



THE TIMES OF INDIA

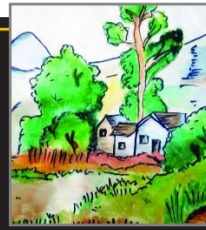
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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021



WEB EDITION

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MANN KI BAAT

Be a warrior, not worrier: PM TO STUDENTS

Wishing students ahead of their examination in the coming months, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, they must compete with themselves rather than others. "The coming months are of special importance in your life. My young friends, you will be appearing for your exams. But do remember you have to become a warrior, not a worrier; take the exams smiling and return home smiling. Also understand, you have to compete with yourself, not against anyone else," the PM said. Addressing his monthly Mann Ki Baat, the PM also dwelled on many other subjects of national importance...

MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS



ON WATER CONSERVATION: Water has been crucial for the development of humankind for centuries. Water is our life, our faith, and also the stream of development. We have to understand our collective responsibility towards water conservation. Monsoon will begin in many parts of the country by around May-June. So, this is the best time to think about water conservation. Let's begin a 100-day campaign to clean up all the water bodies and prepare them for rain water harvesting before the monsoon season starts. As a part of the Union Jal Shakti ministry's 'Catch the rain' campaign.

ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENCE TOWARDS MAKING INDIA ATMANIRBHAR:

When we talk of science, many a time people restrict it to physics, chemistry or labs, but the spread of science is much more than that. We have to move science forward with the mantra of 'Lab to Land'. Science also contributes to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign. The first condition for the goal is to take pride in the things made by our people. Self-reliant India doesn't remain just an economic campaign but becomes a national spirit when we see our fighter plane 'Tejas' made in our country, doing acrobatics in the sky, when we see Made-in-India coaches in metro trains in advanced nations, when we see Made-in-India Covid vaccines reaching dozens of countries. And it is not that only bigger things will make India self-reliant—Indian-made textiles, handcraft goods made by talented artisans, electronic appliances, mobiles, etc. in every field, we have to increase this pride. When we move forward with this thought, only then will we become self-reliant in the true sense.

ON PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA



Just like every year, I will interact with students and teachers on how to beat exam stress during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme. But before the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' begins, I request parents and teachers to share their experience and their tips. You can share them on MyGov and NarendraModi app. Along with the youth, parents and teachers will also be invited this time during the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme. You will find information about how to participate, how to win prizes, how to get an opportunity to discuss with me on MyGov

The way we know of other scientists of the world, the same way, we should also know about the scientists of India

You have to get enough sleep and manage time well also. Don't stop playing, because those who play will blossom. You have to apply the techniques of revision and smart ways of memorisation to bring out your best in your exams

Narendra Modi, PM, addressing students

Spotlight

SIX CITIES TO HOST IPL 2021; MUMBAI SAYS NO TO FANS



Moving away from their initial plan to host the Indian Premier League's (IPL) 2021 edition between Mumbai and Pune — and part of the playoffs and final in Ahmedabad — the BCCI has now shortlisted six cities to conduct this year's tournament.

- Mumbai, Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Delhi have been shortlisted to host this year's IPL
- The IPL, which is scheduled to begin in the second week of April (tentatively April 11) and conclude in the opening week of June (tentatively June 6), may not find spectators being allowed at some centres, while other centres may allow fans up to only 50% of the stadium's capacity
- There won't be any spectators in Pune due to the sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra

YOUTUBE BRINGS NEW FEATURE TO HELP PARENTS 'SUPERVISE' WHAT THEIR KIDS WATCH



YouTube is all set to introduce a new feature to help parents control what their children watch on their channel. This feature is aimed for those kids, who no longer will find the YouTube Kids app interesting, as they have grown up but are not adults yet to enjoy the entire YouTube catalogue of videos. In its latest announcement, YouTube has said that in the coming months, it will launch a new support for parents to allow their children to access YouTube through a supervised Google Account.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1 Parents will be given three different content settings on YouTube to choose from: explore, explore more, and most of YouTube
 - 2 According to YouTube, the support has been designed for parents, who think their children are ready to explore the vast universe of
 - 3 Besides choosing the content settings for their kids, parents will also be able to manage watch and search history from within their child's account settings
 - 4 YouTube has also decided not to display personalised ads in "certain categories"
- As a policy, people above 13 years are eligible to use YouTube. For people below 13, the company recommends the use of YouTube Kids, a dedicated app, built with simple curated content for kids

NIAGARA THAWS



The deadly Arctic blast has frozen parts of the Niagara Falls, creating a breathtaking backdrop for the visitors. Temperatures fell to -18C in America to produce vista of ice and rainbows at the US border with Canada's famous attraction, with ice flowing along the river. As the water froze, it created a cascading layer of ice in the Falls. There were some impressive icicles too. Ice forms in the Niagara Falls every winter. But such a spectacle was seen in 2014 and 2015, when the Niagara Falls were partially frozen due to polar vortex events. However, the Falls ceased to flow completely, just once so far in March 1848 for 30 hours!

