



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ As kids are more prone to getting traumatised by troubling events, here's few tips on 'Family Time' on how to help them manage stress
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➤ Know more about Warli art as we tell you how to create this art with coffee
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➤ IPL 2021: KKR eye a win over RR to remain ahead in play-off race
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STUDENT EDITION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021


THE IMPACT

1 The nuclear waste, if released, can be toxic for humans and animals and the thousands-year-old viruses could be detrimental to society if they also break free from the icy prison

2 In 2016, in Siberia, thawing permafrost exposed a 70-year-old reindeer carcass infected with anthrax, killing a child and affecting several other people, according to the Observer Research Foundation

3 Another risk concerns by-products of fossil fuels, which have been introduced into permafrost environments since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution

4 The Arctic also contained natural metal deposits, including arsenic, mercury and nickel, which have been mined for decades and have caused huge contamination from waste material across millions of hectares

5 These compounds, if released from the permafrost, would also release food scarcity by poisoning animals and fish in the area that humans rely on for food

6 The toxic compounds, along with the nuclear waste, would also release more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and significantly contribute to climate change

Permafrost, which remains completely frozen—32°F or colder—for at least two years straight, houses everything from microbes to chemical compounds, all of which have been trapped in an icy cage for over a millennia


TOP
3
**BUZZ
OF THE DAY**

HONOUR

DUO WINS NOBEL CHEMISTRY PRIZE FOR WORK ON CATALYSTS



Benjamin List



David MacMillan

Germany's Benjamin List and David MacMillan of the United States on Wednesday won the Nobel Prize in chemistry for their development of a precise new tool for molecular construction, the jury said. The duo was awarded "for their development of a precise new tool for molecular construction: organocatalysis. This has had a great impact on pharmaceutical research, and has made chemistry greener," the Nobel Committee said.

- List and MacMillan, both 53, will share the 10-million-kronor (\$1.1-million, one-million-euro) prize
- MacMillan is a professor at the Princeton University in the US, while List is a director at the Max Planck Institute in Germany

ECONOMY

REBOUND GALORE: MOODY'S CHANGES INDIA'S RATING OUTLOOK



Global ratings agency Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday changed India's ratings outlook to stable from negative, saying downside risks in Asia's third largest economy and its financial institutions have reduced. Moody's said India's decision to keep the financial institutions flush with liquidity also reduced the risk to the country from the financial sector.

- The Indian economy has shown signs of a strong rebound after a second wave of Covid-19 infection killed thousands of people in April and May
- The latest move by Moody's supports the government view that India is rebounding at a pace faster than earlier anticipated and doubts about its economic revival have been put to rest

SPORTS

HOCKEY INDIA WITHDRAWS FROM 2022 BIRMINGHAM CWG

India on Tuesday pulled out of next year's Birmingham Commonwealth Games' hockey competition, citing Covid-19 concerns and UK's discriminatory quarantine rules for travellers from the country, a day after England's withdrawal from the junior men's World Cup in Bhubaneswar over similar reasons.



- The UK recently refused to recognise India's Covid-19 vaccination certificates and imposed a 10-day hard quarantine on travellers from the country even if they were fully vaccinated



CLIMATE CHANGE GOES NUCLEAR

Cold War era nuclear waste and deadly pathogens, lying deep below the Arctic's permafrost, could soon be released to the surface as a result of rapidly melting ice, a new study warns. According to scientists, two thirds of the Arctic's near-surface permafrost could be lost by 2100 due to climate change, as the area is warming at as much as three times the average global rate. The researchers highlight the 130 nuclear weapons tested in the atmosphere by the Soviet Union from 1995 to 1990, which left behind high levels of radioactive substances.



isms in the deep permafrost have already been found to be antibiotic-resistant, according to the study (Source: Daily Mail)

- Along with the nuclear waste, there are hundreds of microorganisms currently frozen in the ice. As the permafrost thaws, there is potential for these bacteria to mix with meltwater and create new antibiotic-resistant strains of existing viruses
- More than 100 microorganisms in the deep permafrost have already been found to be antibiotic-resistant, according to the study (Source: Daily Mail)

WHO TO TAKE FINAL DECISION NEXT WEEK ON APPROVAL TO COVAXIN

The World Health Organisation said on Tuesday that it will make a decision on granting emergency use listing (EUL) to Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine next week. The WHO said, Bharat Biotech has been submitting data to it on a rolling basis and provided additional information at its request on September 27.



