



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

➤ A sampling from broadcast networks, cable and streaming services to cheer you up.  
➤ A holiday planner for you

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➤ Students and teachers share their views on various issues engulfing the nation and the world

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➤ Indian pacers make a mark in the ongoing India-Aus Test series

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**STUDENT EDITION**
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020**

**WEB EDITION**
**CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2**

## 'A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE'

... Believes GITANJALI RAO, a 15-year-old Colorado-based teenager, who won the first-ever TIME Kid Of The Year Award 2020. In an interview with Times NIE, Rao talks about how she wishes to close the year 2020, shares some advice based on her experiences as a 'young scientist' for teenagers, and much more...

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**WHAT IS YOUR TAKEAWAY FROM 2020?** While this year has been very difficult for many of us, courtesy the pandemic, I would like to see the optimistic side. It gave us a lot of time to be at home, spend time with our families, and helped many of us to follow our hobbies and passion. My learning merged with school, research, innovations, baking, and my other activities. There were many things I could not do, but instead, several alternate paths and ideas opened up. I could reach out to many others virtually, whom I wouldn't have otherwise. The advancements in technology we have today enable us to adapt ourselves, and we should use it effectively.

**IF THERE'S ONE DISCOVERY WITH WHICH YOU COULD CHANGE THE WAY THE WORLD FUNCTIONS, WHAT WOULD THAT BE?** A discovery to understand how human immunity works and the ability to replicate its function to fight known and unknown diseases.



... Believes GITANJALI RAO, a 15-year-old Colorado-based teenager, who won the first-ever TIME Kid Of The Year Award 2020. In an interview with Times NIE, Rao talks about how she wishes to close the year 2020, shares some advice based on her experiences as a 'young scientist' for teenagers, and much more...

**A SCIENTIFIC INVENTION, YOU WISH TO UNDO...** There is no invention that I would undo, but we could undo the way we use it, such as the ability of human beings to destroy countries through nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. They should not have no room in a modern society.

### Close and Personal

**WHO IS YOUR INSPIRATION?** Jonas Salk, who invented the polio vaccine and Norman Borlaug, who contributed to the increase in agricultural production.

**HOW DO YOU WEAR SO MANY HATS—INVENTOR, BAKER, DANCER, SINGER, BAKER:** I don't do all of these every day. There are days I just focus on research and innovation. So, apart from schoolwork, the rest of them are as and when I want to.

**YOUR 'SERENDIPITY' MOMENT IN LIFE...** The solution or the hypothesis

**TIPS YOUR ADVICE TO YOUNG ADULTS:** I believe, if we want to do something, we will find a way to do it. If we have a phone or internet, there is no excuse to not gain knowledge, learn, reach out, and seek help. It need not be science or technology, any passion of ours can be used to make a difference. If you have an interest in art, that talent can also be used to amplify a message. Imagine a world where kindness prevails... any simple act of kindness is the first step towards a better future for all of us.

**YOUR 'LIFE QUOTE' FOR YOUNG ASPIRING SCIENTISTS:** I am proud to say that I have failed more than I have ever succeeded. Keep doing what you like to do, and never give up.

developed for the lead detection tool happened, when I was reading an MIT article on nanotubes to detect the hazardous gases in the air. Another would be a time when I was conducting an innovation workshop and I shared a simple process of understanding the problem, using a tool such as an Ishikawa diagram. Every single student in the IVth grade loved it, tried it themselves, and within 45 min, we had 22 problems, ideas, and potential solutions.

**YOUR SUCCESS MANTRA:** Curiosity. Besides, my teachers, mentors, and parents, who believed in me.

### MICROPLASTICS REVEALED IN THE PLACENTAS OF UNBORN BABIES

Microplastic particles have been revealed in the placentas of unborn babies for the first time, which researchers feel is "a matter of great concern". The particles were found in the placentas from four healthy women, who had normal pregnancies and births. Microplastics were detected on both the foetal and maternal sides of the placenta and in the membrane within which the foetus develops.

**ALERT**

The health impact of microplastics in the body is not yet known. But scientists say, they could carry chemicals that could cause long-term damage or upset the foetus' developing immune system. The particles are likely to have been consumed or breathed in by the mothers



1 The microplastics were mostly of 10 microns in size, meaning they are small enough to be carried in the bloodstream. The particles may have entered the babies' bodies, but the researchers were unable to assess this

2 Microplastics pollution has reached every part of the planet— from the summit of Mount Everest to the deepest oceans. People are already known to consume the tiny particles via food and water, and breathe them in



In October, scientists revealed that babies, who are fed milk in plastic bottles, are swallowing millions of particles a day

### ENTERTAINMENT



**WARNER BROS. TO RELEASE 'FURIOSA,' 'THE COLOR PURPLE' IN THEATRES IN 2023**

Warner Bros has announced that George Miller's 'Mad Max: Fury Road' prequel titled 'Furiosa,' the musical adaptation of 'The Color Purple,' and family movie 'Coyote vs Acme' will debut in theatres in 2023.