FACTOID

\$6 MILLION

Price of a painting of a Paris street scene by Vincent Van Gogh, which is likely to fetch at an auction. All set to be shown to the public for the first time, after spending more than a century behind closed doors in the private collection of a French family, the work, painted by Van Gogh in 1887, while he was staying with his brother Theo in the French capital, the painting will be put on display by Sotheby's auction house in Amsterdam, Hong Kong, and Paris, prior to being auctioned off next month

- Titled 'A street scene in Montmartre,' the painting depicts a man and woman, strolling arm in arm past a ramshackle fence with a windmill in the background
- The painting is part of a series that Van Gogh produced of scenes in Montmartre, a hilly-district of Paris, now dominated by the Sacre Coeur church



'Tom & Jerry' are back. This time to disrupt a posh celebrity wedding in NY

Tom & Jerry', the rambunctious cat and mouse duo that has entertained audiences since 1940, appeared in a new feature film, which finds the cartoon characters threatening to disrupt a celebrity wedding at a posh New York City hotel. The film, a hybrid of animation and live action, debuted on Friday in theatres and on the HBO Max streaming service. It stars Chloe Grace Moretz as a newly-hired hotel worker, who tries to curb the pair's long-standing behavioural problems.

Tom and Jerry, created in 1940 by William Hanna and Joseph Barbera, starred in a series of animated short films, followed by various TV shows and feature films over eight decades

ENTERTAINMENT



Must Read

Books to watch out for

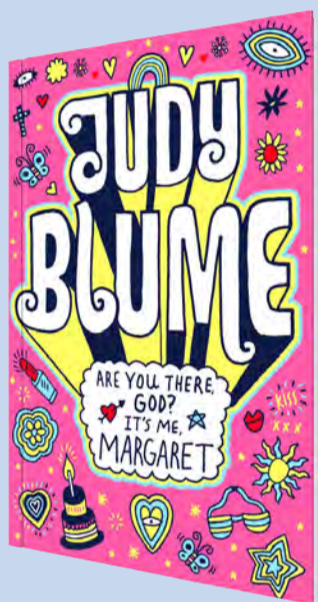
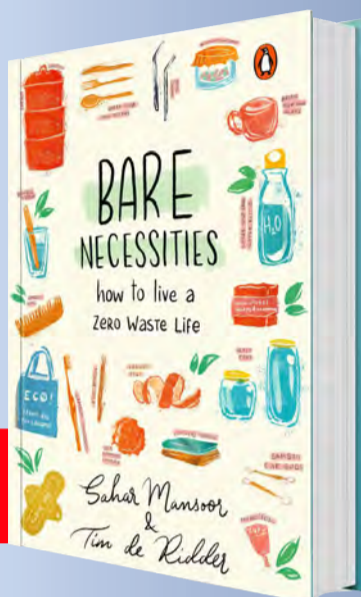
Compiled by NITYA SHUKLA

BARE NECESSITIES: HOW TO LIVE A ZERO WASTE LIFE

by Sahar Mansoor and Tim De Ridder

A one-stop guide on living a more sustainable lifestyle in India. Sahar Mansoor is the founder and CEO of Bare Necessities, a zero-waste social enterprise and Tim De Ridder is an environmentalist and sustainability consultant. The authors have based the book on their experiences while running workshops, events and interacting with communities across the country. The book has 80 tips and tricks to help readers move towards a zero-waste lifestyle.

Must read for explorers of zero-waste lifestyle



ARE YOU THERE GOD? IT'S ME, MARGARET

by Judy Blume

It's time to read this book before its adaptation hits the screen. According to reports, author Judy Blume's classic coming-of-age story is getting adapted for a film starring actors Rachel McAdams and child star Abby Ryder Fortson. The epic is about Margaret Simon, a sixth grader, who is questioning everything about adolescence and puberty and is searching the universe for whatever answers she can find. With her mother and grandmother trying to guide her through a time when everything is changing, they too find that you never stop questioning your path and defining what is meaningful in your life.