Facebook Gaming creators can co-stream now

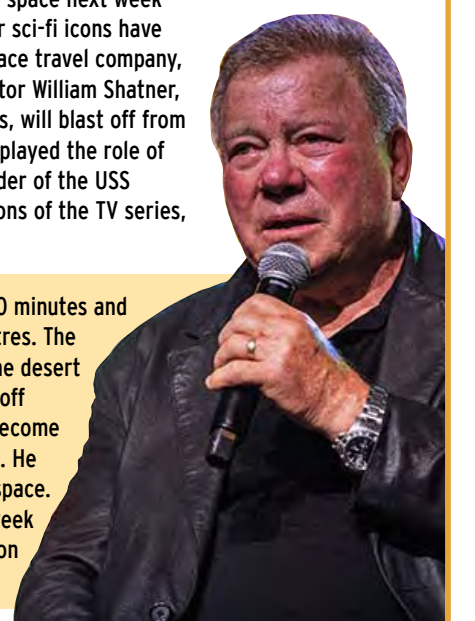
Tech giant Facebook is adding co-streaming to Facebook Gaming, a useful feature the Twitch competitor has lacked since it launched in 2018. Additionally, while Twitch's version of a co-streaming feature – Squad Stream – requires you to be a Twitch Partner, Facebook is making co-streaming available to everyone, reports The Verge.

- Starting a stream involves tagging up to three other creators during stream setup or after you are live. If the other creators tag you back, then your audience is launched into a "co-streaming viewer experience", according to Facebook
- Besides being a method to introduce creators to each other and their audiences, co-streams also allow viewers to see the same game from different perspectives
- Both Twitch and Facebook Gaming viewership blossomed during the pandemic, with Facebook Gaming up 82 per cent year over year in terms of hours of watch time, the report said.

"Beam me up, Scotty" KIRK TO SAY FOR REAL

Captain Kirk is rocketing into space next week—Boldly going where no other sci-fi icons have gone before. Jeff Bezos' space travel company, Blue Origin, has announced that actor William Shatner, who starred in the 'Star Trek' series, will blast off from West Texas on October 12. Shatner played the role of Captain James T. Kirk, the commander of the USS Starship Enterprise, for three seasons of the TV series, and in seven movies.

- Shatner's flight will last just 10 minutes and reach no higher than 106 kilometres. The capsule will parachute back to the desert floor, not far from where it took off
- Ninety-year-old Shatner will become the oldest person to go to space. He will also be the second actor in space. A Russian actress took off this week for the International Space Station for a shoot.



ADELE returns with new music after 6 yrs

British singer Adele has teased her first new music since her 2015 Grammy Award winning album '25', with a video clip for the song 'Easy On Me'. Known for chart-topping ballads such as 'Hello' and 'Someone Like You', Adele posted the black and white video on her Twitter and Instagram pages on Tuesday, with the caption 'Easy On Me - October 15'.

Adele released '25' in November 2015. It topped charts around the world and scooped the coveted album of the year prize at the Grammy Awards

The video shows the singer in a car, putting a tape into a cassette player, checking the rear view mirror, increasing the volume and then driving off in a vehicle carrying packed up belongings. Soft piano music plays in the background as sheets of music fly out of the window

