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FILMS.BOOKS.MUSIC
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2020

"What scares me is what scares you. We're all afraid of the same things. That's why horror is such a powerful genre. All you have to do is ask yourself what frightens you and you'll know what frightens me."
JOHN CARPENTER, filmmaker

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Pics: Istock

Frightfully Yours

Here are 13 deliciously-satisfying books and movies to help you ease into the genre of horror. What could be a better time to start than Halloween?

Films

1 Coraline: Exploring her old rambling house, little girl, Coraline, finds a secret door, and through it she walks into a parallel version of her house, a more 'perfect' version. Or, is it?

2 Hotel Transylvania series: An excellent way to introduce horror to kids is through comedy. In this film, Dracula owns a high-end resort for monsters, and does everything in his power to keep his daughter from falling in love with eeeeks... a human!

3 Corpse Bride: In Tim Burton's gothic horror romance, Victor marries a skeleton bride by mistake even as his real bride waits. Burton is the master of introducing 'dark' to kids in his animated and feature films simply through how he weaves romance beautifully in all his tales.

4 The Goonies: Best friends, a small struggling small town, villains, budding romances and hidden treasures... even today, this 1985 film stands out as one the best films about friendship, and facing our worst fears, along with friends.

5 E.T. The Extra Terrestrial: Another great way to introduce horror also is to watch films that aren't necessarily horror, but has children dealing with fear. 'E.T. The Extra Terrestrial' is a film we all watched as kids, and we will never forget as adults.

6 Jaws: Again, this classic film, when watched with parents, introduces fear and adrenaline rush. Also, pay attention to how sound is used in horror movies to create maximum impact.

7 Monsters Inc.: Monsters Inc. is the largest scare factory in Monstropolis, where best friends Sulley and Mike are the top scarers. Their lives are hugely disrupted when a human girl enters their world.

8 Casper: A woman hires a paranormal expert, Dr James Harvey, to exorcise the ghosts from her mansion. But Harvey's daughter befriends Casper, a friendly ghost.
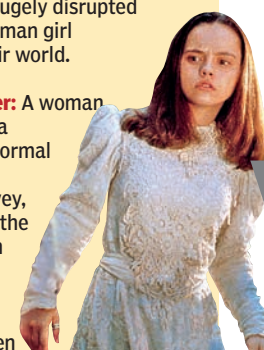
9 Goosebumps: When monsters are unleashed from his manuscripts to terrorise his town, it's up to R.L. Stine, the author, to send them back to the books.

10 Ghostbusters: One of the best horror comedies in the world, this film tells the story of Peter Venkman, Raymond Stantz and Egon Spengler. They lose their jobs as scientists and establish their own company named Ghostbusters, to fight evil ghosts lurking in New York.

11 Frankenweenie: In this Tim Burton film, a young boy, Victor, conducts a science experiment to bring his beloved dog, Sparky, back to life, only to face monstrous consequences.

12 Arachnophobia: Dr James Atherton, who is terrified of spiders, moves to a small town, where people are dying without any visible reason. After investigating, he discovers that a flock of spiders are responsible for it!

13 Monster House: No adults believe three kids when they say a neighbouring house is a living, malevolent creature. With Halloween approaching, what does the trio do?

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What they said about film music composition

I want to write and feel the drama. Music is essentially an emotional language, so you want to feel something from the relationships, and build music based on those feelings."
— **Howard Shore, composer**

"If I weren't a director, I would want to be a film composer."
— **Steven Spielberg, director**

"Film music should have the same relationship to the film drama that somebody's piano playing in my living room has to the book I'm reading."
— **Igor Stravinsky, composer**

"In the film work, I love to work mainly from the script and from talking to the directors, so a lot of the music, big portions of the scores that I've made, have been composed before the movies were even shot."
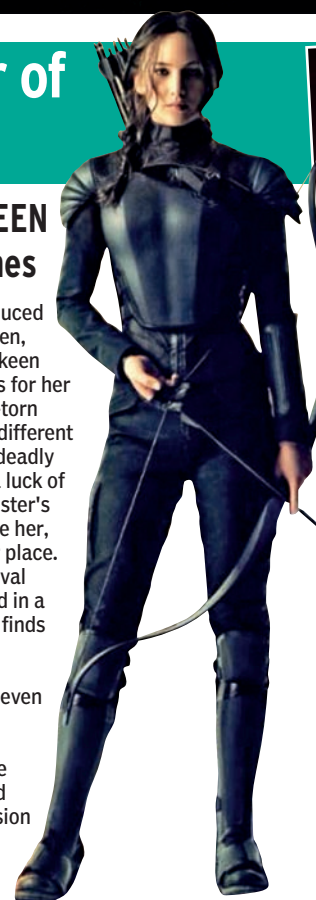— **Gustavo Santaolalla, composer**

