



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

▶ Did you know a small 'Thank You' has the power to make a huge difference?
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▶ Reliving school experiences can be fun
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STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020



WEB EDITION

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KOHLI BECOMES FIRST CAPTAIN TO WIN T20 SERIES IN ALL SENA COUNTRIES

Indian captain Virat Kohli has added yet another feather to his glorious career by becoming the first Indian captain to win a T20 International series in all the SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia) countries. India achieved this record, after clinching the T20 series against Australia on Sunday.

IN RECORD BOOKS

- Under Virat Kohli, India won T20 series in South Africa and England in 2018. Earlier this year, India registered a 5-0 clean sweep against New Zealand in New Zealand
- The win in the ongoing series in Australia helped Indian skipper to complete the quartet
- Kohli has also become the first Indian captain and the second overall after Faf du Plessis to lead a team to series win in all 3 formats in Australia. Kohli helped India to a historic Test series win in 2018-19, after which Team India registered an ODI series win as well



MS Dhoni had led India to wins in South Africa and Australia, but series victories had eluded him as skipper in England and New Zealand



GOLDILOCKS ECONOMY

X-PLAINED

Photo: Getty Images

WHAT: According to Morgan Stanley, the Asian economies of India, China, Singapore and Indonesia are set to rebound from the devastating effects of Covid-19 pandemic, entering a 'Goldilocks' phase in 2021. A Goldilocks economy is characterised by low unemployment, low inflation, low interest rates and a steady GDP growth between 2 and 3 per cent. Since the inflation and growth levels are ideal, they neither cause overheating nor recession.

WHO COINED IT?

David Shulman, a senior economist used it for the first time for an article in 1992 called 'The Goldilocks Economy: Keeping the Bears at Bay'.

Named after the famous children's story, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', in which the girl ate the porridge made by the bear that was neither too hot nor too cold, the Goldilocks economy is one that is 'just right' like the porridge



1 One of the features of Goldilocks economy is **low unemployment rate**. The unemployment rate essentially defines the number of people in an economy, who are willing to work but are unable to find gainful employment. India's unemployment rate rose to an unprecedented high in April this year following a nationwide lockdown. After unlocking started, it has shown some recovery.

2 Another key characteristic of the Goldilocks phase is **low inflation**. The rate of inflation dictates the purchasing power of the rupee in an economy. When the inflation rate is low, the prices of goods and services don't rise too steeply or too quickly. Over the last few months, the Monetary Policy Committee

(MPC) of the RBI has slashed the interest rates on several occasions with the hope of boosting private spending and credit growth.

3 As far as the GDP goes, a Goldilocks phase is typically witnessed when an economy is recovering from a slump. As a key metric indicating the health of an economy, the GDP is a broad measure outlining the total value of all finished goods and services produced in a country. Steady GDP growth between two and three per cent is usually associated with a Goldilocks phase. Despite entering into a technical recession, experts expect Indian economy to bounce back.

4 Maintaining a Goldilocks phase usually means **employing fiscal or monetary policy measures**. A government could opt to reduce taxes on businesses or increase its own expenditure on infrastructure projects, such as roads and bridges. India is on that path.



VIEWPOINT

MASK VIOLATORS IN GWALIOR TO WRITE ESSAY ON COVID-19 AS PUNISHMENT

In an interesting move, authorities in Gwalior, MP, have come up with a novel idea to punish those who violate the norms by not wearing masks—they will now have to write an essay on Covid-19. The local administration in Gwalior has said that the violators will be put in open jails, where they will have to write an essay on Covid-19. Gwalior district magistrate Kaushlendra Vikram Singh said, the authorities have launched the 'Roko-Toko' campaign to stop the spread of corona.



At least 20 people have been sent to the open prison at the Capt Roop Singh stadium, and have been made to write an essay

Q Is it a good move?

Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com You can also post your comments at toistudent.com

MEET TABIN REYAZ, THE TEEN STORY TELLER

Thirteen-year-old Tabin Reyaz has become a sensation for his unique art of storytelling in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Tabin, son of Reyaz Ahmed Bhat, a resident of Has-



YOUNG ACHIEVER

san-Noor village in Anantnag and a student of class VII, aspires to become a motivational writer. He passionately writes short stories on the challenges and experiences faced by him in his day-to-day life. He also writes articles and other kinds of motivational features as well. His book is all set to be completed in the next few months.