➤ According to Variety, 'Furiosa,' which stars Anya Taylor-Joy in the title role, has been set for June 23 release, while the live-action hybrid 'Coyote vs Acme' will release on July 21.

➤ Earlier in December, Warner Bros had shared the plans to premiere its entire 2021 slate—including 'Dune,' 'The Matrix 4,' and 'The Suicide Squad'—simultaneously on HBO Max as well as in movie theatres

### ECONOMY

#### INDIAN RUPEE IS THE WORST-PERFORMER IN 2020

The rupee is likely to end the calendar year 2020 as the worst-performing currency in Asia, even underperforming minor South Asian currencies, such as the Pak rupee and Sri Lankan rupee. The rupee is down 3.6 per cent during the year so far against the appreciation of other Asian currencies, such as the Chinese renminbi, Philippines peso, South Korean won, Malaysian ringgit and Thai baht.



➤ In 2020, India has received more than \$50 billion through the FPI and FDI routes. Foreigners have bought equities worth \$17.7 billion and sold \$14.5 billion in debt with net inflows of \$7.7 billion in CY2020, as per the official data from NSDL.

➤ However, a recent report by HDFC Securities noted that despite substantial foreign inflows, the rupee did not revive, as the RBI absorbed almost all the dollar inflows through regular interventions to restrict the currency from appreciating to maintain export competitiveness

### NEW POPULATION OF BLUE WHALES DISCOVERED IN WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN


**ENVIRONMENT**

Scientists have found evidence of a previously-undiscovered population of blue whales living in the western Indian ocean based on an analysis of sound recordings from the region, an advance which sheds light on the global distribution of the largest animals to have ever lived on the Earth. While these highly-endangered mammals are found around the globe in all the oceans, and sing very low-pitched and recognisable songs, the researchers said every blue whale population has its own unique song.

➤ The scientists analysed recordings from the Arabian Sea coast of Oman, and as far south as Madagascar, and found a blue whale song that had never been described

➤ Based on the analysis, the researchers believe that they have discovered, what is likely a previously-unrecognised population of blue whales in the western Indian Ocean

### ZERO EFFECT, ZERO DEFECT: PM'S FRESH CALL FOR INDIA'S MANUFACTURERS

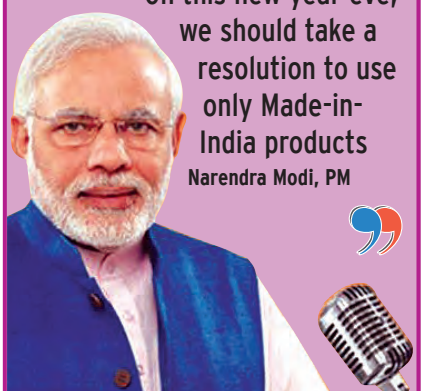
After talking about going 'vocal for local' to make India 'Aatmanirbhar', PM Narendra Modi on Sunday gave a clarion call to adopt "zero effect, zero defect" policy while manufacturing Made-in-India products and ensure that these products should be "world class". Speaking in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi said, "Indians have taken many steps forward and are getting vocal for local. This will boost the efforts towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat". The PM said that while focusing on Made-in-India products, the manufacturers should not compromise with the quality of materials produced by them. "This is the right time to work with 'zero effect, zero defect' policy", he added.

#### MANN KI BAAT

We make new resolutions every new year.

On this new year eve, we should take a resolution to use only Made-in-India products

Narendra Modi, PM



## MOBILE GAMES THAT CHEERED YOUNG INDIAN PLAYERS IN PANDEMIC

Other than video calling, it was mobile gaming that took India by storm during the lockdown and social distancing times. As parents got busy with remote work and struggled to maintain the work-life balance, the popularity of mobile games surged among the youth, especially millennials and Gen Z...

#### AMONG US

Among Us from gaming company InnerSloth was the most-downloaded mobile game worldwide for September 2020 with 83.8 million installs, which was 40 times more than the title had in September 2019. In India, kids went crazy for it. Among Us is a multiplayer game about teamwork and betrayal. The game, which is about keeping your spaceship together, can be played online or over a local Wi-Fi. It is important that each player cooperate with one another in order to return back to civilisation.

#### LUDO KING

Ludo King, which was launched in 2016, became one of the top five most-installed mobile games in April. The growth during the initial phase of the ongoing lockdown helped Ludo King reach the number-one ranking in the top charts of

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

free games on Google Play for some days. A free-to-play app developed by Indian studio Gametion Technologies Pvt Ltd based in Mumbai, it brought the classic board game on the digital platform. In the pandemic, it was downloaded millions of times in the country.

