



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

➤ How to get rid of grammatical glitches? Read 'Language Lab' and follow the rules

**PAGE 2**


➤ An educationist speaks about the changing phases of education— from offline to online classes, where the school has become an avenue to explore possibilities

**PAGE 3**


➤ Krejickova, Siniakova win Australian Open women's doubles title

**PAGE 4**

**STUDENT EDITION**
**MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022**

**CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2**

## Centre likely to issue advisory on reopening schools soon: Sources



With the Covid-19 vaccination drive for children aged 15 gathering pace, the Centre is likely to issue an advisory soon to reopen schools across the country. According to sources, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya has asked the National Expert Group to suggest ways and work on modalities to open schools nationwide. "Covid-19 has affected children of all age groups. However, the mortality rate and severity of disease in children are negligible. Health experts believe that it is high time children return to schools," sources said.

**Top sources have also revealed that the Centre wants to reopen schools in a staggered manner and under strict adherence to Covid-19 protocols**

**The countrywide vaccination drive was rolled out on January 16, 2021 and vaccination of all eligible population above 18 years of age started from May 1, 2021. The next phase of Covid-19 vaccination commenced from January 3 for adolescents in the age group of 15-18 years**

**Time to reopen schools? Share your views at [timesnie175@gmail.com](mailto:timesnie175@gmail.com)**

## How government allocates funds

Have you ever wondered why petrol prices are skyrocketing, despite a fall in the global oil prices? Why is the Air Force unable to modernise its fleet of fighter jets? Or, why do you have to pay for the life-saving Covid-19 vaccines? Many of these questions find answers in the government's ability to deliver. However, a major aspect of it is also related to budget allocation. Hence, it is important to understand how the government spends its money. Let's check how the successive governments of India managed its expenses...

### One-fourth of the budget goes to interest payment

Yes, you heard it right. Nearly one-fourth of the government's budget is allocated to paying interest. After paying off interests, the government is left to spend only three-fourths of the total budget on things that matter to you. This severely restricts the government's ability to spend on developmental programmes. The remaining amount is utilised on securing the country's borders, developmental programmes, providing subsidies to people, and transferring money to states. The government pays interest on all its outstanding debt on past borrowings, which haven't yet been paid back.

### Defence pockets highest allocation

The 2021-22 Union Budget allocated over 13% of its total bud-

get to defence. More than half of this sum was assigned to the Indian Armed Forces.

### Over 65% of all subsidies go to food

The Government of India undertakes one of the largest food subsidy programmes in the world. The initiatives have helped the government create an effective social safety net but, at the same time, the initiative has faced criticism because of its contribution to the government's budget deficit. Over 220 million Indians

survive on less than ₹32/day, according to a 2020 study by the World Economic Forum. To meet the needs of these people, a subsidy on food becomes a necessity. Among the various forms of government subsidies, food subsidies constitute nearly 65% of the total. The government also provides subsidies on fertilisers and petroleum products, such as LPG and kerosene. It is provided on loans under various scheme and for procuring agricultural products other than paddy and wheat.

### Where does the rest of the money go?

The payment on interest, defence, subsidies, health, and education consumes nearly 50% of the country's total budget expenditure. The remaining 50% is spent on funds for various ministries and states, paying pensions, paying salaries to its employees, government schemes, the welfare of women, children marginalised communities and development of agriculture and rural areas.


**Trivia**

### How long is the average Union Budget presentation speech?

**1** The duration of Budget speeches has varied over the years.

**2** The Budget presentation can last anywhere from 90 to 120 minutes.

**3** The FM's 2020 Budget speech was the longest in duration in India's independent history as it continued for around two hours and 40 minutes. Even after presenting for 160 minutes, she couldn't finish the last two pages

and had to cut the speech short.

**4** In 2019, Sitharaman spoke for around two hours and 17 minutes, which broke the record of Jaswant Singh's two-hour-and-15-minute-long presentation in 2003.

**5** However, in terms of the number of words, Manmohan Singh delivered the longest Budget speech comprising 18,650 words.

**7** The shortest speech, comprising just 800 words, was presented by HM Patel in 1977 when he delivered the interim Budget.

## APP FOG

From Instagram to Facebook or Whatsapp, most of us have a range of apps installed on our smartphones and there are times we actually get lost in these apps. Now, a new research has revealed the extent to which people are obsessed with their apps. A YouGov survey found that one in four people struggle to keep up with friends because they are using too many apps. The survey of 1,966 smartphone users found that of those who used two apps, 23 per cent experienced app fog.

### WHAT

App fog is a phenomenon caused by confusion when multiple apps are used to message friends. Smartphone users forget who uses which app, and in turn are unable to stay on top of conversations.

