



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

> School is not only a hub of learning but is also about many fun moments, say students
PAGE 2



> Check out your favourite activity corner - From quiz to English grammar, you have it all
PAGE 3



> Euro20: A SWOT analysis of the quarter finals, as England emerges as a strong contender
PAGE 4



STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021



Quote unquote



The judiciary cannot be controlled directly or indirectly by the legislature or the executive, or else the 'Rule of Law' would become illusory. At the same time, judges should not be swayed by the emotional pitch of public opinion either, which is getting amplified through social media platforms. Judges have to be mindful of the fact that the noise thus amplified is not necessarily reflective of what is right and what the majority believes in. The new media tools that have enormous amplifying ability are incapable of distinguishing between right and wrong, good and bad, and the real and fake. Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases extremely vital to function independently and withstand all external aids and pressures. While there is a lot of discussion about the pressure from the executive, it is also imperative to start a discourse as to how social media trends can affect the institutions. For the judiciary to apply checks on governmental power and action, it has to have complete freedom

NV Ramana, Chief Justice of India, addressing lawyers at the 17th Justice PD Desai memorial lecture on 'Rule of Law'

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

CBSE introduces financial literacy booklet for students



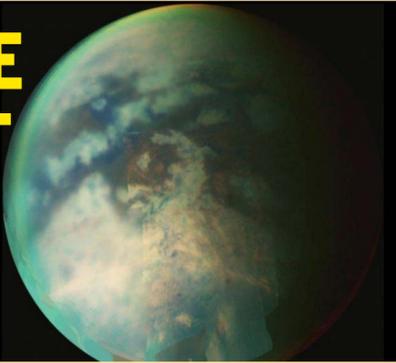
The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have joined hands to introduce a financial literacy curriculum for students of class VI. Launched as part of the new elective 'financial literacy' subject, which will enable students to have an understanding of basic financial concepts at a preliminary stage of their education, the textbook covers crucial topics on financial awareness.



- From core concepts like currency, banking, savings, and investments to advanced concepts like IMPS, UPI, USSD, NACH, PoS, mPoS, QR codes, and ATMs, this book covers all that a child might find very useful in a later stage in their life. Building upon the context of modes of digital payments, the book elaborates the role of UIDAI and the importance of Aadhaar, and Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS)
- It also entails the origin of banking, the transition from coins to paper money, types of banks and major operations and services carried out by banks
- The textbook also elucidates the significant role of RBI and GOI in providing an impetus to the digital payments movement
- Complete with activities, illustrations, and practice exercises, the textbook can be accessed online on the CBSE website. NPCI has also been working for course content development with the CBSE for class VII and VIII

FORGET MARS, TIME TO LOOK BEYOND IT

With China, UAE and US closely monitoring the Red planet with various explorations, mission Mars appears to be the flavour of the moment. According to scientists, the Red Planet, with its Earth-like temperatures and atmosphere, is the most realistic extra-terrestrial world, ripe for human colonisation. But isn't to say that the solar system isn't teeming with other cosmic objects that deserve exploration. Check them out...



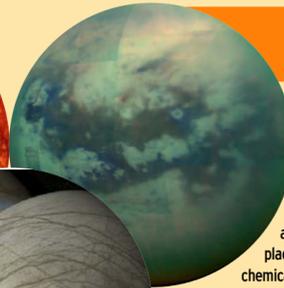
VENUS

The enigmatic planet, similar in size, geological composition and mass to our own Blue Dot, have signs that it still has active volcanoes. However, its ultra-dense atmosphere, composed mostly of carbon dioxide, surface pressures equivalent to being thousands of feet underwater, and ground-level temperatures, make it inhospitable. But further study of the planet could provide insight into how Earth itself may evolve, given that there is evidence to indicate that Venus may have once had livable conditions. The news of NASA greenlighting two missions - an orbiter called VERITAS and an atmospheric probe called DAVINCI+ - to Venus in the coming years is more than welcome.