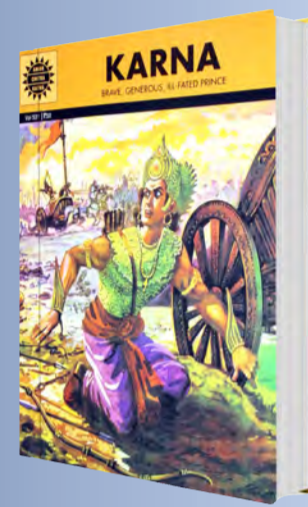
Read it before you watch it

THEY FOUND WHAT/THEY MADE WHAT

by Shweta Taneja

A biologist who smashed cancer cells, "a space scientist who sent a rocket to Mars", or "an ecologist who stumbled on a rare species of frog!" An upcoming book will educate children about the daring discoveries and ingenious inventions of India's brightest scientists. Releasing on National Science Day, celebrated on February 28, it features stories of renowned scientists, including the likes of Sonam Wangchuk, owner of over 400 patents; Anil Bhardwaj, winner of the 'Outstanding Achievement Award' from ISRO; Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and Vijayalakshmi Ravindranath, head of the Centre for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Science it up!



AMAR CHITRA KATHA COMICS

by the writers of Amar Chitra Katha

Publishing house HarperCollins India and Amar Chitra Katha have announced a new collaboration to publish adaptations of popular ACK comics into a narrative format for young children. This series, put together meticulously by the writers at Amar Chitra Katha, brings together some of the greatest folk tales in the ACK catalogue. Each book in the series is adapted from the original Amar Chitra Katha comics and aims to bring the reader closer to the thoughts and traditions that make up our country's identity, said a joint statement by HarperCollins India and ACK.

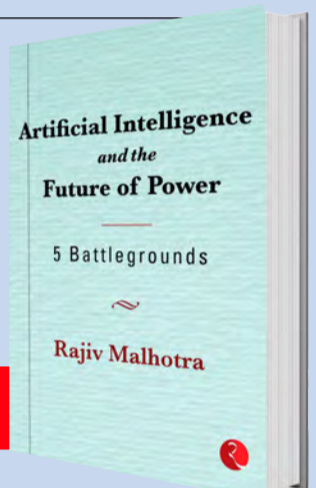
Back to the future

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND THE FUTURE OF POWER

by Rajiv Malhotra

With Artificial Intelligence helping "biological materialism sneak in through the back door", the world is witnessing a real clash of civilizations with "the battle between algorithm and being." One of the most respected venture capitalists of Silicon Valley and a former chairman of the powerful TIE Global takes a deep dive into a phenomenon that is only partially visible, like an iceberg.

Ahoy technocrats



Ritu Phogat shares her journey and how she learnt to lead from the front...

You can only achieve success if you are disciplined, focused and determined... says Ritu Phogat. She inspires students to have a foresight of their goals and passion. "To achieve those goals one must work hard" - is her message to all...



Commonwealth Wrestling Gold Medalist Ritu Phogat comes from a very famous wrestling family. Her father, Mahavir Singh Phogat, is a legendary coach, having trained several of her family members and leading them to the highest levels of the sport, inspiring the hit movie 'Dangal.' Phogat began her own training at the age of 8, and just a few years later, she dropped out of school to focus on her wrestling career. Since then, she has gone on to garner countless accolades in the sport. Ritu Phogat is a wrestling champion and a superstar from India. In a recent event, the champion emphasised time and again that the attributes (of self discipline and hard work) are of extreme importance for those who want to excel. "I don't want you to admire me, instead be inspired and learn to put your heart and soul to what you have set out to achieve," she declares.

HERE IS AN EXCERPT FROM AN INTERVIEW OF THE FEMALE ATOMWEIGHT STAR... SHE HAS LEADERSHIP LESSONS FOR ALL...

1 How did you get the name 'Indian Tigress'? During my wrestling days, many people used to say that the moment I put my mind to something whether it was in the wrestling ring or outside, I would go for it like a determined tigress! Hence, I got this name.. Today, Phogat is one of the fastest rising mixed martial arts (MMA) talents in the world, which combines different martial arts disciplines together in a seamless fighting style.

physically and mentally to apply my skills in the right manner.

3 Apart from your sisters, which other sports personalities are your icons? Virat Kohli is really inspiring; I like watching his training videos. Also Khabib (Russian martial arts champion) is very inspirational for me.

