



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

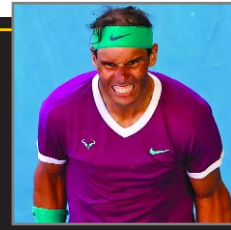
➤ Know everything about Israel-Palestine conflict and the movies inspired by one of the longest ongoing crises in world history
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➤ A student talks about her good old school days when classes were offline
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➤ History in the making as men's semi-finalists vie for glory at Australian Open
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STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2022



The Maharaja actually symbolises high living and graciousness, which tend to make the travellers feel more pampered and classy

[CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2](#)

ATTACKS ON THE UAE

The recent attacks on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia by the Houthis (Islamist political and armed movement that emerged from north Yemen in 90s) as well as retaliation airstrikes in Yemen have escalated the ongoing conflict and exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Yemen, feel experts...

What One of the world's poorest countries, Yemen has been devastated by a near seven-year civil war, which started after the Houthis captured capital Sana'a, following which Saudi-led forces intervened and fought the rebels with the aim of ending Iranian influence in the region and restoring the former government. The UAE joined the Saudi campaign in 2015 and has been deeply involved in the conflict ever since, despite announcing the formal withdrawal of its forces in 2019 and 2020.

Who are the Houthis? Houthis constitute a largely Zaydi Shia movement that has been fighting Yemen's government since 2004. Zaydi Houthis, mainly centred around Northern Yemen, are different from the Shias in Iran and


X-PLAINED

Iraq - both in doctrine and beliefs. Ever since the fall of a Zaydi imam that ruled Yemen for 1,000 years, the tribe has been fighting to regain their political and military prominence in the country. The Houthis, formerly known as Ansar Allah, became a significant political movement in the 1990s under its founder, Hussein Badreddin Al Houthi. The Arab Spring and the anti-establishment revolutions strengthened Yemen's insurgency, resulting in the stepping down of long-time president and Saudi ally Ali Abdullah Saleh. In 2014, the Houthis realigned with Saleh and seized capital Sana'a by overthrowing the new president, Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi, that led to the current Yemen war.

Hadi fled south to Aden and declared himself the legitimate president of Yemen. The Saudi-led Arab coalition, which the UAE is part of, intervened in the war in 2015 to reinstate Hadi as the president and end Iranian influence in the region.

HOW DID SAUDI ARABIA GET INVOLVED?

The rise of the Houthis sent alarm bells ringing across Sunni Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia. A Saudi-led coalition - backed by the US, UK and France - then launched an air campaign in Yemen, with the aim of defeating the rebel group. What the coalition thought would take only a few weeks, stretched on for seven years, growing into a full-blown civil war

WHY ARE THEY ATTACKING THE UAE?

UAE has been a member of the Saudi-led coalition since March 2015. In 2019, the UAE announced that it was pulling out its troops from Yemen, formally ending its direct involvement in the war. However, recently, the country has intensified its support to groups fighting the Houthis that were making advances in Marib, thus turning the tide against the militia. Houthis blame the UAE for its losses and the recent attacks are a retaliation. On January 3, the rebels captured a UAE-flagged cargo ship

'Tata' AirIndia. Welcome THE NEW MAHARAJA



Air India helps evacuate 170,000 people from Kuwait before the First Gulf War; enters the Guinness Book of World Records for the most-people evacuated by a civil airliner

1993 Air India's first Boeing 747-400, named Konark, operates the first non-stop flight between New York and Delhi

APRIL 2005 Launch of Air India Express, low-cost airline

2012 The airline posts significant losses and slips to fourth place in the Indian market, behind Jet Airways, IndiGo and SpiceJet

2015 The Maharajah, Air India's mascot adopted in 1946, is given a makeover

2018 The government tries to privatise Air India but fails because no private-sector buyer expresses interest

JAN 2020 The government approves a new proposal to divest 100 per cent stake in Air India

OCT 2021 Tata Sons takes over the airline once again, after more than 50 years.

THE MAHARAJA'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE YEARS

1932 JRD Tata establishes Tata Airlines as a division of Tata Sons Ltd (now Tata Group)

JULY 29, 1946: After the Second World War, regular commercial services in India go back to normal. Tata Airlines changes its name to Air India and becomes a public limited company

JUNE 8, 1948: Air India introduces a regular service from Bombay to London.

1960 With the introduction of the first Boeing 707-420 aircraft, the airline starts using jets

JUNE 1962: Air India becomes the world's first all-jet airline

AUGUST OCT 1990:

Sixty-nine years after it was nationalised, Air India returned to its founder, the Tata Group. The airline was formally handed over to the conglomerate on Thursday. Established by legendary industrialist and philanthropist JRD Tata, who was India's first licensed pilot, the airline's focus now is to improve on-time performance, with aircraft door closing 10 minutes before departure time. An "enhanced meal service" was rolled out on flights in a staggered manner.



