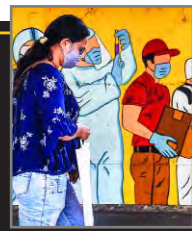




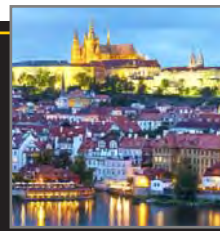
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ As Covid Nat'l Plan ends on March 31, students say don't let the guard down blindly in Your Newsroom

PAGE 2


➤ Take a virtual tour of the beautiful city of Prague dotted with colourful Baroque buildings and Gothic churches

PAGE 3


➤ RCB eye first win as they take on KKR in IPL 2022

PAGE 4

STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

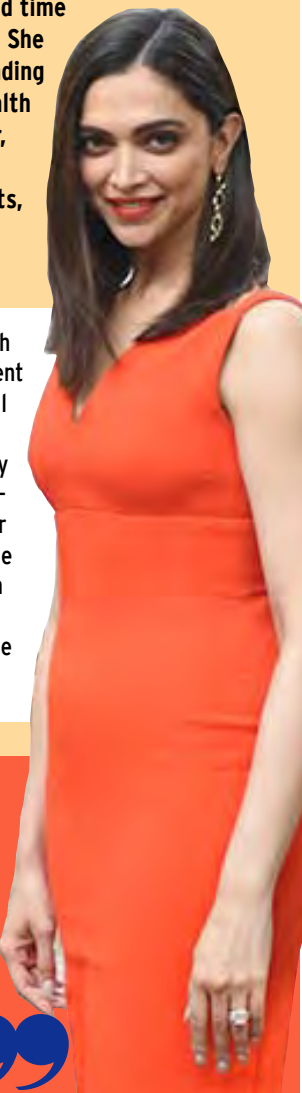


➤ Talks between Ukraine and Russia began in Turkey without a handshake. Ukrainian forces are continuing counter attacks to the northwest of Kyiv, and Russia has kept up heavy shelling of Mariupol, British military intelligence said

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2
Spotlight

Deepika Padukone CONFERRED WITH TIME 100 Impact Award for contribution to mental health awareness

Actress Deepika Padukone has been awarded the TIME100 Impact Awards for the second time in her career. She was lauded for her outstanding commitment to mental health advocacy. With this honour, the actress joined a list of several influential scientists, politicians, activists, and artistes.



Deepika was diagnosed with depression and not only went on to battle it, but broke all stereotypes by speaking about it, and has constantly been advocating the importance of mental health ever since. She also launched the Live Love Laugh foundation that works towards raising awareness and destigmatise mental health struggles

“The world has been through a lot and we continue to go through a lot, but to see the strength and resilience is what truly gives me hope”
Deepika Padukone


**Quote
unquote**

Pariksha Pe Charcha is part of the larger movement, 'Exam Warriors', led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to create a stress-free atmosphere for youngsters. It is a movement that is driven by efforts to bring together students, parents, teachers, and society to foster an environment where the unique individuality of each child is celebrated, encouraged, and allowed to express itself fully

Dharmendra Pradhan,
Union education minister



Guterres launches initiative for humanitarian ceasefire in Ukraine

The UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, has launched an initiative for a humanitarian ceasefire in the war-torn Ukraine. “Today I am announcing that in the exercise of my good offices, I have asked Martin Griffiths, the coordinator of our humanitarian work worldwide, immediately to explore with the parties involved, the possible agreements and arrangements for a humanitarian ceasefire in

Ukraine,” he said. A cessation of hostilities will allow essential humanitarian aid to be delivered and enable civilians to move around safely. It will save lives, prevent suffering, and protect civilians, he added. The UN humanitarian agencies and partners have reached nearly 900,000 people, mainly in eastern Ukraine, with food, shelter, blankets, medicine, bottled water, and hygiene supplies in the past month, the secretary general informed.

The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia has led to the senseless loss of thousands of lives, the displacement of 10 million people, the systematic destruction of essential infrastructure, and skyrocketing food and energy prices worldwide

BIMSTEC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a virtual summit of the seven-nation BIMSTEC grouping today, which is expected to focus on expanding economic engagement among its member countries

WHAT

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIM-STEC) is a regional multilateral organisation, which seeks to foster regional and economic cooperation among nations in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal – India, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

WHEN

Headquartered in Dhaka, this sub-regional organisation came into being in 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration. Initially, it was formed with four member states and was called 'BIST-EC' (Bangladesh, India, Sri-Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Following the inclusion of Myanmar, it was renamed as BIMST-EC. With the

admission of Nepal and Bhutan in 2004, the name of the grouping was changed to 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIM-STEC).