4 What is the one lesson from your sports life that you use in your personal life? Discipline.

If we are not disciplined, we cannot achieve anything. Also remember; the stronger you are, the faster you are, and the more powerful you are, the better your chances of success. Building strength and conditioning is essential to every martial artist. That means developing strength in your muscles, learning how to use leverage, activating your fast-twitch muscle fibers, and enhancing your cardiovascular endurance.

These all work together to turn you into a fighting machine. What can lead you to this strength is self discipline. If you let go of that, you may miss on something.

5 Do high expectations affect you? No, not really. In fact, I get motivated due to high expectations and train harder. If people are rooting for me, I must not let them down! The mantra that keeps me going - Obviously, if you have to fight, then fight to win. A fight to the end matters quickly and decisively.

6 Many women in India don't get enough encouragement to take up sports, what will you tell them? I urge parents to support their daughters because they deserve the chance to represent their country and make everyone proud. With hard work and dedication, anyone can achieve greatness.

7 If there is ever a biopic ode on your life, which Bollywood actor would you choose to play your character? I would like to play the role myself in the film as no one knows the struggle and journey of my life better than me.

8 Does family support have a huge role to play in the success of a sportstar? I strongly believe so. Take my case for example; My family noticed that I have a keen interest in mixed martial arts, so they never questioned my decision and fully supported it. Geeta was a bit nervous initially but she trusted me to pursue it with 100-per cent dedication. Given that backing, I knew I only had to give my best and see what's in store!

GARDENING GYAN



CARROTS

They are not exactly a speedy vegetable, but if you choose a quick-growing finger-sized variety, you can expect the crunchy roots sprouting in six weeks. If sowing in pots, sow the seeds in pots of potting soil, spreading the seed thinly over the surface, then cover with a thin layer of potting soil.

Veggies that grow quickly

At present, when the debates and discussions around adulteration in food are growing louder day by day, many of us have resorted to growing our produce in our gardens and terraces. If you are a beginner and want to grow vegetables fast, here is what you can do



RADISHES

They are one of the fastest-growing vegetables, taking just three to four weeks to reach harvest time. They are also exceptionally easy to grow. Radishes can be grown in pots as well and sprout within just 3-4 days.



SPINACH

This nutritious leafy green takes around 30 days from sowing to harvest. It can be sown at the beginning of every month to get fresh green spinach leaves by the end of the month.



BEANS

They are useful in warm weather. In addition to harvesting quickly, they are soil builders that benefit the crops by fixing atmospheric nitrogen in their roots, then releasing it when the plants die off. The fastest to produce are the bush types, which are ready to harvest in approximately 50 days.



BOK CHOY

Bok choy is a great plant to grow because it can produce a mature harvest in around 30 days. The tender dark green leaves and crisp off-white-coloured stalks provide a nice fresh crunch.



SALAD LEAVES

They take only 21 days from sowing to harvesting. You can choose to sow one single variety at a time or a mix of your choice. Some of the popular varieties include lettuce, mustard and kale.



GREEN ONIONS

You can get green onion stalks in around 3-4 weeks. They taste delicious as a garnish for soups or can be added to stir-fry as well. They are planted as bulbs, which take around 6 months to produce full-size.

Express

YOURSELF

The Mystique of "Words"

Hi Friends! I have come to all of you with some interesting facts about the Origin of Words – the World of Etymology. I embarked on this interesting journey of understanding words and their origins when I picked up a book written in Gujarati by my Grandfather Bakul Bakshi, a well-known Gujarati writer. I have picked up two words from his book which are well known and interpreted them below in English so that all of you can also understand the amazing history and the enigma behind some popular words that we use in everyday life. So

here they go....

BARBIE: Dolls have been around since the olden days however Barbie is the modern version of the olden dolls. Elliot Handler's Company Mattel manufactured the Barbie Doll in 1959 and introduced it in the New York Toy fair. Barbie was invented by Elliot's wife Ruth Handler and she named the doll after her daughter Barbara. Since its introduction, Barbie has undergone a lot of changes in terms of fashion and careers. Today it's a global icon all over the world.

A Quote by Ruth Handler: My whole philosophy of Barbie

was that through the doll the little girl could be anything that she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman has choices.

KITKAT: In the year 1935 Rowntree Mackintosh, a British Confectionary Company created chocolate which had wafer biscuit in it. Initially named Chocolate Crisp it was later on changed to Kit Kat which became a popular brand. It is believed that the reason for the change is due to the wafer biscuit and its crispness. Also, KitKat or KitCat was a type of food that goes back to the 18th century and was served at meetings of a political club in London called the Kit-Cat Club. Of course, there is no direct relationship between politicians and chocolates !!!

