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feature has been made

of users globally.

available to a small group

on Monday heard the pleas of a written request by the inforeigners, who were 'black- vestigating officer or an agency

an organisation in the black list, an LOC needs to be issued. Court This can be done only through listed' for attending a religious addressed to an officer notified

of key factors for exclusion of learners in education systems worldwide, including background, identity and ability, gender, age, location, poverty, disability, ethnicity, indigeneity, language, religion, migration or displacement status, sexual orientation or gender identity expression, incarceration, beliefs and attitudes.

light settings. This will be helpful for users staring at their screens well past midnight, scroll through the news feed as they struggle to fall asleep. Facebook did not mention a timeline for when it will roll out dark mode for all its users - The benefits of dark mode are two-fold. By letting users change the background colour of an app to black, it becomes easier to view and more aesthetically pleasing. Secondly, dark mode means that a large number of pixels on the screen will be off at any given point in time, thereby helping to preserve battery life

ENTERTAINMENT

Charles Randolph to make directorial debut with movie on Covid-19 pandemic

scar-winning scribe Charles Randolph is set to write, direct and produce a feature on the early stages of the coronavirus pandemic in China's Wuhan city. According to reports, SK Global will finance and produce the project. The film will examine "the

dramatic weeks in China as the heroic medical community confronts a mysterious virus, soon to become a global pandemic." The writer, who penned Fox News drama, 'Bombshell', and won an Academy Award with Adam McKay for adapted screenplay for 'The Big Short', will be making his directorial debut with the vet-untitled Covid-19 movie. The project will be filmed in China, and other international locations with local crews.

SPORTS

English County C'ship to begin from Aug 1



he England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has given its approval for the professional men's county cricket season to begin from August 1. The ECB release said formats to be played during the delayed men's county season are due to be agreed by the 18 first-class counties in early July, with a new fixture schedule to be published thereafter. A commitment to play women's domestic cricket in 2020 has also been made but may differ from the planned rollout of the new women's elite domestic structure.

congregation at Delhi's Nizamuddin area

A blacklist is a compilation of the names of all the Indian and foreign citizens against whom there's a 'look out circular' (LOC). Issued by the ministry of home affairs (MHA), the list is prepared by the foreigners division of the MHA, and is shared

with all the Indian diplomatic missions as also with all the immigration check-points within India. It is done to stop the exit or entry of certain individuals, which could either be in their personal capacity or because they are associated with an organisation.

IS IT ISSUED:

person or

To place a

deputy secretary or the above rank in the Centre, joint secretary or the above rank at the state level and other equivalent ranks in law enforcement and intelligence agencies. An LOC can only be issued against offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). There's no fixed period to determine the length

of the blacklist period.

by the MHA, such as the

IN IT: SWell

that's the interesting part the blacklist is not in the public domain, so until and unless a person tries to enter or leave the country, he/she will not know if he/she is in the blacklist. Currently, there are about 30,000 people in the MHA blacklist, down from 38,000 in 2016.

The annual report points out that not only the number of images of female characters included in the textbooks is very less in comparison to

images of males, women are also represented in "less prestigious" occupations, and as introverts and passive

Showing men as doctors and women as nurses; റ portraying women in subjects pertaining to food, fashion or entertainment; featuring women in voluntary roles and men in paid jobs, are among the gender stereotypes pointed out in the report. The report also takes note of attempts by few countries to revise the textbook images to reflect more gender balance.

SCIENTISTS SPOT RARE NEPTUNE-LIKE PLANET

cientists have discovered a planet about as large as Neptune that circles a nearby star, which is still surrounded by a disk of debris left over from its formation. Using data from NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) and retired Spitzer Space Telescope, the discovery makes the system a touchstone for understanding how stars and planets form and evolve.