WHAT

are its objectives: It aims to accelerate economic growth and social progress among the members across multiple sectors – trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries, agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture, people to people contact and climate change.

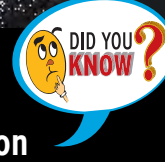
HOW

does it work: The group holds annual meetings hosted by member states based on alphabetical rotation. Sri Lanka is the host nation this time.

X-PLAINED



The BIMSTEC region is home to roughly 22 per cent of the global population, with a combined GDP of over \$2.7 trillion



WHY IT IS SIGNIFICANT FOR INDIA

- Due to setbacks to the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), particularly when its 2016 summit scheduled to be held in Pakistan was suspended after member countries declined to participate, BIMSTEC has emerged as the “preferred platform” for regional cooperation in South Asia
- It allows India to pursue its three core policies: Neighborhood First - primacy to the country's immediate periphery; Act East - connect India with Southeast Asia; and economic development of India's northeastern states - by linking them to the Bay of Bengal region via Bangladesh and Myanmar
- It is a platform for India to counter China's creeping influence in countries around the Bay of Bengal due to the spread of its Belt and Road Initiative

That's the Box Office collection of SS Rajamouli's directorial 'RRR' world-wide on the third day of its release. Set in pre-independence India, 'RRR' is a fictional take on the younger days of celebrated freedom fighters, Komaram Bheem and Alluri Seetharama Raju, portrayed by Jr NTR and Ram Charan. The movie also features Samuthirakani, Olivia Morris, Alison Doody, and Ray Stevenson.


₹ 500 CRORE

FACTOID

The magnum opus also became India's biggest-ever opener with ₹ 223 crore worldwide, after overtaking 'Baahubali 2', which had made ₹ 217 crore worldwide on its opening day

INSTAGRAM MAY ALLOW USERS TO RESPOND TO STORIES WITH VOICE MESSAGES


TECHAWAY

Meta-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram is reportedly working on a new feature that would allow users to reply to Stories with an image or a voice message. Alessandro Paluzzi, a developer who reverse engineers apps to find upcoming new features, took to Twitter to share a screenshot from Instagram Stories with a microphone icon in the field for story replies. “Instagram is working on the ability to reply to Stories with voice messages,” Paluzzi said in the tweet.

- Instagram introduced two new ways, Favourites and Following, to choose what users see in their feed. The company said, it wants users to be able to shape Instagram into the best possible experience and give them ways to quickly see what they are most interested in
- Favourites show users the latest from accounts that they choose, like their best friends and favourite creators. In addition to this view, posts from accounts in Favourites will also show up higher in home feed. Following shows users posts from the people they follow
- Both Favourites and Following will show users posts in chronological order to quickly catch up on recent posts

Who'll buy 'the greatest picture of defeat of colonialism'?



WHAT'S NEW? A 13-ft-tall early 19th century painting of the Battle of Polilur that historian William Dalrymple has described as “arguably the greatest Indian picture of the defeat of colonialism that survives” will go under the hammer at Sotheby's soon.

WHAT ART: The painting, a 10-metre-wide panoramic extending over 10 sheets of paper produced between 1799-1820 by Seringapatam locals, which portrays the battle won by Tipu Sultan against the British, is worth about ₹5-8 crore. This painting, one of the only three, is the second painting of the Second Anglo-Mysore War of 1780 being sold at Sotheby's.

HISTORY LESSON

The battle represents the triumph of Haidar Ali, the ruler of Mysore, and his son Tipu Sultan, against the British troops of the East India Company. Tipu Sultan commissioned a painting of the battle as a mural for his palace, Daria Daulat Bagh in Seringapatam in 1784. This painting focuses on the moment when two of the East India Company's ammunition tumbrils explode. Haidar is seen with Tipu, who is in a tiger-striped shirt and sniffing a rose with sangfroid as he surveys the carnage. An injured Scottish officer, Colonel William Baillie, can be seen carried in a palanquin. The panorama shows all the gore of the battle, “including heads flying off when someone is decapitated”

The World

this week

IS

CUET a good move by UGC?



IN THE NEWS FOR

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced a new format of admitting students in undergraduate courses across central universities. Recently, the UGC announced the scrapping of formula of admissions based on class 12 marks and introducing the Central Universities Entrance Test (CUET) from session 2022-23.

STUDENT ALERT

CUET will be conducted in July this year for the first time. The application process is likely to begin in the month of April.