SHIMONA BAKSHI,
Class VII, Udgam
School For Children
(REFERENCES: MARKET NA FUNDA
BY BAKUL BAKSHI, WIKIPEDIA)



Laughter is the best medicine

We all have heard the proverb 'Laughter is the best Medicine'. The field of medicine has recognized the importance of laughter long back. Many scientific studies have shown the benefits of laughter. Laughter improves our mood, reduces pain, and strengthens our immune system. It protects us from the negative effects of stress. Laughter helps us to connect with others. It also helps us to release anger and forget bad memories. A good amount of laughter can increase respiration, heart rate, and oxygen consumption. This is much similar to what happens during exercise.



Laughter has tremendous power to heal and support physical and emotional health. With so many benefits, the best part is that this medicine is free and easy to use. Good laughter reduces physical stress and relaxes the body. Laughter increases infection-fighting antibodies and decreases stress. It releases happy hormones. It helps us increase our immunity. Laughter burns calories. Laughter increases blood

flow to the cheeks and brings a glow to the face. It makes people look younger. Laughter helps cure depression. It improves concentration. Laughter improves pain tolerance. Laughter or smile is contagious. We feel happy when we see a smiling face. Laughter can bring people together and establish amazing relations. Even a small smile or giggle can change the atmosphere of the room from unfamiliarity to a homely atmosphere. As Laughter has so many benefits, people practice laughter yoga at home or at laughter clubs. It is believed that voluntary laughter has

the same benefits as spontaneous laughter; hence laughter yoga can improve our overall health. Laughter is a cost-free form of therapy and a pleasant one. It has the power to heal our mind, body, and soul. It takes us to a new level from where we can view the whole world from a relaxed and joyful perspective. **KEEP SMILING, KEEP LAUGHING!!**

HARSHITA VERMA,
Class VI,
Essar
International
School



Peace in Indian Villages

Indian villages, mini heaven in the world full of one or the other turmoil. Scattered houses, no high rises, and altogether a different lifestyle, very different from those living in the concrete jungle. There are open farms with lots of greenery spread through. People have big hearts and follow all traditions. Even the quality of air is a thousand times better than the urban areas. People follow simple yet rich food habits i.e. Roti, Sabji, Dal, Rice & fresh Milk products. They use tractors for farming and for local transport and cars are rare to see. They prefer traveling by using tractors, cycles, bikes and even prefer to walk on foot for good health. People living in the villages are healthy and fit as they work hard



every day in their farm fields to grow crops/ grain/ vegetables so that we can eat and leave. I would like to visit often to these beautiful places spread all across India.

DAIVIK S. PATEL, Class VI,
Siddharth's Miracles School

MY DREAMLAND



I just imagine what it would be like being in the best place in the world, "My Dreamland". One day while reading a story, I found myself sitting in the sand in front of a sea. The breeze gently touching me and going, the noise of the people around, the sound of waves hitting and touching the shore could be heard clearly, but still, all the noise did not distract my peace.

I raise my gaze and saw the clear blue sky, with few white cotton candy clouds. I could see the swaying Palm trees waving at me as if they were welcoming me to their land. I was sitting patiently for the sunset and suddenly the horizon began to change in its beautiful golden shaded

colour. My eyes were absorbing the beauty of nature that was coming to me. After the sunset, the cool air from the sea and the stars twinkling in the sky were like the cherry on the cake and added to its beauty more shine and freshness. It was totally a heavenly experience driving on road with trees on both sides, a small stream of a waterfall flowing through the mountain flowing parallel to the road. Suddenly, my mother called me up and I was compelled to come back in the present. But the memories of the beautiful thought still prevails in my mind. I wonder if such an awesome place full of nature's gift exists in this world.

VEDIKA BHARILL, Class III

VIRTUAL TEAM WORK

On the school days, teachers gave us various group activities but nowadays due to Covid 19 pandemic circumstances we have virtual classes. In the art integration of English teacher gave us a group activity. In that activity, the teacher gave us an image and we have to create an ending story image with our own imagination and also create the story end in the form of drama.

In our group, we were 8 students for discussing and sharing our ideas and we fixed a time for a virtual meeting. We continued the story to the end with our own imagination and gave dialogues and characters. We practiced every day. We prepared posters according to our story scenes. We decided to fix every work like who will make and send compile video, online video and combine posters. From this activity, we learned that we can do good teamwork even online.



