



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

WEB EDITION

TODAY'S EDITION

➤ Hashtags that brought the world together
➤ How to start the new year on a positive note

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➤ Relive your school experiences

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➤ India vs Australia? 3rd Test preview: Who will take the lead?

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Is it POSSIBLE to buy LUNAR LAND

X-PLAINED



WHAT IS THE OUTER SPACE TREATY?

➤ The Outer Space Treaty aims to prevent any possible damage on the Moon that self-seeking exploitation might cause

➤ According to Article II of the treaty, "Outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means." In other words, it states that no individual can purchase a piece of land on the lunar surface, and call it his/ her own. In short, private ownership of the Moon is impossible and illegal

WHAT ABOUT THE CLAIMS THEN?

➤ Experts say individuals are buying land on the Moon, courtesy The Lunar Registry, which claims to sell a piece of the Moon i.e. the landing site, such as 'Bay of Rainbows', 'Sea of Rains', 'Lake of Dreams', 'Sea of Serenity', and many others

➤ Any person, who claims to own land on the Moon through The Lunar Registry, is claiming so in compliance with the title IV of the Space Resource Exploration and Utilisation Act of 2015, Section 402 in the USA, which states that "a US citizen engaged in commercial recovery of an asteroid resource or a space resource shall be entitled to any asteroid resource or space resource obtained, including to possess, own, transport, use, and sell it, according to the applicable law, including the US international obligations". The non-US citizens may possess lunar property and resources by contracting a proxy (agent) having a US citizenship or commercial rights

WHAT: Recently, Dharmendra Anija, a resident from Ajmer, 'gifted' his wife three acres of land on the Moon on their eighth-wedding anniversary. In fact, ever since actors Sushant Singh Rajput, Shah Rukh Khan and other celebrities bought a part of the Moon, many people have started buying it for themselves.

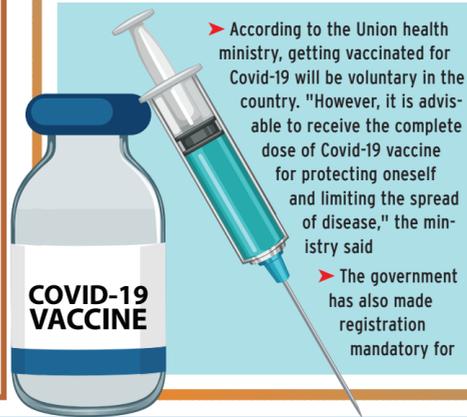
THE BIG Can I buy the Moon?

The answer is NO. According to analysts, people can't buy land on the Moon because of the Outer Space treaty, an international agreement, which was signed by the US and the erstwhile Soviet Union in 1967 to prevent "a new form of colonial competition". 109 countries, including India, have signed the Outer Space Treaty.

'COVID-19 VACCINATION TO BE VOLUNTARY in INDIA'

India has approved two vaccines—AstraZeneca-Oxford (Covishield) and Bharat Biotech (Covaxin) — against the coronavirus for emergency use. According to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), the vaccines will be administered in two doses and can be stored at 2-8

degree Celsius. The DCGI has also granted permission to Cadila healthcare for phase 3 clinical trial in India. However, with speculations on the process of inoculation on the rise, the health ministry has come up with a series of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the vaccine.



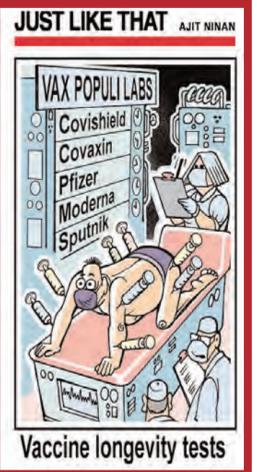
➤ According to the Union health ministry, getting vaccinated for Covid-19 will be voluntary in the country. "However, it is advisable to receive the complete dose of Covid-19 vaccine for protecting oneself and limiting the spread of disease," the ministry said

➤ The government has also made registration mandatory for

taking the vaccine. The Centre has announced a dedicated app – Co-Win app for real-time monitoring of the vaccine

➤ Once the registration is complete, the beneficiary will receive an SMS on his/her registered mobile number on the due date, place and time of vaccination

➤ After all the doses of the vaccine are administered, a QR code-based certificate will also be sent to the registered mobile number of the beneficiary, the ministry said