### HOW

**IT HAS IMPACTED OUR LIVES:**

■ A YouGov poll found one in three people said they had missed an important event with friends, while one in 10 said

it had caused them to lose touch with a friend or have their relationship negatively impacted

■ Nearly half, 47 per cent, said they would rather use just one messaging app if they could

■ The research found young people's relationships were more affected by app fog than older generations

■ Some 57 per cent of 18-34-year-olds have forgotten to respond to a friend, which significantly decreases for those aged above 55


**X-PLAINED**

Do you suffer from app fog? Share your views at [toiniet175@gmail.com](mailto:toiniet175@gmail.com)

## Object found in the Milky Way sending radio waves every 18 minutes

Australian researchers have discovered a strange spinning object in the Milky Way they say is unlike anything astronomers have ever seen. The object, first spotted by a university student working on his undergraduate thesis, releases a huge burst of radio energy three times every hour. The pulse comes "every 18.18 minutes, like clockwork," said astrophysicist Natasha Hurley-Walker, who led the investigation after the student's discovery, using a telescope in the Western Australian outback, known as the Murchison Widefield Array.



While there are other objects in the universe that switch on and off, such as pulsars, Hurley-Walker said, 18.18 minutes is a frequency that has never been observed before

A pulsar (from pulsating radio source) is a highly magnetised rotating neutron star that emits beams of electromagnetic radiation out of its magnetic poles. The periods of pulsars make them very useful tools for the astronomers



## Taking screen grabs of disappearing messages on Messenger? The sender will soon get an alert



Some are the days when you could freely take screen grabs of disappearing messages on Facebook's Messenger app. Soon, the sender will get an alert as soon as the receiver takes a screenshot of the conversation. To mark Data Privacy Day on Friday, Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg confirmed that the Messenger team is working on a new update that will ensure end-to-end encryption of the chats. The billionaire also informed that Messenger will have new GIFs, stickers, and reactions to encrypted chats.

## 'Dune', 'Licorice Pizza' and 'West Side Story' score high on Hollywood guild nominations



Sci-fi epic 'Dune', coming-of-age drama 'Licorice Pizza' and musical remake 'West Side Story' received major boosts in Hollywood's awards season race, as several of the film industry's top guilds unveiled their nominees. The movies earned nods from Tinseltown's directors', producers' and writers' unions, putting them in contention alongside presumed early Oscars frontrunners 'Belfast' and 'The Power of the Dog', which also secured multiple nominations.

## NASA offers \$1 million for innovative ideas to feed astronauts

NASA will pay up to \$1 million to people who can come up with innovative and sustainable food production ideas to feed astronauts in space, as the US space agency prepares to send astronauts further into the cosmos than ever before.

Giving future explorers the technology to produce nutritious, tasty, and satisfying meals on long-duration space missions will give them the energy required to uncover the great unknown

■ In coordination with the Canadian Space Agency, NASA has launched the 'Deep Space Food Challenge' that calls on teams to design, build, and demonstrate prototypes of food production technologies that provide tangible nutritional products or food

■ Over time, food loses its nutritional value. That means for a multi-year mission to Mars, bringing along pre-packaged food will not meet all the needs for maintaining astronaut health

■ In October 2021, Phase 1 of the challenge culminated as NASA

awarded 18 teams a total of \$450,000 for their concepts for innovative food production technology that produces safe, acceptable, palatable, nutritious food products

■ NASA now invites both new and existing teams to enter Phase 2 for a prize purse up to \$1 million.

■ Proposed technologies such as plant growth systems, manufactured food products, and ready-to-eat solutions combined could provide the future crews with a variety of options that would provide the needed daily nutrition, it added

## Quote unquote



Corruption is like a termite, which makes the country hollow, and there is an urgent need to get rid of corruption.

All countrymen should come together to get rid of it. Today's youth have to do it together, and we have to do it as soon as possible. Therefore, it becomes very important that we give priority to our duties, where there is a sense of duty. Where the duty is supreme, corruption does not exist there

Narendra Modi, PM, on how to work towards a corruption-free India, while addressing the monthly Mann Ki Baat





## TECH TALK



# PODCASTS, THE NEW LANGUAGE TOOL

Whether it is reinforcing your existing language skills, using them to pick up new grammar and vocabulary, or just wanting to learn a new language, the podcast possibilities are endless!

**C**onsider this the evolution of ordering cassette tapes to learn a language. Podcasting is a booming trend in the field of language learning and the reasons for it are plenty...

**Free of Cost:** Probably the best thing about podcasts is that all the benefits and content they bring to your ears is absolutely free of charge at all times.

**Accessible all the time:** The very nature of the fact that you have your phone with you 24/7 means that listening to a podcast is incredibly easy. Whether you are waiting for a bus, lying in bed in the evening, or going for a walk, you can access great language inputs with just a couple of taps on your phone.

**No pressure:** Podcasts don't have to feel like hard work as you're listening to them. They also don't require you to tax your mental capacity too much by memorising words or answering questions. There is no need to plan ahead, you don't need to have a speaking partner, just put your headphones in, press play, and enjoy the show.