TUSHTI GUPTA, Class III, Essar International School, Surat

THE EDUCATIONIST

LEARNINGS FROM COVID LOCKDOWN

"Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids to work together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important." quoted by Bill Gates. The COVID-19 pandemic affected educational systems worldwide, leading to the complete closures of schools and colleges. Our teachers have moved to online teaching since the beginning of the lockdown in April. The sudden switch to 100% online teaching was challenging equally for both teachers and students. However, it is keeping everyone busy with notes, worksheets, exams, competitions, quizzes, video lectures, etc.

Students had so many challenges including no computer, internet, or poor network, besides children who were not computer savvy. We began using the app for online teaching. After a month we transitioned to Microsoft Teams, the professional platform which enhances us to provide a more effective classroom.

TAKING THE CURRICULUM ONLINE
Home assignments were being sent over WhatsApp in the form of PDFs, online tests are being conducted and the responses are being accessed virtually. Concepts are being taught in the form of PowerPoint presentations, recorded or youtube videos, and audio lectures. Teachers are uploading study material, notes, assignments, and exam question papers regularly on the respective school portal and MS Teams as well. Students can download the notes and prepare at home.

As an educator, I realized that online teaching requires a lot of innovation to

create an atmosphere of closeness with students as if they are in the classroom. The concern is that the concentration of students must be directed so that learning objectives are achieved well.

Online teaching has its own drawbacks. Teachers can never know how much attentive the student is, how the students are following them and whether the students are able to understand the concepts well. So, a real classroom offer is missing. Being at home, students are not taking the classes and assignments seriously and the teacher's strictness remains absent.

WHAT WE TEACHERS MISS THE MOST ABOUT SCHOOL

- I miss my students' personalities and silliness.
- I miss physically being in school with everyone else.
- I miss students' excuses, their creative and funny jokes.
- Hearing my name 50 times a day, getting interrupted 10,000 times.
- I miss hearing the students' voices.
- I miss that constant struggle to keep them focused on tasks.
- I miss those moments when students try to get me off-topic.
- I miss my teacher friends.
- I miss staffroom jokes and having lunch together.
- I miss that enjoyment of the school events.
- I miss my students' happy and sad faces.

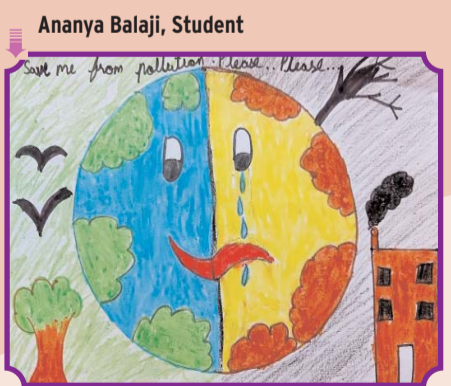
We all are learning together in a new way during this worldwide crisis. Let's ensure to have continuous education in the coming times. Happy learning!!

HEMA TANEJA, Educator, Zebar School For Children, Ahmedabad

Painters' Gallery



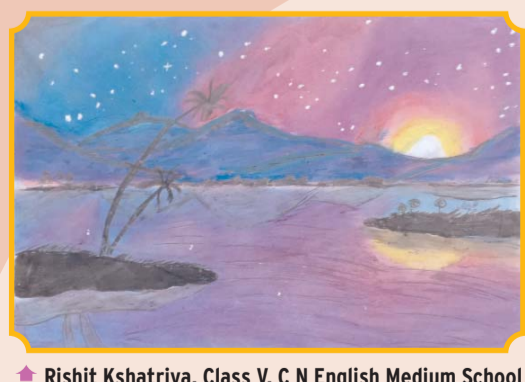
Vaani Panchal, Class XI, Cygnus World School, Vadodra



Ananya Balaji, Student



Shoyam Saxena, Class Jr. KG, SGVP International School



Rishit Kshatriya, Class V, C N English Medium School



Rishit Savaliya, Class V, Delhi Public School, Rajkot



Princy Makadia, Class VII, Krishna School, Jamnagar

THERE WAS A DAY WHEN THE WHOLE WORLD WAS ONE

To Fight against you, The killer germ
Where to win needs a single gun,
No need to panic and run!!
For the warriors are doctors, nurses, commanders, In the form of soldiers,
They are on duty, To save the world's beauty!
Don't dare to go in front of them
O killer Corona, you will be killed at once by these national gems.
They are curing the patients
With lots of patience
They know Living in the covid ambience
To achieve the noble mission.
If we take it light

A tiny virus will have so much might
Let's draw-in together in this fight
To make the future lovely and bright.
Today, the vaccine is found,
And our joy knows no bounds,
But still we have to follow the precautions
Cause we have no other option.
We need to have patience, To have joy worth tons
SARS, Covid-19, Mers, Will all disappear
Because stronger are our warriors.
We are at the side- winning
Dare not look here, CORONA 19.