#### POKEMON GO

For Pokemon Go, 2020 has been its best year by far, as it accumulated a revenue increase of 31.5 per cent. The sudden increase in player spending was because of the various implementations in the game allowing for playing during the pandemic-induced lockdown.

#### GARENA FREE FIRE

Garena Free Fire grew to become one of the top five grossing entries in the burgeoning genre since its launch in late 2017. Garena Free Fire (also known as Free Fire Battlegrounds or Free Fire) is a battle royale game, developed by 111 Dots Studio and published by Garena for Android and iOS.





# Holiday Planner

Bring on the sentimental holiday rom-coms, the chorus of Christmas music specials and the nostalgia of last century's animated charmers. We'll take any and all feel-good moments in a year of scarcity. Here's a sampling from broadcast networks, cable and streaming services that are there to cheer us up. There is also a Holiday Planner for you to consider...

## MERRY MOVIES

### THE PRINCESS SWITCH: SWITCHED AGAIN

The saga continues as look-a-likes Stacy, a Chicago baker, and Lady Margaret, heir to the Montenaro throne, swap lives once more. Vanessa Hudgens again conveniently fills both roles.



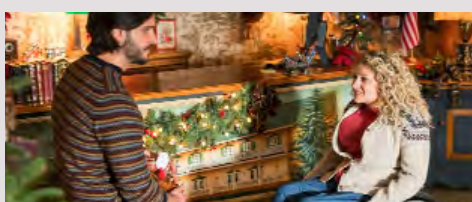
### JINGLE JANGLE: A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

Forest Whitaker is one of the big names in this tale of a toymaker in need of a miracle, with Hugh Bonneville, Anika Noni Rose and Keegan-Michael Key in the cast.



### CHRISTMAS EVER AFTER

Tony-winner Ali Stroker ('Oklahoma!') plays Izzy, a romance novelist whose writer's block may be overcome by a handsome bed-and-breakfast owner (Daniel di Tomasso).



### IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Jimmy Stewart's George Bailey is floundering amid self-doubt, but family, neighbours and Clarence the angel come to the rescue in filmmaker Frank Capra's 1946 enduring favourite.



### GODMOTHERED

Novice fairy godmother Eleanor (Jillian Bell) tries to prove her profession is still valid and unexpectedly puts her gifts to work for a widowed mom (Isla Fisher) who has abandoned hope.



### LOVE, LIGHTS, HANUKKAH

Christina (Mia Kirshner) is readying her restaurant for Christmas, with a DNA surprise and unlikely romance on the menu. Ben Savage and Marilu Henner co-star.



### A CHRISTMAS FOR MARY

Rising journalist Lena's (Morgan Dixon) hoped-for promotion and true love may happen, with help from a portrait. Vivica A Fox and Jackee Harry co-star.

## HOLIDAY HARMONY



### Mariah Carey's Magical Christmas Special

Music, dancing and surprise guest stars create a heartwarming journey with the pop star.

### A Holly Dolly Christmas

Dolly Parton sings hymns, holiday pop classics and tunes from her new album, and more.



### My Gift: A Christmas Special From Carrie Underwood

The singer performs tunes from her new holiday album and traditional songs, backed by her band, a choir and an orchestra led by Ricky Minor.



## New Year Special Take Your Kids on Vacation at Home

At the beginning of quarantine, parents tie-dyed like there was no tomorrow. In the quest to keep their children busy, they left no stone unturned. But nine months later, they are over it. And now they're staring



down the barrel of winter break with one question: How on earth are we going to entertain these kids? With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urging against holiday travel, a family vacation is off the table. Unless, you mindfully set about re-creating the best parts of one at home.

## So You Miss Exploring New Countries

You don't need to take a plane to see the world," said Oneika Raymond, a travel and lifestyle expert and correspondent for NBC New York. Instead, pick a day for a virtual trip and put your child in charge of planning. "Let them choose a city to research, then help replicate what they find," she said. "They could say 'OK, we're going to Shanghai; we're going to eat dumplings at this particular place.' Find a recipe for dumplings together and decorate the table like in the restaurant."



## So You Miss Museums and Culture

Dust off that accumulating pile of kids' artwork and hold an exhibition, said Bar Rucci, a graphic designer who runs Art Bar and The Creativity Project. "Cover the walls in kraft paper; tape the art on top, and label each piece with a title," she said. "Use a few rooms so you have 'wings' for different artists or styles, then have the rest of the family stroll the gallery. Or invite masked friends at 10-minute intervals."

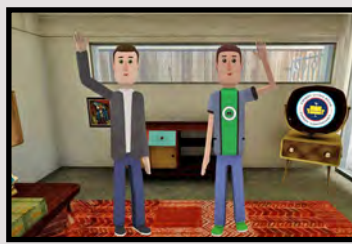


## So You Miss Theme Parks

There's a sense of wonder at Disney World that you can't find anywhere else. If your children have been before, look through pictures together so you know what details to re-create; if they haven't, stick with simple Mickey-themed imagery. Have kids pack a backpack and hand them a Magic Band. You can watch the parade and fireworks on YouTube, as well as "POVs rides" that feel as if you're there in person.



