



THE TIMES OF INDIA

www.toistudent.com

TODAY'S EDITION

➤ Want to lead a happy and healthy life? Our experts share tips on how to take care of your mind, body and soul
PAGE 2



➤ Educators and students share their views on various issues engulfing the country and the world
PAGE 3



➤ Match Preview: Battle of big-hitters on cards as Rajasthan Royals takes on Punjab Kings
PAGE 4



STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021



WEB EDITION

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

INDIA BATTLES A SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19

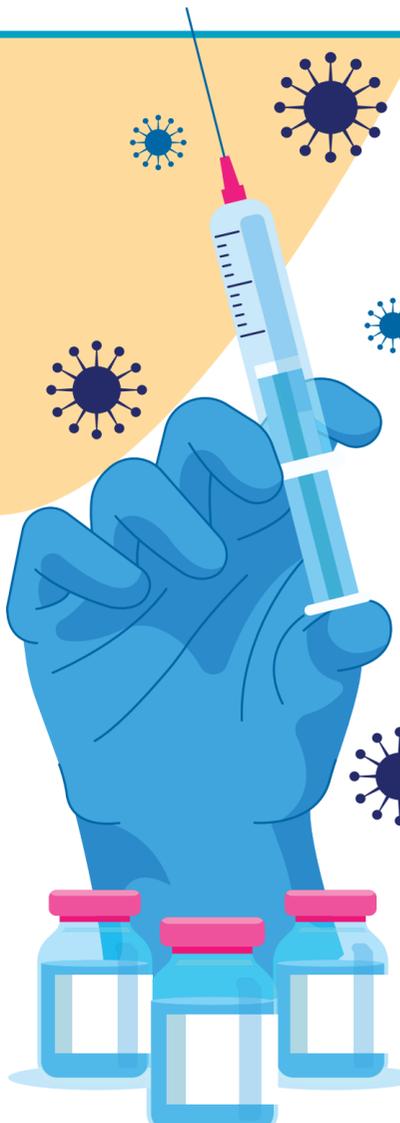
Modi's prescription: A 'WAR', A 'FESTIVAL' AND A 'CURFEW'

In an interaction with the chief ministers recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a "vaccination festival" from April 11-14 to step up the vaccination drive for the 45 years and above age group. Calling for fighting the rising surge of cases on a "war footing", Modi has also suggested renaming the 'night curfew' as "corona curfew"...

LET'S MAKE INDIA CORONA-FREE!

Join PM's Tika utsav campaign in creating awareness among your elders on the need to get vaccinated. Wear mask, maintain social distancing, adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour. Share your ideas at

TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM



PREVENTION

1 To control the outbreak, higher testing and tracing is required. The cases have been rising at a fast pace; the high positivity rate suggests a high infection rate

TREATMENT

2 While the protocol is well-established, there is a need to ensure that it is readily-available. Adequate supply of key medicines such as remdesivir needs to be ensured. Availability of oxygen and hospital beds is paramount

VACCINATION

3 While India's daily vaccination numbers are among the highest in the world, in the context of the country's population, even faster roll-out is needed. Vaccine makers need to be provided with enough funds to ramp up the capacity. More vaccines need to be approved, such as Sputnik, the supply of which can come quickly

WHAT SHOULD BE INDIA'S APPROACH TO CONTAIN THE PANDEMIC

India is battling a resurgent Covid-19 pandemic and it seems, it is some time before this second wave peaks. According to experts, the country needs a three-pronged approach – prevention, treatment and vaccination – to quickly contain the pandemic, before it derails the economy. A look at what is needed...

Meanwhile, vaccine shortage looms large: India has vaccine stocks for 5.5 days, 1 more week's in pipeline

Data collated from the Union health ministry shows that states have on average just over five days of vaccine stocks remaining at their current levels of vaccination, and an additional week's supply is in the pipeline. Nationally, at April's rate of vaccination of almost 3.6 million doses a day, the total stock of about 19.6 million will last five and a half days. There's an additional 24.5 million in the pipeline – enough for another week. But a step-up in the pace of vaccination would deplete both existing stocks, and what's coming much faster(ET)

