



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020



WEB EDITION

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Major events that altered the world in

COVID-INDUCED ECONOMIC CRISIS

Covid-19 has devastated the world economy, which, according to economists, will take long to mitigate. According to an estimate by ILO, around 400 million full-time jobs were lost worldwide. Income of workers had fallen 10 per cent by September 2020—a loss of over \$3.5 trillion. Global stock markets saw their fastest decline in history in February-March, with the worst sessions seeing 12-13% falls. Overall, this is the worst global economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s.



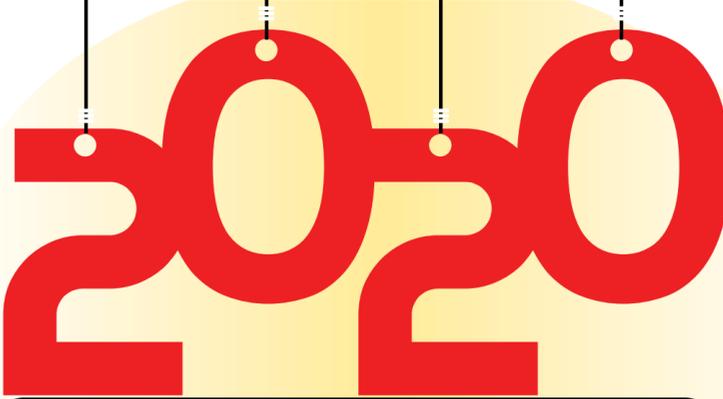
BIDEN TRUMPS TRUMP

The 2020 US presidential election will be remembered more for the ugly slugfest between the Republican and Democratic camps. Though Biden made it in the end, Trump ensured that Biden has his hands full, courtesy, Covid, economy, and a divided society, when he moves into the Oval office in January. The president-elect also needs to rebuild a few burnt bridges, and check Beijing's clout in a multi-polar world.



UK EXITS EU

The year saw Britain formally withdraw from the European Union. However, despite Britain's formal exit from the EU on January 31, the trade settlements between both the camps lingered till Christmas. Studies have shown that the UK's GDP and per capita income might drop up to 4.5%, and 10% respectively, post Brexit. In fact, some financial firms have already moved their business out of UK to avoid post-Brexit disruptions.



The Covid-19 pandemic hogged the headlines through much of 2020, and we still haven't seen the end. As the year comes to close, we take a look at some of the other major news and events that rocked the world...

BEIRUT BLAST

A huge explosion shook Lebanon's capital Beirut on August 4, resulting in deaths of over 200 people. Nearly, 2,750 tons of unsafely-stored ammonium nitrate exploded at a storehouse near the Beirut port. The blast, which was felt in Turkey, Syria, Israel, parts of Europe, and heard in Cyprus, was detected by the US Geological Survey as a seismic event of magnitude 3.3. It is being called as one of the most-powerful non-nuclear explosions in history.



MEGXIT

In January, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle announced their decision to 'step back as senior members' of the British Royal family. The event was dubbed as 'Megxit,' a wordplay on the name 'Meghan' and 'exit,' possibly-inspired by 'Brexit.' The ex-royals have also announced their intentions to become financially-independent and split time between the UK and North America.



YEAR IN REVIEW

WEST ASIA PEACE INITIATIVES



Israel and some Arab states set aside their historical baggage of intolerance and took a few baby steps towards normalising relations. Israel signed a peace agreement with the UAE brokered by the US, and followed up with similar deals with Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco. Saudi Arabia too is believed to have opened back-channel diplomacy to ease tensions with Tel Aviv.



BLACK LIVES MATTER

The anti-racism Black Lives Matter movement has existed in the US since 2013. But the Minneapolis George Floyd incident of May 25 imparted a momentum like never before. The US witnessed more than 4,700 demonstrations during the month, following the incident. Protests peaked on June 6, when around 50 lakhs people turned out in nearly 550 places across the US, which according to estimates was larger than the civil rights marches of the 1960s.

ALL WORK(ED UP) AND NO PLAY

The sporting world witnessed a huge loss, as the pandemic-induced lockdown ensured that sports personalities stay indoors, with no play. Events like the Summer Olympics, Wimbledon tennis, etc, were either deferred or cancelled. The IPL was shifted to the UAE. Limited sporting activities resumed with strict Covid protocols after a thaw in the virus spread, but spectators were barred from the grounds.



OZ WORST NATURAL DISASTER

Australia suffered one of the most-disastrous bushfires in the 2019-20 season. With an estimated damage of over \$103 billion, this was Australia's worst-ever natural disaster. Nearly 186,000 sq km area was burnt, and over a billion wild animals killed in the fires. Nearly, 25,000 koalas on the Kangaroo Island, a major wildlife conservatory in South Australia, perished.



