



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ Do you know what is confirmation bias and how it affects our perception towards others? Figure it out in i-Opener
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➤ Ever-imagined yourself as a Greek-demigod? A student writes for Times NIE how life would have been if you were one
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➤ Man United back on track after 3-1 win over Brentford
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STUDENT EDITION
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022



Spotlight SANIA MIRZA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT, 2022 SEASON TO BE HER LAST

India's most-successful female tennis player has announced that 2022 will be her final season on the WTA tour. Mirza has not played on the WTA tour as regularly in the last few years, first due to her maternity break in 2018 and then due to the pandemic right after her comeback in 2020. Her last title came in September 2021, when she won the 43rd doubles trophy at the Ostrava Open with Shuai Zhang.

Mirza is a former world No. 1 in doubles, and had a career-best ranking of 27 in singles. The first Indian woman to win a Grand Slam, she's currently ranked 68th in the world. The last of her six Grand Slam crowns (across women's and mixed doubles) came at the 2016 Australian Open with Martina Hingis.



CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

Representational pic



AFTER SUN, a 'Made In China' MOON

Chinese scientists have built an 'artificial moon' that has lunar-like gravity and is designed to help prepare astronauts for future exploration missions. The simulator, based in Xuzhou in the Jiangsu province of China, has been designed in a way that can 'make gravity disappear,' according to its designers.

Currently, simulating low gravity on Earth requires either flying in an aircraft that enters a free fall, then climbs back up, or a free fall from a drop tower. But the experiences last only few minutes

■ The new lunar simulator, which is a small 2-foot room sitting in a vacuum chamber, can simulate low or zero gravity 'for as long as you want', explained its developers.

■ Inside the room they have created an artificial lunar landscape, made up of rocks and dust that are as light as those found on the surface of the Moon.

THE SIGNIFICANCE

1 It is expected this 'artificial moon' will play an important role in the future missions to the Moon, allowing scientists to plan exercises and prepare for building in low gravity

2 The research facility is also expected to help in determining the possibility of human settlement on the Moon

Moon has a gravitational pull that is one-sixth of the Earth



Not just an artificial moon, China has successfully created an 'artificial sun', which is a nuclear fusion reactor that recently superheated to a temperature five times hotter than the Sun and for over 17 minutes. This artificial sun will eventually make way for clean energy in the future

'ANXIETY' VOTED AS CHILDREN'S WORD OF THE YEAR 2021

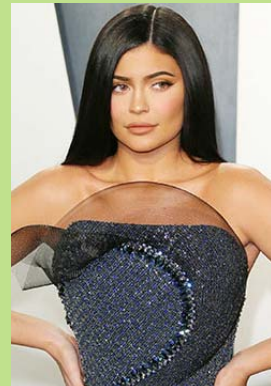
Anxiety was children's word of the year in 2021, according to research by lexicographers at the Oxford University Press (OUP). The OUP's academics chose to focus on well-being as their research focus, given the impact of Covid-19 on education, and concerns about children's mental health.

While 'anxiety' came on top, chosen by 21% of children, it was followed by 'challenging', chosen by 19%, 'isolate' (14%), 'well-being' (13%) and 'resilience' (12%)



The Oxford English Dictionary chose 'vax' as its overall word of the year, saying that it had "injected itself into the bloodstream of the English language" during the pandemic

Kylie Jenner becomes the first woman to reach 300 million followers on Instagram



American social media personality and business mogul Kylie Jenner has become the world's most-followed woman on Instagram. The Kylie Cosmetics founder, set the record recently by reaching 300 million followers, beating pop star Ariana Grande, who previously held the record. The 24-year-old is second only to footballer Cristiano Ronaldo, who is the most-followed person on Instagram with 389 million followers.

Scientists find rare, pristine rose-shaped coral reef off Tahiti coast

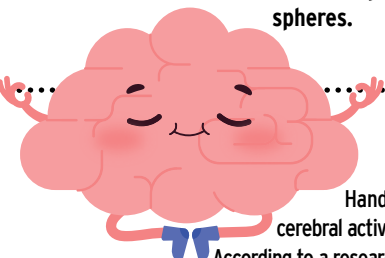
Deep in the South Pacific, scientists have explored a rare stretch of pristine corals shaped like roses off the coast of Tahiti. The reef is thought to be one of the largest found at such depths and seems untouched by climate change or human activities. The new-found reef, stretching 3 kilometres, was studied late last year during a dive expedition supported by UNESCO. Unlike most of the world's mapped corals, which are found in relatively shallow waters, this one was deeper - between 35 metres to 70 metres.

