

➤ Young achievers pour their hearts out PAGE 2



young but have a a word of advice

The sporting superstars of tomorrow

PAGE 4



STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021



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IME TO L

The last two years have been tough on the young ones. But they showed exemplary courage, gumption and resilience to handle what life threw at them. In fact, if ever there was a time to test the popular saying - "Child is the father of man", this Children's Day is IT. We profile some YOUNG ACHIEVERS and turn to them for sage advice, and ask them how grown ups can "grow up" to make a difference



here is a fire burning inside Reshma Kosaraju, Indian-origin teenager, who has been racking her brains to search for climate solutions, which adults are lazily taking time to find. Did she get one? Affirmative. Reshma also has won herself due recognition with the coveted Children's Climate Prize 2021 awarded at the Nobel banquet in Stockholm, on Monday, November 8. She pipped teen finalists from around the world with an artificial intelligence project algorithm for forest fires that she hopes will one day see the light – as an

for adults

The life lesson I would

give to adults (or any-

eyes peeled for what

YOU can do for the

environment. Everyone

can help through actions,

regardless of how big or

"Adults can take a corrective path by being more open to new ideas and policies that may be beneficial in the long term"

small they may be, because every good deed counts. By staying informed of the climate crisis and how our choices affect the environment, we can come up with solutions for the various issues we are facing.

If I were an adult, I probably would have approached the problem through more conventional methods. However, I think being young allowed me to be more creative in my approach. I think at times adults are often less receptive to change than children. Adults can take a corrective path by being more open to new ideas and policies that may be beneficial in the long term.



"Do what you love to excel" oshua published his first novel 'Murder at the Leaky Barrel' in July 2021. The novel became a #1 Best Seller on Amazon Kindle on the day of release. It stayed at

#1 in Children's Crime & Thriller (Kindle Store) category in Amazon India and opped the Best Sellers Rank in Australia, Canada, UK and USA

An advice to grown ups I would say, just do your best in your field! I

feel good when I write. So, when others do things they love, they'll excel at them. When we start doing different things, we may or may not excel at the first go, but as we gain more experience, we make fewer mistakes, and then slowly, we become good at it. When he started out, Eddie Van Halen could not afford a proper high-end guitar. His wish was to combine the tone of the Gibson Les Paul and the feel of the Fender Stratocaster. So, he bought a factory reject Stratocaster body and neck, and then bought a Gibson humbucking pickup, and then put them all together to create the legendary Frankenstrat. And it is with this guitar he put together amaz

> (1983), the 'Eruption guitar solo' (1978) and 'Panama' (1984). He did what ne aspired, and he excelled at it. If I were not a child, I might ave written my novel differently. he plot might have been different, book itself might have been different. As a fact, I know that Jeff Kinney spent about eight years working

on the first 'Wimpy Kid' book before turning it out to a publisher. So as an adult, I might have picked up my piece of sandpaper, and smoothened out the finer details.



THE VOICE OF REASON

NAV AGARWAL, 14 CLASS IX, THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL, MOULSARI

"Be more mindful of your consumption"

ers Vihaan (then 14) and Nav Agarwal, at age 11, started One Step Greener - an organisation that works on waste management, recycling and tree plantations. What started in their colony in Delhi now services homes, schools and offices in more than 14 colonies across Delhi and Gurugram. Nav is also a recipient of many awards, like Children's Climate Prize, 2019; Global Social Leaders in 2019, Eco-Hero Awards in USA 2019, and BBC Young Earth Champions Top 10. He was recently shortlisted for Children's Peace Prize by Desmond Tutu.

n February 2018, broth-

Life lessons for grown-ups Grown-ups should be able to identify what is needed and what can be avoid. For instance, does one really need 10

clothes or "As an adult, I would focus on creating a sustainable world rather than earning more money and creating a money-driven world

10 purses? Mindful consumption will ultimately reduce our carbon footprint on earth. The stem of all problems comes from consumers who create demand for unnecessary and polluting items. If adults can reduce their demand, then fixing climate change would not

be such a far-off dream. Most consumers (almost all) are adults, so if they can limit their needs, climate change will not be such a distant reality and I think is a very important life lesson for