## SO YOU MISS ACTUALLY SEEING YOUR CHILDREN'S FACES

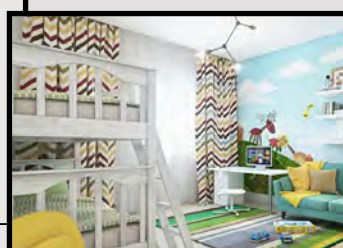


cookies? Do a somersault? Have them make a video showing you how. Kids can also film their own stand-up comedy show or commercial.

Between distance learning and Zoom karate, kids have been heads-down on devices for months. But it's easy to get them on the other side of the screen. What does your kid know how to do really well? Bake

## So You Miss Being Somewhere That Isn't Your House

Things feel fresh on vacation because you're breaking day-to-day monotonous patterns. For preschoolers, a change of scenery can be as simple as pulling the bed out from the wall to create a new space to play, she said.



- Book a spa appointment – in your kitchen, that is – by making a scrub from raw sugar, coconut oil, vanilla extract and lavender essential oils, said Amy Retay, director of spa operations at The Breakers Palm Beach, in Florida, where the Spa Petite caters to guests as young as 6.
- "Children's skin can be sensitive, so put it on hands and feet, not faces," she said.
- And while you're at it, give kids something healthy and nice to eat. And relax.
- "Be relaxed and unplugged," Gumbinner said.

## Collecting Guide ■ 7 things to know about paperweights

The experts at leading auction house Christie's share their advice on what to look out for when buying a paperweight. These overlooked items – from dancing devils to rogue air bubbles – are a treasure according to their specialist Carleigh Queenth...



### Q WHEN DID PAPERWEIGHTS BECOME POPULAR?

A. Glass paperweights first gained popularity in the mid-19th century after being displayed at various expositions, most notably the Great Exhibition of 1851 at London's Crystal Palace. Marvels of artistic skill and also affordable, paperweights soon

became the ultimate desk accessory, bringing flowers and other natural subjects that perished in the winter into the home – there may not have been flowers in the garden, but they could still surround you as you wrote your letters. Collectors during this period included Colette, Oscar Wilde and Empress Eugenie of France.

By the turn of the century, interest had waned, but in the 1950s artists like Paul Ysart and Charles Kaziun sought to rediscover the secrets to making glass weights, paving the way for hyper-realistic paperweight artists like Paul Stankard.

### Q HOW ARE THEY MADE?

A. Incredibly, everything inside the weight is also glass: the flowers, the salamanders,



the insects – everything. Most of the weights in the Neustadter Collection, which was offered at Christie's in 2016, were made either using millefiori canes or lampwork. Millefiori or 'thousand flowers' canes are produced by layering molten glass into a pattern in a fat cylindrical shape, then pulling the cylinder to create an elongated pencil-thin rod. When the rod is sliced, the pattern can be seen in the cross section. Millefiori weights consist of many patterned canes, either

packed closely together or in various other arrangements. Lampwork weights are made by melting small coloured glass rods over a torch or flame and using tools to manipulate the softened glass. Examples of lampwork include butterfly and flower weights and snake weights.

### Q HOW EASY IS IT TO IDENTIFY MAKERS?

A. Nineteenth-century paperweights were made in Venice, England, Bohemia

and the United States, but the real epicentre was in France. The most famous and sought-after examples came from Baccarat, Saint Louis, Clichy and Pantin.

Some weights have tiny canes included that help identify the maker and date. Clichy has an easily identifiable rose cane that they use. The Saint Louis factory is the usual suspect if you see a 'dancing devil' silhouette cane in its compositions.

### Q HOW MUCH IMPORTANT IS CONDITION?

A. When buying a weight, the condition and the size of the glass dome play a big factor for most collectors. Obviously perfect condition is preferable, but often a few scratches, minor bruises or nicks can be forgiven if there is enough glass in the dome.



## Importance of Math in day to day life

**M**athematics makes our life orderly and prevents chaos. Qualities that are nurtured by mathematics are creativity, power of reasoning, spatial thinking, critical thinking, and even effective communication skills.

Mathematics is the cradle of all creations, be it a farmer or a doctor or a scientist or musician or a magician, everyone needs mathematics in their day to day life.

Even in the wild, snails make their shells, spiders design their webs and bees build their combs, there are innumerable examples in nature with mathematical architecture.

A good curriculum of mathematics is helpful in effective teaching and learning of the subject. Experience says learning mathematics can be made easier and enjoyable if our curriculum includes mathematical activities and games. Math puzzles and riddles encourage and attract an alert and open-minded attitude among youngsters and help them develop clarity in their thinking. Emphasis should be laid on development of clear concepts in mathematics in a child, right from his/her primary classes.