INDIA TO BECOME 5TH LARGEST ECONOMY IN 2025, 3RD LARGEST BY 2030

India, which appears to have been pushed back to being the world's sixth biggest economy in 2020, will again overtake the UK to become the fifth largest in 2025 and race to the third spot by 2030, a think tank said. The UK-based think tank The Centre for Economics and Business research (CEBR) forecast that China, in 2028, will overtake the US to become the world's biggest economy, five years earlier than previously estimated due to the contrasting recoveries of the two countries from the Covid-19 pandemic. Japan would remain the world's third-biggest economy until the early 2030s, when it would be overtaken by India, pushing Germany down from fourth to fifth.

ECONOMY

- India had overtaken the UK in 2019 to become the fifth-largest economy in the world but has been relegated to the sixth spot in 2020
- The UK appears to have overtaken India during 2020, as a result of the weakness of the rupee, it said

The CEBR forecasts that the Indian economy will expand by 9% in 2021 and by 7% in 2022. An important driver of India's economic recovery, so far, has been the agricultural sector, which has been buoyed by a bountiful harvest. The pace of the economic recovery will be inextricably-linked to the development of the Covid-19 pandemic, both domestically and internationally, it said. As the manufacturer of the majority of the world's vaccines, with a 42-year-old vaccination programme that targets 55 million people each year, India is better-placed than many other developing countries to roll out the vaccines successfully and efficiently next year, the report added.

\$483 BILLION

The combined wealth of Indian business tycoons that grew to 90 this year from 80 at the end of 2019. According to a Business Standard report, India's billionaire count reached an all-time high in 2020, owing to the stock market rally during the year. It registered a spike of 33% in 2020 from \$364 billion recorded at the end of 2019. In contrast, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects India's economy to decline by 9.6% in the financial year 2020-21 (FY21). The wealth of these 90 super-rich individuals is equivalent to nearly a fifth of India's gross domestic product (GDP).

On top of the rich list is Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), Mukesh Ambani. His wealth grew by 47% in 2019, whereas in



FACTOID

2020 it went up by 37.2% to reach a mind-numbing \$87.5 billion or ₹ 6.44 lakh crore. The RIL CMD added \$21.5 billion to his net worth in 2020, which translates to ₹ 480 crore per day. In terms of the highest percentage rise, Gautam Adani of the Adani Group topped the charts with a 100% increase in his wealth— from \$21 billion in 2019 to \$40 billion this year.



CELEB TALK

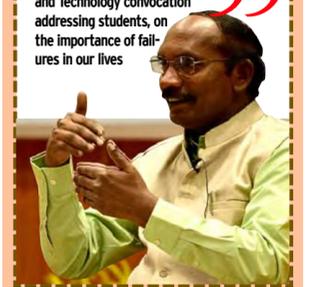
Covid-19 pandemic has stopped a creative process: Scorsese

Veteran filmmaker Martin Scorsese says he is struggling to recapture the spark with which he made his last directorial 'The Irishman' for his next 'Killers of the Flower Moon'. During an interview with the Empire magazine, Scorsese said that the coronavirus pandemic has put a stop to his "creative process". "This pandemic has stopped my creative process— particularly the first couple of months when we were locked in our houses, drained all my energies," Scorsese said. "I have to find a way to get back to a singular creative impulse for my new film, the way I had for 'Irishman,' he added.

'Killers of the Flower Moon' will feature the director's favourite leading men – Robert De Niro and Leonardo DiCaprio. The film, based on David Grann's historical book of the same name, is set in 1920s Oklahoma, and centres around the Osage Nation murders, in which the members of the Native American tribe were murdered one by one after the group became rich off the oil found underneath their land.

Quote unquote

Accept failures. Remember when you take calculated risks, you safeguard yourself from absolute failure. You may fail, but each failure will provide a valuable lesson. I can say with great confidence that India's space programme has been built on spectacular failures. Each failure has resulted in improvements in our system. The other important aspect is innovation, and how it is implemented. Innovation comes with a high risk of failure. You may be called crazy, and the initial outcomes of innovation could be imperfect. Don't forget, Edison failed a number of times to invent the light bulb. You all must realise that if you are not failing then you are not trying hard. So, shoot for the sky. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars. Spread joy. Chase your wildest dreams. K.Sivan, chairman, ISRO, at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology convocation addressing students, on the importance of failures in our lives.



IN RECORD BOOKS

Man swims 662 feet underwater in just one breath

Denmark's Stig Severinsson has bagged a Guinness World Record by swimming 662 feet, 8.7 inches underwater with just a single breath. He attempted the record in La Paz, Mexico, on November 26.