In my opinion adults should take a corrective path in their thinking and approach towards life. This would not just help the environment or help reduce the massive amounts of pollu-

tants we are releasing... it'll also create a better world for

THE TECHNOPRENEUR

AARYAN RAI, 15 CLASS X, THE KALYANI SCHOOL, PUNE

"Invest time in adding skills and good traits to your personality"

aryan is a teen entrepreneur, tech enthusiast, AI researcher and marketer. He is the founder & CEO of AR Digital Technologies, an IT company that offers next-gen technology and marketing solutions to brands and businesses across industries. He is the Youngest HubSpot certified professional, a Google certified marketer and an International Email Marketing Champion by ConvertKit. He has also been certified by IIT Kharagpur Entrepreneurship cell.

THE CULTURE KEEPER

LACHI PRAJAPATI, 15 CLASS XI, JAYSHREE PERIWAL HIGH SCHOOL, JAIPUR "Success depends on the moves you make, not the more you have"

n international level Kathak and Bhawai dancer, Lachi is no girl next door. Besides being a dancer, she's a writer and a sportsperson. She has two world records to her name: one, of being the Youngest Author in the world for her book 'Sit A While With Me' and second, for dancing with 125 pots balanced on her head. She's also a National level 10m air pistol shooter. She has a litany of awards to her name: Bal Shrestha Award-2014, 'Woman of the Future'-2018, National Nritya Kala Bal Ratna-2020, and many more.

Life lessons for adults

Take risks. For me, dance is the definition of discipline, devotion and determination. Taking Bhawai as a dance form had been a difficult task. Bhawai is believed to

> "If an adult creates a ion, their overthinking sedes the possibility king risks to manifes

originated in Gujarat. When I started performing Bhawai, it was not that well-known. Even today, many people are aware of this art form. So the lesson that I would like to give to adults is that take your chances; like I took by opting for this little-known dance form. I tried to make it popular by performing it on different platforms and focussed on my vision. As a result, now my art is not just getting recognised on multiple platforms but also getting appreciated by national and international leaders.

Stop overthinking I find that psychology plays a major role in adults and children. I have found that if an adult creates a vision, their overthinking of calculating the success supersedes the possibility of taking risks to manifest the vision. I inculcated this learning and thought in my book: 'Sit A While With Me'. The book shows that the power of intention in a child's mind is undoubtedly pure and repels the negativity of calculating risks. This can help them sail through the journey to their success. I write in my book: "Everything we

magine we can do and whatever we dare

"Treat yourself as a game character, where you add Never hesitate to attributes to it to

act upon your make it stronger" goals. Many people have a strong passion for something that they want to excel in, but fail to take a step towards achieving it. The reason usually is lack of confidence or courage. Whenever you feel confident in your skills, take immedi-

"When we start

something, we may

not excel at it. But

with experience, we

make fewer mis-

takes, and slowly

become good at it"

ate action. Forget about the outcome. Even if you fail, you will end up smarter. My strong advice to all adults: treat yourself as a game character, where you add attributes to your character to make it stronger. Focus on adding skills and good traits to your personality to make it stronger every day and invest time in doing the same. This will eventually make you a stronger player to enter the tough game called 'Life'.

If I were a grown up, the plus point, I would have much more time to invest in my ideas and business, and would have access to plenty of resources and opportunities. I would not have faced the restrictions that I am facing being under-18 regarding official documents, or current bank accounts, etc. But, as a teenager I can take my decisions freely, which would not be easy as an adult, as I would have had

Parentof

too many respon-

sibilities.



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G @ O @







Children are not things to be molded, but are people to be unfolded."

