



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

➤ Check out some books on environmental crisis, and get an idea on what the future could hold for us
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➤ Educators and students share their views on various issues engulfing the country and the world
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➤ Five talking points from India's T20I squad against England
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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

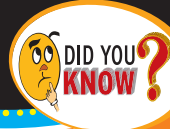

WEB EDITION
[CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2](#)


Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annual interaction with students – Pariksha Pe Charcha is back. Informing about the annual event, education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank said, "To reduce the stress related to exam and to provide inspiration and guidance, PM Narendra Modi will interact with the exam takers through Pariksha Pe Charcha programme in March."

- The event is not merely an interaction. It is also a contest, wherein the students have the opportunity to share their ideas and present them directly to the PM of the country
- Each year, the selected students get an opportunity to present their thoughts and even ask questions to the PM in person at the event
- This year too, students, parents and

teachers can participate. The entries are now open; interested people can participate till March 14, 2021

- The selected students, parents and teachers would be rewarded with a special award. The special winners will get an opportunity to directly interact with the PM, and also get a digital souvenir of their autographed photograph with Modi



In Pariksha Pe Charcha, the PM shares anecdotes and answers questions of the students on different aspects of examination.

Pariksha Pe Charcha was first conducted in 2018, and this would be the fourth edition. This year, the event might be held virtually due to pandemic. Last year, the event was held at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi, and was attended by students, parents, and teachers from respective schools as well. The ministry of education had received 2.63 lakh entries from students to participate in 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', of which the ministry selected about 1,050 students

THEME FOR 2021 PARIKSHA PE CHARCHA

FOR STUDENTS

- Exams are like festivals, celebrate them
- India is incredible, travel and explore
- As one journey ends, another begins
- Aspire not to be, but to do
- Be grateful

FOR PARENTS

- Your words make your child's world - encourage, as you have always done
- Be your child's friend; keep depression away

FOR TEACHERS

- Online education system - its benefits and how it can be improved further (Source: TimesNow)

SOURCE: TIMESNOW

TWITTER ROLLS OUT VOICE DMS IN INDIA



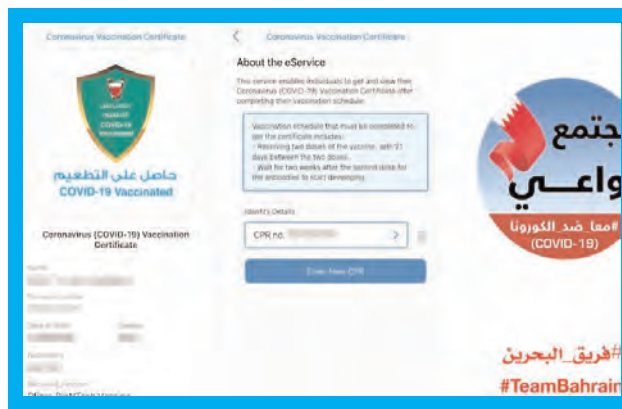
Twitter has launched voice direct messages feature in India for iOS and Android phones. The microblogging platform has stated that the new feature, which it is calling an "experiment", will be rolled out in phases across India. Twitter had announced the plans for voice DMs last year.

- The feature, which is being rolled out to select users in India, Brazil, and Japan, is still being referred to as testing and not a feature, ready for mass rollout
- The users can start recording DMs, using a small icon placed at the right of the message box
- The voice DMs can be up to 140 seconds in duration. Twitter has even provided an option to review the voice message before hitting the send button
- The feature is currently only available on the Twitter mobile app and not on the website. Android Central reports that browsers can still play voice clips

TECH BUZZ

BAHRAIN LAUNCHES DIGITAL COVID-19 VACCINE PASSPORT

Bahrain has launched a digital Covid-19 vaccine passport, one of the first countries to do so, the Gulf state's media office said. Earlier, the country's National Medical Taskforce for Combating Coronavirus announced new measures for the travellers arriving in Bahrain.



- Bahrain's 'BeAware' app displays a green shield, alongside an official certificate, detailing the person's name, date of birth, nationality and which vaccine was received
- The users must have received two doses of a vaccine, separated by 21 days, and then wait for two weeks for antibodies to develop, the statement issued by the government of Bahrain said
- "The authorities can verify its validity by

scanning a QR code linking to the national vaccine register," the statement added

- Bahrain, a small island state with a population of around 1.5 million, offers its citizens and residents the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, the Sinopharm vaccine, backed by a China-based pharmaceutical giant, the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine, and Russia's Sputnik V vaccine, free of charge

- Governments and developers around the world are exploring how certificates and passports could help to reopen economies by identifying those protected against Covid-19
- Denmark has said that it would launch an initial version of a coronavirus

vaccination passport by the end of February

- Sweden also plans to launch a vaccine passport by summer, assuming that there is an international standard in place for the document by then, the government said two weeks ago

GOLDEN GLOBES 2021 PRE-SHOW TO BE LIVE-STREAMED ON TWITTER


ENTERTAINMENT

The Golden Globes 2021 pre-show will be live-streamed on Twitter, ahead of the award ceremony telecast on NBC. According to reports, the event can be watched on the Golden Globes official Twitter account on February 28, 2021, from 3:30-5 pm in the US, and will also stream live on the Golden Globes' official website.