Stig took only one breath to swim the record-breaking distance with his head underwater, while using fins. He held his breath for 2 minutes and 42 seconds to achieve the feat. Stig undertook the record attempt to inspire children and raise awareness about protecting the oceans and wildlife among them.

Researchers identify over 109,000 impact craters on Moon

An international team of researchers has identified over 109,000 previously-unrecognised impact craters on the Moon, using machine learning methods. By combining the data collected by China's Chang'e-1 and Chang'e-2 lunar probes, the researchers identified 109,956 new impact craters. They also estimated the ages of 18,996 newly-detected craters, which are larger than 8 km in diameter.

SPACE



Impact craters are the most-prominent lunar surface feature, and occupy most of the Moon's surface. With traditional automatic identification methods, it is generally difficult to find irregular and seriously-degraded impact craters that may have formed in the early periods.

What to do before a road trip with your pet



Planning a road trip is a task if you have to bring in your pet along with you, especially with so many rules and regulations in the pandemic. Here are some tips to make your road journey a hassle free affair

KEEP YOUR PET SAFE AND SECURE IN THE CAR

It is best not to let your pet roam freely or sit on your lap in the car. Small dogs and cats should be in a carrier. If you don't already own one, you must invest in one before you take off for a trip. Large dogs won't comfortably fit in a carrier, so they should have their own seat. Restrain them by attaching their harnesses to the seat belts. You might think it's okay to let your pet enjoy the fresh air by hanging their heads outside the car window, but it's safer if they don't poke their heads out while you're in transit.

10-minute drives before the actual trip. Offer your pet a treat after every ride to reinforce a positive association.

you will not have to make any last minute changes in case the place you have opted for isn't too pet friendly.

RESEARCH ABOUT YOUR HOTEL'S PET POLICIES

This is a very important step before you even begin to take a trip. Review the details of your hotel's pet policy

PACK A PET-SPECIFIC SUPPLY KIT

It is advised to carry medication, leash, collar, bowls, water, kitty litter, litter box, toys, waste bags and all the other things related to your pet when you take a trip. Potty pads can come in handy for lining the bottom of your pet's crate so that they can use the bathroom before you reach your destination. You can discard used ones when you stop for a break.



PRACTICE TRAVELLING WITH YOUR PET BEFORE YOUR ACTUAL TRIP

Before you even take a trip, make sure your pet is comfortable being in the car by taking it out on short drives with all necessary safety measures. You can place your animal and their favourite toy inside a parked car for them to get familiar with the new environment without stressing to travel. Once your pet is comfortable, go for a few

before you book your accommodation. If you have more than one animal you must find out if your accommodation allows several pets. Also, find out if you can leave your pet unattended in a room for a few hours if you have to step out without them. Call the receptionist of the place for more up-to-date information rather than relying on online information. This way

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES

Before you take a road trip, you have to make sure that your pet's identification or microchip information is up-to-date, in case you and your pet separate. Install an app for your pet's medical records so that if you run into an emergency in the middle of your trip, you have all the information of your pet on the app to show it to the vet.

TNN

Tackle Dry skin woes with good care

Dry skin is unavoidable for most during winter. Doctors say that the cause is the inability of the skin to retain moisture and this type of skin is prone to rashes, dermatitis, bacterial infections...

Dermatologist Dr Rinky Kapoor says, "Frequent use of sanitising products, soaps, chemical cleansers, hot water baths, inadequate moisturising, and hand washes leads to dry skin." She shares some tips to deal with dry skin...

TRY THESE HOME REMEDIES

- ▶ Itchy dry skin can get a lot of relief from an oatmeal bath or baking soda bath. Stir chopped oatmeal into warm water for preparing the bath.
- ▶ Use virgin cold-pressed coconut oil as it is rich in saturated fatty acids that can hydrate and smooth the skin without clogging the pores.
- ▶ Include foods like blueberries, tomatoes, carrots, beans, peas and lentils in your daily diet.
- ▶ Use sunflower seed oil as a night time moisturiser.
- ▶ A diet that includes milk can improve dry skin. Also, use raw milk as a toner for dry skin. Apply a mix of honey and turmeric and help relieve the dry skin and itching.

MAKE LITTLE CHANGES
Small improvements can make a lot of difference to dry skin in harsh winter months.