- Jess Lair, author



Pics: Istock

THE ALL-ROUNDER | PALAASH JADAV, 13 | CLASS IX, CHILDREN'S ACADEMY, MUMBAI

"Reinventing oneself and trying out new skills is the key"



rdent and zealous re-

former of

change,

an autho

entrepre neurial skills to winning art competitions and inventing a robot (for helping the farmers). Palaash has many achievements to his credit. He was named the Child Artist Of The Year 2020 by Artville Academy, represented Robotex India at a conference, in China, to present his prototype, 'Kisanobot'. This robot reduces the farmer's

workload by doing the

work in extreme climatic conditions – by automating the process of ploughing, sowing, watering and harvesting. He is also the co-founder and writer of popular blog 'One Last Chapter' and co-author of 'Café Au Lait' on Wattpad.

What I would like to

tell the grown-ups Overall, more than 300,000 farmers have killed themselves in the country since 1995. Most of these suicides were due to low yield. When I came across these devastating numbers in

2019, I decided something

needs to be done. This led to

THE CAUSE CRUSADER

AARYA CHAVDA, 12 | CLASS VII, ANAND NIKETAN, AHMEDABAD

the production of the robot,

'Kisanobot' which helps farmers plough the land, sow the seeds, water the plants, sprinkle fertilisers and much more. A lot more needs to be done for Indian farmers. All adults, government and non-government sectors must work for the upliftment of Indian farmers. I had mentors during the

exploratory process of engi-"Rome was not built in a day.

Likewise, success is a journey and never a destination - all adults must realise this simple truth"

neering the 'Kisanobot'. My father helped me in various aspects, such as preparing for the viva test and questions and 'Science Kidz', my robotics class, helped me explore my concepts further and convert my ideas into reality. If I were an adult, my resources would have been better and more exhaustive, and therefore, I would have been able to reach across all villages in India.

All adults can follow some global role models and truly make efforts to emulate them in their day-to-day lives. I, personally, look up to Michelle Obama for her *leadership skills and philanthropy, Tim Cook for his ideas and how his mind works, Selena Gomez for her charismatic personality and PR.

adults, need to stop transforming na-

ture and get on with transforming hu-

mankind's relationship with nature in

order to address the crisis of climate. If

I were an adult, I would have

THE ASSIMILATOR

AAMISH AHMAD BEG, 17 |

CLASS XII. CITY MONTESSORI SCHOOL, LUCKNOW

"Grown-ups need to change approach to community progress"

budding techie and someone who's trying to get a deeper understanding of human history and culture, Aamish is the founder and lead trainer (App Development) at AlphaDev and also founded Tethered – a micro-story writing app. He holds many positions, like Chief Technical Officer and founding member at EchoLeap (US based start-up), founder-The Education Mission, Each One Teach One, President of Entrepreneurship Society (Ideate) and did a software development internship at Rathh, a Hyderabad-based start-up. He is also founder/host of podcast and internship programme-Experience and ExperienceX

How grown-ups can get

inspired by my work

I would like to communicate my ardent calling for studying and working on understanding various human cultures and their histories. Most of my efforts be it with the community around the micro-story writing app or a new com-

driven by this purpose. One of the major reasons for this is my own background and experience as part of the Indo-Nepali-Muslim community, a minuscule persecuted minority in the Terai. Being an Indian with ancestral and historical ties with Nepal gives me this duality of identity, which is a big part of my life. This makes me an active participant of culture. But most importantly, it gives

me perspective. It helps me to understand cul-

tures more intricately and engage with con-

texts effectively. I would like all adults to know -about my growth as a communicator while *fessionals in design, development and marketing, to interact with my school's students.



PS, PULL UP YOUR SOC

As the face of tomorrow, our young achievers share some ideas which adults can emulate to create a better world. After all, as the popular Native American Indian proverb goes: "We have not inherited the Earth from our parents, we have borrowed it from our children." Inspiring young thinkers and doers across various fields and disciplines share their learnings on how adults can still unlearn and make a difference

THE UPCYCLER

TANAY JAIN, 16 | CLASS XI, ST JAMES SCHOOL, KOLKATA "Adults need to be more responsible with the resources at hand"

olkata-based Tanay was perturbed by the sheer amount of fabric at his father's factory being dumped into the landfills. In 2018, he started the Katran Foundation, where he could use the waste generated at the family workshop to clothe underprivileged children.