NO LOCKDOWN, PLEASE

“With India in the middle of a second wave of coronavirus, a second lockdown, if imposed, will be detrimental not only for the industry but for the economy as well. The manufacturing sector is still reeling under the effects of the last lockdown. The supply chain is still not recovered completely, and with the possibility of a second lockdown, we will have to wait for another 6-9 months, if not a year, for it to recover. Labourers are sceptical, and anticipating a second lockdown, they have started planning their return journeys, as the memories of the last lockdown are still fresh in their minds. The sales for the first quarter of the year are not looking good already due to these factors

Sharad Malhotra, president, Nippon Paint, India

Quote unquote



NASA TO LAND FIRST PERSON OF COLOUR ON MOON



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will land the first person of colour on the Moon as part of an international spaceflight programme called Artemis, according to the US space agency. Taking a giant step for diversity, the Biden-Harris Administration seeks to land the first woman and the next man on the lunar South Pole by 2024.

While the first cadre of astronauts for the Artemis programme was announced in December, the first two crew members for Artemis III in 2024 are yet to be announced. The initial group of 18 represents a diverse team of astronauts, including those new to NASA and veterans of spaceflight. The Artemis astronauts also include Indian-American Raja Chari

IPL QUIZ

Who is the highest run-scorer of all time in the IPL?

VIRAT KOHLI

Team India and RCB captain Virat Kohli is the highest run-getter in the IPL, with 5,878 runs in 184 innings. Kohli also holds the record for scoring most runs in a single IPL season, aggregating 973 runs in 16 innings in 2016. The 32-year-old has also scored the most-centuries by an Indian(5) in the IPL history

FACTOID

\$3.25MILLION

Price of the comic book that introduced Superman to the world, which was sold at an auction recently. The issue of Action Comics (hash)1, published in 1938, told the readers about the origins of Superman, how he came to the Earth from another planet and went by Clark Kent

WEB SERIES ON LEONARDO DA VINCI IN INDIA

Aidan Turner, best-known in India as Kili in 'The Hobbit' film series, will play Leonardo Da Vinci in the web series 'Leonardo'. The show is all set to premiere in India on April 9, ahead of its release in the UK and the US.



The eight-part series will focus on the life of Leonardo Da Vinci, one of the most-fascinating figures in history. Da Vinci, primarily known as an artist and painter, was also a distinguished inventor and authority in subjects, such as anatomy, astronomy, botany, cartography, and paleontology

Entertainment

125 years of modern Olympics

This month is the 125th anniversary of the first modern Olympics, held in Athens, Greece. The 1896 Games were different from the worldwide sports spectacle of today. A look at some interesting facts...

GAMES CALL FOR UNITY

1 The Olympic rings express the activity of the Olympic movement and represent the union of the five continents. The six colours, blue, yellow, black, green, red, and the white background, were chosen because every nation's flag contains at least one of these colours

THE TORCH

2 The Olympic torch is lit the old-fashioned way in a ceremony at the temple of Hera, in Greece. Actresses, wearing costumes of Greek priestesses, use a parabolic mirror and sun rays to kindle the torch

STORY OF PARTICIPATION

3 From 1912-1948, artists participated in the Olympics: Painters, sculptors, architects, writers, and musicians competed for medals in their respective fields

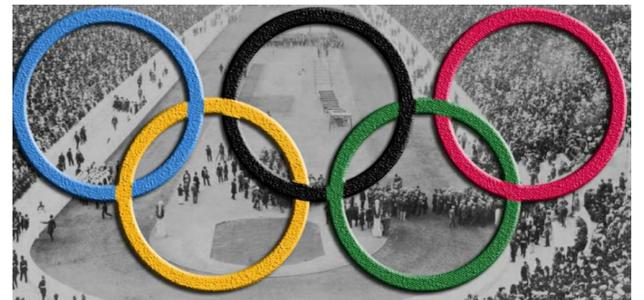
JOHNNY WEISSMULLER Johnny Weissmuller, an athlete-turned-actor, who played Tarzan in 12 movies, won five gold medals in swimming in the 1920s.

FRIENDSHIP MEDALS

4 In the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Japanese pole vaulters Suhel Nisida and Sueo Oe tied for the second place but refused to compete against each other. The duo decided to cut the two medals in half and fuse bronze with silver. The result: Medals of Friendship

WOMEN IN OLYMPICS

5 The London Olympics of 2012 was the first, wherein women competed in all the sports, including boxing



■ The first official Olympic mascot was Waldi, the dachshund at the 1972 Games in Munich
■ Only about 250 athletes from 14 countries participated in the first Games, and most were from Greece
■ At the most recent 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil, more than 11,000 athletes from 207 countries participated



FEEL GOOD FACTOR

6 ways to instil self-care in YOUNG CHILDREN

Taking out time to care for our mind and body is the essential component of a happy and healthy life. And it's important that we teach the same to kids too

For the same, it's crucial to instil self-care habits in children at a young age to help them cope better with the future and achieve their best while lowering their risk of developing mental health issues like depression and anxiety. Simple self-care habits can be started at any age. Here are easy ways to include them in kids' lives.