FACTOID

250 MILLION

That's the number of Instagram followers of footballer **CRISTIANO RONALDO** – the first person ever to reach the milestone. The Juventus ace has stamped his authority as the world's most-popular celebrity by retaining the No 1 spot on Instagram. Ronaldo is followed by pop star Ariana Grande (214 million followers) and Hollywood actor and wrestling icon Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson (209 million), who are ranked 2nd and 3rd respectively, in terms of followers on Instagram



REPUBLIC DAY PARADE TO BE SHORTER WITH SMALLER MARCHING CONTINGENTS

The Republic Day Parade will be of a shorter duration this year. Smaller marching contingents, fewer cultural performances as well as strict social distancing protocols will be in place for a reduced number of spectators at the Rajpath ground on Jan 26. "The parade will begin from Vijay Chowk, as

■ A contingent of the Bangladesh armed forces will take part in the parade to commemorate the 50th anniversary celebrations of the 1971 war of liberation

■ UK PM Boris Johnson, who was expected as chief guest, cancelled his trip

usual, but will culminate at the National Stadium instead of the Red Fort, said an official, adding that it will cover a distance of 3.3 km as compared to the normal 8.2 km. Around 25,000 spectators will be allowed to witness the parade as compared to the average of 1.3 lakh people every year. Children below 15 years and the elderly with co-morbidities will not be permitted to attend the parade.

EDUCATION

PANDEMIC BOOST: LS THE MOST-ATTRACTIVE FIELD



For the first time perhaps, life sciences has emerged as the most-desirable field for talent, ahead of the usual favourites of information technology (IT) and consumer goods (FMCG), claims a pan-India survey of corporate executives, underlining the ways the pandemic has changed our behaviour, and industry prospects.

➤ In an Executive Access survey, 23% of 261 CXOs across the industries picked up life sciences as the most-attractive sector for talent. IT (22%) and FMCG (16%) followed, suggesting that the candidates are seeking jobs that are immune to the vagaries of the economy

2020 WAS 8TH-WARMEST YEAR SINCE 1901: IMD



ENVIRONMENT

The year 2020 was the eighth-warmest since 1901 but it was "substantially lower" than the highest-warming observed in 2016, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday. "During the year, the annual mean land surface air temperature across the country was 0.29 degree Celsius above normal (based on the data of 1981-2010)," the IMD said in a statement on Climate of India during 2020.

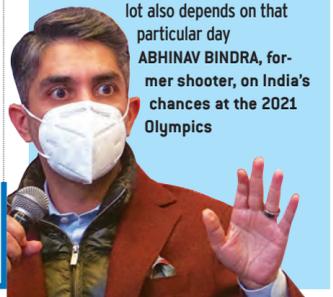
➤ The five warmest years on record in order were: 2016 (+ 0.71 degree C), 2009 (+0.55 degree C), 2017 (+0.541 degree C), 2010 (+0.539 degrees C), and 2015 (+0.42 degree C)

➤ 12 out of the 15 warmest years since 1901 were during the last 15 years – between 2006 and 2020, according to the IMD data

Quote unquote

I feel the Tokyo Olympics could end up with our best-ever medal haul, even though the times are challenging due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Sport is not scripted, but I do hope that we come back with our best medal haul and that means we will come back with 5-6 medals and better the London haul, which, if I am not wrong, remains our best. I think we have the ability to do the best; our athletes have proved themselves in the last two-three years. There are definite medal hopes not just in shooting but across other disciplines as well. We have many talented people, who can be considered as realistic medal hopes going into Tokyo. But a lot also depends on that particular day

ABHINAV BINDRA, former shooter, on India's chances at the 2021 Olympics



out. But remember, what sounds right, may not necessarily be grammatically-correct. Hence, always analyse your strengths and weaknesses, and then keep practising and sharpening the sections that are not your forte.

ON NEP: I am very optimistic about the changes that will follow once the National Education Policy (NEP) is executed. While students would want a complete revamp, logistically, it would take a while. I believe this is a process that goes step by step. One thing that the students are looking forward to is the independence to select the subjects of choice. Suppose you want to pick physics and maths, and skip chemistry. I think that's a great thing. You can stay focussed and don't have to labour through subjects that are not of your interest.