**Listening is learning:** In case of learning a foreign language, podcasts give the opportunity to listen to your new language being spoken. As you listen, you'll learn correct pronunciation. You might have thought that podcasts are only good for improving your listening skills. After all, "listening" is what you do to a podcast, right? But it

might surprise you to find out that podcasts can also help improve your speaking skills. One study of students learning Mandarin found how podcasts improved speaking test scores.

**Cultural appreciation:** While the majority of these podcasts are aimed at native speakers of the language, there is

an increasing amount of podcasts aimed at language learners. These podcasts will often be spoken at a slower speed, using less complicated vocabulary. Many will come with transcripts, so you can follow along. Podcasts that feature native speakers help students improve their listening skills and gain cultural knowledge.

## HOW TO USE LANGUAGE PODCASTS EFFICIENTLY

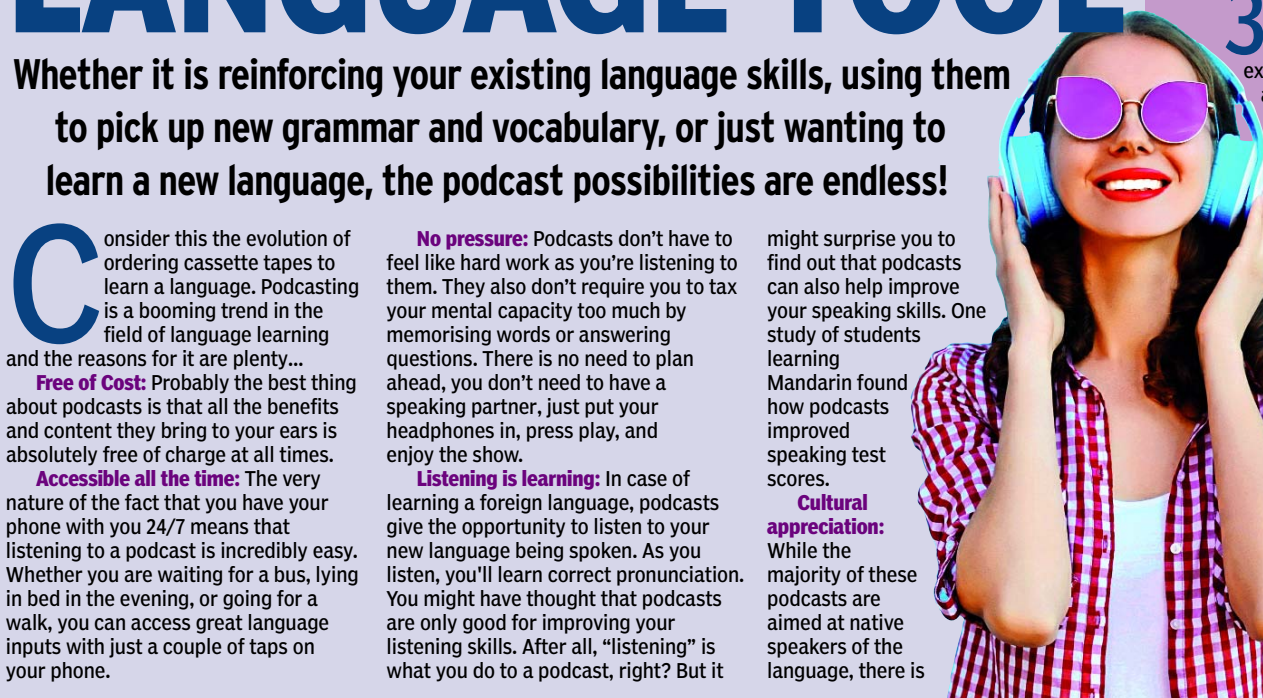


**1 Pick the right one:** Podcasts may target beginning, intermediate or advanced students. Selecting a podcast that's the right level for you will help ensure the podcast helps you grow without overwhelming you.

**2 Learn from peers:** Following, reading and listening to podcast reviews from previous language learners is also a great strategy to help you locate the best of the best when it comes to pod-resources.

**3 Use for travel:** When travelling to a different country, learning simple expressions and being able to understand them in conversation is important. There are plenty of podcasts out there that offer shorter lessons for ease of learning.

**4 Take notes:** If you are able, take notes while you are listening. This isn't a crucial step, but noting down interesting expressions can be useful if you're trying to also build up your own set of vocabulary or sentence structures.



## MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

## MOST COMMON GRAMMAR GLITCHES

### 1. EVERYDAY/EVERY DAY

"Everyday" (one word, no space) is an adjective describing something that's very common, like an everyday occurrence. "Every day" (with the space) is an adverbial phrase that means each day.