JUPITER AND EUROPA

The Juno probe, launched in 2011, arrived at Jupiter in 2016, and has, since, paved the way for numerous discoveries that aid in understanding the king of the planets. It gave us the first glimpse of the giant planet's poles and the devastating cyclones that take place there. It also offered clues into the chemical composition of the planet, along with its complex magnetic fields. But Europa, Jupiter's fourth-largest moon deserves equal attention. Scientists theorise that it may have a subsurface ocean of warm, liquid water, and despite extreme conditions, may be able to host life in underground hydrothermal vents. Minerals associated with organic life have also been found on Europa. The hope is that the ESA's Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer, expected to launch next year, and NASA's Europa Clipper scheduled for launch in 2024, will shed more light on whether Europa harbours extra-terrestrial life.



TITAN

When it comes to hospitability, Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is another contender. With a nitrogen-rich atmosphere, it is the only cosmic body in our solar system with clear evidence of surface lakes. However, these lakes aren't filled with water but methane. Still, scientists believe that some primitive life may be able to exist in these lakes. But there is still a great deal to learn about the planet's atmosphere. NASA's Dragonfly rotorcraft drone is set to launch in 2026.

CERES

Last year, Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) accomplished a remarkable feat when it not only landed a spacecraft on an asteroid but managed to gather samples, and then slingshot back to Earth. The Hayabusa2, which was launched with asteroid 162173 Ryugu in 2018, has paved way for other such missions. Ceres, the largest asteroid in our solar system, may be worth a visit. Ceres, which may have an icy crust, a salty underground ocean, and ice volcanoes, may have once been habitable.



Indian-American Abhimanyu Mishra Becomes youngest GM in chess history



Indian-American prodigy Abhimanyu Mishra just became the youngest-ever chess Grandmaster after he scored his third GM norm in Budapest, Hungary, according to a report. The 12-year-old from New Jersey in United States became a GM from International Master, having crossed the required 2500 Elo rating barrier, chess.com website said.



- Mishra broke GM Sergey Karjakin's record that has stood for 19 years. On August 12, 2002, Karjakin, a world championship challenger in 2016, secured the Grandmaster title at the age of 12 years and seven months.
- Mishra, born on February 5, 2009, took 12 years, four months, and 25 days to obtain the highest title in chess, the website said. Mishra spent several months in Budapest, playing back-to-back tournaments, chasing the title and the record.

HEAT DOME GRIPS US



The western United States is currently under the influence of an epic heat dome, an expansive region of high atmospheric pressure characterised by heat, drought and heightened fire danger. A heat dome is a weather phenomenon in which high-pressure atmospheric conditions trap air coming in from the Pacific Ocean, heating the air column while compressing it down like a lid on a saucerpan

BOOKER PRIZE-WINNER NOVEL 'SACRED HUNGER' TO GET SERIES ADAPTATION

Author Barry Unsworth's Booker Prize-winner novel 'Sacred Hunger' will be adapted into a series. According to 'Deadline', executive producer Chris Bongine and his company Smokestack Films has joined hands with financier Stephen Leist to buy the rights to the 1992 book.



- The story follows the journey of a struggling young English doctor aboard 18th century slave ship - the Liverpool Merchant
- In 1992, 'Sacred Hunger' shared the Booker Prize with Michael Ondaatje's, 'The English Patient'

You ask,

We answer

Are you facing issues related to your academics, mental health, etc? Do you want to share your problem, but shy to reveal it to your near ones? Never mind, our expert, CBSE helpline counsellor, JAYDEB KAR, will answer queries from students, parents and educators. Your identity will be strictly protected...

As academics have gone virtual now, most of my time is spent glued to the laptop screen. But my parents do not trust me and frequently keep a check on me. What should I do, as I don't like this attitude?

No doubt, the pandemic has taken education to the virtual world, and mobile and computers are necessary for the children. In this scenario, you need to identify what act of yours hurt them and they lost trust in you. Gradually, work on gaining their trust back with your actions and communication. There is no harm in keeping your room door open and letting them check

a few times. They will trust you, once they are satisfied.

I am a student of class X. I along with my parents will be shifting from our present city to our native place. Will it be possible for me to get admission to a CBSE school during the lockdown period?

CBSE has a provision of direct admission in class X for CBSE Schools for reasons like relocating of family, job transfers, etc. Kindly contact the school you are aiming for admission at your native place. The school will process your application as per the SOP issued by the board.