Open ended questions should be given by the teacher to the children and encourage them to answer in all possible ways. The greatest hurdle in learning math is continuous practice; many children fail to do it regularly as they develop some phobia about the subject which is to be corrected by the curriculum designers.

Peer learning, which is one of the best ways, can be suggested for better learning of the subject. Mathematics adds rationality to our thoughts, it is a tool in our hands to make our life easier and simpler.

Let us realise and appreciate the beauty of the subject and embrace with all our hearts. Mathematics reveals hidden patterns that help us understand the world around us.

**PASUNURI PREM KUMAR**, Mathematics Department, Delhi Public School, Nacharam

THE EDUCATIONIST



# REDEFINING MATH CONCEPTS CREATIVELY

"Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations or algorithm. It is about understanding."

**Pallavi Aware International School**  
**Saroornagar Campus**

**M**aths is one of the basic sciences of life. Everyone needs mathematics in their day to day life. Therefore, to raise awareness among people about the importance of mathematics, Mathematics Day is celebrated every year.

A special virtual assembly was conducted in Pallavi Aware International School, Saroor Nagar to mark National Mathematics Day.

National Mathematics Day is celebrated on December 22 every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. Students showed a presentation on the life of Ramanujan and recited a poem on Maths.

There was presentation on shapes by the students of class I. An amazing presentation by Adwait on properties of multiplication was followed by a skit on the four basic mathematical operations. A chart was displayed on the properties of shapes, a song on fractions followed



**Pallavi Model School**  
**Bowenpally**

**T**he Indian Mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on December 22, 1887. It was in recognition of his contribution to Mathematics, the Government of India decided to celebrate his birth anniversary as the National Mathematics Day.

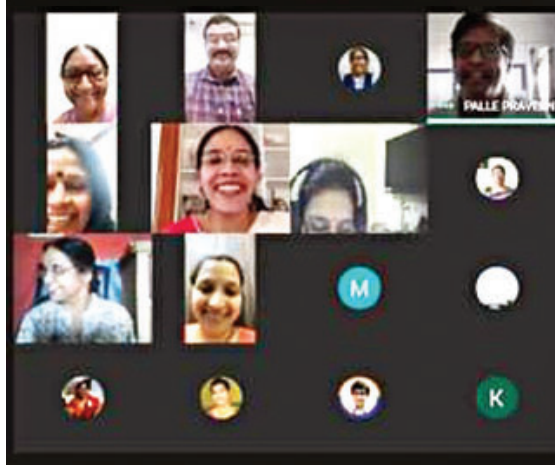
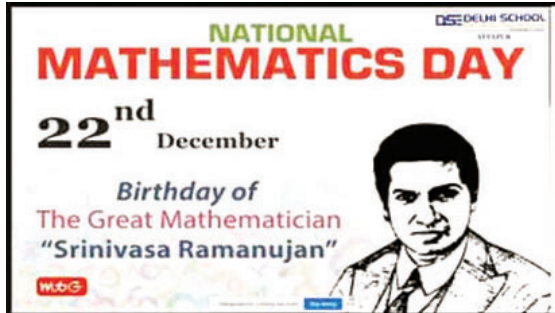
A famous mathematician once said, "Mathematics is the most beautiful and most powerful creation of the human spirit." With an aim to bring awareness on the contribution made by Srinivasa Ramanujan, the students from classes V to VII of Pallavi Model School, Bowenpally celebrated National Mathematics Day virtually.



Children not only participated in a quiz in Mathematics and other activities with great enthusiasm but also learnt the technique to apply the knowledge of the subject in a variety of contexts.

It was a fun-filled day of learning for the students who exhibited unparalleled excitement and actively participated in all activities.

Highlighting the importance of this day, teachers spoke about the fundamentals and applying simple calculation techniques in day to day life and said that 'Although Mathematics is abstract and theoretical knowledge, it emerges from the real world.'



**Delhi School of Excellence**  
**Attapur**

**A** famous mathematician once said, "Mathematics is the most beautiful and most powerful creation of the human spirit." Mathematics can be tough sometimes, so can many things in life. Mathematics is the only subject which shows that problems have solutions. Mathematics can be fun, challenging, hands on and applicable in real life.

To celebrate the spirit of mathematical learning and explore the various mathematical concepts in a creative manner, Math Day was celebrated in Delhi School of Excellence, Attapur. Students showcased their talents in a variety of forms like performing a beautiful Math Dance connected to various angles

and symmetry, math song, poems, by narrating interesting mathematical stories on discovery of theories and many more.

Inspirational speeches were presented by children who donned the role of Srinivasa Ramanujan, Shakuntala Devi and many more world famous mathematicians.

Different activity corners such as puzzles, games and riddles were put up on the occasion. The excitement was at its peak as both students and teachers tested their skills to get to the solution of mathematical problems.