- While actor Sofia Carson and reporter Zuri Hall will host the 90-minute upcoming countdowns, which will be broadcasted live from the Beverly Hilton, Rasha Goel and Scott Mantz will conduct remote interviews
- Actors Tina Fey and Amy Poehler will host the bi-coastal 78th Annual Golden Globe Awards show, which will air live on NBC at 8 pm ET/5 pm and available to stream the next day on Peacock

FACTOID

20.5mn: Years of life have been lost due to Covid-19 worldwide, with an average of 16 years per individual death, according to a study. The life years lost rate due to the pandemic has been between two and nine times greater than the mean years of life lost rate associated with seasonal flu, it said. The years of life lost rate is the difference between an individual's age at death and their life expectancy

SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS FANS TO KNOW OF FILMS IN OTHER LANGUAGES: JEETHU JOSEPH

Filmmaker Jeethu Joseph, best-known for directing the 2013 Malayalam hit 'Drishyam' feels that the credit of increasing amalgamation of film industries across India goes to the social media. "The exchange of stories between various film industries in India has increased in the last three to four years. It is because of social media. People in every


MOVIES

state hear about other films. They hear about Malayalam movies, Marathi movies, etc. Now, only the language is different, otherwise it has become a single industry," Joseph said. 'Drishyam 2' was digitally-released on February 19.

DO YOU AGREE? Share your views at timesnie175@gmail.com

Tiny water tracker aims to rove the Moon

SPACE

A miniature rover being developed to explore the Moon's surface is on track to join the search for water there, its Hungarian inventors believe, using a device that weighs less than a bag of sugar. Named after a Hungarian breed of dog, the Puli rover, is a low-cost platform designed to carry different payloads, including the ice water snooper, which won the 2020 'Honey, I Shrank the NASA Payload' challenge, a competition organised by the US space agency.



- Weighing less than 400 grams (14 oz), its purpose is to probe for water ice by identifying and mapping the subsurface hydrogen content of the lunar soil
- The rover has four-independently steerable wheels made of foot-like rubberised spokes, which can scale 40-45 degrees slopes. Its prototypes have been tested on lunar-like terrain in Hawaii and Morocco. Backed by NASA development funds, the firm expects it to be ready to deploy on a lunar mission from next year

NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) last year confirmed the existence of water, and hence a potential source of rocket fuel, rehydration and oxygen, on the Moon for the first time

NOW, 'BROKEN-DOWN CAR' CAMPAIGN GAINS MOMENTUM IN MYANMAR



Opponents of Myanmar's military coup parked their cars in the middle of city streets and on bridges recently, pretending that they had broken down, to block police and army trucks moving around to break up protests. Calls for a "broken-down car campaign" spread quickly on social media after the military's overnight block on the internet was lifted. Numerous pictures soon appeared of the supposedly-stalled cars, with bonnets raised, clogging up streets.

The car campaign came, as the democracy activists were aiming to draw huge crowds in Yangon and elsewhere, in what they hope, will be a major show of opposition to the army's overthrow, and arrest of the elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi

Decluttering mantras



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Use space

organising hacks to clear clutter

It's 2021, and you're still hanging on to clothes and stationery from 2011! Parting with that one favourite t-shirt or those awesome pair of boots may be a difficult task. But not impossible. Since most of us are happy hoarders, using some organising hacks to create more storage in our existing space will help us declutter our lives (maybe a little). Here are some organisers that can help you win the war against clutter.



1 Add-on racks for the wardrobe and kitchen cabinets that can be hung either on the inside or outside on the doors. These can fit anything and everything, anywhere there is a space to hang.

2 Stack makeup organiser for the dressing table, because there is no such thing as too much makeup and always less space to

keep all the favourite brands. Getting one of these can actually help you keep a check on your purchases too.

3 Under cabinet pullout drawers, with 2-3 shelves, depending on the space you have. These can store double the amount of things you can store in the cabinets, and clear out some magic space you didn't know you had.