Time for kids to return to schools, say experts



Should schools be reopened now that Covid-19 cases are on the decline? Most public health experts, child specialists and even some parents think they should. Dr Chandrakant Lahariya, an epidemiologist and public policy specialist, said, children have developed infection at nearly a similar rate as adults in the current wave. However, he added, the rate of hospitalisation in the 0-17 age group is very low compared to adults. "The susceptibility of healthy children to severe disease has remained low and not changed with the emergence of new variants," he added.

Ashok Agarwal, a lawyer and public health activist, said, keeping schools shut was wrong. "Governments don't want to take risks or make arrangements to ensure continuation of academic activities with adherence to Covid protocols," he said. "The parents of children are going out for work, coming back and infecting children. Many kids are getting infected when

A report published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in July 2021, when the Delta variant of SARS-CoV2 was widespread globally, had stated that the benefits of keeping schools open far outweighed the risks posed by disease transmission in children, especially because data suggested that school-going children were less likely to develop severe symptoms even if they got the disease. "...the decision to close schools to control the pandemic should be used as a last resort," it said

they go out to play in the park. So, closing schools doesn't really serve any purpose. They should be opened, especially because all available data suggests children who don't have any underlying medical condition are less likely to develop complications," Agarwal added.

Why is the Tri-colour 'hoisted' on Independence Day but 'unfurled' on R-Day


DECODED

The Republic Day was celebrated with much funfare on Wednesday across the country. Did you know the Indian flag is 'hoisted' on the Independence Day on August 15, and 'unfurled' on the Republic Day on January 26? Well, that's because on the Independence Day, the flag is tied to the bottom of the flag pole and is 'hoisted' to the top - to mark India's rise as an independent country and the end of British rule. However, on the Republic Day, the flag is tied to the top of the flag pole and is 'unfurled', indicating an open era for the country to spread its wings as a Republic. (TimesNow)

CBSE Term 2 date sheet 2022: Class X, XII practical exams likely from February end, date sheet next week

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) class X, XII Term 2 Board Examinations 2022 are expected to be conducted in March - April. While the CBSE Term 1 result 2022 is also awaited, the Board, it is learnt, is also preparing for the Term 2 examinations. As per the latest updates available, the CBSE class X, XII practical exams are likely to begin from February end. The CBSE Term 2 date sheet 2022 is also expected to be released by next week. Sources close to the Board have shared tentative timelines for the examinations for Term 2. Speaking on Term 1 result date, sources shared that the CBSE Term 1 result 2022 is likely by 1st week of February along with the Term 2 date sheet, with schedule of the practical exams as well as the theoretical examinations.

Sources have also suggested that the theoretical examinations for Term 2, which would be conducted in subjective mode, are likely to begin latest by March 20, 2022. The Board would be conducting the examinations of major subjects first and then those of minor ones - depending on the Covid situation

COUNTDOWN TO BUDGET 2022

History & Evolution of Income Tax Act in India

WHAT The term income tax refers to a type of tax that governments impose on the income generated by businesses and individuals within their jurisdiction.

WHY IS IT IMPOSED? Income taxes are a source of revenue for governments. They are used to fund public services, pay government obligations, and provide goods for citizens

WHO CAME UP WITH INCOME TAX IN INDIA? **James Wilson.** Wilson, the Scotsman, who created India's first Budget, introduced the Income Tax Act in 1860. This created a big controversy. Wilson argued that since the British provided safe and secure environment to Indians to carry on trade they were justified in charging a fee in the form of an income tax

HOW WAS IT INTRODUCED? The Indian Income Tax Act of 1860 was enforced to meet the losses sustained by the government on account of the military mutiny of 1857

WHAT ARE THE GROUNDS OF INCOME? Presently, there are five heads: Income from salary; income from house property; income from profits and gains of business or profession; income from capital gains, & income from other sources

Q Political leader and economist Subramanian Swamy has pitched for the abolition of Income Tax to increase savings rate and help economic growth. Do you agree? Share your views at TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM. POST YOUR COMMENTS AT TOISTUDENT.COM

STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2022

LIFE LESSONS
Move over lagom and hygge, 'pyt' is the new Scandinavian term for a happier life
PLUS: Lessons from world's healthiest, happiest, and longest-living populations

HEALTH
Is it just snoring or more?

#GOALS
On her birthday today, we take some inspiration from Oprah Winfrey

SELF-CARE
22 fun ways to get your best skin ever in 2022

MIND MATTERS **NEW PAGE**
The best of brain and behavioural research from around the world to

FILMS, BOOKS
Celebrating the art of mindfulness through books
PLUS: 10 movies that compel you to think about life's purpose

SPORTS
Know more about some games that will be a part of Winter Olympics 2022

Your Weekender

understand your psyche better.
THIS WEEK: Learn about photo-taking impairment effect; Is mess good for you; Unlock your brain power - one word at a time

What is Hamas?

Hamas is the largest of several Palestinian militant Islamist groups. Its name is an Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement, originating in 1988, after the beginning of the first Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Under its charter, it is committed to the destruction of Israel.



