



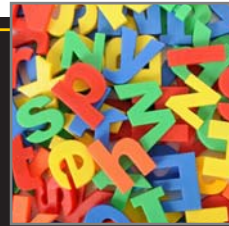
THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ Read Enid Blyton's 'The Naughtiest Girl In School'? A Teacher talks on her own experience with the naughtiest ones
PAGE 2



➤ Do you know how to say 'Hello' in German? or people greet one another in the evening in Germany? Wizard's Corner has it all!
PAGE 3



➤ We'll give it everything to win T20 World Cup, says NZ opener Mitchell
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STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2021


KAMAL HAASAN TO LAUNCH HIS DIGITAL AVATAR IN THE METAVERSE


Producer, director, actor and politician Kamal Haasan is set to become the first Indian celebrity to have his own digital avatar in a metaverse. Haasan, who turned 67 on Sunday, announced his entry into the digital space, with the launch of collectables or NFTs (non-fungible tokens) and plans for his museum in an upcoming metaverse game from Fantico, an Indian licensed digital collectables platform.

- With fans spending big money on digital collectibles, more celebrities are joining the party. Stars such as Amitabh Bachchan and Salman Khan as well as cricketers and leagues such as the Indian Super League (ISL) have launched their NFTs.
- Fantico will first launch various digital collectibles including posters, avatars and videos for Haasan

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2
TOP 3 BUZZ OF THE DAY
SPOTLIGHT

Taylor Swift is most-influential person on Twitter

American singer Taylor Swift surpassed Prime Minister Narendra Modi to emerge as the most-influential person on the list of the 50 most influential people on Twitter this year. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is placed at number two on the list. According to an annual research carried out by the consumer intelligence company Brandwatch, Indian batting great Sachin Tendulkar is placed at number 35.



■ Singer Katy Perry is ranked third, Tesla CEO Elon Musk is ranked fourth and Barack Obama fifth on the list

GENDER EQUALITY

In a first, NDA to admit 20 women cadets next year

If reports are to go by, the National Defence Academy (NDA) will admit about 20 women cadets from around the middle of next year, paving the way for their training in the premier tri-service military training institution for the first time. According to reports, the Army would have the largest intake of about 10 women officers, followed by the Indian Air Force and the Navy at about five each.



- In September, the Supreme Court had ruled that women be inducted into NDA from this year itself, and not from next year as sought by the Centre.
- So far, women officers joined the armed forces from Officers Training Academy (OTA), Chennai, where they got admitted after their graduation.

PLASTIC MENACE

Covid-related plastic waste highest from Asian countries: Study

More than eight million tons of pandemic-associated plastic waste have been generated globally, with more than 25,000 tons entering the global ocean, according to an alarming study. Data from the start of the pandemic in 2020 through August 2021, showed that most of the global plastic waste entering the ocean is coming from Asia, with hospital waste representing the bulk of the land discharge.



- The study highlighted that most of the global plastic waste from the pandemic is entering the ocean from rivers, with Asian rivers accounting for 73 per cent of the total discharge of plastics. The top three contributors are the Indus, Shatt al-Arab, and Yangtze rivers, which discharge into the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, and East China Sea, respectively.
- European rivers, on the other hand, account for only 11 per cent of the discharge, with minor contributions from other continents



Your OTT watching habit could be harming the planet

You read it right. If reports are to go by, carbon emissions produced by fans watching a month of Netflix's top 10 shows is equivalent to 'driving a car beyond Saturn' - more than 746 million miles. According to researchers, Netflix content in the global top 10 - clocked up millions of hours' viewing time combined in the first month since their release.

Similarly, YouTube is responsible for emitting enough carbon dioxide annually to far surpass the equivalent greenhouse gas output of Glasgow, where the COP26 climate summit was held recently.