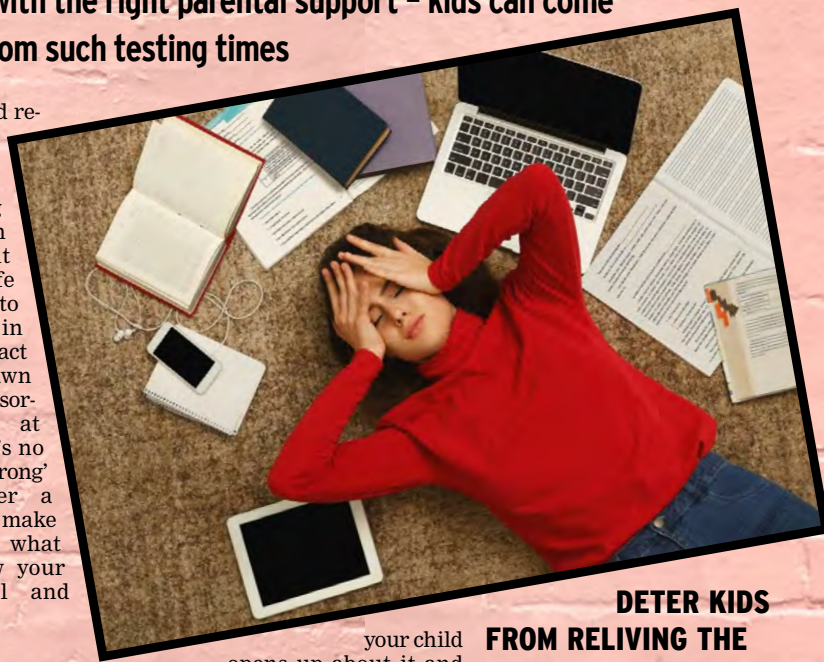
Help your kids cope with STRESS

In comparison to adults, children are prone to getting traumatised by troubling events easily, and this makes it important for parents to help their children when the times are tough. It could be a bad accident, an unprecedented pandemic or other disasters, but with the right parental support – kids can come out stronger from such testing times

Every child responds differently to disturbing events: What children feel about a current disaster in their life and how they react to it can come and go in waves. Children can act moody and withdrawn at times, struck with sorrow and fear at other times. There's no absolute 'right' or 'wrong' way to feel after a traumatic event, so make sure not to dictate what your child or how your child should feel and react to the event.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO BE TRANS-PARENT

Just make sure you let your child know that whatever feelings they're experiencing is normal. The unpleasantness will pass if



DETER KIDS FROM RELIVING THE DISTURBING EVENT

your child opens up about it and that the phase is temporary. While many teens may be reluctant to talk about their feelings with a parent, encourage them to confide in another trusted adult such as a family friend, relative, or a counsellor teacher. It's important to talk—even if it's not with you.

FROM RELIVING THE DISTURBING EVENT

Dwelling over, watching the footage, or imagining the event can be overwhelmingly stressful for children and this stress can even block their nervous system. However, to negate such things from happening, encourage activities

that keep your child's mind occupied so they're not obsessive about the event. You could encourage your children to read, play games together, or simply watch an uplifting movie.

COCOON YOUR CHILD WITH WARMTH

In order to reassure your child that they are safe with you and feel secure, that the worst is over, your physical affection is important in making them feel safe again. Teens may try to be tough through it and avoid being held, but they still need the proximity.

MAINTAIN ROUTINES

Establishing a predictable structure and schedule for your child's life can help to make the world seem more stable again. Try to maintain regular times for meals, homework, and family activities. Make sure your child accommodates time and space for rest, play, and fun. Keeping up with a schedule can help countercheck the obnoxious feeling of stress and worry in children

about the future being dark, hopeless, and unpredictable.

ACKNOWLEDGE AND VALIDATE YOUR CHILD'S CONCERNS

The disastrous events in life may give place to unrelated fright and concerns in your child. However, understanding and accepting

Try to maintain regular times for meals, homework, and family activities. Make sure your child accommodates time and space for rest, play, learning and fun

your child's present state is a comfort for the child. If at any point the child blames himself for the event, make it clear that the event was not his/her fault.