YOU SPEAK

The CUET is a great initiative by UGC. The main advantage of this format is that students need not appear for various entrance tests offered by different universities. Moreover, the domain-specific questions will create a customised test for students based on the subjects they choose. CUET will also relieve parents of economically-backward students from the burden of paying to appear for different entrance tests. **VARADA SHENDYE**, class X, SSPM's Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, Mumbai



CUET is a common entrance test for all the central universities in the country. It will be mandatory for the students to appear in it to take admissions in the undergraduate programmes offered by 45 central universities of India. While the UGC has not issued a specific syllabus for the test, it has stated that all the questions will be based on NCERT Class 12 syllabus. Academicians believe that this would give an edge to CBSE students rather than those from the state boards. CUET will be conducted in 13 languages.

WE SPEAK

It is a boost to students' morale as UGC has stated that class 12 marks will not be mandatory for admissions to universities and have left it to them if at all, they wish to include it as one of the criteria for admission shortlisting process.

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DO

you think more firms should set up decarbonisation hubs?



IN THE NEWS FOR

Professional services firm KPMG has launched an India Decarbonisation Hub to provide businesses and institutions solutions for climate strategy and implementation, low carbon finance, energy efficiency and decarbonisation digital program, among others.

HELP FIRMS GO GREEN

"We think that the carbonisation agenda is going to fundamentally change the way that businesses operate. We're thinking about issues such as how do we gather data, how do we prove the verifiability of that data? How do we encourage innovation? We're thinking about this as a global agenda," said Mike Hayes, Global Decarbonization Hub Lead.

WE SPEAK

Leaders across sectors have to address several competing imperatives: recover from the Covid-19 crisis, prepare for a world of artificial intelligence (AI) and extreme automation, and grow in increasingly competitive markets, while achieving their net-zero pledges.

What's decarbonisation?

'Decarbonisation' tends to refer to the process of reducing 'carbon intensity', lowering the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the burning of fossil fuels. Generally, this involves decreasing

CO2 output per unit of electricity generated. Reducing the amount of carbon dioxide occurring as a result of transport and power generation is essential to meet global temperature standards set by the Paris Agreement and UK government.

Steps toward low-carbon and net-zero operations:

- Ensure decarbonisation aligns with your overall business strategy;
- Evaluate and develop a common understanding of the non-linear issues of climate change, competi-

tion for renewables and offsets, and the impact of decentralised energy in the marketplace;

- Define the reporting strategy for internal and external stakeholders, including public disclosures;
- Shift your capital structure to account for the increasing role of climate in finance;

- Align executive compensation with environmental performance;
- Demonstrate provable progress through targeted emissions-reduction initiatives that support broader business goals.

YOU SPEAK

We should set up our own climate goals and our own target to reduce carbon footprint. A variety of things can be practiced for the same: reducing the amount of non-renewable sources, eating fewer animal products, shopping locally, reducing and reusing our waste, etc.

RIDHANG JAIN, class X, SGVP Int'l, Ahmedabad

To truly save our world we must work together. We all make small efforts at our home and our neighbourhoods to make people take steps. If everyone starts setting climate targets for themselves then only we can make a change!

RAKSHIT DUBEY, class X, Zebar School for Children, Ahmedabad



CAN

India let its guard down with Covid National Plan ending on Mar 31?



IN THE NEWS FOR

Two years after the Centre imposed a nationwide lockdown in view of the Covid-19 outbreak and followed it up with monthly review of health protocols, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has decided against invoking provisions of the Disaster Management Act beyond March 31 for management of the pandemic. The shift comes in view of the steep decline in cases across the country in the past few weeks and significant capacity-building at the state and Union Territory levels for dealing with all aspects of Covid containment and control.

YOU SPEAK

As cases in India have now decreased, the public seems to be letting its guard down against the virus. However, the new variant reported in China and other parts of the world are of huge concern and for this reason, the punitive measures shouldn't be done away with totally.

BHOOMIKA CHAWLA, class XII, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Chandigarh



WE SPEAK

■ The Disaster Act Provisions being lifted after almost 2 years may come as a relief, but it's the country's health that is at stake, so until the WHO declares Covid as completely over, the govt and citizens need to be vigilant.

WILL

foldable phones be the next tech trend?

IN THE NEWS FOR

After filing multiple patents showcasing foldable designs ranging from fantastic to slightly crazy, it appears Samsung is finally set to bring a third foldable phone to the market. This device, seemingly codenamed 'Diamond', is expected to launch alongside the Galaxy Z Fold4 and Galaxy Z Flip4. Vivo has officially teased the launch of a new tablet and foldable smartphone in China.



WE SPEAK

■ Since their inception, foldable smartphones are estimated to have reached 11.5 million unit sales by the end of 2021. The fast-growing market is unsurprisingly expected to continue expanding throughout 2022 (and beyond), with Samsung on top slot.