Life lessons for adults We know that adults have a lot

more experience in life and know the nuances of the world better. But I think sustainability is something which every individual needs to understand and practise. I am sure those who run fashion industries or are at the helm of operations are aware how their actions and decisions affect us, / and even a slight modification in their operating procedure may create a lot of impact. The fashion houses can them-

selves initiate the process of upcycling waste fabric. If every adult in every fashion house makes it a point to do so, it can create a huge impact in society at large.

As an adult, I would...

Like to tell every child that in the years ahead the world will be yours. You need to give back so that it can sustain you and the generations to come. Every child can start at home and try to make a dif ference in a small way. For instance, one can talk to parents or persuade the local tailor to minimise waste and start upcycling cloth. They may even donate used

"Adults have a lot more experience in life, but sustainability is something which every individual nee

clothes (in good condition) to the needy. One may harness the power of social media and educate others, including adults around us on the need to maintain sustainability and start making a dif-

Advice to

grown-upsI believe adults need to realise that they must be more responsible with the resources at hand because nothing lasts forever. The need to use resources responsibly and keep them for future generations to enjoy must be imbibed into their thought process. This is possible by following sustainability and discipline in daily lives - in both personal and professional spheres. Adults, by the virtue of their position, can actually voice their opinions and

create an impact. They may teach children best practices and encourage children to plant trees, save electricity, reduce carbon footprint, etc. This can go a very long way

THE THINKER | DEEPSRI, 17

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING, VISAKHAPATNAM

"Support your child's dreams" eepsri from Vizag is an ents let you choose your

avid environment and social activist, a trained classical dancer who has turned vegan and has been vocal against animal cruelty. Her fight against climate change has become the talk of the city.

Advice to grown-ups

Under capitalism, we equate human worth with hard work. However, isn't it foolish to think hard work makes us successful? I see construction workers, factory workers, and employees, etc. working themselves as much as humanly possible but they and their families continue to suffer. Being denied basic rights, a fair chance, a safe upbringing, or the privilege to follow one's dreams has put us in a vicious cycle where we don't matter if we don't win.

Close your eyes for a minute and think of how your life would've been experience it is"

dreams over standards made by the system. It still isn't too late. And it's also not late to break this wheel. It's not too late to support your children's dreams.

Don't let your children continue with the same patterns. Perhaps, if adults opened their eyes and started with conscious parenting, homeschooling, or adopting kids, or even leading childfree lives - that would be a start for healing the world.

What if...

What if parents break the gender "I always think of binary? What if daughters are taught how adults have finances and sons are made life a comgiven household petition rather chores? What if than the sacred children are not just

What if parents take their children to al protests, foster animals together, ow vegan gardens, and paint canvases? That sounds more like family to me. Inno-

raised to be strong but also soft?

cent children deserve some safety. Rise together for your Adults often feel

ashamed to be

flawed, emotion-

al or sensitive. But isn't that truly your greatest strength? The fact that you can fail, make mistakes, and still strive for redemption is what makes you and me human. Always take accountability for your actions. Make joy, rest, mental wellbeing, having fun, and helping each other out a pri-

Even if until now - we all failed to realise the oppression we are working under, we still can unlearn behaviours. If adults still choose to live with their blindfolds on, neither will you find peace or joy, nor will you be able to give us (children) a better world than what you grew up in.





"Children need models rather than critics." - Joseph Joubert, French moralist

CLICK HERE: PAGE 3 AND 4



ROOTING FOR WOMEN | ARYAAH LODHA, 13 |

"Qreaking Taboos around period is crucial"

When her men-struation cycle been phenomenal and Aryaah also received an award for social entre-

related to it.

preneurship from the Governor of

Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

There is no reason for any shame

that women face around men-

struation and addressing their

monthly cycle health needs is im-

portant. Parents, especially in

rural areas, should talk to their

daughters about this natural

cycle and schools should educate

women about correct hygiene

Advice for adults

CLASS VIII, AMERICAN SCHOOL OF BOMBAY, MUMBAI

started at the age of

12, Aryaah felt the ab-

sence of a nutritional

supplement for the

same in the market.