### 2. ITS/IT'S

We've seen a lot of people write "it's" when they want to show possession. But that's the incorrect usage! It's a contraction, meaning a shorter or "contracted" form of "it is" or "it has." (Example: It's going to rain.) It's is a possessive pronoun meaning, "belonging to it," or a "quality of it".

### 3. LOSE/LOOSE

This is a pair of so-called "confusables" that have only one letter differentiating them – that extra "o" in loose. Just remember that "loose" is almost always used as an adjective meaning "not tight," and "lose" is a verb meaning to suffer a loss.

### 4. YOUR/YOU'RE

Here's another one that auto-correct often doesn't catch because it's spelled right even if it's grammatically wrong. But be careful! "You're" is a



contraction, only used to mean "you are." "Your" is a possessive of "you," used when you want to show possession. Remember this: You're going to be just fine if you watch your grammar.

You use "since" if you have to calculate the period of time, because you only have the starting point. (Example: I have lived here since 1975.)

### 6. LESS VS FEWER

There's a commonly repeated rule about fewer and less. It goes like this: fewer is used to refer to number among things that are counted, as in "fewer choices" and "fewer problems"; less is used to refer to quantity or amount among things that are measured, as in "less time" and "less effort." The use of less to modify ordinary plural count nouns (as in "made less mistakes") is pretty rare in writing and is usually better avoided, though it does occur frequently in speech.

### 5. SINCE OR FOR

You use "for" if you don't have to calculate the period of time, because the amount of time is indicated in the sentence already. (Example: "I have lived here for two months")



## MANNER OF SPEAKING

## POWERFUL SPEAKING LESSONS FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST ORATORS

PICS: ISTOCK



### Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first inaugural address

**Takeaway:** Inspire your audience. Roosevelt's belief that the "nation will endure as it has endured" spoke directly to the hearts of a country ready to have hope again.



### Martin Luther King, Jr's "I Have a Dream" speech

**Takeaway:** Give your audience a vision to embrace. Less than a year later, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was law.



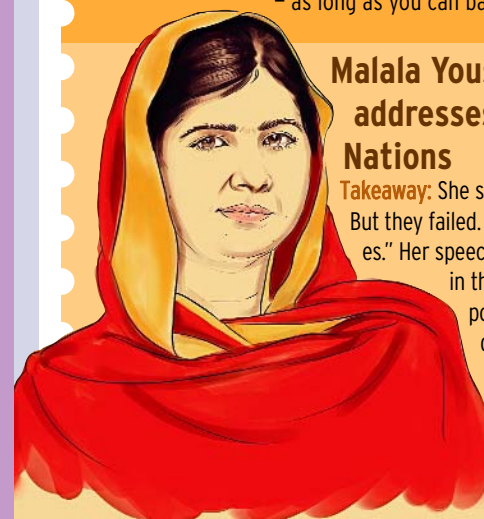
### Neil Armstrong at the first lunar landing

**Takeaway:** His statement, "The Eagle has landed," became part of the American vernacular. Sometimes simple does the trick. Armstrong didn't need hyperbole to encapsulate the gravity of this iconic moment in space history.



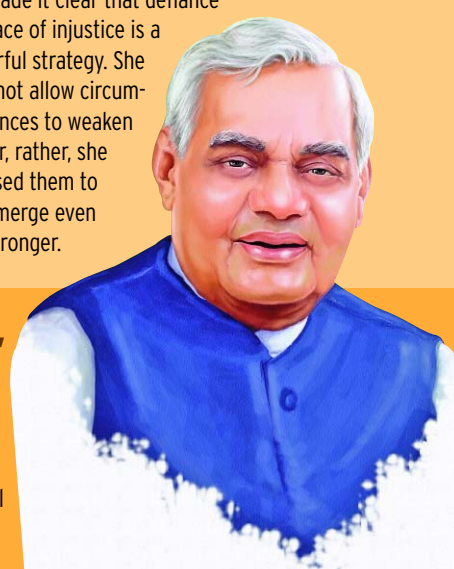
### Muhammad Ali's "I am the greatest" proclamation

**Takeaway:** Don't be afraid to be loud, boisterous, and proud – as long as you can back it up.



### Malala Yousafzai addresses the United Nations

**Takeaway:** She said: "They thought that the bullets would silence us. But they failed. And then, out of that silence came thousands of voices." Her speech made it clear that defiance in the face of injustice is a powerful strategy. She did not allow circumstances to weaken her, rather, she used them to emerge even stronger.



### Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Srinagar, April 2003

**Takeaway:** Vajpayee's famous words, "Insaaniyat ke daayre mein," were part of a large-hearted speech that changed diplomatic dialogue in Kashmir. Vajpayee declared that "all issues can be resolved through talks".