4 Add closet cascaders and slim-line hangers to your wardrobes all the clothes in one place. These are great if you don't want to let go of old clothes that you are either keeping for memory sake or hoping to fit into.

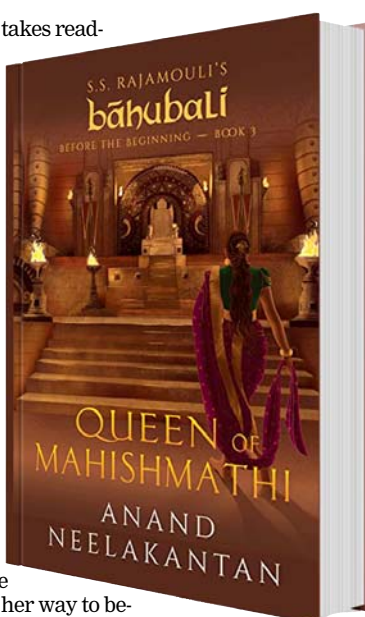
5 Slip in trays and baskets into spaces unexpected places like underneath the closet or the top of a cupboard, inside stationery drawers to attain sorting nirvana. Result is more space. **TNN**

Queen of Mahishmati

HAVE YOU READ YET?

Bestselling author Anand Neelakantan takes readers and fans of 'Bahubali: Before the Beginning' series on yet another ride into the fantasy world with 'Queen of Mahishmati', the third and final book in the trilogy. While the first book in the series 'The Rise of Sivagami' was released in 2017, book two 'Chaturanga' and book three 'Queen of Mahishmati' both released in 2020.

'Queen of Mahishmati', as the title suggests, tells the story of Sivagami's rise to throne and power. Her previous missteps have only made her determination to achieve her father's wishes stronger. But she is unaware that Maharaja Somadeva's opposers are closing in on the king. As Sivagami fights her enemies under Somadeva's guidance, she realises that she needs to now choose between her love and ambition and selflessness or envy while she makes her way to become the righteous queen of Mahishmati. The book tells Sivagami's story—her experiences that made her a strong woman. Apart from her, the book also tells Katappa's story as he becomes a devoted protector of Mahishmati.



With 'Queen of Mahishmati' the plots of 'Bahubali: Before the Beginning' come to an end, while the story leads to SS Rajamouli's blockbuster movies 'Bahubali 1 & 2'. The complex plot, politics, characters, warfare weaved together through Neelakantan's skilled writing would keep readers hooked till the very end of the book. Fans of the Bahubali series would like to read this final book in the trilogy before it gets adapted into a web series.

Books to read to understand the current environmental crisis

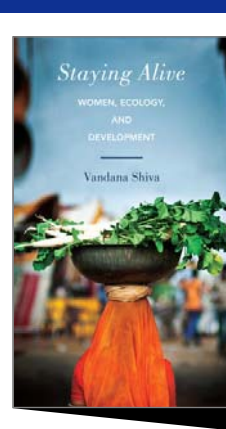
The planet is so close to being damaged that the change seems irreparable. Unfortunately, the cry for help by environmentalists is often drowned out by other news and issues that seem more urgent now. This is a topic one needs to educate themselves on. Though there are many articles, books that provide more comprehensive picture of the problem from the root to a potential solution. Here are some books to give one an idea of what the future could hold for us and what can be done



'NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

by Greta Thunberg

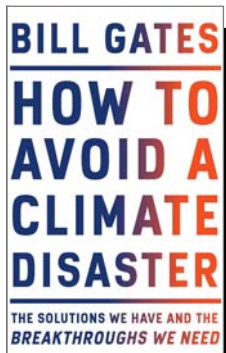
It doesn't take a lot of words to explain the severity of the global crisis and this slim book is a perfect example. The author, Greta Thunberg, is a teenage climate change activist who has shamed the callous world with her words and actions. This book is a compilation of all the powerful speeches she has given, with a positive message inspiring us all.



'STAYING ALIVE: WOMEN, ECOLOGY, AND DEVELOPMENT'

by Vandana Shiva

In this book, Vandana Shiva looks into how development is still taking place in third world countries and compares it to the industrial revolution – which is detrimental to the natural world. She has written several books on environmental issues and this one shows how it affects rural Indian women and how they are the ones with practical and sustainable solutions.



'HOW TO AVOID A CLIMATE DISASTER: THE SOLUTIONS WE HAVE AND THE BREAKTHROUGHS WE NEED'

by Bill Gates

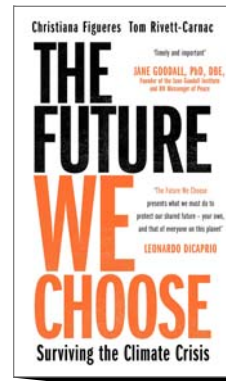
Bill Gates has been working on several projects to improve the world with his wife Melinda. He is as well known for his philanthropy and research to better the world as he is for his tech business. In fact, he predicted a worldwide pandemic long before most had heard of coronavirus. Now in an urgent book about climate change, he proposes a very well thought out and altogether possible plan to prevent the inevitable disaster.



