



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

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**STUDENT EDITION**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022



Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. It is the second-largest country by area in Europe after Russia, which it borders to the east and north-east

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**73rd REPUBLIC DAY**


## India displays its military might and culture

India celebrated the Republic Day on Wednesday with the iconic parade at Delhi's Rajpath, showcasing its military prowess and cultural pageantry. PM Narendra Modi paid homage to the departed soldiers at the newly-built National War Memorial. The parade witnessed many firsts, including India's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot, Shivangi Singh, as part of the Indian Air Force

tableau. The parade also featured its biggest-yet fly-past, with 75 aircraft from all three services on display. The Army's marching contingents displayed evolution of uniforms, rifles since independence. Meanwhile, swachhagrah, frontline workers, auto rickshaw drivers, construction workers and labourers, who prepared the majestic tableaux were also among the guests invited this year to the parade.



## RUSSIA-UKRAINE CRISIS

The United States and NATO have described the movements and concentrations of troops in and around Ukraine as "unusual." As many as 100,000 Russian troops have remained amassed at the Ukrainian border, despite warnings from the US President Joe Biden and European leaders of serious consequences, should Putin move ahead with an invasion...

**WHAT?** Russia has now deployed more than 127,000 troops near Ukraine, including some 21,000 air and sea personnel, transferred more-operational-tactical missiles to the border, and increased its intelligence activity against the country. The assessment came after three rounds of diplomatic talks, between Russia and the West aimed at de-escalating the crisis, failed to produce a resolution. The US officials have said a Russian invasion of Ukraine could happen at any point in the next month or two.

### HOW BIG IS THE RISK OF INVASION?

Russia says it has no plans to attack Ukraine. But tensions are high and President Vladimir Putin has threatened "appropriate retaliatory military-technical measures" if what he calls the West's aggressive approach continues

### WHY is Russia threatening Ukraine?

Russia denies planning any invasion, but it has seized Ukrainian territory before. Russia has long resisted Ukraine's move towards European institutions, and NATO in particular. Ukraine shares borders with both the EU and Russia, but as a former Soviet republic, it has deep social and cultural ties with Russia, and Russian is widely spoken there. When Ukrainians deposed their pro-Russian president in early 2014, Russia annexed Ukraine's southern Crimean peninsula and backed separatists, who captured large swathes of eastern Ukraine. The rebels have fought the Ukrainian military ever since in a conflict that has claimed over 14,000 lives.

### WHAT does Russia want from NATO?

Moscow accuses NATO countries of



**THE ORIGIN:** Tensions between Ukraine and Russia, both former Soviet states, escalated in late 2013 over a landmark political and trade deal with the European Union. After the pro-Russian then-President, Viktor Yanukovich, suspended the talks — reportedly under pressure from Moscow — weeks of protests in Kyiv erupted into violence. Then, in March 2014, Russia annexed Crimea, an autonomous peninsula in southern Ukraine with strong Russian loyalties, on the pretext that it was defending its interests and those of Russian-speaking citizens. First, thousands of Russian-

"pumping" Ukraine with weapons and the US of stoking tensions. In reality, Russia wants NATO to return to its pre-1997 borders (before the first eastern European countries were invited to join the alliance). It demands no more eastward expansion and an end to NATO military activity in Eastern Europe. That would mean combat units being pulled out of Poland and the Baltic republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania,

speaking troops, dubbed "little green men" and later acknowledged by Moscow to be Russian soldiers, poured into the Crimean peninsula. Within days, Russia completed its annexation in a referendum that was slammed by Ukraine and most of the world as illegitimate. Shortly afterwards, pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions declared their independence from Kyiv, prompting months of heavy fighting. Despite Kyiv and Moscow signing a peace deal in Minsk in 2015, brokered by France and Germany, there have been repeated ceasefire violations.

### WHAT does Russia want with Ukraine?

Russia seized Crimea in 2014 arguing it had a historic claim to it. Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, which collapsed in December 1991 and Putin said it was the

■ The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation or Atlantic Alliance (NATO) is an international political and military organisation with the aim of guaranteeing the freedom and security of its members through political and military means

■ NATO was founded by 12 countries, signatories of the Washington Treaty: the US, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, the UK and Portugal. Subsequently, Greece and Turkey joined in 1952, Germany in 1955; Spain, in 1982; Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic in 1999, these being the first former Communist countries to join NATO

"disintegration of historical Russia".