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

## SIMILE, METAPHOR AND ANALOGY

**M**etaphors, similes, and analogies are three literary devices used in speech and writing to make comparisons. Each is used in a different way. Identifying the three can get a little tricky sometimes: for example, when it comes to simile vs metaphor, a simile is actually a sub-category of metaphor, which means all similes are metaphors, but not all metaphors are similes. Understanding this difference – and knowing how to use both – can be a jewel in the crown of your writing, making your descriptions and comparisons more colourful and engaging.

### SIMILE

While both similes and metaphors are used to make comparisons, the difference between similes and metaphors comes down to a word. Similes use the words 'like' or 'as' to compare things —

"Life is like a box of chocolates." In contrast, metaphors directly state a comparison — "Love is a battlefield." When it comes to simile use in writing, a good rule of thumb is to approach with caution and use similes sparingly.

### METAPHOR

A metaphor is a figure of speech that directly compares one thing to another for rhetorical effect. One of the most famous examples of metaphor in the English language also happens to be a great example of this technique.

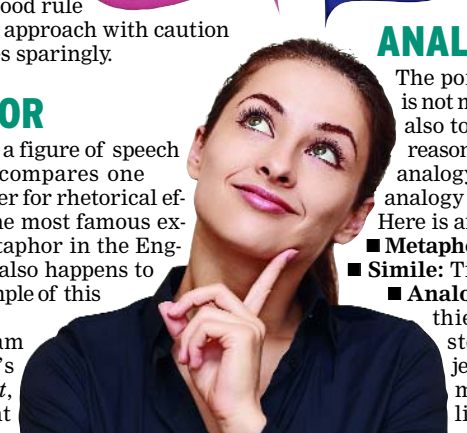
In William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, the playwright



writes: "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players."

### ANALOGY

The point of an analogy is not merely to show, but also to explain. For this reason, when it comes to analogy vs metaphor, an analogy is more complex. Here is an example:  
■ **Metaphor:** Time is a thief.  
■ **Simile:** Time is like a thief.  
■ **Analogy:** Time is like a thief in that thieves steal physical objects and time steals moments of our lives.



## WORDMAP

## The Italian village that doesn't speak Italian

**N**icknamed the 'Little Provence' of Italy, San Carlo Lucio de Coumboscuro is an isolated town in almost every way. Located near the border between the Piedmont region of Italy and France, visitors must either fly into Turin, take a train and then a bus, or drive south from Provence to get there.

Those who make the trip here would be forgiven for wondering if they are in the right country, particularly when the locals say goodbye with the unknown "arveire" instead of "arrivederci". The official language of the

Coumboscuro is Provençal, an ancient Neo-Latin medieval dialect of Occitan, the language spoken in the Occitanie region of France.

Electricity often goes out for weeks during the winter, while internet connection here is minimal.

But the town's tranquil mountain meadows and bright purple lavender fields are ideal for visitors seeking an unplugged retreat, as are the stunning views from its alpine peaks, stretching all the way to the Côte d'Azur.

The area of the Piedmont region where Coumboscuro is located passed between Italian and French rule several times in history. This explains why the locals feel neither Italian nor French, just Provençal.  
— [TheWingsOfWisdom.com](https://www.thewingsofwisdom.com)

## Queries relating to language skills

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve your communication skills? Times NIE is here to help you master the intricacies of the English language. Just shoot us your queries on [toinie75@gmail.com](mailto:toinie75@gmail.com)





## Setting clear & realistic goals

In the era of transformation of education, it is crucial for the schools to build a sense of community and create a positive relationship which lead to better student engagement and foster a conducive school environment to prevent alienation and set them up for success in life.

The Student Advisory Programme resonates with this mission. It addresses students' academic and career goals besides supporting their personal and social needs by encouraging personal inquiry and growth, social responsibility, and academic excellence so that students can take purposeful actions towards creating a better future.

Divergent perspectives are provided to students through various activities such as Career Genogram. The genogram builds a channel of communication between students, parents, and the extended family members about career-related events and thoughts. This helps them to get more clarity on career

**'Education is learning to grow, learning what to grow toward, learning what is good and bad, learning what is desirable and undesirable, learning what to choose and what not to choose.'** Abraham Maslow

options and helps them set goals and aspirations.

Through Goal Setting activity, students work on their strengths and areas of improvement. Personal Brand and Vision Board is another interesting activity, which help students to examine their personal strengths along with character competence. They create an initial success plan through personal brand by designing a vision board.

These activities also include intense brainstorming sessions on questions like 'Is leadership a choice or a position?' or 'How can you combine your passion with your expertise?'

Decision-making activity helps stu-



dents to understand the process of making decisions and encourages the acceptance of personal responsibility for consequences through POOCH which is Problem, Option, Outcome and Choices. As a part of this activity, students analyse problems and brainstorm viable solutions to take the final decision by evaluating options and consequences.

Activities such as 'Emotion Body Map', 'Be the fog', 'The Nice No', 'Emotional charades' help students to be aware of, regulate and modulate their emotions in difficult situations and understand boundaries.

