



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ From 'Cold Turkey' to 'Earworm', and many more, check out a few funny idioms about animals in 'Language Lab' **PAGE 2**



➤ An educationist discusses about the importance and purpose of global education in the present scenario **PAGE 3**



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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022



And the first Hindi novel on International Booker shortlist is...

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Pakistan PM Imran Khan was ousted from office in a **no-confidence** vote in parliament in the early hours of Sunday, becoming the first PM in the country's history to be removed through a no-confidence motion...

What political upheaval in Pakistan means for rest of the world

WHAT A new government will be formed most likely under opposition leader Shehbaz Sharif, after parliament reconvenes today to vote for a new prime minister.

WHY **Pakistan matters:** The nation of more than 220 million people lies between Afghanistan to the west, China to the northeast and India to the east, making it of vital strategic importance.

Since coming to power in 2018, Khan's rhetoric has become more anti-American, and he expressed a desire to move closer to China and, recently, Russia, including talks with President Vladimir Putin on Feb 24, the day the invasion of Ukraine began. At the same time, US and Asian foreign policy experts said that though Pakistan's powerful military has traditionally controlled foreign and defence policy, Khan's sharp public rhetoric had an impact on a number of key relationships.


X-PLAINED

HOW IT WILL IMPACT US

INDIA: The nuclear-armed neighbours have fought three wars since Independence in 1947, two of them over Kashmir. Though tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) are at their lowest level since 2021, thanks to a ceasefire, there have been no formal diplomatic talks between the rivals for years because of deep distrust over a range of issues. According to Karan Thapar, political com-

AFGHANISTAN: Ties between Pakistan's military intelligence agency and the Islamist militant Taliban have loosened in recent years. Now that the Taliban are back in power in Afghanistan, and facing an economic and humanitarian crisis due to a lack of money and international isolation, Qatar is arguably their most-important foreign partner. Tensions have risen between the Taliban and Pakistan's military, which has lost several soldiers in attacks close to their mutual border. Pakistan wants the Taliban to do more to crack down on extremist groups and worries they will spread violence into Pakistan. That has begun to happen already. Khan has been less critical of the Taliban over human rights than most foreign leaders.

CHINA: Khan consistently emphasised China's positive role in Pakistan, and in the world, at large. At the same time, the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which binds the neighbours together was actually conceptualised and launched under Pakistan's two established political parties, both of which are set to share power in the new government.

UNITED STATES: US-based South Asia experts said that Pakistan's political crisis is unlikely to be a priority for President Joe Biden, who is grappling with the war in Ukraine, unless it led to mass unrest or rising tensions with India. Khan has blamed the United States for the current political crisis, saying that Washington wanted him removed because of the recent Moscow trip. Washington denies any role. With the Pakistani military maintaining its behind-the-scenes control of foreign and security policies, the change of government was not a major concern, according to some analysts.


LESSON TIME

WHAT IS A NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION? In a parliamentary democracy, a government can function only when it has the majority support in the House. The party can remain in power when it shows its strength through a floor test, which is primarily taken to know whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature. If any member of the House feels that the government in power does not have a majority then he/she can move a no-confidence motion. If the motion is accepted, then the party in power has to prove its majority in the House. It represents a lack of faith in the government, and if it is passed, every official in office will be forced to evacuate it.

IS IT THE SAME AS CENSURE MOTION?

A censure motion is different from a no-confidence motion. Depending on the constitution of the body concerned, "no confidence" may lead to the dismissal of the council of ministers or other position-holders, and often the dissolution of most of the leadership of the executive branch. On the other hand, "censure" is meant to show disapproval and does not result in the resignation of ministers. The motion of censure may be against an individual minister or a group of ministers. However, depending on a country's Constitution, a no-confidence motion may be more directed against the entire Cabinet. Again, depending on the applicable rules, censure motions may need to state the reasons for the motion, but specific reasons may not be required for no-confidence motions.

THE BOOK

Author Geetanjali Shree's novel 'Tomb of Sand' has become the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. Shree's book, translated into English by Daisy Rockwell will compete with five other titles for the 50,000 pounds literary prize, which is split evenly between the author and translator.



THE PRAISE

"The constantly shifting perspectives and timeframes of Geetanjali Shree's inventive, energetic 'Tomb of Sand' lead us into every cranny of an 80-year-old woman's life and surprising past," the judges said. "Daisy Rockwell's spirited translation rises admirably to the complexity of the text, which is full of word play and verve. A loud and irresistible novel," they said.

THE AUTHOR

Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh-born Shree is an author of three novels and several story collections, with her work translated into English, French, German, Serbian and Korean.

THE LIST

The other five titles in the shortlist include: 'Cursed Bunny' by Bora Chung, translated by Anton Hur from Korean; 'A New Name: Septology VI-VII' by Jon Fosse, translated by Damion Searls from Norwegian; 'Heaven' by Mieko Kawakami, translated by Samuel Bett and David Boyd from Japanese; 'Elena Knows' by Claudia Piñeiro, translated by Frances Riddle from Spanish; and 'The Books of Jacob' by Olga Tokarczuk, translated by Jennifer Croft from Polish.


**NEWS IN
CLUES**

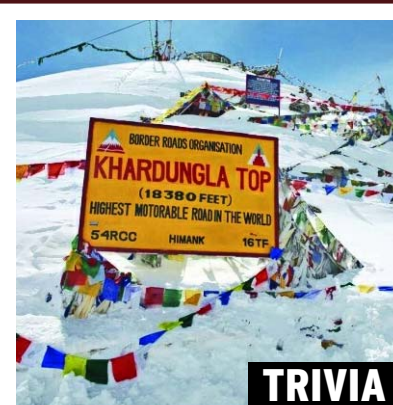
Which rock band's song album was the first to be played in space?

CLUE 1: The third-best selling album of all time was by this band.