### HOW far will the West go for Ukraine?

The US has made clear that it has no plans to send combat troops, while being committed to helping Ukraine defend its "sovereign territory". The main tools in the West's armoury appears to be sanctions and military aid in the form of advisers and weapons.

### Is the West united in its response?

Washington has said it is committed to "working in lockstep" with its allies, but there are divisions between the US and Europe. European leaders are adamant that Russia cannot just decide on the future with the US. France has even proposed that Europeans work together with NATO and then conduct their own dialogue with Russia.

(Source: BBC, CNN & agencies)

### Quote unquote



It's true that we will be living with Covid for the foreseeable future and that we will need to learn to manage it through a sustained and integrated system for acute respiratory diseases to help prepare for future pandemics. But learning to live with Covid cannot mean that we give this virus a free ride. It cannot mean that we accept almost 50,000 deaths a week from a preventable and treatable disease. We can end Covid-19 as a global health emergency, and we can do it this year by reaching goals like WHO's target to vaccinate 70 per cent of the population of each country by the middle of this year, with a focus on people who are at the highest risk of Covid-19, and improving testing and sequencing rates to track the virus and its emerging variants more closely.

**TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS, SECRETARY GENERAL, WHO**



## TATA CHIEF, NADELLA, PICHAI AMONG PADMA AWARDEES



Tata Sons' chairman N Chandrasekaran, heads of two homegrown vaccine makers Serum Institute of India's Cyrus Poonawalla and the Ellas of Bharat Biotech, and two high-profile Indian origin CEOs leading global tech giants — Satya Nadella and Sundar Pichai — have been awarded the Padma Bhushan.

■ On the list of 128 Padma award winners, there were nine from trade and industry, with business representation in Padma Bhushan — the third-highest civilian award after Bharat Ratna and Padma Vibhushan — being nearly one third

■ The others on the list are homegrown businessmen and entrepreneurs such as hosiery maker Rupa's CMD Prahlad Rai Agarwala, who will be awarded Padma Shri. Similarly, Manipur's Muktamani Devi, who set up Mukta Shoe Industry, that makes handcrafted footwear, is also being awarded the Padma Shri

## IMF LOWERS GDP FORECAST FOR FY22 TO 9% FROM 9.5%

India's economy is estimated to grow by 9% in the current fiscal year, a tad slower than the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) earlier forecast of 9.5% due to the impact of the third Covid wave.

■ The IMF, which released its World Economic Outlook, raised India's GDP growth estimate to 9% for 2022-23 from its earlier estimate of 8.5% in October and for 2023-24 it forecast the economy to grow by 7.1%. On a calendar year basis, the IMF said India's growth is projected at 8.7% in 2022 and 6.6% in 2023

## Twitter's upcoming feature could share tweets with up to 150 select users

Micro blogging site Twitter is reportedly developing a feature that will allow users to curate a list of people — up to 150 users — to send certain tweets. If this sounds familiar, it is because Instagram's 'Close Friends' feature lets you do the same thing; but in Twitter's case, you will be limiting your tweets to your 'Flock', The Verge reported. Twitter first gave a glimpse of the feature last July, which it called 'Trusted Friends' at the time.

- 1 According to the report, Twitter seems to be working on a page that shows more information on Flock, which explains you can add up to 150 members
- 2 Only those 150 users can view or reply to tweets sent out to your Flock. And in case you decide you do not want someone in your Flock anymore, Twitter notes you can remove people from your list at any time, and they won't get a notification
- 3 If you are in someone's Flock and they send out a tweet, a label may appear beneath that tweet
- 4 To send a tweet to your Flock, Twitter will display an audience option before you send it out, letting you choose between all of Twitter and your selected users



■ Twitter launched invite-only Communities back in September, a similar feature that lets you connect with users with shared interests

■ Just like you can limit your tweets to your Flock, you can send out tweets to a specific Community rather than all your followers



## ADVICE

# POWER of PURPOSE



Imagine that your five-year-old sits down to do an activity such as painting, drawing, craft, or even learning a musical instrument and doesn't want to get up before completing the task. Or that your 8-year-old comes back from school and immediately sits down to complete homework before going to play. Or that two weeks before the exam, your 14-year-old surrenders his phone to you, saying, "Mom, I will take it twice a day to check my messages. But I want you to keep it, since this is too much of a distraction from studies." Utopia? Not really. This is exactly the kind of behaviour you can expect from children brought up by Active Parents. Because one of the three key principles of Active Parenting is bringing up children to take responsibility for their own lives so that parents can progressively give them more and more autonomy and lead their own lives in a stress-free manner, knowing that their children are on the right path. One of the key attributes for success that Active Parenting builds is Purposefulness.



## HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO BUILD PURPOSEFULNESS IN CHILDREN

**1** In early childhood, DO NOT expose children to the screen – phone, tablet and laptop. TV time should be limited to a maximum of 30-60 minutes a day. Screen addiction reduces attention span and hence the ability to focus on tasks drastically.

**2** Resist the temptation to give in to demands and tantrums from children or to your own need to get them off your back so that you can do other things.

**3** Engage the children in other interesting hands-on activities such as painting, gardening,

crafts, carpentry, pottery, Lego, electronic or robotic kits, etc. from early on so that they get into the habit of focusing.

**4** Tell them loads of stories of purpose driven individuals who showed great determination in achieving goals.

**5** Get them to follow a daily routine of meditation as well as practice of some



**Ram G. Vallath** is an IITian, international life coach, motivational speaker and the best-selling author of 'Active Parenting: How to Raise Children with Boundless Potential'

Purposefulness is essential for success, and parents need to inculcate this from early childhood.

## AWARENESS

# COVID vaccine side-effects:

## WHY KIDS BETWEEN 15-18 YEARS SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN PARACETAMOL AND WHAT TO GIVE THEM FOR RELIEF

Experiencing side-effects such as headache, fever and pain in the arm is common after getting the Covid-19 jab. It is a sign that the Covid vaccine is doing its job of building immunity in the body. For relief from side effects, adults are generally prescribed paracetamol or pain killer, but in case of kids, the prescription differs.

Ever since the vaccination drive for teenagers between 15-18 years started in India, there has been some confusion about taking paracetamol or any painkiller to ease the side effects. Clearing the doubts, the drug manufacturers recently stated that these two types of drugs should not be given to kids.

Reacting to reports as per which some immunisation centers were recommending paracetamol 500 mg tablets after the shot, Bharat Biotech, the vaccine manufacturer of Covaxin released a statement in which they made it clear that "No paracetamol or painkillers are recommended after being vaccinated with Covaxin." They asserted that paracetamol was recommended for some Covid-19 vaccines, but is not recommended for Covaxin. They said the symptoms experienced post vaccinations are mild and generally go away on their own in 2-3 days. Besides, side effects are signs that the vaccine is doing its job and not taking medicines helps to build a strong immune response against Covid-19.



### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE PARACETAMOL TO KIDS

According to Dr Neelam Mohan, Director-Paediatric Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Medanta hospital, excessive intake of paracetamol can lead to hepatotoxicity, which is referred to as liver damage caused by drug exposure.

She further said that it is crucial to give paracetamol in the right dosage and only when the symptoms appear in contrast to what some vaccination centre officials were recommending. "Since the weight among these children could be varying, we could vary from

10-15 mg/kg with the maximum dose to 500-650 mg tablets of paracetamol. Kids shouldn't have more than 4 tablets in 24 hours as overdose of paracetamol leads to liver toxicity," she said.

Regular use of paracetamol can be dangerous for anyone, including kids. Paracetamol should be given in case of an emergency, that too after consulting the doctor.

Experiencing symptoms like mild fever, headaches, pain in the injection site is common after getting the jab. Only a few kids do not experience these symptoms. But it does not mean that the vaccine is not working. If your child experiences any such symptom after getting the jab, instead of reaching out for paracetamol, first try other methods for relief.

Dr Neeta Kejriwal, Consultant Pediatrician, HCMCT Manipal Hospital, Dwarka, suggests applying cold compress or ice packs on the injection site to reduce soreness and pain. For nausea or vomiting, she advises consulting the pediatrician. In case of mild fever, you can give paracetamol, only after consulting the doctor. If your kids experience severe side effects and have a high fever, immediately seek medical help.