That got her thinking and after ex-

tensive research with chefs, nutri-

tionists and gynaecologists, and with

the help of the Young Entrepreneurs

Academy (that teaches young people

to launch their businesses), she

launched 'High5 Snacks' – a food

brand that sells granola (in five

flavours: Very Berry, Ginger and

Date, Chocolate and Orange, Rose

and Fennell and Paleo) to replen-

Young innovators, writers, entrepreneurs, gamers et al, talk to Times NIE on how they hope to be the 'forces of change' to mend society and some of its decades-old practices, and usher in a new world...

A YOUNG WRITER |

OISHIKA BANDYOPADHYAY, 14 CLASS IX. GITANJALI DEVASHRAY SCHOOL, HYDERABAD

"Work is a part of life. Not life itself"



currently the Deputy Student Editor of her school magazine. Also an International

Gold Medal holder in karate, she wears many hats. However, her greatest achievement so far has been winning the International 1st rank in the SOF English Olympiad.

Life lessons for adults

As the pandemic hit us, I was ecstatic as I thought that my parents would finally have some time off to spend with me. But the exact opposite happened!

My mom is a teacher and my dad, a scientist. They already have enough work; sometimes I feel that I need to book an appointment to spend some time with them. With the onset of Covid-19 and lockdowns, my mom was stuck

An avid reader for hours on her laptop and my dad, being a scientist, had to start writing, Oishika is on his projects from home almost immediately. My dad had to work for longer hours including calls

at odd hours. Let me now stop talking about my experiences and get to the point. I think that adults should maintain work-life balance. They want to spend time with their children and pursue hobbies, but the workplace situation makes it impossible for them to do so. Adults should make it clear to their bosses that they will work only during office hours.

The most common

My response: "Why don't we

popularise the field then?" I too

started research on how to

make it happen. With 72 fossil

specimens of distinct species

THE NEW AGE GAMER | VEER KASHYAP, 11 |

CLASS VI, NAVY CHILDREN SCHOOL, KOCHI

"Roard games are not just for kids"



with the unexpected changes thanks to Covid-induced lockdown in March

Adults, please

strike a

work-life balance!

2020, Veer got busy in creating his own board game to utilise the extra time he got. He made Corona Yuga Board Game, an entertaining and educative game on Covid-protocol and pandemic-related issues, for

When the world which he won the PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2021 and the Young Achiever Award from various bodies. Veer has made a 'print and play' board game 16.12.1971 on the military, with the army, air force, navy, tackling war-like situations, enemy areas, combat roles and getting the Vir Chakra award, thereby making children aware of the tough situations and roles played by the armed forces

He also created another board game Tour de Goa, to create awareness about Goa tourism. Veer intends to pursue a career in board game designing to make the world more aware about various issues

Life lessons for adults

Children and adults are too much into online games and social media. Kids tend to imitate parents. So, board games should be used by adults so that everyone can learn new concepts; it will also enhance family bonding. We need to spread the board game culture.

"Passion is the key emotion that helps

you walk your talk'

dream product too. The re $sponse\,to\,this\,unique\,granola$ bar from across India has "Beat boredom with board

games. Playing board games will keep you young and sharp. Don't stop and grow old"

ish lost nutrition for women during their menstrual cycle. Along with the school curriculum, she set up her website and figured an eco-friendly packaging for her

CLASS XI, DPS WHITEFIELD, BENGALURU





run organisation Rutuchakra East (since a year) that strives

for menstrual equality is no small feat. A couple of months ago, Soumil initiated a If I was an adult, I would set up crowdfunding campaign to propads to women in Anekal village (outskirts of Bengaluru). The team raised more than ₹1.6 lakh in less than a month and used this fit our society.

plans to hold this campaign every six months to reach out to more needy women.