(MAIL US YOUR QUERIES AT TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM)

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RETHINK
Heard of Mottainai - the Japanese eco-friendly philosophy?

CELEBRATE THE MONSOONS
From self-care, to health to countering monsoon moods, welcome the rains with us

ENVIRONMENT
Are you signing up for Plastic Free July? We look at the history of the movement and how you can be part of it

FILMS, BOOKS
Books to fight pandemic procrastination. PLUS: The best laugh riots from the world of cinema

SPORTS
All you need to know about the sport of cycling

STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 2021

Your Weekender

WORLD MUSIC DAY CELEBRATIONS

N. L. Dalmia High School, Mira Road

"Music gives wings to the heart and takes it to the world of Joy."

The Primary Section of N. L. Dalmia High School celebrated the 'World Music Day' to honour musicians around the world and their contribution towards making everything melodious. The event was graced by the vice-principal, Melita Coutinho and Activity Supervisor, Preeti Thackeray. Abhinav Sir and Tejas Sir were the enthusiastic hosts for the day. The students of Grade V were part of this Mega-show. Parents too were decked up in the Rockstar theme. The students across the primary section, gave an instrumental performance with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The performances featured many blossoming musicians with an assortment of unique musical combos. Few students displayed their vocal skills by singing with their mellifluous voices. The highlight of the day was "My favourite Musician", where students dressed up like their favourite national or international musicians like Kishore Kumar, Michael Jackson and Anna Kendrick and paid tribute to them by

The surprise element of the show was to see talented parents who played different instruments like Flute, Tabla, Violin and Piano and mesmerised the audience

singing their masterpiece. It was commendable to have such a wide variety of genres covered by the students. Music Day was a treat not only for the students but also for the parents and faculty as the students left no stone unturned to put their best foot forward.

The surprise element of the show was to see talented parents who played different instruments like Flute, Tabla, Violin and Piano and mesmerized the audience. It was wonderful to hear and see parents' live music performance. The event concluded with the national anthem sung by one of the student. This day amplified and invoked every parent and students to be immersed in music.



Ryan International School, Chembur

"Music holds a special place in everyone's life. It soothes our mind and soul and is the best way to express one's feelings."

The world Music Day was celebrated at Ryan International School, Chembur on 19th June 2021 virtually with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The celebration started off by invoking God in our midst, all the participants with smile on their lips and joy in their heart joined in singing the prayer songs.

Rutuja Shah - Classical Singer, graced the occasion and shared the words of inspiration about the importance of music in one's life. Rutuja Shah stated that, 'Music has no language barriers... it comes from one's heart and soul and touches to another's soul. Music activates our whole brain which in itself is a miracle. We should always showcase our music talent to express



and not to impress. Wished all the Ryanites for their successful musical journey in their career and life.

Instrumentalist from grade 5 to 10 presented a spectacular musical orchestra with great enthusiasm and enthralled the audience with their performance. The students thoroughly enjoyed the

music day celebration by sharing videos and pictures of them playing a musical instrument or by singing a song.

Celebration not only played a vital role in the overall holistic development of the students but also created awareness among the children about the importance of music in life.

Jasudben ML School, Khar

World Music Day, started in 1982, is known as 'Fête de la Musique' in France and now is celebrated across the globe on June 21 every year.

Festivities of this day are conducted in nearly 700 cities across 120 countries, so it is only befitting to celebrate by encouraging amateur and professional musicians to create magic.

The students and teachers of Jasudben ML School, Khar, commemorated this happy occasion with a video collation of beautiful performances

of musical instruments, songs, and singing.

At JML, we always begin any joyous moment with a prayer to Saraswati, the Goddess of Knowledge. And so, a

student performed a dance on the Saraswati Vandana, which was followed by a melodious version of the old Hindi song "Saare ke saare ga ma ko lekar gaate chale" sung by the pri-

mary students.

Since the celebrations would be incomplete without some musical instruments, the secondary students expertly played the sitar, tabla, and piano.

After this was a fitting tribute to Franch, through "Les Champs Elysees" sung by a student in the perfect French accent.

The frolics then ended aptly with a joyous version of "Thank you for the music" by ABBA sung by the talented higher secondary students.

The video left the viewers swinging and singing along to the tunes right till the end.