■ Globally, coral reefs have been depleted from overfishing and pollution
■ Climate change is also harming delicate corals, including those in areas neighbouring the newly-discovered reef, with severe bleaching caused by warmer waters
■ Between 2009 and 2018, 14 per cent of the world's corals were killed, according to a 2020 report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Project

Despite the advantages that technology brings, writing remains at the forefront when it comes to ideation and communication. The creative stimulation that results when putting pen to paper has specifically gained traction during the lockdown days after the rise of the Covid-19 pandemic. So, what are the advantages of handwriting? We find out...

Handwriting boosts cognitive processes

As opposed to taking notes on a gadget, using pen and paper helps better activate cognitive processes. It improves the capacity to retain knowledge, recall facts and concepts, and provide a more in-depth comprehension of the subject at hand. Cursive writing specifically proved to boost brain development in the domains of thinking, language and reasoning. According to a New York Times study, cursive writing also promotes brain synchronisation between the left and right hemispheres.



Handwriting develops brain health

Handwriting, like meditation, boosts cerebral activity in certain areas of the brain. According to a research conducted at the Indiana University, the act of writing by hand stimulates creativity that is not easily accessible in any other manner. High-tech magnetic resonance imaging proved that low-tech handwriting enhances neuronal activity in some areas of the brain.

Writing enhances creativity and thought processes

Writing helps get our creative juices flowing and supports organising thought processes. In one of his articles, renowned author Patrick McClean stated

that using pen and paper help avoid the distractions that result from digital platforms. When typing, individuals tend to focus on editing content as they develop it, which is counterproductive to the creative process. On the other hand, using pen and paper allows people to jot down their creative ideas, fully gather their thoughts and edit later.

Did you know GOOD HANDWRITING enhances creativity?



Boosts happiness

According to a health encyclopedia by Rochester University, journaling helps improve the mood, as writing down thoughts, ideas and emotions on paper gives people a platform to better express themselves and understand their emotions. It allows enough time for people to identify and understand their feelings. Writing helps articulate thoughts that lead people to feel uninspired or demotivated. The process of jotting down emotions on paper has proven to be therapeutic and helps enhance feelings of happiness as well as reduce stress.

**NATIONAL
HANDWRITING DAY IS
MARKED ON JAN 23
EVERY YEAR**

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WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA...

It's time to celebrate the birth of a Republic and get reacquainted with the wonder that is India

WHAT TO EXPECT

WE ASK, YOU ANSWER
Students on what a 'Republic' means to them, what new rules and rights are needed, and MORE

ICONIC INDIA
A visual treat of things, people, missions, structures, moments, laws that built a fledgling nation into a global superpower it is today

KNOW INDIA BETTER
Can you ever know everything about India? We present a treasure trove of India and its rich history

A tale of tableaux
Students share their ideas of an online tableau

Quizzes
Our virtual avatar 'Republic Didi' creates daily quizzes

Design a new Preamble

ONLINE

Online activities start from **January 20 onwards**

MARK YOUR DATE **JANUARY 26, 2022**

JUST IN JEST

WHY THE WORLD'S FIRST FEMALE PHD NEEDS TO NOT BE CELEBRATED SEPARATELY

Dr Elena Piscopia, Take Your Stand

Are some historical figures less famous because they have not been celebrated (enough)? Or are they less famous because they didn't quite have what was required to be celebrated?

Take the case of Elena Cornaro Piscopia. No harm if you've never heard of her. But for most people of the Italian city of Padua, not to know her is odd. Being the first woman in the world to earn a PhD is a big deal. The fact that Piscopia



Who was Dr Elena Piscopia?

Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Piscopia, also known as Helen Cornaro, was not just the first woman to receive a Ph.D. degree in 1678. She was considered to be an expert musician. In addition to mastering the sciblis of her time – which means she mastered almost the entire body of knowledge – Elena mastered the harpsichord, the clavi-chord, the harp, and the violin.

Why is she in news?

A proposal to insert a statue of her among the 78 dedicated to notable male figures has stirred controversy.

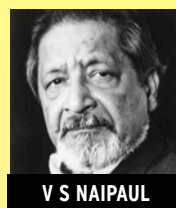
received the honour for her disposition on Aristotelian philosophy from the University of Padua in 1678 should make Paduans proud. And, yet, there's a kerfuffle over the good doctor's statue joining 78 others depicting notable figures from Padua on a prominent square – all of them being men.

Originally, the Prato della Valle had 88 statues – all men – set up between 1775 and 1883. Ten statues depicting the doges (chief magistrates) of Venice were destroyed by Napoleon's army in 1797, replaced by obelisks or left empty. The proposal is to erect Dr Piscopia's statue on one of them. There is already a statue of her at the university. But to place her in the context of other celebrated Paduans is important.