HOW ARE THEY A HAZARD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1 Streaming services have a negative effect on the environment due to the power required to transfer data, a large proportion of which is generated by non-renewable energy sources like gas and coal, which emit harmful greenhouse gases

2 Also, end-user devices like smartphones, laptops or TVs consume electricity while watching the content

3 According to Netflix, the average carbon footprint of one hour of streaming in Europe is approximately 55 gCO2e (grams of carbon dioxide equivalents) - the same as driving about 300 metres in a car

SOURCE: CDIYour OTT WATCHING HABIT COULD BE HARMING THE PLANET

FB, Instagram to delete 'sensitive' ads linked to race, religion

Facebook's parent company Meta has announced that it will remove sensitive ads targeting options related to health, race or ethnicity, political affiliation, religion or sexual orientation starting January 19, 2022.

The interest targeting options being removed is not based on people's physical characteristics or personal attributes, but instead, on things like people's interactions with content on the platform



Meta, earlier this month, said that it removed over 30 million pieces of content in September on Facebook and Instagram in India, as it faces intense security over user data privacy

FACTOID \$600K

Price of an original Apple computer, hand-built by company founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak 45 years ago that is likely to fetch in the United States. The so-called 'Chaffey College' Apple-1 is one of only 200 made by Jobs and Wozniak at the very start of the company's odyssey from garage start-up to megalth worth \$2 trillion. What makes it even rarer is the fact the computer is encased in koa wood—a richly patinated wood native to Hawaii. Only a handful of the original 200 were made in this way.

Private hospitals begin talks with schools for kids' vaccination



Leadng private hospitals in the country have started discussions with various schools to host clinics to provide Covid-19 vaccinations as soon as vaccines are available, people in the know told ET. Max Healthcare said it is exploring tie-ups with various leading schools to support the government's vaccination drive as and when it allows for the paediatric population.

- The government is expected to come out with guidelines for vaccinating children next week. It has so far approved Zydsus Cadila's vaccine ZyCov-D for use in children as young as 12 years old
- Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is also expected to get the drug regulator's nod soon

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ONLINE TOI STUDENT EDITION

LEARNING FROM THE YOUNG

YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALISTS

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

LITTLE TECHIES

STUDENTS SPEAK

SPORTSTARS

BUDDING WRITERS

LIFE LESSONS FROM CHILDREN

WHAT I LEARN'T FROM MY CHILD

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

Don't miss the 'Exclusive Offers' on this special occasion

COLLECTOR'S EDITION
 The celebration starts early on our website from Monday, November 8

MARK YOUR DATE NOVEMBER 13, 2021

Bridging the gap between teacher and parent

As the pandemic shook the entire world and most of the professions were at standstill, the setback was felt in the sphere of education too; it hindered the social development of children as they were confined to the four walls of their house.

The foundation for good parent-teacher relationship is frequent and open communication, mutual respect and a clear understanding of what is best for an individual child. In pursuit of the same, **LT Atul Katarya Memorial School**, organised a four day class wise orientation programme in the school premises for the students and parents to bridge the learning gaps erupted during the pandemic, familiarise them with their active involvement in the up-

bringing of their wards, and on active synergy among parents and teachers for holistic development of the child.

The session was conducted on October 29 to November 3 for classes nursery to X, by the director and principal of the school. The programme commenced with a warm welcome to the parents followed by enlightening the audience with the vision of the school. The director encapsulated the need to encounter the challenges that have crept up owing to the online education and beckoned upon the parents to monitor the



progress of their children and nurture their confidence. Parents were made aware of the special efforts made by the school to enhance learning in students.

The principal shared subject specific strategies with parents which comprised of all the important ele-

ments like focus of LSRW, goal setting and effective study schedule. Parents were informed about various techniques that can help their children prepare well and retain concepts for a longer time. She gave smart parenting tips like parents must involve themselves in scenario-based questioning with children, mutual questioning, help children get organised, embrace small risks and failures and they must not to micromanage their children. Parents were also suggested to tell stories to their children for the growth of their mindset.

