Forest and Climate Change along with members of the managing committee.

The virtual programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp followed by the welcome ad-



Students then presented a spectacular virtual dance balled, 'Vidress by the school principal Swarn- rangna-Rani Laxmi Bai'. The ballad was conceived with the aim to de-

pict the evolutionary journey of 75 years of India's Independence and the celebration of this year Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav which would have been incomplete without mentioning the contributions of women

in Freedom Struggle of India. The chief guest, Ashwani Kumar Choubey addressed the gathering and emphasised that students should not only be imparted education but also be given great values to effectively serve the nation.

School chairman K L Luthra applauded the efforts of the achievers. The event culminated with a vote of thanks given by Middle wing coordinator Sushma Kalia

Discovering Panna and Khajuraho

s the dew droplets settled gently on the tender leaves, our gypsy cruised past. The otherwise silent forest saw a bit of activity that winter morning as jeeps moved through the jungle to try their luck at spotting a tiger in the Panna forest reserve, in Madhya Pradesh.

A part of our road trip to the Eastern Part of Madhya Pradesh, Panna was our second destination. We reached on the second day after driving from Kolkata to Varanasi, where we rested for the night and then drove from Varanasi to Panna.

Although it is one of the lesser known tiger reserves of India, Panna is nonetheless extremely beautiful. With the river Ken flowing gently by, the forest has a serene calm around it.

Panna is also home to the Pandav caves and the Pandav Falls, which has its own mythical past.

Set in a strategic spot, Panna is an hour away from Khajuraho, which houses the Khajuraho Group of tem-



ples, a UNESCO world heritage site. This site, which was restored by the Archeological Survey of India, was built during the reign of the Chandela Kings.

An example of our glorious architectural expertise, this temple com-

plex was forgotten for a very long time, till the Britishers rediscovered this place.

As the sun sets over the horizon, one can also experience the sound and light show hosted at the temple complex, which unravels a past about which only a few are aware.

In these trying times, when the main filters in our search are secluded and less crowded, Panna followed by Khajuraho

certainly meets the requirement.



Losing to a much lower-ranked, weaker and inexperienced South African side, this Indian Test team doesn't deserve its world No 1 ranking

ndia has lost to the Proteas, who were an inexperienced, yet they outperformed Indian test veterans. We need to understand that India did not play incompetently and the opposition played in an aggressive manner. The Indian team has accepted that the South African bowlers were 'clinical in crunch moments'. The Indian

DIARY

team did not only underperform in comparison to opponents in this series but also in the World Test Championship finals. So it will be unfair to say that India does not deserve such a ranking just on the basis of this series, but keeping in mind the gradual deterioration of the performance the Indian team needs to be ranked low, at least 1 or 2 positions down, because a lower rank will remove the pressure of over

> performing everyone and will probably help them play without any pressure and play freely so that they can win crucial matches.

Apeejay School, Park Street

on't let your failures define you, let them refine you. This must have been the Proteas' mindset after losing the first test match to India in Centurion. They made an inconceivable comeback and won the three-match series 2-1. Temba Bavuma hit the winning shot to mark a historic win for the South African cricket team. They were lower ranked, weaker and inexperienced and were facing the world no. 1 Indian

the guestion - Does the Indian Test team deserve its World No 1 ranking? The Indian Test team has no doubt had a terrible series but does it justify displacing them from the

team. However, this shocking defeat leads to

top of the ranking chart? After all, Sachin Tendulkar couldn't score a century every time he stepped on the field yet we consider him the best batsman of all time. This is simply because of his sheer brilliance and consistency. Team India is probably

the most consistent and highest performing test team on planet earth. One bad series does not mean they aren't the best!

Ishir Narayan, class X, Indus Valley World School



AGAINST

INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

he 7th edition of India International Science Fair (IISF GWR-2021) was held in the western region of the country at Panji, Goa from December 10 to 13, 2021 organised by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Science & Technology, Vijnana Bharti along with Government of Goa. Students all over the country participated in a plethora of activities based on Physics, Mathematics and even space engineering over the past three days.



Students of class VI and VII from St Angel's School, Sec-45, Gurugram also participated and became a part of this country-

wide Science festival to be a part of Guinness World Record by participating in the 'Rainwater Harvesting Activity' on December 12, 2021. Students performed the activity using the kit supplied by the Ministry of Science and Technology to make students understand the concept of rainwater harvesting in an interesting and innovative way. Students were thrilled and excited to

be a part of this event. It was

an unforgettable learning expe-

rience for them.