Irrespective of the age of your child, it is vital for parents to offer that extra support following an unsettling event. The traumatic event may bring up unrelated fears in your child. However, by accepting their thoughts and replacing their fear with your love and direction, the sadness and anxiety will fade away.



5 PODCASTS FOR PARENTS WHO NEED A BREAK

The Covid-19 pandemic has created a secondary epidemic of burnout among parents, and back-to-school season may not provide much relief. After more than a year of juggling at-home schooling with remote work, parents must now weigh the risks of letting their children return to school against the academic and mental health effects of keeping them home.

If you're one of the many parents who could use a break this month, these seven podcasts will provide a sense of community and useful tips for just about any parenting scenario. There are also a few shows in here to help keep your children entertained.

'The Longest Shortest Time'

"The parenting show for everyone" may sound like an easy tagline, but Hilary Frank's insightful show actually earns it, telling fascinating human stories that will appeal just as much to those without children. One of the longest-running parenting podcasts in the game, 'The Longest Shortest Time' started life in 2010, after Frank experienced a traumatic injury during childbirth that left her in chronic pain. Desperate to feel less alone, she started podcasting. Despite being told that a show about parenting wouldn't have wide appeal, over the next nine years Frank built the show into an award-winning hit. It ended its run in 2019, but the full archive is available, offering a gold mine of stories about the challenging, miraculous and unpredictable process of raising small humans.



'But Why: A Podcast For Curious Kids'

Curiosity is a wonderful attribute in children, one to be celebrated and cultivated. But for overstretched parents, managing a barrage of 'why' questions can become taxing pretty fast. Enter Vermont Public Radio's 'But Why,' a show that avoids talking down to children by inviting them to dictate the topics. Each episode begins with a recording of a young listener asking a question—for example, "Who invented money?" or "Are seeds alive?"—which the host, Jane Lindholm, answers by enlisting an expert. Delivered in short, digestible chunks, the explanations keep children entertained while filling in some gaps in adults' knowledge.

'Good Inside With Dr Becky'

"There are numerous podcast hosts out there offering parenting advice, with varying levels of qualifications to back it up. Dr Becky Kennedy, a clinical psychologist (and mother of three), began her show in April, and offers an appealing blend of expertise, personal experience and calming mind-management techniques. Many episodes are geared around advice on how to respond to challenging situations—for example, when your child is lying, or rejecting you or showing aggression—while other 'Deep Dive' episodes focus on Kennedy speaking to parents about a problem they're facing. Kennedy's actionable solutions always take into account the psychology of both the child and the parents, which makes the podcast a validating listen.

'One Bad Mother'

"We aren't all magical vessels," is the unofficial catchphrase to this long-running conversational show, referring to the toxic myth that new motherhood should be a natural and seamless transition for every woman. As the hosts, Biz Ellis and Theresa Thorn, know from personal experience, becoming a mom can also be isolating, painful and traumatic, particularly when it feels like everybody else is effortlessly doing it right. To combat that culture of shame, Ellis and Thorn started 'One Bad Mother' to have candid conversations about how unnatural and imperfect motherhood often feels—and how that takes nothing away from the joy of it. With a catalogue of more than 400 episodes, the show is an invaluable antidote to mom shaming.

'Smash, Boom, Best'

A debate show for children might sound like a tough sell, but this is a godsend for parents trying to find alternatives to screen time. Created by the same American Public Media team behind kid-friendly science show 'Brains On!', each episode of 'Smash, Boom, Best' begins with a simple question: Which of these two things is better? Chocolate or cheese? Bikes or skateboards? In each episode, adult debaters argue their side to a panel of young judges, who then pass judgement on which is cooler. The format of this show teaches kids how to argue respectfully and back up their opinions with facts.

'Respectful Parenting: Janet Lansbury Unruffled'

"Take the mobile off the bed, take care of their needs, and leave them alone." This quote, from early childhood educator Magda Gerber, inspired former actress and model Janet Lansbury to rethink her entire approach to child care. Gerber pioneered an approach known as RIE parenting, which emphasises authentic communication with children of all ages (that is, speaking in a normal adult voice, even to babies), giving them space to play independently, and treating them as capable and autonomous.