Make sure your kids eat nutritionally rich foods, take enough rest and drink a lot of water for quick recovery from the side effects

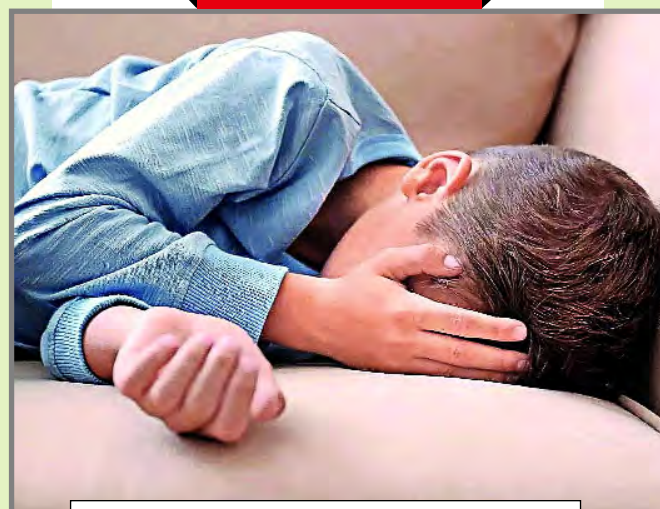


## My son tolerates bullying from his friends

## CONCERN



**QUERY:** My 15-year-old son has a very thick group of friends but I have seen how they all bully him all the time and strangely he is ok with it. Whenever I have tried confronting him why he takes their bullshit, he tells me they are his friends and he will manage. I don't want my boy to be a weak man. He should know how to stand up for himself. Please help.



**DR PREETI PARAKH, MD Psychiatry, Psychiatrist & Head, Mpower The Centre, Kolkata**

**RESPONSE BY DR PREETI PARAKH:** Well, your son is standing up for himself when he tells you not to meddle. Most kids are teased by their friends at some point, and are not hurt by it. But when teasing becomes malicious and constant, it becomes bullying. Children who are being bullied usually try to avoid the situations that bring them in contact with the bullies. Sometimes there also are behavioural changes like appearing anxious or upset. Your son seems to be making no efforts to avoid this particular group of friends. If being with these friends does not upset him, I do not think he feels bullied. Rather than being weak, he appears to be quite strong and confident. I am sure he will be able to stand up to his friends if needed, just like he has stood up to you.

# Four chores to assign to your preschooler to foster initiative

## LIFE SKILLS

## HERE'S HOW TO ASSIGN CHORES TO KIDS

Children deserve all your love, care and pampering while growing up but it is also imperative to inculcate other qualities in your child so that they develop into a well-mannered individual. Like playing activities and group tasks help children learn the importance of teamwork and helping each other out, assigning them tasks at home can help foster values of initiative, responsibility, organisation and working together. Here are five chores that you can trust your preschooler with and have him learn values that will benefit him in the future.



### MAKING BED

Right from the time one wakes up, the first organisational task that one should do is making one's bed. Asking your child to make their bed is the first step towards organisation. This makes the child aware of its surroundings and the need to have cleanliness in the spaces that they inhabit. The child would need some assistance in the beginning and their work might even need finishing for some time until they learn it completely.



### DUSTING

Start with asking them to wipe certain surfaces that are easily reachable and not too difficult to clean. This can later on be expanded to more surfaces, objects and finally to the child's room. It is also recommended to use natural cleansers such as vinegar instead of anything that has harsh cleaning chemicals. Wiping the table after dinner is also a good starter.



### WATERING PLANTS

Watering plants is a simple task that children can perform even at a young age. It develops qualities of nurturing, growth and responsibility in children. Assigning this weekly or bi weekly task to your child is another great way of inculcating responsibility in them.



### ORGANISING TOYS

Once your child starts playing, the room becomes a complete mess. Asking your children to put things in their place will help them learn about the space they live in and will also make it easy for them to find toys the next time they want to play. Initially, you will have to be very specific with your instructions so that they can find their way around a lot of things at once. Once they learn to clean certain spaces, they will be independent enough to know how to proceed.





## Teen's research towards increasing life expectancy

**H**ave you ever thought about augmenting the natural human lifespan of a human? Lakshya Sharma, a class XII student of **Delhi Public School**, Sector 45, Gurgaon is the youngest researcher to initiate this novel research field in India and has articulated it in his book 'Cellular Senescence & Secretary Phenotypes through the lens of Ageing, In Vivo Reprogramming Technology'.