Character of the week

KATNISS EVERDEEN
The Hunger Games

When we are introduced to Katniss Everdeen, we learn she is a keen archer, hunts, and provides for her family in a futuristic strife-torn world, where people from different zones are thrown into the deadly Hunger Games, based on a luck of draw. When her younger sister's name is announced, to save her, she asks to be taken in her place. With grit, battle wits, survival instinct, and a heart of gold in a world gone really bad, she finds the courage to face insurmountable tasks, and makes friends on the way, even as her fan following keeps growing every day. Actor Jennifer Lawrence aced the portrayal of the 16-year-old protagonist in the film version of Suzanne Collins' eponymous book trilogy.

Let's talk about: GARFIELD

Garfield, the cantankerous ginger feline created by Jim Davis, debuted on June 19, 1978, when he was syndicated in 41 American newspapers. By 1981, Garfield's popularity was such that he appeared in 850 papers. By 2002, the total was 2,570, giving him an approximate audience of 263m readers worldwide and a Guinness World Record for the world's most widely-syndicated comic strip.

The cat, who famously loves lasagne, hates Mondays and sheds fur copiously, is accompanied in the series by his owner Jon Arbuckle — perennially trying to win a date with Liz, a sardonic vet — and fellow pets like Odie the dog, Arlene and Nermal, his kitten cousin and nemesis. Garfield's curmudgeonly nature, moderate misanthropy and unapologetic gluttony are all recognisable traits that have endeared him to millions. Moreover, his simple adventures – sparring with Jon, shoving Odie off the kitchen table – build to a satisfying punchline. No wonder, Garfield also quickly became a commercial juggernaut, shifting between $750 million and $1 billion in merchandise annually. Perhaps Davis' canniest instinct was to tap into our undying fascination with cats and their shamelessly self-centred world view. What do you think?

How to introduce YOUNGSTERS to HORROR MOVIES

Begin with a book, graduate to animation films, and then some horror comedy...

Haimanti.Mukherjee@timesgroup.com

It's a question most parents ponder over. Now that we are spending far more time than ever at home, we have the luxury to slowly introduce the genre of horror to students. Let's talk about a few ways to go about it...

Slow and steady
The first thing to understand is that one must go about the process of introduction slowly and gradually, and talk about the experience with the kids once the movie viewing part is over. Children have very vivid imagination, and how s/he takes to horror depends on individual perception. Talk about the film. See if your child is able to sleep. If there are too many nightmares, then you must wait. It isn't the right time.

Age is a bar
Which movies will you begin with depends on the age of the students. Films like 'Casper', 'Hotel Transylvania' are a 'good place to start with kids aged 8-12. Films like 'Coraline', 'Ghostbusters' are perfect for students aged 12-14.

TALK IT OUT
Parents must watch the film again to decide whether the child is ready for it. Talk about the subject with your child in a fun way

Group therapy
Since the horror threshold for children vary, the best way to introduce movies is to call a few of his/her friends over and watch a movie together. If that's not possible in Covid-times, parents can slot a time for the kids and his/her friends to watch the movie at the same time, and then discuss it on a video chat.

No teasing
If you have a higher threshold for enjoying horror than your friends, do not scare him or her. It's always smart to explain things in a new perspective to your friend than spooking him/her. Parents must keep a watch against any teasing over "darpok" jokes that often do the rounds.

Books

1 Are You Afraid of the Dark? by Seth C Adams: After the death of his father, 14-year-old Reggie likes to hang out at his treehouse in the forest behind his home, until a bleeding man stumbles out of the trees and they form a peculiar friendship.