Include these podcasts in your parenting know-how and de-stressing schedule. They are empathetic in the sense that they will make you feel – all parents are in it together!

REVELATION

44% millennials skipped breakfast amid pandemic

A recent study has shown that 44% of urban millennials skipped breakfast during Covid and delayed meals due to

increased household chores and late start to the day. The study also stated that 64% of urban millennial respondents were driven towards a healthy immune system.

The study was conducted with 1,000 respondents in the age group of



Additionally, it was found that 71% of urban millennials leaned towards the popularity of fad diets, including keto and intermittent fasting among others to maintain weight.

18-50 years, focusing on urban millennials in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata. The study further pointed out that increased consumption of fruits, veggies and whole grains, emerged as the key trend during the pandemic.

Vidhi Sharma, consultant at a market research company said, "While millennials acknowledge the importance of breakfast, they often tend to skip breakfast due to their work schedules."

THE YOUNGEST PERSON TO TRAVEL TO EVERY COUNTRY

TRAVEL DIARY



We have all dreamt of touring the world, but only a handful can make it happen. Here is someone who has made it possible at the age of 21. Lexie Alford, who is now 23 years of age, is the youngest person to have ever travelled to all the countries in the world.

Alford began travelling with her parents, as her mother owns a travel agency. By the time she was

18, she had already been to 70 countries. Alford said in an interview that one of her biggest dreams was to live a year of her life without school or work, so she saved up, and took a gap year to travel the world.

According to her, it was

her parents who saw the importance in exposing her to every way of life around the world, and that had a huge impact on her.

HER FAVE PLACES

Though she can see it all, Alford is particularly fond of Indonesia for diving there (yes, she's a diver). Venezuela, she says, is absolutely beautiful, and its natural beauty is extraordinary.

DO YOU WANT TO TRAVEL TOO?

Travelling alone teaches you a lot, especially about independence. If you really want to travel when you attain the legit age, would you want to do it like Lexie Alford? Share your travel dreams and aspirations with us at: timesnle175@gmail.com

A daughter is a gift of love

A daughter is the happy memories of the past, the joyful moment of the present, and the promise of the future.

This is the elixir of the special presentation held on 25th September 2021 by the students of ASN International School, Mayur Vihar, class I. They worked together as a team and presented a blend of thoughts, ideas, and expressions.

The presentation started with the lighting of the lamp, which was followed by the story presentation. The presentation depicted a story of a little girl who is not loved by his father



who is inclined only towards a son and believes that a son is the future of the family and a daughter is a liability.

Soon he realizes that daughters deserve equal love and honour in the family as do the sons. The interesting presentation brought out the message that 'A daughter is a gift of love, cherish her, embrace her, make her independent and let her fly.'

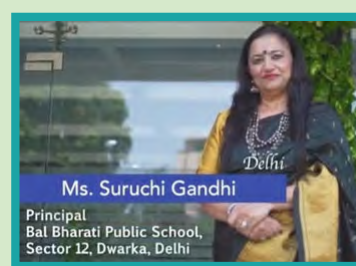
The performance was every bit exquisite and therefore bagged applause and appreciations of all.

The assembly came to its finale with the address of Head Mistress ma'am Shivani Khanna to the teachers, students, and parents for their immense support and earnest hard work.

Suruchi Gandhi felicitated with "National Teachers' Award 2021"

The reputable institution of learning, Bal Bharati Public School Dwarka, acquired yet another laurel when the school Principal Suruchi Gandhi was felicitated with the most prestigious National Award for Teachers 2021 by the honourable President of India, Ram Nath Kovind on September 05, 2021 during a virtual award ceremony. Gandhi is one of the 44 educators from all over the country and the only Head of a private school from Delhi region to have received the distinguished honour.