"I want to become a writer and make my country and Kashmir proud. I feel it is the duty of parents to change and transform their children from an early age, so that they can become responsible citizens in the future. I am sure my short stories can help teachers, parents as well as students in their daily lives"
— TABIN REYAZ

World's largest solar telescope releases its first image of 10,000-mile-wide sunspot

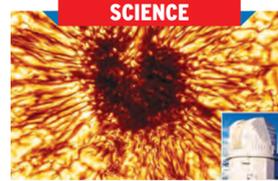
The world's largest solar telescope has captured its first image of a sunspot. The US National Science Foundation's Daniel K Inouye Solar Telescope, located in Hawaii, achieved a spatial resolution of about 2.5 times higher than ever before; the telescope is still in its final phases of completion.

▶ The image shows the dark centre of the sunspot, which burns at 7,500 degrees Fahrenheit, despite being cooler than the surrounding area

▶ The entire sunspot measures about 10,000 miles across - large enough for the entire Earth to comfortably fit inside. The image highlights the streaky appearance of hot and cold gases sprawling out from the darker centre

▶ The spot in the centre is a result of sculpting by a convergence of intense magnetic fields and hot gases boiling up from below

▶ The concentration of magnetic fields in this dark region suppresses heat within the sun from reaching the surface



SCIENCE

ALL ABOUT SUNSPOTS

▶ Sunspots are a visual of the sun's activity; the more they are on the surface, the more active the massive star is

▶ Sunspots are associated with solar flares and coronal mass ejections, causing space weather events that impact the Earth, including affecting power grids, air travel, GPS navigation, etc

Spotlight

BOB DYLAN SELLS HIS SONGWRITING CATALOGUE

The Universal Music Publishing Group has signed a landmark deal to purchase Bob Dylan's entire songwriting catalogue - including his world-changing classics like 'Blowin' in the Wind,' 'The Times They Are A-Changin'' and 'Like a Rolling Stone' - in what may be the biggest acquisition ever-of the music publishing rights of a single songwriter.



▶ The deal, which covers Dylan's entire career- from his earliest tunes to his latest album, 'Rough and Rowdy Ways,' was struck directly with Dylan, 79, who has controlled the vast majority of his own songwriting copyrights

OLYMPICS: SURFING AND BREAKDANCING AMONG FOUR SPORTS TO WIN PARIS 2024 SPOT

Breakdancing, surfing, skateboarding and sports climbing has won a spot in the 2024 Paris Olympics, IOC President Thomas Bach said. The Paris 2024 organising committee had last year proposed the four sports for inclusion and was waiting on a final review by the IOC's Executive Board.



▶ Paris Games organisers have said that they want to deliver a programme that is in keeping with the times, and attract a new and younger audience

▶ Under the new IOC rules first introduced for the Tokyo Games, Olympic host cities can hand-pick sports and propose for their inclusion, if they are popular in that country, and add to the Games' appeal.

As the protests by the farmers, who have been protesting against the new farm laws continue, we take a look at some powerful social movements in the last decade that impacted the government and the people at large...

SHAHEEN BAGH PROTESTS, 2019

The Shaheen Bagh protest was a sit-in peaceful protest, led by women that began in response to the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in both the Houses of Parliament on December 11, 2019, and the ensuing police intervention against students at Jamia Millia Islamia, who were opposing the Amendment.

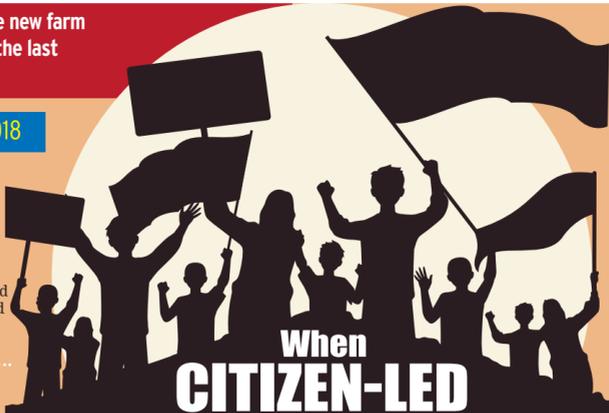
CASTE PROTESTS, 2018

In early April 2018, thousands of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) protested across India against an order of the Supreme Court on the Atrocities Act. The protests turned violent across several states in India, as the protesters blocked trains, damaged property, and clashed with police and other civilians. As many as 10 people died and hundreds were injured.