Students learn financial literacy through modules on consumer awareness, art of budgeting and the influence of advertisements.

Forging the Future - Career Fair focuses on career clusters and career planning methods and strategies, guest lectures by individuals from varied fields. The student advisory newsletter also provides bite-sized information on the world of work.

These activities provide facilitators a window into how students think and to connect the world of work with the world of learning.

**SHWETA VAZE**, Senior Academic Coordinator, The Shri Ram Universal School, Hyderabad

## THE ERA OF BLENDED LEARNING

Covid 19 has dealt a big blow to every person in this universe. It has affected all areas in our lives -- our career, business and education.

Now, gradually every sector is recovering from the terrible impact. Learning and teaching process changed drastically and broke the stereotype of offline learning. It opened the doors of online education. Students of all ages are getting used to this new chapter in their lives.

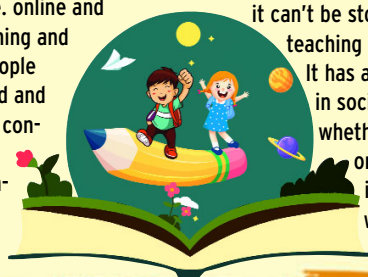
It is the era of blended teaching, i.e. online and offline teaching and learning. People who rejected and avoided the concept of online teaching, now



**G V MOTEWAR**, English Facilitator, Delhi World School, Shadnagar

know about its positive side. People are now very much positive towards blended learning and teaching process. Teachers, to develop a new strategy over online teaching, they are learning new concepts in advance technology and its usage. Learning is the endless process

it can't be stopped and teaching is a noble task. It has a great respect in society. So whether it is online or offline, teaching and learning will continue.



# Express YOURSELF

## Book reading, a life-changing experience

I was typically a person who would never read a single page of a book. Well, until now. I would wonder how people would read and find it interesting to read books. Now, I understand as I have experienced the joy of reading.

I now realise how a book can even change someone i.e. change in any way, be it a change in behaviour, a change in looking at things differently or having a different perception altogether.

Yes it has changed me as well. Maybe I was waiting to feel a sense of pride in myself. Now I feel happy reading books and it has even inspired the writer in me.

I feel self-appreciation these days is crucial. It has to be taught, explained and should be experienced by everyone. It works and encourages us to do something



really great.

And, the great thing was, when I started reading a book!

Surprisingly, I got involved so much that I could read continuously and complete the chapters which are short stories and very interesting. The book was "Wise and Otherwise: A Salute to Life" by Sudha Murthy. The book has been a life changing

experience for me.

If only I had experienced this two years back, I would have avoided some unfortunate incidents. I finally understood that book reading is a great opportunity and no one should miss it.

I need to really thank my mother who is responsible for the experience I am currently enjoying. There

were many suggestions made to me before as well, but I ignored them, maybe due to lack of interest or because I was too lazy to put an effort.

It happened accidentally when I saw a picture with some lines from a chapter in that book. "Who is right" was the chapter's name and after reading it, I definitely wanted to read the entire book.

I totally got involved in reading that book unknowingly. It was simple English, very well explained and no thoughts imposed, just shared what was self-experienced.

Then I realised this is what I was looking for, a good start which is simple and non-fictional.

**EESHA CHANDRIKA**, class V, Cuba, Silver Oaks International School, Mighty Oaks Campus, Hyderabad

## Painters' Gallery



**MOSAIC: MADADI AKSHAYA REDDY**, class VII-B, P Obul Reddy Public School, Hyderabad



**ALERT: FARIAA TAHER ALI**, class X-A, Springfields International School, Bandlaguda



## SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY!



Indian women are carving a niche for themselves in all spheres of life, but a majority are still relegated to the kitchen, face mental and physical abuse and are severely malnourished.

I envision an India where all women are FREE.

Free to make unfettered choices, Free to walk alone without fear  
Free to live a life on her own terms without being judged, scrutinized or objectified.  
Free from violence and toxic patriarchy.

I envision an India where women are enabled, equipped and empowered with quality education, good nutrition, confidence and a level playing field to excel because I believe that we already have the wings, all we need is an open sky to fly. I visualise an India where the mind is without fear and the head is held high.

**NANDINI MEHRA**, class X, Army Public School, Golconda

## 'WANDERERS NEVER GET LOST'

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood.... I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference"

These are awe inspiring lines penned by Robert Frost. His poetry has simple yet intriguing words which we are taken in by. The lines elucidate that the path one chooses in life defines them as an individual.

Teenagers are usually baffled by the plethora of options presented to them. They get confused on what to choose and why. That is why knowing how to analyse and comprehending the direction in life are of paramount importance. To get the best, we must leave no stone unturned. This can be done by experiencing the options or by taking guidance from wise folks.

If you find yourself lost, just ask

someone. There will always be people who will help you, but walking to your destiny, is your job.