Celebrating greatness through categories like 'Best Actress' or 'Best Indian novel' is one thing. Doing it as 'Best Actor' or 'Best novel' is quite another. Paduans, put Piscopia among the greats, not in 'splendid' isolation.

FOR THE PLEASURE OF READING...

Potential and Prospects



V S NAIPAUL

To see the possibility, the certainty, of ruin, even at the moment of creation: it was my temperament. Those nerves had been given to me as a child in Trinidad partly by our family circumstances: the half-ruined or broken-down houses we lived in, our many moves, our general uncertainty. Possibly, too, this mode of feeling went deeper, and was an ancestral inheritance, something that came with the history that had made me: not only India, with its ideas of a world outside men's control, but also the colonial plantations or estates of Trinidad, to which my impoverished Indian ancestors had been transported in the last century – estates of which this



Wiltshire estate, where I now lived, had been the apotheosis. Fifty years ago, there would have been no room for me on the estate; even now, my presence was a little unlikely. But more than an accident had brought me here. Or rather, in the series of accidents that had brought me to the manor cottage, with a view of the restored church, there was a clear historical line. The migration, within the British Empire, from India to Trinidad, had given me the English language as my own, and a particular kind of education. This had partly seeded my wish to be a writer in a particular mode, and had committed me to the literary career I had been following in England for 20 years.

From 'The Enigma of Arrival'

Source: ET Edit

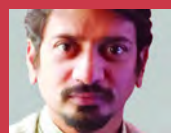


ONE WORLD, DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Explore diversity in vision and figure out how the same topic may be viewed differently by different folks. This is a mirror to society and life

READ FULL STORIES ON TOI WEBSITE

Anything's Possible (Even When It Isn't)



ANAND VASU

As 2021 came to its inevitable end, the question on millions of minds was a simple one: When will this Covid pandemic end and life return to normal? Like with all grief, we went through the five stages. When news of the pandemic first broke in Wuhan, we were in denial. Sure, it happened in China, but it won't affect us, so far away.

Then came anger. How could they do this to us? Bargaining was reasonably simple. We'll wear masks, wash our hands and vaccinate. Will you then spare us? When nothing worked, and death followed illness, depression was inevitable. And finally, there was acceptance, that this is what life has become in the times that we live in. But, as 2022 starts, there is another stage that the world has moved

into. One of being fed up, of not being able to cope, or simply accept things as they are, without knowing when they may improve.

At times like this, it is inevitable that you turn to art, for relief. Locked down and unable to interact, television, cinema and its modern avatar, web series on OTT platforms, provided initial relief.

But, these were being consumed exponentially faster than they could be produced. And they were scripted. What filled the void was live sport. No actors playing parts. No make-believe.

Real men and women stepping onto a stage not knowing what was in store, armed with their skills, intelligence and temperament, trying to fashion a narrative. When Neeraj Chopra sprinted in and flung that javelin, he was not only throwing an ancient weapon of war. He was also taking hold of our anxieties and using his considerable skill to release the tensions we had not found a way to let go of.



By playing on in a pandemic – the show must go on and all that – India's cricketers bring relief from dreariness to those who can afford it

When the Indian cricket team voluntarily checked into one bio-bubble after another, not knowing what effect this may have on their meticulously-trained bodies or constantly-challenged minds, they did so not only for themselves.

India's cricketers make a living that only few in a still poor country such as India can dream of. But in doing so they pay a price that is not always obvious. By playing on in a pandemic – the show must go on and all that – India's cricketers bring relief from dreariness to those who can afford it.

To be sure, there is a large swathe of the population to whom watching sport is a luxury, or just plain out of reach, as the day-to-day grind of survival consumes them. To suggest to them that sport can be a panacea is as idiotic as it is cruel. And yet sport is such an integral part of the lives of crores of Indians.

As children, we are told to take to physical activity, usually in the form of sport – a healthy mind in a healthy body. Children embrace this joyously. But, as we grow older, the business of living, of making a living, often takes over, and we cannot, or do not, engage in the physical activity that keeps our minds healthy.

What is left then, is to watch others play. It is not

an adequate replacement, but for a vast majority, it is the best they can do.

