



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

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► Should you wear a face mask at home?

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► Decoding why India's victory at the MCG is one of the most significant 'away win'

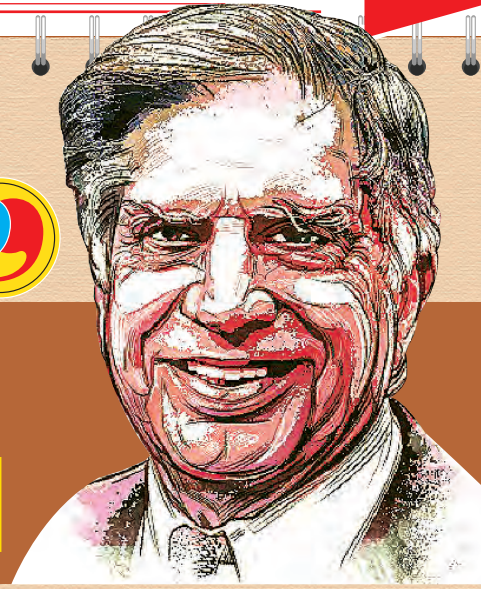
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**STUDENT EDITION**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020


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


We are ultimately one world and we can only win together – that's what this virus has taught us. We will, as countries, have to work hard to boost consumption, bring in infrastructure development to create jobs, and find solutions to revive industries and sectors that are in deep depression. - **RATAN TATA**, chairman emeritus, Tata Sons



## 4 THINGS INDIA NEEDS TO KEEP IN MIND AS IT ENTERS 2021

The year 2020 will go down in history as the most-unprecedented year this planet has ever seen. Business magnate Ratan Tata shares his 4-point guide on how to handle 2021

**1** LET'S NOT TAKE THE UNIVERSE FOR GRANTED: Whether we find an effective vaccine or not, I am hopeful that we will eventually find some cure that will reduce the intensity of the pandemic. But it will be imperative for all of us to learn not to take this pandemic for granted. It calls for true reflection — if we look at what's happening in the UK and Europe, we need to stay on the safe side by wearing our masks and washing our hands, and continuing to adopt solutions that are working for us today.

Gender equality will be critical for progress. Women will rise up but we have to understand, if we have the ecosystem to allow them to flourish

**2** THERE IS A LARGE POWER THAT GOVERNS US. LET'S LEARN TO LIVE WITH HUMILITY AND GRATITUDE, AS LIFE IS UNCERTAIN. We must do our best to keep ourselves safe by co-creating solutions that address all humankind. As we go through the economic cycle, it will be important for us to remind ourselves of the migrant labourers, who paid heavily with the loss of lives and livelihoods during the early days at the start of the pandemic. This is because they had no choice. The one thing they do have, which we as a country must recognise, protect and value, is their skills, which no one else could replace in their absence. If we build an ecosystem that can protect and grow this community based on their skills, we will emerge prosperous as a nation.

**3** TECHNOLOGY IS TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE EAT, LIVE, LEARN AND PLAY — LET US BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO EMBRACE IT AND FIND SOLUTIONS COLLECTIVELY THROUGH COLLABORATION. Innovation and ideas to solve have always been intrinsic to India. However, we just don't have the capacity or intent to fund it from within the country. Most innovators had to look to the West or East for investment or acknowledgement. Dr. Amar Bose, who was renowned for the Bose brand of audio equipment, became a world phenomenon. He used his knowledge and tech expertise to create many solutions for different sectors. For 20 years, he worked hard to create one of the best suspension systems for cars. When most cars find it hard to navigate through Indian road conditions, here was a car invented by Dr. Bose that sailed through with utmost comfort to the passenger. This invention unfortunately never saw the light of day. Many such Amar Boses exist in India. We need to find them, support them and build them to grow into businesses of the future. That's when India will unlock its latent potential. We are on the threshold of innovation through technology. Artificial intelligence, machine learning and other such new-age technologies will change the way we operate today and forever.

**4** To be part of this high world transformation that is happening around us, we need to foster a **CULTURE OF INNOVATION** that converges with the right investment without fear of failure.

Photo: Getty Images

### 2 OF 15 MOST-DESTRUCTIVE 2020 CLIMATE DISASTERS IMPACTED INDIA: REPORT

A new global report in its analysis of 15 most-destructive climate disasters of 2020 has found that **nine of these extreme events, including two in India, caused damage worth at least \$5 billion.** Though hurricanes in the US and central American countries turned out to be the most-expensive (\$41 billion), floods in India during June-October period caused the loss of highest number of human lives.