ON HOW TO SCORE HIGH IN CAT: Basically, the concepts of class X level need to be applied. So, in class X itself, if you introduce application-based sessions during the maths class, the probability of scoring well in CAT is higher. Also, time management is a key to crack the exam. Therefore, practise the mock papers with a clock in hand.

'COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY IN TODAY'S AGE'

TOPPER TALKS

malini.menon@timesgroup.com

Bharat Goel, who has scored a 99.64 percentile in verbal, 99.99 percentile in data interpretation and logical reasoning and 99.88 in quantitative ability, in the Common Admission-Test (CAT) 2020, gives tips to students on how to score well and gear up for the IIMs, in a conversation with Times NIE...

ON SCORING 100 PERCENTILE: I had really prepared well and was expecting a good score, but a 100 per centile certainly came as a surprise to me.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MANAGEMENT SKILLS

I think communication is the key in today's age. If you can deliver your message well and be heard, you have succeeded in passing your idea across. This is, in fact, applicable to every aspect in life



ON HIS JOURNEY: I started preparing around June 2020. The test has three parts: Verbal, quantitative aptitude and logical reasoning, and data interpretation (LGDI). Since I had a good hold over quantitative aptitude and LGDI, I focussed more on strengthening the verbal section. This is also because most feel complacent about scoring well in the verbal section and lose

At 35, Ronaldo is also the most-followed person on the Facebook-owned platform. One of the greatest footballers to have played the game, Ronaldo continues to rule social media – he is also the most-followed person on Facebook and the most-followed sportsperson on Twitter

DID YOU KNOW? The combined followers tally of all the 20 clubs in Premier League is far less than Ronaldo's total number of followers on Instagram. The 20 clubs combined have 159 million followers, which is 91 million followers less than Ronaldo's overall numbers

8 tips for starting The New Year With a Positive Mindset

The upcoming year should be a celebration of your life and everything you want to achieve, but how can you switch your mindset after a year of challenges and loss? It's time to step away from traditional resolutions that we often give up on after only a few weeks and really focus on yourself. Here are tips...



1. PROCESS YOUR GRIEF

1 Even if you were one of the lucky ones who didn't lose anyone to COVID-19, you may still be grieving. You don't need to experience a death to feel loss. Maybe you got laid off from a part-time job, had to miss an important event, needed to cancel a trip, or distanced yourself from relationships that changed during quarantine. This year caused myriad types of grief, so try to identify and begin processing it all as the new year begins.



GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY

2 Staying at home and only doing what you need to get by may have put your mental health in a stagnant state of depression – especially now during the winter when seasonal mood swings affect many people. Try generating joy by giving back to your community.

LIMIT YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA USE

4 When you check your social media feeds, does your heart race in anticipation for the next terrible breaking news story? Though this habit didn't exclusively start in 2020, it morphed into doomscrolling during pandemic-induced isolation.

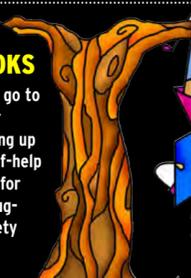


TRY TO BE MORE PRESENT

6 Being present is one of the best ways to have a positive mindset. When you are worried about the future or things outside of your control, bring yourself back to the immediate moment.

READ HELPFUL BOOKS

7 You can always go to the experts for advice by picking up a book. Plenty of self-help books are out there for readers who are struggling through a variety of situations.



PRACTICE GRATITUDE MORE

3 Positive New Year's resolutions become more manageable when you practice gratitude daily. Start small, like ruminating on how thankful you are for a roof over your head and food on your plate. Gratitude physically kick-starts the dopamine production in your body.



AVOID NEGATIVE PEOPLE

5 Your mental health will suffer if you surround yourself with negativity. Think about who you spend time with and what those relationships are like. After a little research, compare them to toxic relationships with classic traits like manipulation, etc.

FIND A NEW HOBBY

8 Succeeding at a new hobby is always something to celebrate. You'll feel happier in the process of expanding your skill set. Being positive for the new year is all about finding fulfilling and rewarding ways to spend your time. And with plenty of time there are a lot of mindful things you can do with your time.



When #ASHTAGS brought the world together in 2020!