'GUARDIANS OF THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON RAINFOREST: ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT'

by Luiz C. Barbosa

The whole region of the Amazon forest is stuck in a conflict between environmentalists trying to prevent deforestation and those attempting to promote agro-industrial development. This book tells the history of the conflict between organisations like the WWF or Greenpeace and capitalist organisations or the Brazilian Government over deforestation.

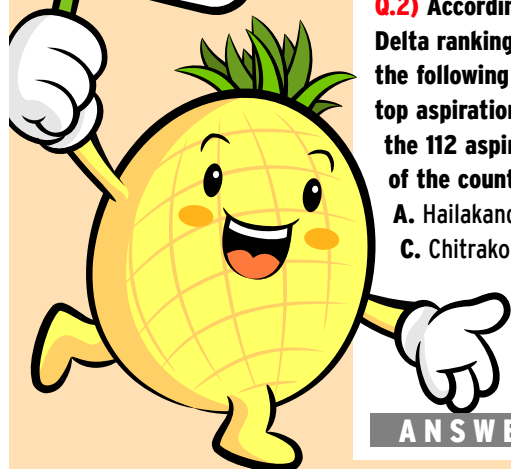


'THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE: SURVIVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS'

by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac

The authors of this book are the co-founders of Global Optimism, an organisation focused on bringing about environmental change and they both led negotiations for the United Nations during the historic Paris Agreement of 2015. In this book, they present two futures – one where all the guidelines of the Paris agreement are met and one where they aren't. They then teach readers on how to bring about eco-positive changes.

Activities BOX



QUIZ TIME (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

Q.1) When was World Hearing Day observed?

- A. 1st March B. 6th March
C. 3rd March D. 8th March

Q.2) According to NITI Aayog's Delta ranking report, which of the following has become the top aspirational district among the 112 aspirational districts of the country?

- A. Hailakandi B. Kupwara
C. Chitrakoot D. Gumla

Q.3) Which

scheme has been launched by the Union HRD ministry to fund science projects?

- A. TURNS B. PARKS
C. SPARK D. STARS

Q.4) ISRO has begun a Young Scientist Programme named _____ for school children...

- A. Stuff You Should Know
B. Yuva Vigyani Karyakram
C. Nordita Scientific Program
D. Ecotech

1. C) 3rd March 2. A) Hailakandi 3. D) STARS 4. B) Yuva Vigyani Karyakram

ANSWERS

KNOWLEDGE BANK

NATURE



Full circle rainbow

In theory, every rainbow is a circle, but from the ground, usually only its upper half can be seen. Since the rainbow's centre is diametrically opposed to the sun's position in the sky, more of the circle comes into view as the sun approaches the horizon, meaning that the largest section of the circle normally seen is about 50% during sunset or sunrise. Viewing the rainbow's lower half requires the presence of water droplets below the observer's horizon.

EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

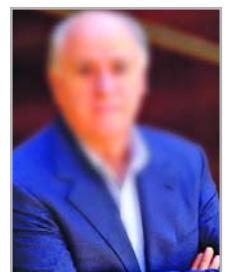
Develop a story based on the pictures in around 250 words. Send your entry along with your name, class, school and picture at toiniel75@gmail.com



IDENTIFY THE PERSONALITY

He is the founder and former chairman of Inditex fashion group, best known for its chain of Zara clothing and accessories shops.

Answer: Amancio Ortega



Word Wise

aspersion: (n) a damaging or derogatory remark or criticism; slander. The act of slandering; vilification; defamation; calumny; derogation

Synonymous words: curse, abuse, defamation, hit,

invective, libel, rap, put-down, etc.

Examples: ■ But think not that I ever had any idea of casting an aspersion on you. ■ Carrie felt this to contain, in some way, an aspersion upon her ability. ■ But of this aspersion he was fully cleared, by the confession of the real father.



THE EDUCATIONIST

OUR COLLECTIVE HOPES FOR 2021

New year 2021 brings in hopes of coronavirus vaccine reaching every individual, the standard resolutions of losing weight, exercising more, getting more systematic and organised.

I thought let me think of something new this year other than the tired and tried resolutions that we always make and posted a question in the group of Pallavi principals, "In one to two sentences tell us your aspirations/ hopes for the year 2021."