Known as AU Mic for short, the planet is a cool red dwarf star with an age estimated at 20 million to 30 million years, making it a stellar infant compared to our sun, which is at least 150 times older

The star is so young that it primarily shines from the heat generated, as its own gravity pulls it



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inward and compresses it. Less than 10 per cent of the star's energy comes from the fusion of hydrogen into helium in its core, the process that powers stars like our sun. ■The system is located 31.9 light years away in the southern constellation Microscopium



Once fullycharged, the Solar Watch is expected to run for around four months, before a user will need to charge it again

In addition to opting for a more sustainable, solar-powered movement, the Solar Watch comes equipped with five pull-through straps, which are made with yarn spun from approximately 16 plastic bottles-that is 16 fewer bottles in a landfill, or an ocean or a national park, and one step closer to a greener future

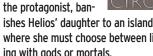
A SOLAR WATCH UNVEILED **AUNCH**

merican fashion brand Fossil has launched a new breed of eco-friendly sustainable watch called Solar Watch. The Solar Watch is globally available in a limited edition of 1,754 pieces. The watch will be priced at ₹9,995. The all-new watch will be available for purchase on Fossil.in and at select Fossil retail stores.

The outer ring of the watch case acts as a solar panel, capturing light and converting it to energy, using a solar cell beneath the dial. It then stores the energy in a rechargeable battery that powers the movement of the watch







ishes Helios' daughter to an island, where she must choose between living with gods or mortals.

CIRCE by

Madeline

In this book, Zeus

Miller

A POP-SCIENCE ONE

THE MOSQUITO: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator by Timothy C

book. It talks about how mosquitoes

have "upended" history, including

their "decisive" role in winning the

American independence by decimat-

A CREATIVE ONE

ing non-immune European troops

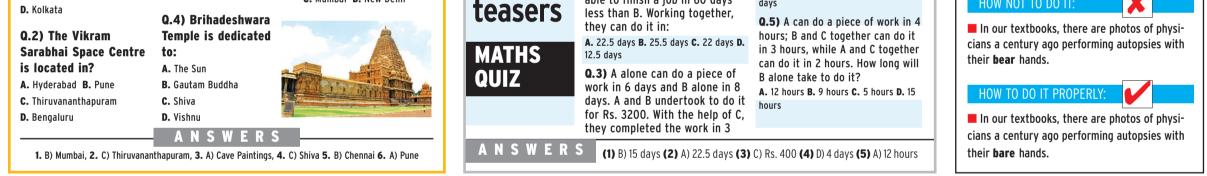
Steal Like an Artist: 10

Winegard One of those "eye-opening books that permanently shift your worldview", said Times reviewer Sam Kean about this



Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative by Austin Kleon The book has tons of interesting activities to get your creative juices going





Swami Vivekananda Centenary School celebrates RABINDRA JAYANTI





very year on May 8 (25th day of Baisakh), we never fail to celebrate the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore which we do with grand cultural events. But this year has been different from other years. Due to Covid-19 everything has changed and the scenario and style too have changed. But we Bengalis, ensured that we didn't miss celebrating the occasion.

Swami Vivekananda Centenary School celebrated

all their emotions in online mode like our education system. The students and

The students and teachers performed from their homes, keeping the "Stay Home Stay Safe" thought in mind. Our teacher in charge Payel Chakraborty and vice-principal Smita Sur Ghosh garlanded the portrait of Tagore



Tagore's birth anniversary this year with teachers performed from their home, keeping the "Stay Home Stay Safe' thought in mind. Our teacher in charge Payel Chakraborty and vice-principal Smita Sur Ghosh garlanded the portrait of Tagore. Reverend Swami Satya Dharmananda, secretary, Jana Siksha Mandir, Ramkrishna Mission, Belurmath, honorary academic advisor of our school, sent his message specially for this day.

We collected all the performances and made a video and uploaded it on the school's official YouTube channel for everyone's convenience. Everyone performed with all their efforts. We hope that these unfortunate days of fear will soon get over and we will all go back to school and celebrate this day like before.

SCHOOL IS COOL

BHS teacher showcases artistic vision





irla High School's art teacher Susanta Pal had created some art works which has got published in The Kala Chaupal. He was happy to announce that, The Kala Chaupal, a reputed public trust, that uses visual and supporting arts to drive positive social and cultural change, had selected his art works to feature for a newsletter, which he did during the lockdown.

"Living in the ongoing global circumstances, I wanted to create visual narratives by which the time we are passing will be reflected. The curator of Kala Chaupal considered my works relevant to global communities and she submitted my art works in another international project named 10cents project, organised by #10 Cents.