Having direction allows you to maintain mental resilience during transitions by facilitating a sense of underlying purpose. If you feel that, there is no place that you belong to, do not worry, make your own rational path but if you love exploring just be aware that wanderers never get lost. Everyone has their own purpose in life.

You might have not yet discovered it but it's there. Don't

falter, just try your best to push through. Before knowing your purpose, know your worth. Remember that you are as important as anyone else. Just have self-confidence and self-belief and to your surprise everything will start becoming easy and fun.

Secondly, following your passion will lead you to your purpose. Spend some time evaluating yourself and then in no time you will know your likes, dislikes, strengths and weaknesses that will open all doors to opportunities. To sum up, finding your purpose in life will mould and shape your goals, aims and character. The earlier you realise it the better it is for you.

**NUHA FARRUQ KALEEM**, class IX-A, UNICENT School, Nagole



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# KREJCIKOVA, SINIAKOVA WIN WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Top-ranked Czech pair, partners since junior days, were made to struggle by unseeded opponents before they snatched the Australian Open doubles title



Katerina Siniakova and Barbora Krejckikova

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

**T**op-ranked Barbora Krejckikova and Katerina Siniakova took another major step in a partnership which began in junior ranks when they won the Australian Open women's doubles 6-7 (3), 6-4, 6-4 Sunday from unseeded Anna Danilina and Beatriz Haddad Maia. The Czech pair claimed their first Australian Open title.

## TOP SEEDS STRETCHED

The top seeds were fully stretched by Danilina of Kazakhstan and Haddad Maia of Brazil who put together their partnership less than a month ago and were unbeaten in nine matches before Sunday. They won the Sydney Classic doubles title before tackling their first Grand Slam tournament together. Danilina and Haddad Maia became the first pair to take a set from Krejckikova and Siniakova in Melbourne and kept the final alive for 2 hours and 42 minutes before finally succumbing. Krejckikova and Siniakova's well-honed partnership was scratchy at

times Sunday before experience pulled them through. Siniakova was more active in the first two sets while Krejckikova seemed unusually stuck on the baseline and less mobile than usual at the net. Krejckikova stepped up in the final set and produced many of the key points, hitting strongly through the middle of the court while Siniakova crossed over at the net for clutch volleys.

Siniakova had served for the match at 5-2 in the third set but Danilina and Haddad Maia, not to be denied, broke her serve. Haddad Maia held serve in front of cheering fans waving Brazil flags before Krejckikova clinched the win on serve. "You guys have played two great tournaments and I hope you're going to continue together and I hope we're going to have more fights like this because it's a real pleasure to share a court with you," Krejckikova said court-side.

"You're really amazing. I want also want to thank my partner for playing with me for a very, very long time. I'm so happy we are still working so well together and our co-operation is only going up so I'm really happy with that and I'm looking forward to the next adventure." Siniakova thanked Krejckikova for her support through recent difficult times. "Thank you for pushing me hard and for helping me and just being on my side on the court," she said.

## CHASING TITLES

- The Czech pair of Barbora Krejckikova and Katerina Siniakova, having won their first Australian Open title, after losing in last year's final, are chasing their fourth Grand Slam doubles title, their first on a hard court.
- They won the French Open in 2018 and 2021 and Wimbledon in 2018.
- They are also Olympic champions.

## EARLY ADVANTAGE

The top seeds fell behind in the first set when Siniakova's serve was broken in the third game. They leveled, breaking Danilina in the eighth game and Siniakova and Danilina both lost their serves again before the set went to a tiebreak. Danilina and Haddad Maia won the first six points on the tiebreak and held on comfortably to take the set. Haddad Maia dropped



Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil and Anna Danilina of Kazakhstan

Photo: GETTY IMAGES

serve in the opening game of the second set and Krejckikova and Siniakova held that advantage to level the match. They also broke Haddad Maia for an early advantage in the deciding set before their unseeded rivals fought back to extend the match.

Haddad Maia already had experienced a finals loss against Krejckikova and Siniakova, losing to the pair in the finals of the French Open juniors. "We weren't supposed to play together again this week," she said, addressing Danilina. "I think we played our best in all the matches. I think we had eight matches in the third set so we gave everything and I'm very proud to learn with you. "Congratulations to Barbora and Katarina. I played you 10 years ago in the Roland Garros juniors finals and I lost also. But you guys are doing nice work all these years."

Danilina was a star at the University of Florida, winning an NCAA title with the Florida Gators before graduating with an economics degree in 2018. AP

# ENG MISS RECORD TARGET

Thrilling Ashes draw sees Australian women fight back from brink of defeat to draw

**E**ngland fell agonisingly short of a record target in test cricket after Australia staged a remarkable fight-back to draw the one-off women's Ashes test at Canberra's Manuka Oval on Sunday and take a 6-4 lead in the multi-format series.