The year 2020 was a year no one is likely to forget in a hurry. Most importantly for the COVID-19 pandemic and its catastrophic impact than anything else, but also for several other reasons. That year saw many 'firsts' – it was the first time that people worked from home for so long, the first time royalty from Britain exited their homeland to set up life outside, the first time for scores of people to take up cooking as they adjusted to a 24X7 life at home. And social media gave everything its own unique hashtag. Here's looking at what created a storm online and made 2020 so significant...

#COVID19

The term COVID-19 is always going to be synonymous with 2020. The virus that surfaced in the early part of the year wreaked havoc over the world and continues to do so. It was one of the most tweeted hashtags this year and is one of the most discussed topics. It also classified people into a statistic – most fatalities, highest cases, lowest risk groups, etc. and made healthcare one of the most valued sectors.



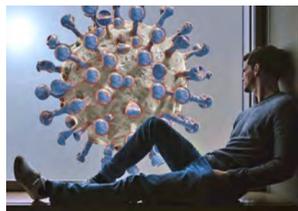
#MEGEXIT

Like them, love them or loathe them, royalty is always going to be a much-read topic. And the hashtag #megxit absolutely dominated over all else as it saw the Duke and Duchess of Sussex – Prince Harry and Meghan Markle – move away from UK as they stepped back from their roles as members of the royal family. It was greeted with shock, disappointment, awe, etc...



#WFH

This was the first time the office came home...to stay that way. With coronavirus cases escalating, it seemed prudent to adjust to WFH (or #workfromhome). The situation had its pros and cons, and on social media, it also saw people sharing experiences of dealing with their makeshift work.



#LOCKDOWN

This pretty much defined our lives and still holds a sway over us, in case we go into lockdown mode again. It literally drew the boundaries on our lives, getting us to find a new way to live in the confines of our homes. For some, it made for more family time, for others who were solo in the city, it made for the hardest existence.



#BLACKLIVESMATTER

If there is a case of inclusivity in the world today, then that was only highlighted even more with the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter this year. The resentment was brewing on this issue for quite some time, and on May 25, after the death of a black American man, George Floyd, allegedly by choking, it got re-ignited. #BlackLivesMatter grew to become one of the biggest anti-racist movements that the United States has seen, with protests everywhere calling out for justice.

#CANCELEVERYTHING

The year 2020 was also the year of the 'cancel culture', courtesy the pandemic. With social distancing being seen as a key way to stay safe in these times, everything from education to sports events, fashion weeks, travel, social functions and more, got cancelled. The hashtag #CancelEverything gave rise to a bunch of memes as people everywhere saw their plans falling through.

#QUARANTINEBAKING

Cooking is said to be therapeutic, more so when it's a task that's leisurely like baking. So, whether it was to try something meditative or just pass time, the year saw an army of home bakers, who posted their creations online with the now popular hashtag #quarantinebaking.

5 WAYS TO GET MORE FIBRE IN YOUR DIET

Everybody knows that fibre is good for us: it aids digestion and helps keep our bowel movements regular. However, most of us don't have enough fibre in our daily diet. Here are some tips to increase your intake.

- 1 Eat a variety of nuts and seeds every day. A handful of peanuts, hazelnuts, walnuts and cashews make for a great snack.
- 2 Have a variety of legumes, beans and lentils.
- 3 Have whole grain bread. Try recipes with brown or wild rice, wholewheat pasta or quinoa.



- 4 Fresh and even frozen vegetables are great. Spinach, broccoli, sweetcorn are all good additions to your diet.

- 5 For breakfast, have porridge or cereal, which is high in fibre, and have it with your favourite nuts, seeds and fruits. Daily Mirror

QUIZ TIME (GK) (Siddharth Bhat, class X, St Paul's English School, Bengaluru)



Q.1) The pseudonym of the anonymous creator of Bitcoin is?
A. LuizSec
B. Dorian Nakamoto
C. Satoshi Nakamoto
D. Gary McKinnon

Q.2) Where was the 2018 Commonwealth Games held?
A. India B. Australia
C. Scotland D. Russia

Q.3) Brain Acton and Jan Koum are the original founders of which software/app?
A. Facebook B. Twitter
C. Instagram D. WhatsApp

Q.4) What kind of software is WannaCry?
A. Virus B. Ransomware
C. Bug D. Trojan Horse

Q.5) Who wrote the famous book 'The Origin of Species'?
A. Stephen Hawking
B. Albert Einstein
C. Charles Darwin
D. Neil deGrasse Tyson