And who among us has not been uplifted by watching a great sporting feat? There is a tinge of jealousy, for not being able to do

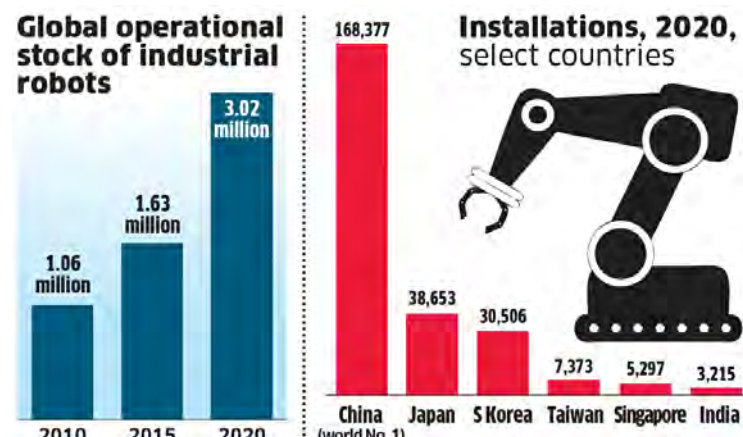
the same thing ourselves. A hint of nostalgia for a time when we too dreamed. But the greatest gift sport gives us is hope. The feeling that anything is possible, even when the reality is that it isn't.

Who among us has not been uplifted by watching a great sporting feat? There's a hint of nostalgia for a time when we too dreamed. But the greatest gift sport gives us is HOPE...

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

ROBOTS RISING IN COVID ERA

The operational stock of industrial robots has tripled over the past decade, with more than 3 million robots in use across various industries globally by the end of 2020, according to the latest estimate from the International Robotics Federation (IRF). Robot installations in Covid-hit 2020 were estimated to be 383,545 units, 0.5% more than in the previous year...



MEME'S THE WORD



CHEEZ BADI HAI MASK KE UNDER

Berlin or Delhi, embroidered cloth or black surgical, the Covid mask has made us see people differently



MEENAKSHI REDDY MADHAVAN

Here we are, another year into the pandemic, and I still often forget to put my mask in my pocket before I leave the house. Remember how it used to go? 'Keys, wallet, let's go.' Or, if you were me, 'Keys, wallet, cigarettes, let's go.' Now, I have to add a mask to that rotation. Sigh.

I know, I know. Moaning about masks is so 2020. After all, we've had a long time to get used to them. In Berlin, where I live now, our regular N95s are called FFP2, which sounds a lot more official if you say it fast. 'EFF EFF PEE TOO,' quite like a German untranslatable word. They're required everywhere. All the pretty embroidered masks being advertised to me by my Instagram won't do.

At the beginning of 2021, I bought a set of washable cloth masks. I wore one on the plane from Delhi to Frankfurt.

But by the time I switched planes after the layover, the German rules

were in place. 'You need a different mask,' the cabin attendant told me, and handed me some flimsy surgical one, which looked, to be honest, much less effective than my one. But it was comfortable – comfortable-r anyway – much less restrictive than my swathes of cloth. So, I wore it merrily for my next few excursions after I got off the plane.

But I do like masks for the most part. I like that I don't have to care what my face looks like when I make a quick trip to the supermarket.

Sitting in the U-Bahn this summer, a man tried to chat me up and eventually asked my age. I told him I was 39 and he left me strictly alone after that, since I was a decade older than him. My mask had hidden my whole face, and I could've been any age behind it!

Of course, when I tried to guess what people looked like in my language class the ta-

bles were turned. My eyes, unused to just interacting with other sets of eyes, quickly scribbled in faces behind the masks. When we all unveiled outside with our mid-morning coffee, I was always surprised. So-and-so's nose was much smaller than I had realised. Another had a small beard, a third had a wide, generous mouth.

The most ridiculous mask rule continues to be Delhi policing what you wear inside your car with the windows up. It doesn't matter if you had been breathing in the same AQIs-creaming air five minutes ago in your living room. As soon as you enter your car, you are in danger. Maybe it's not that ridiculous when you consider how much money is made by putting traffic cops behind trees who bounce out suddenly to collect a fine.

On the other hand, you go to a restaurant and you drop your mask as soon as you sit down even before the waiter comes up to you with a menu. You have to wear your mask during your evening walk in the park, but you don't have to wear it if you're in a friend's living room with the windows closed. And even in these 'public places' you can get away with slinging it right under your nose, or taking it off entirely to take a deep breath.

You can get away with flimsy little cotton masks, as we had during 2020, that have very pretty ikat patterns but with elastic that sagged from the third use onwards. My tailor in Delhi, following fashion, sewed me a little matching mask to go with the dress I had him make.

In Berlin, our fashion choices regarding masks are limited. The only way we have to indicate our (some-what) coolness is to buy a pack of black surgical masks, instead of white or blue ones. That's something. It's not the beautiful hand-painted mask my friend gave me last year. But it's something.

Source: ET Edit

WORDPLAY

What is CONFIRMATION BIAS?

In our weekly column where we play on all possible words associated with forming and/or evolving an idea or an opinion, this week, we focus on the definition and meaning of confirmation bias.

