



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

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**STUDENT EDITION**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020



**WEB EDITION**

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## CBSE, CISCE mull further slashing of syllabus for Boards

# IS IT A GOOD IDEA?

The syllabus for the class X and XII Board exams of 2021 is likely to be reduced further by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), as the Covid-19 situation looks set to persist and cast a shadow over next year's exams. The class X and XII Board exams dates may also be shifted by 45-60 days to make up for the academic losses due to the pandemic.

The CBSE and CISCE, along with various state education Boards, like Telangana and Gujarat, have already reduced the academic load for the 2021 class X and XII exams by up to 30%.

However, with the schools remaining closed and classes held only via online/distance mode, officials of both the Boards say, there could be a need to further reduce the syllabus. A senior CBSE official said, no decision has been taken by the Board yet, but added, "Post 30% reduction in July, there has been no normal classes and if the situation continues like this, there is likelihood of further reduction of the syllabus for the Board exams. The Board will take a call soon whether the exams are to be conducted based on 70% or 50% of the syllabus."



### MAJOR CHALLENGES

➤ Omitting lessons and poems from languages is fine but what about subjects like maths, science, and social science? If crucial, inter-linked topics are deleted, it will affect a student's understanding of key concepts. Similarly, subjects with practical application will also suffer. Syllabi revision should be done by retaining the core concepts  
**MAHAFREEN JAMBUSARWALA, Educator, Zebar School for Children, Ahmedabad**



➤ To make a full question paper from a reduced syllabus is indeed a challenge. Truncating the syllabus further will jeopardise the whole teaching learning process, as chopping off portions indiscriminately leads to a lack of natural development of ideas. However, the unprecedented times that we are in, needs desperate measures, and slashing the syllabus is one of them  
**KANAK SHANKAR MUKHERJEE, Teacher Lakshmiptat Singhania Academy, Kolkata**



➤ Reducing syllabus has to be considered after a thorough assessment of how it will impact students, especially with continuing education in future classes. Moreover, it may not be useful to take such decisions now, as the slashed topics may already have been taught in most schools (around 80% of the syllabus has been covered). More important, it needs to be seen whether these chapters will be omitted from the competitive exams as well  
**ANUPAMA RAMACHANDRA, principal, DPS, Electronic City, Bengaluru**



### STUDENTS REACT

■ The first thought that went through my mind, on hearing this news was: Will this move change my future, will I be missing out on crucial things? But then, academic-related losses can be made up any time in the future. Reducing the syllabus will, in fact, take the burden off students, who are struggling to adjust to the current scenario. It will be a boost for those students, who have remote access to remote classes  
**SIDDHARTH, class X, National Public School, Chennai**



■ Though slashing of syllabus has become the need of the hour, with students finding the online mode of learning difficult, it is definitely going to hamper students' future in the long run. The current batches will unfortunately face the brunt, as they go to the higher classes with bare minimum knowledge  
**PADMASRITHA, class XI, P Obul Reddy Public School, Hyderabad**



■ Though it is an appreciable effort by various Boards to help students in this pandemic time, it is certainly going to prove to be a bane for the coming academic years. The pressure of course will be tremendous, and it will require loads of efforts for both teachers and students to get clarity on different subjects and topics that were given amiss, courtesy the slashing of syllabus  
**UDISHA TIWARI, class X, City Montessori School, GN2, Lucknow**



## DROUGHTS ARE THREATENING GLOBAL WETLANDS: STUDY

**ENVIRONMENT**



In a major study, researchers have shown how droughts are threatening the health of wetlands globally. The study highlights the many physical and chemical changes occurring during droughts that lead to severe, and sometimes irreversible, drying of wetland soils.