## Express YOURSELF

### Use time in a productive manner during the pandemic

**T**ime once gone cannot come back, hence we must use our free time productively. For the past nine months, most people have not stepped out of their houses. Many feel that it is boring to stay at home. But actually, it is not! These are times where we can learn new skills. Actually, it is the best time to learn new skills. We can learn new things sitting at home, such as Vedic math, knitting, piano, dancing, cooking and what not! Not only learning skills, but we get more



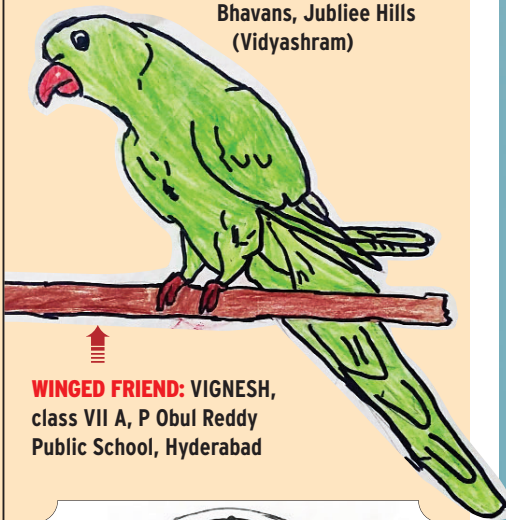
time to revise our school lessons thoroughly. We must take advantage of these times and strengthen our weak points. These times are not meant for wasting or watching television the whole day! I have learnt crocheting, knitting, Japanese, Tamil writing and apart from these, I also go to classes such as dance, piano and music. So, let us all follow these points and use this pandemic time very productively.

**SAHANA**, class VI B, The Global Edge School, Kokapet

### Painters' Gallery



**SANTASTIC: ASRITHA E**, class VI C, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavans, Jubilee Hills (Vidyashram)



**WINGED FRIEND: VIGNESH**, class VII A, P Obul Reddy Public School, Hyderabad



**GIFTS GALORE: M KANISHK**, class I C, Gitanjali Devashray, Hyderabad

**LUCKY CHARM: DEEKSHANI RATHOD**, class VII, The Global Edge School, Vasanth Nagar



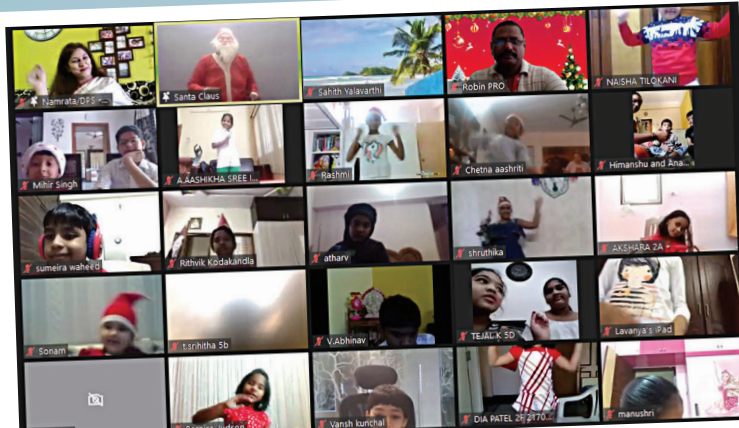
## Christmas Celebrations

**Delhi Public School**  
**Mahendra Hills**

**C**hristmas brings cheer and love. This year the festival was celebrated online to teach the lesson of hope and optimism amidst the pandemic. Delhi Public School, Mahendra Hills (Feeder school of DPS Nacharam) reverberated with the melody of Christmas carols as the school organised a Christmas special assembly.

A play was enacted explaining the importance of the festival which was followed by the rendition of a Christmas song.

Children spoke about the importance of Christmas which once again proved that no one can compete with children in their communication skills. On watching their friends in the play, the little ones could relate to it and understand it better.



The fun element to the assembly was added by Santa when he visited the students and spent some fun moments with them. For the last three days children were involved in different activities related to Christmas. These activities taught them the joy

of celebrating all the festivals with loved ones.

Principal Sunitha Rao and headmistress Neetu Gupta Puri emphasised that having a generous spirit allows one to show how much he or she cares.

**Tejasvi Vidyaranya School**  
**Hyderabad**

**L**ord Jesus Christ was born on December 25, which is celebrated as Christmas across the world. The world celebrates the day by singing carols, distributing gifts, and thanking God for the blessed life.

Christmas is not only about decorating Christmas tree, hanging a star, or feasting on plum cakes. Christmas is about sharing, caring, and loving one another with joyful hearts and minds. It is about thanking God



for having sent his only son to take away our sins. Jesus leads us in the path of goodness and righteousness. The ones who follow him and his path find everlasting peace in life.