CLUE 2: It was formed by three architecture students.

CLUE 3: It performed the first-ever live concert in London's Hyde Park.

Answer: Pink Floyd. The British rock band reunited after almost 30 years to release a new song, 'Hey Hey Rise Up' to raise money for the people in Ukraine. The band, whose album, 'The Dark Side of the Moon' is the third-best selling album ever with one in every 12 people on the planet owning the record, was the first to perform live at London's Hyde Park on June 29, 1968. Its 1988 album 'Delicate Sound of Thunder' was the first to be played in space, aboard Mir space station by Russian cosmonauts in 1989.


TRIVIA

KOLUKKUMALAI TEA ESTATE, THE HIGHEST TEA PLANTATION ON THE EARTH: Located 38 km southeast from Munnar, Kerala, is Kolukkumalai Tea Estate, which enjoys the reputation of being the highest tea plantation on the Earth. The sprawling plantation, with an old tea factory in tow, is all that you need to unwind at an elevation of 7,900 ft above sea level.

CHAIL CRICKET GROUND, THE HIGHEST CRICKET GROUND ON THE EARTH: Built by Maharaja Bhupinder Singh of the royal family of Patiala in 1893, Chail Cricket Ground stands at the height of 2,250 m above sea level and is a spectacle in itself. With an army of Chir pine and mammoth Deodar trees surrounding it, the Chail Cricket Ground is an embodiment of what cricket means to India.

HIKKIM, WORLD'S HIGHEST POST OFFICE: At an altitude of 4,440 m, this post office is an unlikely tourist magnet in an otherwise sleepy village of Hikkim in Himachal Pradesh.

SIACHEN, WORLD'S HIGHEST BATTLEFIELD: Pacifists would like to differ but wars and battles do have one better side to them—that of glory, bravery, patriotism and honour! And the Indian Army has the rare distinction of fighting against all odds on the highest battlefield on the Earth—the Siachen Glacier that stands witness to the valour of Indian soldiers, who fight infiltration and tough living conditions at the same time on an altitude of 5,400 m!

Priyanka Chopra urges world leaders to help refugees amid Russia-Ukraine war

Amid the ongoing Russian military operation in Ukraine, actor Priyanka Chopra has made a direct appeal to all the world leaders globally "to stand up for refugees around the world". The 'Baywatch' actor took to her Instagram handle on Friday and posted a video in which she said, "World leaders, this is a direct appeal to you, we need you to answer the call from activists and advocates working to support the humanitarian and refugee crisis that we are watching unfold every day in Eastern Europe. We need you to take immediate action to help displaced people from Ukraine and all around the world."

FOR A CAUSE

World leaders, we need you to stand up for refugees around the world to ensure that they get the support they need now. We can't just stand by and watch

PRIYANKA CHOPRA



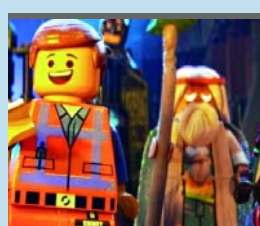
INDIA ON A HIGH: Highest places on the Earth located in India

KHARDUNG LA, ONE OF THE HIGHEST MOTORABLE ROADS IN THE WORLD: Despite recent reports doubting the sovereignty of Khardung La as, the highest motorable road, this idyllic mountain pass located in Ladakh, continues to charm road trip enthusiasts and hardcore bikers. Opened to public in 1988, Khardung La is now a part of pop culture and a constant pull for travellers, who prefer to break free from the 'safety' of itinerary-driven trips.

RINCHEN CAFETERIA, HIGHEST CAFETERIA ON THE EARTH: Situated along the famous Khardung La, Leh, Rinchen Cafeteria is a major tourist pit stop and why not, for it's the highest cafeteria in the world! Named after the local war hero and Maha Vir Chakra winner Colonel Chewang Rinchen, this food joint is known for its different flavoured teas and noodles. Imagine being at 18,380 ft above sea level, craving a cup of hot tea and suddenly coming across a café that happens to hold such an enviable distinction.

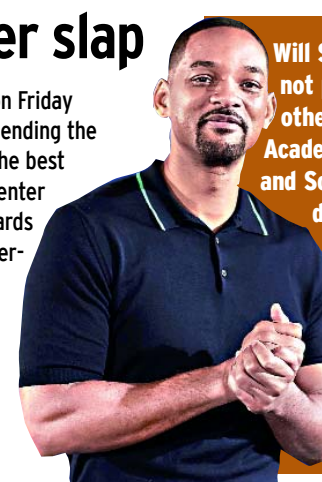
EPIC GAMES, LEGO TO BUILD A KID-FRIENDLY METAVERSE

Game developer Epic Games and toy company The Lego Group are building a new, family-friendly virtual world. The companies have not revealed too many details just yet, though they plan to "shape the future of the metaverse to make it safe and fun for children and families," reports Engadget. The companies have agreed on three principles they will adhere to as they "build an immersive, creatively inspiring and engaging digital experience" for people of all ages to enjoy. According to the report, they have pledged to protect children's right to play by making safety and well-being a priority; safeguard children's privacy by putting their best interests first and empower children and adults with tools that give them control over their digital experience.



Will Smith banned from attending Oscars for 10 years after slap

Hollywood's film academy on Friday banned Will Smith from attending the Oscars for 10 years after the best actor winner slapped presenter Chris Rock on stage at the Academy Awards ceremony 12 days ago. The board of governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences took the action at a meeting held one week after Smith preemptively resigned from the group over his outburst at the live, televised event. "I accept and respect the Academy's decision," said Smith on the ban.