**1** According to researchers, wetlands can suffer "water droughts" both from the effects of a drier climate, and also when excessive water is extracted or diverted that would normally flow into them

**2** Drought often leads to severe cracking and compaction, acidification, loss of organic matter, and enhanced greenhouse gas (for example methane) emissions

**3** In some cases, droughts can also lead to very long-term (less than 10 years) and irreversible soil changes, with major impacts on water quality, when soils are re-wet after the drought ends



➤ Indonesian government's special initiative 'Let's Wear Masks' will literally take flight, as a special face mask design has been added to one of the Garuda, Indonesia's Airbus A330-900neo

➤ It took about 60 people and nearly 120 hours to put the blue mask on to the nose of the plane; At least four more aircraft will be sporting masks designed by the public

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Educate a girl, educate a generation: Chitrangada Singh

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who has always been vocal about issues like colourism and equal rights, has emphasised on the importance of educating girls. Recently, on the occasion of International Day of Girl Child, the actress posted a video highlighting the need to educate girls. She said, "by educating one girl, you not only educate her but the entire family."

### CELEB TALK

"I feel if we want to invest in our future generations, the most basic and important thing is to invest in the education and growth of the girl child. If the mother is educated, the children will grow up with healthier minds and bodies, healthier communities. So, I hope people start thinking on this and come forward for the education of a girl child"

### FACTOID

**18,006 TONS**

Amount of Covid-19 biomedical waste generated in India since June, according to a Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)



data. According to the data, Maharashtra is the biggest contributor to this, with 3,587 tons of waste generation. The Covid-19 biomedical waste is being collected, treated and disposed by 198 common biomedical waste treatment facilities

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### 'Sooryavanshi' pushed to 2021; '83' set for a Christmas release

Actor Akshay Kumar starrer action-drama 'Sooryavanshi' is eyeing a theatrical release window between January and March 2021, after being pushed from its planned Diwali opening. Reliance Entertainment Group CEO Shibaish Sarkar said.



■ 'Sooryavanshi' was originally scheduled to release on March 24 and the Kabir Khan-directed '83' was set to hit the theatres on April 10  
■ Both the movies were indefinitely postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic  
■ 'Sooryavanshi' is the fourth film in Shetty's cop universe, after Ajay Devgn's 'Singham', 'Singham Returns', and 'Simmba', starring Singh

### UNRAVELLED

## How Leonardo da Vinci's 'super-fast eye' helped him capture Mona Lisa's fleeting smile

Scientists believe that Leonardo da Vinci's super-fast eye may have helped him catch the enigmatic magic of Mona Lisa's smile. This superhuman trait, which top tennis and baseball players may also share, allowed the Renaissance master to capture accurately the minute, fleeting expressions, and even birds and dragonflies in flight.



**1** Art historians have long talked of Leonardo's "quick eye", but David S Thaler of Switzerland's University of Basel has tried to gauge it in a new study showing, how he gave his drawings and paintings uncanny emotional depth

**2** Professor Thaler's research talks about how Leonardo's eye was so keen that he managed to spot that the front and back wings of a dragonfly are out of sync, a discovery, which took slow-motion photography to prove four centuries later

**3** Thaler said that this gift to see what few humans can may be the secret of Leonardo's most-famous painting

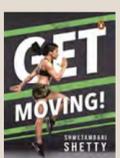
## 7 new titles to get your hands on, NOW

nitya.shukla@timesgroup.com

### HOW TO BE A WRITER

by **Ruskin Bond**

Mr Bond is back with yet another super engaging read. He takes us behind the scenes, and shows us what it takes to be an author. Written in his trademark tone, a warm mix of understatedness, tongue-in-cheek humour and friendliness, 'How to be a Writer' is for any reader, old or young, who is willing to put in the work.



### GET MOVING

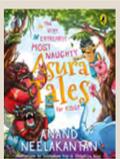
by **Shwetambari Shetty**

Fitness expert and entrepreneur Shwetambari Shetty became popular thanks to her dance fitness workouts and training programmes. With this book, she brings what she does best, to the comfort of your home. The fitness guru shows how you can incorporate movement and exercise into your daily activities.