Life lessons for adults

menstrual pad vending mavide biodegradable menstrual chines in several localities and schools. Adults should contribute generously for such initiatives as this move will bene-

DigitCodemy

ASWATHA BIJU, 15

CLASS IX, CHAITNAYA TECHNO SCHOOL, CHENNAI

"We have to understand the history of Earth"



That Aswatha is the country's youngrown ups: Paleontology gest paleontologist is is an unfamiliar subject a fact not so popular. But this young fossil finder has a passion

for paleontology and plans to make it more popular. Introduced to the subject by her mentor Ramkumar and with the help of a neatly-labelled hand drawn map and some knowledge, I started creby him, she collected 26 fossil specimens of distinct species.

Advice for adults

"If every adult takes a strong, question I received from brave and wise decision, any field can come forward" among people, so why should you take this up?

Just my small thought - 'Why shouldn't we popularise paleontology' led to this. Just like this, if every adult can take a strong, brave and wise decision, not just paleontology, but any field can stand to become big. ating awareness. Now, I have educated nearly 8,700 students and others glob-If I was in power, I would include ally and I have been consecutively paleontology and study of fossils through school syllabus. celebrating International Fossil Day.

'Get rid of taboos. We are no longer in 16th century"

THE LITERARY SCIENTIST | KOPPARA AADITYA

PATNAIK | CLASS X, JUBILEE HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL, HYDERABAD



 ${f K}$ Aaditya Patnaik loves literature and has penned poems as well as dabbled in prose. Interestingly, he's also driven by his penchant towards modern meta-physics. He says, "I am an inquisitive person, so I try finding scientific solutions to the day-to-day problems in society. For instance, my project called 'Plastoid' can be used to create electricity from plastic and it doesn't pollute the environment too."

Life lessons for grown-ups Well, most adults don't consider chil-

dren's opinions as they think the children aren't mature enough. Parents tend to be overprotective. I believe that this needs to change.

If I were an adult

If I were an adult, I would listen to the children as I believe even the tiniest thing can make a lot of difference. Adults need to be protective but not overprotective. They need to remember that by being overprotective, they are not only regulating a child's thinking but also making the child depressed. The child feels lonely and annoyed.









THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE

MAHITHA BANDARU CLASS IX-A, DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, HYDERABAD

seen by adults as just

port for causes close to her heart. She hopes to follow in the footsteps of Jaylen Arnold, a young person who has changed the world for the better, by advocating against should bullying. Jaylen was diag- ensure nosed with Tourette's Syn- that drome, obsessive-compulsive disorder and Asperger's Syndrome and was often bullied by students at his school. He decided to stand up for other children being bullied for being different. Mahita feels differences are what brings flavour and colour to life, and should be embraced, and not suppressed.

should take the time untarily educate them-

Mahita Bandaru makes mental health and bullying, people no longer have to worno bones about her supand it is high time that this ry about being seen differstops. Bullying should not be ently.

> a case of 'kids being kids.' "Life is about embracing differences"

If I were an adult I would take the initiative and attempt to spread the

word about the issue. I would set up workshops which address the bullying children through. Most adults attribute mental health as being

when in reality, there are many factors at play. When it comes to bullying, the factors could be a power imbalance, being seen as different from peers, not being able to socialize well, etc. Adults have

simply stressed out,

children when it comes to their formative years, and they are responsible as to what kids start to believe, about themselves and about others.

Life lessons for grown-ups Grown-ups

to understand the effects of bullying, and volselves as well as the people around them. There has long been a stigma around the issues of



the most influence on

WORK-LIFE BALANCE PARAMOUNT

AARON GERALD | CLASS XI-A, JUBILEE HILLS PUBLIC SCHOOL, HYDERABAD



and also contributed to

An avid quizzer, he secured first place in Nestle Milo National Quiz 2018. A sports enthusiast, he has represented his school in SFA football as well as in the track and field competitions.

A aron Gerald has Life lessons for grown-ups

his cap. He has partici- It is of paramount importance that pated in several MUNs adults of today learn how to effectively handle stress at work place. They IDF for humanitarian should practice meditation, have clear causes, receiving a communications with their superiors medal of appreciation. and practice to positively encourage their subordinates to complete their

If I were an adult

I would see assignments and tasks as emotionally strong.

something that doesn't affect my personal life. I would take small breaks while working to cool my mind which will help me focus better.

Adults should prioritize passion and interest while choosing their career, to not let anyone tell you otherwise. Try to be financially independent and



welfare - Jawaharlal Nehru

The object of education is to produce

a desire to serve the community as a

whole and to apply the knowledge gained

not only for personal but for public



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"Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate."

- Anonymous



Children's Day evokes images of little children having a fun time, playing, laughing and enjoying themselves. But there are some who spend their childhood going through the rigours of tough training, competing, and sweating it out so they can make their country proud. Here is their take on promoting sports in India...





WATER GLIDER SRIHARI NATARAJ, 20 | SRI BHAGWAN MAHAVEER JAIN COLLEGE, BENGALURU

Youth Olympic medalist, Commonwealth Games, World Championships winner

"The gym is my happy place and pain is satisfactory"

n accomplished swimmer, Srihari Nataraj has represented India at the 2019 World Aquatics Championships, South Korea, 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, Turkmenistan, 2018 Asian Games, Indonesia, 2018 Commonwealth Games, Australia and the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics, Argentina. The 20-year-old qualified for the Tokyo Summer Olympics after competing in the Sette Colli Trophy in Rome, where he set a national record

Childhood rigours

I would say I had a different childhood. I spent a lot of time training. I have not had a break since I was nine years old. I have missed out on

going for movies and other socialising. But I had my own group of friends among the swimmers and it was a different kind of socialising. I come from a family of sports persons and I enjoy training and swimming . I began swimming at the age of 2 and started competing at age 5. I enjoy what I do. The gym is my happy place and pain is satisfactory.

Inspiring youngsters

Given the size of our population, we don't have as many swimmers as we should. We have a huge pool of talent. But often athletes who start out don't understand what it takes to get to the next level. They are

not nurtured properly. Instead, there is too much pressure to win right from the beginning. So a lot of them end up dropping out. If this approach is corrected, perhaps more people will take up sports. What is important is understanding the sport and growing in the sport. One must enjoy the training and focus on getting the technique right, making corrections along the way. It is important to progress as a swimmer as a whole, with focus on building strength, endurance, composure, mental strength. Parents tend to put a lot of pressure on winning. My coach always says that one does not have to peak at age 10-11. When that happens, there is early burnout.

Age 15-16 is a good time to decide if you want to be a competitive swimmer. It is when you can

see where you stand and how far you can go. If you are sure that you enjoy training and racing, then you can peak at age 20 and go on progressing.

Making India a sporting nation

Support kids to have fun and enjoy the sport. Increase awareness of the importance of sports. Support the thought of having a career in sports. Provide better monetary support at the higher level. Schools must take up sports more seriously. How athletes train is lost on most children. They must know sportspersons have better chances of getting into US universities. We must develop the pool of talent because success in sports as a nation shows who is a superpower.

ON HER WARK | KOMALIKA BARI, 19 | ALUMNA OF SHIKSHA NIKETAN SCHOOL, JAMSHEDPUR |

Youth World Championships and World Archery Youth & Cadet Championship medalist

"Hard work will automatically yield good results"

young archers in women's recurve archery, she made a mark securing a medal for India in the Youth World Championships in Wroclaw. Bari bagged a gold in Women's Cadet Recurve category in the World Archery Youth & Cadet Championship 2019. She defeated Waka Sonoda of Japan by 7-3 in the finals. It also made her the only second Indian after ace Indian archer Deepika Kumari to achieve the feat

Childhood rigours

It is not true that I have missed out on a lot compared to other children

ne of the most promising because I feel I have enjoyed every aspect of life as a child. If there is anything that I miss, it is my family, with whom I do not get to spend enough time. However, my coaches, supporting staff, friends are my family now so I enjoy with them. It is true that I have achieved a considerable lot in life but for me this is just the beginning. I want to achieve even more.

Inspiring youngsters

I would like youngsters to take up archery because the sport is coming back into the limelight If you play the

idolise players or consider any single player my

sport well, it can open up new avenues for you, even for a career after you stop competing.

All you need to do is to set a goal. If you are good in a sport all you need to do is work hard. Archery needs a lot of patience. Results may not come easily and you should not think of the results at all in the beginning. Hard work will automatically yield good results. It is important to apply all that you learn from your coach, while playing in a competition and also be happy while you perform.

My achievements have changed my life a lot. Earlier no one knew me. People in my country and even aboard have come to know about me through my sport. In my family also there have been some changes. Due to my

achievement, people respect my parents also. I am happy that I could make them proud, apart from my coaches.

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Today, children are smart enough to understand that choosing a sport is important for both physical fitness and mental agility. As for archery, the government is helping us in many ways. The equipment available in India is also of a high quality hence it aids in playing the sport.

Every sportsperson in the country should work hard and achieve something so as to set an example for our juniors and also open more avenues for them.

interesting way and have a lot of fun games. It is a

THE SHARP SHOOTER | MANU

BHAKER, 19 | LADY SRIRAM COLLEGE, DELHI | Medal winner at ISSF President's Cup, ISSF World Cup 2018 and 2019

"Sport is a uniting force"

he youngest Indian to win a shooting Gold, the Olympian has won individual and mixed team medals in 10m air pistol at the 2018 ISSF World Cup, Mexico. At the ISSF World Cup 2019 she bagged 10 gold medals and has triumphed at the Asian Shooting Championships and Asian Airgun Championships. Manu Bhaker booked her ticket to the 2021 Tokyo Olympics after she finished 4th place at ISSF World Cup, Germany. She has accumulated 17 gold medals and 2 silvers in her international career. In her latest outing, she has won two golds at the ISSF President's Cup, Poland

coverage to all sports, and not just to cricket! Keep politics out of sports.

The government must make the policy on sports fair and transparent. It should also build good sports infrastructure to encourage players and ensure good training.

Leagues like IPL, pro-kabbadi or wrestling league should be set up for all games. Business houses must come forward to support such leagues. They must also take over more responsibilities in channelling some of their CSR funds towards sports.

Another way the corporate world can help is by giving sportspersons from all sports the opportunity to feature in their advertisements, and related material, rather than using just filmstars.

WASTER STRATEGIST NIHAL SARIN, 17 | CLASS XII, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING, NIOS |

FIDE Chess Olympics, World Youth Championship winner

own path to success" ihal Sarin is a chess prodigy who be-

"Try to develop your

came a grandmaster at the age of 14 and is currently among the top 10 players in the country. The 17-year-old has won the U-10 World Blitz Championship, the U-10 World Youth Chess Championship, gold medal in FIDE Chess Olympics, and U-18 World Youth Championship. He has beaten the likes of Magnus Carlsen. He is the fourth youngest player in history to cross the Elo rating mark of 2600, and the youngest Indian to play in World Cup 2019

Childhood rigours

Sometimes I do feel I missed out on things others my age do. For example I don't get to meet my school friends as often as I would like to. But luckily, I have good friends within the chess fraternity and it's comforting.

Inspiring youngsters

Chess is a great game to play. You get to enjoy a lot. You make friends in tournaments, and even online. I would say play as many times as you can. Think a lot about what you have played. I don't



Childhood rigours

Yes, I have missed out on lots of things, especially staying home, fighting with siblings, school masti, going shopping in public, attending college functions and a lot of other things. I also missed out on spending time with my father.

Inspiring youngsters

Sport is a uniting force. Youngsters must take up not just one sport but should play all kinds of sports.

Playing helps one keep fit and energetic. Failures, and other technical glitches should be seen as a testing time and a lesson learnt from the incident. I believe we can create chances to do better and excel in life.

Making India a sporting nation

We must learn to honour achievements of players in all sports equally. The media - TV, Radio - must give equal