The glorious feat has been a consequence of Suruchi Gandhi's visionary zeal and relentless efforts, which have resulted in prodigious advancements in all domains of education. Over the years, her students have won notable accolades in fields ranging from science and technology



to social welfare and sports. Through her exemplary leadership, resolute commitment and unwavering devotion to the cause of education, Suruchi Gandhi has not only helped the school prosper into a renowned organization all over the world but has also carved a niche for herself as a devout educationist, noble philanthropist and staunch humanitarian.

Students of Shanti Gyan Vidyapeeth share insight

The students of Shanti Gyan Vidyapeeth School were invited to have a panel discussion on child rights on 10 news channel. They mesmerized everyone with their thoughts, ideas and speech. Tanishka, Akshaansh, Rakshita and Bhavik are the true gems of SGV School. Anil Sood, President of SPCHETNA welcomed everyone to the weekly, Chetna 10 news.

Questions discussed were based on Child rights, Safety and Rights during pandemic. Managing director Rohit Santosh Khurana and school's mentor Nancy Juneja of Shanti Gyan Vidyapeeth School were also invited to express their views. Khurana



shared his ideas that how school can play a major role in providing protecting environment to the students. Whereas, Nancy Juneja stressed upon the vanishing atmosphere of expressing opinion during this pandemic.

Scholar badge ceremony celebrates academic excellence

Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls, Shanti Niketan, held the Virtual Scholar Badge Ceremony celebrating academic excellence of students for grades VI-XII for the session 2020-21 on 15th September, 2021. It was a moment to rejoice for the meritorious students who had worked diligently to achieve their goals.

The programme commenced with the online message of the School Principal, Santosh Vyas, who congratulated the students not only on their achievements but also their indomitable spirit to carry on in the most turbulent of times. She reminded the students the importance of being grateful to everyone in life; parents, teachers and family. She also mentioned in her message, the role parents and teachers bear as role



models for children, encouraging, supporting and loving them unconditionally.

Congratulating the meritorious performance of the recipients, Rajni Tekchandani, the School Vice-Principal wholeheartedly appreciated the dedication of the teachers and the support rendered by parents in the difficult year that has gone by through her online message to everyone.

Ryan appreciated for splendid work

Ryan International School, Sec-31, Gurugram has been awarded with a certificate of appreciation for excellent contribution in activity "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" under the category "Schools".

Following the visionary ideals and guidance of Chairman Dr A.F Pinto Ryan group strongly emphasizes on the all round development of a child, and nurtures each of them to the best of their capabilities.

Ryan international school continuously tries to imbibe the sense of oneness and the motto of societal feeling into their students through



various awareness drives to promote the idea of social service. In view of this RIS, sector-31 has also adopted the nearby Silokhera village and is constantly trying to uplift the section of the society which had been away from the mainstream.

While receiving the award School Head N Geeta Srinivasa appreciated the efforts of all the staffs, students and parents and congratulated each one of them for being a part of this institution.

Student Corner



KHYATI ELWADHI, class X,
New Era Public Mayapuri



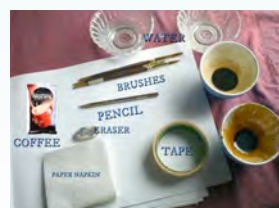
KRISH ABBI, class XI,
New Era Public Mayapuri



PRAKHAR, class VIII B,
New Era Public Mayapuri

MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Watercolour Paper
- Pencil and eraser
- Coffee powder
- Mixing plate
- Brushes - Flat and Round brushes
- Masking tape
- Water colour paper or any thick paper
- Paper napkin
- Clean water
- Keep all the materials ready before you start.



MEENAKSHI GAUR,
Art Department, Zebar
School For Children,
Ahmedabad

DO IT YOURSELF

Warli Art with Coffee



STEPS TO DO

1. Take your watercolour paper and stick it to the table with masking tape.
2. Now create a lightest mix by adding more water to coffee powder and paint the entire sheet. I have used a flat brush to do it.
3. Add coffee powder in different quantities in a mixing tray and add water to dilute it. Less coffee with more water will

create lighter shade and more coffee with less water will create darker shade. Generally, three or four shades are enough for a painting.