- ▶ **CHANGE YOUR CREAM:** Change the pump bottle skin moisturisers to jars and tubes moisturisers. Look for ingredients that attract moisture and hydrate the skin such as ceramides, glycerine, sorbitol (humectants), hyaluronic acid, lanolin, silicone, and mineral oil. For too dry a skin, use emollients that contain linoleic, and lauric acids. The thicker the moisturiser – the more effective it will be.
- ▶ **MOISTURISE WHEN DAMP:** The best time to use moisturiser is when skin is still

damp from washing or bathing. This practice will help you lock in the moisture to the skin and prevent clogging of the pores. Use petroleum jelly on lips, elbows, heels, and knees.

▶ **LUKEWARM IS THE WAY TO GO:** Switch hot water baths to quick 5-10 minutes lukewarm water baths. This will help retain some of the natural oils on the skin. If you live in places where winter is harsh, use a humidifier (level set to 60 per cent) to help the skin reload moisture.



COMFORT IS KEY

Kids need comfort more than you do as an adult. Comfortable clothing that is easy to wear is a basic fashion



tip that you must follow. Invest in comfy baby suits, pajamas, lounge pants, cotton t-shirts and pair all of it with white sneakers or loafers. You will definitely end up clicking a hundred photos of your little munchkin.

COLOUR CO-ORDS

Babies look adorable when they have colour co-ords on. Your kid will naturally look easy and gorgeous in co-ord



sets. There are many colourful co-ord sets available online to choose from. Be sure to trust a brand with the type of material they sell and don't compromise on the quality as well as durability of the clothing. Go for style plus sustainability.

Fashion Tricks for a busy mom

Motherhood is a beautiful journey. But it comes with some obstacles that might want you to skip everything and take a long break away from real life. Being a mother, you might have to balance out your life with that of the kid's and it is tougher if you are a working woman. But if you are a mother who wants her children to be well-dressed and fashionable, there are certain things that might be useful for you. Here are a few tips and tricks that can help you develop your child's fashion sense while making him/her look cute as a button.



SLOGAN TEES



Oh, how wonderful do kids look when they have their little slogan tees on. It could be anything that says 'I know I'm cute' or 'My mommy is the best' or 'Dad's my favourite', etc. You can also invest in some funny or cute slogan tees to have a little fun with the kid's fashion.

DENIM IS A STUNNING OPTION



Ever thought of dressing up your kind in anything that is denim? It could be a denim jacket or a pair of denim jeans or even a denim dungaree. Your kid is sure to look like a fashion icon as soon as it has anything in denim on! You can complete the look with white sneakers and a cute hair tie for your baby girl and a cap for your baby boy.

BASIC IS THE BEST



If you can't think of fashionable things, choose basic. By basic, we mean a pop of colour, polka dots, floral prints and so much more. There's never going to be unavailability of basic outfits for kids and you can choose whatever suits your baby the best. Go creative with the colours, the frills, the patterns, etc. The only thing that you need to remember is – less is more.

HAVE YOU READ THESE AWESOME NYT BESTSELLING SERIES?

- DOG MAN**, by Dav Pilkey. (Scholastic)
A dog's head is combined with a policeman's body to create this hybrid supercopound. (Ages 7 to 9)
- THE TWILIGHT SAGA**, by Stephanie Meyer. (Little, Brown)
Vampires and werewolves and their intrigues in high school. (Ages 12 and up)
- THE BABY-SITTERS CLUB GRAPHIX**, by Ann M Martin....
Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, Stacey and Dawn are The Baby-Sitters Club. (Ages 8 to 12)
- HARRY POTTER**, by JK Rowling. (Scholastic)
A wizard hones his conjuring skills in the service of fighting evil. (Ages 10 and up)
- DIARY OF A WIMPY KID, WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED** by Jeff Kinney. (Amulet)
The travails and challenges of adolescence. (Ages 9 to 12)
- THE HUNGER GAMES**, by Suzanne Collins. (Scholastic)
In a dystopia, a girl fights for survival on live TV. (Ages 12 and up)
- THE BAD GUYS**, by Aaron Blabey. (Scholastic)
Tough animals in suits take on some real villains. Fun book to read aloud to your children. (Ages 7 to 10)
- CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS, WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED** by Dav Pilkey. (Scholastic)
Boys fight evil, and the adventure begins. (Ages 7 to 10)
- PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS**, by Rick Riordan. (Disney-Hyperion)
A boy battles mythological monsters. (Ages 9 to 12)
- I SURVIVED**, by Lauren Tarshis. (Scholastic)
Youngsters' tales of living through dangerous historical events and more. (Ages 9 to 11)

Times NIE Editorial Powered by students

'Nature Is Not A Place To Visit, It's Our Home'

Nature Heals, With Unconditional Love

'From the crack of dawn to the dead of night, almost everything in nature is planned. Birds rise early in the morning to collect food for their young ones. Roosters unfailingly crow every morning. Bees forage throughout their lives. Flowers bloom at daytime and close their petals at night'

With this spirit in mind we asked our young student editors about the one thing that they have learnt from nature. The one thing, they feel, that nature has taught them and taught them well. These are some of the responses. Also read excerpts from an interview with child environment activist Licypriya Kangujam...