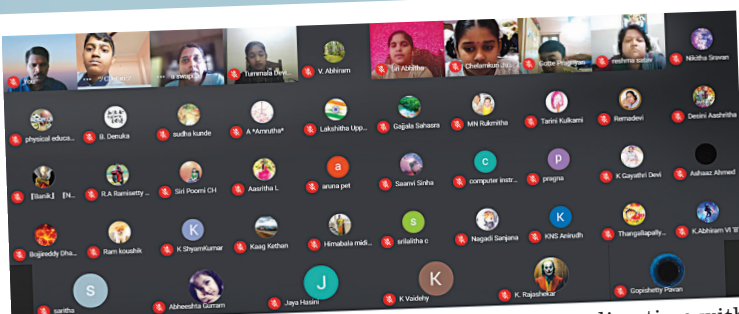
With all that has happened to this world this year due to the pandemic, we need a healing like never before. We hope that this season of love and grace will help us overcome all the negativity in our lives and encourage us to build a new strength to overcome this catastrophe. From the bottom of my heart, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2021.

**B Kriti, class VIII A, Unicent School**  
**Nagole**

**A** special assembly was conducted at Unicent School, Nagole to celebrate Christmas virtually.

The programme started with informing everyone the safety protocols to be taken against Covid-19, by teacher Jyothi. It was followed by a prayer song to invoke the blessings of the almighty.

A pledge was administered to remind us of our duties. The celebrations included a quiz about Christmas. It was followed by a speech about



the birth of Jesus Christ, traditions and customs about Christmas.

The assembly concluded with an interesting talk by teacher Pragna, who was dressed up as Santa Claus and reminded us that Christmas is not only about presents and candies

but also about spending time with our loved ones and being helpful to the poor and needy.

It was indeed true that the warmth of Christmas is felt from the heart and the actions just prove it right!



# RISE OF PACE PRODIGIES

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar has hailed the incredible depth in India's fast bowling department. After losing senior pacer Mohammed Shami for the second Test due to a wrist fracture, the visitors handed a debut to right-arm fast bowler Mohammed Siraj, who impressed straightaway. India bundled out Australia for 195 in their first innings of the ongoing Boxing Day Test after a terrific show from the bowlers

I was eager to bowl my first over, I started warming up in the first session but I had to wait for my chance, I was really confident, after the lunch break I was just trying to bowl dot balls and create pressure. I was trying to bowl wide off the stumps, I set Cameron Green up and I set him up for the in-swing.

**Mohammed Siraj**

## MANY PACERS ARE KNOCKING ON THE DOORS

The bench strength for fast bowling is unbelievable. It may not be the same as far as spinners are concerned but when you look at the amount of talent available in the fast bowling department, it's just mind-boggling.

We've got Navdeep Saini who's pretty quick, bowls around 145 regularly. He's not playing (in Boxing Day Test) as he did not have good warm-up games, maybe that's the reason why Siraj got the nod ahead of him. But he's there, there's Umesh Yadav, and there are lots of other young fast bowlers who are knocking on the doors.

I think it's all the gym work that they do. The upper body strength is good, they are now guided by professionals and that makes a big difference. Today's generation is willing to work and they pride themselves on their looks.

**Sunil Gavaskar, former India captain**

## BUMRAH-LEADER OF THE PACK

Shami and Ishant's absence means that India are without two of the three pace bowlers that helped them win the series in Australia in 2018-19. The two with Jasprit Bumrah had combined to pick 48 of the 70 Australia wickets to fall. Bumrah was the man of the match in the last MCG Test in 2018 when he picked nine wickets for 86. Asked if Bumrah's responsibility will increase, Rahane told the media on Friday, "Jasprit is a quality bowler and has been doing really well for us. But I think apart from Jasprit, Umesh and the guy (Siraj) who will play in place of Shami tomorrow, is also equally talented. Umesh has been doing very well for so many years, it is about bowling in partnerships for all of us." Former India batsman Gautam Gambhir too heaped praise on Bumrah. "You have got someone like Jasprit Bumrah who can probably win a game as well in his five-spell. Other bowlers need to complement him, they should not leak runs."

## INDIA TAKE LEAD IN FIRST 2 TESTS IN AUS FOR 1ST TIME SINCE 1985-86

India took the lead in the first two Tests in Australia for the first time since 1985 when stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane got a boundary through the slip cordon to take the team to 198/5 from 194/5 in the second Test at Melbourne Cricket Ground. A big credit for this milestone goes to the bowlers. Back in 1985-86, India had got a lead in the first Test at Adelaide, making 520 to Australia's 381. In the second Test, India scored 445 against Australia's 262. Both games produced drawn results. In the third Test in Sydney too, India had taken the lead after scoring 600 for four and dismissing the Aussies for 396. That game, however, also ended in a draw.