2 Slasher Girls & Monster Boys by April Genevieve Tucholke: From unsettlingly supernatural to disturbingly plausible realism, this anthology has lots of little horrors for all types of thrill seekers.
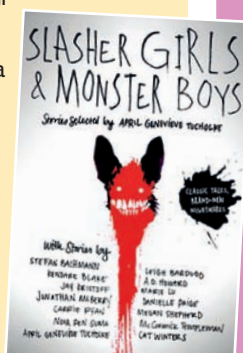
3 Undead Girl Gang by Lilly Anderson: Mila is horrified when the death of her best friend and two others is called a suicide pact. She knows it was murder, and brings the three girls back to life in order to solve the mystery.

4 Shutter by Courtney Alameda: Micheline is an exorcist and the last remaining descendants of the Van Helsing clan who gets infected by her own curse.

5 The Merciless by Danielle Vega: Sofia loves her new school and is part of a popular girl gang until their leader announces that a fellow student needs to be exorcised. She agrees only to discover that it's really torture.
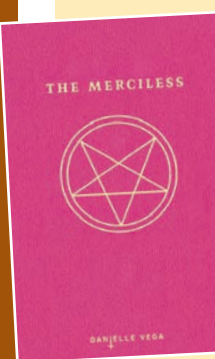
6 Diary of a Haunting by M Verano: 'Paranormal Activity' meets 'The Blair Witch Project'. A young girl recounts the inexplicable paranormal events that begin to occur when she moves to a new house which was home a sinister cult a century ago.

7 Ten by Gretchen McNeil: Penned along the lines of Agatha Christie's classic 'And Then There Were None', the story is about 10 privileged teens who come together to a remote island for a party — only to start being murdered one by one.
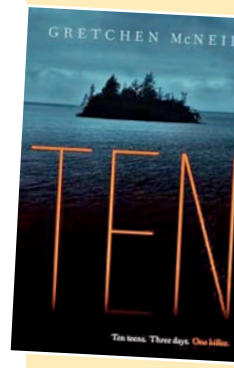
8 The Uninvited by Dorothy Macardle: A pair of siblings escape their fast-paced London life to Cliff End in the countryside only to be warned by the locals, in hushed tones, that their new home is haunted.

9 Water Ghosts by Shawna Yang Ryan: This historical ghost story, set in the 1930s, begins when three Chinese women appear out of the mist in a small Californian town scaring the townspeople who want to know who they are, and what they want.

10 The Institute by Stephen King: An institution and its sinister staff torture children in an attempt to extract their gifts.
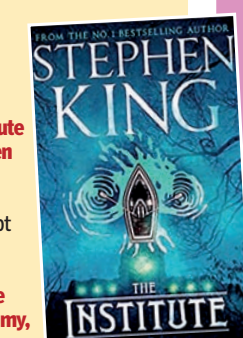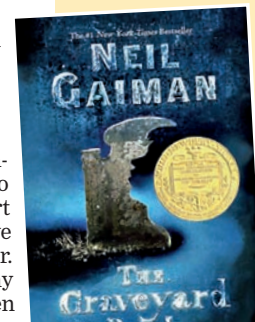
11 Night of the Living Dummy, Goosebumps #1 by R L Stine: No list of scary children's story is complete without the original and most popular books of all time. This title is the original book in the series, and is about freaky ventriloquists and their dummies.
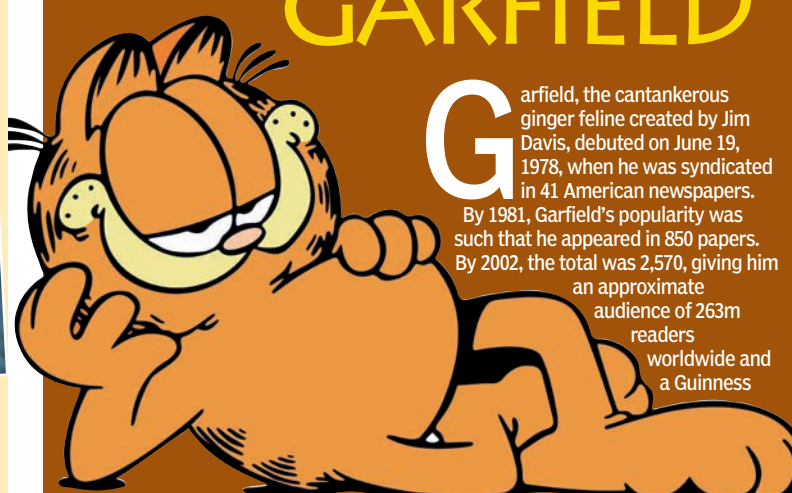
12 Small Spaces by Katherine Arden: A hair-raising adventure tale featuring an 11-year-old Ollie, who comes across a creepy book whose horrifying characters come alive the next day, and want her dead.