### HOW TO READ AMARTYA SEN

by **Lawrence Hamilton** and foreword by **Jeane Dreze**

If you know Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, then you are probably, aware of the diverse volume of work he has done by now. That means reading a lot of his books... so we suggest you start here. This book is a comprehensive introduction to Amartya Sen's philosophy and covers all the important aspects of his philosophical vision.



### THE VERY, EXTREMELY, MOST .....

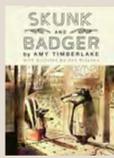
by **Anand Neelakantan**

The 'Baahubali' series author makes a smashing debut as a children's author with a book of stories of a few VERY naughty child asuras and their adventures. Readers, expect to be regaled by the story of Kundakka and Mandakka, a pair of asura twins who hate going to school...

### SKUNK AND BADGER

by **Amy Timberlake**

Under no circumstances can a Skunk and a Badger live together. Especially, not these two because the quiet and orderly Badger is a geologist and loves to do important rock work while the Skunk, a great cook, loves to bounce around and invite all the neighbourhood chickens over for story time. Yet they end up becoming housemates.



### THE SECRET LIFE OF DEBBIE G: .....

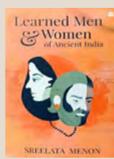
by **Vibha Batra** and **Kalyani Ganapathy**

Meet Debbie G, a sixteen-year-old who becomes an online sensation, OVERNIGHT. At first, she finds it fantastic but soon she falls prey to the trappings of social media. By that we mean she begins to measure her self-worth through the number of likes, comments, shares...

### LEARNED MEN AND WOMEN OF ANCIENT INDIA

by **Sreelata Menon**

From ancient times, India has been popular for being the birthplace of achievers who pioneered surgical techniques, solved highly complex mathematical puzzles and even attempted to turn metal into gold. This book is an introduction to some of these greats including Vyasa, Sushruta, etc.



# 5 Creative activities to improve your reading skills at home

We learn through play. So it's no secret that a big part of learning to read is to make the process fun! Make the most of life's everyday moments to foster your curiosity, knowledge, and interest in stories and words. Here are a few activities that can help in developing reading skills



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

## MUSICALS ARE THE BEST

Humans are born with an innate appreciation for music. It's magical to see young children respond with joy to melodies and songs. And, experiencing music can help in learning to process language. According to Mary Luehrsen, a musician, "Growing up in a musically rich environment is often advantageous for children's language development." The impact of music education on language development can also be seen in the brain. So, listen more and learn more.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

**ACTIVITIES:** Capitalise on the joy and benefits of music by making up silly songs as a way to develop vocabulary. You could focus on words that start with a specific letter of the alphabet, like a letter of the day or week. Or, take a song you enjoy and print out or write up the lyrics. Bonus points if it's the one that contains sight words. Another fun activity: dance! When you groove, you gain an understanding of concepts like up/down and left/right.

## GET CREATIVE WITH SNACK TIME

While your parent is preparing dinner or making a snack, talk to them about what they are measuring and point out words in the cookbook that catches your attention. Be curious about the ingredients that go into your snack. Or, compose an imaginary grocery list — drawing pictures or using invented spelling is great! It encourages phonetic awareness. You can also invent your own kitchen lingo.



Photo: THINKSTOCK

**ACTIVITIES:** You can draw a few of your favourite snacks, then write out the ingredients, colours or flavours that go along with each one. Put them together to make a cookbook. Why not go ahead and play with food at snack time? Try snacks with letters — like Scrabble Cheez - Its or alphabet soup — and make words with the food before gobbling them up. Snacks can help you in counting too

## GO ARTSY

Art and creative activities can play a huge role in language development. Like most activities we take part in, art gives us an opportunity to talk about something new and different. By having a conversation about colours, shapes, and techniques, we can expand our vocabulary and improve communication skills. Plus, art may help us get inspired to make our own "word" creations.

**ACTIVITIES:** Incorporate mini-vocabulary lessons into your art projects. After you draw a picture, sit down and reflect on it. Ask questions about it, writing out words that describe the scene. You can even make a book out of the finished drawings and later narrate them as a picture story.