YOU SPEAK

In the recent times, we have seen how gadgets have evolved to be as portable as possible, and sometimes even space efficient. Foldable phones are another step towards that process. A fascinating part about it, is that the fold isn't realised when the screen is fully opened. Some new foldable phones also have another variant which fold outwards and can act as a widescreen tablet in that mode. This adds versatility. Going by how it can transform utility, it certainly seems to be the next 'in' thing.

SIDDHARTH KOTHARI, class X, St Joseph's Boys High School, Bengaluru



SHOULD

Putin

be held guilty of war crimes?

IN THE NEWS FOR

As Russian forces escalate their assault on Ukraine, the prospect that their commander in chief, Russian President Vladimir Putin, will ever stand trial for the crimes they commit may seem far-fetched. But for some international legal scholars, it is all but certain that Putin will one day be indicted for war crimes or crimes against humanity in Ukraine, charges that would turn him into an international pariah, if not a prisoner.



WE SPEAK

- 1 The concept of war crimes is a recent one. Before World War II, it was generally accepted that the horrors of war were part of the nature of war, states BBC
- 2 Before the 20th century, armies behaved brutally to enemy soldiers - and whether there was any punishment for this depended on who eventually won the war
- 3 Commanders and politicians usually escaped any punishment for their role in war - or, if they lost, were summarily executed or imprisoned



4 Attitudes changed during World War II when the murder of several million people - mainly Jews - by Nazi Germany, and the mistreatment of both civilians and prisoners of war by the Japanese, prompted the Allied powers to prosecute the people they believed to be the perpetrators of these crimes

YOU SPEAK

Isolation by world leaders may not stop Putin in his tracks. He must be held guilty as the war perpetuated by him is a grave crime committed against humanity. It has gone beyond aggression and muscle flexing to a systematic attack against innocent and unarmed civilian population. **NAGARJUNA D**, class XI, Meridian School, Banjara Hills, Hyd



CONFLICTS SNUFFING OUT DREAMS, HOPES, AND ASPIRATIONS

War singularly represents armed conflicts between different countries, but on a broader connotation, it represents a state of convergence of forces of conflict-climate change, growing inequality, ethnic cleansing, poverty, pandemic, and the final stroke is the nations at war. Much has been written, discussed on this subject impelling afirethought on negating the vectors that trigger suffering among the young ones and how to make the experience of a nation, which is in a war zone less damaging for children, their education. Yet the attacks, the conflicts continue unabated with constant flouting of dictates for the protection of children.

Post pandemic, as nations bat-

tle ceaselessly to put the economy back on track, we stand to witness yet another conflict between Ukraine and Russia. The pervasive and protracted nature of war triggers an inflationary storm, impacting the future of an entire generation of children, debarring them from access to conditioned education, the skill set to sustain themselves. It is not the school's infrastructure but their hopes, dreams, aspirations that stand destroyed.

This unabated wave against children has been the highest in the last 30 years. The sordid testimony to the aftermath is displaced, enslaved, trafficked, abused, and exploited chil-



children, debarring their continued education. Killed, maimed, and inducted into the armed groups with denied fundamental humanitarian access is the bitter truth. It is inexplicable that children do not resume their disrupted education, as per the UNESCO survey analysis in conflict-

ridden countries. One particularly damaging effect of conflict on education is the proliferation of attacks on schools, as children, teachers, or school buildings become the targets of attacks. Parents fear sending their children to school. Girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence, besides exacerbating marginalisation in society.

Over half of the world's primary-aged children out of school are estimated to live in conflict-affected fragile states. Haven't these conflicts snuffed out the dreams, hopes, and aspirations of the entire generation? Can't the politics of man look beyond and be futuristic? Is EFA (Education for All) a distant dream?

LAKSHMI VENKATESH, Principal, Prince Public School, Budh Vihar, Phase 2

Expressions Unlocked at Kulachi Hansraj

Kulachi Hansraj Model School, Ashok Vihar, presented Expressions Unlocked on March 8 as a part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

The wonderful play, 'If Love was a Colour' by the students of classes PP to II was an aesthetic presentation, which spoke volumes of the confident communication and theatrical skills of the young learners. The performance enthralled the hybrid audience.

Principal Sneha Verma, in her address, congratulated the members of the school for the Golden Jubilee and appreciated the children for presenting the theatre—one of the best forms of learning.

Adarsh Kohli, the school manag-



er awarded Title Prizes to the deserving Young Kulachians and inspired them to turn dreams into reality.

In the vote of thanks, Sunita Sindhwani, the Headmistress thanked everyone for making Expressions Unlocked special, and promised on behalf of the fraternity that "together we shall continue to progress with positivity and patience."