She also advised students to eliminate distractions from their life and concentrate on effective studies. Ways to improve mind concentration, how to study and study in small chunks, adoption of pomodoro techniques were shared with students. Reference to the Parkinson's Law, focusing on the need to have lives in life added an insightful depth to the session.

63rd Annual Day celebrations at Mehta Vidyalaya

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Mehta Vidyalaya, Copernicus Marg celebrated its virtual 63rd Annual Day on October 29. The chief guest for the occasion was Hwang IL - Yong, director Korean Cultural Centre India and Ashok Pradhan, director, Delhi Kendra was the guest of honour. Other eminent dignitaries present were Rajesh Mishra, registrar, Delhi Kendra; A K Sharma, regional education officer, Delhi Kendra and, Dr C K Arya, manager, Mehta Vidyalaya.

The programme commenced with the virtual lighting of ceremonial lamp accompanied by a short prayer. Chief guest, Hwang IL - Yong, in his address expressed his happiness on collaborating with Mehta Vidyalaya.

Ashok Pradhan, director, Delhi Kendra welcomed the chief guest and congratulated Mehta Vidyalaya for promoting Sanskrit and Sanskriti as India's traditional heritage.

School principal, Dr Anju Tandon accorded a warm welcome to the dignitaries and presented the school's an-



nual report highlighting the academic and co-curricular achievements of the students and the school.

The annual magazine 'Bhavida' which features a plenitude of students' curricular and co-curricular activities along with their creativity was released by the director and the dignitaries present.

The much-awaited prize distribution ceremony saw certificates like School Topper Award, Subject Toppers Award, Student Council Award and other coveted cash prizes being awarded to the meritorious students.

VNS organises English extempore competition

To imbibe a true spirit of enhancing the oratory skills, a 'One Minute English Extempore Competition' was conducted for the students of classes VIII and IX, on October 27, in the premises of **Vidya Niketan School Faridabad**. The topics in the competition were varied. Every participant was asked to pick a topic. The participants delivered their speeches with great confidence. The parameter for the judgement was content, fluency, presentation and confidence. The first position was bagged by Viman Roy of class VIII D, Aksha Saiyad of VIII B grabbed second position and Jiya from class VIII F secured third position.

Divya Bhardwaj of class IX C bagged first position, Khushi of class IX F secured second position and Surbhi



Thakur of IX B attained third position. The objective of this competition was to enhance the students' confidence and oratory skills. The competition was successfully culminated with a few words of encouragement and appreciation by the principal of Vidya Niketan School.

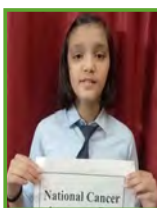
National Cancer Awareness day observed at Ryan

Ryan International School, Sec-40 Gurgaon, celebrated World Cancer Day to increase public awareness about cancer prevention and early detection for the general public and reduce the stigma that surrounds the disease that is the second leading cause of deaths globally.

Ryanites of class V presented through a talk show that cancer is the second leading cause of death globally. Cancer is the uncontrolled growth of a group of cells in the body. It happens

when the body's normal control mechanism stops working. The old cells do not die and grow out of control, forming new, abnormal cells. Cancer may occur anywhere in the body if not detected at the right time and it can increase the risk of death. Hence timely detection and prevention is necessary.

School head Shivali Sharma appreciated the efforts of Ryanites for creating awareness about the importance of healthy lifestyle and how to take better care of themselves.



Celebrating National Wildlife week

The students of **Blue Bells Model School** enthusiastically participated in the inter-school competition 'Vanyajeevan Sanrakshan' celebrating National Wildlife Week organised by DPSG Sushant Lok and brought laurels to the school.