ANSWERS

1. C) Satoshi Nakamoto 2. B) Australia 3. D) WhatsApp 4. B) Ransomware 5. C) Charles Darwin

KNOWLEDGE BANK

Glaucus atlanticus

It is a species of small blue sea slug. It floats upside down by using the surface tension of the water to stay up. The blue side of the slug's body faces upwards, camouflaged with the water. It lives in the open ocean and can give a potentially dangerous sting. A mature sea slug can grow up to 3 centimetres in length. It is silvery grey on its dorsal side and dark and pale blue ventrally. It has dark blue stripes on its head.



GRAMMATICAL MISTAKES

STATIONARY/STATIONERY

THE RULES:

- Stationary refers to being motionless.
- Stationery refers to pens, pencils and other office supplies.

HOW NOT TO DO IT:

- The car was stationary for a few minutes, and then it began to move.
- The boy told his mother about the stationary he needs tomorrow.

HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY:

- The car was stationary for a few minutes, and then it began to move.
- He told his mom about the stationery he needs.

Meet the Logophiles at AKESI

At the Aga Khan Education Service, India (AKESI), every stakeholder is encouraged to be self-accountable to their learning and development. To create an environment of continuous learning during the pandemic, Aga Khan Education Service, India organised a virtual Spelling Bee Challenge for all teachers.

More than 300 teachers across 8 schools and hostels participated in the event. 42 teachers from the Diamond Jubilee High School for Girls, Mumbai (DJGSM) participated enthusiastically in this event.

After battling with words for the first two rounds, two finalists from each school and the hostel were all set to showcase their language prowess in the finale, as they chose words from among five categories - Arts, Math, Science, World History and Literature.

Participants were able to showcase their prowess, by cracking words like soliloquy, baroque, and tautology. They took advantage of word repetitions, origins and the meanings of the word, to spell, as well as frame sentences with the words. Each spelling and usage in a sentence, framed accurately, took them a step closer to being crowned the Champion Speller.

After a fun, yet intense two hours, the results were declared. Nafisa Basrai and Taqdees Pathan from DJGSM were crowned the Master Speller and Super Speller respectively. Vardah Roghay, the principal of DJGSM remarked, "It is a proud moment for the school.

The winners have done an excellent job! This event tickled our imagination and simplified the demon called 'spelling', leaving us with memorable learning and memories."

At the end of the day, each participant was one step closer to being a 'word ninja'. To summarise this journey,



Dr. Natasha Mehta, Head of Academics added, "The Spelling Bee was an innovative and fun way to enhance the communication skills of teachers by enriching their vocabulary, diction and pronunciation. It encouraged our teachers across the network schools in a joyful manner addressing both the needs of professional development and mental well-being".

THE ROAD - AN EXPEDITION OF LIFE

The beloved life of all
Is nothing but a mere road
On which each creature travels
After leaving the cosy abode.
Then begins the journey
Appearing quite effortless,
But then you never know,
You might land up being help-
less.
Gradually comes the path
For which none ever craved
With scattered pieces of rocks

and pebbles,
It is the road unpaved.
The potholes welcome you
warmly
And add on to the fun
Then the only thing you yearn
for
Is to get away and run.
Awaiting in the odyssey
Are the the lanes winding,
For one it may be adventurous
For the other a miserable rid-



ing.
But you have to move on
B'cause obstacles aren't the
termination
And no matter what
You are bound to reach your
destination.
Each one has a different path
So never you compare,
But for every little surprise on
the way
To not lose hope you swear.

VARADA SHENDYE, class IX, SSPM's Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, Borivali East

A DAY SPENT WELL IN AMRITSAR

Enjoying in Summer Vacations has some different taste. I travelled to the most peaceful and Vibrant City called AMRITSAR with my family. We left home by 9 in the morning. The best and my personal favourite part of this city is the GOLDEN TEMPLE. This temple is a sight to behold. It is surrounded by water. Upon entering the temple, it feels that no outer world exists. Tourists are mesmerised by the serenity.

After exiting from the temple and within five minutes, we reach the Jallianwala Bagh. It's a public garden and some memories of the massacre are dis-



played. It was indeed a historic moment. Amritsar is incredible! There's a lot to learn about Sikhism. Culture and tradition, food, clothing everything has a unique style. It was indeed one of the most amazing trip and I

would love to suggest this place to add in your travel bucket list!