The young researcher explains, "There are many biological factors affecting the aging of an organism. Cellular Senescence is the single most druggable biological factor that causes aging. What I mean by druggable is that it can be controlled/ altered through the



use of appropriate drugs. When we perturb this biology animals continue to age but they age with a possible longer lifespan and health span. We know from our younger classes that all

the cells in our body proliferate through the means of division. A single cell divides 50 times at which point an "emergency brake" gets pulled in every cell of our body and cells stop dividing forever. The cells that pull these "emergency brakes" are called senescent cells. This is biologically an important "emergency brake" and should not be messed with pharmaceutically. Since researchers found out that in genetically modified mice (that have similar DNA/Biochemistry as a human) any disturbance to the process of the formation of senescent cells leads to the formation of tumors (Cancer) in mice.

Cells in our body have a natural inhibition process to the formation of tumors (cancer) which functions in two ways - Apoptosis or Cell Death (cell death meaning no tumors can be formed) & Cellular Senescence or the process of halting of cell divisions (since the cell cannot divide further it does not form a tumour). Through the means of these 2 processes our cells are able to inhibit the formation of a tumour leading to cancer."

## Vaccination drive at Adarsh Public

**A**darsh Public School, Sector - 9, Rohini in collaboration with North District Legal Services Authority and Phool Chand Charitable Trust organised free Covid vaccination camp for two days January 18 and 19, 2022 in the school premises for all the eligible age groups from 10 am to 4 pm.



The school was greatly honoured with the benign presence of esteemed guests, Ld judge Harjeet Singh Jaspal chief metropolitan magistrate and secretary, North District Legal Service Authority, SHO Prashant Vihar Jitender Vats Vihar, superintendent Harsh Narang Rohini Court

and social worker Sachin Sharma. Over 200 people including senior citizens were vaccinated in this free of cost camp by health officials. The chairperson of the school Pooja Malhotra took this great initiative and said that the vaccine is the protective shield to fight the corona epidemic. The camp was a thumping success with administration of over 200 jabs.

## SGNPS hosts Covid vaccination camp

**S**ri Guru Nanak Public School, Adarsh Nagar, strengthened the fight against Covid by organising free of cost vaccination camp on January 18, 2022, to immunise all students in the age group of 15 to 18 years.



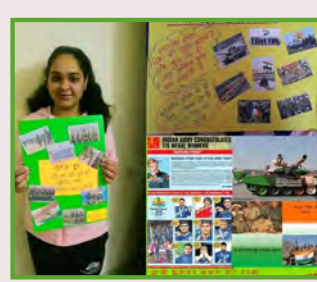
The noble initiative was taken under the aegis of Government of NCT, Delhi. The camp was well organised with all Covid protocols followed sincerely. A government doctor and a team of paramedical staff administered vaccines to the students. Students were aided by the school staff in the process of walk-in registrations. To accommodate a large number of students, there were many vaccination and

observation rooms. By 4 pm, more than 90 percent of the eligible students were vaccinated.

The proceedings of the day ended with gratitude extended by the school's officiating principal, Shikha Gupta, to the team of doctor and para medical staff, parents and school staff; for contributing their support in making the vaccination camp successful.

## Indian Army: Pride and honour of country

**R**yan International School, Sec-31, Gurgaon celebrated and commemorated Indian Army Day virtually through various activities of students. The students presented their work in the honour of the dedicated army to pay a tribute to the Indian Army. The school always works for the encouragement of patriotism among the upcoming future students of India. The students of various grades conveyed the same through their activities.



Students presented two specific activities namely creative poetry writing on the theme 'Indian Army, its courage and valour' and collage and slogan making activity in Hindi to commemorate this day.

The activities were praised and encouraged by the school head N Geetha Srinivasa. She threw the light on the struggle by the army men in protecting our motherland. She urged the students to get encouraged and to follow their commandments and also to serve the nation in the best ways they can.

## DPSG holds science quiz competition

**J**anuary 15 was a happening day in **Delhi Public School** Ghaziabad Vasundhara branch. Interschool online science quiz competition, 'Dyson Sphere', was held with great enthusiasm and energy.

For this quiz competition, the chief guest was a well known personality Dr Brajesh Rathi and guest of honour Dr Chandra Shekhar.

With empowering words, DPSG, Vasundhara welcomed 25 schools from India and abroad.



While inaugurating the event, principal Trilok Singh Bist said "Science is a way of life. Science is a perspective. Science is the process that takes us from confusion to conclusion in a manner that's precise, predictive and reliable - a transformation, for those lucky enough to experience it, that is empowering and emotional."

The quiz winner was Father Agnel School, Noida; first runner up was DPSG Vasundhara; and second runner up were DPSG Palam Vihar and Indrapuram Public School in a tie.