Dictionary definition

The tendency to interpret new evidence as confirmation of one's existing beliefs or theories is called a confirmation bias. Let's make this simpler: Confirmation bias describes our underlying tendency to notice, focus on, and give

greater credence to evidence that fits with our existing beliefs. For example, let's say you believe cats are better than dogs. If you were to search "Are cats better than dogs?" in Google, all you will



get are sites listing the reasons why cats are better. However, if you were to search "Are dogs better than cats?", Google will only provide you with sites that believe dogs are better than cats. This shows that phrasing questions in a one-sided way (i.e. affirmative manner) will assist you in obtaining evidence consistent with your hypothesis. That is confirmation bias.

Why it's bad for you

Mainly because people are heavily influenced by this type of wishful thinking, this bias prevents people from doing their own research on a topic or gathering any sort of outside evidence that opposes their view.

So, why do people do it?

First, challenge avoidance: people don't want their beliefs to be discredited. Second, reinforcement seeking. People like to find out they've been right all along.

Why it MUST be challenged...

Confirmation bias must be challenged, especially in today's world because all of us live in a Hashtag World, where algorithms on our phones and social media drive us to data, information and opinions that match our searches, and hence, reaffirm our steadfast views. This makes people more rigid, and resistant to other opinions. It also makes people argumentative, even rude.

How can we FIGHT this bias?

Look for ways to challenge your beliefs. Seek out information from a range of sources. Discuss your thoughts with others. Surround yourself with a diverse group of people, and listen to dissenting views. You can also seek out people and information that challenge your opinions, or assign someone to play 'devil's advocate' if you feel stuck.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's important to make your voice heard.

Send Letters to the Editor at toinline175@gmail.com



Should we be proud of being an Indian?

Due to its dynamic history, India was often regarded as 'a golden bird' on account of its rich and varied culture, ethos, rituals, traditions, wealth, and an integral part of India, ie, unity. No other country in the world enjoyed that much fame as India did. Today, India has gone through a lot of transformation and has reached high points.

The citizens of India are and should be proud of being Indians as our freedom struggles faced every hardship placed by the Brits on their journey to success with bravery.

On a positive side, many lion hearts took birth on this land. Without any denying our missile man was one of them. APJ Abdul Kalam used to sell newspapers just to make the two ends meet. Throughout his valiant



journey, he never lost hope of being an astronomer and during his last few years of life, he was regarded as one of most prominent presidents of India. Indeed, he was the one who is in every citizen's heart. From Kalam, we learn to have a determined and positive mind.

Many of us are proud to be Indians because of the elite democracy of India which provides every citizen with the freedom of speech, expression and right to vote which many world citizens are still deprived of. Taking nature in consideration, there is an emerging global, scientific and technological superpower, with a diverse environment in flora and fauna.

On the contrary to all these positive aspects, poverty still prevails in India, but one must not ignore the fact that the government is doing their part very well. Many organisations are providing free education to tomorrow's elders to make them nature saviours. Personally, I am and will be proud of being a part of a country till my last breath, where several value giving events happened, where a multitude of people lost their lives for the welfare of their brothers.

ISHU GIRSA, class-IX A, M L Khanna DAV Public School, Dwarka

Fill 365 pages with colours

ASN Senior Secondary School, Mayur Vihar-I on the last day of the year spread cheer with the special assembly on the theme, 'Fill 365 pages with colours'.

The aim behind this vibrant assembly was to spread positivity and hope to all. The students through their wonderful performances gave the message of harmony and gratitude. They enacted a wonderful skit showcasing different ways to help during the pandemic. The highlight of the program was the new year resolutions to celebrate the start of new year 2022.



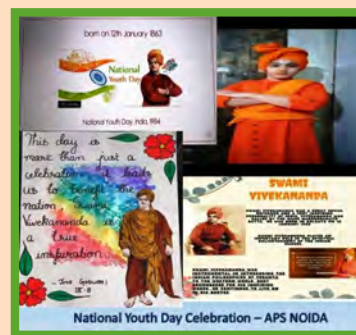
School principal Swarnima Luthra lauded the efforts of the students and encouraged them to be the best version of themselves.

National Youth Day celebrations at APS

Army Public School, Noida celebrated January 12, 2022 as 'National Youth Day' to commemorate the 158th Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.

A special assembly was conducted in the primary wing which commenced with a prayer, followed by a thought along with its meaning, while some students dressed up as Swami Vivekananda, presented his messages and preaching. A short documentary film and an animated story about his life and morals were shown to the students.

Videos on the life and teachings of Swami Vivekananda were also shown in the senior wing. For classes 6 to 8, the videos contained incidents from Swami's life which inspire one and all even today. The students of class 9 were shown a video on the famous



Chicago Convention where Swami preached and exhorted the values taught by Hinduism, which, unlike other religions, is not a religion but a way of life.