Discipline



Surabhi Raut, class IX, NES National Public School, Mumbai

In nature nothing is random, everything occurs at the right time always. While it is a human tendency to shirk work. We all must learn from nature and try to lead disciplined, independent lives.

Unconditional Love



Samar Chavan, class X, Dr. Kalmadi Shamarao High School, Pune

Even when we treat nature in a bad way, or we cause harm to nature, Nature always gives the best it can give us. It does not make choices or preferences - it always gives impartially.

Healing



Richard C Binu, class IX, Carmel CMI Public School, Vazhakulam, Ernakulam

Nature soothes us. Go out for a jog or take a brisk walk. Inhale the beauty of nature. It is heavenly. Connect with nature and heal our mind & body. The cooling breeze on our skin or the warmth of the Sun.

Acceptance



Kavinaya. S., class XI, Satchidananda Jothi

Nature is not judgemental. Surrounding myself with nature has helped me receive some clarity on who I am. While society might create an atmosphere which makes us uncomfortable or insecure, nature furnishes a realm where it is easier to find acceptance.

Forgiveness



Ishika Padhy, class IV C, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad

The one lesson that I have learnt from Mother Nature is forgiveness. Humans have done so much harm, yet like a mother, she pardons our misdeeds and throws open her arms in abundance.

Awareness



Manani Shah, Class IX, Udgam School, Ahmedabad

Nature teaches us to be in the moment and be aware. Just sit and observe. Nature taught me authenticity by giving me opportunities to be alone with myself in a truly non-judgmental environment.

Tolerance



Karra, IX, Fr Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr College, Ambarnath West, Mumbai

We've been tormenting nature - deforestation, bullying animals etc. Rarely has nature ever hurt us, it's been giving us its fruit and everything it produces selflessly, it's always been kind to us no matter what. Twisha

Generosity



Vibha Priya Mahesh, class VIII, Delhi Public School, Whitefield, Bengaluru

Nature teaches me to never stop giving. We should ever be grateful to nature for giving us so much with no expectations. It is our duty to keep the environment clean and stop abusing nature.

Humility



Raima Paul, Bhavan's Gangabux Kanoria Vidyamandir, Kolkata

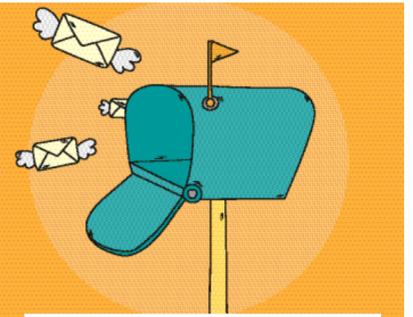
Nature teaches us to be humble. She never brags over how she protects us, gives us food, shelter or oxygen. Like a mother, she silently nurtures us. We too should always help those in need.

Beauty in Simplicity



Kavya Bhand, class IX, The Bishop's Co-Ed. School, Undri, Pune

'Nature is an exceptional artist'. A flower does not compete and try to be more alluring than others - it simply blooms and is beautifully perfect.



WRITE TO US

SEND YOUR REPLIES, CONTRIBUTIONS AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ON

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You can also post your articles, paintings, sketches, debates, concerns and feedback on

WWW.TOISTUDENT.COM

WE ARE WAITING

Letter to the editor

Minimize e-waste: Save environment

Today almost everyone across the world has access to electronic items. Most of these are designed to be obsolete in less than 2 or 3 years, to be discarded for newer versions! Where do the discarded gadgets go?

A lot of the gadgets have hazardous neurotoxins that damage natural habitats. Some produce radiation harmful for all the living organisms. According to a survey, 53.6 million tons of e-waste was dumped the last year and its third largest producer was India.

Let us all spread awareness on this serious issue. The biggest challenge is to regularise the collection of e-waste from the consumers so that e-waste is not thrown directly in the environment.

Let us all use social platforms, public meetings, seminars at schools, through advertisements, to spread awareness.

There should also be a chapter related to e-waste management in the school curriculum. Government should run schemes for the recycling of e-waste. E-waste collection centers should be opened. Finally these models can be brought to the system to increase the awareness among the citizens and to recycle the e-waste.