Start with the fundamentals

Do you assist your kid in brushing his/her teeth and bathing? Do you tell her to eat healthy foods? If yes, you have begun laying the groundwork for good self-care.



Downtime should be a priority

A routine that has quiet and alone time is important and beneficial for everyone. Spending a few minutes on a rocking chair while reading, singing can provide an opportunity for centring and connection.



Stick to a normal bedtime routine

A regular bedtime routine tells your child's body and mind that it's time to wind down and prepare for sleep. The bedtime routine should include three-four calming activities like getting into PJs, brushing teeth, taking a warm bath and reading.

Develop their mind

Explain to your kid why taking a break from the screen or toys is important. Let them be for some time where they do nothing. Mindfulness promoting activities like yoga and meditation work greatly in increasing insight, awareness and tolerance levels.

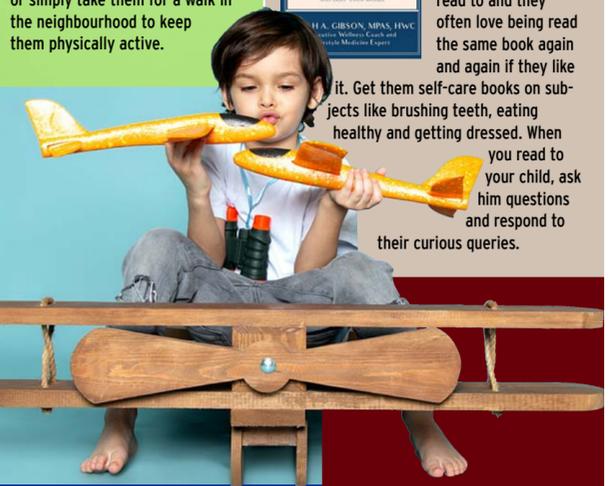
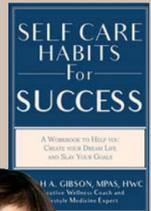
Push the body

Being physically active is part of a self-care routine. Explain to your kids how taking care of their mind and body should always be their first priority. You can make them join a team sport or simply take them for a walk in the neighbourhood to keep them physically active.



Read books on healthy self-care habits

Children love being read to and they often love being read the same book again and again if they like it. Get them self-care books on subjects like brushing teeth, eating healthy and getting dressed. When you read to your child, ask him questions and respond to their curious queries.



Books no foodie should miss to read

Some people have a love for food that's hard to compare. Be it appreciation of it in generous quantities or the alchemical science of cooking, their passion for it is unparalleled. For those epicures, these fiction books would be a delight to read



'LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE'

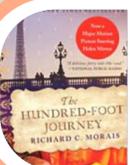
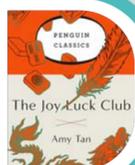
by Laura Esquivel

Written in Spanish, the English translation is by Carol and Thomas Christensen. The book is about a young girl Tita, who is not allowed to marry her love Pedro as her mother believes the youngest born must take care of her until she dies. Read to know what transpires later.

'THE JOY LUCK CLUB'

by Amy Tan

For lovers of Chinese food, this book is a must read. Four Chinese American women meet at a church and decide to start a mahjong club. There they play while feasting. Food is used beautifully to show their immigrant experience in the story and also as a way to show love.



'THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY'

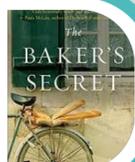
Richard C Morais

This book follows an Indian family as they move abroad and discover that their son has a talent for cooking. They start a restaurant, much to the annoyance of a French restaurant owner 100 feet away, and the rivalry grows into something else when she samples his food.

'THE BAKER'S SECRET'

by Stephen Kiernan

Set in Normandy during World War II, we follow Emma who witnesses her village being taken over by the Germans. She was apprenticed to a master baker but had to see him being dragged away at gun point. Eventually, the story is about how food and lack of it can affect people.