The management hopes that the government does not only give directives for safety but also helps in providing financial aid for the implementation of

the same. They hope the losses of private school management are compensated, and teachers' salaries are adequately raised. One of the directors of Pallavi Groups hopes that 2021 makes our organisation a collaborative team, encourages constructive criticism, critical thinking and humility.

Another academic director hopes that learning becomes an enjoyable paced sport/ game (as children love sports and games) for each student exploring and enjoying themselves as discoverers and researchers in the area of interest.

One of the principals says, "Hopes keep us alive as the dis-



astrous pandemic makes us resilient. This year we hope all our stakeholders rise up and partner to bring laurels to our school."

The challenges of 2020 reminded us of some crucial lessons of empathy, minimalism, patience, adaptation and healing from personal tragedies. If we want to grow, let's brave, evolve, mature and seek joy and perfection in all that we do. Joy in 2021 is to notice and create goodness every day, no matter what.

SUDHA TURAGA, academic director, Pallavi Group of Schools, Hyderabad

The Compass of Successful Teaching

Everyone has adapted to the new normal. While children got used to computers, teachers successfully ached the online teaching techniques. Teaching methods are more effective and vibrant when done face to face, but the new normal introduced us to online teaching. It's not about what one is teaching, it's all about the process of teaching and how that is perceived by students. The foundation for the level of understanding the concept is laid by a proper lesson plan.

The basic concept of an effective lesson plan is determined by how effectively the time is used and how much content is learnt by the students.

Lesson plans don't have to be

lengthy. The central idea is that they must contain five elements: instructional objectives, teaching activities, strategies, assessment and materials used.

Keeping the fundamentals aside, the next motto is self-evaluation which includes questions like, what do I want my students to learn? How to instill the concept in their minds? The teacher must also analyse as to how to proceed forward with the central idea like, stimulate the student's mind and the materials required.

We must be able to measure the student's progress with each step or development of an objective. It is imperative to determine the student's capabilities individually and think of meth-

ods to remediate or extend the concepts. The teacher must focus on how to pitch interest in the students through additional learning activities. It's important to integrate the concept taught in other subject areas for a better understanding and interpretation. Catering to the needs of children with special abilities also plays a pivotal role in determining how good and effective the lesson plan is.

In a nutshell, lesson plans can't be technically designed. They must be practical in these times to enable the child to understand the concept through the interface of a computer. It must be able to bridge the gap technologically and hypothetically.

ANNAPURNA RALLABANDI, TGT Math Department, Delhi Public School, Nacharam



Vasant Panchami Celebrations



"Bina Pushtak Ranjita Haste Bhagavati Bharati devi Namaste"

Pallavi Model School
Alwal

Vasant Panchami is a festival that marks the preparation for the arrival of spring. It is dedicated to goddess Saraswati who is the goddess of knowledge, language, music and all arts.

A special assembly was organised on the digital platform by Pallavi Model School, Alwal to cel-

ebate the occasion. Students performed dance and songs to pay their reverence to goddess Saraswati. The principal addressed the gathering and spoke about the occasion.

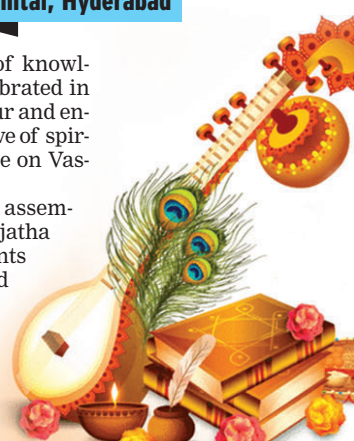
Students rendered prayer songs to invoke the blessings of the goddess and also narrated stories and recited poems on the occasion.



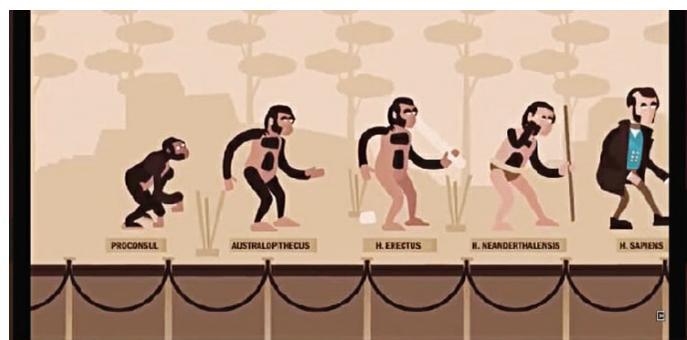
Delhi World School
Chintal, Hyderabad

Vasant Panchami is an auspicious occasion which marks the advent of the spring season and is also celebrated to worship Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge and wisdom. This day was celebrated in Delhi World School with great fervour and enthusiasm. Yellow colour, representative of spiritual knowledge, is given importance on Vasant Panchami.