Ashu Mamotra, class X,
Chandresh Lodha
Memorial School,
Dombivli East



MY SCHOOL, MY HOME

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

One thing we all can surely relate to is the early mornings in the school courtyard which has been replaced by the bright computer screens due to the ongoing pandemic. Mornings in Apeejay School, Nerul began in the huge courtyard buzzing with students, while the choir prepared for the morning prayer.

The whole school then together sang the morning prayer, which was followed by the bright comperes of the day who start-

ed the assembly. It was followed by a 'thought of the day' which was further explained by one of the knowledgeable teachers. A silent prayer was conducted and then the names of the tiny tots whose birthday occurred on the day was announced and the birthday song

was sung. The assembly continued with the news readers and the weather reporters updating our lives and weather. The cultural programme that followed could have various number of items; dance, a musical instrument, singing, interesting facts, or a book review. All of them were equally entertaining. Finally, the assembly ended with the patriotic song of the day.

This was an everyday morning routine for us; but these small things have taught us so many lessons which people value even today.

That is why our motto stands, "Soaring High is My Nature"

Noyonika Sharma, class X,
Apeejay School, Nerul



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

St. Mary's School and College, Dombivli

Students participated wholeheartedly in online Christmas celebrations. They cherished this festive season by celebrating with classmates coupled with words of encouragement and acts of kindness.

All participants enjoyed displaying Christmas Decorations which they had made: snowflakes, snowman, Santa Claus, reindeer, candles, lovely decorative Christmas tree, drawings, singing carols, decorating house, showing small clips on Jesus Christ all done at home and shown in the online classroom.

They had made cakes, chocolates and cookies which was quite an attraction and worked like an online party. Children were overwhelmed to see Santa who was telling everyone how to be safe during this pandemic.

The Christmas Celebrations for 2020 proved to be indeed unique. The past year has taught all of the the value that Christmas has always



been expounding: forgiveness, patience, compassion, caring, love, giving, peace, fortitude and more.

Ryan International School, Kandivali

"Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas everyday."

Christmas is the festival of caring, sharing, happiness, joy and peace. Ryan International School, Kandivali celebrated Christmas on 23rd December. A Special Assembly was organised virtually to celebrate Christmas by the Primary, Secondary and Senior secondary section.

The assemblies were an amalgamation of various programmes like music, dance and drama virtually prepared and displayed by students. The Christmas celebration commenced from 20th December with various activities and competitions like Christmas card making, Christmas Covid mask making and Christmas tree making. Among all, Christmas Carol Competition conducted among the various classes was the greatest attraction.

Keeping the crisis situation in mind, the virtual celebration commenced with compeering of skillful orators of the various classes. The programme unfolded with Bible Reading, Special prayer and Lord's prayer followed by the Praise and Worship songs. The melodious carols were enchanting, the singers captivated the virtual audience with their fine rhythmic songs. The principal of the school Anjali Bowen shared a meaningful and inspiring message by Chairman Dr A. F. Pinto and Managing Director Grace Pinto, stating that: "Christmas is the time of loving, sharing and giving with kind heart", and blessed every student and parent a Merry Christmas with success and robust health. He wished every student and parent safe and healthy life, and urged them to spread the message of sharing, caring and joy. A wonderful virtual Skit prepared by the students of Std 5 and 9 was exhibited in the assembly. A beautifully synchronised Rock Band performance by the school orchestra "Symphony" captured the show. The programme concluded with the singing of School song followed by National Anthem.



Despite the prevailing pandemic condition, the students of Ryan International School successfully celebrated Christmas with high enthusiasm and fervour, with Full House participation.

New Horizon Scholars School, Thane

"Peace on earth will come to stay, When we live Christmas every day."

The festival commemorates the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ - the Messiah of God. On 23rd December, New Horizon Scholars School, Thane celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ with great zeal and enthusiasm in the true spirit of Christmas. Students prepared Christmas cards as an activity for their friends and had sent it via email. All the students were dressed in red and white (Santa's favourite colours). The students sang melodious carols.