Avni Yadav of XIF clinched the first position in the event 'Brilliant Brushstrokes Abstract Painting' where she drew a majestic tiger with vibrant



colours and spread the message to save the endangered species. Raj Sardana won the third position in the event 'Cartoonist - Comic Strip Making' where he created a pictorial comic strip on the theme 'Breed Con-

scious Animal Lovers'. The competition not only honed their inherent talents but it raised their spirit and motivated them towards taking an initiative to spread awareness about Wildlife Conservation.

Student Corner



ISHAAN,
class IX,
CRPF
Rohini



SONALI,
class XI, CRPF,
Rohini



VANIA,
class IX, CRPF
Rohini

Why must I be less

In a vast field, abound with swathes of rose crimson bright some dark, some light column upon column, rows upon rows, letting gold spill into their cups from the spout of the sky above, gently unfurling in the colour of love.

I saw a white flower, the pale colour of milk, roses looming upon it like towers. still a bud, still shy, maybe afraid as if on a finished canvas a drop of white had its way made, but oh I stood there and beheld in my wait, the petite moonflower open up its gates.

by the same sun it was blessed, by the same blue wind caressed, as it stood swaying, its petals like the hands of a ballerina in a pirouette.

I heard it say to me, with its voice tender but fearless Yes I am different, but why must I be less?

ANANYA KOHLI, class XI D, Bal Bharati Public School, Rohini

Sam Int'l awarded for dynamic education programme

Sam International School was honoured with 'Excellence in Adapting Dynamic Education Programme' in 'Eldro India K-12 Summit' for contributing overall development of an individual and moving it to acquiring new skills. Team of Sam International School's skilled and dynamic teachers worked hard for the students with the vision to nurture the inherent potential and talent of each child, under the guidance



of school principal and finally acquired a great success.

In this mode of learning, school team created, personalised learning experiences for the students. These Education programs were very interactive for learners that included tasks for a high-level engagement and multiple learning mediums. School principal Karuna Verma took pride in receiving this reward as this was actually a result of her devotion, dedication and determination.

When one pulled a fast one in class

This is an incident that happened years ago. I was the class teacher of a class that had earned the dubious distinction of the naughtiest class in the school. They revelled in it and tried to live up to it in every way.

Every lunch-break I would be called by the teacher on lunch duty about something they had done. As usual one day I was called out. I saw a serious fight had broken out between the two most notorious ones. We somehow managed to pull them apart. Parents were summoned. One of them held the bridge of the nose and howled away. On my way back from school, I got a phone call from the injured student. He said his nose was broken and he would have to undergo surgery. I could not sleep the entire night due to worry.

Next day obviously he was absent. The other boy was very distressed and wrote a letter of apology to him. The day after the injured fellow turned up in school with what looked like a band-aid on the bridge of the nose. Every now and then he would wince and let out



a mild groan. The other boy kept apologising to this one profusely throughout the day.

The last period was the PT period. When rest of the class was leaving for PT, this fellow just jumped and tried to follow suit. I told him that he has to go to the Infirmary. But he insisted on staying in the classroom. So I went back to staff room.

After a while I went to check on him and he had disappeared. I asked another student if he had seen him. He said the boy was playing football with rest of the class.

Furious, I marched up to him and

asked how he was playing football with a broken nose when he was going have surgery. He confessed that he had cooked up the entire story so that other boy gets harshly punished and he could escape without punishment.

SUMITA GHOSH, HoD English dept., Pawar Public school-Amanora, Pune

IF I WERE A 'DIYA'

If I were a 'diya', I would be the flame of happiness and hope for everyone. In the corners where the sun's rays cannot reach, I will, and it would never be in dark again. People would value me and know my importance on every occasion.

In the pockets of the world where people are not provided with electricity, they will light me up. I will light up in every household irrespective of gender, religion, and caste inequality. I would give everyone the same light with my flame to mankind, spreading my love and warmth.

I will illuminate the minds of the narrow minded. I want to dispel darkness and bring in the ray of knowledge. Direct the directionless towards the inner self with a bright light of hope.