13 The Graveyard by Neil Gaiman: Both creepy and warmhearted, the story is about a boy who is raised by ghosts.

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"If you fail to prepare, you're prepared to fail."
MARK SPITZ, FORMER AMERICAN SWIMMER

SIMPLY SPORTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2020

1 ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

It was founded as FA Premier League in February 1992.

No. of clubs: 20

Manchester United has won the Premier League 13 times in its 21-year history
Arsenal and Chelsea FC are in joint second place with 3 titles each.

Premier League clubs have spent more than $6.7bn (approx ₹47,000 crore) on players in the past decade
Chelsea FC — owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich — tops the list of big spenders, outlaying £673m (approx ₹6,400 crore) on bringing players to Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea Club, since January 2003.

It is the most-watched football league in the world
Around 643 million homes in 212 countries receive Premier League broadcast, giving it a potential global audience of nearly 5 billion people.

The global audience is matched by global players
Over the course of its history, the league has had over 1,400 foreign players from a total of 97 countries.

Famous players: Mohamed Salah (Liverpool), Harry Kane (Tottenham Hotspur), Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Arsenal) and Sergio Aguero (Manchester City)

Photo: AP

Cristiano Ronaldo

2 SPANISH LA LIGA

Campeonato Nacional de Liga de Primera División (commonly known as La Liga) was set up in 1929.

Real Madrid are the current champions
Real Madrid with a record 34 titles and FC Barcelona with 26 victories have been the most successful clubs. Athletic Bilbao, Real Sociedad, Atletico Madrid, Valencia, and Deportivo de La Coruña are among other prominent clubs.

La Liga is the most expensive league in the world
Of the top 20 most expensive transfers in world football, 12 of them involved at least one club from Spain's top flight.

Lionel Messi most valuable attacker
His current Barcelona contract is going to be through in 2020-21 and pays him over $80 million annually (approx ₹600 crore).

Famous players: Dani Alves (Sao Paulo), Luis Suarez (Atlético Madrid), Gerard Pique (Barcelona), and Luka Modric (Real Madrid)
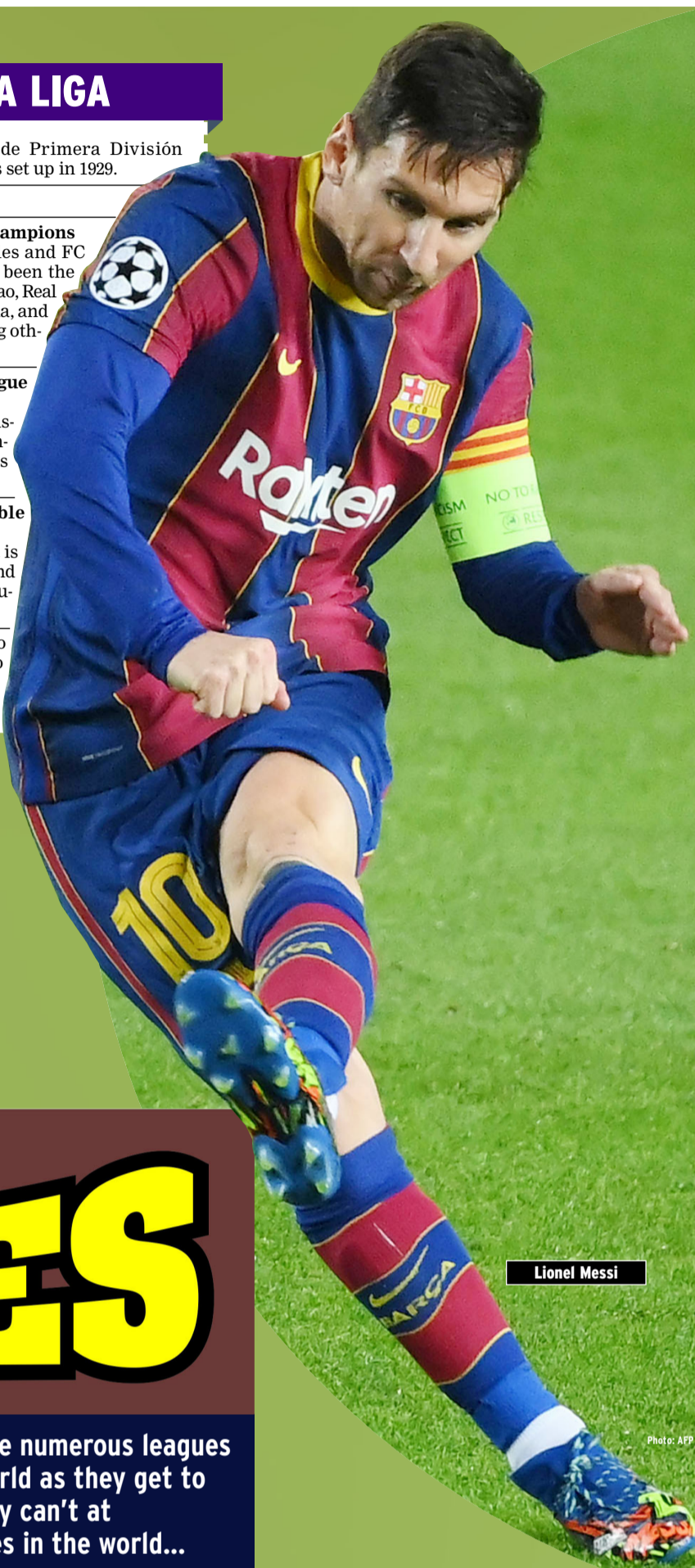
Lionel Messi