Mayank Mundhra, class X,

MRRAY WINS FIVE-SET EPIC

Five-time finalist Andy Murray needed a tough fivesetter over a player he beat last week to register his first win at the Australian Open since 2017

first win at the Australian Open since 2017 with an epic five-set victory over 21st seed Nikoloz Basilashvili on Tuesday. The three-time Grand Slam champion, playing with a metal hip following careersaving surgery in 2019, wrestled with the Georgian

for almost four hours before claiming his place in the second round. Scotland's Murray, ranked 113 and playing as a tournament wild card, showed his trademark fighting spirit to edge home in the gripping final set and clinch a 6-1, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4 victory in 3hr 52 min on John Cain Arena. It was the 34-yearold's first match at the Australian Open since 2019, when he went out in the first round. He made a tearful exit and it was thought that it might be his farewell. He had surgery on his hip weeks later.

It continued a keen rivalry between the pair with Murray rallying from a set down to defeat the bighitting Georgian last week in Sydney and also prevailing over four sets in the first round at Wimbledon last year. Murray grabbed the opening set with the loss of just one game, but Basilashvili levelled it up with the second set, before trading blows with the wily Scot in the third.

MURRAY STRETCHED Basilashvili was pounding his groundstrokes and Murray had to use all his guile to get the ball back in play and work for an opening. Murray, a five-time finalist in Melbourne, had three set points at 5-3 but

> overhit a couple of volleys, before the Scot took the third set when the Georgian whacked a backhand wide. Basilashvili broke Murray's serve in the fourth set but the indomitable Scot fought back from 0-30 down to break back. Basilashvili won a titanic tiebreaker to force the match into a fifth set. The Georgian began the final set poorly, falling behind 0-40 on serve and netting a backhand to hand Murray a break. But yet again Basilashvili refused to give in and broke back to level at 4-4. Murray held serve and then got to 0-40 on Basilashvili's service in the 10th game before tak-

the Georgian fought them all off to cling on to his service. Murray again worked his way to two more

> Murray has lost to Roger Federer once in the final of the Australian Open and four times to Novak Djokovic. But Murray is a three-time Grand Slam champion, winning the 2012 US Open, and the following year he became the first British man to win the Wimbledon singles crown in 77 years. He won it again in 2016. AP



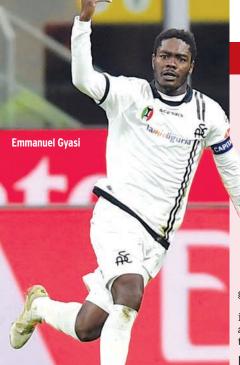
MEDVEDEV LAMENTS 'IMPOSSIBLE' SCHEDULE

aniil Medvedev conserved his energy after his shortest ever off-season with an efficient straight-sets win over Swiss battler Henri Laaksonen on Tuesday to reach the second round of the Australian Open.

US Open champion Medvedev, favoured to win the title at Melbourne Park following Novak Djokovic's deportation, had only 14 days' rest at the end of 2021 before firing up for Russia's run to the ATP Cup semi-finals this month. The cramped tennis schedule has been a bugbear for have to decide. And it's not easy decisions because players for years, with many complaining of the many people will be against your decisions." REUTERS

physical toll, but Medvedev could see few solutions. "It's impossible, and yes, it's definitely not enough (off-season)," the Russian told reporters after his 6-1 6-4 7-6(3) win in the afternoon sun at Rod Laver Arena.

"If you want to represent your country every year in Davis Cup and if you are every year in the finals, well, it becomes impossible. "So you'll have to sacrifice something. Sometimes your body will tell you what you have to sacrifice, sometimes you will



SPEZIA STUN AC MILAN

Third straight away with goal in dying seconds lifts team to 14th place

96th minute counter-attack to give Spezia their first Serie A victory away to AC Milan, 2-1, on Monday night. Milan missed a chance to overtake neighbours Inter at the top of Serie A, while third-place Napoli closed to within two points with a 2-0 win in Bologna. Milan dominated much of the game but spurned a host of chances. In the 44 minute, Rafael Leao escaped behind the Spezia half but was flattened by goalie Ivan Provedel kicking wildly at the bouncing ball. Theo Hernandez fired the penalty wide. A minute later Leao escaped again and this time reached the ball first and lobbed Provedel to give Milan the lead.

Spezia hit back when Kevin Agudelo, finding a huge hole in the home defence, tapped in a low Daniele Verde cross at the near post after 64 minutes.

Unhappy over foul

Amazing, been a tough three or four years.