Cambridge organises adventure camp

Cambridge School, Indrapuram organised an adventure programme for students of classes VI to VIII with the leaders in Adventure Sports, Rocksport. After a long time, students were finally back in school and the excitement of coming back could be seen on their faces.

The students experienced many adventure activities like Zip Line, Sport Wall Climbing, Commando Net, Burma Bridge, Rope Ladder Climbing and other interesting events. These activities are not only



fun-filled and engaging but also help in developing many qualities in a child,



including confidence, focus and willpower.

With team tasks like Hamster wheel and tug of war, students learnt the importance of coordination and team work. Such programmes are instrumental in creating school a happy place and learning a happy process.

World Pi day

World Pi Day was celebrated in Cambridge School, Noida on March 14. To celebrate this event, children of class VI came together to present the different attributes of the Greek letter 'Pi'.

Along with Pi Day, the children remembered and discussed the achievements of one of the greatest scientists, Albert Einstein, on his birthday.

A live experiment on calculating the approximate value of Pi was done, where children

collaborated on the google sheet to measure, record and calculate the ratio of circumference to diameter of a circular object from their surroundings.



The day concluded with children presenting PI-KU poems composed in '3:1:4' pattern.

Graduation day brings beautiful chapter to a close

The Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2022 of Tagore International School, Vasant Vihar, was held on Saturday, March 12 in the school. The chief guest for the day was Bani Yadav, Rally Driver & Car Racer, National Champion, and Asia Pacific Rally Cup Winner, Ladies.

The reading out of the citations, valedictorian speeches and the 'handing over of the charge' by the Main Cabinet to the Assistant Main Cabinet were the main features of the ceremony. The pledge for the new Main Cabinet members was administered by Yadav. The Rabindra Ratna Award, conferred on the most outstanding student of class XII, was given to

Malvika Chawla. Some of the cultural presentations were song 'Hall of Fame' by the school choir and a classical group dance on the song 'Kanha re'.

Bani Yadav, in her address, emphasised the need for every student to hold on to passion and self-belief. She im-

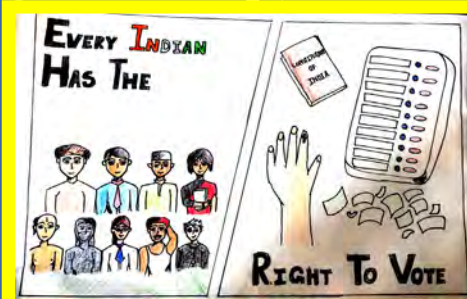


explored the parents in the audience to stand by their children no matter what. The ceremony concluded with all rising up for the rendition of the School Song 'Aham Yogya Asmi' and the National Anthem.

Student Corner



ANGAJA SINGH, class XII C, Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute, Subroto Park



AZEEM US SHAN, class VII F, Hamdard Public School

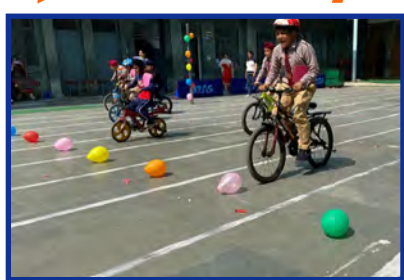


ANGAJA SINGH, class XII C, Air Force Golden Jubilee Institute, Subroto Park

Primary sports day at SGNPS

The Primary Department of SGNPS, Adarsh Nagar, conducted Annual Sports Day on March 17; with great zeal and fervour. The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, S. Kuldip Singh Saini; Honorary Chairman of SGNPS, S. Baldev Singh Puri; School's Honorary Secretary and other prominent members of School Managing committee.

The programme began with the release of balloons by the Chief Guest. The In-charge of the Primary Department, Harpreet Kakkar, extended formal welcome



to the Chief Guest and the distinguished guests.

A number of racing events participated by students stirred the ambience with thrill and excitement. Students displayed re-

markable team spirit, competence and exultation reaching for the finishing line in the Joker Race, Covid Rules Race, Healthy Food Race, Three Legged Race etc. The Lemon Race participated by the primary teachers, made the event a breath-taking spectacle.

The winners of all the races were graced with trophies by the Chief Guest during the Prize Distribution Ceremony. The school principal Shikha Gupta gave the vote of thanks. The event was a wonderful recreation and a great learning experience for the fraternity of Sri Guru Nanak Public School.

Where there is a will there is a way

When man wanted to fly, he made an airplane. Then, he decided to invent a ship. By making a ship, he is playing on the ocean's chest. The common thing here is desire, a desire with immense potential. This desire is called Willpower.