This programme will continue for the next 100 days wherein students will get to enhance their linguistic and literary skills by means of a variety of activities.

Let's get vaccinated



American Montessori Public School DLF II, Gurugram organised a Covid 19 vaccination camp on January 12, 2022 for its students between the age group of 15-18 years, under National Vaccination Programme and as per guidelines issued by Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare. The camp saw our responsible students taking the shot, ensuring their own safety and of those around them.

Understanding that vaccination is a shared responsibility, AMPS stands in solidarity with the health care professionals and salutes their indefatigable spirit.

Indian Army Day observed at Ryan

Ryan International School, Sec-40 Gurugram, expressed their admiration and gratitude to the Indian army by celebrating 'Indian Army Day' with great enthusiasm. Army Day is celebrated on January 15 every year in India. It is a grand celebration of India's military might and its unsung personnel.

Little Ryanites took part in 'Role Play Competition' with great zeal and zest. Ryanites of class III and IV participated in declamation competition and wrote beautiful slogans on colourful decorated A4 sheets and read aloud in the class. The students of Class V participated in JAM Competition along with quotes on Indian army. To mark the significance of



the day, students shared their views about how we can serve our nation.

School head Shivali Sharma appreciated the efforts of Ryanites for creating awareness about understanding the importance of patriotism and expressed her reverence for Indian army.

Student Corner



FALAK VERMA, class VIII, Shanti Gyan Vidyapeeth School



Vishwa Hindi Diwas held at MMS



Vishwa Hindi Diwas is celebrated annually on January 10, to promote Hindi language around the world. This day commemorates the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur on January 10, 1975.

Hindi is considered to be the mother language of India. It is our heritage and most widely spoken language in the country.

Students of Mamta Modern Sr Sec School, Vikaspuri, New Delhi, celebrated this day with zest and participated in various literary activities, poem recitation, enactment, slogan writing etc.

Blue Ribbons Galore

East Point School can't be more proud and honoured to exclaim that it has won three awards at the district level at Kala Utsav 2020. What's more? The school has been reigning for 3 years consecutively in music.

The gleaming stars are: Akshaya Arun, XI E, gold in Vocal Classical; Rhythm Kumar Singh, X-A, gold in Instrumental Music; Tvarita Vijaykumar, X-A, silver in Folk Dance.

It is certainly true that success doesn't come by accident, it is strung with perseverance, sheer determination and sacrifice. We applaud their devotion and focus and also wish them the supreme best to keep the banner up and be constellations in their field.



Annual Day celebration held at SVISG

On January 6, 2022, SVISG embarked on a journey of reminiscing the resilience brought about by the unprecedented pandemic by celebrating virtual annual function, 'Embracing the New Normal', the occasion was graced by Vijay Thadani, the working chairperson, Sadhu Vaswani International School for

Girls, Shanti Niketan and Sunita Malkani, School Manager.

After the lamp lighting ceremony, the school principal, Santosh Vyas read the stellar annual report of the school, throwing light on the various achievements of the school. The resplendent efforts of the students in academics and extra-curricular zone were acknowl-

edged and appreciated by honouring them.

The event was a kaleidoscope of song, music, dance, drama and yoga. There was an English play as well as a Sindhi poem. The mellifluous bilingual song inspired one and all towards gathering courage and accepting the new normal after the pandemic.

MISSING THE GOLDEN DAYS

Offline school days were filled with such joy that can never be experienced during online classes. When the schools reopened in the month of November and I stepped foot in the school building after nearly one and a half years. I looked back on the time when we did not have any Covid restrictions at school and could enjoy everyday.

One particular incident struck me when I entered the school building. It was December of 2017 and our school was gearing up for a mega Annual Day. All the classes were suspended and the students were rehearsing for the various events. I was participating in the music event. We were taught classic English songs which have been popular for ages. One day, our music teacher went for a meeting with the authorities. Before going, she told us to practice the songs in small groups. After a while, we were extremely bored and one of us started singing Bollywood songs. In the blink of an

eye, everyone started doing the same. I synced in too. The sound drew many teachers to the music room and they were infuriated when they heard us singing Bollywood songs instead of practising the ones that we were taught.

That day, all of us got a good scolding and next day's music rehearsal was cancelled as a punishment. Though reprimanded, the incident was etched in our memory and truly offline school days were the best.