Set 257 to win in 48 overs, the visitors had looked on their way to a famous victory on the back of a devastating 52-run stand between Natalie Sciver (58) and Sophia Dunkley (45) before late strikes from Australia meant they finished on 245-9. The chase would have needed them to beat the previous best of 198 set by Australia more than a decade ago.

## Unexpected turn

On a final day that had its share of twists, England lost six wickets for 27 runs after Annabel Sutherland (3-69) and Alana King (2-39) turned the match in Australia's favour with half an hour to go. "Brilliant test match and I thoroughly enjoyed it," said England captain Heather Knight, who was named Player of the Match for her knocks of 168 not out and 48. "I don't think it deserves a draw in the end, does



Alana King

it? But delighted the way the girls fought and it is really pleasing. Not too bad, my left glute is a bit sore and trying to get a stride in. I feel alright and bowling is hardest thing in Test match cricket and some of our bowlers gave it a real shift and 3 days before the ODI stuff starts and have to recovery pretty well," Knight said after the game.

Knight scored 216 runs in the Test, including an unbeaten 168-run knock in the first innings. She was adjudged as Player of the Match. Katherine Brunt took eight wickets.

## Great turnaround

Australia earlier declared on 216-7 after resuming day four on 12-2, with Beth Mooney top-scoring with 63 and Ellyse Perry (41) and Ashleigh Gardner (38) making crucial contributions. Australian skipper Meg Lanning said: "I still didn't know what happened in the last hour. We declared wanting to take those 10 wickets. Obviously, England batted really well but proud of the way we got back into the game taking wickets."

The two sides next play a three-match one-day international series, which starts in Canberra on Thursday. England need to win all three games to regain the Ashes. AGENCIES

Probably an opportunity missed, but I think we will fret on it and we will look back and think what a game to be involved in and the fact that we went toe-to-toe with the Aussies, and obviously with the series still alive, pretty pleased.

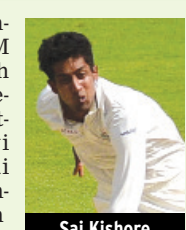
England captain **HEATHER KNIGHT**

# SHAHRUKH KHAN, R SAI KISHORE NAMED RESERVES FOR WINDIES SERIES

**R**ising T20 sensation M Shaikh Khan and his state-mate, orthodox left-arm spinner Ravi Srinivas Sai Kishore, will be joining the Indian white-ball team as stand-by players for the upcoming six-match series against the West Indies.

Both Shaikh Khan and Sai Kishore played a huge part in Tamil Nadu's victorious campaign and their call-up is more of a precautionary measure in COVID-19 times when there is every possibility of a player from the main squad testing positive.

The limited overs series starts in Ahmedabad with a three-match ODI rubber fol-



Sai Kishore



M Shaikh Khan

lowed by three T20 Internationals in Kolkata. For Sai Kishore, this is the second opportunity in an Indian team set-up after he was part of the net bowlers' group during a tour of Sri Lanka under Rahul Dravid last year.

Shaikh Khan, who was in contention to make it to the main squad, has been in the news this season for scoring runs at critical stages, including a last ball six against Karnataka, to win the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy final.

While they might have to wait for their turn, they can fancy an opportunity when the big guns are rested as the season progresses. PTI

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** Euro Cup is related to which sports?

- Badminton
- Football
- Table Tennis
- Hockey

**Q2:** Who among the following is first Indian to win an individual gold medal at any Olympic Games?

- Abhinav Bindra
- Muhammad Aslam
- Rajyavardhan Singh Rathode
- Mohammed Shahid

**Q3:** What is the highest ever IPL score by a single batsman?

- 130
- 175
- 122
- 200

**Q4:** Where were the Commonwealth Games first held?

- Hamilton
- Bath
- Ayer
- Manchester

**Q5:** Ashleigh Barty ended a 44-year wait to become

the first Australian player to win the women's singles AO title since 1978. Whom did she defeat

- Osaka Naomi
- Danielle Collins
- Jessica Pegula
- Madison Keys



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

**Q6:** Which is the highest sports award given to athletes who have excelled in their sport?

- Olympic Cup
- Olympic Laurel
- IOC President's Trophy
- Olympic Town

**Q7:** Which country hosted the 2019 Kabaddi World Cup?

- Thailand
- South Korea
- Malaysia
- India

**Q8:** Which of the following is also known as "Rink hockey"?

- Roller Hockey
- Field Hockey
- Ice Hockey
- Sledge Hockey

**Q9:** Which country won the 2019 Men's Roller Hockey World Cup?

- Malaysia
- Portugal
- Spain
- France

**ANSWERS:** 1. b Football  
2. a Abhinav Bindra 3. b 175  
4. a Hamilton 5. b Danielle Collins  
6. c IOC President's Trophy 7. a Thailand  
8. a Roller Hockey 9. c Spain