To mark the occasion, a special assembly was held on this day. Principal Sujatha Naidu bestowed blessings upon students by performing Saraswati vandana and lamp lighting. Prayers were offered to attain blessings from Goddess Saraswati to reach the epitome of knowledge and a prosperous life to all students and faculty members.



Understanding evolution on Darwin Day



Darwin Day was celebrated in Pallavi International School, Keesara with a special assembly. The assembly started with an introduction about Darwin Day which is an international celebration on Charles Darwin's birth anniversary, and is marked as an occasion for education and outreach in evolutionary biology. Students were enlightened about the life of Charles Darwin. "Theory of bi-

Pallavi International School
Keesara

ological evolution by natural selection' was explained followed by an activity which gave students much more clarity about the theory. The assembly concluded by showing a video on 'Research done by Darwin on Theory of Evolution'.

ANOTHER ME

When I look into the mirror,
I can see another me.
With many feelings like
laughter and tears,
And another world to see.

It copies me like a copycat,
Even if I hold a ball and bat.
Though it has never told a
word,
It hops so much like a naughty bird.

When my mother cleans the mirror,
It disappears with terror.
I cannot see it anymore,
Until the mirror is again all clear.

KATYAYANI, class V A, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans Public School, Vidyashram



A STRIFE

When they point you out,
I know you try to dodge it out,
But I say you must stand it out,
You must try to fight it out.

Not by physical strength,
But by the strength of your will,
Don't let yourself condense,
Sit on a quilt and let them spill.

This is the first sign of a long strife,
A Strife to become a pride,
Sometimes it takes more than one's life,
But you don't know when there'll be a change in the tide.

Don't let yourself to breakdown,
Don't be a clown, Don't just bow down or drown,
For you have to reach the crown.

At the start, standing alone will be you,
But there will be enthusiasm and zeal with you,
There will be hope and courage with you,
Also there will be a strong will with you.

Do good to all, No matter what they say,
You will reap well at fall, If you don't go astray.

Use your literacy, To create your own legacy
Fight them out bravely,
To imprint your name on history.

You make the decision of your fight,
Just remember to stay electrified.

TAHA MOHIUDDIN, class X A, Deputy Head Boy, Madina Public School, Hyderabad

Express YOURSELF

Paving your own way

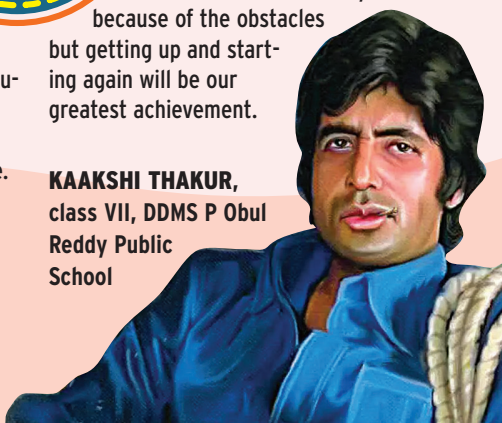
We learn a lot from experiences. These experiences can be gained from reading about the history and lives of people. So before going deep into the topic, I'm going to tell you a story about 'The boy who built the opportunities for himself.'

The boy, after completing his education, applied for the job of a radio newsreader but failed the audition because of his heavy voice. After this failure, he chose to be a business executive for a company in Kolkata and started working in small theatres. This boy also dubbed his voice for an actor in a hit movie. Later, he started doing some films himself. He was seen as a 'failed newcomer in Bollywood' who had 12 flops and only two hits. But his fortune changed as he did not give up. He acted in a movie called Zanjeer which became a superhit. Eventually, he became one of the most successful actors

in Bollywood. People from all over the world became his fans. He is none other than the most loved and talented actors of the century, Amitabh Bachchan.

Most of us just need to create opportunities rather than waiting for one. But this process needs a lot of hard work and persistence. For this, we need to come out of our comfort zone. We may fall because of the obstacles but getting up and starting again will be our greatest achievement.

KAAKSHI THAKUR, class VII, DDMS P Obul Reddy Public School



HAPPY TO BE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL, OFFLINE!

I am happy to be back in school. Although, classes can be conducted online, the environment of our school which is located on top of a lush green hill cannot be replicated. I admit that many things cannot be achieved through online platforms, but the most important aspect was to continue learning as it was necessary. I felt gloomy to the core of my heart when schools were closed for months due to the pandemic. Now, as I come back to the temple of knowledge, I feel my prayers have been answered. I had an awesome feeling when I entered the school. We missed the chance to enjoy with all



members of the school for a year. Yet, I am glad to say that I am back in school, the world where I feel secure and happy.