(OUT) STANDING STUDENTS

It was the last day of 8th grade and it was the last period. We had debates among teams going on as a part of an activity. It was stimulating and I was thoroughly enjoying it. When the time was up for us, we returned to our seat. But, both our teams continued our debate (on the topics that were being given to other students)! We were warned thrice by the teacher and yet, no one was willing to listen. It ended with loudest 4 of us getting punished (standing outside the class). I remember this particular incident so vividly because that was the first time I was made to stand out of the class for disobedience!

Aarya Bhanushali, class X, S.V.D.D. English Medium Secondary High School, Mumbai

CLASSROOM ANTICS



Bidding adieu to the Board Year

In order give the year gone by an amazing farewell students from all over the country have come together to form an all-India group called the 'Students' Collective,' also going by the name of 'India Class of 2021' these students are bidding adieu to one of the most challenging academic year in their school life

LUY LALKA

Students from all over the country have been at home for over the past one year. It has been a tough year for all, but it has been much difficult for students appearing for their boards. For them the past year was clouded with uncertainty of board examinations, academic pressure and no social contact at a time in their life which was their last year in school. For most students, that year is likely to dissolve into the next without a formal sign-off.

Just the way in which the Covid-19 pandemic has blurred professional and personal spaces, the same has happened with students too. The blurring of academic calendars has led to the melting away of milestone years like grade X and XII. Just like that, the new academic year will kick in. Again in front of a computer screen. But there are some whispers in the corridor of students putting together an event for themselves on July 18, 2021.

Noyonika Sharma, a student of Apeejay School, Nerul said, "I had a lot of plans for my 10th grade, but I was confined to my home for the past whole year." Sanisa Patrikar, a student at DAV Public School, Thane said, "The lockdown situation came as a shock. We had no idea as to how

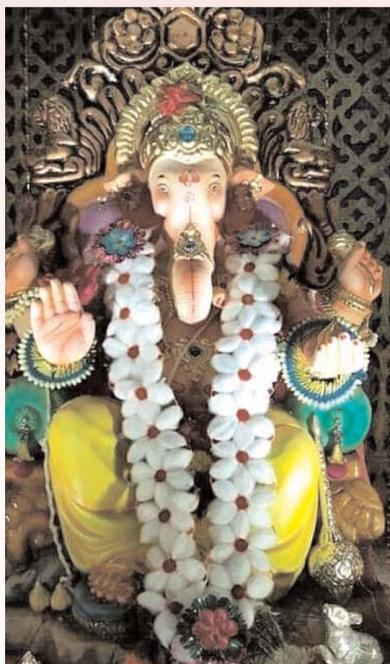
to deal with it and neither could we turn to our seniors for help as they were going through this for the first time too." Kritika Agarwal from Ryan International School, Kandivali, said, "Online classes were not as interactive as physical classes, this made me lose interest and I started taking

Bhanushali from SVDD School, Mumbai.

Arnab Bhowmik from Chandresh Lodha Memorial School, Dombivli, said, "As I was half way through the year online classes became irritating." Shreya Maniar a student at Universal High School said, "Online classes caused my eyes to dry out, headaches and back pain which in turn took a toll on my concentration and mental health."

These remarks from students on online classes can only help us imagine what these students have

been through at such a tender age. Adapting to a totally new form of education and combating anxiety and stress of examinations was definitely challenging. In such a situation, which our government is still trying to provide solutions - the students did not have access to any sort of leisure which included venturing out, but they fought against all odds and routed any difficulties that came their way to emerge with their heads held high.



I would love to be a Ganesha idol. I would have a short, yet exciting life. I'd be lovingly sculpted out of mud, with the artist carefully mixing vibrant colours to get my shade just right. Everyone would handle me gently, with the same smile that someone has while holding a child. Then I'd be proudly displayed until a bustling little family would pick me. On the auspicious first day, I'd be welcomed at their home like a king, a blessing, with the kids pushing past each other just to get a good look at me. For ten days, I'd live a grand life, being pampered with scrumptious foods, offerings, and songs sung in my praise twice a day. Kids (also adults even if they don't admit it) would silently thank me and wish for their innermost aspirations to come true. After ten days of being showered with love, they'd bid me a tearful farewell, and the gentle handling would be replaced by rough jostling as I'd be passed around for the visarjan and dropped in the water beside several other idols. And I would slowly dissolve back into the Earth, with the water body consuming me and carrying me to a place unknown, ready for another adventure.