SABARIMALA PROTEST, 2018

Violent protests paralysed Kerala, after two women made history by entering a prominent Hindu temple following the Supreme Court five-judge bench judgment, which ruled that keeping women out of the Sabarimala shrine in Kerala was discriminatory, and allowed women of

menstruating age to enter the shrine. The protesting mobs pelted stones and threw crude bombs at law enforcement authorities, escalating violence in the region. The 13th-century shrine, which sits high atop a hill in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, is dedicated to the deity Ayyappa.



When CITIZEN-LED SOCIAL MOVEMENTS SHOOK INDIA

PRO-JALLIKATTU PROTESTS, 2017

Protests in Tamil Nadu shook the nation, following a SC ban on the traditional bull-taming sport Jallikattu, after years of complaints about animal cruelty by PETA. The ban was not accepted by the people, as according to them, the sport is central to their cultural identity. The protests turned violent when police tried to evict the protesters. On January 23, 2017, the Tamil Nadu govt legalised Jallikattu and passed a bill to amend the PCA (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act) 1960 Act.

FTII AGITATION, 2015

Students of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), the country's premier film education centre went on an indefinite strike, protesting the appointment of television actor-turned-politician Gajendra Chauhan as the chairman of the institute by the information & broadcasting ministry. After more than 150 days of agitation, the students discontinued their protest.

NIRBHAYA MOVEMENT, 2012

The 2012 Delhi gang rape incident saw one of the angriest reactions from people across the country. After the incident, thousands came out on streets to protest. The movement also created a stir on social media. The government at the Centre and various states were forced to announce several steps to ensure the safety of women.

ANTI CORRUPTION MOVEMENT, 2011

The anti-corruption movement was a series of demonstrations and protests across India that began in 2011, and was intended to establish stringent legislation and enforcement against perceived endemic political corruption. The movement gained momentum from April 5, 2011, when anti-corruption activist Anna Hazare began a hunger strike at the Jantar Mantar monument in New Delhi.

THE POWER OF THANKFULNESS

PAUSE:

A simple first step to being more thankful is to pause during your day and ask yourself these two questions:

- ▶ What are 3 things I can be thankful for in my life today?

▶ Who are 3 people I can be thankful to have in my life and why?

- ▶ If you don't come up with 3 people and 3 things each day then that is OK. One thing or person is great too.

EXPRESS

Don't stop at just coming up with people for whom you are grateful to have in your life. Take a few seconds to tell them about it. This will make their lives happier. And as their faces light up with a smile you'll feel

happier too. Now, that gratitude could just be a small sentence. But it can have a big impact on someone's day, week or even life.



LOOK AT YOU

It is not only things that are important. Or other people. **You are important and valuable too. So appreciate that.**

Ask yourself: What are 3 things I can be thankful for about myself? You can simply be thankful for your good sense of humour. Or the help you give your friends and family by being a good listener from time to time.

BE THANKFUL

The things we get very used to having can become things we take for granted. But they are not things everyone in the world has access to. A few such things that I like to reflect upon and feel very thankful for having are:

- ▶ A roof over my head and a warm home.
- ▶ Plenty of drinkable water.
- ▶ That I don't have to go hungry.

START OR END YOUR DAY WITH THANKFULNESS

To make thankfulness into a habit that sticks, find a regular time for it in your day.

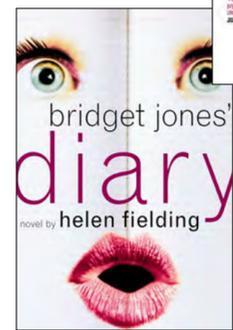
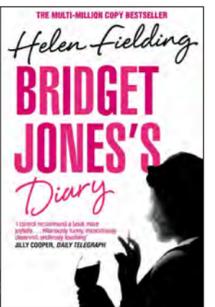
www.positivityblog.com



COMING SOON

'Bridget Jones's Diary' to mark 25th anniversary in 2021

Helen Fielding's international bestseller 'Bridget Jones's Diary' will mark 25 years in 2021. And in honour of the 25th anniversary, Picador will release a new edition of the hugely popular book which was also adapted



into a three-part movie starring Renée Zellweger, Colin Firth and Hugh Grant.

"Picador will release 'Bridget Jones's Diary' in February 2021, a new edition of the novel with more than 100 pages of extra material from author Helen Fielding," reads a recent report by The Bookseller.