Hardik Vohra, class X, Apeejay School, Pitampura, Delhi

"Some say it is the 'Licy Effect'"

Licypriya Kangujam is driven by her memories of the lush-green hills of Manipur, a polluted Delhi and the aftermath she saw in Nepal, of the 2015 earthquake. She feels humans have made the Earth uninhabitable ... This 9-year-old activist, talks to Rupa Ganguly Talukdar

Licypriya Kangujam is a child activist, who has been campaigning for the last two years to make climate education compulsory in every school in India and to ensure planting of minimum 10 trees by every student of the country. With the World Children Peace Prize 2019 adorning her hat, this child prodigy is one of the youngest environment activists in the world. The nine-year-old addressed world leaders at the United Nations Climate Conference 2019 (COP25) in Madrid, Spain, urging them to take immediate action. Last year she spent a week outside the Parliament to draw the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to pass a climate change law in India. Excerpts from a tete-a tete with the young activist

The 'Licy Effect'

Q. You have become a role model for children across the country. What is your latest aim?

My ongoing work now is to plant 3000 trees every week on Monday across India and other countries of the world by celebrating Monday as 'Monday for Mother Nature' with school-children to make our planet green again. I will pick up two or three schools every week for this initiative. During my birthday celebrations on October 2 I urged people to plant trees instead of just wishing me. Many people responded and have planted over 241,000 trees till today.

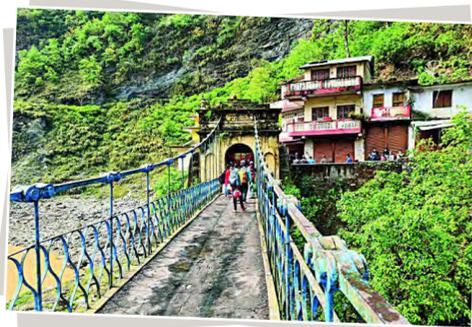
Some say it is the 'Licy Effect'.

I'm also preparing for a solar car rally from India to UK in August 2021 crossing 17 countries and covering 17,000km over 90 days. This is to send a strong message to our world leaders to abandon the fossil-fuel economy ahead of COP26 Glasgow.

I'm urging the authorities to change the Olympics into the Green Olympics in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in 2021 to make it carbon neutral sports competition.

How she began..

Q. Who or what inspired you to take up cudgels for the environment at this age? The Nepal earthquake of 2015 is one of the



important incidents of my life. I accompanied my dad for rising funds to help the victims and their families. Then we delivered the relief materials and food stuffs all the way by road to Kathmandu from Imphal. I cry when I see children losing their parents and people becoming homeless due to natural disasters. I feel sad for people who can't help themselves when disaster strikes. That was the first time I learnt the words 'climate change' and natural disasters. But I couldn't understand what exactly it meant, as I was merely a baby then.

ACHIEVER'S NOTES

I was born in a small village of Manipur, surrounded by lush green mountains and alluring atmosphere full of natural beauty. When I came to Delhi in 2016, I found it messy, polluted and eventually it led me to become a child climate activist.

It is in Odisha where I went for schooling. It is a highly disaster-prone state. When I was six-years old, Odisha was hit by the severe Cyclone Fani in 2018 and again by Cyclone Titi in 2019. Cyclones are more severe due to rising temperature which is the impact of climate change.

Looking out: into Space

Q. Tell us a little about your plans for a solo mission to the moon ... I want to become a space scientist in future. I

will make a rocket and travel to the moon and will research on how we can get fresh air to breathe, how to get water to drink, how to grow crops to get food, etc., so that we can inhabit another planet. Because, I feel our planet is dying.

What it takes

Q. How do you balance the pressure of your studies with activism?

I had dropped out of school in February 2019 due to my protests every week in front of the Parliament House. My parents can't afford the expenses of travelling every week from Bhubaneswar to New Delhi for my campaigns, so I decided to drop out of school. It was the most disappointing period of my life. I missed my school, friends and teachers.

People love me and invited me various pro-

grams in various countries and cities, I have to wake up at midnight to catch a flight or board train and hence had many sleepless nights.

Most of the time, I read my books sitting at the airport or inside the aeroplane while travelling. I did home-schooling by calling private teachers at home to fill up the gap of my school as education and activism. Both are equally important for me. It's very big challenge to manage both. I resumed my studies in January 2020 at Indus International School, Bangalore, but I may shift school to Delhi from this new academic session.



Licypriya Kangujam

➤ Licypriya now plans a Solar car rally from India to UK, in August 2021, crossing 17 countries and covering 17,000km over 90 days.

➤ This is to send a strong message to our world leaders to abandon the fossil-fuel economy ahead of COP26 Glasgow.

➤ She is also urging authorities to change the Olympics into the Green Olympics in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in 2021 to make it carbon neutral sports competition.