IF I WERE A GANESHA IDOL

Sanisa Patrikar, class X, D.A.V Public School, Thane



them lightly." Niyomi Shah from Podar International School, Powai, said, "Most of the times in an online class I was on my own to figure out if what I had understood was right or wrong, and I always had the leverage to turn off the camera." "Since everything was online and I was at home all the time, there was not much distinction between my work-space and leisure space which made it difficult for me to focus," said Aarya



FOR DETAILS REGISTER CLICK HERE: <https://forms.gle/19LFQFrGteeN8fHZ6>

LEVEL-1



Draw the easy way

EGRULANTIO
A: regulation B: ergonomics
C: economics D: regale

ISCDUSNSIO
A: discussion
B: iceberg
C: curative
D: dunes

EARYLIT
A: early B: yearly
C: reality D: kitten

Answers: 1) A, 2) A, 3) A

Riding with the Riddle

It is the home of a number of medium-to-large-sized creatures. It has a high spire and a noticeable siphonal canal. It is attractive, and is used as a decorative piece in many homes. It is an essential part of prayers in many parts of India

Answer: Conch

Quiz TIME

In Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice', Jessica exchanges a ring for a monkey. Rings are also given by Portia and Nerissa to Bassanio and Gratiano. Complete these statements on other things that feature or are mentioned in the play. Choose correctly!

1 Jessica and Lorenzo are seen in a
a) Canoe b) Ferry
c) Gondola d) Kayak

2 Morocco describes the figure of an angel on a
a) Coach b) Coffin
c) Coin d) Column

3 Jessica gives Launcelot a
a) Lamp b) Letter
c) Loaf d) Liquid

4 Shylock is ready in court with a
a) Balance b) Bible
c) Box d) Bell

5 Something costing 2000 ducats is a
a) Turquoise b) Sapphire
c) Ruby d) Diamond

Answers: 1) c, Gondola, 2) c, Coin, 3) b, Letter, 4) a, Balance, 5) d, Diamond

LEVEL-2

Idiom-etrics

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

(Choose the idiom that best suits the situation)

Sameer and Sunil were good friends. Both of them were bright students. But, while Sameer did well in all the subjects, Sunil had a problem recalling facts in history. 'Text me this answer,' he urged Sameer, during an online test, having forgotten the date of the Battle of Plassey. 'Sorry, that would not be right,' was the reply. Sameer believed that it was wrong to score marks by dishonest means, although he and Sunil agreed on most other matters.



- A) Turn a blind eye B) Keep an eye on
C) See eye to eye

Anita played tennis well, but she refused to play against a better rival, as she did not want to endure the humiliation of defeat.



- A) Lose heart
B) Lose face
C) Lose touch

TRIVIA
An interesting expression comes to us from Sir Robert Hart, a British diplomat in China, who made that country his home. In a book published in 1876, he translated the Mandarin expression 'tiu lien' into English, while writing about those who had forfeited public respect. They had 'lost face' (lost reputation). 'Save face', meaning the opposite, entered the English language over 20 years later. That has nothing to do with China!



EDITOR IN THE MAKING

Weave a story with headlines

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

- The headlines:**
- 1) What keeps me moving
 - 2) Laugh your way to good skin
 - 3) Draw your experience
 - 4) A manner manual for the online world
 - 5) Wisdom on your fingertips
 - 6) Aiming for the gold
 - 7) Centre proposes ban on mis-selling, fraudulent flash sales on e-commerce platforms

Blank lines for writing a story.