N R VIJITH BHARADHWAJ, class X B, Unicent School, Vanasthali Hills

Painters' Gallery

Activity on Weather and Seasons



SNOWY & SUNNY:
SYED ABDUL WAHAB, class II B, Springfields School, Tolichowki

SERENITY:
CHEMIKELA LAKSHMI HASINI, class VI, Scholars International School



WINGS OF BEAUTY:
MAHITHA K, class V A, Jain Heritage a Cambridge School, Kondapur



POSTCARD PERFECT:
LUBNA FATIMA, class X, Little Flower High School, Abids, Hyderabad

5 TALKING POINTS FROM INDIA'S T20I SQUAD



Ishan Kishan

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

The BCCI on Saturday announced a 19-member T20 squad for the five-match series against England, which kicks off on March 12. The Chetan Sharma-headed selection panel handed maiden call-up to 3 players while they dropped 2 players, Sanju Samson and Kuldeep Yadav, from the roster which toured Australia

INDIA'S SQUAD

Virat Kohli (Capt), Rohit Sharma (vc), KL Rahul, Shikhar Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Y Chahal, Varun Chakravarthy, Axar Patel, W Sundar, R Tewatia, T Natarajan, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Deepak Chahar, Navdeep Saini, Shardul Thakur

1 SELECTORS TAKE GLOVES OFF KL RAHUL

➤ In a rather surprising move, the selectors seem to have taken the gloves off KL Rahul as the BCCI's squad clearly mentions Ishan Kishan and Rishabh Pant for that role. The decision can be debated as the team management backed Rahul for the job for one complete year and also dropped Rishabh from the squad. The sudden change has come as a big surprise and it will be interesting to see if the management makes the change going ahead. Rahul is likely to keep the gloves in 50-over cricket.

2 PANT MAKES WHITE-BALL RETURN AGAIN

➤ The young wicketkeeper-batsman has only been part of the national team for the past 4 years but Rishabh has made a number of returns in the white-ball team. On occasions, he has been dropped without being given enough chances. For the Australia tour as well, he was dropped without being given a chance. His red-ball form is too good to be ignored and the selectors had no other option but to recall him into the T20I squad. Rishabh has played 16 ODIs and 28 T20Is since his debut in 2017.

3 IPL PERFORMERS AWARDED BY SELECTION PANEL

➤ The selectors have rewarded IPL performers. Architect turned leg-spinner Varun Chakravarthy was picked by Kings XI Punjab in 2019 but released at the end of the season. Picked by KKR last year, Chakravarthy ended as one of the top 10 wicket-takers. Rahul Tewatia made his mark with some spectacular batting for Rajasthan Royals, including five sixes in an over. Batsman Suryakumar Yadav and wicketkeeper-batsman Ishan Kishan were standout performers for MI, who won a fifth title last year.

4 PANT SET TO COMPETE AGAINST FORMER CAPTAIN

➤ Rishabh has returned to the T20I side but where will the captain fit him? The 23-year-old will have to compete against his former U-19 captain, Kishan, for a spot in the playing XI. Before his Test debut, Rishabh was below Kishan in the pecking order as selectors named only one wicketkeeper for the 'A' series. He pipped Kishan to make his Test debut in 2018 and may be preferred over the Mumbai Indians' batsman in the T20 series as well. Rishabh was Kishan's deputy at the 2016 U-19 World Cup.

5 FITNESS ISSUES STILL PLAGUE INDIA

➤ One of the major talking points is the fitness issues. The likes of Ravindra Jadeja, Manish Pandey and Mohammed Shami missed out on selection due to fitness issues. Having fresh faces does reflect the depth in Indian cricket but absence of regulars also means India haven't been able to ink on a perfect squad for the T20 World Cup. The Men in Blue are still undecided on finishers and the second spinner to partner Yuzvendra Chahal. For Australia, lead spinner Chahal was kept out of playing XI once.

Djokovic dismantles Medvedev to win 9th Australian Open

It's the Serb's third consecutive title at Melbourne Park and puts him on 18 grand slam wins, just two behind Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer for the all-time record

In the quest for the record-extending ninth Australian Open title, World No. 1 Novak Djokovic crossed swords with Russia's Daniil Medvedev in the final of the Australian Open 2021 on Sunday at the iconic Rod Laver Arena. Djokovic, who last won a Grand Slam a year ago, thrashed Medvedev in straight sets to capture his 18th Grand Slam title.