Will Smith is also not permitted to attend any other events held by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences over the next decade. The Board's decision did not revoke the best actor award, which Smith won last month for 'King Richard', nor did it mention any ban on future Oscar nominations

Entertainment

WRITING SKILLS

HOW TO WRITE TO A PEN PAL



Making connections in today's estranged world is very important. We will tell you how to find and keep a pen pal and also practice your language skills along the way

Pen pals are long-distance friendships you maintain by writing letters to each other. The best pen pals are usually those who have an interest in learning about different people, cultures and languages. They want to connect with the world outside their borders, but on a more personal level.

Power of the written word

Finding a pen pal is a great way to connect with people from other parts of the world, to learn a foreign language, and to open yourself up to a new culture. Of course, these days we have Skype and email, which make connecting with others around the world much easier. But the desire to connect with

people in different countries has been around far longer than the Internet.

Practising your language skills

Being a pen pal is a less intimidating way of

connecting with someone while practicing your writing skills in your target language. Crafting a letter to send to someone can help you learn new vocabulary, practice talking about specific themes, and improve your grammar. Developing these friendships can also create opportunities to travel to countries and experience life there as a local.

The first letter

- **Introduction:** Say a little about who you are, where you're from, and why you want a pen pal.
- **Talk about your shared interests:** Mention some of the shared interests that made you want to write to them. What did you feel you could bond over and why?
- **Ask some questions about their life:** What information do you want to learn about them?
- **Mention what you'll be doing between now and their next letter:** This will give them something to write to you about. For example, if you're going to a concert that could prompt a question in their next letter.
- **Sign off:** Thank them for reading your letter, let them know where to contact you, and let them know you're looking forward to their response.

3 Different Types of Pen Pal

Technology has created lots of options for pen pals to connect with each other. So you can customise the type of pen pal you want to be based on how you like to write to people:

- **Snail Mail:** This is the traditional type of pen pal. You send proper letters to fixed addresses in different countries. If you like the way receiving a handwritten letter makes you feel, this type is for you.
- **Email:** Many people prefer email to snail mail these days because it's free, quick and easy.
- **Digital:** These are pen pals you connect with via instant messaging. Here you can have daily or ongoing conversations with a pen pal through your mobile phone. If you prefer a fast-paced digital world, there are lots of options here.

Dear Friend,

Funny ENGLISH IDIOMS About ANIMALS

1. Cold turkey

People often use the idiom quitting cold turkey when they decide to abruptly stop doing something that is considered bad for them, such as smoking.

Meaning: To quit something (like an addiction) abruptly and without fanfare

Usage: To cure his addiction to video games, he decided to go cold turkey and gave his entire collection away.



2. Hold your horses

The phrase is historically related to horse riding or travelling by horse, or driving a horse-drawn vehicle.

Meaning: It's a way of telling someone to stop or slow down

Usage: Hold your horses, kids! The show will be starting in five minutes.

3. Get someone's goat

This expression comes from a tradition in horse racing. Thought to have a calming effect on high-strung thoroughbreds, a goat was placed in the horse's stall on the night before the race.

Meaning: To upset, irritate or anger someone

Usage: "The way she corrects everything really gets my goat! Thank you very much, Miss Know-it-all!"

4. Earworm

The term earworm derives from a literal translation of the German word Ohrwurm, which has been used to describe such 'cognitively infectious' pieces of music.

Meaning: A catchy song or tune that you can't seem to get out of your head

Usage: "Ariana's new song has been stuck in my head for a week. I'd do absolutely anything to get rid of this earworm!"



5. The elephant in the room

It is based on the idea/thought that something as conspicuous as an elephant can appear to be overlooked in codified social interactions.

Meaning: A huge and obvious problem that everyone avoids talking about

Usage: Avoiding the topic is like draping a tablecloth over the elephant in the room.

6. Have (or get) your ducks in a row

Real ducklings, of course, walk in a line behind their parent, and the expression ducks in a row certainly brings that image to mind.

Meaning: Get everything organised, straightened up and accounted for before embarking on an activity or project

Usage: I'll get my ducks in a row before going on vacation. I don't want my officemates thinking I'm lousy at my job.

7. Eager beaver

The phrase is relatively new, it was first used in the early 1900s to describe the very eager recruits who were willing to do anything to impress their commanding officers during the war. Beavers are large rodents that are well known for their skill of building dams that are very large compared to their size.

Meaning: An overly enthusiastic person; someone who is overzealous and excited about doing a job

Usage: Martha is such an eager beaver, always volunteering on new projects.

8. Running around like a headless chicken

This idiom originates from as early as the 14th century in England when chickens were popularly killed by chopping off their heads with an axe. Some of the chickens ran around in a panic, crashing into objects after their heads have been chopped off, just before they dropped dead.

Meaning: To run around doing a lot of things in a disorganised, ineffective manner

Usage: He ran around like a headless chicken after he missed his flight to the US.

9. The tail wagging the dog

This expression comes from a popular phrase that says: "a dog is smarter than its tail, but if the tail were smarter, then the tail would wag the dog".

Meaning: A situation wherein a smaller or less important group appears to control a larger or more important person or organisation

Usage: John was just hired yesterday, and today he's bossing everyone around. It's a case of the tail wagging the dog.

10. Monkey business

This idiom is based on the playfulness of monkeys.

Meaning: Shenanigans; activities that could be considered mischievous, questionable; antics that are generally disapproved of

Usage: Those three boys are cooped up inside the room. I wonder what monkey business they're upto?

LEARNING NEW LANGUAGE

FRENCH CONNECTION

Dear young Francophiles, plunging into the world of a foreign language is an adventure that you must embark upon at least once. Pack some courage, all your questions and curiosity but most importantly, do not forget to keep an open mind. This column is a fun voyage into the world of French language. It makes your navigation into a foreign world easier with some interesting hacks. Even when no one at home speaks French, you have free tools and activities to help you reach your goal.

There is a shipload of new expressions and ways of speaking French and some will not fail to tickle you! Take for example, "poser un lapin" which has nothing to do with a cotton-tailed rabbit but refers to someone not showing up for a meeting. Still, most things in French are less abstract for English learners and can be interpreted more easily: "arrive r", "la station de métro", "le train, le bus, le tram".