**ENVIRONMENT**


India's floods, which killed 2,067, caused loss of more human lives than casualties in all other 14 destructive climate disasters put together. Floods in Pakistan, which claimed 410 lives figured at the second spot, followed by the US and central American countries (400 lives lost in hurricanes) at the third position on the list of 15

### Seven-year-old boy is a sensation on UGANDAN AVIATION SCENE

A 7-year-old Ugandan boy has become a sensation in his country with his precocious display of aircraft knowledge and budding flying skills. **Graham Shema** has flown as a trainee three times on a Cessna 172. He flew three times as co-pilot between January and March before the pandemic stopped him from flying. He has since been focusing on aviation theory, and immersing himself in videos about aviation and space exploration on his virtual reality viewer. A lover of math and science, Shema wants to be a pilot and an astronaut and someday travel to Mars.

**YOUNG SENSATION**


Shema recently impressed his instructor at the Uganda's Entebbe International Airport, when he was asked to explain how the engines worked on a Bombardier CRJ9000 plane parked on the tarmac. His curiosity for flight was piqued by a freak incident. When

he was 3 years old, a police helicopter flew so low to the ground that it blew off the roof of his grandmother's house on the outskirts of the Ugandan capital Kampala, while he was playing outside. "It triggered a curiosity on his mind about aeroplanes," said his mother.



### SOLAR ORBITER MAKES ITS FIRST VENUS FLYBY

The joint US-European Solar Orbiter spacecraft has completed its first of the many gravity assist flybys of Venus to get closer to the sun. It also tilted its orbit to observe our star from different perspectives. The probe, launched in February to study the sun, aims to perform unprecedented close-up observations of the sun and investigate the sun-Earth connection.

Initially, the spacecraft, which will be confined to the same plane as the planets, will make its first solar pass at 17 degree of inclination by 2025, increasing to 33 degree by the end of the decade

### CHRISTMAS TREES STAY GREEN BECAUSE OF PHOTOSYNTHETIC SHORTCUT



Scientists have deciphered that a shortcut in the photosynthetic machinery allows the needles of Christmas trees to stay green. According to them, the photosynthetic apparatus is wired in a special way which allows pine needles to stay green all year long. The study was done with pine trees, but the researchers believe that the mechanism is probably similar for other conifer species, like the typical Christmas trees spruces and firs, because their photosynthetic apparatus is similar.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

► In winter, the light energy is absorbed by the green chlorophyll molecules but cannot be utilised by the downstream reactions in the photosynthetic machinery, as freezing temperatures stop most of the biochemical reactions ► In spring, the temp can still be very low, but sunlight is already strong, which can damage the photosynthetic machinery

### VIRAT KOHLI: ICC CRICKETER OF THE DECADE

The Indian captain has grabbed the International Cricket Council's (ICC) top honours for the decade, winning the Sir Garfield Sobers award for the best male cricketer of the decade, beating the likes of R Ashwin, Joe Root, Kumar Sangakkara, Steve Smith, Ab de Villiers and Kane Williamson. The 32-year-old was also named the ODI Cricketer of the Decade. He is the only player with 10,000-plus ODI runs in the ICC Awards period—39 centuries, 48 fifties, 61.83 average and 112 catches, the ICC tweeted.

► Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith and Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan were named the Test Cricketer of the Decade and T20 Cricketer of the Decade, respectively.  
► Australia's Elysse Perry swept the women's awards, securing the ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade honours alongside ODI and T20 Cricketers of the Decade awards



### WORK THAT BAFTA PLANS TO DO IN INDIA FAR BEYOND BOLLYWOOD: AR Rahman

Oscar and Grammy-winning composer AR Rahman said, the work that BAFTA plans to do in India with the Breakthrough Initiative will have a wide impact far beyond Bollywood. "BAFTA and I share the passion for discovering and nurturing new talent and this association with them is a natural fit because of this shared vision," Rahman said. Rahman has been roped in as the ambassador of the BAFTA Breakthrough initiative in India.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

The beauty of Indian cinema lies in the diversity of its various film industries. This initiative will be looking for talent across every corner of the Indian film, games and television industries that we can showcase to the world - **AR RAHMAN**



### COVID-19: OXFORD VACCINE MAY GET NOD IN A FEW DAYS

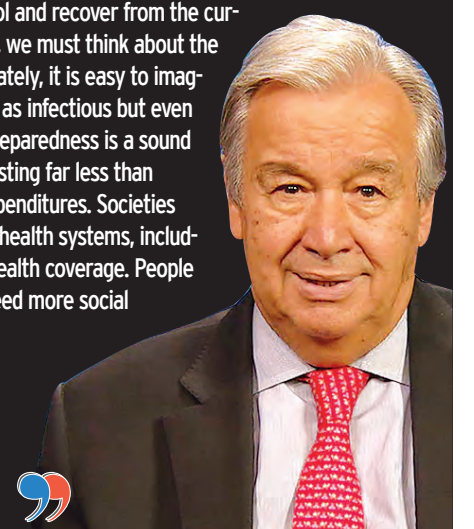
India is likely to see the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine being approved for emergency use in the next few days, as the updated data submitted by Serum Institute of India (SII) appears "satisfactory", top government sources said.

