



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

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RIGHT
WRONG

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

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STUDENT EDITION
MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022

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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

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



Do you suffer from app fog? Share your views at 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



'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

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



One 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.

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!

Consider 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

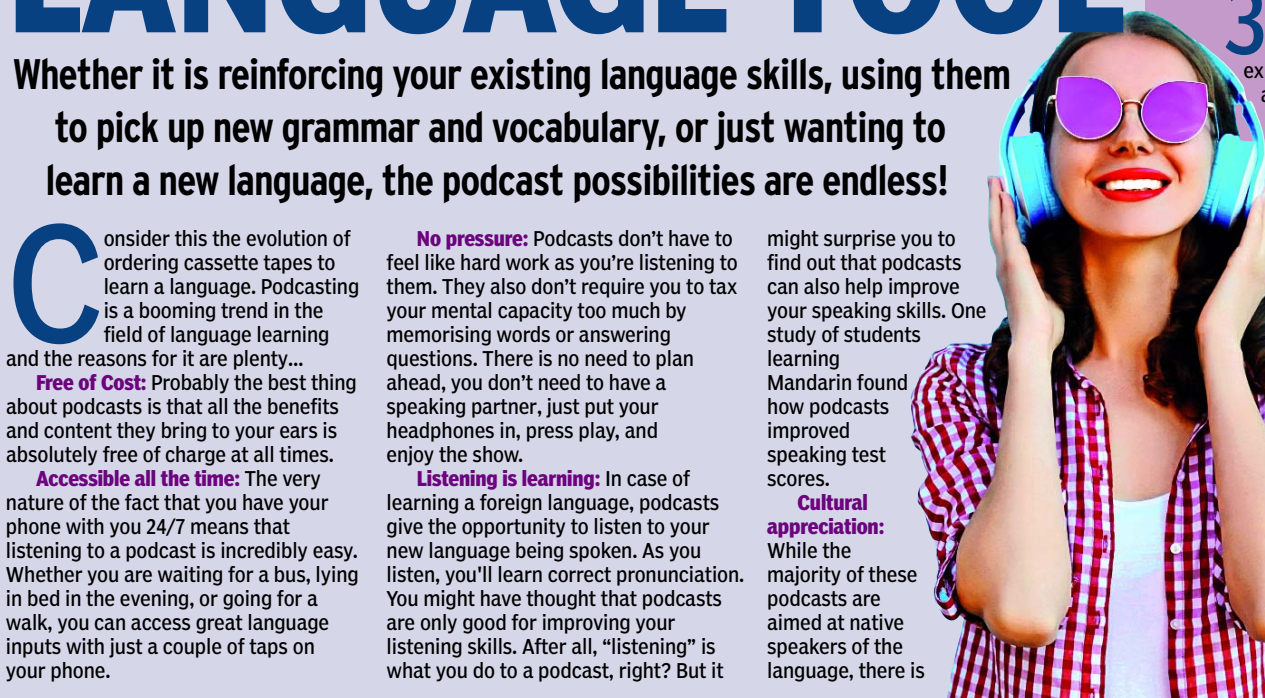


1 Pick the right one: Podcasts may target beginning, intermediate or advanced students. Selecting a podcast that's the right level for you will help ensure the podcast helps you grow without overwhelming you.

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.



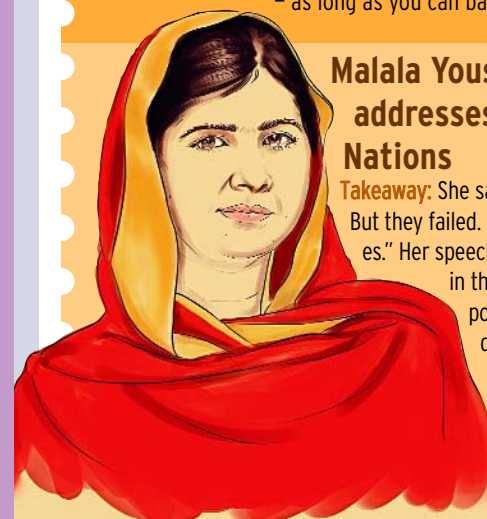
Neil Armstrong at the first lunar landing

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.



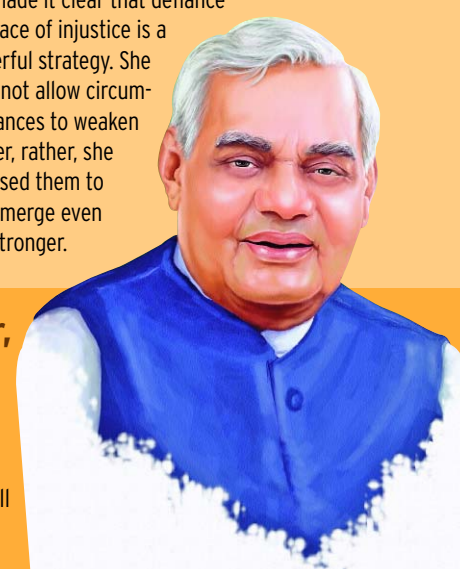
Muhammad Ali's "I am the greatest" proclamation

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

Metaphors, 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

Nicknamed 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.