Photo: AFP

3 BUNDESLIGA

It was founded in 1962 in Dortmund, Germany.

No. of clubs: 18

Bayern Munich won their record-extending 8th consecutive title and 30th overall title this season
Fifty-six clubs have competed in the Bundesliga since its founding. Borussia Dortmund, Hamburger SV, Werder Bremen, Borussia Mönchengladbach, and VfB Stuttgart are some of the prominent clubs.
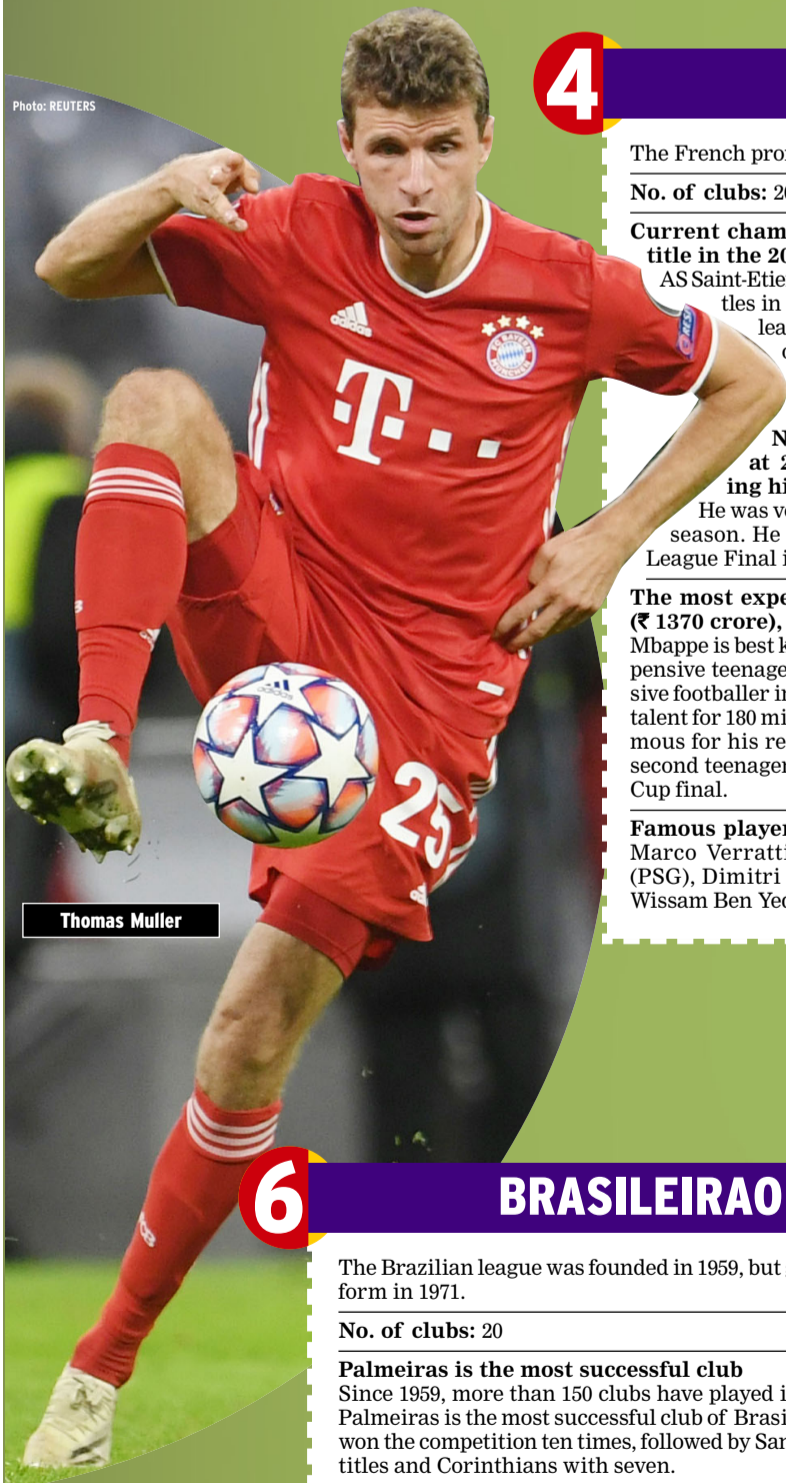
The 50+1 rule in the Bundesliga
It states that the registered associations, and by extension their members, must hold a majority of the voting rights – 50% plus one vote in the football club. The rule thus prohibits private investors or corporations from holding a majority in the ownership structure, in other words, preventing private investors from taking over the football club and prioritising profit over the needs/requirements of members.