The significance of the festival was explained to the students showing videos of Christmas story. Children also spoke about the true meaning of Christmas and ornaments that are hung on Christmas trees like the shiny star, the silver bell, the red and white candy, the wreath, the candle and the Santa. Principal and Regional Director, Dr. Jyoti Nair expressed her delight on seeing such enthusiasm in the children who brought the spirit of Christmas to life.

"Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of receiving. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values," she explained.



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IND vs AUS, 3RD TEST PREVIEW

WHO WILL TAKE THE LEAD?

Australia and India resume their "arm-wrestle" Test series at 1-1 on Thursday after a build-up marred by a coronavirus outbreak in Sydney and concerns over a potential biosecurity breach by the Indian team

It's obvious that once you're bowled out for 36, various cricket experts will think that with Virat Kohli leaving the series and Shami being ruled out, the Indian team could sort off disintegrate but credit to the team, support staff, the way they bounced back positively. I would say to my viewer friends and experts, never rule out anything, especially not the Indian Cricket Team.

VVS Laxman,
former India batsman



India is waiting for Cheteshwar Pujara to 'arrive'. In the last 18 Test innings, he has scored 477 runs at 26.5 with no hundreds

WARNER'S INCLUSION - WILL IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- 1 "The first two Tests have been tough cricket, it's 1-1 and that probably shows how close the series is," said Australia coach Justin Langer, describing the series as an "arm-wrestle". "We are very, very determined to get out of the blocks hard on Thursday."
- 2 The series has also been eventful off the field with Sydney, which has raced to contain a new Covid-19 cluster, only confirmed as host of the third Test after the Melbourne game. The Sydney Cricket Ground has slashed its available capacity from 50 to 25 percent, about 10,000 fans, after a public backlash over potential health risks. Separately, five Indian players were spotted dining inside a Melbourne restaurant, in apparent contravention of biosecurity protocols.
- 3 Australian officials have played down reports of India not keen on the final Test in Brisbane, due to stricter quarantine arrangements. The weather could affect plans for both teams, with showers forecast for Thursday and Friday. David Warner is expected to return after missing the first two Tests, while fellow opener Joe Burns has been dumped.
- 4 Warner's opening partner is still unknown. Will Pucovski could make his debut, Marcus Harris is waiting in the wings. If either play, Matthew Wade would drop back to number five with Travis Head facing the axe. "There's loyalty to all our players. It's so hard to fit seven or eight into six," said Langer, when asked about Head. But he stressed his batsmen must start putting more runs on the board, with the team failing to go past 200 during the series.

INDIA TO STICK WITH FIVE-BOWLER STRATEGY

- 1 After Melbourne, India coach Ravi Shastri hailed the team's turnaround as one of the great comebacks of all time, but the euphoria was short-lived. Rohit Sharma, Rishabh Pant, Shubman Gill, Prithvi Shaw and Navdeep Saini were all seen dining in a Melbourne restaurant, in what looked like a biosecurity breach. But India's cricket board has taken no action so far, and after the entire touring party tested negative for the coronavirus on Sunday, the five seem to be clear to play.
- 2 That would see Gill, who was highly impressive on debut in Melbourne, pad up again, while the explosive Pant will once more keep wicket. Sharma only joined the team last week after a late injury-enforced arrival. But he was immediately made vice-captain, suggesting he too will play, potentially in place of the under-performing Mayank Agarwal.
- 3 There will be a new-look attack with Umesh Yadav out of the series after hurting his calf and T Natarajan called up as a replacement. India were already without regulars Mohammed Shami and Ishant Sharma.
- 4 Despite this, Shastri said last week they planned to stick with a five-bowler strategy. He added that the key to their comeback in Melbourne was forgetting what happened in Adelaide, a trait they will take into Sydney. "To beat a team like Australia, especially in Australia, there is no point having one good day or two good days," he said. "You have got to have five good days if you have to beat them, as simple as that."

TRULY NO. 1!

Kane Williamson scored 238, the fourth double-century of his career and his second of the summer, as New Zealand declared with a 362-run lead over Pakistan on the third day of the second test. In the process, Williamson went on to achieve several new milestones in the longest format of the game. Here are some of them...