Ankita Sarkar, class XI, Adamas International School



If I were a Greek demigod, I would have liked to be a daughter of Zeus. I could control the wind with my bare hands and my step brothers would include great heroes such as Hercules and Perseus. I could fly in the air and I would be much stronger than the other demigods. Zeus is the king of the gods and controls the sky from mighty Mount Olympus. Therefore, I would have natural leadership abilities and I could visit Mount

IF I WERE GREEK DEMIGOD

Olympus any time. He is the most powerful god and I would inherit his powers

and be among the powerful demigods. I would eat nectar to strengthen my powers and I could throw a thunderbolt whenever I wanted to. Poseidon and Hades would be my uncles and Ares and Athena my stepbrothers and stepsisters. I would be neither god nor man, and hence, a demigod.

Uditi Saraogi, class X, Sushila Birla Girls' School



MAN UNITED BACK IN RECKONING

Late turnaround ensures 3-1 victory at Brentford, but joy marred by Ronaldo's anger

Manchester United staged a second-half turnaround as goals from Anthony Elanga, Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford earned a 3-1 win at Brentford. It was another less-than-convincing display from United on Wednesday, though, with Cristiano Ronaldo ostensibly far from impressed at being substituted with 20 minutes left. Lacklustre United were outplayed by Brentford in the first half and were indebted to keeper David De Gea. It was a vital win for United and keeps them in the thick of the battle for a top-four finish.

LATE BREAK

Elanga, a 19-year-old winger starting only his fourth Premier League match, broke the deadlock in the 55th minute by latching onto Fred's pass behind Brentford's defense and then nodding the ball into the corner. Brentford, by then, had wasted a host of chances to take the lead in the first half. Greenwood then notched his first Premier League goal since October, tapping in from Bruno Fernandes' pass, to make it 2-0 in the 62nd. Rashford climbed off the bench to add the third - again off a pass from Fernandes - in the 77th for a first league win of 2022.

Manchester United interim manager Ralf Rangnick slammed his side's shoddy first-half performance "First half was not good in all aspects of the game. In the second half, we were more urgent, attacking higher

up the pitch and taking the right decisions in the counterattack and we scored, which is the big difference. You have to be honest, without David and his brilliant saves it would have been difficult," Rangnick told reporters. "We were sloppy in our passing, not strong enough in the tackles, losing the 50-50 challenges and didn't win a single second ball. When we did counter-attack we were too nervous. Brentford were aggressive and brave and they were all the aspects we spoke about at halftime."

RONALDO TANTRUM

Whatever Rangnick said at halftime it clearly worked as United were a different proposition after the break - even if the scoreline was scarcely

credible. Yet the win that lifted United to within two points of fourth-placed West Ham United with a game in hand, was overshadowed by Ronaldo's reaction to being hauled off and replaced with defender Harry Maguire when the score was 2-0.

Ronaldo, who missed the last two games because of a niggling injury, took an age to walk off the pitch, scowling at United's coaching staff and throwing his jacket down in anger, before continuing his debate from his seat. "His reaction was 'why me?'... I said to him I have to take a decision in the interests of the club because we had a situation at Villa where we were 2-0 up and drew 2-2 and I was angry at myself for not switching to a back five. "I decided to switch to a back five with Harry Maguire. He was not happy, he is a goalscorer and wanted to stay on and score a goal himself. But it was important to be compact.

"I said to him I understand, but maybe in a couple of years when you are a head coach you will take the same decision. I didn't expect him to hug me... but I have no issue with him whatsoever."

HARD FOR THE SIDE

It was incredibly hard on Brentford, which had dominated the first league meeting between these sides since 1946 but only had Ivan Toney's late scrambled consolation to show for it. "Unbelievably proud of my team," Brentford manager Thomas Frank said.

United stayed in seventh place, but is only two points behind fourth-place West Ham in the race for Champions League qualification. AGENCIES

Mason Greenwood

Anthony Elanga

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

DAY OF SURPRISES AT AO

Top seeds Muguruza, Kontaveit make early exits in women's draw, while Tsitsipas made to work hard

The surprises started early at the Australian Open on Day 4, with No. 3 Garbine Muguruza becoming the highest-seeded player to exit the women's draw just minutes after No. 6 Anett Kontaveit lost.

Not long after, No. 2-seeded Aryna Sabalenka served a dozen double-faults in the first set and appeared to be on the brink of a second-round defeat before recovering to hold off 100th-ranked Wang Xinyu 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Muguruza never managed to earn a single break point and made a whopping 33 unforced errors, more than twice her opponent's total, in a 6-3, 6-3 loss to Alize Cornet under a bright blue and cloudless sky at Rod Laver Arena on Thursday.

Little disappointment

"A little bit surprised about my level. I am a little disappointed, too," said Muguruza, who won the season-ending WTA Finals in 2021. "I feel like my shots weren't as accu-

rate and precise. I feel, also, my aggressive game wasn't that aggressive today." Muguruza is a two-time Grand Slam champion and a two-time major runner-up, too, including making it to the final at the Australian Open in 2020.