Once evaluation of data is complete, the regulator may not wait for the vaccine to get approval from the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).



The government plans to inoculate around 30 crore "priority" population in the first phase of the vaccination drive that is expected to roll out in the first week of January and end latest by July. This will include healthcare and frontline workers and those at higher risk of infection, such as people over 50 years of age and others below 50 years but with severe comorbidities that can lower immunity and increase chances of death due to Covid-19 infection

History tells us that this will not be the last pandemic, and epidemics are a fact of life. But with investments in public health, supported by an all-of-government, all-of-society, one health approach, we can ensure that our children and their children inherit a safer, more-resilient and a more-sustainable world. As we strive to control and recover from the current pandemic, we must think about the next. Unfortunately, it is easy to imagine a virus just as infectious but even more lethal. Preparedness is a sound investment, costing far less than emergency expenditures. Societies need stronger health systems, including universal health coverage. People and families need more social protection. **ANTONIO GUTERRES**, secretary general, UN

**Quote unquote**

**FACTOID**
**\$16.7 MN**

The box office collection of 'Wonder Woman 1984' over the Christmas weekend— the best box office debut of the pandemic, according to studio estimates Sunday. Last year, 'Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker' exceeded \$32 million on Christmas Day alone. According to data firm Comscore, 35% of North American theatres are currently open



## Plan your stay-at-home NEW YEAR PARTY

With the on-going pandemic and night curfew imposed in several cities, an intimate gathering at home seems like the ideal way to ring in the New Year. Even if it's a small get-together, create a customised e-invite, add some glitz to it and we are set to rock and roll...

**CREATE CURIOSITY**  
Let your friends know that your place is the place to be! Even if it's a small get-together, create a customised e-invite with some fun pictures and creative lines.

**BUILD YOUR MINI HOSPITALITY TEAM**  
Some friends might like to play an active role at the party. Harness this impulse to your advantage and create a mini hospitality team. This idea is great when you have more guests. Give each friend someone to meet or to take care of. Friends who are shy or find it difficult to mingle easily can help prep for the party, clear plates, help you serve, decorate home, or be in charge of distributing props.

**BE A ROCKING DJ**  
An infectious playlist is an express ticket to a stellar party. Start off with tracks you can sing along to. Next, you need some songs that will make you dance. Thirdly, mix in a few mellow tracks - everyone needs a breather and you don't want to spend the entire night singing and dancing your heart out.

PHOTO: BETTY IMAGES

## Children's books adults should read once again

Even if you have read these books as a child, re-reading them from an adult's perspective is a unique experience.

Here are some books you should read:

 <b>MALGUDI DAYS</b> by R.K. Narayan	 <b>THE LITTLE PRINCE</b> by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry	 <b>BLACK BEAUTY</b> by Anne Sewell	 <b>LITTLE WOMEN</b> by Louisa May Alcott
 <b>RUSTY SERIES</b> by Ruskin Bond	 <b>MATILDA</b> by Roald Dahl	 <b>ALICE IN WONDERLAND</b> by Lewis Carroll	 <b>THE JUNGLE</b> by Rudyard Kipling

## Should you wear a FACE MASK at home?



### Mask can cut down the risk of infection by 50%

Living in a pandemic has taught us two great lessons - wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing are the only things that can protect us from the highly contagious coronavirus. Whenever we are outdoors, it is recommended to put on the mask. This can actually help to cut down the risk of infection by almost 50 per cent. But what about when you are at home surrounded by friends and family? Is it equally important to don a mask at home in such circumstances?

That's because you and your family members might have been taking all the necessary precautions to stay safe, but you cannot be sure about every relative or any other person who shows up at your

of infection is high in the closed space, especially in case of poor ventilation. The virus can linger in the air for hours and increase the risk of contagion.

### 2 OTHER TIMES YOU MUST WEAR A MASK

We have entered a season when cold and flu is common in every household. The problem is that the symptoms of cold and flu are overlapping with that of coronavirus. So, to distinguish between them can be quite difficult in the beginning. If you witness any symptoms related to these health concerns and are not sure if it is cold or coronavirus, it is best to wear a mask to protect yourself. It is also recommended to self-isolate for a few days till the time you are not clear what you are dealing with.

### When should you wear a mask?

As per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation any person who is 2 years of age and older should wear a mask in the following situations:

- In public or crowded places.
- Around people who do not live in your household.
- When caring for someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you may have COVID-19.