'CHOCOLAT'

by Joanne Harris

The name says it all. This book follows a woman Vianne Rocher and her young daughter Anouk who come to a French village called Lansquenetsous-Tannes to open a chocolaterie. However it's the time of lent - a time of fasting and her new shop is frowned upon by the church.

Grooming gyan

Haldi lip scrub heals CHAPPED Lips



Our grandmothers regularly used haldi or turmeric in their skincare recipes. This Indian spice can be used on your face, body and even lips, thanks to its antioxidant curcumin, which is anti-inflammatory and so helps in healing dry skin.

Haldi for lips...

Haldi can even out pigmented lips and remove the dead skin. All you have to do is make a lip scrub using one teaspoon haldi and petroleum jelly. Just exfoliate your lips with this smooth paste for a minute and wash with lukewarm water. Pat dry the lips and moisturise with coconut oil. Repeat this process for a week and you will be surprised to see your lips turn softer than ever before.



QUIZ TIME (BIODIVERSITY)

Q.1) When is the International Day for Biodiversity observed?
A. May 15 B. May 20
C. May 22 D. June 5

D. Koala
C. Monkey
D. Greater Glider

known for making the loudest sound?

A. Gibbon
B. Donkey
C. Howler monkey
D. Humpback Whales

Q.2) Which of the following animals eats only eucalyptus leaves and nothing else?
A. Kangaroo

Q.3) Which of the following living creatures is

1. C) May 22 2. B) Koala 3. D) Humpback Whales

ANSWERS

KNOWLEDGE BANK (TECHNOLOGY)

IoT

Internet of Things (IoT) is a computing concept of connecting everyday physical objects to the internet. While the first version of the internet was about data created by people, the next version is about data created by things. A large portion of IoT devices are created for daily use including home automation and wearable technology and the physical world is becoming one big information system.



WORD WISE

Convalescence: Recover one's health and strength over a period of time after an illness or medical treatment.

Synonymous words: Recuperate, get better, get well, recover, get back on feet and

get back to normal.

Examples: ■ The pop star received thousands of letters during his convalescence in the hospital.

■ She needed to recuperate for nine months before getting back into competition.

GRAMMATICAL MISTAKES

DISCREET/DISCRETE

THE RULES:

■ 'Discreet' (adj) means careful and prudent in one's speech or actions ■ 'Discrete' means individually separate and distinct.

HOW NOT TO DO IT:

■ Teachers made discreet enquiries on syllabus change. ❌

■ The frame has discreet colour spots. ❌

HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY:

■ The children made discreet enquiries about their new teacher. ✓



Ethics and integrity in education

"Leading with positive ethical values builds trust, and brings out the integrity in people which leads to great results."

Ethics, also called moral philosophy, is the discipline concerned with what is morally good and bad, and morally right and wrong. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Only morality in our actions can beautify our life. The aim of education will not only be cognitive development, but also building character and creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with moral principles. One needs to learn the rules and of course be accountable for them. Rules are not meant for breaking self discipline. They always help to make good choices. Students should be given a logical framework for making sound ethical decisions and to use ethical practice in all areas.

NEP 2020 emphasises to develop good human beings capable of rational thought and action, possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination with sound ethical moorings and values. Ethics are interpreted as the discipline of dealing with good and bad with commitment and moral duty. Ethics are well-established levels that make the measures right and wrong. It is classified as unique values such as integrity, discipline and honesty amid others and applies them in dai-

ly routines. Discipline always increases one's ability to focus and concentrate more in whatever you do. A disciplined life enhances the skills of the students which will definitely be beneficial for the future. Self discipline always helps to make good choices. We need to educate



DR RATNA CHAKRAVARTY, Principal, Maxfort School, Rohini

ourselves in a manner so that we know clearly what to do and what not. We need to understand the repercussions of harmful habits and ethically put an end to them. We practice discipline by giving the students conducive environment and the platform to participate in various fields like sports and music.

Imparting value education to the students builds their character and inculcates ethics. Maxfort School, Rohini in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resource and Development imparts value education

to students through a course developed by Rama Krishna Mission known as 'Awakening Citizen Programme'. The interactive sessions of the course motivate the students and keep them on the righteous path. Maxfortians are encouraged to share 'Thought for the day' during morning assemblies to help them reflect on topics related to integrity and moral development. The facilitators sharing case studies with students to help them think and make rational decisions, helps promote critical thinking skills among them.