While I burn, I will be peaceful because I am burning for others. I would keep darkness away to illuminate the lives of others with the strength of my small flame. By this I

want to teach them that sufferings and hard work bring you closer to your goal. Inspire people to become so strong that no matter how dark the situation gets, your energy and self-light will help overcome all road-blocks.

The one who will light me up will understand that if I being a little 'diya' can fill up the dark room with brightness with just my little wick - then she as a human has more power to spread positivity.

I would use my flame to light up other 'dijas' and add value to it. People will learn from me to add value to others life or can be of value for someone else with their compassionate nature.

I want people to look at me and

find that though I am made of just mud - my power is illumination. Never think of anything or yourself as small and incapable - because in the smallest of the 'dijas', lie enlightenment.

I would inspire people to rise up in life, to rise higher and dispel darkness. In doing so I would consider my life successful and meaningful.

MEHENAJ GAZI,
class XII-Commerce,
Sadhu Vaswani International
School, Pune

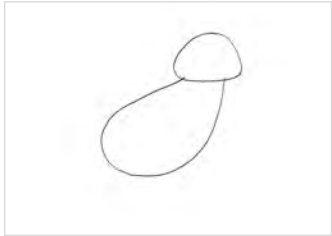


LEVEL-1



PURVA PATEL
Art Educator
Bodakdev School For
Children, Ahmedabad

Draw the easy way



Step-1



Step-2



Step-3



Step-4



Step-5



Step-6



EFTSAVIL

- a. Festival b. Easter
c. Satan d. East

ETEWS

- a. News b. Sweet
c. Street d. Stop

CASREKRC

- a. Cast b. Coast
c. Crackers d. Chemical

HTGIL

- a. High b. Halt
c. Light d. Hill

Answers: 1) a, 2) b, 3) c, 4) c

Riding with the Riddle

I am a long slender tool with a pointed tip at one end and a hole at the other. There is practically nobody who can do without my aide, in one way or the other. I used to be made of bone or wood, but am now made using high quality carbon steel. There are many a tales and idioms revolving around me.

Answer: Needle

THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

3 The Zodiac sign that November shares with December is

- A) Aquarius B) Capricorn
C) Gemini D) Sagittarius



4 Not born in November is

- A) Shahrukh Khan
B) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
C) Rishabh Pant
D) Virat Kohli



5 On November 20, the UN celebrates

- A) Elders B) Children
C) Men D) Women

6 Never observed in November is

- A) Diwali
B) Loy Krathong
C) Thanksgiving
D) Easter

Quiz TIME



Complete these statements on the month of November. Choose correctly!

1 In the old Roman calendar, November was month number

- A) Seven B) Eight
C) Nine D) Ten

2 November starts on the same day of the week as

- A) March B) July
C) October D) December

Answers: 1) C, Nine, 2) A, March, 3) D, Sagittarius, 4) C, Rishabh Pant, 5) B, Children, 6) D, Easter

LEVEL-2

Idiom-etrics

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

(Choose the idiom that best suits the situation)

Sarita was delighted. Raghu uncle would be spending Diwali with her family. 'Why are you so excited?' said her friends. 'He isn't even related to you.' Sarita smiled. 'Raghu uncle is a kind and caring person,' she explained. 'My father considers him a brother. Ever since he left for Cape Town years ago, we have hardly seen him. Raghu uncle's visits are special because they are rare.'

- A. A bolt from the blue
B. Once in a blue moon
C. Blue-eyed boy

Answer: B



People did not know where they stood with Dinesh because his views on important matters kept changing.

- A. Blow hot and cold
B. Drop like a hot potato
C. Make the blood run cold

Answer: A



TRIVIA

In 'Aesop's Fables', we read about a man and a satyr (mythological creature) eating together. The man blew on his cold hands to warm them. Next, he blew on his hot food to cool it. The satyr declared: 'I cannot trust someone who, in the same breath, blows hot and cold.' Idiomatically speaking, a person who moves back and forth between opposing opinions is said to 'blow hot and cold'.