### Should you wear a mask at home?

Almost a year into the pandemic and we all have come to know that mask really works. When you are outdoors you do not know who is infected with the virus, so the mask acts as a protective shield. But when it comes to meeting your known people indoors, many think that wearing a mask may look like an overkill. In reality, it is not. With the relaxation of the lockdown norms, people have started moving freely and visiting their friends and family, which they have been avoiding. This does not mean that they do not need to worry about the infection. As per experts, you are only safe around people who live with you in the same house and whenever you are meeting others, you must put on your mask.

door. Instead of assuming anything, it is best to take your safety in your hand. It is important to wear a mask when someone who doesn't live with you enters your home. You should even ask the other person politely to do the same.

### 1 WEAR IT WHEN TAKING CARE OF A SICK PERSON

If someone in your home is infected with the coronavirus, even then it is important to wear a mask all the time. They might not be sharing the same space and might be confined in their room, but you must take care on your part. The risk

### CALLING IT A YEAR

## The Artists We Lost in 2020, in Their Words

It's always difficult to lose a favourite actor or a beloved musician. But in 2020, some of those losses were especially painful, brought on by a pandemic that killed hundreds of thousands of people. The artists on this list could help us better understand the time we're living through, or at least help us get through it with a smile



"When I dared to challenge the system that would relegate us to victims and stereotypes with no hopes or talents, when I questioned that method of portrayal, a different path opened up for me, the path to my destiny."  
**Chadwick Boseman, actor**

"I'm horrified at the notion of autobiography because I'm already constructing the lies I'm going to tell."  
**John le Carré, author, born 1931**

"As long as you keep yourself in love with people, you can transcend time."  
**Betty Wright, singer, born 1953**



"No one could have imagined I would be an actor, I was so shy. So thin. But the desire was so intense."  
**Irrfan Khan, actor, born 1967**



"Let others decide whether or not I'm a good writer. I know I'm a good Irish storyteller."  
**Mary Higgins Clark, author, born 1927**

"If I thought a man had never committed a sin in his life, I don't think I'd want to talk with him. A man with flaws is more interesting."  
**Kirk Douglas, actor, born 1916**



"It's crucial to know where the work stops and your life begins."  
**Ann Reinking, dancer, born 1949**

"I don't consider myself an artist. I consider myself a very opinionated man who uses words as fighting tools."  
**Larry Kramer, writer, born 1935**

"If you start thinking of your image, or what the mysterious 'they' out there are thinking of you, you're in a trap. What's important is that you're doing the work that's best for you."  
**Sean Connery, actor, born 1930**



"When that first photograph was taken of Earth from space and you saw this little ball in blackness... I became aware of what I felt I was. I feel very much that a tree is a relative, a cousin. Everything in this world, I find, I'm related to."  
**Luchita Hurtado, artist, born 1920**

### QUIZ TIME

PRAVALLIKA BHAT, class VIII, Baldwin Girls' High School, Bengaluru

**Q.1) The power of a lens is measured in.....**  
A. Dioptre B. Aeon C. Lumen D. Candela

**Q.2) Two flat mirrors are placed at an angle of 60 degrees from each other. How many images will be formed if a candle is placed**

**between them?**  
A. 3 B. 14 C. 5 D. 10

**Q.3) If an egg with its shell is placed in a microwave oven, what among the following would happen?**  
A. The egg will not get warmed B. The egg will get cooked slowly similarly to a boiled egg C.

The egg shell will explode D. The egg shell becomes yellow

**Q.4) Amalgam is a term used for an alloy of which metal?**  
A. Copper B. Mercury C. Lead D. Zinc

### ANSWERS

1. A) Dioptre 2. C) 5 3. C) The egg shell will explode 4. B) Mercury 5. A) Liver

### KNOWLEDGE BANK (NATURE)

#### Atomium

Atomium is an important building in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. This building is around 102 metres tall. This building depicts nine iron atoms in the shape of a sphere. These spheres enclose staircases, escalators, elevators and a restaurant, which gives a panoramic view of Belgium.



Pravallika Bhat, class VIII, Baldwin Girls' High School, Bengaluru

### WORD WISE

**Preposterous:** (adj) contrary to reason or common sense.

**Synonymous words:** outrageous, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, unbelievable.

**Examples:** ■ That is a preposterous idea. ■ This is an

outrageous act of burglary. ■ The incidents are downright absurd.

■ The teacher found the student's answer absolutely ridiculous but could not laugh out loud in the class.

### GRAMMATICAL MISTAKES

#### ASCENT/ASSENT

##### THE RULES:

- **Ascent:** To climb upwards to the summit of a mountain or a hill.
- **Assent:** The expression of approval or agreement.

##### HOW NOT TO DO IT:

- I see no reason to **ascent** to this contract.
- The **assent** of Fuji presents no difficulties.

##### HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY:

- Since this contract is in your favour, I see no reason to **assent** to the terminal.
- The **ascent** of Fuji presents no difficulties.





# JINGLE ALL THE WAY...



**Gitanjali Devshala**  
Hyderabad

Ever since the lockdown started, life has changed for one and all. It also altered the education system and the classes and extra-curricular activities had to move online.