Dubbed as one of the greatest players of all time, Djokovic defeated the Russian 7-5, 6-2, and 6-2 to bag an unprecedented ninth Australian Open title at the Melbourne Park on

Sunday. Defending his Australian Open crown in the first Grand Slam event of the 2021 season, the World No.1 had to brave an injury scare before reaching the business end of the elite competition.

The Serbian ace thrashed Aslan Karatsev in the semi-final to set a date with Medvedev for the summit clash. Even though the summit clash was tipped to be an absolute slobber knocker of a final, Djokovic made the final a one-sided affair by ending Medvedev's 20-match winning streak in the Australian Open final 2021.

I would like to return nice words to Daniil. First of all class act. You're a great guy. We used to spend more time together, we used to practise in Monaco. You don't call me anymore. He's a great guy but on the court he's one of the toughest guys I've faced. It's only a matter of time before you hold a Grand Slam.

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Ivan Dodig, Filip Polasek win Men's doubles title

Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek beat defending champions Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram 6-3, 6-4 in the final to win the men's doubles title



Ivan Dodig and Filip Polasek upset defending champions Joe Salisbury and Rajeev Ram to win the Australian Open men's doubles title Sunday, their first as a team. The Croat-Slovak combination, seeded nine, proved too strong for the British-American fifth seeds, outlasting them 6-3, 6-4 on Rod Laver Arena. "Amazing memories. This is our first Grand Slam as a team and we're having a lot of fun. I hope it continues," said Dodig. "Their win deprived Salisbury and Ram from becoming the first pair to successfully defend their crown at Melbourne Park since Bob and Mike Bryan won three in a row from 2009-11. AFP

QUIZ TIME!

Q1: After Jacques Kallis, who won most Player of the Match awards in Test cricket?

- a) Shane Warne ☐ b) Richard Hadlee ☐
c) Imran Khan ☐ d) Muttiah Muralitharan ☐

Q2: In which year did Simona Halep become the 25th WTA player to reach No. 1?

- a) 2015 ☐ b) 2016 ☐ c) 2017 ☐ d) 2018 ☐

Q3: Shahid Afridi holds the record for most wickets in ICC Men's T20 World Cup. How many wickets has he taken?

- a) 39 ☐ b) 40 ☐ c) 38 ☐ d) 41 ☐

Q4: Who is the only woman to win Olympic medals 20 years apart?

- a) Kelly Holmes ☐ b) Larissa Latynina ☐
c) Svetlana Khorkina ☐ d) Birgit Fischer ☐

Q5: After Sachin Tendulkar, who has won the most Player of the Series awards in One Day Internationals?

- a) Sanath Jayasuriya ☐ b) Virat Kohli ☐
c) Shaun Pollock ☐ d) Chris Gayle ☐

Q6: Who won the 2011 NBA Coach of the Year award?

- a) Scott Brooks ☐ b) Mike Brown ☐
c) Byron Scott ☐ d) Tom Thibodeau ☐

Q7: Rafael Nadal won a gold medal in 2008 at Beijing. Which Olympic medallist did he beat in the final?

- a) Stan Wawrinka ☐ b) Fernando Gonzalez ☐
c) Novak Djokovic ☐ d) James Blake ☐



Rafael Nadal

Q8: Who holds the record for most ODI catches in Asia Cup?

- a) Aravinda de Silva ☐
b) Younis Khan ☐
c) Mahela Jayawardene ☐
d) Muttiah Muralitharan ☐

Q9: In which year did Muhammad Ali retire from boxing with a professional record of 56 wins and five losses?

- a) 1984 ☐ b) 1983 ☐ c) 1982 ☐ d) 1981 ☐

Q10: After Ricky Ponting, who has played most matches as captain in One Day Internationals?

- a) Allan Border ☐ b) Stephen Fleming ☐
c) MS Dhoni ☐ d) Arjuna Ranatunga ☐

Q11: In which year did Novak Djokovic complete the career Grand Slam, ousting Andy Murray in the Roland Garros final?

- a) 2016 ☐ b) 2017 ☐ c) 2018 ☐ d) 2019 ☐

Q12: During which Olympics was Muhammad Ali chosen to light the flame at the Opening Ceremony?

- a) 1980 Moscow Olympics ☐
b) 1988 Seoul Olympics ☐
c) 1992 Barcelona Olympics ☐
d) 1996 Atlanta Olympics ☐

ANSWERS: 1 d) Muttiah Muralitharan
2 c) 2017 3 a) 39 4 d) Birgit Fischer
5 a) Sanath Jayasuriya 6 d) Tom Thibodeau
7 b) Fernando Gonzalez 8 c) Mahela Jayawardene
9 d) 1981 10 b) Stephen Fleming 11 a) 2016
12 d) 1996 Atlanta Olympics