EDITOR IN THE MAKING

WEAVE A STORY WITH HEADLINES

Include some of these headlines to make a story and give it a title. Mail the story to us at toinie175@gmail.com. The interesting one will be published in the edition. Watch out for this space!!!

The headlines:

- 1) Skill assessment - A new chapter for kids
- 2) Asterix is back with 39th adventure
- 3) US lifts pandemic travel ban, opens doors to visitors
- 4) Global methane pledge



And the winner is...

ANJANA PRADHAN
class IX, St Xaviers School,
Ahmedabad

CATCHING LITTLE JOYS

The weekend has started and my father ensures that I make optimum utilisation of time. So, he has enrolled me for a two-hour workshop, "Decode your potential". Even as I am excited about attending this workshop, somewhere deep inside me is the concern of climate change, which is increasing with glaring statistics that I come across every now and then. To divert my mind, I switched on the TV news, only to hear, "More contagious' mutant scaring the UK found in India too". This further added on to my concerns and made me wonder, "How long are we going to live under the threat of virus?" While I was wondering about the survival of the human race, my younger brother came running to me shouting, "And the two newest IPL teams are... Lucknow and Ahmedabad, we are going to have a lot of cricket." I just smiled and decided to take delight in little joys.



NUMBER SERIES

1 The three sides of a triangle are 5m, 6m and 7m respectively, and then what is the area of the given triangle.

- A) 15 m² B) 6√3 m²
C) 21 m² D) 7√3 m²

Answer: B

2 The perimeter of an isosceles triangle is 100 cm. If the base is 36 cm, find the length of the equal sides.

- A) 18 cm B) 64 cm
C) 32 cm D) 36 cm

Answer: C

3 A triangle has an area of 615 cm². One of its sides is given as 123 centimeters, and then what is the length of the perpendicular that is dropped on that particular side from the opposite vertex.

- A) 10 cm B) 5 cm
C) 0.12 cm D) 0.2 cm

Answer: A



Learn a NEW LANGUAGE GERMAN

- 1) Guten Tag (G00T-en tahk)
Meaning: Hello/Good day
- 2) Guten Morgen (G00-ten MOR-gen)
Meaning: Good morning
- 3) Guten Abend (G00-ten AH-bent)
Meaning: Good evening
- 4) Gute Nacht (G00-tuh nahdt)
MEANING: Good night
- 5) Bis später (Biss Sch-PAY-ter)
MEANING: See you later

Work sheet

Q:1 How will you say hello?

Q:2 How will you extend greetings in the morning?

Q:3 How will you extend greetings at night and say see you later?

Q:4 How will you greet in the evening?

1) Guten Tag 2) Guten Morgen 3) Gute Nacht Bis später 4) Guten Abend

ICC T20 WORLD CUP 2021

WE'LL GIVE IT EVERYTHING:
MITCHELL

NZ opener says the team has their sights on maiden T20 World Cup title

Look, we're a bunch of Kiwis. There's only 5 million of us, so we're obviously very proud to be representing our country. Yeah, obviously we've had some success in the last few years. But we're going to enjoy the win, make sure that obviously, we celebrate that, but then we move on pretty quickly. We know that we have a final on Sunday, and whoever we're taking on should be good fun.

DARYL MITCHELL

Photo: AP

New Zealand opener Daryl Mitchell said the Kiwis will give "everything" they've got to win their maiden T20 World Cup title on Sunday. Mitchell's unbeaten 72 from 47 deliveries anchored New Zealand's successful chase of 167 against England, with the opener hitting the winning runs from the final ball of the 19th over.

"Look, we're a bunch of Kiwis. There's only 5 million of us, so we're obviously very proud to be representing our country. Yeah, obviously we've had some success in the last few years," said Mitchell in the press conference as per ICC. "But we're going to enjoy the win, make sure that obviously, we celebrate that, but then we move on pretty quickly. We know that we have a final on Sunday, and whoever we're taking on should be good fun."