THE BOOK'S BLURB READS

This special bumper anniversary compendium also features an introduction and commentary from Helen Fielding, and over 100 pages of rare material taken from 25 years of her writing, including:

- Extracts from Helen's early journalism
- A selection of the original Independent newspaper columns
- Bridget Jones interviews Colin Firth
- Later columns on #MeToo, Brexit, and Bridget's lockdown life
- A selection of hilarious restaurant reviews featuring the real life inspirations for Jude, Shazzer, Auntie Una, Mum and Daniel Cleaver.

Calling it a Year!

We give you a peek into what 2020 had in store for us across all fields! Watch this logo unit to follow our exclusive wrap up

Zoom went boom!

Zoom Video Communications Inc has had a monster year in almost every way. The video-conferencing upstart got a huge boost in the spring amid Covid-induced lockdowns, and it's still a must-have for many as the resurgent pandemic reinforces stay-at-home habits and remote-work trends. **Sales and profit have consistently beat estimates every quarter, and the company keeps raising its guidance.** The latest numbers continued the trend. Zoom recently reported fiscal third-quarter financial results that beat the Wall Street consensus, including a more than fourfold rise in sales from a year earlier, and it raised forecasts again.

Join a Class on ZOOM



Homemade hot chocolate makes you smarter, claims a new study

Some people are born smart, while others acquire this trait by following a healthy routine. Reading, trying a new activity, learning a new language, exercising - all these things contribute to nourishing your mind. What if we told you that there is a simpler way to get smarter? Yes, you read it right. The scientists have found that sipping a specific beverage can help you learn new concepts or solve problems faster. Read more here...



How is this beverage helpful?

In a new study carried out by the researchers at the University of Birmingham, researchers explored the effects of flavanols found in cocoa (hot chocolate) on the brain functioning of younger and healthy adults. The study was carried out on 18 males between the age of 18 and 40. Each participant underwent a procedure challenging the brain's blood circulation, in which they had to breathe 5 per cent carbon dioxide.

What researchers found out?

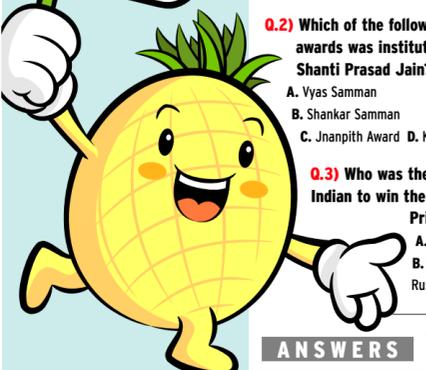
In the end, it was found that people who drank the beverage made with flavanol-rich natural cocoa had the highest levels of blood oxygenation in response to hypercapnia. The level of blood oxygenation was up to three times higher than those who drank the processed, alkalized cocoa beverage. **Eventually, the participants also completed the complex cognitive tasks 11 per cent faster on average.**



Other sources of flavanols

From this study, it can be clearly said that flavanol can help to improve the cognitive functioning of the brain. But cocoa is not the only food that are rich in flavanols. **Others include apples, berries, grapes, and green tea that contains flavanols.**

Activities BOX



QUIZ TIME (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

Q.1) Which organisation awards the Kalinga Prize?

- A. UN B. WTO
C. FAO D. UNESCO

Q.2) Which of the following awards was instituted by Shanti Prasad Jain?

- A. Vyas Samman
B. Shankar Samman
C. Jnanpith Award D. Kabir Award

Q.3) Who was the first Indian to win the Booker Prize?

- A. Kiran Desai
B. Salman Rushdie

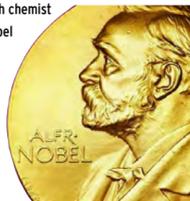
C. VS Naipaul
D. Jhumpa Lahiri

Q.4) Who won the first Gandhi Peace Prize?

- A. AT Aryaratne B. Julius Nyerere
C. Nelson Mandela D. None of these

Q.5) Who established the Nobel Prize?

- A. Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel
B. Ross Markham Noble
C. George Noble
D. Duncan Noble



ANSWERS

1. D) UNESCO, 2. C) Jnanpith award, 3. B) Salman Rushdie, 4. B) Julius Nyerere 5. A) Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel

KNOWLEDGE BANK

FAUNA

Quokka

The quokka or setonix brachyurus is the only member of the genus setonix. Resembling a small kangaroo, the size of a domestic cat, it is nocturnal and herbivorous. It is 40 to 54 cm long, weighing around 2.5 to 5 kg and has a life span of 10 years. It can climb small trees and shrubs. The quokka does not fear humans and can approach people. It is said to have the reputation of being the happiest animal on earth.



EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

Develop a story based on the pictures in around 250 words. Send your entry along with your name, class, school and picture at toinle175@gmail.com



CHECK YOUR APTITUDE

- 1) Jack and Jill take part in 100 m race. Jack runs at 6kmph. Jack gives Jill a start of 8 m and still beats her by 8 seconds. The speed of Jill is:**
A. 6.14 kmph B. 15.2 kmph
C. 5 kmph D. 4.86 kmph

- 2) Two years ago Robert's age was 6 times of Sam's age. Six years after the ratio between the ages of Robert and Sam becomes 10 : 3. What is Robert's present age?**
A. 34 B. 44 C. 42 D. 38

- 3) Ziva walks a certain**

distance and rides the car back taking a total time of 33 minutes. She could walk both sides in 45 minutes. How long would it take her to ride both ways?
A. 19 mins B. 20 mins
C. 21 mins D. 22 mins

**ANSWER: 1. 4.86
2. 44 3. 21 mins**

Healthy eating is way of life

Healthy eating is a way of life, so it's important to establish routines that are simple, realistically, and ultimately liveable.

As a part of Healthy Eating Day Activity, the students of Arunodaya Public School of classes 1 to 5 enjoyed making sandwiches. The virtual sandwich making activity was conducted on 3rd July, 2020.

In this activity, the students got an opportunity to assemble the slices of bread, fresh cucumbers and mashed potatoes. The little ones were excited for this activity. They had fun making their own sandwiches and eating them too. They worked their way through making the sandwiches eager to be first amongst peers.

Teachers made special efforts for integrating the activity with ethics and teaching the students about the nutrition value of sandwiches, encouraging them to consume healthy homemade food

The students used slices of bread, cheese, tomato, onion, butter cucumber at home and assembled the same themselves. They later relished the delicious self-made treats. This activity helped the young chefs in learning how to be

self-reliant. It also improved their fine motor skills, language and vocabulary. Their delight was in making the sandwiches by their own which was done confidently.

The teachers made special efforts for integrating the activity with ethics and teaching the students about the nutritious value of sandwiches, encouraging them to bring healthy homemade food and teaching them the art of food presentation as well as etiquettes of serving.

In this process the children gained a deeper understanding of eating healthy food and helped them learn and gave them a chance to prepare their own food.



A TRIBUTE

2020 started with so much fear, In every eye we can see panic or tear Against Covid 19 they fearlessly fight, Using their wisdom and all their might The patients are treated every minute, every day, For the doctor's safety let's just pray



Day and night are the police awake, Working hard for the nation's sake Heroes like these are the need of the hour, Let's admire them with the respect they deserve It's time to honour them with a big salute, To all the workers, doctors, police- we pay our tribute

RADHIKA CHOPRA, class IX, Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School, Vashi

MY DAYS IN THE SUMMER CAPITAL

Family vacations are the best times of any year. Whenever my holidays start, I start wondering which place is going to be our destination this vacation. One time, after a long discussion I won the chance to decide the destination. We decided to plan a trip to Shimla. First of all, we went to experience the Toy Train ride. And it was an astounding one! We also went for rafting, which I must say, was my favourite part about the trip! It isn't just a thrilling experience but also a team exercise that I enjoyed with my family. Rafting is an ecstatic Activity which involves a lot of joy and excitement. We also visited lakkar bazaar. This is a wood market in Shimla. We bought a lot of items for our friends and relatives from here. We

also visited a couple of temples like Dhanu devta Temple and Tara devi Temple. And ofcourse I can't forget about the Yak



ride! At first I was very scared to even go near the Yak. But then the Yak handler persuaded me so I went for it. And yes, I had a great time. Visiting Shimla was indeed my most memorable experience and I would love to visit here again!

Angelina Pandey, class IX, NES High School



MY SCHOOL, MY HOME

School is a kind of a tiny world, which gives us all the experiences, the good, better and the best

You miss going to school, right? You miss all the fun you used to have in school, and I definitely don't mean that algebra and physics are fun, but we all definitely miss chatting with our friends during the break when the teacher would scream "get into the class". We miss singing "Gooooooood Moooooorning Maaaaa'aam" Why would we miss all of this, if "school wasn't fun"? The whole experience of learning with your friends and

making silly jokes when you don't seem to understand geometry, asking questions, having debates, dance competitions, singing competitions, if all of that isn't fun, then what is?