These online classes have helped students adapt many new ways, such as improving their digital skills, browsing and participating in activities online, from assembly prayers to school programmes. Every activity is done virtually. This isn't an easy task as it requires loads of hard work by teachers and students, as well as parents. Some of the big events conducted by the school were annual day celebrations and Christmas.

One could feel the essence of the Christmas season. Stories of the birth and life of Jesus Christ were well narrated and enacted by the students of class VII A at Gitanjali De-

shala. The carols were amazing and the dance performances by students were full of life.

The students of class VII A did a truly marvellous job. Everything was done online and synchronised so well from each student's home, that viewers felt as though they were watching the performance live on a big stage.

Compiling various acts together as one grand performance brought out the beauty of Christmas. Children should always be encouraged to participate in activities that interest them and to explore and learn new skills. Studies are the basic necessity of life, but arts add colour to life.

Christmas was celebrated with much jubilation at Ganges Valley in a special assembly conducted on the festive occasion. The students from classes I-IV participated in the celebrations with great zeal. The students presented an array of interesting programmes. Children sang and danced to Christmas carols and holy hymns.

The students of class IV presented a thought-provoking skit which emphasized the fact that Christmas is more than just Santa, cards, toys or gifts under the Christmas tree.

**Ganges Valley School**  
Hyderabad

The message of the special assembly was loud and clear--- Come, let us embrace the true spirit of Christmas by bringing joy and happiness into someone's life.



Christmas is celebrated every year to recall the birth of Jesus Christ. The first Christmas was celebrated in 336 AD in Rome. It is a religious and cultural festival celebrated worldwide by the Christians. Christ was born at the time when greed, hate and violence were everywhere in the community.

People worship Jesus Christ as the son of the god. People go to the church and offer their prayers to the lord.

They also decorate their homes with lights and Christmas trees. Children decorate this tree with ornaments, tinsels, gifts and wait for Santa Claus to come to

**Niraj Public School**  
Ameerpet

their houses. Christmas carols are charms of this festival which are sung to welcome the festivities of the occasion.

People exchange gifts and enjoy delicacies. This celebration brings a sense of peace, harmony and spirituality among people. Students at Niraj Public School celebrated this festival with enthusiasm.

They decorated their homes, spoke about the importance of Christmas, sung carols and danced.

**Romana Rafeeq, Primary Teacher, Springfield School**  
Tolichowki

This year Christmas was celebrated virtually at Springfield School, Tolichowki with the same fervour and enthusiasm witnessed every year on school campus.

Students sang melodious carols and made posters to wish their teachers and classmates.

To inculcate the spirit of sharing, students distributed Christmas gifts to their friends and siblings. The boundless joy of celebrating the festival was visible on the faces of the children.



## Best part of our lives!

School is a blessing in disguise. In the beginning, when we were tiny tots, we may have felt school is boring as we missed our parents. We came up with new excuses every morning to bunk school.

But don't you think these are the happy memories that will make us laugh when we grow old?

After the primary school, life at school seems to be happy and delightful. But honestly, it's not the school atmosphere changing, rather it's our mind that becomes matured and getting used to the school.

An average person's obvious answer for the question "what's the best part about school?" would be friends.

We all have great funny memories with our

peer group, right? And the best part about the school is we learn many things in life such as values, knowledge, choosing the right things in life, arts and many more.

Extra-curricular activities motivate us as they hone our talent. Auxiliary periods are fun and we take active participation as compared to other subjective classes.

Student life is the best I would say because we are the happiest during that age and we acquire the most knowledge. I think every person on the planet would have a large smile on their face when they recollect their good old memories in school.

**PRAVINYA SKANDA,**  
class IX B,  
Gitanjali Devakul

## Exploring the Magic of Maths

**Gitanjali Devashray**  
Hyderabad

The students from classes I to IX of Gitanjali Devashray presented a virtual Math exhibition, 'NUMERO U KNOW - An Unparalleled Enrichment.' It was about the power and magic of mathematics and the hope it holds out of a solution to every problem.

Children presented short videos based on a range of themes. The students from classes I to III electrified everyone with the way magical integration of math can be noticed and felt in every profession!

The students of class IV presented how math is seamlessly intertwined with sports.

Mathematics is a cradle of all creations without which the world can hardly function. There are countless examples of mathematical patterns in the nature's fabric.

The students of class V and VI spoke about the mathematical order inherent in our universe and that even something as seemingly random as the shape of a tree has an unwritten order.



The students of class VII shared interesting facts about lines on paper and monuments while elucidating the point about how there is an angle to every construction, except the mysterious Bermuda Triangle.

The students of class VIII reflected upon a few appetising beliefs on how important it is for food to be in right ratio and proportion. A cu-

rated approach to the food intake is also a calculated skill of mathematical reasoning.

The students of class IX shared a few relevant and interesting mathematical snippets.