4. Use a paper napkin to wipe off any extra mix from the paper.

5. Let's start with the first wash, wait till it dries completely before you start the second.

6. Next, create a mix slightly darker than the previous one by adding more coffee powder. Use a thin round brush to create painting.



Krishna Kumari awarded for outstanding contribution

Krishna Kumari, teacher at D.A.V Public School, R.K Puram was honoured with Bhartiya Shiksha Ratan Award 2021 on October 2 at a felicitation ceremony held at Hotel Radisson, Udyog Vihar Gurugram by Centre Education Development (CED) and Global Talk Education (GTE) foundation India. The award was given during the Digital Education Summit 2021.

The award was given by Dr. Abdullah Rasheed Ahmed Minister of State for Education Maldives, Aishath Shibana, Teacher Education Coordinator



NIE Maldives, Jayprakash Chaturvedi Regional officer Delhi West Region CBSE, Prof. C.B. Sharma former Chairman NIOS Govt. of India, Major Harsh Kumar Secretary NCERT Govt. of India and Dr. Priyadarshi Nayak Founder GTE foundation, India. Out of a total of 1175

entries for this award only 100 Teachers received the award across India and Gulf countries. This award is given as an appreciation for the dedication to the teaching fraternity and outstanding contribution towards the field of education by touching lives of the children.

MOVIE REVIEW: BELL BOTTOM

Movie with interesting storyline

Released in 2021, Bell Bottom is an action-packed movie starring Akshay Kumar. Film is about a RAW (Research and Analysis Wing) agent, Anshul Malhotra who went undercover as Bell Bottom. The story of the film is based around the Hijacking of the Indian Airlines Flight IC-691 that took off from Delhi on August 24, 1984 and landed in Lahore. Flight IC-691 was the Fifth Indian plane hijacking in the last seven years.

After the plane hijack, the then Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi was giving permission to



Pakistan to start negotiations with the hijackers. Agent Bell Bottom had a completely different plan in mind; not only did he want to save all passengers on board, he also wanted to capture and arrest the hijackers. The movie is well-packed with action, and it also has an interesting storyline. It is directed by Ranjit Tiwari. Unlike many movies of its kind, Bell Bottom doesn't get boring at any point. It's an excellent movie giving insight into the working of secret agents. I would give it 5 stars.

MAITREY DAVE,
class VI, Rachana
School,
Ahmedabad



IPL 2.0

CSK START FAVOURITES AGAINST PBKS, AIM TO FINISH IN TOP TWO

The K L Rahul led inconsistent Punjab team is all but out of the play-offs race

The three-time champions, who have roared back from a forgettable IPL-2020 and became the first team to secure a spot in the play-offs this season, have been in good form in the second phase and is among the sides to beat. The Super Kings batsmen are in superb nick, especially the stylish Ruturaj Gaikwad, and they will be eager to continue the good work. Gaikwad and veteran South African Faf du Plessis have been good at the top while Ambati Rayudu has shown in the middle-order. Moeen Ali has done what has been asked of him but the struggles of Suresh Raina (who missed the Delhi Capitals game) and skipper Dhoni are worrying signs for CSK heading into the next stage.

CSK BOWLERS TO MAKE AMENDS

Ravindra Jadeja has time and again underscored his value as an all-rounder, making crucial contributions and will be key if the Super Kings have to go all the way. The bowlers, though, did not have a happy outing against Rajasthan as Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shivam Dube went on an all-out attack. They will be eager to make amends. Deepak Chahar, with 12 wickets so far, has been more than a handful for opposition batsmen upfront but he tends to go off the boil when pressed into the attack in the later stages. Shardul Thakur



SAM CURRAN FACES AN INJURY SETBACK

CSK all-rounder Sam Curran, who has been ruled out of the rest of the IPL season this year because of a lower-back injury which also put paid to his hopes of representing England in the ICC T20 World Cup later this month, has said that he is "gutted" by the setback and "absolutely loved" his stay with the Chennai franchise. The 23 year-old Sam complained of pain in his back after the match against RR at Abu Dhabi. The scans later revealed the nature of his injury and ruled him out of both the marquee tournaments.