Willpower is a positive attitude that reflects how a person handles challenges in life. It outcasts the confidence of a person whether he can perform any task or not. The willpower of an individual helps him to achieve

his goals. Willpower is like any muscle in the human body that is affected by internal as well as external factors like lack of discipline, stress, negative thinking and lack of sleep.

We can increase our willpower by planning ahead, not taking too much at once, avoiding temptation, rewarding oneself, getting sup-



port from others. One must always remember that with a strong willpower one can move mountains.

So, friends remember: This is your world; you are the creator. Find freedom on this canvas and always believe that you can do it.

RAKSHITA SETHI, XII-C, DAV Public School, Sec-14, Faridabad

While the pandemic confined us to our homes, I can't help but feel nostalgic for our lives before the virus went global. The moment of normalcy, which I remember most evocatively, is my last vacation—a trip to Prague, the capital of Czech Republic.

I distinctly remember the narrow cobblestoned streets and the miraculously bright blue skies adorned with Romanesque architecture of the beautiful city of Prague. I spent four exquisite days there with my family in the summer of 2019. We had rented an apartment in the Old Town Square where jazz music intertwined with the aroma of freshly-brewed coffee wafted from the open windows every morning.

Our first evening there, we walked into the centre of town as dusk was falling on the golden city in search of the Astronomical Clock. Through jigsaws of light, shadow and greenish-gold stone, stood the massive clock tower. While the



TRIP TO PRAGUE

hourly chime that people line up for was anti-climactic, the exquisitely ornate astronomical dial and intricate artistry of the clock make it one of the most beautiful in Europe.

From the balcony of the Prague castle, we witnessed a magnificent view of the city—from the setting sun glinting off church domes to the people resting on benches enjoying the sudden sunshine. We walked through the varied city aesthetic to the Charles Bridge, whose Gothic and Baroque architecture made it look outstanding. We stood

there and watched the flow of the Vltava River; city lights glistening on the clear water while a Scottish bagpiper serenaded us.

We spent the rest of our days going from one cafe and restaurant to another, lazing around Petrin Park, getting lost among the trees and flowers and being assaulted by beauty in every corner. What made me fall in love with the city was that when life is pulling you in a thousand different directions, Prague is the place, which encourages you to slow down and take in the smell of the roses.

We travel because our life is defined by experiences. We are what we remember and very often travel memories take a priority within this realm of experiences. I write this with a smile. We might not be able to travel due to the pandemic but our dreams and memories cannot be quarantined; all we have to do is wait for the right time.

SAUMYA LAL, CLASS XI, LA MARTINIÈRE GIRLS' COLLEGE, LUCKNOW



COURSES IN INDIA ARE BECOMING IRRELEVANT FOR INDUSTRY NEEDS

I feel we need to work more on the infrastructure in our education system so that it may become conducive to industry needs. There is a huge gap where skills, creativity, and inventiveness are required to ensure the needs for the upcoming job sectors. Since ages, we have been embroiled in the basic theoretical part of education, which needs a major reboot. Many advanced countries focus on providing education with working and professional support, and they also concentrate on short term study structures for certain jobs. The professional skills extempore the students to get through with opportunities and projects. All streams, be it science, commerce or

humanities need major revamping. Some institutes do not provide quality education and the teaching faculty comprises weakness in knowledge and implementation. Hence the entire circle gets feeble and frail. There are multiple educational institutes coming up, but they have nothing concrete regarding a futuristic approach. Students taking the exams are like products from the common system, belonging and performing in the same mannerism. If this is not taken into cognisance, then very soon we will have an enormous vacuum which the country will not be capable of filling up in terms of stable jobs.

JAYESH TRIPATHI, CLASS XI, MOUNT LITERA ZEE SCHOOL, LUCKNOW



India is a country with vast expanse in culture and traditions. One of the largest democracies, it is unfolding its secrets towards growth and progress. We have unlimited offerings in research, medicine, philosophy, history, technology and many more subjects. In comparison to advanced countries, we may be slow, but we are on the road to progress. There are new industries offering new avenues and gradually the education infrastructure is adapting to the required skills. Students in India perform commendably and that's reason enough that within a few years we are going to reach the top along with personal achievements.

The fee structure of many available courses also gives us the benefit of not having to venture out in foreign waters. There are innumerable degrees after school level, with diversity and opportunity. In recent times we have found traditional subjects like Ayurveda, and Indian languages take the seat of career options. Hindi and Sanskrit have become subjects in demand. If given attention, many complications can be swept away and we shall find ourselves amid progressive academics. It's how we look at the picture and work it out for ourselves. Although every system needs support, we can find avenues and bring them in the limelight.