"We'll give it everything we've got, but at the end of the day there's certain things you can't control, so we'll see what happens," he added.

NEESHAM PROVIDED
MOMENTUM

The New Zealand opener pointed out that the match was never out of New Zealand's hands and added that Jimmy Neesham provided

the side with the much-needed momentum in the last few overs.

"It probably sounds weird, but it never felt like it was out of our grasp. I think especially with that smaller side boundary on one side, we knew that there were going to be matchups there that might suit us towards the end, and look, we were obviously very lucky at times," said Mitchell.

"A couple sailed over the ropes that could have been a metre shorter and we're all out, but at the same time we always knew that as long as we kept sort of just within the certain numbers that we felt comfortable with that we were always a chance."

"I thought the way that Neesh came out and really dominated that one over really set the momentum heading into those last few, so yeah, take my cap off to him. He played a hell of a knock," he added.

Chasing 167, New Zealand were on the back foot when key duo Martin Gupthill and Kane Williamson were dismissed by Chris Woakes inside the first three overs of the reply.

But the ship was steadied by Mitchell and Devon Conway, who added 82 for the third wicket before Neesham whacked 27 from 11 to turn the tide in his side's favour. **ANI**

NZ STRONGEST ACROSS
FORMATS: ATHERTON

Former England skipper Mike Atherton feels New Zealand is the strongest team across all three formats of the game at the moment after the Black Caps reached their maiden T20 World Cup final.

Over the past few years, the Black Caps have proved themselves to be a force in all three formats. They reached the final of the ODI World Cup in 2019, losing to England on boundary count and are the holders of the inaugural World Test Championship title.

"They are an outstanding team, in all formats of the game really," Atherton said. "They are through to another World Cup final, they were a sliver away from winning the last World Cup in 2019, they are the World Test Championship winners."

"Across formats, you would have to say they are the strongest team at the moment so congratulations to them, a fantastic achievement with limited resources in terms of personnel and money and things that we've often talked about," he added.

ITALY EYE RETURN TO WORLD CUP

Despite being without many key players, Mancini hopes match will open door to the title

Italy head into Friday's crunch visit of Switzerland with their World Cup hopes still in the balance, as the newly-crowned European champions aim to definitively banish the ghosts of their disastrous 2018 qualifying campaign. Still on a high from triumph at Euro 2020, Italy lead Group C on goal difference from the Swiss, with the pair battling for a single guaranteed place in next year's tournament in Qatar.

Roberto Mancini took control of the Azzurri in the toxic aftermath of their failure to make the last World Cup in Russia, the first time they had missed out on a place in six decades, and is well aware of the significance of making it this time round. "It's important that we play well because after the Euro it's the biggest match of the year. We know we have to win," said Mancini. However Mancini tried to maintain a semblance of calm for a fixture that would put Italy back on football's biggest stage after eight years.

Since the playoff defeat to Sweden in late 2017 the former Inter Milan and Manchester City coach has brought the feelgood factor back to the national team by getting a stylish tune from both a new crop of players and some hardy veterans. "I don't think we have everything to lose," Mancini said of the pressure to win.

"It's an important match, very important in fact, and it's true that if we win it will open the door to the World Cup, but it's just a game of football."

Hopes riding on Barella

In the run up to the match Mancini lost starting centre-forward Ciro Immobile to a calf injury, and Roma midfielders Lorenzo Pellegrini and Nicolò Zaniolo. However the most keenly felt absence will be that of captain Giorgio Chiellini, who failed to re-

cover from a thigh injury.

The one good news is that midfield dynamo Nicola Barella should be fit to play.

Swiss depleted too

The Swiss are also missing several key players, with Granit Xhaka and Benfica Haris Seferovic out.