Big Q

ARE WE GAME TO BE GAME CHANGERS?

The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions we humans generate, are today the leading cause of the Earth's rapidly changing climate. Here's how we can change to help improve things: Use less energy; Produce clean energy; Eat less meat; Support good ideas; Pull your money out of climate-damaging businesses; Switch to public transport, e-bike, bus or tram.



Maitreyi Singh, class VII, Our Lady of Fatima Convent Hr Sec school, Gurgaon, Haryana

ARE WE, THE CHANGEMAKERS?

It breaks my heart to see my mother's robes getting frayed by the day. Yes, my mother Earth is in a mess and it breaks my heart to watch my folks ruin her. Smog and soot and waves of black in the sky. Litter and plastic and poison in the tides of blue. Leaves of pale yellow withered on soil and a thick bark of willow, laying shattered on dear Earth. Is that what we give in return to someone who blesses her children with nothing but unconditional love?

Growing up reading books on environmental science and newspapers filled with sketches and slogans of greens on every Environment day, I am the same child who finds my elders preaching verses for the planet's protection and finds the same people laying their hands on the green cover for its destruction. It's not just a sin, but murder. I read an influential quote in my Science textbook last year that said - 'We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.'

This statement hit me hard. Even if my elders and ancestors did not care for the future generations nor for the planet, I care for it. I have a responsibility to save the green abode for my future. My generation, regardless of age or might, has to change the flawed mindset. It is high time for change, and we, the youth of the planet, cannot fulfil our existence as ungrateful children of Mother Earth any more. What do we do to repair the damage done by folks of our community? We do not have power in our hands. But we have voice.

A day, a month or a year, one day our voices shall be heard. This is the time for some real work. We have the power of technology, the power of social co-operation through the media. Together we can organise cleanliness drives and innovate new ideas for a sustainable future. We can organize student unions, form environmental organizations and unitedly protest for change. We can stop deforestation by educating people in person and organising plantation drives. We shall transform deserts into magical greens.

Bhagyashree Prabhatdolkar, class XI, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

SHOULD 'UMPIRE'S CALL' BE SCRAPPED?

The legendary Sachin Tendulkar urged the ICC to thoroughly revisit the concept of Umpire's Call in the Decision Review System (DRS) after India ended up on the wrong side of the rule on the third day of the second Test against Australia in Melbourne

WHAT IS UMPIRE'S CALL?

The Umpire's Call primarily comes into the picture if a review has been sought for LBW. It's used when the DRS essentially gives the 'benefit of the doubt' to the on-field decision in case of inconclusive technological evidence. When less than 50% of the ball is hitting the stumps, excluding the bails, as per the ball-tracking technology, it's the umpire's call. So, in a situation where the umpire has ruled not out, even if the ball is shown to be hitting the stumps on review, the TV umpire has no powers to change the decision. The only consolation for the bowling team is that its review remains intact.

WHY IS SACHIN AGAINST IT?

"The reason players opt for a review is because they're unhappy with the decision taken by the on-field umpire. The DRS system needs to be thoroughly looked into by the @ICC, especially for the 'Umpire's Call'," said the batting maestro. The third day's play in the second Test between Australia and India saw the 'Umpire's Call' rescuing the Aussies twice in the second session following close calls.

Joe Burns survived a leg-before wicket appeal off a yorker from Jasprit Bumrah in the third over of Australia's second innings. After the umpire had given it not out, India went for a review but the batsman survived after Umpire's Call was taken into account at the point of ball hitting his leg.

Soon after, Australia No. 3 Marnus Labuschagne also survived against Mohammed Siraj. The umpire had given him not out after the batsman was caught in his crease. However, 'Umpire's Call' came to his rescue again as the ball was shown barely clipping the bails.

HAS ANYONE ELSE VOICED THEIR RESERVATIONS?

In the past, former Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne, too had expressed displeasure on the Umpire's call. "I'm a fan of DRS only if it is used right. And at the moment, I don't think it is used right. It's simple: Take away the original umpire's decision. You can't have exactly the same ball being given out and not out depending on what the on-field decision was. Identical deliveries: one results in 'out' and the other results in 'not out'. That can't be the case," Shane Warne said. Harbhajan Singh, the former India off-spinner also concurred with Sachin's views. "Agree with you Paji 1000 percent correct. If the ball is touching the stump or kissing the stumps it should be given out. It does not matter how much part of the ball hit the wicket..few rules should b changed in the game for the betterment of the game..this is certainly 1 of those," Harbhajan tweeted.

ARE THERE PLAYERS WHO SUPPORT UMPIRE'S CALL?