MATH MAGIC

NUMBER SERIES

1 The sum of three number is 120. The ratio of the first to the second is 3/5, and the ratio of the second to the third is 5/7. Find the second number?
A. 35 B. 40
C. 45 D. 55

2 Find out the wrong number in this series.
30, 42, 56, 72, 91, 121, 132, 156
A. 30 B. 72
C. 91 D. 132

3 Find the sum of first 17 multiples of 9?
A. 960 B. 1227
C. 1341 D. 1377

4 Find the sum of first 36 natural numbers
A. 666 B. 566
C. 546 D. 656

Learn a NEW LANGUAGE FRENCH

- 1) Pourriez-vous prendre ma photo/notre photo?
Meaning: Will you be able to take my photo/our photo?
- 2) Où sommes-nous?
Meaning: Where are we?
- 3) Je cherche l'hôtel/l'hôpital/la banque
Meaning: I am searching for the hotel/hospital/bank
- 4) Où est le guichet?
MEANING: Where is the ticket window?
- 5) Je voudrais acheter un billet aller simple/aller-retour pour Paris
MEANING: I would like to purchase a one-way ticket/a round-trip ticket

Work sheet

- Q:1** What will you ask, if you wish to know your location?
Q:2 How will you communicate that you want a one-way ticket
Q:3 How will you ask a lady for the ticket window
Q:4 How will you ask for the nearest hospital

1) Où sommes-nous? 2) Je voudrais acheter un billet aller simple pour Paris. 3) Bonjour! Mademoiselle. Où est le guichet? 4) Monsieur, Je cherche l'hôpital

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN



On Twist mode

IS ENGLAND THE NEW FAVOURITES?

Euro 2020 last-16 stage threw up a bagful of surprises. The quarterfinals may not be any different. TOI gives a lowdown of what's in store

SWITZERLAND

STRENGTH: Seferovic's goal scoring prowess and Zuber's creativity on the left. The team focuses on playing direct football.
WEAKNESS: A leaky defence has conceded in every game.
OPPORTUNITY: Shaqiri seemed lost in their famous win against France. He needs to regain his form quickly.
THREAT: Weariness will be a factor because the Swiss are the most travelled team in the tournament.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Haris Seferovic

CZECH REPUBLIC

STRENGTH: Patrik Schick's ability to shore up goals. Organised team which plays direct football.
WEAKNESS: A wobbly backline that often struggles against aerial balls.
OPPORTUNITY: Need for other forwards and midfielders to step up and support Schick.
THREAT: If the opposition could use their wings and the width of the pitch effectively, the Czech defence might be in danger.

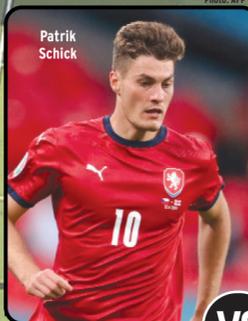


Photo: AFP

Patrik Schick

VS

VS

SPAIN

STRENGTH: Patient build-up play from the deep with a focus on creating space for wingers.
WEAKNESS: Need to shore up the defence. Players also need to be switched on till the final whistle.
OPPORTUNITY: In the absence of another traditional No. 9, Morata needs to find more consistency.
THREAT: An organised opponent defence could negate the threat of Spain's possession-based football.



Photo: AP

Alvaro Morata

DENMARK

STRENGTH: Brave and compact team game with a focus on organised defence.
WEAKNESS: Midfield lacks ideas. Could go into a shell quickly under opposition pressure.
OPPORTUNITY: A bit more creativity up front could make a lot of difference.
THREAT: Lost to Belgium in the group stages. They are yet to face a big team since then.

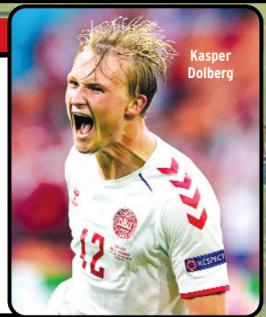


Photo: AFP

Kasper Dolberg

VS

VS

BELGIUM

STRENGTH: Lukaku's scoring form. Dynamic and creative midfield. Experienced defence.
WEAKNESS: An ageing defence could be caught out with the opposition's pace.
OPPORTUNITY: The Golden Generation lost to France at the 2018 World Cup semis. They want to win a major trophy.
THREAT: With Hazard and De Bruyne both nursing injuries, it could boost the opponent's confidence.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Romelu Lukaku

UKRAINE

STRENGTH: An intelligent midfield that can make quick transitions from defence to attack.
WEAKNESS: Lack of experience at quarters could make them nervous.
OPPORTUNITY: The chance of making a maiden semifinal appearance at a major tournament should propel the squad.
THREAT: Zinchenko has been the engine for the team. If the opponent could put a lid on him, Ukraine might struggle.