CAN PUNJAB STILL QUALIFY?

Inconsistency has been the bane of the K L Rahul-led Punjab team that lies sixth in the table with 10 points. The skipper leads the season's charts with 528 runs while his Karnataka state-mate Mayank Agarwal has 429, but the others haven't contributed much which is one of the reasons for Punjab Kings' woes. On the bowling front, Mohammed Shami (18 wickets from 13 matches) and Arshdeep Singh (16 wickets) have been the stars while Ravi Bishnoi, who had been surprisingly benched on occasions, had had his moments. Rahul and Co may find the going tough against CSK and a win may keep them in contention for a top-four spot, albeit only mathematically. The Super Kings, on the other hand, will be eager to wrap up the league phase with a win and head into the play-offs with confidence. A loss could potentially jeopardise CSK's chances of finishing in the top two and Dhoni is aware of that. **m**



Ambati Rayudu

Photo: PTI

KKR EYE HANDSOME WIN OVER RR TO REMAIN AHEAD IN PLAY-OFF RACE

Two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders will play against the struggling Rajasthan Royals in their last round-robin game today

With 12 points from 13 matches, KKR are currently sitting at the fourth position in the pecking order, just ahead of defending champions Mumbai Indians on net run-rate. MI too have 12 points from 13 games and still have a match to play against bottom-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday. If both KKR and MI win their last matches, then it will boil down to net run rate and that's where the Eoin Morgan-led side (0.294) would have an edge as it currently enjoys a positive run rate compared to the Mumbai outfit (-0.048). KKR had a mixed bag in the second leg of the tournament so far, winning four and losing two games. While KKR started the second phase with back-to-back wins over Royal Challengers Bangalore and MI before suffering a defeat to Chennai Super Kings, they came back to beat table toppers Delhi Capitals. A defeat against Punjab Kings followed before they outplayed SRH by six wickets to keep their nose ahead in the race for the final play-offs spot.

STAR PERFORMERS OF KKR

KKR have been impressive in the second half and even their two defeats were narrow, where they lost in the last over. In the batting department, Venkatesh Iyer has been the star per-



former in the second leg for KKR, while Rahul Tripathi too has been impressive this season. Young Shubman Gill scored a fine half-century in KKR's last match, which holds good for the team. Nitish Rana, up in the batting order, has also done well but the form of skipper Morgan remains a cause for concern. The induction of star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib al Hasan in the last match for the first time in the second leg, has given a new dimension to the side. In bowling, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty has been the team's go-to man while Sunil Narine too has been among the wickets. In the ab-

sence of Andre Russell and Lockie Ferguson, who missed a few games following injuries, Tim Southee and Shivam Mavi are the new pace bowling pair for KKR. Pacer Prasidh Krishna did well to snap four wickets in the matches that he had played, before being dropped for conceding 22 runs in the 19th over, against CSK.

RR'S BATSMEN LACK INTENT

RR are out of the race, languishing at the seventh spot in the eight-team standings with 10 points from 13 games. And come Thursday, RR would look to dent KKR's hopes and end their campaign on a positive note. RR have been hit hard by the form of their Indian batsmen. Barring Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Sanju Samson, the team's Indian batsmen lacked intent. With Mustafizur Rahman as their most experienced overseas signing and young Chetan Sakariya in the ranks, RR's bowling is a bit thin on experience. **m**

Obviously, he (Morgan) is one of our senior players, he is one of our international batsmen and as captain as well in his own, he would love to contribute a lot more runs. He captains the side very well tactically, but you want some more runs from (him), no doubt in that.

KKR coach BRENDON MCCULLUM



Venkatesh Iyer of Kolkata Knight Riders plays a shot during the IPL match between KKR and RCB

Photo: ANI