Learning French will refresh the way you look at the world, help you travel for pleasure and go for higher studies outside India more easily. After all, this Indo-European language is spoken in 29 countries and is an important working language of the UN. Nevertheless, it's not all business! There are so many new singers, movies, comics, YouTube channels, documentaries and video games with award-winning storylines to discover!

It's a whole world to get your creative juices flowing. Did you know that 'CODA', the movie that won 3 Academy Awards this year, including Best Picture, is a remake of the 2014 'La Famille Bélier'? Did you also know that 'Bheja Fry' and 'Andhadhun' are remakes of 'Le Dîner des Cons' and 'L'Accordeur'? Famous comics 'Astérix' and 'Tintin' were also originally written in French language.

Learning French is more exciting than you ever imagined, all you need are the right tools. Do you enjoy rock and hip-hop? Want to discover DIY and science experiments in French or just read a great comic? You might have discovered that even in India, you've been hearing a bit of French since forever. Words like fiancée, RSVP, C'est la vie, opéra, le marché, pour homme-Pour femme on perfume bottles, bon voyage at the airport are quite literally sprinkled all around you. Several haute couture brands are French (Chanel, Christian Dior, Louis Vuitton).

Agreed, the trivia is great fun to know. But how do you really learn French after class? How do you fluently handle day-to-day situations like buying a train ticket and exchanging a faulty purchase at the store in Paris? Watch this space every month for some fun discoveries. Teachers, learners, fellow Francophiles, see you at the next French rendezvous!

Gunjan Gupta is a professor of French, Francophone literature and European art history. She teaches French at the Alliance Française de Delhi.

GOOD TO KNOW



COGNITIVE BENEFITS OF LEARNING NEW LANGUAGES

YOU'LL BE SMARTER

The brain is challenged to recognise, communicate and negotiate meanings in a different language. This boosts a person's capability to negotiate meanings in other tasks that involve problem solving. Learners of foreign languages are better at standardised tests than their monolingual student counterparts, especially in reading, vocabulary and math.

YOU MULTITASK

Because you are able to switch from one language to another, which involves two systems of structure, writing and speech, you develop multitasking skills. Even

BRAIN BOOSTER

Learning a foreign language increases the size of the brain's language center, the areas of the brain responsible for forming, storing, and retrieving memories. It also increases the density of grey matter and improves blood flow to the brain. In one Swedish study, young military recruits were taught new languages. By measuring their brains before and after the language training, researchers could observe what happens to the brain when learning a second language. Brain scans confirmed that participants experienced an increase in the size of the hippocampus.

when performing two tasks, a multilingual person is not easily distracted.

YOU SLOW DOWN THE ONSET OF DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S

Several studies showed consistency in proving that the onset of dementia is earlier on monolingual adults than in multilingual adults. Speaking two or more languages is helpful in staving off dementia and Alzheimer's.

YOU IMPROVE YOUR MEMORY

Your brain functions better when it is exercised. While learning a language, you memorise vocabulary and rules, which makes your brainwork harder. The process improves your memory. Mul-

tilingual speakers are better at remembering sequences and lists, too.

YOU'LL BE MORE PERCEPTIVE

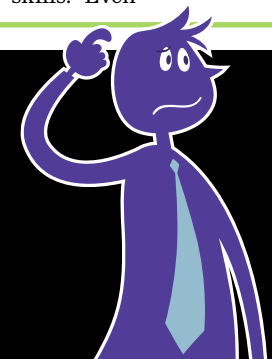
Multilingual persons are good at erasing irrelevant information and retaining those that are relevant. They observe their surroundings better and at identifying misleading information.

YOU'LL ENHANCE YOUR DECISION-MAKING SKILLS

Making rational decisions is a strong trait of all multilinguals. They tend to think things over in their second or third language to gauge whether their first conclusion remains valid.

Queries relating to language skills

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve your communication skills? Times NIE is here to help you to master the intricacies of the English language and get a peek into foreign languages too. Just shoot us your queries on toiniet75@gmail.com





THE EDUCATIONIST

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS



Not many years ago I used to ignore this woody vine chaotically growing in the car park of our house. Other than chasing the wispy, feather-weight flowers which I later got to know were modified leaves, off the car top, it meant nothing to me. I looked at it in annoyance during the hot summer windy days when the pink and white leaves played briefly mid-air, catching the glint of the mid-noon sun, and then landed where already a heap was awaiting their arrival. Sometimes the coloured leaves rose again in clusters, quite in a maniacal dance. There was nothing attractive about the way the bougainvillea stooped under lashing rains allowing the leaves to be dislocated and swept away into puddles of water in the garden where they lay lifeless in clots of pink or white. However, I did admire the resilience of the woody vine which though many a time was bereft of its leaves, it never gave up, aggressively propagating many such colourful wisps. My life has progressed and my dwelling has undergone 'development' as they call it.

Now I live in a near-perfect dream home, rather apartment with

neat, preordained living spaces where I know exactly what to find and where, unlike the treasure hunt-like situation that existed in our sprawling independent house in the earlier times. The garden has been replaced by neat potted plants. No more of the papery blooms crowding my staircase, no stray petals of the rich red Indian rose sitting pretty on the wide blade of the Easter Lily, no heaps of dry leaves crunching under hurried footsteps & yes no more reason for me to complain about the nomadic bracts.

But yes the Bougainvillea still remains in my world but in sleek and tidy pots somewhat restricting its wild growth. Looking back there was a method in the madness of this wiry, serpentine entanglement of branches. After every tangle of the branch, the pink & white bursts of bracts was a sight to behold, Beauty of abundance!

I wish I had been a little more tolerant towards this truant yet splendid Bougainvillea.