## LISTEN TO AUDIOBOOKS

We love being told stories, and listening to an audiobook is a fun way to bring a book to life. Many audiobooks have enthusiastic narrators, music, and sound effects, making for an engaging experience that can be replayed again and again (and it gives you a break from repeat reading!). When you fol-

low along to a recording with the words in the book, you can begin to learn new vocabulary words and identify sight words.

### WHY AUDIO:

- Audiobooks are great for readers of all levels, and can be used in a number of ways, including:
  - Introduce yourself to books above your reading level
  - Teaches you critical listening
  - Highlights the humour in books
  - Introduces new genres that you might not have otherwise considered
  - Introduces new vocabulary or difficult proper names or



Photo: THINKSTOCK

locales or situations  
Provides a bridge to important topics of discussion for parents and children who can listen together

## PLAY GAMES

Parents and teachers are all too familiar with the strategy of "gamifying" everyday tasks — brushing teeth, getting ready for bed, eating dinner — as a way to engage children. Why not do it with reading activities? There are an infinite number of inspiring ideas online.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

**ACTIVITIES:** One of our favourites is a book hunt. The game can be played with one child or with a group. Simply hide a few good (quick-to-read) books around the home. Whenever a child finds one, everyone gathers round to listen to the book, read aloud by the parent or child. The game continues until all the books are found. Children love hunting for things, and this is a fun game that involves movement. You can also try matching games, magnetic words, or sidewalk chalk to encourage identify patterns, form words, and more.



## An Idli Conversation

When British historian Edward Anderson on Twitter said "Idlis are the most boring things in the world," the floodgates opened. Author and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor termed the professor "truly challenged" and Tweeples agreed. We at Times NIE tell you more about some of the types of idlis there are... enjoy!



**MALLIGE IDLI**  
It got its name and texture from the Jasmine flower, these idlis are fluffy and spongy. These are popular in Chennai and is known as Kushboo.

**UDUPI-STYLE IDLI**  
Made using 3:1 ratio of rice and urad dal mix, Udupi-style idli needs quite a time to get fermented. When it comes to Udupi style cooking, every dish is prepared using a specific style. These idlis are not very fluffy but taste great.

**MOODE IDLI:** Famously known as Kadubbu, Moode, Mude and Gunda, these are cylindrical shaped idlis — common in and around Udupi. The batter of these idlis is same but is cooked in a different mould.



**KANCHEEPURAM IDLI**  
One of the most famous types, the origin of the Kancheepuram idli lies in the Vardarajaswamy temple. It is still the temple food and is prepared using 2:1 (rice:urad



dal mix) and used to be traditionally cooked in large vessels, instead of idli moulds. Once cooked, these are sliced. The batter is kept overnight and later some ghee, cashew, Bengal gram, cumin, curry leaves, ginger powder and peppercorns is added to it. Sounds yummy!

## QUIZ TIME (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

**Q.1) Shashi Shanker was honoured with the Distinguished Fellowship of the Institute of Directors (IOD) 2019. He was the chairman and managing director of...**

- Hindustan Petroleum
- BHEL
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- Indian Oil Corporation

**ing institutions will prohibit 'single use plastic' from October 2?**



- AAI
- Indian Railways
- CRPF
- Air India

**Q.3) "Advancement Through Technology" is a slogan of which of these following multinational companies?**

- HP B. Dell C. BMW D. Audi

**Q.2) Which of the following**

1. (C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation 2. (B) Indian Railways 3. (D) Audi

## KNOWLEDGE BANK (BIRDS)

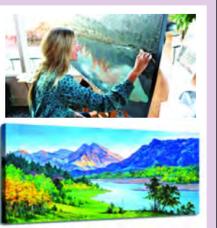
### Forest owl

It is an endangered owl endemic to central India. They are less in number owing to the degradation of their habitat, the deciduous forests. The forest owl belongs to the typical owls family, Strigidae, and is about 23 cm and stocky, with heavily banded wings and tail and rather unspotted crown. It has a relatively large skull and beak, pale facial disc and yellow eyes. They typically hunt from perches where they sit still and wait for prey. They prey on lizards, rodents, and other invertebrates and frogs.



## EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

Develop a story based on the pictures in around 250 words. Send your entry along with your name, class, school and picture at toinie175@gmail.com



WEEKEND PLAN

Reconnect with yourself, through

Music

LUBNA ASIF, class XI, Army Public School Kamaraj Road, Bengaluru



Weekends. Most kids my age think of the weekend as a time to unwind; a time when they can take a step back from the piles of homework and assignments that their teachers heap on them and just relax. I, too, share the same mindset. During the weekend, I spend hours on end strumming the guitar, freestyling on the piano and singing like a croaking frog. I may not have the most melodious voice and I may not be the best guitarist in town, but it makes me happy. The adrenaline that rushes through my veins when I press my calloused fingers

against the fretboard, the pure joy that fills my heart when I hit the perfect note on the keyboard: the exhilaration that I feel in these moments is indescribable. In my opinion, music provides the best escape from reality. You need not be Freddie Mercury or Beethoven to enjoy the bounties that music offers. You don't need to have the voice of a nightingale or the skills of a guitar god either. You just need to like a good tune, and hey, who doesn't love a good song? If you listen to some of the songs that artists write, really listen, you'll find they have a much

deeper meaning than they seem to on the surface. Artists pour out their heart and soul into their music. One will often find oneself relating to the words of a song and how beautifully the musician who has birthed that piece of art has expressed themselves. Listening to music offers us a chance to reconnect with ourselves, a chance that all of us should take.



Coin project, talks give insights into Gandhian values



October 2, 1869 was when a warrior of peace was born - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, also known as the "Father of our Nation".

Our school is an avid advocate of Gandhian values. The school embraces the five mantras of Swaraj, Swadesh, Satyagraha, Sarvodaya, Swadharna and also exposes us students to the same.

On October 1, every student began their journey of collecting 'Coins for the Country'. This initiative falls under Swadesh that promotes the concepts of "me and my country we grow together". 'Coins for the Country' is a project which requires the students to put aside coins. At the end of the year, the coins are collected and donated to communities who are at a disadvantage.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the school arranged a live stream with author of "The Gandhi Experiment", Margaret Hepworth. She shared an anecdote of how two-third of



SILVER OAKS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

and that social issues can be tackled with Gandhian values.

On a closing note, she read out Mahatma Gandhi's 'Prayer for Peace' and asked the students to write a message about Gandhi that they would like to share with the Australian students.

The school also organised a webinar with Mahatma Gandhi's grandson Rajmohan Gandhi. The talk gave insights into Gandhi's life, pre and post-independence. He expressed the love and affection Gandhi had towards the country and how he saw India as his own family. The students also learnt about the situations and the environment around those times.

He also spoke about the pressure on children to score high marks and suggested that they look deeper into the meaning of success.

Both the talks were inspirational and helped the students enhance their knowledge about Mahatma Gandhi and his values.

VAMSHIKA RAGHAV and VANIYA SHARMA, IBDP-1

Little girls with dreams become women with vision

On the occasion of International Girl Child Day, my primary concern is to empower girls with education, empathy and emotional security. As a woman, a mother, a homemaker and an educator I have often wondered: why is it so difficult for a girl child to be heard? When did we become this patriarchal society where the role of a girl is to follow certain norms? Why were their opinions not sought? Why, after all the decisions are arrived at, information is passed on to us or sometimes that is also taken for granted.



APPOLLO NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

This has to change. Let us pledge allegiance that we stand up for their rights, we work towards the upliftment of the girl child.

This year's theme for International Girl Child Day is "My voice, our equal future." Let's celebrate this day and the coming days with a promise to give equal opportunities at home and in the career front, to be recognized for their intellectual abilities, free from gender-based violence. Let's help to achieve their dreams, amplify their leadership qualities and share their wonderful stories to inspire others.