## Rahane reigns as Indian batsmen banish nightmare 36

Stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane stamped his authority with an unbeaten 104 at Melbourne, driving the tourists to 277 for five before rain brought stumps early. They have a lead of 82 runs to Australia's 195

This is Rahane's eighth Test ton overseas and this is his first hundred as captain of Team India. With this knock, Rahane also became the second Indian batsman to score a century on his first match as captain in Australia. Kohli was the first one to achieve the feat in 2014 when he registered a century in Adelaide. Rahane shared half-century partnerships with Hanuma Vi-hari and Rishabh Pant to rescue India after they were reduced to 64 for three in the first session. India lost two wickets in each of the first two sessions but did not allow any breakthrough to Australia in the final session.

## DETERMINATION AND CLASS

Another great day for us. Proper test cricket at its best. Absolutely top knock from Jinks.

**Virat Kohli**

A captain's Hundred points symbol solid, gritty, and calm just like his personality @ajinkyarahane88 sharp mind in the field setting as well!

@imjadeja looking

great, how good has he become batting lower down the order. Great start for @RealShubmanGill! We are looking good for a decent lead

**Yuvraj Singh**

Brilliant hundred @ajinkyarahane88, determination and class.

**Virender Sehwag**

@ajinkyarahane88 shows Test match batting is about swallowing your ego. Lie low for the first two sessions, show your swagger in the final session. Mumbai ishtyle Test batting. Top effort skipper, kudos! **Mohammad Kaif**

## We could have got Rahane out 4-5 times, says disappointed Starc

Rahane's catch was dropped by Steve Smith and Travis Head off the bowling of Starc and Australia had to pay for the two misses dearly

He (Rahane) has batted really well, could have got him out five times before he got to his hundred, but he has run his luck there and scored a good hundred, well done to him. By the end of today, there are not too many demons in the wicket, it's typical Melbourne, it flattens out, it has become a flat wicket, it has given us a chance to bat really well in the second innings.

**Mitchell Starc**

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### Q1: Who is the current World Chess Champion?

- a) Anish Giri ☐ b) Hikaru Nakamura ☐  
 c) Magnus Carlsen ☐ d) Fabiano Caruana ☐

### Q2: Which batsman holds the record of highest average in ICC Men's World Cup?

- a) Rohit Sharma ☐ b) Ben Stokes ☐  
 c) Andrew Symonds ☐ d) Lance Klusener ☐

### Q3: Name the fielder who has taken the most catches in The Ashes?

- a) Mark Taylor ☐ b) Sir Ian Botham ☐  
 c) Allan Border ☐ d) Greg Chappell ☐

### Q4: India holds the record of second-highest total in ICC Cricket World Cup history. Against which team was this historical record scored?

- a) West Indies ☐ b) Afghanistan ☐  
 c) Bermuda ☐ d) Ireland ☐

### Q5: In the Indian Super League 2019-20, which football clubs lost the most number of matches?

- a) FC Goa ☐ b) Hyderabad FC ☐  
 c) NorthEast United FC ☐ d) Bengaluru FC ☐

### Q6: Three-time defending champion Rafael Nadal has won the French Open continuously since 2017. Whom did he defeat in 2020?

- a) Alexander Zverev ☐ b) Stefanos Tsitsipas ☐  
 c) Dominic Thiem ☐ d) Novak Djokovic ☐



Rafael Nadal

### Q7: United Arab Emirates national cricket team holds the record of the lowest total in Asia Cup T20Is. Against which team did they score this record?

- a) India ☐ b) Bangladesh ☐  
 c) Sri Lanka ☐ d) Oman ☐

### Q8: Which football club won La Liga 2019-20?

- a) Real Madrid ☐ b) Barcelona ☐  
 c) Atletico Madrid ☐ d) Sevilla FC ☐

### Q9: Which Indian chess prodigy is the youngest-ever Indian and second-youngest in history to cross the 2600 Elo rating list?

- a) Praggnanandhaa R ☐  
 b) Pentala Harikrishna ☐  
 c) Vidit Gujrathi ☐ d) Nihal Sarin ☐

### Q10: Who is known as the father of the modern Olympic Games?

- a) Demetrius Vikelas ☐  
 b) Henri de Baillet-Latour ☐  
 c) Baron Pierre de Coubertin ☐  
 d) Juan Antonio Samaranch ☐

### Q11: The top scorer for Liverpool FC in the English Premier League 2019-20 was \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Mohamed Salah ☐ b) Virgil van Dijk ☐  
 c) Roberto Firmino ☐ d) Sadio Mané ☐

**ANSWERS:** 1 c) Magnus Carlsen

2 d) Lance Klusener 3 b) Sir Ian Botham

4 c) Bermuda 5 b) Hyderabad FC

6 d) Novak Djokovic 7 a) India

8 a) Real Madrid 9 a) Praggnanandhaa R

10 c) Baron Pierre de Coubertin

11 a) Mohamed Salah