Integrity amongst students can be promoted by expanding logical framework for children along the themes of cheating, violence, plagiarism, lying, tolerance, equality, empathy, etc., with a view to enabling children to embrace moral/ethical values in conducting one's life. As consequences of such basic ethical reasoning, traditional Indian values and all basic human and Constitutional values (such as seva, ahimsa, swachchhata, satya, nishkam karma, shanti, sacrifice, tolerance, diversity, pluralism, righteous conduct, gender sensitivity, respect for elders, respect for all people and their inherent capabilities regardless of background, respect for environment, helpfulness, courtesy, patience, forgiveness, empathy, compassion, patriotism, democratic outlook, integrity, responsibility, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity) will be developed in all students. The school strives hard to promote integrity amongst the students by celebrating the social initiatives endorsed by CBSE like Swatchhta Pakhwada, World Peace Day, Vigilance Awareness Week etc.

Eventually, ethics and integrity in education will certainly aid in the holistic development of the students that is the motto of the system of education. Ethically we all need to stand for truth which will always empower us to reach our goals.

CSKM Public School's 'Investiture Ceremony' held with great pomp

"Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality," Warren Bennis

The Investiture Ceremony of CSKM Public School, Chhattarpur for the academic session 2020-21 was held with great pomp and dignity in a special ceremony in the school JKJC Hall. The event was presided over by the school captain of the very first batch (1986-87) of the school, Sunil Mansingh and the school principal Dr Shakuntla S Jaiman.

It was commenced with the lighting of the lamp of wisdom followed by Saraswati Vandana by the school choir, which signifies removal of darkness. Incessant mounting of the flames symbolises the

virtue and holiness. It was a proud moment for all to witness the children being invested with great responsibilities while embarking on a new journey as leaders. Atul Kumar and Arpita Bhat, the school captains (boys and girls respectively) along

with other appointments stood tall while holding the flags of CSKM aspiring to bring in many more laurels to the institution. The guest speaker, Sunil Mansingh narrated his experiences in life and explained to

how CSKM helped him shape his future. He encouraged students to always walk on the correct path and be the change. The elected leaders were conferred with badges by the school principal and Sunil Mansingh. The students' council took the pledge to hold the school motto of 'Loyalty, Truth and Honour' in high esteem. The guest congratulated the new appointments and advised them to be impartial and honest in discharging their duties.

Principal Dr Shakuntla S Jaiman appreciated and congratulated newly made appointments. The function concluded with a rendition of the school song and the National Anthem. The programme was a great success.



Ahlcon Intl witnesses Energy Swaraj Yatra

Ahlcon International School got the opportunity to witness Energy Swaraj Yatra, organised under the Energy Swaraj Movement, undertaken by professor Chetan Singh Solanki. This 11-year-long journey is a passionate endeavour to promote discipline and self-evaluation in energy usage.

Derived from the Gandhian principles, this movement seeks to rethink the concept of self-rule in the current context. Principal, Ahlcon International School, Sanjay Yadav welcomed the yatra to Ahlcon International

School on March 17, 2021. The welcome ceremony was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries from Ahlcon Public School and Ahlcon International School. Director, Ahlcon Group of Schools, Dr Ashok Pandey, presented a memento to professor Chetan Solanki to express the school's gratitude for being able

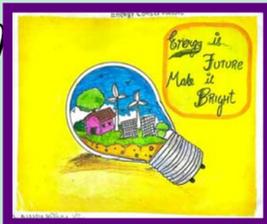
to be a witness to the journey. It was followed by an eye-opening and alerting address by professor Chetan Solanki.

In his speech, he emphasised on the importance of switching to solar energy and other sustainable alternatives. Need to AMG - Avoid, Minimise and Generate was established with an utmost sense of emergency.

The school's green ambassadors shared Ahlcon's initiatives towards energy conservation. Professor Solanki's proposed 11-year-long Energy Swaraj Yatra (2020-2030), commenced in November 2020, in a solar-powered electric bus, which is going to be his home for these 11 years. All in all, this program was a value-addition to the school.