To sum it up, I would like to end with a quote: When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful. - Malala Yousafzai.

V V SARITA, English teacher

ETERNAL STORY OF FAMILY LOVE AND BONDING

Written nearly 200 years ago, Louisa May Alcott's Little Women continues to be one of the most widely read novels in the world. Even after two centuries, people are still fascinated by Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy's story, from their childhood days to adulthood. There is something special about this book that withstands the barriers of time. One of my favorite moments in this book is when Jo refuses the marriage proposal from Laurie. Most people usually assume that the male and female leads of the book are automatically soulmates. I loved how Jo chose her literary dreams over a comfortable life with Laurie.

The author Alcott herself never married and took care of her entire family, thanks to the success of her books. She wanted a similar fate for Jo, although her editor forced her to

get Jo married by the end of the book.

But the true essence of the book is the relationship between the March sisters. I believe the real reason people still read this book after so many years is that the love one feels for their family is timeless and eternal.

BOOK NAME: Little Women  
AUTHOR: Louisa May Alcott

MANNAT SINGH, class IX, Delhi Public School - East, Bengaluru



I miss the outpouring of love, hugs, kisses



During the prolonged lockdown and working from home, the stark difference in a teacher's life has been the absence of personal interaction with my students. Being a preprimary teacher means reliving being a mother. Hugs and kisses are a part and parcel of the child's time in school. I miss that dearly.

Going back in time, I remember an incident, when two of my students came back from their Christmas vacation with a mission to fill the water tank at school... they would keep crying for reasons unknown and cling to me for dear life. My hands were full; one hand for each child to hold. The other teachers would pull my leg saying "Ah, here's Maha with her little

bodyguards". With love, patience, frustration, and time they finally settled down. They even came back to visit us after going to the higher class. Their faces would light up on seeing us, and our hearts would to thump louder to see their love. We wouldn't want them to go.

How I wish those times are back again!

Now they have moved on to a higher class and to another building, but something draws both the children and their parents back to the place where it all began. When they do come visiting, their coy smiles and obvious love just brings all the memories flooding. Priceless to say the least.

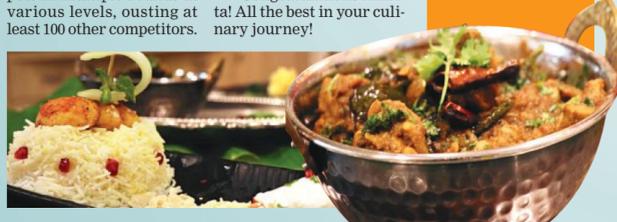
MAHALAKSHMI SRIRAM, teacher, Bethany High, Koramangala

YOUNG CHEF WINS ACCOLADES FOR CULINARY SKILLS

ST JOSEPH'S BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

Amrita Varshini of class XII was awarded second place in the recently concluded Young Chef of India (Seniors) culinary competition conducted by the International Institute of Hotel Management. The All-India competition saw Amrita compete in multiple rounds at various levels, ousting at least 100 other competitors.

The final round was adjudged by India's well known culinary genius Chef Ranveer Brar. Having received a cash prize of 15,000, gifts and certificates for the same, it goes a long way in understanding the level of competition and the caliber of the participants. Congratulations Amrita! All the best in your culinary journey!



AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE AND GRATITUDE

Students of classes VI to XI pleasantly surprised the teachers with a well-planned digital cultural celebration, followed by some wonderfully curated games.

The SOI Student Council, and the students of class X coordinated to bring about a retro-themed cultural show, taking teachers back to the good old days of television. Singing and dancing to retro songs, students had collated and stitched video recordings, and the seniors had presented a poem about how teachers had adapted to Covid times by adopting technology,

SCHOOL OF INDIA

and delivering content daily with a smile.