Amal Fundraiser

ith the global pandemic Covid 19, Amphan and locust attacks gripping our country in a stronghold and causing such an unprecedented catastrophic humanitarian and economic disaster, we a group of concerned students decided to take it upon ourselves to do our little part

Instead of leaning towards a traditional fundraising event, we turned towards an unconventional one, 'Amal'. We wanted people to give back to their country while making most out of their time whilst enjoying what they contribute and stand for.

The Amal Fundraiser is hosting a series of events : Quizeria (Harry Potter quiz); Scribble (English and Bengali creative writing competition; 5 minutes to fame (Talent hunt); Jawbreaker (Debate); Vibgyor (Art competition); Pixels (Photography competition); Memofy (Meme making); Shipwreck (Impersonation); Housie (Bingo); Eclipse (Minecraft Tournament); Standup Comedy; Rhythm and Beats (Beat-boxing competition); Gladiator's Pitch (Start-up presentation). Join us on board!

> - Harsh Kumar Agarwal, Class X, **National English School**

JOURNEY OF THE SOUL AMIDST A SENSE OF LOSS...

Lord of the Universe, is a form of Lord Vishnu, revered particularly in the coastal town of Puri, in Odisha. Jagannath, has a very distinct form - an appearance that is uniquely unfinished that has a intimidating tribal touch, which sets it apart from the other Vishnu iconography found in Hinduism. The fact that the idols of Jagannath, his brother Balabhadra and his sister Subhadra, are incomplete has several folklores attached to it, but the underlined spiritual significance is that a complete form appears only in human imagination, that is different from that of the half-finished reality. Thus, Jagannath, originally worshipped as 'Neela Madhava' by the 'Savara' tribe of Odisha that accounts for its totem - like appearance, provides a very tangible and real way to realise the incompleteness of the

agannath, literally meaning the three idols made of wood, are replaced every 12 years - the old image 'dies' and is 'cremated' and the new image takes its place. Thus, the divinity too undergoes a cycle of birth to death which gives to the Supreme Godhead, a surprising human resemblance. This God, with his siblings, emerges out of the sanctum sanctorum annually, to ride on three chariots, towards their aunt's house, and return a week after. The procession, witnesses a magnificent congregation of devotees from all backgrounds, who pull the rope of the chariots, with faith and devotion. This is Rath Yatra - the festival where the Lord comes out to see his devotees, His dark circular eyes sparkle, a big smile stretched across His face, as He witnesses their pristine Bhakti - a celebration of the union of the 'jivatma' and the 'paramatma'.

Rath Yatra, stood on the verge of

na virus pandemic, as the huge gath- aries to the spiritual sphere. ering would increase the number of affected people. However, after deliberations, a restricted Rath Yatra was allowed in Puri only, where the chariot was pulled by the servitors and civic personnel, disallowing the assemblage of devotees. And this time, on empty streets, the chariots rolled - a sight that was so unfamiliar, and there was, this year, a vacuum of the beatitude that accompanies the festival. Instead, there was a hope - an anxious call to Jagannath, to set things straight. Rath Yatra at other places remained cancelled, with temples allowing only few people to visit, maintaining norms of social distancing. Rath this time came with a sense of loss, or perhaps with a message providing a deeper understanding that Jagannath is the personification

of the soul, and Rath Yatra is the jourworld and aim for a holistic growth. The cancellation this year, amidst the Coro- ney of this soul from material bound-

"The day the Self-born unity will come into being by the harmony and integration of knowledge, devotion and work, ... on that day the chariot of Jagannath will come out on the avenues of the world" ~ as Sri Aurobindo, aptly sums it up, this is the phenomenon of the Rath Yatra. This is the Jagannath Consciousness, that within each of us, lies a potential to realise the Supra-mental Godhead - to become the Lord of the World - by extending beyond our incomplete and finite attitudes. And perhaps, this is what the pandemic situation has revealed, that beyond the totem image of Jagannath, is a deeper dimension and when this becomes clear, then the mere festival, will become a cognizance of the divinity intrinsic in mankind.

> -Aadrit Banerjee, Class XII, Apeejay School, Park Street