## student Corner

BHAVYA DHALL, class VI, Bosco Public school Paschim Vihar



VAISHNAVI KATIYAR, class X, Bosco Public school Paschim Vihar



PAYAL CHOKHRA, class VI, Shaheed Bishan Singh Memorial Sr sec school, Mansarovar Garden

## Wall Decor



## DO IT YOURSELF

Our homes feel cosy with family as well as the aesthetic appeal we add to it. Without wall decor, the walls seem empty. Wall decors give spe-

cial look to the walls and make them look beautiful and attractive. Let's make this beautiful Wall Decor using these steps:

**Materials used:** 8 bangles, coloured wool, kundans, beads, needle, glue gun, scissors

### STEPS:

- Cover all the bangles by wrapping them with wool yarn 2 times. Use the glue gun to stick the yarn.
- Make a geometric pattern on each bangle using same or different colour yarn and the glue gun.
- Use the wool to tie the bangles in the formation of your choice.
- To make the pom-poms, string the beads in the wool using needle. Secure them by tying knots on both the ends. Make as many as you want.
- Tie these pom-poms to the bottom of the wall decor formation.
- Stick glittering colourful kundans to amp up the wall decor as per your choice. You can also use bells or ghungroos.
- Make a loop of the yarn and stick/tie it on the top. This will be used to hang the decor.
- Your amazing wall decor is ready.

**AAHANA PATEL**, class VII, The Stepping Stone School, Pune

## MAPS hosts virtual session on yoga

**B**reaking all barriers, Maharaja Agarsain Public School, Ashok Vihar once again collaborated with Israel on January 14. The highlight of the event was apprising everyone about the amazing benefits of yoga. The session was held on a perfect day following the guidelines of Ministry of Ayush and Ministry of Education about organising large scale surya namaskar program involving around 75 lakh people in our country.



our Israeli friends added hues to the vision of taking education beyond frontiers. The students from both countries exchanged their

ideas about various topics and generated excitement about the session. The session was successful in giving an edge to school's vision of rearing global individuals. The preparatory wing coordinator Neha Grover also asked various questions to make the session more interesting. The interactive session came to an end with the encouraging and motivational words of Alka Sahani, the school principal. She applauded the efforts of all students and teachers.

## National Education Day celebrated

**T**he students of **Hillwoods Academy** celebrated National Education Day with zeal and enthusiasm on November 11, 2021. Students took a rally in the school, keeping the protocols of Covid-19 in mind. Students of classes IX to XII wholeheartedly participated in a plethora of activities like group discussion and debate in which they emphasised on



various aspects of education and discussed about the recent changes in the education system. Teachers delivered a speech emphasising the importance of education. All the students were praised for their efforts.

ed a speech emphasising the importance of education. All the students were praised for their efforts.

## BOOK REVIEW: THE BEST OF SHEIKH CHILLI

## Story of a 'not-so-foolish' lie

**Author:** Rungeen Singh  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Main Characters:** Sheikh Chilli & Sheikh Chilli's Mother

**T**his book is about 'Sheikh Chilli', a man who was known for his stupidity and foolishness. There are a lot of tales about Sheikh Chilli but here I'll write about my favourite one. The title of the tale is 'The Winning Lie', it goes like this:

Sheikh Chilli started working for the king and became a favourite of the king. But the prince didn't like him. One day, the prince organised a competition to find out who could tell the biggest lie. Many



people came and told lies but the prince would say 'This is not a lie'. After many people had failed, Sheikh tried his luck and said, "The prince of this kingdom is the biggest fool, and he should not be made the king". The prince became very angry but then he cooled down and declared sheikh as the winner of the competition and gave him the prize money.

This book is well-written and even has shorter tales. It is a must-read book for kids. I truly appreciate the efforts of the author in weaving such a good tale for us kids.

Critic's Rating: 9/10

**NEEL RAHANGDALE**, class VII, Pawar Public School, Nanded City, Pune





# Swiatek makes first AO semis

## Fights early scare and brutal heat to set up meet with American Collins

**F**rench Open winner Iga Swiatek managed to temper her frustrations and rally from a set and a break down in brutal heat to overpower Estonian Kaia Kanepi 4-6 7-6(2) 6-3 on Wednesday to reach her first Australian Open semi-final. Poland's Swiatek will next meet 27th-seeded American Danielle Collins, who earlier defeated Frenchwoman Alize Cornet 7-5 6-1, for a place in Saturday's final at Melbourne Park.