The seniors of class XI also joined their juniors with a heart-warming video of wishes to all their teachers, who they said had made this year seem like any other - with the continuation of education without any break.

Later during the day, students organised a round of games for teachers through a web meeting, and hosted an IQ quiz via an online quizzing app.

Deeply touched, teachers of SOI forgot that it all happened via an online platform - feeling as if they were back in the school quadrangle, with children performing live. The junior students also expressed their love with videos, songs, and poems sent to their favourite teachers.

All the teachers of SOI express their heart-felt thanks to our beloved students, who have expressed their love and warmth in so many ways! It was a truly memorable day for the teachers, and will be cherished and remembered.



The school celebrated Teacher's Day online, starting with a teacher's day song by a student. It was followed by a lovely message by principal Immaculate. There were songs, dances, messages in various languages, poems and more. Students presented online greeting cards. Almost 450 students and teachers took part in the fun-filled, meaningful and enjoyable programme.

Sophians keep the show going and not even the pandemic can stop them from any celebration.

SOPHIA SCHOOL

-MATHW

A DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL SHOWCASES TALENT



It is really a challenging phase for students with more screen time.

I appreciate our school for taking an effort to incorporate SAPA music classes for students. Our classes include all aspects of music - listening, singing and playing notes. During these sessions, we encourage our students to play any instrument of their choice. It is a delight to watch the young ones do wonders. Most of the students of classes VI and VII participate with excitement to showcase their talent.

SISHU GRIHA HIGH SCHOOL

Music not only activates our brain, especially those parts which are associated with movement, attention and memory, but also makes us feel relaxed and cheerful.

We are glad that we are helping students calm down and allow them to take a break from their routine.

-SAVITHA SATHISH, music educator (SAPA)



# Is **BATTING FIRST** becoming an advantage in UAE?

It seems so! Out of the 29 matches played so far, the team batting first has won overwhelmingly 23 times (79%). But, why are the odds stacked against the chasing side? Let's decode...

## 1 TAKING SINGLES AND DOUBLES ADDS TO FATIGUE

In the UAE, chases involve a lot of running between the wickets and humid conditions at night suck the life out of players. Remember, CSK captain MS Dhoni who was batting in the last overs against the Sunrisers Hyderabad looked tired and jaded as he battled a 'dry throat' in the UAE heat. Asked about his struggle towards the end as he seemed to have lost steam in the searing heat, Dhoni said, "I tried to get as much time as possible. It is quite dry out here. So, the throat gets dry and you start to cough. When you have legal signs, you can take some time off."



Photo: ANI

## 2 TOSS HAS BECOME A DECISIVE FACTOR

Initially, teams opted to bowl after winning the toss, but it led to 5 successive losses for individual teams. Now, captains prefer to bat first as chasing teams have usually floundered. Surprisingly, chasing teams have won 70% of matches in Dubai until this IPL. At Sharjah and Abu Dhabi, 60%.



Photo: ANI

## 3 BIGGER GROUNDS, BIGGER TASK

It's becoming obvious that it's not easy chasing in the two venues of Dubai and Abu Dhabi, which are comparatively larger than the usual grounds in India. Scoring boundaries is not a piece of cake and when batsmen try to accelerate they more often than not get out. Sixes have largely had to be earned, not served on a platter.



## 4 TEAMS AREN'T MAXIMISING THE POWERPLAY

Writing in [espn.cricinfo.com](http://espn.cricinfo.com), Karthik Krishnaswamy says chasing teams aren't maximising the powerplay. "Chasing teams in IPL 2020 are scoring significantly slower through the powerplay than in any recent season. The run rate over the first six overs for chasing teams is 7.23 - it's only been lower twice, in 2009 (7.10) and 2013 (7.02)." It's not been easy to bring the run rate under control in death overs.