Bayern Munich is one of the highest paying clubs in the world
In fact, Bayern Munich's average player salary of $8.12 million (approx ₹ 58 crore) is the highest in the Bundesliga.

Famous players: Jadon Sancho (Borussia Dortmund), Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich), Thomas Müller (Bayern Munich) and David Alaba (FC Bayern)

TOP LEAGUES

Soccer is a global sport. So, it is quite understandable why there are numerous leagues dedicated to it. These leagues have legions of fans around the world as they get to watch the world's best players play together in a way they can't at international level. Let's look at some of the best soccer leagues in the world...

Photo: REUTERS

Thomas Muller

4 LIGUE 1

The French professional league was founded in September 1932.

No. of clubs: 20

Current champions Paris Saint-Germain won their ninth title in the 2019-20 season
AS Saint-Etienne is the most successful club with ten league titles in France. A total of 73 clubs have played in the league so far. Marseille, Lyon, Lille are among other top clubs. Foreign-based club AS Monaco have won title multiple times, making Ligue 1 a cross-border competition.

Neymar was acquired by PSG in 2017 at 222 million (approx ₹ 1,675 crore), making him the most expensive player ever
He was voted Ligue 1 Player of the Year in his debut season. He has led PSG to its first ever Champions League Final in 2019-20.

The most expensive teenager ever at 180 million (₹ 1370 crore), Kylian Mbappe, plays for PSG
Mbappe is best known for becoming the world's most expensive teenage footballer and the second most expensive footballer in the world when PSG signed the young talent for 180 million Euro in 2017. He is also widely famous for his remarkable career record of being the second teenager after Pele to score in the FIFA World Cup final.

Famous players: Moussa Dembele (Lyon), Marco Verratti (PSG), Angel Di Maria (PSG), Dimitri Payet (Marseille) and Wissam Ben Yedder (AS Monaco)