Put in a lot of work to get back here. I've played on this court many times and the

couldn't ask for any more.

ANDY MURRAY

atmosphere is incredible. It's amazing to be

back and winning a five-set battle like that, I

As the game entered five minutes of added time, Junior Messias put the ball in the net for Milan, but the referee had already whistled for of the relegation places. AFP

mmanuel Gyasi coolly finished a a foul rather than allow the home team the advantage. Milan coach Stefano Pioli blamed that decision for what happened next. "We lost our lucidity after having suffered an injustice, it's a shame," Pioli said. "The responsibility is ours but it must be shared tonight with the referee. It's all the more strange that he didn't whistle for half-fouls during the whole game and now he whistles

when the ball is on our player's foot.' Milan applied frenzied pressure and Provedel made three saves from Zlatan Ibrahimovic. The first was from a close-range shot, the second from a curling free kick and the third, and best, to claw away a looping header dropping just under the bar. Spezia sprung one last counter-attack. Victor Kovalenko rolled the ball across the penalty area to Gyasi, who, with the game on the line, carefully controlled then coolly placed the ball inside the far post. "Anyone can have a bad night," said Pioli. "We will try to react, the team has al-

ways known how to do it." Milan host Juventus on Sunday. It was Spezia's third straight away victory and lifted them to 14th in the table, six points clear

LEWANDOWSKI, PUTELLAS WIN FIFA BEST PLAYER AWARDS

- Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski won the FIFA Best Men's Player award for 2021 and Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Alexia Putellas won the FIFA Best Women's Player prize.
- The prolific Lewandowski won the award for the second straight year after a season in which he beat Gerd Mueller's 49year old record of 40 goals in a single Bundesliga campaign.
- The 27-year-old Putellas was at the heart of the Barcelona women's team which won the Spanish league and the UEFA Champions League.
- Chelsea won awards for best coach, with Thomas Tuchel winning men's award and Emma Hayes the best women's coach.

RAHUL SET TO LEAD LUCKNOW IN IPL

L Rahul will captain the yet-to-be-named Lucknow franchise in the upcoming IPL, a league source said on Tuesday.

It is learnt that Rahul is one of the players Lucknow has picked from the draft ahead of the mega auction on February 12 and 13 in Bengaluru. The other two are likely to be Australian all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and uncapped leg spinner Ravi Bishnoi. "Rahul will captain Lucknow. The team is deciding on the other two draft picks," an IPL source

Rahul led Punjab Kings for the past two seasons but did not want to stay at the franchise. Bishnoi was also with Punjab while Stoinis represented Delhi Capitals. RPSG Group had shelled out Rs 7090 crore to buy the Lucknow franchise.

Rahul is currently the stand-in captain of the In- injured Rohit Sharma. PTI



dian ODI team in South Africa in the absence of an

QUIZ TIME!

1. Which famous golf player is • nicknamed as "The King"?

- a) Alan Shepard
- b) Jack Nicklaus c) Arnold Palmer
- d) Tiger Woods
- 2. The first World
 Weightlifting Championship Competition was held in which year?
- a) 1890
- b) 1891
- c) 1892 d) 1893

- . Kookaburras is the nickname of which country's hockey team?
- a) India
- b) Australia
- c) USA d) China

• Who established the World • Series Cricket in 1970s?

- a) Kerry Packer
- b) David Johnson
- c) Allen Hill d) Alfred Shaw
- Q5. Latham became the first player in Test history to score 250 and take six catches in

- the same match. Against which team did he make the record?
- a) South Africa
- b) Bangladesh
- c) Australia



- Q6. Which player has scored the highest number of
- sixes in his career in ODIs? a) Sachin Tendulkar
- b) Shahid Afridi
- c) Chris Gayle
- d) Sanath Jayasurya

7. Which sport's playing • format is "Foursomes/ alternate shot"?

- a) Badminton
- b) Golf
- c) Tennis d) Basketball
- 8. How many team members are there in each team of

an ice hockey game?

a) 6 b) 8 c) 10 d) 12

Which female tennis playerwon the most number of gold medals in tennis in the

- **Summer Olympics?** a) Serena Williams
- b) Venus Williams
- c) Kathleen McKane Godfree
- d) Victoria Azarenka
- SWERS: 1. c. Arnold Palmer 2. b. 1891 3. b. Australia
- 4. a. Kerry Packer 5 b. Bangladesh
- 6. b. Shahid Afridi 7. b. Golf
- 8. a. 6 9. b. Venus Williams