KHUSHAL GOPANI, Class VII, St. Kabir School

HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

Happy days of mine are here again,
Days of nature have also come again.
My home is full of members again,
And the sky is full of birds again.
Noise of vehicles are off again,
And chirping of birds are here again,
Sky is blushing blue again,
People are having family time again.

My Mom is having free time again,
My Dad is full of fun again,
We are playing games again,
Old photos and new memories are here again,
Thank you RYAN for starting classes again,
And my studies and homeworks are here again,
But I am missing my friends and teachers,
So I want to go to school early again...

JIA DESAI, Class V, Ryan School, Surat

MY MOTHER !

You filled my days with rainbow lights.
Fairy tales and sweet dream night,
Kiss to wipe away my tears,
Gingerbread to ease my fears.
You gave the gift of life

to me,
And then in love, you set me free.
For deep warm hugs and being there.
I hope that when you think of my part of you
You will always see...
I love my mother.

VEDANT SHAH, class V, Ryan School, Dumas, Surat

POOR BATTING OR BAD PITCHES?

When the four-match series between India and England started, cricket fans were expecting to be enthralled by the quality of cricket on display. While the contests have been entertaining, the pitches on offer have also hogged quite a bit of limelight



Regarded as one of the best all-rounders in the game currently, Ben Stokes has been dismissed 11 times by R Ashwin

UNSURE FOOTWORK AGAINST SPIN

Most of the former English cricketers like Alistair Cook, Michael Vaughan and Andrew Strauss have questioned India's need to produce such rank turners. But again the question remains if rank turners really reduce the contest between bat and ball or is it the batsmen who are losing their ability to play the turning ball and making spinning tracks look unplayable?

If green tops require a certain skill set, then the rank-turners also require the same. Which ball turns and which one goes straight is a simple question in cricketing books and all the batters prepare for it from the very start when they go to coaching schools or academies. But it is about putting those hours of training into play at the crease.

When playing on turning tracks, batters are required to be confident about their footwork. But looking at all the dismissals in the third Test, most of them

saw batters in two minds on whether they should stay on the front foot or go back to the balls which mostly skidded through after pitching.

This is a fact that even Sunil Gavaskar spoke about during his commentary stint. Most of the English batsmen were caught pressing forward and as a result, they were either bowled or caught plumb in front of the wicket.

When one looks at the third Test once again, they will notice that only a handful of the deliveries were turning sharply and there was nothing that kicked up at an alarming rate. The pitch also did not offer invariable bounce and the batters were able to leave the ball on length.

If anything, the pink-ball has extra lacquer on it, and that may have made the ball skid more. And this is a point which was highlighted by Rohit Sharma and Joe Root after the third Test came to an end.

Seaming tracks are accepted, not turning ones

One needs to ask why does it seem like the world comes to an end when there is a little bit of assistance for the spinners from day one of a Test match? Nothing in the rule book restricts the degree of turn that a pitch is allowed to take. But no sooner does a sub-continent wicket take a bit of turn, eyebrows are raised, mostly unnecessary.

England skipper Joe Root did not openly criticise the pitch, but he did say, "If I am getting a fiver, it pretty much sums up the pitch".

One doesn't need to be a genius to read between the lines and understand what Root truly opines about the pitch. But credit to the current England management that none have come out openly to use the pitch as an excuse for the loss.

Kohli suggested that the batting from both sides was not up to the mark in the third Test and he went on to give a clean hit to the 22 yards on offer. It is safe to say that Kohli is not entirely wrong.

Even, Rohit Sharma suggested that the pitch was good to bat on and there were no demons. The right-handed opener hit 66 runs in the first innings and he did not look in any sort of trouble in the second as he smashed boundaries at will to take India home in style while chasing 49.

In fact, England opening batsman Zak Crawley also scored a fifty in the first innings and he looked quite comfortable at the crease. Man of the Match Axar Patel has made it clear that he wouldn't mind the same wicket for the fourth Test.