And I know that we aren't necessarily having that

kind of fun right now, but this lockdown has turned out to be a new experience for us, different from what we do every year; Video calling your friends, asking teachers your doubts and queries over WhatsApp, early morning zoom meetings, online competitions and events; this is the new normal (or at least it will be for a while) if I speak on behalf of all the students, We just can't wait to get back to school and create more beautiful memories with our teachers and friends, right?

Twisha Karra, class IX, Fr Agnel Multipurpose School and Jr College, Ambarnath West



SAMVIDHAN DIVAS

"Constitution is not a mere lawyer's document, it is a vehicle of Life, and its spirit is always the spirit of Age." - BR Ambedkar

26th November has its own importance in the history of independent India because on this day in 1949, the Constitution of India was adopted and it came into effect on 26 January, 1950. Therefore, marking the dawn of a new era. To acknowledge the contribution of the framers of the Constitution and to promote the prominent values, 26 November is celebrated as the 'Constitution Day'.

Constitution Day of India is also known as Samvidhan Divas or National Law Day. The day is celebrated to promote Constitution values among citizens.

Teachers and students at SSPM's Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir, Borivali actively participated in the celebration by reading out the Preamble in both English and Hindi and pledging to reaffirm their commitment to uphold its ideology.

The national constitution day stands as a day for the celebration of India's success as the biggest democratic and secular nation in the world.



Drop, Cover & Hold On!

Preparedness is a way of life, when properly pursued, not a sudden, spectacular programme - Spencer W Kimball

Since natural disasters come uninvited, we need to equip ourselves with the knowledge and skills to tide over the adversity. Considering this, the Diamond Jubilee High School (JCSE), Mumbai and Diamond Jubilee High School for Girls, Mumbai managed by Aga Khan Education Service, India, conducted a Shake Out drill, to improve the level of preparedness during an earthquake among the staff and students.

Shake Out drills are conducted across all Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) institutions on the same day. The school have been conducting these drills twice every year for the past decade. To this effect, it has instituted a School Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) which consists of a teacher, student and some parents. It also has a Task Force that consists of forty well-trained students. Both the SEMC and the Task Force are formally trained in Disaster Management. The students from the Task Force, led and managed the execution of the safety drill across the school.

Considering the virtual nature of interactions, the school used this opportunity to optimise its reach by enlightening the families of student and staff members as well. Students were briefed about the Shake Out drill during class assemblies, along with the reasons for the various positions emphasized during the drill, by the Task Force. The entire school, from the Principal to the support staff were involved in the drill. Each stakeholder was encouraged to perform the drill at home with their loved ones and share images of the same. "Parents were amazed to see the skills being imparted to students for disaster preparedness in the event of an earthquake" added Ms Tasnim Shikari, Secondary Co-ordinator, at Diamond Jubilee High School for Girls, Mumbai

Highlighting the relevance and importance of this drill at the current time, Taskeen Bhole, the Vice-Principal said, "A Shakeout drill is important. It is a drill for disaster preparedness. All the students of DJHSM through the years have been equipped with the essential



Students were briefed about the Shake Out drill during class assemblies, along with the reasons for the various positions emphasized during the drill, by the Task Force. Each stakeholder was encouraged to perform the drill at home with their loved ones and share their images

knowledge and skill to protect themselves during an earthquake or a fire". As part of the wholesome education offered by the school, its students are equipped with life skills. The Shake Out drill is one such skill, which enables the students to survive a disaster, as well as overcome the 'tremors and challenges of life'.

THE TUNNEL OF TERROR

Many times in my life, I have crossed the tunnel of terror. It was not an easy time, it was risky and full of horror. And as I moved further

inside, There were monsters side by side, But, also angels were there to guide, And bulky boulders for me to hide. And the shiny end

gave me a glance, And I had no other chance. I can't escape; I have to move ahead, If I wait longer you will find me dead. And I took a step

further, Which led me to the tunnel border? And on my way I felt the warmth of sunlight, Now I shine more big and bright.

DHRUV JAIN, class VI, Bunts Sangha's S.M.Shetty High School, Powai

MY MUMMA

It was afternoon, I was coming soon. My Mumma was at corner, waiting for her daughter. My Mumma was in

thoughts, but I was at pause. Dr. said your daughter might live, I was about to leave. However, I was delivered,

but was tired. I was isolated, and My Mumma was dehydrated. Days passed, I was about to passed.

My Mumma's believe, gave me will to live. It was afternoon, I was coming soon. My Mumma was at corner, waiting for her daughter.

SNEH SINHA, class IX, DPS PANVEL

CAN PANDYA BECOME A RELIABLE FINISHER?

All-rounder Hardik Pandya has been on a roll ever since he returned to competitive cricket with the IPL 2020 edition. While he stood tall and played crucial roles in Rohit Sharma-led Mumbai Indians' (MI) successful title-defence, he has been on a song with the willow as a handy No. 6 and finisher in India's ongoing tour of Australia. The big question: Can Pandya replace MSD as India's finisher?

PANDYA WILL BE MORE VALUABLE THAN KOHLI, ROHIT, BUMRAH IN WHITE-BALL CRICKET

Hardik Pandya is fast becoming India's most valuable player in white-ball cricket. He is going to be more valuable than Kohli, Rohit or Bumrah. If India has to win the World T20, Hardik Pandya could be the one to play the biggest role in that. India has not won the last few limited-overs World Cups. Our top-order has always been good: Rohit Sharma scored five centuries in one World Cup and Virat Kohli always scores runs.



But why don't we win the matches in the end? Earlier there was (MS) Dhoni who used to be left alone. Now with Dhoni having left, there is no one. If you have to win the next World Cup, there is no way you can win it with just Rohit, Rahul and Kohli in the top three. It will not work with that, you need finishing because that is India's problem in T20 or ODI cricket. We bowl well but have a problem in the finishing with the batting. The strong finishers are not present, it is a different skill which cannot be taught.

The rise of Hardik Pandya that we have seen, the way he has grown as a player from the first IPL till now, it seems that he owns the place. In ODI cricket, if there is a collapse batting first then he takes his time, if you send him at the end, he just smashes the sixes.

If you talk about the second T20I, in the recent past you would have felt that it is only possible if Dhoni is there but otherwise there is no chance. But this time when Hardik was batting, we were also feeling and he was also feeling that there is no tension and that he will manage.

Aakash Chopra, Indian opener-turned-commentator

PANDYA IS AS GOOD A FINISHER AS MS DHONI, YUVRAJ SINGH

There are very few players like Hardik Pandya, there was Yuvraj Singh and MS Dhoni earlier and there is Glenn Maxwell now, they are capable of chasing any total or any target. Even if you need 20-25 runs in the last over, these players make you believe that they can score it. Pandya has played these kinds of innings in the IPL, and when you come into international cricket on the back of good innings in the IPL, then your confidence is very high.



Gautam Gambhir, former India opener

PANDYA HAS EVOLVED INTO A RELIABLE LATE-ORDER BATSMAN

Pandya played a lead role in Mumbai Indians' title-winning run and has evolved into a reliable late-order batsman, effortlessly slipping into the role of a thunderous finisher. He seems to have emphatically settled the debate of who next, now that MS Dhoni has retired from the international level. For all their top-order riches, India's talent pool doesn't have too many that can provide impetus at the death. Against that backdrop, Pandya's composure and consistency must come as a great relief to the thinktank.



VVS Laxman, former Indian batsman

Now my biggest goal ... (is) that I want to finish games where it matters the most.



Australia wins 3rd T20 to prevent India sweeping the series



Australia won the third Twenty20 international by 12 runs in front of 30,000-plus fans at the Sydney Cricket Ground to prevent India from claiming a series sweep. Matthew Wade scored 80 from 53 balls and shared a 90-run fourth-wicket partnership with Glenn Maxwell (54) as Australia tallied 186-5 after being sent in to bat. Australia's spin bowlers Maxwell (1-20), Mitch Swepson (3-23) and Adam Zampa (1-21) combined for the first five Indian wickets before paceman AJ Tye removed Virat Kohli for 85 in the penultimate over to all but end India's chase. India finished 174-7 from 20 overs. AP

In T20 cricket you have to take your chances. I thought when Hardik got going we could pull this one off and eventually we found out we had a bit too much to do in the end. I think the middle overs while we were batting was the phase that cost.

Virat Kohli, India captain

Steve Smith will do a great job if he gets captaincy again

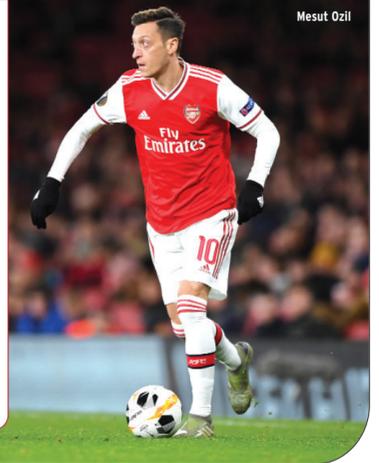


Matthew Wade

Steve Smith

Ljungberg: Arsenal struggling without Mesut Ozil's creativity

Former Arsenal midfielder Freddie Ljungberg has questioned the club's decision to freeze out Mesut Ozil from their Premier League squad and says there are few better players at opening up defences than the German playmaker. Ozil has not played for Arsenal since March and was not named in the squad lists for the Premier League and the Europa League, effectively sidelining the 32-year-old until January when the club can submit a new list. Without a recognised playmaker in the squad, Arsenal have looked listless in attack, scoring only 10 goals in 11 league matches.



Mesut Ozil

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Q1: Which Kenyan long-distance runner won bronze at the 2004 Athens Olympics and silver at Beijing 2008?

- a) Mo Farah b) Eliud Kipchoge
c) Kenenisa Bekele d) Joshua Cheptegei

Q2: At which Olympics did Michael Phelps win eight golds, breaking world records in seven of them?

- a) Sydney 2000 b) Rio 2016
c) Beijing 2008 d) London 2012

Q3: Who is the first Indian badminton player to clinch

an Olympic medal. She won the bronze at the London 2012 Games.

- a) Jwala Gutta b) Ashwini Ponappa
c) PV Sindhu d) Saina Nehwal

Q4: Which Indian tennis player has been a six-time grand slam champion, a former world no. 1 in doubles and a three-time Olympian?

- a) Sania Mirza b) Karman Thandi
c) Ankita Raina d) Rutuja Bhosale

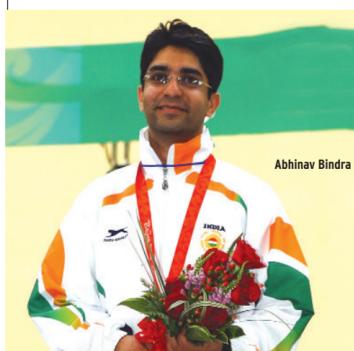
Q5: In which year did Vinesh Phogat win a gold in the

Commonwealth Games, her first major international title?

- a) 2011 b) 2012 c) 2013 d) 2014

Q6: Abhinav Bindra is India's first individual gold medallist at the Olympics. In which year did he win it?

- a) 2007 b) 2008 c) 2009 d) 2010



Abhinav Bindra

Q7: How many Olympic medals Pritchard won?

- a) Five b) Four c) Three d) Two

Q8: At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, he became the first Indian boxer to win a medal. Who is he?

- a) Vikas Krishan Yadav b) Vijender Singh
c) Shiv Thapa d) Amit Panghal

Q9: At which Olympics did the Indian hockey team have to settle for silver after losing to Pakistan?

- a) Amsterdam 1928 b) London 1948
c) Rome 1960 d) Melbourne 1956

Q10: During which Olympics did Karnam Malleswari clinch a bronze in weightlifting, the

first woman from India to do so?

- a) Sydney 2000 b) Rio 2016
c) Beijing 2008 d) London 2012

Q11: At the 2012 London Olympics, which Indian wrestler defeated North Korea's Ri Jong Myong in just 1:02 minutes to win bronze?

- a) Satyawart Kadian b) Yogeshwar Dutt
c) Sushil Kumar d) Bajrang Punia

Q12: Whose birthday is also celebrated as National Sports Day in India?

- a) Ashok Kumar b) Roop Singh
c) Dhanraj Pillay d) Dhyan Chand

ANSWERS: 1 b) Eliud Kipchoge 2 c) Beijing 2008 3 d) Saina Nehwal 4 a) Sania Mirza 5 d) 2014 6 b) 2008 7 d) Two 8 b) Vijender Singh 9 c) Rome 1960 10 a) Sydney 2000 11 b) Yogeshwar Dutt 12 d) Dhyan Chand