Pro-Palestine rally in Glasgow, Scotland

Hamas originally had a dual purpose of carrying out an armed struggle against Israel – led by its military wing – and delivering social welfare programmes.

But since 2005, when Israel withdrew its troops and settlers from Gaza, Hamas has also engaged in the Palestinian political process. It won the legislative elections in 2006, before reinforcing its power in Gaza the following year by ousting the rival Fatah movement of President Mahmoud Abbas.

Since then, militants in Gaza have fought four major conflicts with Israel, which along with Egypt has maintained a blockade on the strip to isolate Hamas and to pressure it to stop attacks. Hamas as a whole, or in some cases its military wing, is designated a terrorist group by Israel, the US, EU and UK and some other powers.

Source: bbc.co.uk

What is the Six-Day War?

Six-Day War, or the Arab-Israeli War of 1967, was a war between Israel and the Arab nations of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Palestinian guerrilla attacks on Israel from bases in Syria led to increased hostility between the two countries. A series of miscalculations by both sides followed. Syria feared that an invasion by Israel was forthcoming and appealed to Egypt for support.



A Palestinian man rides a horse along the beach in Gaza City

Egypt answered by ordering the withdrawal of UN peace-keeping forces from the Sinai Peninsula and by moving troops into the area.

Amid increasingly belligerent language from both sides, Egypt signed a mutual defense treaty with Jordan. Israel, surrounded and fearing an Arab attack was imminent, launched what it felt was a preemptive strike against the three Arab states on June 5, 1967. Israeli forces captured the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank of the Jordan River, Old City of Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. The status of these occupied territories subsequently became a major point of contention between the two sides.

What is the Yom Kippur War?

On October 6, 1973, hoping to win back territory lost to Israel during the third Arab-Israeli war, in 1967, Egyptian and Syrian forces launched a coordinated attack against Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. Israel counterattacked and recaptured the Golan Heights.



PALESTINE-ISRAEL

CONFLICT

...brief history for beginners



If you have just watched 'The Girl From Oslo' and trying to understand the historical backdrop of the movie's premise, here's a guide...

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the world's longest and enduring conflicts, and has its roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With the birth of major nationalist movements among the Jews and among the Arabs, both geared towards attaining sovereignty for their people in the Middle East. Britain took control of the area known as Palestine after the ruler of that part of the Middle East, the Ottoman Empire, was defeated in World War One.

The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab ma-



WHY IS IT IN NEWS AGAIN?

Violence escalated to never before proportions last May. Protests over the expulsion of Palestinian families and Israeli raids on Al-Aqsa Mosque preceded Israel's heavy bombardment of Gaza. Israeli cities like Tel Aviv came under Hamas fire, and Israel hit back, destroying buildings and tunnels

majority and tensions between the two peoples grew when the international community gave Britain the task of establishing a 'national home' in Palestine for Jewish people. Between the 1920s and 1940s, the number of Jews arriving there grew, with many fleeing from persecution in Europe.

Violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, also grew. In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city.

That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

THE 'CATASTROPHE'

In 1948, unable to solve the problem, British rulers left and Jewish leaders declared the creation of the state of Israel. Palestinians objected and a war followed. Troops from neighbouring Arab countries invaded. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced out of their homes in what they call Al Nakba, or the 'Catastrophe'.

By the time a ceasefire followed, Israel controlled most of the territory. Jordan occupied land which became known as the West Bank, and Egypt occupied Gaza.

Jerusalem was divided between Israeli forces in the West, and Jordanian forces in the East. Because there was never a peace agreement

there were more wars and fighting in the following decades. In the past 50 years, Israel has built settlements in these areas, where more than 6,000,000 Jews live now. Palestinians say these are illegal under international law and are obstacles to peace, but Israel denies this.



5 longest wars in history

The good news is they are over...



Reconquista (711 TO 1492 = 781 YEARS!)

A centuries-long series of battles by Christian states to expel Muslims (Moors), who from the 8th century ruled most of the Iberian Peninsula. Visigoths had ruled Spain for two centuries before they were overrun by Umayyad empire.

Roman-Persian Wars (54 BC TO 628 = 681 YEARS!)

Also known as the Roman-Iranian Wars, these were a series of conflicts between the Greco-Roman world and two successive Iranian empires: the Parthian and the Sasanian.

Byzantine-Bulgarian wars (680 TO 1355 = 675 YEARS!)

A series of conflicts fought between the Byzantines and Bulgarians which began when the Bulgars first settled in the Balkan peninsula in the 5th century, and intensified with the expansion of the Bulgarian Empire to the southwest after 680 AD.

Crusades (1096 TO 1699 = 602 YEARS)

The Crusades were a series of religious wars initiated by the Latin Church in the medieval period. The best known are those to the Holy Land in the period between 1095 and 1291 that were intended to recover Jerusalem and its surrounding area from Islamic rule.

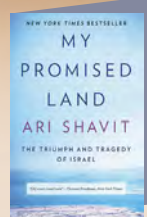
Arab-Byzantine wars (629 TO 1050 = 421 YEARS!)

The Arab-Byzantine wars were a series of wars between a number of Muslim Arab dynasties and the Byzantine Empire between the 7th and 11th centuries.

5 books on the Israel-Palestine conflict

1 My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel, Ari Shavit

In this deeply personal narrative of Israel, Shavit draws on interviews, historical data, private diaries, illuminating the pivotal moments of a Zionist century to tell a riveting narrative.



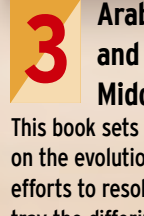
2 In Search of Fatima: A Palestinian Story, Ghada Karmi

Karmi's acclaimed memoir relates her childhood in Palestine, flight to Britain after the catastrophe, and coming of age in Golders Green, the north London Jewish suburb.



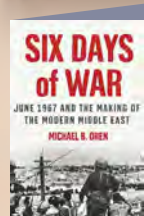
3 Arabs and Israelis: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East, Abdel Monem...

This book sets out to relay basic information on the evolution of the conflict and explore efforts to resolve it, and then goes on to portray the differing perspectives of each parties.



4 Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern ..., Michael B Oren

An international bestseller which gives a detailed account of the war between two countries – Arab-Israeli war of 1967 that lasted for only six days but never really ended.



5 On Palestine, Noam Chomsky and Ilan Pappé

Co-authored by two leading voices in the struggle to liberate Palestine, an indispensable book for understanding the situation in Gaza right now. A sequel to their acclaimed 'Gaza in Crisis'.



5 films on the Israel-Palestine conflict

OH JERUSALEM

Based on its namesake book written by Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins, the film, like the book, deals with the events and mishaps surrounding the creation of Israel, and the subsequent mass expulsion of Palestinians.



MUNICH

A chronicle of the Black September attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics and Israel's retribution, 'Munich' gives us an insight into the extremes Israel will go to avoid anything like the Holocaust.



LEMON TREE

The story of a Palestinian widow who must defend her lemon tree field when a new Israeli Defense Minister moves next to her and threatens to have her lemon grove torn down.



WALTZ WITH BASHIR

Israeli filmmaker Ari Folman wrote, directed this award-winning film, where his protagonist, Ari Folman, is encountered with brief visions about the 1982 Lebanon War in which he served as an infantry soldier. A must-watch.



LEBANON

This tense war film focuses on a group of Israeli soldiers operating a tank in hostile territory. Hindered by tight quarters, limited visibility and stifling heat, the troops begin to quarrel.



Pre-existing educational inequalities widened by Covid

Educational inequalities have prevailed in the world since long. These inequalities exist due to myriad reasons including lack of resources, lack of accessibility to those resources, lack of financial aid and the list continues. Alarmingly, a new appearance in this list is 'Covid-19 pandemic'. The pandemic has resulted to a huge digital divide which in turn has far-reaching consequences when it comes to education.

Due to the pandemic, people have been forced to stay home with no access to the outside world. Education systems and people's lives more gen-

erally do not exist in a vacuum, consequently, bearing adverse effects, especially on students who dwell in regions with low connectivity and the ones who cannot even afford basic needs. Even as technology becomes more affordable and internet access seems increasingly ubiquitous, but only few can savour its benefits. It

still remains out of reach to the poor and disadvantaged, hindering their learning immensely.

It can be summed up that during the pandemic, the ones who had access to resources, flourished and the ones devoid of the same resources, suffered immensely. This has undoubtedly widened the already existing educational inequalities. Though technology is certainly an asset in many ways, the way it has shaped our education system is dangerous and instead of blindly accepting its influence, it is important to understand the consequences as well. Schools and educators must come up with alternative pedagogies and approaches to try to address the learning gap and re-engage the more disaffected and vulnerable students.

ANUBHUTI SINGH,
class XI,
St Thomas'
School, Dwarka



KV's Shivam wins top prize at Kala Utsav

It's a proud moment for Kendriya Vidyalaya AGCR Colony Delhi Region as Shivam Mishra of class XII (Humanities) has achieved a new height in the field of Music. He bagged the first position in National Kala Utsav which is organised by NCERT.



was able to achieve all this because of his sheer hard-work and dedication.

Even the school promoted his talent as well as helped him in every way possible. On behalf of everyone in Kendriya Vidyalaya AGCR colony she wishes Shivam a glorious and successful future.

Ryan hosts RISMUN 2022

Ryan International School, Sohna Road, Gurugram hosted the second edition of India Model United Nations: RISMUN 2022 on January 14 and 15. Ryanites Malvika Choudhary participated as president, Diksha Pati as vice chairperson and Ayushi Shah as editor in chief in RISMUN. The conference provided an excellent platform for students from diverse backgrounds to interact with each other and exchange global issues. The UN General Assembly committee at the conference included: 'Agenda: Reviving the State of Organised Crime in the Middle East and North African Region with Special Emphasis on Terrorist Nexus'.

The closing ceremony was graced by the honourable presence of Sagar Sethi, SVP and head of Identity Governance and BCM-Group Security, First Abu Dhabi Bank. He congratulated the school for this won-



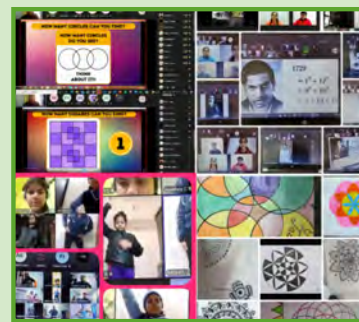
derful feat of having many delegates and participants in the conference. He further emphasised that the skills of communication and discussion are perfect for the job throughout life.

School principal Peeya Sharma congratulated all the delegates and the entire organising team for such an effective, successful and productive conference.

Mathematics week celebrated at Hillwoods

Hillwoods Academy observed Mathematics Week from December 13 to 18, 2021 to commemorate National Mathematics Day. The aim of Mathematics Week was to raise students' interest in learning the subject.

An array of activities like scenery with shapes, clock making using paper plate, jewellery craft with geometrical shapes, pixel art, fraction flowers and mathematical physical exercises for students from classes I to XII was organised. Students of secondary section presented a skit depicting the significance of the subject. Tips were given to get rid of maths phobia. A tribute to all the

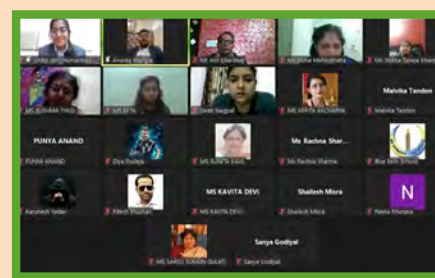


great mathematicians especially Srinivasa Ramanujan was paid through an informational video. The students had a lot of fun while doing the activities throughout the week.

Commerce, humanities provide wide range of opportunities

The study of Humanities and Commerce embody the disciplines, the study of human experience in all its cultural, political, intellectual, and aesthetic forms. From the beginning of human society, archaeology, art, history, music, language, literature, philosophy, politics, religion, and theatre have been the means people have used to express, record, and understand the human societal structure.

In the sync with same, Blue Bells Public School Sector 10, Gurugram organised 'Kshitij- Commerce and Humanities Enterprise' on January 22, 2022. It was a well-orchestrated online event aimed to explain the wide array of opportunities through commerce and humanities stream.



The creativity, presentation, and enthusiasm of Blue Bellians was lauded wholeheartedly by the august gathering. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Saroj Suman Gulati, Director, Blue Bells Group of Schools further explained the need to study diverse subjects falling under arts, languages and research techniques. She appreciated the efforts of students and faculty to present such a wonderful show.

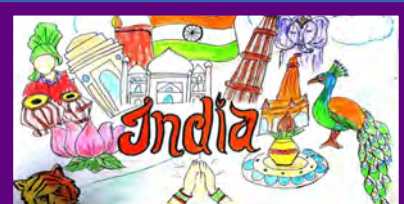
Student Corner



YUVANSHI ARORA,
class III, New Era Public
School Mayapuri



KENISHA KHULLAR, class III, New Era Public school Mayapuri



GURSAKHI KAUR, class III, New Era Public school Mayapuri

IMBIBING SDG GOALS

Students of Mahara-ja Agarsain Public School, Ashok Vihar collaborated with the country of Vietnam via Mystery skype International collaboration for New Year's Eve 2022. It started with a mystery round where students of both the countries had to guess the name of the country which they were to collaborate, with some special clues. Students of class XI en-



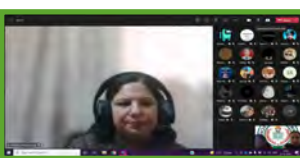
thusiastically participated in cultural exchange of information related to staple and famous cuisines of both the countries. Students

prepared beautiful cards and videos for exchange program with New Year resolutions imbining SDG goals under the guidance of commerce and economics faculty.

Principal Alka Sahani also shared her warm wishes and word of wisdom to students. She appreciated the endeavours and this wonderful initiative on New Year. Tam Hoang, co-host from Vietnam, also extended her warm wishes to our students and team of teachers for making this collaboration a great success.

Career counselling session at Greenway

Class X students of Greenway Modern School, Dilshad Garden got an opportunity to attend a career counselling session by the renowned counsellor, Gold medalist, Dr Anubhuti Sehgal. The students were given the best guidance of how to choose an appropriate stream in class XI to get an appropriate career in future. The students were enlightened to all the as-



pects of the best career building and different, interesting courses that science, commerce and arts students in their own respective field, can opt for.

The students were also made

informed about the colleges/institutions and universities to get admission in future. The students were encouraged to analyse their strength areas and interest in any particular field to build a fruitful and prosperous career. The questions and queries put up by the students were very well resolved and answered by Dr Anubhuti. It was really a very instructive and edifying session.

This mesmerising nature

When I feel it, it makes me delighted,
when wind passes by me,
it's like my soul getting exhilarating,
let this thing wash the sadness,

This is the thing we couldn't capture,
this is our nature, save it,
have it, protect it.

These grasses glitters with dew,
these clouds look like cotton candy,
these shiny stars, I wanna make them mine,
these trees are happiness, they makes me restless,

This is the thing we couldn't capture,
this is our nature!

Seeing those shiny night skies, my feet refuse to move, this rain made me pluvophile,
uncountable views, my feet refuse to move,

This is the thing we couldn't capture,
this is our nature!!

Those beautiful sunsets,

those nebulous views of sunrise,
those chilly and fresh days of winter
The petrichor, those auroras of morning skies
those euphoric feelings of first snow,
oh how I enjoy it!
The beauty of nature made me philocalist!
This is the thing that we couldn't capture,
this is our nature!

Nameera Mirza, VIII,
Hamdard Public School

WHEN CLASS WENT CRUNCHY MUNCHY

It was 2pm on a Friday. All we could think about was the weekend inching closer and closer after every passing minute. It was the French period and Mrs Karwa was talking about conjugation of verbs in her usual monotone voice.



Suddenly, I was shook awake by a tap on my shoulder. It was my classmate Tanaya who passed me a bag of chips. The aroma of the wafers reached my nose and I quickly took a few before I passed the packet along. I was about to eat a chip but was stopped by a 'crunch' I heard from behind. Mrs Karwa also seemed to have noticed it and tried to locate the culprit. However when she couldn't do so, she turned her back to class and kept writing on the blackboard. I tried nib-



bling my chips but realised that they began crumbling onto my lap and had to abandon it.

I then proceeded to eat a chip and the 'munch' amplified in the silent classroom. I froze in my seat. Mrs Karwa was staring at me and was about to tick me off when another 'crunch' was heard. Soon the whole classroom was filled with periodic 'crunches' and 'munches'. Mrs Karwa was progressively getting irritated and we could sense her annoyance.

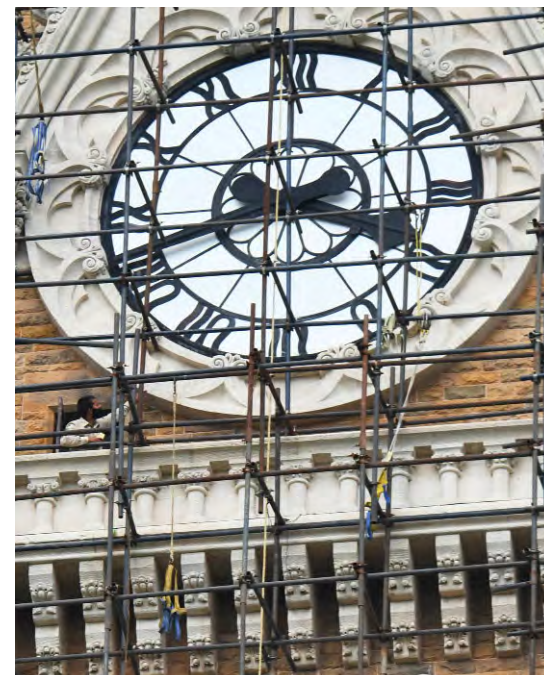
The 'crunches' however continued in intervals. Finally, Mrs Karwa stopped teaching and left the room. A feeling of fear was rising in everyone. After two minutes Mrs Karwa entered the room with a bag.

She sat on the chair and retrieved something from her bag. It was a bag of chips! She tore open the packet, began eating and proceeded to chat with us about our weekend plans.

GAARGI JAMKAR
class XII, Vidya Valley school, Pune

IF I WERE A CLOCK

I would stop myself for an hour and give rest to the perpetual crystal of time. Other than the inevitable catastrophes that would follow, how people would spend an extra 60 minutes, productive or not, would be interesting. While it could be sinister for people waiting for a dull lecture to end, students scrambling to finish an assignment at the eleventh hour just got a unique thirteenth hour. My dog, in his head-tilting ways, would demand an hours worth of extra playtime. Crowds' favourite shows and sports matches would run for an extra hour but unfortunately, commercials too. People could spend more time with their loved ones doing the things they enjoy. Given that an average user spends over two hours on social media a day, avoiding work, some might scroll through social media (Oh, the meme content that would come from this!). While others might spend their hour productively by practising self-care. I feel that taking out time for yourself is vital. You owe yourself to take a pause and not haze through your life. If I were given an extra hour, I would like to go to the beach to sink my feet into the stagnant sands of the hourglass and manifest my love for irony by reading about the theory of general relativity. As the tik-tok finally settles



back, I would enjoy the waves rising up and rising down, taking everything with it. Waves of water and time. But what would a clock know about spending time?

Reference in the last few lines is to one of my favourite books, 'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green.

TANISHKA WAGH,
class XI, Elpro International School, Pune



SALAH TAKES EGYPT THROUGH

Nets decisive penalty to put team in final eight quarterfinals round

Egypt, the most successful football team in the African continent, defeated Ivory Coast via penalties to reach the quarter-finals in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON). Egypt, who last won the title in 2010, and Ivory Coast, winner in 1992 and 2015, faced off in the 2021 AFCON Round of 16 on Wednesday night, ending in a 0-0 draw that was decided on penalties 4-5, seeing Egypt enter the final eight. This game was undoubtedly the biggest of the competition as both teams were the favourites to lift the trophy, Egypt being the record holders of AFCON, winning the competition seven times and also having possibly the best player in the world in Mohamed Salah.

IMPRESSIVE LINE UP

The Ivory Coast squad has the most impressive lineup of individual talent in the entire continent, boasting of the likes of AC Milan midfielder Franck Kessie and Ajax striker Sebastian Haller. Going into the match, Ivory Coast had more momentum as they had topped their group going unbeaten in the process. Egypt had lost their first game to Nigeria but rallied back to finish second in their group.

Ivory Coast also had the advantage of being able to score goals. They had scored six in three group games; Egypt managed a measly two in their three group matches as they were struggling to put things together in the final third, even though they were defensively solid, having conceded only one goal en route to their Round of 16 clash.

EVENLY MATCHED

On Wednesday night, both teams were fairly evenly matched, getting ample scoring opportunities throughout the 120 minutes of the game, with Egypt's most notable chances being a spectacular long-range strike by Omar Marmoush in the 16th minute that hit the crossbar and a one on one attempt that was missed by substitute Trezeguet in the second half of regular time.

Ivory Coast came really close to scoring through an acrobatic overhead kick by midfielder Ibrahim Sangare in the 38th minute as well as a 69th-minute header by Sebastian Haller. Both were by the lightning-quick reflexes of opposing keeper Amr El Soley.

After failing to break the deadlock even in extra time, both teams went to penalties, with Mohamed Salah stepping up to the penalty spot to put his team ahead, thus punishing Eric

Bailly's lackadaisical attempt, which was saved easily by substitute keeper Mohamed Gabal.

QUESTIONABLE DECISION

The game may have needed spot kicks to decide its outcome; the main difference between the two teams was in the quality of coaching. Ivory Coast head coach Patrice Beaumelle made the questionable decision of starting 34-year-old Max Gradel on the left wing ahead of Crystal Palace's Wilfred Zaha and Sassuolo's Jeremie Boga, bringing on the two only late in the second half of normal time.



Salah celebrates with teammates after winning the penalty shootout

It is difficult to be 100 percent certain whether starting Zaha or Boga would have made the difference, but it would have without doubt aided their side's chances as both of them to play in much higher-quality leagues than Gradel, who plies his trade in Turkey. Zaha in particular could have really shifted the scale in the Elephants' favour as his talent was a big reason why Crystal Palace did not get relegated in the ultra-competitive English Premier League in the last two seasons.

Winning this game considerably strengthens Egypt's chances to win as they'll now be boosted by the confidence of beating such a star-studded team and with a bona fide world-class player such as Salah as well as veteran manager Carlos Queiroz at the helm, it would not be a shock to see them extend their record to eight trophies. **IANS**



Ivory Coast's Simon Deli, far right, encourages goalkeeper Badra Ali Sangare, before Egypt's captain Mohamed Salah takes his penalty kick

MATCHES SHIFTED

■ Liverpool superstar Salah was the main attraction in Douala, where fans cheered every time his face appeared on the big screen, but he sometimes struggled on the bobbly pitch at the Japoma Stadium.

■ After much speculation, the Confederation of African Football confirmed that the last two matches scheduled to be played there _ the last quarter-final on Sunday between Senegal and Mali or Equatorial Guinea, and the first semi-final scheduled for February 2 _ would be moved to the Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium in Cameroon's capita Yaounde.

■ CAF president Patrice Motsepe had already said Tuesday that the quarter-final due to be played at the Olembe Stadium in Yaounde would also be switched to the Ahmadou Ahidjo Stadium after a deadly crush which killed eight people.

■ The additional moves are "not related to security issues but motivated by the state of the pitch at Japoma," a CAF official said.



Photos: REUTERS

NADAL EYES SECOND AO VICTORY, 21ST SLAM

It could be history in the making, with many firsts, as men's semi-finalists vie for glory

An Australian Open that began with an unprecedented saga involving reigning champion Novak Djokovic will finish with a historic flourish on Sunday with all four men's semi-finalists having the chance to write their names into the record books.

Should 2009 champion Rafael Nadal win the Australian Open for a second time, the Spaniard will become the first man to claim 21 Grand Slam titles, nosing ahead of great rivals Djokovic and Roger Federer. The 35-year-old has, however, said he is more motivated by the love of playing than finishing ahead of Djokovic and Federer.

I don't believe that my happiness, my future happiness, is (going to) depend on if I achieve one more Grand Slam than the others or if the others achieve more Grand Slams than me.
RAFAEL NADAL

Matteo Berrettini, who will play Nadal in the first semi-final on Friday, is seeking to become the first Italian to win the Australian Open. "I like to think that I'm writing a little bit (of) Italian tennis history. We are a great country for tennis," he said.

Daniil Medvedev can become the first man in the Open era to win a second major immediately after claiming his first following his 2021 US Open success. "If it's true, then it will be history. It's perfect," the Russian said.

Stefanos Tsitsipas, who will face Medvedev in Friday's other last-four clash, would become the first Greek to win a Grand Slam should he lift the trophy. "I'm headed towards the right direction and things look good for me so far," Tsitsipas, the youngest of the four semi-finalists at 23, said. "And, well, with the right mindset and with the right attitude and with the right development throughout the tournament, my chances are pretty good."

Superb line-up

The drama surrounding Djokovic's deportation from Australia on the eve of the tournament has not been forgotten. When Medvedev mentioned he had channelled the warrior spirit of Djokovic after overturning a two-set deficit against Felix Auger-Aliassime, he was booed by some fans. Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley has also been jeered whenever he appeared on court during the tournament.

But the quality of the last four men standing is superb, with each either having lifted a Grand Slam title or made it to the final since Nadal's 2020 French Open win.

The Spaniard and Berrettini have met only once, with Nadal proving too strong in a semi-final of the U.S. Open in 2019 during his run to the title. Berrettini said the sixth seed had been an inspiration to him for more than a decade but is confident he can be beaten. "I know I can do it. It's going (to) be a really tough one," the 2021 Wimbledon finalist said.

Tsitsipas, a runner-up at Roland Garros last year, and Medvedev have had their differences but became closer as team mates for Europe at the Laver Cup last September. The Russian defeated Tsitsipas in straight-sets in last year's Melbourne Park semi-finals. **REUTERS**



Photos: AP

MANPREET TO LEAD TEAM IN HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE

Manpreet Singh, who led India to a bronze at the Tokyo Olympic Games last year, will captain India in the upcoming FIH Pro League matches against South Africa and France, which will be played in Potchefstroom, South Africa, from February 8-12.

Hockey India on Thursday named a 20-member Indian men's hockey squad for the South Africa tour with drag-flicker Harmanpreet Singh as Manpreet's deputy. Hockey India informed in a press release on Thursday.

The men's team will start a busy season, which includes the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, later this year leading up to the senior men's World Cup in Odisha in January 2023, with the four Pro League matches. The team will see two



new faces in promising young drag-flicker Jugraj Singh and speedy forward Abhishek.

Chief coach Graham Reid said, "With a very busy and important year ahead, the Indian team is excited to be back on the world stage and playing in the latest edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League. After a three-week camp in Bengaluru, a team has been selected that includes 14 Tokyo Olympians and 2 debutants." **IANS**

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Who designed the Hockey World Cup trophy?

- a) H.E. Masood
- b) Basheer Moojid
- c) Abdul Hafeez Kardar
- d) Nur Khan

Q2: Whom did Roger Federer defeat at 2017 Wimbledon?

- a) Marin Cilic
- b) Rafael Nadal
- c) Andy Murray
- d) Stan Wawrinka

Q3: Which of the following events are not a part of the Olympic Games but a part of the Commonwealth Games?

- a) Lawn Balls
- b) Netball
- c) Squash
- d) All of the above

Q4: Who was the first recognised Chess Champion of the world?

- a) Garry Kasparov
- b) Wilhelm Steinitz
- c) Howard Staunton
- d) Adolf Anderssen

Q5: At the 2016 Rio Olympics, PV Sindhu lost to which badminton player?



Photo: TOI

- a) Nozomi Okuhara
- b) Tai Tzu-ying
- c) Li Xuerui
- d) Carolina Marin

Q6: Ezra Cup is related to which of the following sports?

- a) Polo
- b) Tennis
- c) Hockey
- d) Cricket

Q7: Argentina lost to which country in the final of the 2014 FIFA World Cup?

- a) Spain
- b) Brazil
- c) Germany
- d) France

Q8: Who made the fastest 11000 runs in One Day Internationals?

- a) Sourav Ganguly
- b) Virat Kohli
- c) Ricky Ponting
- d) Sachin Tendulkar

Q9: In which year was Andres Iniesta made captain of Barcelona?

- a) 2015 b) 2016 c) 2017 d) 2018

ANSWERS: 1 b) Basheer Moojid

2 a) Marin Cilic 3 d) All of the above

4 b) Wilhelm Steinitz 5 d) Carolina Marin

6 a) Polo 7 c) Germany

8 b) Virat Kohli 9 a) 2015