Student Corner



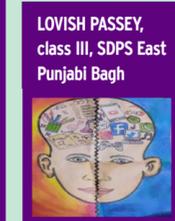
AASHITA MISHRA, class V, SumerMal Jain Public School, Janakpuri



GITIKA GAUR, class IV, SDPS Punjabi Bagh



GURJOT KAUR, class VIII, Sumermal Jain Public School, Janakpuri



LOVISH PASSEY, class III, SDPS East Punjabi Bagh

Ahlcon celebrates annual day 'Kramagat Unnati 2020-21'

Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar celebrated its first ever virtual Annual Day on February 13, 2021. The theme for the virtual Annual Day was 'Kramagat Unnati' which means 'Evolution'.

The event began with a grand welcome of all the dignitaries and invocation with lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The programme was graced by chief guest, Lt Gen Anil Malik and Venugopal Dharmarajan, a leadership mentor in India and abroad as the guest of honour.

The event unfolded, with the screening of the teaser of the virtual Annual Day Principal, Sanjay Yadav, welcomed the audience and presented a glimpse of extraordinary achievements of school, students and staff during the current year. The event commenced with a brilliant presentation by the students on different themes like 'Kaleidoscope to art and culture of India' followed by presentation on



progression of education systems in India, 'Tamo Maa Jyotirgamaya.' A magnificent presentation on 'Traversing through the journey of entertainment in India,' was followed by a mind blowing presentation on the topic, 'Nourish to Flourish: the journey within us.'

The chief guest, Lt Gen. Anil Malik appreciated the tremendous efforts put into conceptualisation and presentation of the profound idea inherent in 'Kramagat Unnati'.

The students showcased their spectacular presentation 'Maanav se Maanavta Tak', talking about the values, and a brilliant presentation on 'Tourism: Reign of India'. Another dimension was added by a mesmerising presentation on, 'Technology for Humanity' followed by 'The Ahlcon Attire Show'. Headmaster Senior School, Puneet Duggal, commended the way the entire Ahlcon fraternity had geared up for the first ever virtual Annual Day. Guest of honour, Venugopal Dharmarajan motivated and appreciated the efforts of the students for their exceptional work.

Principal Sanjay Yadav thanked the dignitaries and the entire Ahlcon fraternity to make the Annual Day 'Kramagat Unnati' a memorable event for one and all. Each individual becomes a patchwork of all their life experiences, memories and emotions associated with them. Not all memories are

THE EDUCATIONIST

'Children are ready for online education'

Principal of Jamnabai Narsee School shares her insights about online schooling and the year that was, with Shirisha Varma

Q: A year of online classes has highlighted many of its downsides. What do you think are some of its advantages over physical classes?
In this challenging situation, the online classes are the safest option. Education has not stopped and now the children are prepared for the next level, otherwise they would've been completely lost.

Q: What were some measures and activities undertaken to increase attentiveness and engagement in online schooling?
There was a good blend of academic and co-curricular activities in our timetable. Along with the regular academic subjects, we had PE, music, hobbies due to which the children did not even have a boring moment.

Q: What values should be inculcated in students for them to be prepared for the modern world?



Zeenat Bhojabbay, Principal

screen time.

Q: Social media platforms are widely used and popular among today's youth. What is your take on its growing influence on students? Till what limits should they be relied upon?
Social media has always influenced us, be it adults, be it children, and it has been there for the last century. So, it is for us adults to keep communicating to the children about the pros and cons and overdose of social media.

Q: What activities would you suggest students to perform in order to relieve boredom and stress at home?
Going outdoors and playing may not be the best option right now. But puzzles, chess, scrabble, mind games, Lego, all these can be made available to the children. They need not go outdoors every time.

Express YOURSELF

HAPPINESS AND SADNESS

I often like to ponder about how emotions affect us. We cannot deny the influence of emotions in the various aspects of our life. But, do emotions signify a certain happenstance in your life? Do they show a map of your life?

Life is a long journey that often leads us to the unlikely of places. It leads to experiences so universally mundane yet individually profound. But some experiences are alluringly unique.

Each individual becomes a patchwork of all their life experiences, memories and emotions associated with them. Not all memories are

happy. Sometimes, one must go through misery and grief and there is nothing else we can do except endure it.

On some days, it is tough and our emotions get better of us. Everyone has those days but, the question is how do you move forward? How do you grow? The answers to these questions may seem complicated and in fact, they are complicated. But, a simpler way is to learn to be kind and compassionate. We may never know what anyone is silently enduring every day. Even a simple act of compassion or understanding, can help some-

body in unimaginable ways. Happiness and sadness both need to present in our life in a balance. But sadness presents us with opportunities for growth and introspection. On this note, I end with 'If you ever feel you're in a dark place, think that you're a seed which has been planted. Grow and blossom.'