Coach Murat Yakin is especially irked by the absence of Borussia Mönchengladbach forward Breel Embolo, who picked up a thigh injury. "I couldn't believe it, I told myself it couldn't be true, not before such an important match."

Embolo, 24, has only scored once in the Bundesliga this season but hit a brace in Gladbach's 5-0 cup hammering of Bayern Munich a fortnight ago. He also starred in Switzerland's most recent qualifiers last month, setting up both goals in a 2-0 win over Northern Ireland and netting twice as the Swiss rolled over Lithuania 4-0. **AFP**



Roberto Mancini



Nicola Barella

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

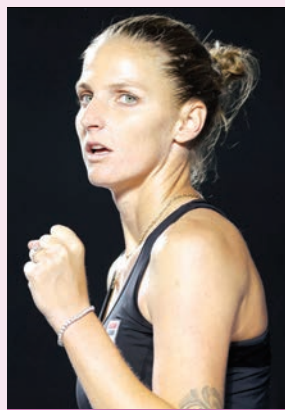
PLISKOVA, KONTAVEIT OPEN
WITH WINS AT WTA FINALS

Karolina Pliskova overcame a slow start before beating Garbiñe Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (6) in her opening match at the WTA Finals, while Anett Kontaveit extended her hot streak to 11 consecutive victories with a 6-3, 6-4 win over second-seeded Barbora Krejčíková.

In a contest between two former No. 1-ranked players, the third-seeded Pliskova struggled early adjusting to the nearly 5,000-feet altitude of Guadalajara, Mexico's second largest city.

Pliskova is playing the WTA Finals for the fifth time, having reached the semifinals in 2018 and '19. The 2020 tournament was canceled. She didn't win any titles in 2021 but kept a high ranking by reaching the finals at Wimbledon and Montreal, and the semifinals at Cincinnati.

Kontaveit has won 27 of her last 29 matches, which include her title run at Ostrava where she beat Paula Badosa



Karolina Pliskova

Photo: AFP

and Maria Sakkari, both of whom are competing here. "I've been in sort of top 30 for a lot of years," Kontaveit said.

After top-ranked Ash Barty of Australia opted not to defend the title because of travel restrictions, Kontaveit edged out Ons Jabeur for the last spot by beating Simona Halep in the final of the Transylvania Open. **AP**

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Which tennis player won the 10th Italian open title 2021?

- a. Novak Djokovic
- b. Rafael Nadal
- c. Dominic Thiem
- d. Stefanos Tsitsipas

Q2: Waca cricket ground is located in _____

- a. Adelaide
- b. Perth
- c. Auckland
- d. Durban

Q3: Who became the first cricketer to hit six sixes in

an over on one day international (50 - 50) cricket ?

- a. Kieron Pollard
- b. Yuvraj Singh
- c. Herschelle Gibbs
- d. Viv Richard

Q4: FIFA is the global regulatory body of which sports?

- a. Hockey
- b. Football
- c. Cricket
- d. Tennis

Q5: How many times has Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or?

a. 3 b. 6 c. 5 d. 7



Lionel Messi

Photo: REUTERS

Q6: Who was the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal?

- a. P.T. Usha
- b. Sania Mirza
- c. Aarti Saha
- d. Karnam Malleswari

Q7: The famous C K Naidu trophy is associated with which sport?

- a. badminton
- b. Hockey
- c. Lawn Tennis
- d. Cricket

Q8: Triples is a new format of _____

- a. Boxing
- b. Judo
- c. Chess
- d. Badminton

Q9: Who won the gold medal in men's singles in the 2019 BWF World Championships?

- a. Anders Antonsen
- b. Kento Momota
- c. B Sai Praneeth
- d. Kantaphon Wangcharoen

ANSWERS: 1. b. Rafael Nadal 2. b. Perth
3. c. Herschelle Gibbs 4. b. Football
5. b. 6 6. d. Karnam Malleswari
7. d. Cricket 8. d. Badminton
9. b. Kento Momota