All the students diligently endeavoured to showcase the Magic of Mathematics with the support of their teachers and parents.

## BULLY

You callously weave your words  
do it all in disguise  
your preposterous motives  
you mask it all with sugarcoated lies  
only cowards wear a mask  
why don't you unveil, your identity,  
when you give opinions unasked for  
are you scared under your veil?  
I can see into your eyes straight to your soul  
the envy oozing out of that stone cold (heart)  
maybe keep your undignified opinions to yourself  
otherwise I promise things won't end well  
raise your voice, yet chose to remain hidden  
claim you're right, but it's forbidden  
it baffles me how in that twisted mind of yours  
you see no harm in your actions, but I have a cure  
yes, opinions are valid, and you aren't wrong  
but if misjudged and hurtful I will frown upon  
your words so peculiar they take me by surprise  
I just called you out, now where will you hide?

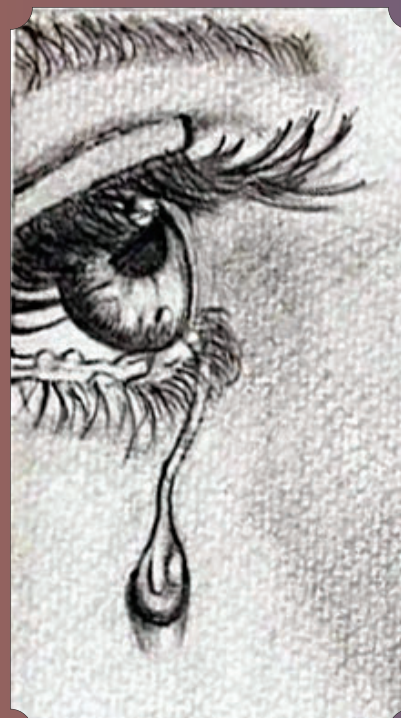


**SANCHITA SANTOSH,** class XII B, Delhi Public School,  
Nacharam, Hyderabad

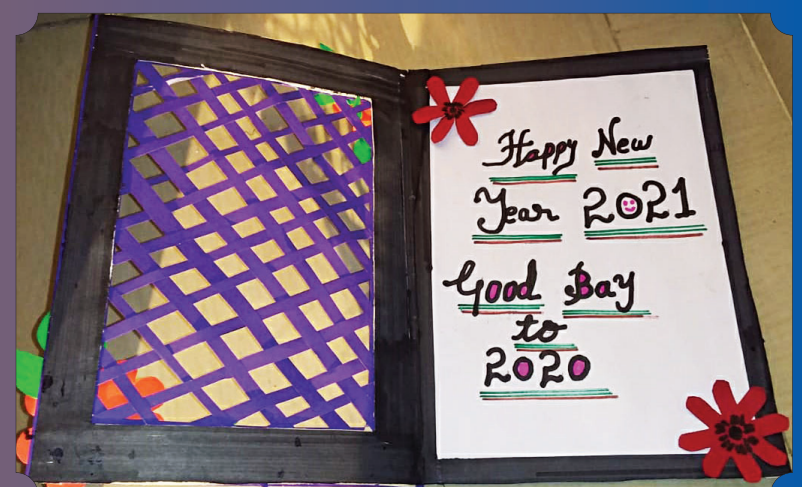
## Painters' Gallery



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



**EXPRESSIVE:** RIDHIMA, class X, Tejasvi Vidyanaya, Hyderabad



**NEW LEAF:** M SREERAM,  
class V, Pudami School,  
Rampally, Hyderabad

**PRECIOUS TIME:**  
AAKANKSHA PANDEY,  
class VII I, Bhavan's  
Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya,  
Sainikpuri

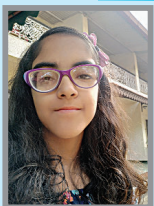


## INDOOR GAMES ON A FUN TRIP

Last year during my summer vacations I went to this amazing place called Mahabaleshwar with my parents. We stayed there in a resort for two weeks. They gave us a beautiful room to stay in.

It had two floors. The first floor had a gallery, a bed and tables. The second floor had a bed.

We had a lot of fun in the resort. There was a game centre which had VR games drawing competitions, bike riding and lots of other games. We took a family pack which included all the games twice. I loved all the games specially the VR games.



Soon it was lunch time so we went to the restaurant. There were a variety of Italian, Chinese and Indian food on the menu. We enjoyed the food as it was amazing. I wish this pandemic gets over soon and I can go to Mahabaleshwar again.