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



BIG-HITTERS GALORE

Another battle of big-hitters is on the cards when KL Rahul's Punjab Kings take on the Sanju Samson-led Rajasthan Royals, two line-ups dotted with expansive stroke-makers and in pursuit of a winning start to their IPL campaigns in Mumbai on Monday

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Buttler could open for RR

Rajasthan will be banking heavily on their swashbuckling all-rounder Ben Stokes. Stokes will be keen to get some runs under his belt and so will the likes of Englishman Jos Buttler and newly-appointed skipper Samson, who is a mine-field of talent. The Royals could opt to open with the highly-rated Yashasvi Jaiswal and Buttler. Samson, who would be itching to prove a point, and Stokes would then form a strong middle-order. If the four fire on all cylinders, they can pummel any attack into submission and Punjab would be no exception on the Wankhede track, which is usually batting-friendly.

It can be really important to have a flexible batting lineup in the shortest format. As the game has evolved, lots of players are very suited to certain situations so there is no need to really be structured with your batting lineup when you can use players at certain times to affect the game when the opportunity arises that suits people's strengths. Certain grounds, oppositions will demand different things so trying to be not too set in your ways is definitely an advantage for teams and open-mindedness.

Jos Buttler

Royals also have several other options at their disposal, including all-rounders Shivam Dube, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Riyan Parag and Liam Livingstone. Gopal, Tewatia and Parag, all bowl leg-spin, so it would be interesting to see whether the Royals opt to go in with two leg-spinners. Tewatia and Dube have the ability to whack the ball outside the park and look to be certainties in the playing XI.

With star pacer Jofra Archer missing due

to injury, the pace attack will have to be led by Rajasthan's newest recruit—South African all-rounder Chris Morris, who will be eager to justify his huge price tag of Rs 16.25 crore.

RR will have to get their combination right as only four foreigners can make the playing XI. So, it will be interesting to see whether Royals opt for left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman or go in with either Jaydev Unadkat, Kartik Tyagi or Chetan Sakariya. Unadkat, with his experience, might get the nod.

Rahul and Agarwal form a deadly combo at the top for Punjab

On the other hand, Punjab boasts of some hard-hitters like Rahul (670 runs in 2020 season), Mayank Agarwal (424 runs) and Chris Gayle. Rahul and Agarwal formed a lethal opening combination in 2020 and would continue to open.

They also have the likes of Englishman Dawid Malan, one of the finest T20 batsmen currently, hard-hitting Tamil Nadu batsman M Shahrulkh Khan, and West Indian Nicholas Pooran. For them too, it would be all about getting the combination right. Shahrulkh could get the nod ahead of others like Deepak Hooda and Sarfaraz Khan, and could play the role of a finisher.

The bowling attack will be led by Mohammed Shami, who was superb in the last edition. Their pacer line-up has been bolstered by the signing of Australian speedsters Jhye Richardson and Riley Meredith, who had a sensational Big Bash campaign. It also includes Chris Jordan.

It remains to be seen who takes the new ball with Shami. With their spin attack a concern, Murugan Ashwin and Ravi Bishnoi will have to play their roles well to contain a devastating Rajasthan line-up.



Jos Buttler



Chris Gayle

OMINOUS SIGN FOR DHONI?

MS Dhoni's return to competitive cricket after over five months turned out to be a failure with the bat as the Chennai Super Kings skipper fell to a second ball duck off young pacer Avesh Khan of Delhi Capitals on Saturday

The 39-year-old former India captain was bowled off an inside edge off the bowling of Avesh, as he tried to pull a delivery to the mid-wicket boundary.

Can MS turn things around?

Dhoni, who has only been playing IPL and no other competitive cricket, played his last match on November 1 during IPL 2020. He failed to get a single half-century in that edition with his highest being 47 not out. He aggregated 200 runs in 14 matches and

averaged just 25. It was Dhoni's lowest aggregate in an IPL season.

Last season was also the first time after seven years in the IPL that he failed to get sixes in double digits. He got seven sixes in the 2020 IPL season, which was the lowest in any IPL edition in his career.

On Saturday, Dhoni walked in to bat at No. 7. The man who followed him at No. 8, Sam Curran, got a 15-ball 34 to help CSK post a challenging 188/7 on the board. It will be interesting to see if Dhoni demotes himself further, considering the batting line-up CSK have and his poor run of form.