### ANOTHER LENGTHY GAME

In their first career meeting, Swiatek wasted break-point chances in each of Kanepi's first three service games and it was the Estonian who converted her first chance in the seventh game to nose ahead. Swiatek saved four set points in the ninth game that lasted 16 minutes but could not stop Kanepi from taking the opener on her ninth opportunity after another lengthy game. "In the first set I had so many breakpoints, I felt like I missed my chances because she broke me on her first breakpoint," Swiatek said on court.

Kanepi, 36, appeared set to progress beyond the last eight at a Grand Slam for the first time when she broke early in the second, with a frustrated Swiatek slapping herself and slamming her racket on court. The Estonian did most of the damage with her powerful double-handed backhand, leaving Swiatek rooted to the spot and watching helplessly as the winners screamed past. But the 2020 Roland Garros champion, who committed 12 double faults in the match, regained her composure and raised her level in a second set tiebreaker to level the contest at 1-1. Swiatek suffered two more breaks in the decider but managed to break 115th-ranked Kanepi four times, sealing the three-hour contest on her second match point when the Estonian sent a backhand wide for her 62nd unforced error. "I'm really glad that I have my voice because I was shouting so loud," Swiatek said. "This match was crazy and without the energy in the stadium, I think it would've been really hard to win it." As she left the court, Swiatek wrote on the TV camera lens: "Thank you for the support. (hash) Tired."

Kanepi made her Grand Slam debut in 2006 but was playing in the quarterfinals in Australia for the first time, completing a career set after making it to the last eight twice at each of the sport's three other major tournaments. She was coming off an upset, three-set win over No. 2-ranked Aryna Sabalenka and took the game to Swiatek, who saved nine set points before losing the first set.

### OVERCOMING HEALTH ISSUE

Earlier, Collins shattered French veteran Cornet's dream of making a first Grand Slam semi-final. As temperatures nudged 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit), the American 27th seed came through 7-5, 6-1 to continue her resurgence after surgery last year. "It feels incredible, especially after some of the health challenges that I have had," said Collins, 28, who had "scary" surgery for endometriosis in April last year then tore her abdomen at the French Open. For Cornet, the loss ended a career-best run. The quarterfinal was her first in 63 Grand Slam main draw appearances. The WTA predicts that the 32-year-old Cornet should return to the top 50. Cornet had anticipated an aggressive game strategy from Collins, but the power in the ground strokes was "even more than what I expected. I felt out of breath all the time. I couldn't, like, play my game," Cornet said. "She just never let me do it, never gave me the time." AGENCIES



Photo: AFP Iga Swiatek

### THE LAST FOUR

After the first three quarterfinals were decided in straight sets \_ Ash Barty beat Jessica Pegula and Madison Keys beat Barbora Krejickova on Tuesday \_ the last one went all the way. Collins' win means there are two Americans in the last four. Keys, the 2017 U.S. Open runner-up, will play reigning Wimbledon and 2019 French Open winner Barty. Swiatek of Poland is the only one of the four in the Australian Open semis for the first time. Collins lost to Petra Kvitova in the semifinals here in 2019, which remains her best run to date at a major. Keys lost to Serena Williams in 2015 and Barty lost a semifinal final in 2020 to eventual champion Sofia Kenin.



Photo: AP

**“** To be able to get back to this level and be able to compete the way I have and be as physical as I have had been so rewarding. I feel pretty good right now. I've had some great matches along the way at this tournament ... really happy about how I'm feeling physically and mentally. **”**

—Danielle Collins

# Tokyo gave para-sports a fillip

**T**hey have been part of the para-sports scene for many, many years but India's medallists at the 2020 Paralympics believe that the Tokyo Games have given sports a big fillip in the country and we will do bet-

Photo: GETTY IMAGES



Suhas Yathiraj

## 2020 PARALYMPICS HEROES SAY PRESENCE IN ALL DISCIPLINES CRUCIAL TO WINNING MEDALS

ter in Paris in 2024 if we give the same kind of attention in the next couple of years.

India came up with its best-ever performance at the Tokyo Paralympic Games in August-September 2021, winning 19 medals – five gold, eight silver, and six bronze medals in all – improving the country's performance from that at Rio de Janeiro five years ago by leaps and bounds.