## 'Really enjoyed batting as an opener against SRH'

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) all-rounder Sam Curran has said that playing as an opener against SunRisers Hyderabad came as a surprise to him, but he also admitted that he enjoyed playing the role for his side. His remark came as CSK defeated SRH by 20 runs on Tuesday at the Dubai International Stadium. David Warner-led SunRisers Hyderabad failed to chase down the target of 168, after being reduced to 147/8. For CSK, Karn Sharma and Dwayne Bravo scalped two wickets each. ANI



Photo: ANI

"I was surprised to get at the top of the order but really enjoyed it, I got the team off to a good start and most importantly, a good win. It was good to bat at the top of the order. I am just trying to contribute with both bat and ball." Sam Curran, all-rounder CSK

## 'Delhi Capitals, Mumbai Indians look like two best teams'

It's such a close tournament, so many ups and downs, but clearly Mumbai Indians & Delhi Capitals look like the two best teams - form-wise and personnel-wise. KKR, in my opinion, got a real bonus win against CSK. They are my third team. The fourth team for me is between Rajasthan Royals and Sunrisers Hyderabad. Ajit Agarkar, former Indian cricketer



Delhi Capitals team

Photo: ANI

## Neymar overtakes Ronaldo to become Brazil's second-highest scorer

Neymar scored a hat-trick to become the second highest scorer in Brazil's history as the Copa America champions won 4-2 away to 10-man Peru in a World Cup qualifier.



Photo: PTI

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### SPORTS QUIZ | Tennis

**Q1:** In which year did the open era in tennis begin?

- a) 1904  b) 1968  c) 1947  d) 1962

**Q2:** Which ranking system is considered official in men's professional tennis?

- a) The ATP Rankings  b) FIFA Ranking  c) Herald Ranking  d) None of the above

**Q3:** Who is the only man in history to win 13 singles titles at the grand slam event at Roland Garros?

- a) Rafael Nadal  b) Novak Djokovic  c) Roger Federer  d) Don Budge

**Q4:** Serena Williams won her maiden Grand Slam title at the US Open in which year?

- a) 1999  b) 2000  c) 2001  d) 2002

**Q5:** Who is the current world number one men's singles tennis player?

- a) Rafael Nadal  b) Novak Djokovic  c) Roger Federer  d) Don Budge

**Q6:** Identify this famous tennis player?

- a) Ashleigh Barty  b) Naomi Osaka  c) Simona Halep  d) Karolina Pliskova



**Q7:** Who defeated tennis player Bobby Riggs in the famous "Battle of the Sexes"?

- a) Margaret Court  b) Billie Jean King  c) Evonne Goolagong Cawley  d) Martina Navratilova

**Q8:** Who did John McEnroe defeat in the final to win his first Wimbledon singles title?

- a) Pete Sampras  b) Ivan Lendl  c) Jimmy Connors  d) Björn Borg

**Q9:** Who is the only Australian aboriginal to win Wimbledon?

- a) Dianne Belstrat  b) Evonne Goolagong  c) Nancye Bolton  d) Jill Blackman

**Q10:** Recently, which Spanish tennis player has been suspended for four years and fined \$15,000 after being convicted of courtsiding?

- a) Gerard Joseph Platero Rodriguez

- b) Carlos Moyá Llompart  c) Rafael Nadal  d) Nick Krygios

**Q11:** Recently who become the first Polish tennis player ever to capture a major singles title?

- a) Anett Kontaveit  b) Ashleigh Barty  c) Iga Swiatek  d) Markéta Vondroušová

**Q12:** Who became the first female Egyptian to qualify for the main draw in the French Open?

- a) Mayar Sherif  b) Magi Nader Aziz  c) Ismail El-Shafei  d) None of the above

**ANSWERS:** 1 b) 1968 2 a) The ATP Rankings 3 a) Rafael Nadal 4 a) 1999 5 b) Novak Djokovic 6 a) Ashleigh Barty 7 b) Billie Jean King 8 d) Björn Borg 9 b) Evonne Goolagong 10 a) Gerard Joseph Platero Rodriguez 11 c) Iga Swiatek 12 a) Mayar Sherif