UROOJ PAKIR FATIMA, CLASS X, LA MARTINIÈRE GIRLS' COLLEGE, LUCKNOW



RCB EYE FIRST WIN

KKR HAVE TASK CUT OUT AS THEY LOOK TO CONSOLIDATE POSITION AFTER WINNING START

Seeing to consolidate their position after a winning start, Kolkata Knight Riders will have their task cut out as they take on a determined Royal Challengers Bangalore in the Indian Premier League on Wednesday.

The two outfits head into the game on the back of contrasting results. While the Shreyas Iyer-led KKR humbled defending champions Chennai Super Kings by six wickets, Royal Challengers Bangalore suffered a five-wicket loss to Punjab Kings, despite posting a 200-plus score.

RCB BIG GUNS MUST BE CONSISTENT

For RCB, skipper Faf Du Plessis is in prime form after he made a scintillating 57-ball 88 and would like to continue in the same vein. Opener Anuj Rawat was unable to capitalise on a good start and would be aiming for consistency.

Unburdened by the captaincy pressure, Virat Kohli made a statement and played with more intent against Punjab. He will definitely look to rediscover his glorious touch and continue to torment the opposition bowlers like he did during his prime.

Wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik also played a significant cameo and his role would be crucial once again, if RCB have to set or chase a big total.

If these four go all guns blazing, then it would be a daunting task for the varied KKR attack.

While the KKR bowling unit will have to be particularly cautious of the six-hitting prowess of Du Plessis, which was on display on Sunday, RCB bowlers would have to quickly forget the hammering they received at the hands of the Punjab batters.

A profligate Mohammed Siraj, who leaked 59 runs, will have to pull up his socks. Another key bowler is death overs specialist and last edition's Purple Cap holder Harshal Patel. Even the role of Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga, who is capable of spinning a web around the batters, could decide the fate of the match.

WILL BE THINKING OF ABD IF WE WIN IPL: KOHLI

Former RCB skipper Virat Kohli has said that he would be "very emotional" thinking about AB de Villiers if the team wins its maiden Indian Premier League title this season.

Kohli and De Villiers shared a 11-year-long bond at RCB before the South African decided to call it a day, announcing his retirement from all forms of cricket late last year. The former SA all-format player moved to RCB in 2011 and remained with the franchise till his retirement. He played 184 IPL games, scoring 5,162 runs at an average of 39.71 and a strike rate of 151.69.



An emotional Kohli said, "The other day, it got me thinking, if we manage to win the title in the coming seasons (2022), I would be very

emotional thinking about him (de Villiers) first.

Rather than what I would experience, I would actually think of him. "It would still mean a lot to him even if he is watching the game from home. He is a special human being as he has touched everyone. He has been amazing, and I don't think there is one person who can say that AB de Villiers has not contributed to their lives in some way or the other," said Kohli.

MIDDLE ORDER CRUCIAL FOR KKR

For KKR, they ticked all the boxes in their lung-opener against CSK and they would be hoping that they can repeat their performance. The biggest positive for KKR

was Ajinkya Rahane finding his mojo and scoring runs. Although all-rounder Venkatesh Iyer managed only 16 runs in the first game, he is capable of pummeling any attack into submission.

Skipper Shreyas Iyer along with Sam Billings and Sheldon Jackson would need to shoulder responsibility in the middle-order.

On the bowling front, Umesh Yadav was sensational at the Wankhede. But others including Shivam Mavi, spinners Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine would need to put up an improved show. All-rounder Andre Russell's role with the bat and ball could eventually be the difference between the two sides.

KKR are unlikely to tinker with their winning combination. Being an evening game, dew would certainly be a factor and one can expect a high-scoring affair. WNS

Upcoming IPL Match



VS



MARCH 30

7.30 PM

Dr DY Patil Sports Academy, Mumbai



Faf Du Plessis and Virat Kohli of Royal Challengers Bangalore

MEDVEDEV MAKES LAST 16

Osaka into quarters of Miami Open; Swiatek cruises ahead

Top seed Daniil Medvedev moved a step closer to reclaiming the world number one ranking as he beat Spaniard Pedro Martinez 6-3 6-4 to reach the last 16 at the Miami Open.

Medvedev, who can replace Novak Djokovic in the rankings if he reaches the Miami semi-finals, fired down 14 aces and broke Martinez three times to secure victory in 84 minutes. "I just felt like I had to be more consistent, and the more consistent one today would win," Medvedev said. "I managed to just make a few less errors at important moments, serve even better, and it was a small margin but I managed to win and I'm really happy."

Up next for the Russian, who lost the number one ranking after a surprise third-round loss at Indian Wells, will be American Jensen Brooksby, a 6-3 5-7 6-4 winner over Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut.

Spanish 14th seed Carlos Alcaraz will meet Stefanos Tsitsipas after both enjoyed straight-set wins over Marin Cilic and Alex de Minaur respectively. The 18-year-old Alcaraz beat Tsitsipas in their only previous

meeting, a five-set thriller at last year's U.S. Open. "He is a great player," the Greek third seed said of Alcaraz. "For me it will be a great challenge, the ones that I like."

Osaka advances

Japan's Naomi Osaka reached the quarter-finals for a second consecutive year with a 6-3 6-4 win over American Alison Riske, recovering after falling behind 2-0 in the second set. She will face American Danielle Collins for a place in the semi-finals.

Osaka has responded strongly in Florida, advancing to the quarter-finals after leaving Indian Wells in tears earlier this month after being heckled by a fan. The four-time Grand Slam champion, who received a walkover in the previous round, is yet to drop a set and remains one of the favorites to land the title.

Swiatek eases past

Poland's new world number one Iga Swiatek eased past 14th

seed Coco Gauff 6-3 6-1 and will next face Petra Kvitova after the Czech defeated Veronika Kuderमतova 7-6(5) 6-4 to reach the quarters.

Spanish fifth seed Paula Badosa beat 16-year-old wildcard Linda Fruhvirtova 6-2 6-3 and will next meet Jessica Pegula. AGENCIES

"I am definitely happy. Last year I got to the quarters in Miami after winning in Australia and I am winning matches here this year too but I feel more grateful -- this is one of the funnest times of my life. There were a lot of things running through my mind last year. Maybe it was trying to return to number one or other things which aren't that important but at the time was so heavy in my head. I am just happy to be healthy."

NAOMI OSAKA



Photo: AFP

MITHALI, JHULAN RISE IN ODI RANKINGS

India skipper Mithali Raj climbed two places to sixth while veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami also rose a couple of spots to fifth in the latest ICC Women's ODI rankings released on Tuesday, taking into account the ongoing World Cup in New Zealand.

Raj, who struck a half-century in India's final league match against South Africa on Sunday, surpassed Australia's Rachael Haynes and Tammy Beaumont of England. However, the match ended in heartbreak for the Indian skipper as her team crashed out of the World Cup in a last-ball thriller.

Star opener Smriti Mandhana, who played a 71-run knock against South Africa, remained static on 10th.

In the bowlers' chart, Goswami, who missed the match against the Proteas, went past the South African duo of Marizanne Kapp and Ayabonga Khaka to be fifth.



Jhulan Goswami

However, she lost her ninth position in the all-rounders' list to Katherine Brunt of England. Goswami is now 10th with 217 rating points in her kitty.

Her compatriot Deepti Sharma held on to her seventh position. PTI

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Who was the first cricketer to be given out by the 3rd umpire?

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. M S Dhoni
- C. Ricky Ponting
- D. Chris Gayle

Q2: Who clinched the women's singles title in the Odisha Open Super 100 badminton tournament in January 2022?

- A. Aparna Popat
- B. Ashwini Nachappa
- C. Manasi Joshi
- D. Unnati Hooda

Q3: In which event did Avani Lekhara win a gold medal at the Tokyo Paralympics 2021?

- A. Discus throw
- B. Shooting
- C. Badminton
- D. Shotput

Q4: Which of these trophies is awarded to women badminton players?

- A. Webb Ellis Cup
- B. Uber Cup
- C. Ranji Trophy
- D. Claret Jug

Q5: Kidambi Srikanth became first Indian male shuttler to claim a silver medal in the World

Badminton Championships? Whom did he lose to in the final?



Photo: TOI

- A. Wang Tzu-wei
- B. Lakshya Sen
- C. Loh Kean Yew
- D. Kenta Nishimoto

Q6: Who was the first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics?

- A. Geetha Phogat
- B. Babita Kumari
- C. Vinesh Phogat
- D. Sakshi Malik

Q7: When was the first football World Cup held?

- A. 1934
- B. 1930
- C. 1942
- D. 1946s

Q8: Which were the participating countries of the first-ever test cricket match that took place in 1877?

- A. England Vs India
- B. India Vs Australia
- C. England Vs Australia
- D. Australia Vs United States of America

ANSWERS:

- 1 A. Sachin Tendulkar
- 2 D. Unnati Hooda
- 3 B. Shooting
- 4 B. Uber Cup
- 5 C. Loh Kean Yew
- 6 D. Sakshi Malik
- 7 B. 1930
- 8 C. England Vs Australia