Paralympians Suhas Yathiraj, Devendra Jhajharia, Pramod Bhagat, Manoj Sarkar, Harvinder Singh, Krishna Nagar, Yogesh Kathunia and Nishad Kumar feel Tokyo Paralympic Games were a watershed moment for sports in the country and now more and more youngsters are taking up para-sports.

### HUGE SPIKE IN PARTICIPATION

Two of the sports that have seen a huge spike in participants at the domestic level are para-badminton and para-archery.

Over 500 participants had gathered in Odisha for the para-badminton nationals last month while the para-archery nationals, which were postponed recently due to the

covid-19 pandemic, had also seen a spike in the number of entries. "If you look at the increase in participation in the national championships that were held in Odisha it was very high. The interest in badminton is extremely high because it is a very easy sport for beginners. So para-badminton is reaching new heights in India and around the world. The BWF is also giving it a lot of attention," said Suhas Yathiraj, Gautam Buddh Nagar's (Noida) District Magistrate. "India should have concentrated on developing the wheelchair category. In Tokyo, we had zero participation in this category."

Shuttler Pramod Bhagat, who won a gold medal in the Men's Singles SL3 event at the Tokyo Paralympics, said he was amazed by the enthusiasm. "This time more than 500 athletes had come for the nationals, we were completely surprised by the number," he said. He also said that the state units need to be more proactive in raising funds for their events and in identifying talent.

Nishad Kumar, another medallist at Tokyo, said India have to participate in more

categories if the country has to finish among top 10 in the medals tally. "If we manage to have representatives in every discipline, our medals could increase and we can be among the top 10 countries," he added. IANS

Photo: GETTY IMAGES



Pramod Bhagat

# Gujrathi draws with Rapport, in joint 3rd

**I**ndian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi drew with Richard Rapport of Hungary in the ninth round to be in joint third place with 5.5 points in the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament at Wijk Aan Zee, in the Netherlands. Rapport tested Gujrathi in the Catalan defence and eventually won a pawn, but the Indian GM put up a stubborn defence and opted for a draw.

However, young Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa's struggles continued as he lost to Sergey Karjakin, for his third straight defeat, on Tuesday night. He remained on 2.5 points and in 13th place in the 14-player field. In the game against Karjakin, Praggnanandhaa boldly sacrificed an exchange as White in the London System and got sufficient compensation to say the least. However, an error on the 40th move proved costly for the Indian.

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen scored a win over Shakhriyar Mamedyarov to jump into the lead. ■



## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** Birdie and Eagle are two terms related to which of the following sports?

- a) Polo
- b) Golf
- c) Chess
- d) Billiards

**Q2:** Who is the president of World Chess Federation?

- a) Alexander Rueb
- b) Max Euwe
- c) Kirsan Ilyumzhinov
- d) Arkady Dvorkovich

**Q3:** Who is the top scorer in the Indian National Football Team?

- a) Sunil Chhetri
- b) Gurpreet Singh Sandhu
- c) Nishu Kumar
- d) Udanta Singh

**Q4:** When was the Fed Cup launched?

- a) 1913 b) 1963 c) 1966 d) 1981

**Q5:** In which city were the first modern National Games of India, on the lines of the Olympics, held?

- a) Bombay b) Thiruvananthapuram
- c) Bangalore d) New Delhi

**Q6:** How many wickets does Muttiah Muralitharan have in ODIs?

- a) 430 b) 120 c) 321 d) 534



Photo: TOI

**Q7:** Which National Games of India were held in 2015?

- a) 35th
- b) 36th
- c) 37th
- d) 38th

**Q8:** Which cricketer took the most wickets in the first Cricket World Cup of 1975?

- a) Dayle Hadlee
- b) Tony Greig
- c) Syed Abid Ali
- d) Gary Gilmour

**Q9:** Which sport's competition is known as the "Big Bash League"?

- a) Football
- b) Volleyball
- c) Basketball
- d) Cricket

**Q10:** The "Top 14" is a professional club competition of which sport?

- a) Baseball
- b) Softball
- c) Archery
- d) Rugby Union

**ANSWERS:** 1. b. Golf  
2. d. Arkady Dvorkovich  
3. a. Sunil Chhetri 4. b. 1963  
5. d. New Delhi 6. d. 534 7. a. 35th  
8. d. Gary Gilmour 9. d. Cricket  
10. d. Rugby Union