The 61st-ranked Cornet is appearing in her 63rd career major tournament _ and 60th in a row _ but never has been beyond the fourth round. Cornet will get a chance to equal that showing when she plays Saturday, her 32nd birthday.

SANIA-RAM INTO SECOND ROUND

Sanja Mirza and her American partner Rajeev Ram moved into the mixed doubles second round of the Australian Open with a confident straight-set win over the Serbian team of Aleksandra Krunic and Nikola Cacic.

Rohan Bopanna is also in fray in the mixed doubles event. He has paired up with Croatia's Darija Jurak Schreiber and will be in action on Saturday.

Sam Stosur's 6-2, 6-2 loss to No. 10 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova ended the 2011 U.S. Open champion's 20th, and last, singles campaign at the Australian Open. "I've done more than I ever thought possible. I dreamed of winning a Grand Slam (singles title), and I couldn't have asked for anything more," Stosur told the crowd in Kia Arena.

Tsitsipas toils past Baez

Misfiring Stefanos Tsitsipas survived a thorough examination by former world number one junior Sebastian Baez before taking his place in the third round of the Australian Open on Thursday. The Greek world number four raced through a first-set tie breaker but struggled to put away the tigerish 88th-ranked Argentine before winning in four sets. Tsitsipas wrapped up the match 7-6 (7/1), 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4 in 3hr 22min on Margaret Court Arena and will next face Frenchman Benoit Paire. "It wasn't easy. I'm glad I overcame that obstacle today. Lots of fighting, a little bit of swearing," AGENCIES

MITHALI RAJ, GOSWAMI IN ICC WOMEN'S 'ODI TEAM OF THE YEAR'

Veteran India players Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami featured in the ICC 'ODI Team of the Year' for women.

The ICC Team of the Year recognises the achievements of exceptional players who impressed with their on-field exploits in a calendar year.

The 39-year-old Raj, the veteran batter and captain, amassed the same number of runs as England opener Tammy Beaumont and at exactly the same average. But her 503 runs came when the Indian team struggled as a unit, making her contribution even more important. She scored six half-centuries this year.

Long-time pace spearhead Goswami, 39, is still a force to reckon with. She claimed a total of 15 wickets in 2021 and maintained an excellent economy rate of 3.77



Mithali Raj

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

as well. An experienced bowler who can keep runs in check and pick up wickets, Goswami is an asset for any side, the ICC said. With 340 ODI scalps, Jhulan, who is also an ICC Women's Cricket of the Award winner, leads the tally for most wickets in the international arena.

Raj and Goswami are the only two Indian players in the side. ■

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which Major League baseball team won the World Series in 2001 just three years after being admitted to the league?

- a. Arizona Diamondbacks
- b. New York Yankees
- c. Boston Red Sox
- d. Oakland Athletics

Q2: How many Olympic gold medals has Michael Phelps won in his career?

- a. 19 b. 27 c. 24 d. 23

Q3: Michael Jordan made a surprise return to the NBA in 2001. Which team did he play for on his comeback?

- a. Golden State Warriors
- b. New York Knicks
- c. Washington Wizards
- d. Los Angeles Lakers

Q4: In 1999 who faced Lennox Lewis in a unification fight for the undisputed WBA, WBC and IBF titles, which ended in a controversial split draw.

- a. Evander Holyfield
- b. Brock Lesnar
- c. Daniel Bryan
- d. AJ Styles

Q5: In which year did Paula Radcliffe establish her women's marathon world record?

- a. 2002 b. 2003 c. 2004 d. 2005



Paula Radcliffe

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Q6: How many world titles has Manny Pacquiao won in different weight categories?

- a. Six
- b. Seven
- c. Eight
- d. Five

Q7: How many Olympic medals did track cyclist Chris Hoy win overall?

- a. Five
- b. Six
- c. Seven
- d. Eight

Q8: Name the legendary Norwegian biathlete who won all four gold medals at the 2002 Winter Olympics at Salt Lake City.

- a. Ole Einar Bjørndalen
- b. Peter Angerer
- c. Sergei Petrovich Tarasov
- d. Heikki Johannes Ikola

Q9: Who is the only golfer to have won all four professional major championships in a row, accomplishing the feat in the 2000-2001 seasons?

- a. Lee Elder
- b. Jordan Spieth
- c. Billy Casper
- d. Tiger Woods

ANSWERS: 1. Arizona Diamondbacks 2. 23 3. Washington Wizards 4. Evander Holyfield 5. 2003 6. Eight 7. Seven 8. Ole Einar Bjørndalen 9. Tiger Woods