3 TALKING POINTS

Karim Benzema's wonder-strike and Toni Kroos' free-kick guided Real Madrid to a stunning 2-1 win over arch-rivals FC Barcelona in the El Clasico at the Alfredo Di Stefano Stadium

Benzema enters the elusive list with a sensational strike

Madrid's knight in shining armour and veteran striker Benzema failed to enter his name on the scoring sheet in his previous nine appearances against Barcelona. The Frenchman ended his drought by scoring a sensational back-heel goal from a tight angle in the 13th minute. With the match-changing goal, Benzema has become the fourth Real Madrid player to score in seven back-to-back La Liga games. Benzema has joined the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale, and Ruud van Nistelrooy by netting his 19th goal of the season.

Messi extends Clasico drought

Have we seen the last of Messi in Clasico? If yes, then Messi has bowed out by embracing his worst-

ever goal drought against Madrid. Messi, who is the top scorer in the El Clasico spectacle across all competitions with 26 strikes, has extended his goal drought against Real to seven matches. Even though Madrid were without star defenders Ramos and Raphael Varane, the six-time Ballon d'Or winner recorded a forgetful outing with the Catalan giants. Messi last scored a Clasico goal for Barcelona in 2018.

Madrid takes top spot in La Liga

After outclassing Jurgen Klopp's Liverpool in the UEFA Champions League quarter-final 1st leg, Madrid capped off an incredible week by registering a stunning 2-1 win over Barcelona in the La Liga. With the memorable triumph, Real have also climbed the top spot in the current La Liga standings. The La Liga holders are level on points with second-placed Atletico Madrid, although Diego Simeone's men have a game in hand. Madrid are level on points with Atletico (66) while Barcelona remain third with 65 points in 30 matches.



Photo: TOI



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: Nethra Kumanan is the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics. Which category does she compete in?

- a) Finn b) 49er c) Laser Radial d) 470

Q2: Who was the 1st women recipient of the Arjuna Award for Athletics?

- a) Meena Shah b) Krishna Das c) Stephanie D'Souza d) Anjali Desai

Q3: Who was the first player to win five consecutive Wimbledon tennis titles?

- a) Bjorn Borg b) Roger Federer c) Rafael Nadal d) Novak Djokovic

Q4: Who is the first player in Premier League history to score two goals within three minutes of a match?

- a) Rafael Leao b) Scott McTominay c) Paolo Poggi d) Shane Long

Q5: In which year did Messi famously retire from international duty, before reversing his decision?

- a) 2016 b) 2018 c) 2014 d) 2007

Q6: Who is the second fastest batsman to score 25 centuries in the test format after Sir

Don Bradman?

- a) Virat Kohli b) Mahela Jayawardene c) Kane Williamson d) Steve Smith

Q7: Rishabh Pant has become the score 1000 Test runs, surpassing MS Dhoni's record. In how many

Photo: TOI



Rishabh Pant

innings did he do it?

- a) 36 b) 45 c) 42 d) 27

Q8: Which cricketer is the only player to score a century and claim a hat-trick in the same Test match?

- a) Mashrafe Mortaza b) Sohag Gazi c) Shakib Al Hasan d) Khaled Mahmud

Q9: The first Indian woman to win a Gold medal in Paralympic Games 2016 is _____

- a) Varuna Bhati b) Alka Grace c) Sakshi Malik d) Deepa Malik

Q10: Who won India's first ever gold medal in the International Youth Olympic Games?

- a) Neeraj Chopra b) Praveen Chitravel c) Jeremy Lalrinnunga d) Suraj Panwar

Q11: Who is the first Indian woman shooter to win Gold in Asian games?

- a) Anjali Bhagwat b) Rahi Sarnobat c) Manu Bhaker d) Heena Sidhu

Q12: Circuit de Catalunya for formula one racing is located in _____

- a) Barcelona, Spain b) Seoul, South Korea c) London, UK d) Rome, Italy

ANSWERS: 1 c) Laser Radial 2 c) Stephanie D'Souza 3 a) Bjorn Borg 4 b) Scott McTominay 5 a) 2016 6 d) Steve Smith 7 d) 27 8 b) Sohag Gazi 9 d) Deepa Malik 10 c) Jeremy Lalrinnunga 11 b) Rahi Sarnobat 12 a) Barcelona, Spain