**AALIYAH HUSSAIN,**  
class VI A, The Shri Ram Universal School,  
Hyderabad



## EXPLAINED

# WHY INDIA'S VICTORY AT MELBOURNE IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT 'AWAY WIN' YET

Photo: AP

Rahane, Gill applied the finishing touches to a resounding win at MCG

India staged a once-in-a-generation turnaround to level the four match Test series against Australia 1-1

## WHAT WERE THE ODDS?

- 1 "To win a Test match without Virat, Rohit, Ishant & Shami is terrific," tweeted Sachin Tendulkar. The Indian teams of yore used to lose stomach for a good scrap after humiliating defeats but not this one. It stood out for the manner of its comeback in the absence of a genius called Virat Kohli and a magician in Mohammed Shami. India were already missing Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma.
- 2 Australia captain Tim Paine had nothing to offer as an explanation for why his side could not capitalise on the big absences. "Very disappointed, played poor cricket, sloppy cricket. Let's not take anything away from India, they forced us to make mistakes," he said.
- 3 India were also hamstrung by Umesh Yadav's calf muscle injury mid-match which reduced a five-pronged bowling attack to four men. But in the last three and half days, Rahane, first with his hundred and then with solid leadership, showed what Kohli meant when he spoke about 'New India'.
- 4 Along with skills, it was the mental fortitude that shone through as the team didn't take too much time to bury the ghosts of Adelaide and clear the cobwebs in their minds getting Australia all-out for 195 and 200 in two innings.

## HOW SIGNIFICANT HAS BEEN RAHANE'S CONTRIBUTION?

- 1 For someone whose Test match place was being questioned during the last 18 months, Ajinkya Rahane was certainly 'Captain Cool' in a new avatar, bamboozling the opposition with his tactical acumen and marshalling of resources. On the first day, it was about assessing the moisture on the surface and giving Ashwin a go before debutant Siraj in the first hour of the match, all the while keeping that leg gully in business for Steve Smith. It worked wonderfully well and then he understood pretty quickly that Siraj, with his hit-the-deck bowling, could work wonders with the semi-new or old kookaburra when the seam would flatten.
- 2 On the fourth morning, Rahane, after giving a three-over spell to Bumrah, understood instantly that the old ball is not doing anything and took him off the attack to keep him fresh for the second new ball. It was another great tactical decision as Bumrah bounced Cummins to end the stand that consumed more than 36 overs.
- 3 While batting, he was like that bandmaster, who knew how to conduct his orchestra whether it was young Gill or the seasoned Ravindra Jadeja. Rahane rates his hundred in a winning cause at Lord's six years back as his best effort but for fans, the innings at Melbourne will always be way more precious. 'Jinks' calmness in the dressing room really provided us that stability to go out there and express ourselves in this game," spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said after the match.

## ONE OF THE GREATEST COMEBACKS IN TEST HISTORY

I think this will go down in the annals of Indian cricket, world cricket as one of the 'Great Comebacks' in the history of the game. To be rolled over for 36 and three days later to get up and be ready to punch back was outstanding. I think the boys showed real character.

Ravi Shastri, India coach

## THE AREAS OF CONCERN FOR TEAM INDIA

- Cheteshwar Pujara's form (17 & 3 in second Test)
- Mayank Agarwal's form (0 & 5 in second Test)
- Hanuma Vihari needs more runs (21 in first innings of second Test)
- Going for the kill against tallenders (Aus went from 99/6 to 200)

## GILL AND SIRAJ SHOWED CHARACTER: RAHANE



India skipper Ajinkya Rahane singled out the debutant duo of Shubman Gill and Mohammed Siraj while commending the tremendous character shown by his side to turn it around in the second Test. Gill scored 45 and 35 not out in the game here while Siraj returned with five wickets, including three in Australia's second innings. "I am really proud of all the players. I want to give credit to the debutants Siraj and Gill, the character they showed after the Adelaide loss was great to see," Rahane said at the post match presentation ceremony. Rahane said it is never easy for debutants to be consistently disciplined in their game but Gill and Siraj showed how it is done. m

## JADEJA LENDS BALANCE TO THE TEAM: SHASTRI

Ravindra Jadeja is certainly good enough as a specialist batsman in Test cricket but it is his pure all-round skills that gives the Indian team much-needed balance in the traditional format, feels head coach Ravi Shastri. Jadeja's contribution in India's eight-wicket victory against Australia at the MCG can't be ignored as he scored an important half-century, picked three wickets and also took two catches in his 50th Test. For someone who has 216 Test wickets apart from 1926 runs, Jadeja's restrictive left-arm spin and ability to quickly get through his overs gives respite to the team's fast bowlers. m



## LOTS OF POSITIVES FROM THIS WIN

What a win this is, absolutely amazing effort by the whole team. Couldn't be happier for the boys and specially Jinks, who led the team to victory amazingly. Onwards and upwards from here.  
Virat Kohli, India skipper

Congratulations #TeamIndia! What a victory at Melbourne to level the series. Historic

in every sense. Well played Jadeja, Rahane, Ashwin, Gill, Bumrah and Siraj and everyone in that dressing room for showing such resilience.  
Jay Shah, BCCI secretary