THIS (MOTERA) MIGHT NOT BE A 350-400 RUN PITCH BUT IT SURELY WASN'T A 200-250-RUN PITCH

I somehow find it funny that when they speak about the surface, it immediately gets quoted all over in our press and this is the issue here. There have been instances, we have been to New Zealand, where both the Tests got over in a total of five days. There is a video doing the rounds where Virat Kohli is talking in South Africa and he says I am not here to talk about the pitch. That is how we have been taught to play cricket, that's why I say let them sell thoughts, buying is our choice.

R ASHWIN, INDIAN SPINNER

It was not a pitch where the ball was misbehaving constantly. Nothing was kicking up alarmingly. Neither was there any great invariable bounce that the ball would shoot. Here, the bounce was actually true, almost. Yes, there was spin but Test match batsmen should be able to handle the

turn or the straighter ones. Challenging, but not treacherously challenging. If you look at the dismissals, the batsmen have contributed to their own downfall. More than the pitch, it was about the mindset which did them in. Rohit Sharma's batting in both innings showed you could score runs on this pitch.

SUNIL GAVASKAR, FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN

We play on seaming wickets around the world and get bowled out for 47, 60. Nobody ever says a thing. But as soon as it starts spinning, everyone in the world seems to start crying about it. I don't get it. I'm all for it, it was entertaining. I was up all night watching it. It was absolutely brilliant. I'm thinking about bringing that curator out to the SCG.

NATHAN LYON, AUSTRALIAN SPINNER

Was it a good pitch for batting, NO. It was difficult, challenging for any batsmen irrespective of how good you are. But is it a bad pitch? No, I don't

think so. This might not be a 350-400 run pitch but it surely wasn't a 200-250-run pitch. What was disappointing for me was, the scores were also a reflection of your batting skills against a turning pitch, whether it was the Indian batsmen or English batsmen. Both set of batsmen should have applied themselves better on a pitch like that.

DEEP DASGUPTA, FORMER INDIA WICKETKEEPER

England looked like startled rabbits in that second innings. I don't think it was an 81 all out pitch but this was a much tougher pitch than Chennai. Especially on this pitch, where one spins prodigiously and the other skids on, you lose all kind of rhythm. That's what successive Test matches on these sorts of pitches do for your mindset.

NASSER HUSSAIN, FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: In the 2018 US Open women's singles final, who derailed Serena Williams to become the first player from Japan to win a Grand Slam singles title?

- a) Yurika Sema b) Aiko Nakamura
c) Ayumi Morita d) Naomi Osaka

Q2: Who holds the record of most catches in ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

- a) AB de Villiers b) Dwayne Bravo
c) David Warner d) Martin Guptill

Q3: Who won the 2019 Davis Cup Award of Excellence?

- a) Emilio Sánchez b) David Ferrer
c) Ivan Lendl d) Yannick Noah

Q4: Which Indian cricketer has played most matches as captain in Men's World Cup?

- a) Sourav Ganguly b) Kapil Dev
c) MS Dhoni d) Mohammad Azharuddin

Q5: In the history of Wimbledon, who was the first overseas Champion?

- a) Dorothea Lambert
b) Josiah Ritchie
c) May Sutton
d) Norman Brookes

Q6: After Mithali Raj, which Indian has played most matches as captain in Women's World Cup?

- a) Anju Jain b) Jhulan Goswami
c) Diana Edulji d) Shantha Rangaswamy



Mithali Raj

Q7: Which of the following Davis Cup tournament?

- a) Australia b) Spain
c) the United States
d) the United Kingdom

Q8: Who is the youngest hat-trick scorer in the history of UEFA Champions League?

- a) Raheem Sterling b) Luiz Adriano
c) Raúl González d) Olivier Giroud

Q9: Messi and Ronaldo apart, who become the first attacker to win the Best FIFA Men's Player award since

Ronaldinho in 2005?

- a) Robert Lewandowski
b) Raúl González
c) Luis Suárez d) Sergio Agüero

Q10: Who won the 2015 US Open men's doubles title?

- a) Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut
b) Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah
c) Mike Bryan and Jack Sock
d) Jean-Julien Rojer and Horia Tecau

ANSWERS: 1 d) Naomi Osaka 2 a) AB de Villiers
3 b) David Ferrer 4 d) Mohammad Azharuddin
5 c) May Sutton 6 d) Shantha Rangaswamy
7 b) Spain 8 c) Raúl González
9 a) Robert Lewandowski
10 a) Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut