



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

[www.toistudent.com](http://www.toistudent.com)
**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

► Who says virtual classrooms can't be fun? Find out naughty classroom moments shared by teachers  
**PAGE 2**



► In Wizard's Corner, have fun with stories, games, vocabulary builder and activities  
**PAGE 3**



► Osaka fights back to win 3-setter against Coco Gauff at Cincinnati, US  
**PAGE 4**


**STUDENT EDITION**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021



## NEWS FROM KABUL



Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid

### ► TALIBAN MEET KARZAI AND ABDULLAH

The Taliban, who have pledged a different rule in Afghanistan from their brutal regime two decades ago, met with former president Hamid Karzai and senior official Abdullah Abdullah as they seek to form a government. The talks came as president Ashraf Ghani – who fled Afghanistan as the insurgents closed in on Kabul – said from the UAE that he supported those negotiations and was in talks to return home.

"If I had stayed the President of Afghanistan, people would have been hanged and this would have been a dreadful disaster in our history. I am not fearful of an honourable death, and dishonouring Afghanistan was not acceptable to me, but I had to. I was taken out of Afghanistan to avoid bloodshed and the destruction of Afghanistan."

Ashraf Ghani

### ► 'ISLAMIC SCHOLARS TO DECIDE ROLE OF WOMEN'

A senior Taliban leader has said that the role of women in Afghanistan, including their right to work and education and dress, would ultimately be decided by a council of Islamic scholars. During their 1996-2001 rule, the Taliban stopped women from working, girls were not allowed to go to school and women had to wear burqas and be accompanied by a male relative while stepping out, as per the Islamic law. Agencies

## Covid left us with imperfect substitutes. But can it fill the gap of perfect hugs?



Rose Gagnon could not hug her grandchildren for several months. Not being able to see and touch her loved ones every day because of Covid-19's social distancing protocols was taking a toll on the mental health of the 85-year-old. Like many, she was feeling lonely and yearning for an emotional connection that had been hampered by the inability to embrace those most important to her.

That's when Gagnon's granddaughter Carly Marinaro devised an innovative solution in the form of a 'hug time' device. Inside a frame made of PVC piping, Marinaro fashioned a see-through plastic barrier with two arm attachments, so that grandmother and granddaughter could share a hug while minimising the contact.

### WHAT IS AFFECTION DEPRIVATION?

When individuals cannot hug their grandchildren, kiss their friends, or hold the hand of a dying loved, they undergo 'touch hunger', a colloquial term for what social scientists call 'affection deprivation'. It is a state in which individuals want or need more affection than they receive.

### HOW IT IMPAIRS WELL-BEING

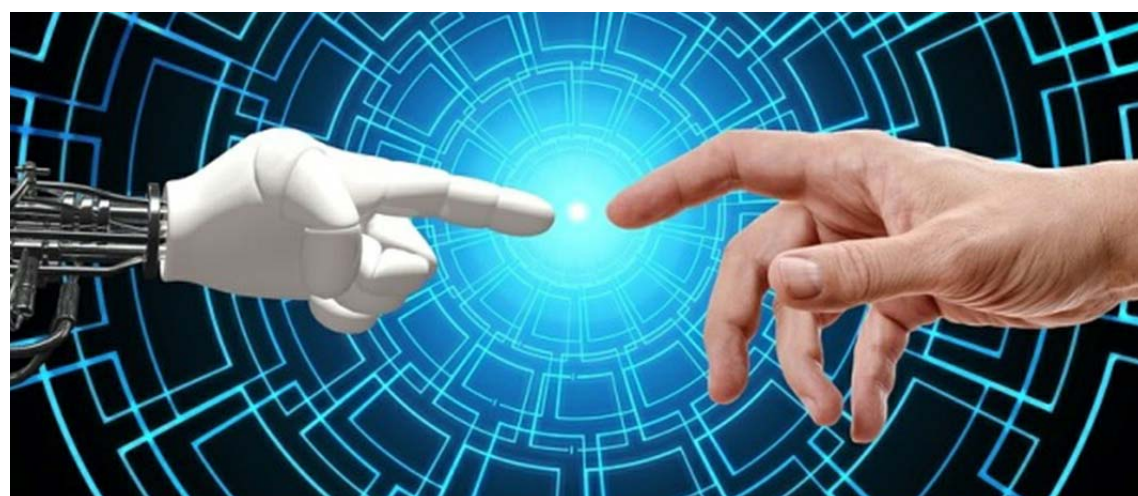
Similar to regular hunger, touch hunger serves as an alert that something important is missing – in this case, the sense of security, intimacy, and care that comes with tactile contact. As people have taken pains to so-

### DEALING WITH 'TOUCH HUNGER'

- Affectionate communication comes in many forms, and not all of them have been curtailed by the pandemic. Even with social distancing, people can still say – "I love you"
- You can also share affectionate text messages and social media posts – and do facetime with your loved ones. Seeing each other every day has a huge bonding impact
- Hugging a pillow reduces the brain's experience of stress

cially distance, many have discovered the sense of deprivation that can accompany the lack of affectionate touch. Touch hunger is essential to well-being throughout our life span. Psychologist Ruth Feldman has demonstrated that touch is instrumental for healthy physical and cognitive development beginning in infancy. During adulthood, affectionate touch contributes to both psychological health and the body's ability to manage stress and reduce inflammation. Among the elderly, affectionate touch can enhance calmness and responsiveness. Touch is so powerful, in fact, that even imagining touch can reduce stress and pain, according to psychologists. ET

## Young people are likelier to trust AI over humans: WEF report



The youth today are more likely to trust an artificial intelligence-run system than one controlled by humans, and they believe the 'fractures' in society are manifestations

of an underlying political problem, a World Economic Forum (WEF) report claimed recently. The report was launched as part of a drive to mark the International Youth Day, which is celebrated on August 12. The WEF drive, called a 'Youth-

Driven Recovery Plan', saw participation of over two million young people from across countries, including India, who shared their views on what will become the next normal for society, government, and business.

## WHAT THE YOUNG BELIEVE

**1** According to the survey, young people believe there is a serious crisis in politics, especially with regards to climate change policies, and income inequality.

**2** They believe that the fractures that have come to bear in society are manifestations of an underlying political problem. Concerns about corruption and stale political leadership have become urgent priorities for young people if they are to keep faith in the political system.

**3** Young people claim they are more likely to trust a system run by artificial intelligence than humans. As part of the solution, they hope for greater investment in programmes that

help young 'progressive voices' join governments and become policy-makers.

**4** Still smarting from the effects of the 2008 financial crisis and faced with stagnating incomes, young

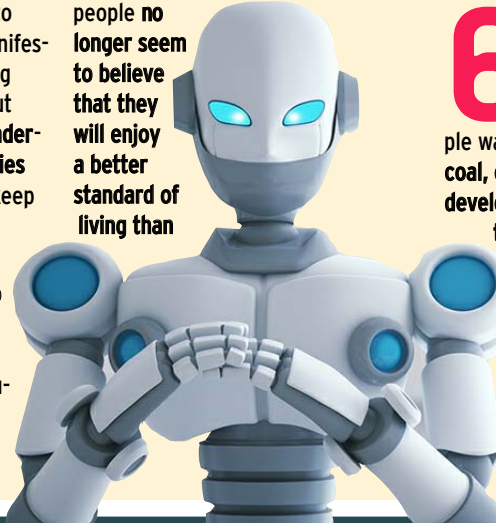
people no longer seem to believe that they will enjoy a better standard of living than

their parents did, the report said.

**5** The millennials feel inadequately skilled and close to a quarter said they would risk falling into debt if faced with an unexpected medical expense," the report said.

**6** Climate change also ranked high among the concerns that are on most young people's mind. Young people want to see a halt on all new coal, oil and gas exploration and development to limit global warming to the 1.5°C limit set out in the Paris Agreement.

**7** Another fact highlighted in the report was that though the young champion an open internet, they are concerned about its misuse. ET



## Three women judges among Collegium recommendations for SC

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has recommended nine names, including those of three women judges, to the government for appointment as judges to the top court. The three women judges include Justice B V Nagarathna of the Karnataka High Court, Justice Hima Kohli, Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court and Justice Bela Trivedi of the Gujarat High Court. PTI



## HOW ARE SC JUDGES APPOINTED

■ Whenever a vacancy is expected to arise in the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) will initiate proposal and forward his recommendation to the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to fill up the vacancy.

■ The opinion of the CJI for appointment of a judge of the SC should be formed in consultation with a Collegium of the four senior-most puisne (denoting a judge of a superior court inferior

in rank to chief justice) judges of the SC.

■ If the successor CJI is not one of the four senior-most puisne judges, he would be made part of the Collegium as he should have a hand in selection of judges who will function during his term as Chief Justice of India.

■ After receipt of the final recommendation of the CJI, the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs will put up the recommendations to the Prime Minister, who will advise the President in the matter of appointment.



## India's largest hockey stadium will be ready by July: Odisha govt



The Odisha government has said that the country's largest hockey stadium, currently under construction at Rourkela in Odisha, will be completed by July next year.

The 20,000-capacity Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, along with the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, will be the venues to host the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.

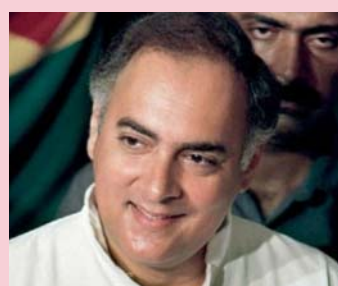


ZARA TAKES OFF ON SOLO FLIGHT AROUND THE WORLD

Pilot Zara Rutherford, 19, took off on Wednesday at the start of a three-month bid to become the youngest woman to fly solo round the world. Rutherford departed from Kortrijk-Wevelgem Airport in western Belgium in her Shark ultra-

light, the world's fastest microlight aircraft. The British-Belgian flyer hopes her voyage will encourage more girls and women to study and work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), and spark girls' interest in aviation. AFP

## THIS DAY THAT YEAR



Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20 in 1944. His birth anniversary is observed as Sadbhavna Diwas. Gandhi was India's youngest prime minister at the age of 40. Sadbhavna Diwas 2021 marks the 77th birth anniversary of the former prime minister.

## 10 days of flowers, feast and funfair in God's Own Country

Kerala celebrates the annual festival of harvest 'Onam' at this time. The festival begins on the day known as 'Atham', and ends on the tenth day, known as 'Thiruvonam', also considered the most auspicious day during the festival of Onam. This year, the festival of Onam will start on August 12 and conclude on August 23. Thiruvonam will be held on August 21

**Atham:** The first day of Onam involves decorating the home with yellow flowers known as pookalam.

**Chithira:** People clean homes, adding another layer of flowers to the pookalam.

**Chodi:** Family members get together and exchange gifts, known as 'Onakodi' and jewellery.

**Vishakam:** It marks the preparation of Onam sadhya (feast).

**Anizham:** The annual boat race 'Vallamkali' is held on Pamba river



**Thriketta:**

Schools are shut and kids gear up for celebrations.

**Moolam:** Beginning of sadhya and many dance performances.

**Pooradam:** Devotees place the idols of Vamana and King Mahabali in the centre of the pookalam.

**Uthradom:** People buy fruits and veggies to prepare the grand meal.

**Thiruvonam:** People exchange gifts, have Thiruvona Sadya and wish their family members and friends.

Mahabali, who belonged to the asuras, was a kind-hearted God and loved by the people. This made the Gods insecure of his fame. So, Lord Vishnu stepped in the form of a dwarf, Vamana, in front of the king and sought 'three pieces of land' as wishes. When the wish was granted, Vamana grew in size and in his first and second steps, he covered the sky, and the nether-world. When Lord Vishnu was about to take his third step, the king offered his own head to the God. This impressed Vishnu and made him grant the king the right to visit his kingdom once every year during this time



## IF I WERE A Time Traveller

If I were a time traveller, I would go back to different eras. First, I would travel to the period of dinosaurs and see T-Rex and Argentinosaurus and many more. Then, I would go to the period of Early Men and I would see how they lived and the eventual evolution. I would then travel to the period when our India got Independence and see how freedom fighters fought for independence and would see Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B R Ambedkar and how the Indian Constitution was written. Then, I would travel to the past when the kings ruled India and there I want to see all the antique things, gold, jewels of India. I would be happy to see all of those. Then, I would return and narrate it all to my parents and siblings.



**IMROSE TAHNIYATH, class VII A, Scholars Academy, Alkapur Township, Nekkampur**



## A MEDLEY OF FOND MOMENTS

School... when I first think about school, I think about all the fun things we students have done. School is not only about teachers, friends, lessons and exams, it is also about fun and silly things we do as kids.

It's about being all excited for our school trip and preparing everything beforehand. It's about the thrill of wearing colour dress and venturing into the staff room to distribute sweets with a friend, folding the notebook page where history ended and civics began. The little moments of relief we feel when we hear the last bell! Lying down on our desk and listening to the sound we

make with our feet, being the bearer of the good news of 'Free Period'; when you are trying to present a speech in front of the whole class and your friend makes a funny face. It's about exchanging lunch boxes and getting to taste different dishes, having started and finished projects at the last minute, of course the box of confiscated items in the staff room; counting the rows in front of you, so you can prepare what you are going to read.

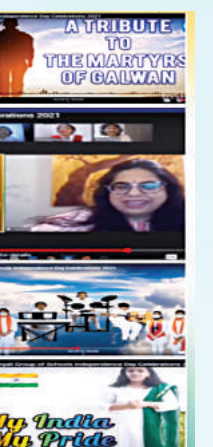
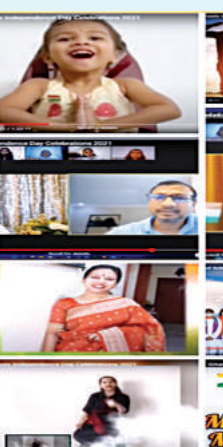
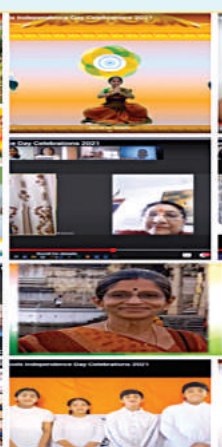
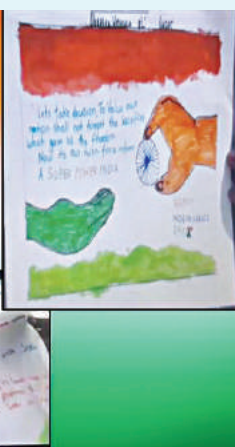
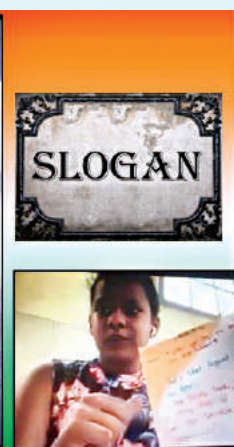
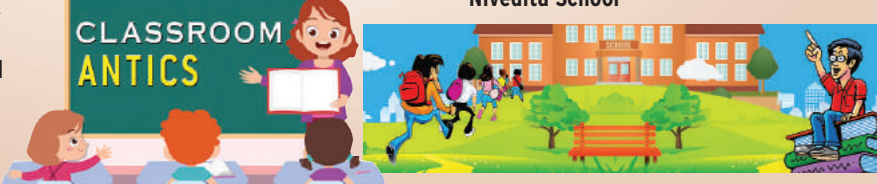
United we

stood, an arm's length apart in the morning assembly, all the mixed feeling of the last exam.

Greeting teachers with a sing-song tune of 'Good morning teacher!' and the moment when teachers pick us to erase the board, and the pleasure of writing the (much dreaded) list of talking students, and raising our hands because, for once, we knew the answer! I think about these moments when I think about school.

**AVULURI MOUNIKA, class IX, Sister Nivedita School**

**CLASSROOM ANTICS**



To enjoy the spirit of freedom and to remember the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters, we celebrate Independence Day every year. To ignite the feeling of nationalism and patriotism in people, various activities on patriotic themes are conducted on this day. These help us to become aware of the various landmark incidents in the fight for freedom and to inspire love for our motherland.

Johnson Grammar School conducted various activities based on the theme of independence for the students of class VIII which included poster making on India Of My Dreams, writing a slogan connecting India, Tokyo and Olympics, making

**K Madhavi, Science Faculty, Johnson Grammar School, ICSE Habsiguda**

Symbols of India and Flavours of India.

The students participated with much enthusiasm in all the activities. They amazed the audience by their creatively baked tricolour cakes and flavours, thoughtfully written slogans and their beautifully drawn posters. One of the students put up a picture of his father who is in the Armed Forces. This gesture was a proof that our students understand the importance of living in a country that is free of shackles.

## A CELEBRATION OF UNITY, HARMONY & INDEPENDENCE



DDMS P Obul Reddy Public School celebrated the 75th Independence Day of India with great fervour and patriotism on the school premises. Chairman S VRao hoisted the national flag. Principal Latha Shankar, vice-principal Anil, headmistress (Primary) Srivani and headmistress (pre-primary) Vijaya Durga were present along with the Physical Education Department and the team of NCC cadets.

The team of Scouts and Guides celebrated the event on a virtual platform by showcasing their skills led by their Patrol Leaders. All the Scouts and Guides, teachers and parents witnessed the show. Devanshi Nair and Dhruv, the unit leaders, hosted the programme. Kashvi Avula of class IX gave an inspiring speech calling out to the youth

**DDMS P Obul Reddy Public School**

to continue the process of nation building.

A special assembly was conducted by the pre-primary wing on a virtual platform to celebrate the day. The students participated in different activities with great enthusiasm.

The activities included role play of different national leaders, a short talk on importance of Independence Day, the national flag, national symbols and rendition of patriotic songs.

The students dressed themselves as the heroes of the freedom struggle, in the colours of the flag, and presented their speeches in the assembly. Some also presented a video of themselves singing the National Anthem.

**"FREEDOM IS NEVER DEAR AT ANY PRICE. IT IS THE BREATH OF LIFE. WHAT WOULD A MAN NOT PAY FOR LIVING?" - MAHATMA GANDHI**

**Pallavi Model School Bowenpally**

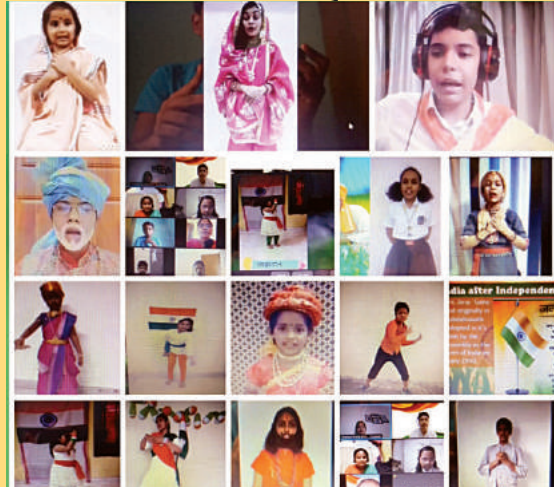
Pallavi Model School, Bowenpally celebrated the 75th Independence day of India online. The celebrations began with a prayer followed by an inspiring speech in Hindi by Neetu Abhishek.

The flag hoisting ceremony was held and principal Shailaja Reddy spoke a few words, highlighting the fact that 'with freedom comes great responsibilities' and encouraged everyone to fulfil their duties towards the motherland.

The tiny tots from the pre-primary wing were dressed as national leaders and free-

dom fighters. Namrata and Janavi, dressed as Rani Lakshmi Bai and Begum of Awadh, spoke about women empowerment followed by amazing dance performances by the students of primary block.

A melodious song was sung by Akshara of class VII while Sathweek of class X put up a hilarious show which was informative as well. Varjika and Rohit of class X enacted a scene in Telugu on the life of Alluri Sitarama Raju. Students of classes VIII and IX presented beautiful dance performances. The event concluded with a vote of thanks.



The Independence Day of India is a significant reminder of the sacrifices made by the freedom fighters in making the country free from the British rule. The day was celebrated virtually at Niraj Public School with cultural programmes and competitions.

Principal B Jivitesh Reddy was the chief guest of the programme. He hoisted the national flag while everyone joined in singing

**Niraj Public School Ameerpet**

the national anthem.

This year the celebrations were restricted due to Covid-19. But that didn't dampen the spirit of patriotism among students as they were engaged in different activities.

Students left no stone unturned to showcase their creativity and love for their nation.



Students and staff of Global Edge School celebrated the 75th Independence Day of India with much enthusiasm and pride. Swathi Reddy, director of the school, hoisted the national flag on the school premises.

The virtual celebration started on the Zoom platform where all the students and teachers saluted the flag and sang the national anthem honouring it. This was followed by the cultural programme. Head boy Naga Sai Karthikeya and head girl Harshitha conducted the event flawlessly. Patriotic songs and poems were recited by students.

While some of the students performed a group dance on patriotic songs, a won-

**Global Edge School Kukatpally**

derful skit on Rani Laxmi Bai was presented by others.

Principal Sreevalli spoke about the sacrifices of the great martyrs and asked the students to follow the ideals of the great leaders. Teachers also delivered inspiring speeches on the occasion and encouraged the students to become ideal citizens of the country.



Gitanjali Group of Schools celebrated the 75th Independence Day of India with patriotic fervour as both the staff and students pledged their allegiance to the country with pride through a virtual celebration.

Gitanjali Primary School played the host. The highlights of the celebration were a prayer presentation titled, 'Hues of Pride'; and a competition, 'Melodies of Pride' for the students of all the branches of Gitanjali School where they showcased song-based presentations along with visual and dramatic representation on the tagline, 'I owe my freedom to.....' in the form of a video.

Stalwarts of music, Geetha Sunderasan and

**Zenobia N Lakdawalla, Teacher, Gitanjali Primary School**

Supriti Chakraborti, were the judges for this competition and declared Gitanjali Devashray as the winner.

The tiny-tots from the pre-primary wing enthralled everyone with their endearing messages about Independence Day.

The members of the management committee headed by Gita Karan were interviewed by the student council on their thoughts on patriotism.

The entire programme was well conceptualised by headmistress Renee Dutta and executed effectively by the primary team.



P. Jawaharlal Nehru said, "At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." August 15, 2021 marked 75 years of India being an independent, democratic and secular country.

For the past two years, celebrations have gone online. The pandemic has in fact brought the nation together in becoming more empathetic towards our fellow countrymen.

Despite the fact that the students and faculty are spread afar, the school celebrated Independence Day with a spirit of togetherness. The virtual celebration was a diverse programme that showcased unity and integrity among students and gave them a chance to express their patriotism and love for their homeland.

The show started with a ceremonial prayer, followed by principal Humera Hyder hoisting the national flag. The school faculty and recently appointed council members sang the national anthem with high spirit. The celebration proceeded-

**Ayesha Sultana, HOD English, Springfields School Tolichowki**

ed with a speech by the principal who addressed the virtual gathering and rejuvenated the love for the country. She emphasised on the responsibility students hold as Indians and how they play a pivotal role in the country's progress.

The celebration included melodious performances by the student choir who sang patriotic songs. Speeches and poems in different languages showcased the cultural diversity of the country. Cultural dances and skit evoked the spirit of patriotism in the audience.

Students selected as council members for the year 2021-2022 were honoured with badges and sashes. The kindergarten students presented an eye-catching fancy dress show where they were dressed as freedom fighters. The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks by the literary secretary.

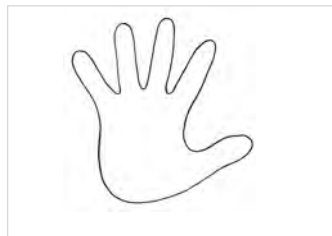


## LEVEL-1

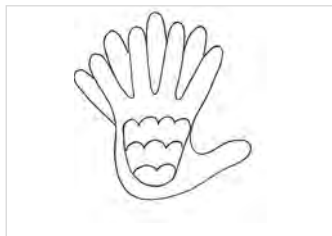


**PURVA PATEL**  
educator, Bodakdev  
School For Children,  
Ahmedabad

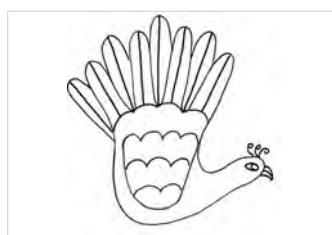
### Draw the easy way



Step-1



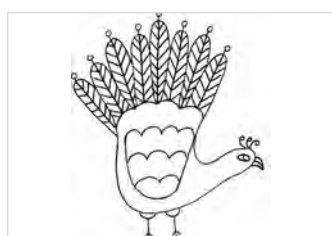
Step-2



Step-3



Step-4



Step-5



Step-6



#### ANTNIO

- a. nation  
c. anthill

- b. ration  
d. arty

#### OCENFUS

- a. fusion  
c. confuse

- b. fuse  
d. orange

#### ITSUATNIO

- a. situation  
b. dissent  
c. ascent  
d. tension

Answers: 1) a, 2) c, 3) a

### Riding with the Riddle

*I have a scar but I'm not  
Princess Eugenie  
I was born in July but I'm not  
Princess Diana  
I wear round specs but I'm not  
Tom Holland  
Who am I?*

Ramarathinam Iyer, class X, Bharatiya  
Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Hyderabad

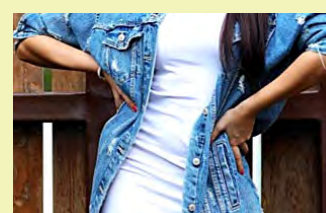
Answer: HARRY POTTER

### RHYME AND REASON

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

**1** The philatelist cannot recall where he put his stamp

- A) New B) Rare  
C) Prized D) Old



**2** She looks \_\_\_\_\_ in her pretty dress and matching belt

- A) Svelte B) Striking  
C) Smart D) Stylish

**3** The elderly lady sits in an armchair and all day

- A) Talks B) Sleeps  
C) Reads D) Knits

**4** The weather is \_\_\_\_\_ so they are not using the pool

- A) Chilly B) Cloudy  
C) Cool D) Cold



### Quiz TIME



Fill in each blank space with a word that not only completes the sentence but also rhymes with one of the words in it. Choose correctly!

**Example:** Please look all over for the \_\_\_\_.

- A. Pencil B. Pen  
C. Bottle D. Book

Answer: C. Book (rhymes with look)

1) B. Rare 2) A. Svelte 3) D. Knits 4) C. Cool

## LEVEL-2

### Idiom-etrics

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

(Choose the idiom that best suits the situation)

Rohit was about to enter an eerie, old house that was supposedly haunted. His friends had dared him to go in after dark and light a candle in a room upstairs. If Rohit could stay there for 15 minutes, he would earn the acclaim of his schoolmates, most of whom avoided passing the dilapidated mansion even in the daytime. As the creaking front door opened all by itself, Rohit was terrified.

- A) Eat one's heart out  
B) Have one's heart in one's mouth  
C) Take (something) to heart



Answer: B

A stranger approached Sheela and struck up a conversation. Observing this from afar, her mother started walking briskly towards them. The man disappeared.

- A) Into thin air  
B) On thin ice  
C) Through thick and thin



Answer: A

#### TRIVIA

In Act IV of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', Prospero entertains Miranda and Ferdinand (his daughter and future son-in-law) with a spectacular show featuring goddesses who bless the couple. When the performers appear to evaporate, Prospero explains that the actors were spirits, who had 'melted into air, thin air'. Today, 410 years after the play was written, when someone or something goes missing, we say that he/she/it seems to have vanished 'into thin air'!

### EDITOR IN THE MAKING

### WEAVE A STORY WITH HEADLINES

Include some of these headlines to make a story and give it a title. Mail the story to us at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com). The interesting one will be published in the edition. Watch out for this space!!!

#### The headlines:

- 1) Modi sets goal for next 25 years
- 2) It's official. July 2021, the hottest month humans ever recorded
- 3) Covid-19 may become a mostly childhood disease in few years
- 4) Veg Nuggets Recipe

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\_\_\_\_\_



#### And the winner is...

**HRITHIKAA KS**

class IX, Delhi Public School  
Bangalore East

### TRUE HAPPINESS

Riya, Ms. Sherin wants you in her cabin, Neha whispered. I entered the room, expecting the worst. "Riya! Have you had coffee today?" asked Ms. Sherin, my boss. Then, she screamed, "You dare waste the company's resources!". I distracted myself and stared at the newspaper that said- 'Neelakurinji flowers bloom in Kerala after 12 years. Then, she said 'It's time you understood the pulse of the customer.'"

I came out of her cabin, where Neha was reading an article, "#ThankYouHeroes, says Barbie." Then to distract me, Neha cried, "Hey, 'Gold-dusted India glitters with Neeraj's win'. It's a fabulous victory!" I smiled with pride. While waiting for the taxi, standing outside the television store, I read on TV, "17 candidates score 100 percentile in JEE-Mains ". I hoped that at least these children will get a good job. I reached home and was in no mood to cook, so looked for street foods you can eat while maintaining weight. After savouring food, I realised what true happiness is.

### Learn a NEW LANGUAGE

#### SPANISH

1) ¡Hola! (o-la)  
Meaning: Hello

2) ¡Buenos días! (bway-nos dee-as)  
Meaning: Good morning

3) ¡Buenas tardes! (bway-nas tar-des)  
Meaning: Good afternoon/good evening

4) ¡Buenas noches! (bway-nas noh-chays)  
Meaning: Good night

5) ¿Cómo está? (koh-moh eh-stah)  
Meaning: How are you?

#### Work sheet

**Q:1** How will you greet in the morning ?

**Q:2** How will you greet a person and ask how is he?

**Q:3** How will greet someone in the evening?

**Q:4** How will you say good night?

1) ¡Buenos días!  
2) ¡Hola! ¿Cómo está?  
3) ¡Buenas tardes!  
4) ¡Buenas noches!



### NUMBER SERIES

**1** Find the missing number in the following sequence

900 899 891 864 800 ?  
1. 16 2. 13 3. 675 4. 35

Answer: 3

**2** Which of the following has the most number of divisors?

1. 99 2. 101 3. 176 4. 182

Answer: 3

**3** The least number which should be added to 2497 so that the sum is exactly divisible by 5, 6, 4 and 3 is:

1. 3 2. 13  
3. 23 4. 33

Answer: 3

**4** The smallest number which when diminished by 7, is divisible 12, 16, 18, 21 and 28 is:

1. 1008 2. 1015  
3. 1022 4. 1032

Answer: 2



# NAOMI TESTED BY GAUFF

Four-time Grand Slam winner Osaka fights back to win 3-setter in tour return

**T**wo days after a thoughtful exchange with a local sports columnist, Naomi Osaka delivered a more relevant statement on the court. **She's back.** Down a set and a break to 17-year-old American Coco Gauff, the second-ranked Osaka fought back to pull out a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win at the Western and Southern Open, her first WTA Tour event since the French Open in late May. She now advances into the third round of the WTA Cincinnati Masters.

Four-time Grand Slam winner Osaka is playing her first event since the Games, where she went out in the third round. Gauff had won the pair's most recent prior match in the third round of the 2020 Australian Open after losing a year earlier at the US Open.

## Testing the waters

American teenager Coco Gauff lined up a contest with second seed Naomi Osaka through a 6-1, 6-2 hammering of Hsieh Su-Wei. Gauff won her last match with four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka at the Australian Open last year. Gauff, 1-1 in the series, will play Osaka for the first time outside of a Grand Slam. "I've learned (from their past matches) to just focus on me and not on the expectations of others," she said of the

## IN OTHER MATCHES

Top-ranked Ash Barty needed a second-set tiebreaker to beat Heather Watson, 6-4, 7-6 (3) in a match postponed from Tuesday by rain.

Three-time Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber upset fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina.

Simona Halep, the 12th seed, withdrew with a right thigh injury.

Men's top seed Daniil Medvedev cruised to a 6-2, 6-2 win in 59 minutes over wild card Mackenzie McDonald, and three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray was eliminated by ninth-seeded Hubert Hurkacz.

Both Olympic singles gold medalists, Alexander Zverev and Belinda Bencic, and men's No. 2 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas all advanced in straight sets. Two-time Slam champion Garbine Muguruza and fifth-seeded Karolina Pliskova also won in straight sets.

high-profile meeting with the former number one. Montreal champion Camila Giorgi fell 6-2, 6-2 in her opening match to Jessica Pegula in a re-run of the pair's semi-final last Saturday in Canada. Hopes ended for Britain's Johanna Konta in a 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 loss to Czech Karolina Muchova. Konta has now lost in the Cincinnati first round in three of her last four appearances at the tournament, reaching the semi-finals in 2020 when the event was staged in New York under strict Covid-19 protocols.

## Calm and Composed

Citing discomfort with post-match news conferences, the four-time Grand Slam champion withdrew from Roland Garros and skipped Wimbledon. She was eliminated in the round of 16 at the Tokyo Olympics after lighting the Olympic cauldron in her native Japan.

On Wednesday, she was calm and composed in her responses to reporters. "I was wondering why was I so affected, I guess, like what made me not want to do media in the first place," Osaka said. "I'm wondering if I was scared because sometimes I would see headlines of like players losing and then the headline the next day would be like a collapse or they're not that great anymore."

Osaka will next play Jil Teichmann after the Swiss put out American Bernarda Pera 6-1, 6-4. **AP**



Naomi Osaka returns a shot against Coco Gauff

Photo: USA TODAY Sports

# Hungry Lukaku 'fit and ready' to face Arsenal

**L**ukaku began training this week after joining from Italian champions Inter Milan earlier this month. "It feels great to be back... it doesn't feel like I'm coming into a new team because I've been here before and I know a few of the players from before," said Lukaku, who previously played for Chelsea for three seasons from 2011 to 2014, though he was out on loan for two of those seasons before being sold to Everton. He later joined Manchester United before switching to Inter.

Asked whether he will make his debut against Arsenal in the Premier League on Sunday, the 28-year-old said that he has been training throughout the pre-season and "feels good". "It's been good to join in with the guys and get to work. Now it's just about getting to know all my team mates better and



File photo: Inter Milan's Belgian forward Romelu Lukaku celebrates after opening the scoring during the Italian Serie A football match Inter Milan v Genoa

Photo: AFP

at the end of the day, I'm ready for Sunday if the manager needs me," he said.

A striker was regarded as a priority this off season for Chelsea, which won the Champions League without a regular center forward after Timo Werner underwhelmed following his move from Leipzig.

Lukaku, who was instrumental last season in leading Inter to their first Scudetto in 11 years, said that he has matured since leaving Manchester United for Italy two years ago. "I've learned much more about myself, setting higher standards... as a player, it's been about becoming more complete," he said. "The spaces are tighter, it's more technical and tactical, and that helped me a lot."

He has no doubts Chelsea can challenge for the Premier League title this season, especially after the Champions League triumph last season.

## ICC T20 WC: BRATHWAITE TO LAUNCH VIRTUAL TROPHY TOUR

**W**ith just two months to go for the start of the ICC men's T20 World Cup 2021, the Trophy Tour begins its virtual journey around the globe on Thursday, inviting fans to take it to places it has never been before.

"Given the disruption caused by the global pandemic a globe-trotting Trophy Tour was not feasible, instead this year every cricket fan can get involved in the Tour," ICC said.

"Imagine taking it to



Carlos Brathwaite

the Eiffel Tower? Or the Taj Mahal? I am personally looking forward to all the exciting content fans are going to create and would encourage everyone to channel their inner creativity and get involved," he added.

The Trophy can be accessed virtually through a 3D augmented reality filter, on the official T20 World Cup Facebook and Instagram pages.

Through this filter, fans are encouraged to get creative, take control and take the trophy wherever they would like to. **ANI**

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** Where did Kiwi cyclist Niamh Fisher-Black finish in the overall classification for the Giro d'Italia Donne?

a. First b. Seventh c. Second d. Ninth

**Q2:** Why did Roger Federer pull out of the Tokyo Olympics?

a. Covid 19 concerns  
b. Knee injury  
c. To focus on grand slams  
d. None of the above

**Q3:** Who topped the Women's Discus Throw at the World Championships held at London 2017?

a) Sandra Perkovic  
b) Dani Stevens  
c) Melina Michon  
d) Nadine Muller

**Q4:** Which of these players has won 20 Major singles titles?

a) Pete Sampras b) Jim Courier  
c) Roger Federer d) Rafael Nadal

**Q5:** Which athlete has won five gold medals in men's long jump?

a) Sergey Bubka b) Stefan Holm  
c) Ivan Pedroso d) Javier Sotomayor

**Q6:** Coco Gauff made it to the fourth round of the women's singles at age 15. Who won a Wimbledon women's doubles title at 15?

a. Serena Williams  
b. Martina Hingis  
c. Anna Kournikova  
d. Steffi Graf

**Q7:** Who missed the crucial penalty as world champions

France bowed out to Switzerland in the last 16 of Euro 2020?

a. Paul Pogba  
b. Karim Benzema  
c. Kylian Mbappe  
d. Adrien Rabiot

**Q8:** Which international cricketer recently overtook Anil Kumble to become the third-highest wicket-taker in Test cricket?

a. James Anderson b. Sam Curran  
c. Ravindra Jadeja d. Stuart Broad

**Q9:** In which year was the ICC Cup known as the Prudential Cup?

a. 1990 b. 1978 c. 1975 d. 1998

**ANSWERS:** 1. d. Ninth 2. b. Knee injury  
3. a. Sandra Perkovic 4. c. Roger Federer  
5. c. Ivan Pedroso 6. b. Martina Hingis  
7. c. Kylian Mbappe 8. a. James Anderson  
9. c. 1975

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