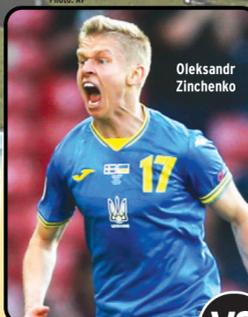


Photo: AP

Oleksandr Zinchenko

ITALY

STRENGTH: Solid defence leading to serial goal-poaching. Full-backs and wing-play make them more aggressive.
WEAKNESS: Space behind full-backs, especially when Spinazzola goes on the overlap.
OPPORTUNITY: Forwards Immobile and Insigne are yet to stamp their authority. They will need to step up their game.
THREAT: An unbeaten run of 31 matches could make players complacent.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Lorenzo Insigne

ENGLAND

STRENGTH: Wing-play and Sterling's ability to score goals.
WEAKNESS: Lack of creativity in the midfield.
OPPORTUNITY: Kane might have finally scored against Germany but he needs to find more goals if England wants to keep harbouring hopes.
THREAT: Despite attacking riches, England's defence-first approach could prove detrimental to the team's chances.

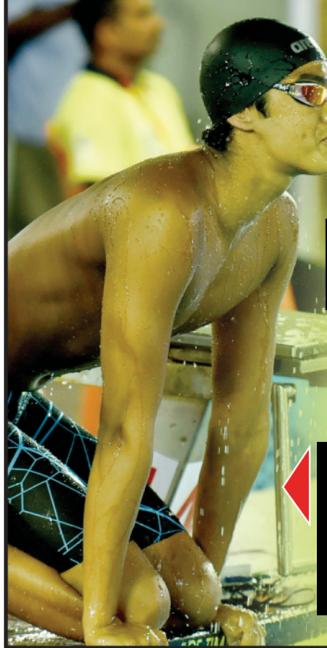


Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Raheem Sterling

I TRAINED LIKE A MADMAN: SRIHARI NATARAJ

The 20-year-old Indian swimmer has qualified for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics after FINA approved his qualification time



File Photo: Srihari Nataraj during the finals of 200m Freestyle at the 72nd Senior National Swimming Championship

Dream come true

On Sunday, as Srihari Nataraj took to the pool at the Foro Italico facility in Rome, it must have been a lonely 54 seconds. At the time trial, he swam alone with the single focus of booking his ticket to Tokyo. As soon as he realised he had breached the 'A' qualification mark, he let out a cry of triumph even as his fist thumped the air. Less than three days after the magical run in the 100m backstroke event where he timed 53.77, Srihari received the official nod from FINA, the world governing body for swimming.

It was a dream realised for the 20-year-old product of Dolphin Aquatics, who had missed the 'A' qualification mark of 53.85 seconds by five microseconds at the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome on Saturday. It was also a memorable moment for the country as the Bengalurean joined Sajan Prakash in an elite club of Indian swimmers to have made the 'A' cut. As the youngster prepares for his maiden Olympics journey, he believes it is the beginning of good times for Indian swimming.

"Two of us qualifying with 'A' times shows that we can do a lot more than what we have done. We just have to find ways to do it. It is in me. In my case, I trained like a madman over the past few months. I did not take a day off unless I was forced to like in the case of the lockdown. Other than that, I haven't taken a session off. I know the difference it has made to knock off half a second," the youngster pointed out.



Srihari Nataraj

Photos: TOI

WILLIAMSON BACK ON TOP OF ICC TEST RANKINGS

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has reclaimed the number one position in the ICC Test Rankings for batsmen after leading his side to the World Test Championship title in Southampton last week. The 30-year-old's knocks of 49 and 52 not out in the low-scoring final against India helped him move above the 900-point mark and he now enjoys a 10-point lead over Steve Smith (891 rating points). India skipper Virat Kohli remains in the fourth position while Rohit Sharma has moved up to the sixth spot. India's wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant is seventh. Williamson, who



Photo: AP

conceded the top spot to Smith two weeks ago, is back in the position he had first grabbed in November 2015 during a series against Australia. **PH**