1. Williamson now has the highest average in Test cricket in the last three years when it comes to batters who have scored a minimum of 1000 runs. He stands head and shoulders above modern greats like Virat Kohli, Steve Smith and others.
 - 65.74 Kane Williamson (and counting)
 - 62.80 Babar Azam
 - 58.81 Marnus Labuschagne
 - 53.53 Henry Nicholls
 - 52.62 Steve Smith
 - 52.56 Virat Kohli
2. Only 12 players have reached the milestone of 7000 runs in Tests in fewer number of innings than Williamson, who reached the landmark in 144 innings.
3. Williamson is only the fourth batsman to score a century in three straight Test matches for the Kiwis, with the other three being Mark Burgess (1969-72), Ross Taylor (2013) and Tom Latham (2018-19).
4. Since 2016, Williamson is only the second captain to score more than 10 Test hundreds. He presently sits on 11, behind Kohli who has 16 Test tons to his name in the period.
5. With his 32nd half-century, the 30-year-old now has the most fifty-plus scores (which included both fifties and hundreds) for New Zealand in Test matches. Having crossed the coveted figure 56 times, the cricketer has gone past former New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming, who has achieved the feat 55 times.
6. Williamson and Henry Nicholls' partnership of 369 runs against Pakistan is the highest 4th wicket stand for the Kiwis in Tests. The previous best was between Ross Taylor and Jesse Ryder at 271 runs. In the overall list for New Zealand, it stands at the third spot.

In 82 Test matches, Williamson has amassed 6980 runs with 24 centuries

Danny Ings lobs Southampton to 1-0 win over Liverpool

A superb second-minute lob by Danny Ings gave Southampton a surprise 1-0 home win over Premier League leaders Liverpool, with the Reds' attack looking rudderless as they were held scoreless for the second game in a row. The victory lifted Southampton to sixth in the table on 29 points, behind Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester City on goal difference. Liverpool stay top on 33 points ahead of Manchester United, who have a game in hand, on goal difference.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Q1: Who is the all-time record holder for most goals in Premier League?

- a) Sergio Agüero b) Andrew Cole
c) Wayne Rooney d) Alan Shearer

Q2: The youngest boxer to win an Olympic gold medal was

- a) Riddick Bowe b) Jackie Fields
c) Joseph Salas d) Pedro Quartucci

Q3: In Women's One Day International, who was the youngest player to have scored a hundred?

- a) Charlotte Edwards b) Laura Wolvaardt

- c) Mithali Raj d) Amelia Kerr

Q4: Name the youngest footballer to appear in a FIFA World Cup Final?

- a) Pelé b) Johan Cruyff
c) Cristiano Ronaldo d) Lionel Messi

Q5: The partnership between which two players led to the highest number of runs in ICC Men's World Cup?

- a) Upul Tharanga and Tillakaratne Dilshan
b) David Warner and Steve Smith
c) Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid
d) Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels

Q6: During which Olympics did Mima Ito became the youngest table tennis player to win a medal?

- a) 2004 Athens Games
b) 2008 Beijing Games
c) 2016 Rio Games d) 2012 London Games



Mima

Q7: Which of these players has scored the most goals in FIFA Club World Cup?

- a) Lionel Messi b) Luis Suárez
c) Cristiano Ronaldo d) Gareth Bale

Q8: Who is the first female tennis player to have achieved the 'golden' Grand Slam?

- a) Monica Seles b) Martina Hingis
c) Gabriela Sabatini d) Steffi Graf

Q9: Sonja Henie, Irina Rodnina and Tessa Virtue hold the record for most Olympic gold medals won by women in figure skating. How many medals have each won?

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

Q10: The record for umpiring the most matches in ICC Men's World Cup is held by

- a) David Shepherd b) Steve Bucknor
c) Aleem Dar d) Billy Bowden

Q11: Which of the following clubs has the all-time record of most wins in Premier League?

- a) Manchester United b) Chelsea
c) Liverpool d) Arsenal

Q12: Which athlete has won gold medals in discus throw at four consecutively Olympic games?

- a) Ludvík Danek b) Fortune Gordien
c) Lothar Milde d) Alfred Oerter, Jr

ANSWERS: 1 d) Alan Shearer 2 b) Jackie Fields
3 c) Mithali Raj 4 a) Pelé
5 d) Chris Gayle and Marlon Samuels
6 c) 2016 Rio Games 7 c) Cristiano Ronaldo
8 d) Steffi Graf 9 c) Three
10 a) David Shepherd 11 a) Manchester United
12 d) Alfred Oerter, Jr