On a philosophical note, is abundance appreciated in life? Perhaps, the best things of life must be attained in mediocre measure for us to cherish them incessantly.



RENEE DUTTA, Teacher

GOODBYES ARE NEVER EASY

Meridian School, Banjara Hills organised a stunning Farewell for its outgoing batches of classes X 'Aloha' on April 4, after two years of the lull of the pandemic. The seniors were received at the entrance by their teachers with a souvenir. The evening was a sprightly occasion of great excitement and merriment, as a ramp walk was organised where all the seniors found a platform to showcase themselves. All students dressed up to their glamorous best. The boys looked dashing in their tuxedos and formal suits and the girls, who never fail to put on a show, were draped in gorgeous saris bought for the occasion. The ramp walk was supervised and judged by two ex-Meridianites Pranav Jethwani and Vaishnavi Yellapragada, who shortlisted the students for the final round based on their ramp confidence, attire, and appeal. The final round which decided Mr and Miss Meridian-2022 assessed their attitude and personality through a series of questions. It was a tough decision to choose the



superlative as everyone looked their very best. Finally, Ishaan Manish Sanga, and Yella Samhitha won the prestigious titles of Mr Meridian and Miss Meridian titles respectively. 'The Star Student' award was shared by Nahyr Sehgal and Pushti Ladda for their holistic achievements while 'Aryan Harish bagged the Student of the Year for his academic excellence.

The audience was enthralled by

the sprightly dance performance of the ninth graders to the tunes of the latest peppy songs and farewell songs and orchestra. Although the party carried a tinge of sadness, the students had fun as they enjoyed every moment with their best buddies. The party took a totally different turn as a row of votive lamps were lit by the students praying for their success at the boards.

A lighted candle was passed on

Meridian School Banjara Hills

by Dr D Usha Reddy, the CEO of Meridian Group of Schools, Rahat Rashed, the vice principal, and Rajkamal Mathews, the headmistress and in-charge of the senior school. The light was thankfully received by the students to ignite their own votive lamps. This symbolic transfer of knowledge from the teacher to the taught signified guru - 'Sishya Parampara'. Dr D Usha Reddy addressed the students focussing on the guiding philosophy and motto of the school. The campus's idyllic setting and serene surroundings lit by the candles arranged in a design and a prayer delivered by the CEO created the perfect atmosphere to express gratitude to the alma mater. The students became nostalgic about the school as they clicked selfies with their childhood friends and as the school bid them a fond farewell. Farewell and all the best for a bright future!

Soil conservation is the need of the hour



Pioneers School held a rally to raise awareness on the often disregarded topic of Soil Degradation. The protest took place from the Inspection Bungalow to the school, traversing nearly 3 kilometers on foot.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Isha Foundation in support of Sadhguru's Global Motorcycle ride. Students were prompted by their parents and teachers to learn more about soil conservation in hopes of preventing ecological pollution.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, A Balaji, Mandal Education Officer Venkata Narsimhulu, Telangana Yuva Jana Sanghala Samithi state president- Dr Kuna Venu Gopala Krishna all gathered under the slogan "Save Soil" along with

Isha foundation representative Bharat and directors Swaroop Reddy and Naidu, they expressed their appreciation for the program initiated by Sadhguru and encouraged the students to work towards soil conservation.

The chief guest shared his thoughts on the matter and said that the pollution of the soil is an avoidable disaster if everyone plays his/her part in preventing

further depreciation and works towards restoring the damage. To mark the concern students wrote letters to our Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Pioneers School principal, Imrana Tamkanath credited the success of the event to the supportive parents, enthusiastic students, teachers, and esteemed guests.

Pioneers School

Express YOURSELF

GIVE WOMEN THE DIGNITY & RESPECT THEY DESERVE

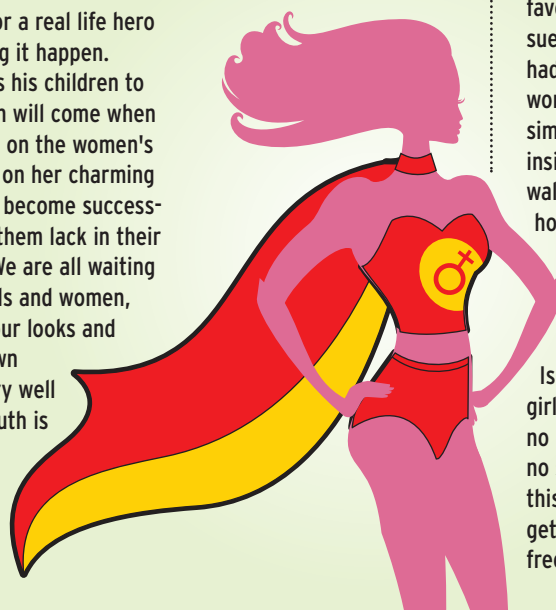
Woman, this is a universe in itself. A woman, a mother, a sister, a daughter, a wife is all the world sees but the true victory will be when the world sees a strong human in all of these.

Why? Why is it so that there is no place in this dog eat dog world for a strong and happy woman? Why is it so that pink has been made a permanent favourite colour for girls? Why is it so that every wife has to take their husband's permission to do something in life? Why is it so that after marriage she can't call her home hers? Why is it so that if a boy does a mistake it's her honour at stake? Why? I want all the answers today. Don't tell me today to be quiet. If a man cooks it's art, if a woman cooks it's her duty. "Women are no less than men" comes in every film but brother, when will it come in real life?

There is no difference between a man and woman. Women have reached heights of suc-

cess. Whether it's Mary Kom or a real life hero like Neerja, women are making it happen. Every typical husband teaches his children to respect their mom but the win will come when there are no signs of violence on the women's body but signs of happiness on her charming face. Many women have become successful, but what most of them lack in their life is their dignity. We are all waiting for when we, the girls and women, won't be judged on our looks and complexion but our own beautiful inner self. I very well know that this is bitter but truth is bitter and this is the truth.