Yes. In fact, Indian skipper Virat Kohli had justified the contentious umpire's call. "The umpire's call bit...everyone should understand that they are the people who are given the job to make decisions and it is respected even in the DRS system. I think that is pretty fair. A lot of people don't understand that," Kohli had said in 2016. "If the on-field umpire has made the call, obviously the benefit has to go to him. DRS just confirms that particular decision. If it is really, really off, DRS corrects it, but if it is marginal, then you got to respect it," he added. Even former India captain Sunil Gavaskar cautioned that "If everything is given out, we could have really short matches."

Jasprit Bumrah shouts a successful leg-before-wicket appeal against Joe Burns



Photo: AFP

Lead of anything over 100 would be good: Matthew Wade



After the Indian bowlers ran through the hosts' top-order in their second essay, it was Green and Cummins who played crucial knocks to help Australia stay afloat in the game. At stumps, Australia's score read 133/6 - lead by 2 runs with 4 wickets in the bag. "We will take anything. Cummins has done well for us in the past. And we all know what Green is capable of if he gets going. It would be really nice if these two can get a nice partnership. We will take anything and anything over 100 would be good," Matthew Wade said. ANI

They (Indian bowlers) are making it quite challenging (to score runs) at times. They have been pretty much on the mark from the start.
Matthew Wade

Photo: ANI

Andy Murray awarded wildcard for 2021 Australian Open



Photo: ANI

Messi says Barcelona 'my life' but stays tightlipped on future

Lionel Messi remained coy on his future at Barcelona in a long interview broadcast, in which he called the Catalan giants "my life". Speaking to Spanish TV channel La Sexta, Messi insisted that he was "excited" to play under coach Ronald Koeman this season despite trying to leave the club where he has played his entire senior career last summer. He said that at the time he felt like he "needed a change", but his attempted exit was blocked amid a spat with former Barca president Josep Maria Bartomeu. Messi's contract expires at the end of the season and from next month he will be free to negotiate a move away from Catalonia. AFP



Photo: REUTERS

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Q1: At age 15 she pulled off a surprise gold medal at 2012 London Olympics, and subsequently five golds at the 2015 Worlds. Who is this swimmer?

- a) Sarah Sjöström b) Simone Manuel
c) Missy Franklin Johnson
d) Katie Ledecky

Q2: Which football legend is the highest scorer in UEFA Champions League 2017-18?

- a) Cristiano Ronaldo b) Lionel Messi
c) Edin Dzeko d) Mohamed Salah

Q3: Winning his 13th French Open singles title,

Rafael Nadal also equalled the 20 Grand Slam tally of which tennis player?

- a) Stefanos Tsitsipas b) Roger Federer
c) Novak Djokovic d) Andy Murray

Q4: Which boxer was winner of the 2019 UFC Heavyweight title?

- a) Michael Moorer b) Anthony Joshua
c) Stipe Miocic d) George Foreman

Q5: Which country has made the highest total ever in ICC Men's Cricket T20 World Cup?

- a) India b) South Africa c) England
d) Sri Lanka

Q6: Name this teenage tennis player who made history when she won the 2020 French Open Women's singles title.

- a) Simona Halep b) Sofia Kenin
c) Iga Swiatek d) Naomi Osaka

Q7: In which year did Novak Djokovic win his only doubles title?



Novak Djokovic

Photo: REUTERS

- a) 2017 b) 2011 c) 2009 d) 2010

Q8: Which club has won the Serie A 2019-20?

- a) Atalanta b) AC Milan
c) Juventus d) Inter Milan

Q9: Which boxer is the current UFC Champion.

- a) Julianna Peña b) Amanda Nunes
c) Germaine de Randamie
d) Cris Cyborg

Q10: The record for highest runs scored in the history in ICC Women's T20 World Cup belongs to

- a) Charlotte Edwards b) Meg Lanning
c) Suzie Bates d) Stafanie Taylor

Q11: Which country laid claim to the maximum number of gold medals in the 2016 Summer Olympics?

- a) Great Britain b) China
c) Russia d) the United States

Q12: Andy Murray became the first British tennis player in 77 years to win a Grand Slam single on home ground when he won the 2016 Wimbledon title. Whom did he defeat?

- a) Milos Raonic b) Roger Federer
c) Novak Djokovic d) Tomas Berdych

ANSWERS: 1 d) Katie Ledecky

- 2 a) Cristiano Ronaldo 3 b) Roger Federer
4 c) Stipe Miocic 5 d) Sri Lanka 6 c) Iga Swiatek
7 d) 2010 8 c) Juventus 9 b) Amanda Nunes
10 c) Suzie Bates 11 d) the United States
12 c) Novak Djokovic