Great win for India. New star on the horizon @RealShubmanGill. Wonderful captain's knock from @ajinkyarahane88 leading from the

front flag of India 4 excellent days of test match cricket.  
Mithali Raj, Indian women's cricketer

A really special win at the MCG. Great Determination and great character. Rahane led from the front, the bowlers were terrific and Gill is chill.  
Virender Sehwag, former India cricketer

Lots of positives from this win. Rahane led the side brilliantly, bowlers were relentless but the biggest positive is the performance of two debutants. Both of them were confident and not overawed by the big occasion. Strength of Indian cricket is their strong bench strength.  
VVS Laxman, former India cricketer



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

**Q1:** Which hoopster was named in the 2019-20 season?

- a) Rudy Gobert ☐ b) Brandon Ingram ☐  
c) Bam Adebayo ☐ d) Luka Doncic ☐

**Q2:** Who won the men's singles title at Wimbledon in 2015?

- a) Novak Djokovic ☐ b) Roger Federer ☐  
c) Andy Murray ☐ d) Rafael Nadal ☐

**Q3:** Which was the first winter sport to be included in the Olympics, in 1908?

- a) Speed skating ☐ b) Figure skating ☐  
c) Curling ☐ d) Ice Hockey ☐

**Q4:** In which year was Abdul-Jabbar elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame?

- a) 1999 ☐ b) 1997 ☐ c) 1993 ☐ d) 1995 ☐

**Q5:** Name the sportswoman who has won the most number of Olympic medals?

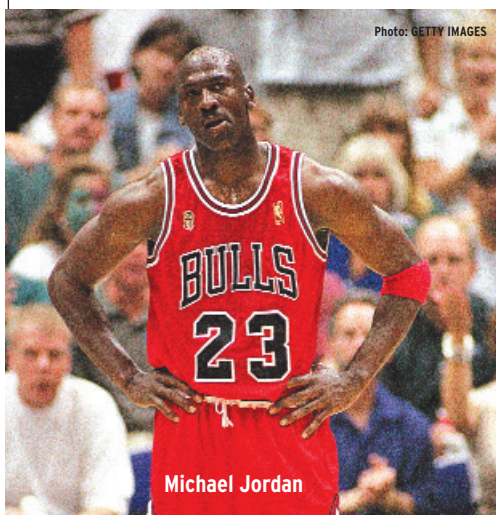
- a) Serena Williams ☐ b) Larisa Latynina ☐  
c) Polina Astakhova ☐ d) Agnes Keleti ☐

**Q6:** Tillakaratne Dilshan has 5 ducks in ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Which other player has as many?

- a) Ashish Nehra ☐ b) Lendl Simmons ☐  
c) Shahid Afridi ☐ d) Kevin O'Brien ☐

**Q7:** Michael Jordan was a member of Olympic gold medal-winning USA basketball teams in which years?

- a) 1982 and 1995 ☐ b) 1986 and 1999 ☐  
c) 1984 and 1992 ☐ d) 1987 and 1997 ☐



**Q8:** She has won four Olympic gold medals, a record 22 singles and 14 doubles titles in Grand Slam events. Who is this player?

- a) Victoria Azarenka ☐ b) Serena Williams ☐  
c) Maria Sharapova ☐ d) Venus Williams ☐

**Q9:** After Lasith Malinga, which players has claimed most wickets in the Indian Premier League?

- a) Amit Mishra ☐ b) Piyush Chawla ☐  
c) Dwayne Bravo ☐ d) Harbhajan Singh ☐

**Q10:** How many Grand Slam titles does Naomi Osaka have under her belt?

- a) One ☐ b) Two ☐ c) Three ☐ d) Four ☐

**Q11:** Which of the following players won NBA Rookie of

the Year Award in the 2018-19 season?

- a) Malcolm Brogdon ☐ b) Damian Lillard ☐  
c) Ben Simmons ☐ d) Luka Doncic ☐

**Q12:** After MS Dhoni, which wicketkeeper has the second-highest dismissals in Indian Premier League?

- a) Dinesh Karthik ☐ b) Parthiv Patel ☐  
c) Wriddhiman Saha ☐ d) Robin Uthappa ☐

**Q13:** Who holds the Guinness World Record of most coach qualifications (multiple sports)?

- a) Gerald Meerschaert ☐ b) Anthony Kelly ☐  
c) Demian Maia ☐ d) Colby Covington ☐

**ANSWERS:** 1- b) Brandon Ingram 2- a) Novak Djokovic 3- b) Figure skating 4- d) 1995 5- b) Larisa Latynina 6- c) Shahid Afridi 7- c) 1984 and 1992 8- b) Serena Williams 9- a) Amit Mishra 10- c) Three 11- d) Luka Doncic 12- a) Dinesh Karthik 13- b) Anthony Kelly