Romelu Lukaku

5 ITALIAN SERIE A

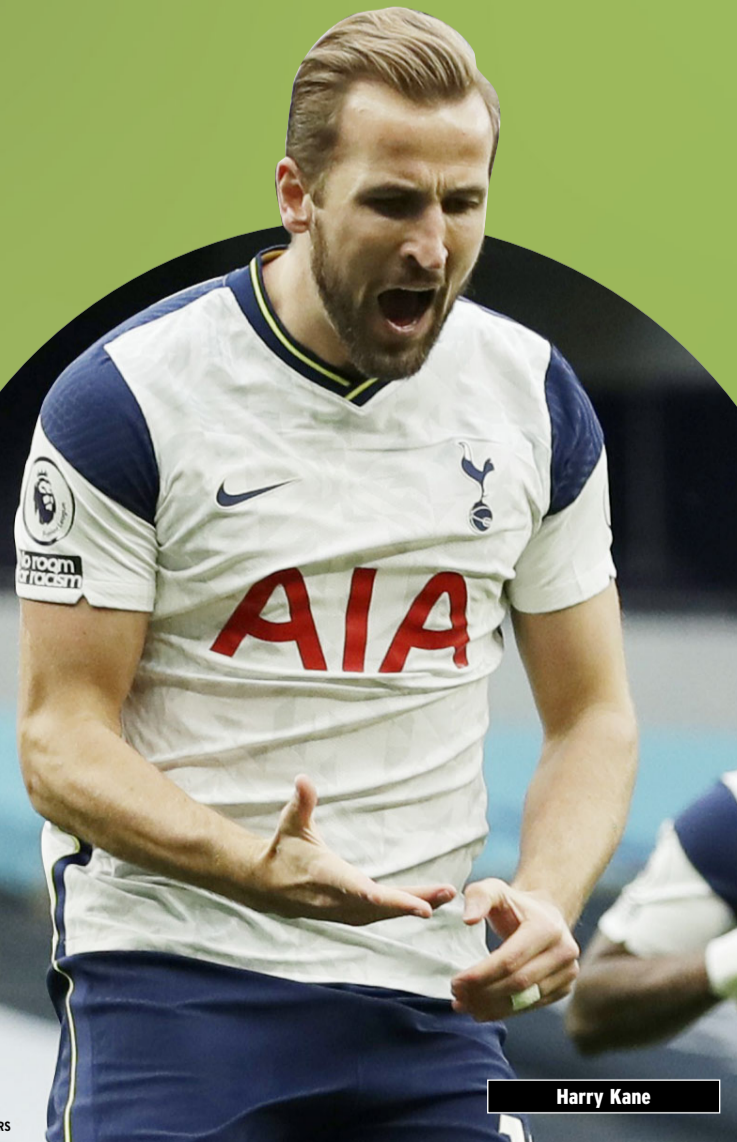Set up in current format in 1929-30 season.

No. of clubs: 20

Cristiano Ronaldo transferred to Juventus in 2018 at an initial $177 million (₹1,275 crore)
This was the highest amount ever paid by an Italian club and highest ever paid for a player over 30 years. He won the Serie A title in his first two seasons with the club.

Juventus has a total of 67 national and international titles
Juventus are tied fifth in Europe and eleventh in the world with most official international titles.

Famous players: Paulo Dybala (Juventus) Romelu Lukaku (Inter Milan), Papu Gomez (Atalanta), Josip Ilicic (Atalanta), Ciro Immobile (Lazio), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (AC Milan)

Photo: GETTYIMAGES

6 BRASILEIRAO

The Brazilian league was founded in 1959, but got its current form in 1971.

No. of clubs: 20

Palmeiras is the most successful club
Since 1959, more than 150 clubs have played in Brasileirao. Palmeiras is the most successful club of Brasileirao, having won the competition ten times, followed by Santos with eight titles and Corinthians with seven.

It's known for producing mercurial talent
The league is often the source of talent that ends up dominating the European football circuit. Some of the professional footballers that have gone on to bigger and better things in Europe are Neymar, Firmino, and Alison Becker, among others.

Famous players: Marinho (Santos), Keno (Atletico Mineiro), Pedro (Flamengo), German Cano (Vasco da Gama) and Nene (Fluminense).

7 EREDIVISIE

This professional football League of the Netherlands was founded in 1956.

No. of clubs: 18

AFC Ajax has won the most number of titles
FC Ajax has won 33 titles in all. PSV Eindhoven is next with 21 titles and Feyenoord is third with 25. Together they are known as the 'Big Three'. After 2012-13 season Eredivisie is ranked 8th best soccer league in Europe by the UEFA.

Record set by Ruud van Nistelrooy
Ruud van Nistelrooy scored 37 goals in the 2000 season and became the first one to score that many goals in the single season in the Eredivisie. Nistelrooy, Gullit, Koeman, Romario and Ronaldo are some of the great football players who have played in the Eredivisie.

Famous players: Steven Berghuis (Feyenoord), Dusan Tadic (Ajax) and Donyell Malen (PSV Eindhoven)

Photo: REUTERS

Harry Kane