KAAKSHI THAKUR, class VIII-C, D.D.M.S P.Obul Reddy Public School, Hyderabad



People in olden times had such a mindset that work was divided in favour of men, they could pursue their career while women had to do all the housework. Women were simply locked inside the four walls of the house and were not allowed to leave. If they did, they were treated most miserably. Is it wrong to be born as a girl? No property is inherited, no respect is given, there is no safety for the women in this world. When will women get the freedom to roam freely with no fear? When will

they get past all such atrocities and be treated equally as men? Though the government has established laws for women safety, is it being followed? It is our duty to spread awareness. Women safety is a must. Every man should know that it was a woman that gave him birth. They should change their perspective of thinking and put an end to such acts. Promoting equality in the matter of gender is a must!

SRI PRAGNYA ANUPOJU, class VII-C, DDMS P.Obul Reddy Public School

Women today have the right to voice their opinion and ideas. Until recently, many women across the country had no right to speak out in public, they were denied their rights given by the Constitution. Today they have freedom to education and to do jobs. But in earlier days they were only allowed to do kitchen work or agriculture field work. They were forced to follow the dictates of society, they had no permission to go out alone, their opinions were not considered. It took years to get their freedom and equality. In countries such as Afghanistan, even today their freedom and rights are restricted.

S V AKSHAY, class IX, Gayatri Grammar High School, IDPL Colony, Hyderabad

Time to write a beautiful new story!

Have you ever felt that the beginning of a new school year means new challenges and new adventures?

Well, let us talk about it. Every new school year we are faced with something different. For instance, in class V we were surprised when we had to attend virtual classes and the annual exams were conducted online as well! Similarly in class VI, we knew for sure that it was going to be a virtual year as well. We were mentally prepared, got accustomed to the virtual world by then, began laughing around, playing in the virtual classes.

This year brought us back to school. The class VII was yet another beginning for us - a level up - from scratch to html, decimals to algebra and from us being mischievous to being a little more cautiously mischievous! This year we will befriend someone new, face new challenges with our amazing teachers on our side - like dealing with algebra in math or memorizing new chemical names or understanding poetry - a fresh school year.

Being able to attend school - not virtual



this time - is so refreshing. New friends, those shared snacks, the whispers in classrooms, excuses to dodge homework, enjoyable physical education classes are all on the other side of the more difficult chapters and lengthier homework.

Though very scary, these challenges are still manageable with our teachers on our side. Let us all pledge to find new ways of mischief and new ways to enjoy our difficult chapters with our teachers. Let us take part in as many competitions and activities as we can, even out of our comfort zone and develop new hobbies.

Let us remember that despite all the mischief, we should be self-disciplined and cautious of our actions, that we should make our parents and teachers proud.

School life is a one-time opportunity - let's enjoy it to the fullest!

The slate is clean and it is for us to write a beautiful story. Our story.

SAKETH KRISHNA, class VII-D, Johnson Grammar School, ICSE, Habsiguda

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SPURS TIGHTEN GRIP ON TOP-FOUR SPOT

ANTONIO CONTE'S TEAM HITTING FORM JUST AS RIVALS ARE IMPLODING

It was a Premier League day that could hardly have gone any better for Tottenham. Tottenham Hotspurs thumped Aston Villa 4-0 to tighten their grip on fourth spot in the Premier League after Manchester United and Arsenal both slipped up. Third-placed Chelsea ended a tough week by hammering Southampton 6-0 while Leeds climbed nine points above the relegation zone with a comfortable 3-0 win at Watford.

FIRM FAVOURITES

Six wins in seven league games for free-scoring Spurs have made them firm favourites to qualify for next season's Champions League along with Manchester City, Liverpool and Chelsea.

Son Heung-min scored a hat-trick for Antonio Conte's men at Villa Park, with Dejan Kulusevski also chipping in as Spurs put their opponents to the sword. Two glancing headers from the impressive Harry Kane set up the other goals from Kulusevski and Son in the 50th and 66th minutes.

Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris made seven saves in the opening 45 minutes to keep Villa at bay.

STRONG TRIUMVIRATE

In Son, Harry Kane and Dejan Kulusevski, Tottenham has an attacking triumvirate that is proving impossible to keep down. Son now has six goals in his last three league games, having opened the scoring in the third minute after a shot from Kane deflect-

ed into his path at the edge of the area. His finish was unforgiving, kissing the post on its way in just like his third goal in the 71st and off a pass from Kulusevski which completed his first hat trick of the season.

Antonio Conte's team is hitting form just as its rivals are imploding and now has a three-point cushion in fourth place over Arsenal, which slumped 2-1 at home to Brighton for a third loss in its last four games. The win takes Spurs to 57 points - three clear of fifth-placed Arsenal and six ahead of West Ham and Manchester United.

EVERTON, MADRID PROGRESS

The decisive moment at Goodison Park came midway through the first half when Anthony Gordon hit a shot that took a huge deflection off England defender Harry Maguire and wrong-footed David de Gea in the United goal. Lampard said he was proud of his battling side, who are trying to maintain Everton's record of being ever-present in the English top flight since 1954. "Beautiful football can come later on," he told BT Sport. "I have ambitions for this club to stay up, play well, but in the position we are in, fighting comes first and foremost."

United's interim manager Ralf Rangnick, who has a two-year contract to remain as a consultant at United beyond this season, was asked whether speculation over the club's next manager was creating a state of limbo. "I don't think this should be an excuse for anybody," he said, with Ajax boss Erik ten Hag touted as a strong favourite to be the next permanent boss. "We're Manchester United, we've got a lot of international players."

Chelsea suffered a shock 4-1 defeat at the hands of Brentford last week before losing 3-1 against Real Madrid in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final. But they restored confidence on Saturday, racing into a 6-0 lead in the 54th minute, with two goals apiece for Mason Mount and Timo Werner. "The performance changed, the commitment and the discipline," said Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel. "This is how we want to play and we gave an answer finally because you could see it on the scoreboard."

Manchester City and Liverpool go head to head at the Etihad on Sunday in a top-of-the-table clash. AGENCIES



Heung-Min Son

Photo: REUTERS

Title holders CSK, 5-time champs MI still winless in IPL

Nowhere near winning, teams suffer order collapse

Reigning Indian Premier League champions Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians, the tournament's most successful team, struggled to get their 2022 campaigns going as both teams fell to their fourth defeat in as many matches on Saturday.

NEED TO FIND SELF-BELIEF

Chennai named India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja as their captain two days before the start of the world's richest Twenty20 tournament after the talismanic Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who

MI LOOKING FOR MOMENTUM

Five-time champions Mumbai suffered a spectacular collapse, losing six wickets for 29 runs after an opening stand of 50 against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

"We want some of our batters to bat deep -- that is one thing we are looking at. If there's runs on the board, then bowlers have something to defend. We have not done that in the last two games. I have spoken of collective performance, which is missing now. But once we get that, I think we should be good."

ROHIT SHARMA

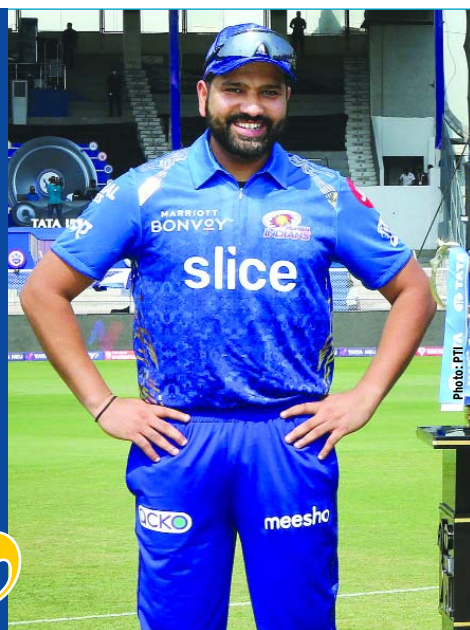


Photo: PTI

Led them to four IPL titles, relinquished the role. The team, which has finished runner-up on five occasions, on Saturday went down to Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets to remain winless.

Head coach Stephen Fleming said the team were lacking in every department and needed to quickly find self-belief to turn things around. "We were well outplayed. We're sort of learning," former New Zealand skipper Fleming told reporters, adding that Chennai were struggling with some injuries to key players. "And we haven't had any evidence that sort of helps the belief. We are not winning any games. Not being close to winning any games, you get a bit of

Led by India's all-format captain Rohit Sharma, Mumbai recovered through Suryakumar Yadav's splendid unbeaten 68 to post 151-6 but it was not enough as Bangalore chased it down comfortably with nine balls to spare and seven wickets in hand.

The side have traditionally been slow starters in the IPL and team director Zaheer Khan is not giving up hope. "You've got to be able to close those moments of the game where the momentum is shifting. We've, as a team, not been able to do that," former India seamer Zaheer said. "There are still 11 league matches to go. We've got to get on a roll." AGENCIES

FLAWLESS LECLERC WINS

Verstappen drops out on a day of fire, crashes

Flawless Charles Leclerc led from start to finish to steer his Ferrari to an action-packed win at the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday with world champion Max Verstappen failing to finish.

The world championship leader from Monaco started from pole, held his position at the first corner and never looked back, scorching round the 58-lap Albert Park circuit to take the chequered flag by a massive 20.5 seconds.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez was second with George Russell an encouraging third for the struggling Mercedes and his seven-time world champion teammate Lewis Hamilton fourth.

"It's amazing, the car was incredible today. What a race and what a pace today," said Leclerc

He jumped out with smoke coming from the engine, grabbing a fire extinguisher to help a marshal put out the flames. It was his second retirement in three starts this season.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and Aston Martin veteran Sebastian Vettel also failed to finish after spinning out. Victory consolidated Leclerc's championship lead after three rounds with the Ferrari ace, who won the opening race of the year in Bahrain.

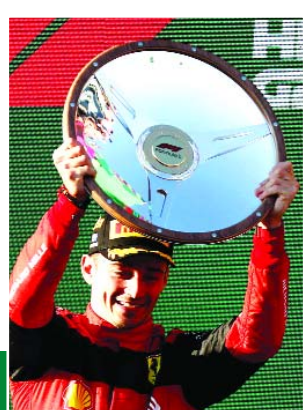


Photo: REUTERS

"Honestly, what a car today. I did a good job all weekend but it's not possible without the car. I'm just so happy. We have a very strong car and a reliable car."

CHARLES LECLERC

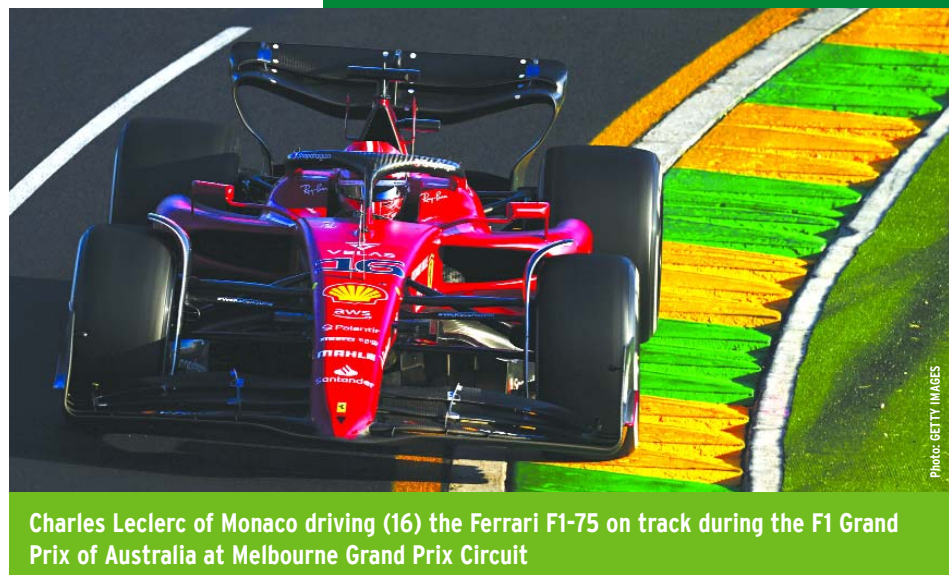


Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Charles Leclerc of Monaco driving (16) the Ferrari F1-75 on track during the F1 Grand Prix of Australia at Melbourne Grand Prix Circuit

after clocking a fourth career win and second of the season.

DISASTERS APLENTY

There was disaster for Red Bull's Verstappen, the winner two weeks ago in Saudi Arabia, who pulled over on lap 39 when second, saying on the team radio: "I smell some weird fluid."

earning the extra point for the fastest lap to add to the 25 for winning. The Albert Park circuit has been revamped this year for the first time since 1996, promising to be faster and with better overtaking opportunities and it delivered for the fans.

Hamilton, who started fifth, was a big mover off the grid, powering to third at Turn 1

ahead of Perez and Norris. But Sainz had a horror day. After starting ninth, he lost traction on lap two, and was lucky not to take out any rivals as he slid across the track and into gravel. His race was over and the safety car was deployed.

The safety car was needed again when Vettel spun and crashed into a wall. AGENCIES

Post injury, TIGER WOODS at career's WORST DURING AUGUSTA MASTERS

Tiger Woods used to turn weekends at Augusta National into gripping theatre, relentlessly charging up the leaderboard one fearless drive, one feathery iron, one nervy putt at a time.

Not now. Maybe not ever again.

The magic the five-time Masters champion summoned so easily for so long was nowhere to be found during another laboured four-plus hour journey underneath the Georgia pines. His 6-over 78 marked his worst in 93 career rounds at the tournament he has come to define and left him at 7-over.

The limp from his surgically repaired right leg growing more pronounced with each deliberate, cautious step, the 46-year-old slipped further down the leaderboard to end whatever chance, however unlikely, of being a factor on Sunday.

There was no familiar charge in the early April chill. Just the reality that 14 months removed from a serious car accident that threatened to end his career, Woods can still play

The limp from his surgically repaired right leg growing more pronounced with each deliberate, cautious step, the 46-year-old slipped further down the leaderboard to end whatever chance, however unlikely, of being a factor come late Sunday afternoon.



Photo: AP

golf. He just can't do it - at least not at the moment - at the level needed to compete in a field consisting of younger players, many who grew up idolizing him but have long outgrown standing in awe of him.

Following a gritty back-nine push on Friday that helped him stay on the fringe of contention, Woods walked to the first tee Saturday two hours before the leaders. Looking to send a jolt through the gallery that

stood five-deep in places hoping for a glimpse and a chance to roar, Woods instead spent most of the afternoon silently glaring at the hole or his putter - or both.

While Woods was slowly making his way up the 18th fairway, leader Scottie Scheffler - just 25 and the world's top-ranked golfer - was making the turn doing at the Masters what Woods has done so often over the last quarter-century: imposing his will on the course and the tournament.

While it would be easy to call his mere presence in northeast Georgia this weekend a victory in itself, Woods isn't in this to be a feel-good story. He has no interest in being a ceremonial field filler. His 78 was one more than the 77 he put together in the third round of his first trip to Augusta in 1995. He was an amateur back then, a 19-year-old phenom.

"Each and every day is a challenge," he said. "Each and every day presents its own different challenges for all of us. I wake up and start the fight all over again." AP

Shooters Jitu, Vijay back in natl squad

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), has announced a 12-member Indian Shooting contingent for the year's third ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol stage, scheduled to be held in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku between May 27-June 7.

A 43-member contingent for the Junior ISSF World Cup in Suhl, Germany, scheduled between May 09-May 20, has also been announced.

The senior squad for the Baku World Cup comprises rifle shooters only. The pistol shooters are not participating to focus on their training programme that has been designed in advance. The rifle team for the Baku World Cup features the likes of Anjum Moudgil, Elavenil Valarivan, Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, Chain Singh, Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil, Deepak Kumar, Paarth Makhija, Sift Kaur Samra and Shreya Agarwal. Mehuli Ghosh, a silver medallist at the World

Championships, Youth Olympics and Commonwealth Games, features in the rifle squad for the year, but is not part of the team for the Baku World Cup.

The squad for the Junior World Cup has participants in all three disciplines of rifle, pistol and shotgun.

India's next international shooting engagement is the ISSF World Cup Shotgun in Lonato, Italy, where a nine-member squad had already been entered.

The NRAI also finalised the national squads for the year in all three shooting disciplines. Notable among those who have made a comeback into the national squad are London Olympic silver medallist Vijay Kumar and India's most decorated ISSF medallist Jitu Rai.

The Lonato World Cup is scheduled to begin on April 19, 2022. Both the rifle and pistol squads will skip the year's second Rifle/Pistol World Cup. AGENCIES



Photo: TOI

Korea Open: AN SEYOUNG claims women's singles title



Photo: AFP

South Korea's An Se-young celebrates winning against Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in their women's singles final match at the Korea Open Badminton Championships in Suncheon on Sunday. The 20-year-old An Seyoung defeated Chochuwong in straight games 21-17, 21-18 in 52 minutes of the Super 500 event. The Korean held her nerves as Chochuwong hit the final shot long to the left to give An Seyoung the championship.