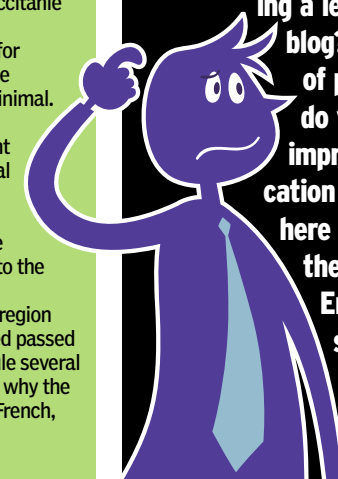
But the town's tranquil mountain meadows and bright purple lavender fields are ideal for visitors seeking an unplugged retreat, as are the stunning views from its alpine peaks, stretching all the way to the Côte d'Azur.

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

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



Nurturing creativity to promote artistic bent of mind

St Mark's Sr Sec Public School, Janakpuri, organised its 22nd annual inter-school On The Spot painting competition virtually on January 15. The primary aim of the competition is to nurture creativity and talent and to promote an artistic bent of mind amongst young artists.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp followed by a formal welcome address by the school's principal, Inderpreet Kaur Ahluwalia, who also shared her thoughts on how the medium of art helps young minds build their own sanctuary of beauty. Our school's chairman, T P Aggarwal, shared his valuable words of wisdom and gave his best wishes to the participants. Renowned artist, Ashish Chatterjee, senior director, Art and Design with Muscat Press & Publishing House (SAOC Sultanate of Oman) was the chief



guest for the day. Our school's manager, Rahul Aggarwal wished the participants a very good luck and hoped that they all would thoroughly savour the experience. Glimpses from the previous years' painting competition were shown to the august virtual gathering. A virtual gallery of previous year's prize winning paintings was also presented to appreciate and acknowledge the work of art. The ceremony concluded with the school's director Anjali Aggarwal declaring the competition open and extending her best wishes to the participants. She also enunciated upon the fact that art plays a vital role in every facet of our lives.

All participants showcased their immaculate drawing and painting skills and let their imagination reign on the canvas.

The sixth edition of the international online painting competition received an overwhelming response from seven countries.

A team of renowned artists Bhavna Chatterjee and Vibha Sharma Saran, judged the paintings and collages made by nearly 1200 participants from 60 renowned schools pan India, along with around 400 paintings submitted by international participants.

SLS DAV hosts MUN 2021

SLS DAV Public School, Mausam Vihar, proudly organised its fifth edition of Model United Nations in recently. It was envisaged with a view to inculcate discipline, tolerance of the views and strengthening the roots of democracy while ensuring that the student community understands the current international issues while trying to deduce possible solutions along with agendas that matter nationally.

The ingenious minds of the young generation, collaborated with one another came together to create intricate policies, resolve crises and invest themselves in leadership positions. Some of the pertinent agendas that were discussed included prisoner's rights during Covid, peaceful use of outer space, elimination and prevention of domestic violence, sedation laws etc.

Opening ceremony commenced with the virtual lighting of the lamp by two dignitaries, our chief guest Rajendra Pal Gautam, Delhi Minister of Social Welfare and principal Vandana Kapoor.



SLS DAV MUN 2021 journey came to a beautiful conclusion with the closing ceremony which was blessed with the presence of the Major General SB Asthana, who is a war veteran, a Global Military Strategic and Military analyst and the recipient of President's award for Gallantry. Major General SB Asthana shared his pearls of wisdom with the budding diplomats. Several students and schools of Delhi/NCR participated in this mega event which was sponsored by Edumentor.

Is politics above pandemic?

Are rallies really necessary during the times of Covid? Although it is advised to wear mask, it is not sure that if everyone is wearing mask. People gather in numbers and it may include asymptomatic Covid affected people as well. The government can't obviously take RTPCR test of each person before rallies and can't check if the people are double vaccinated or not.

There are at least 73 crores of the population who haven't been vaccinated. One of the major contributors in spreading Covid are the rallies that take place. The public is told to avoid huge gatherings and not step out of houses but all this happens during rallies. Rallies are important for the functioning of government during elections but it can also be done through

social media platforms, page flyers, advertisement, posters etc.

Can't elections be done online until the time Covid isn't gone just like schools, offices and shopping? During rallies it is obvious and can be seen that social distancing is not being followed. Even the basic precautions are not being followed. Won't this spread Covid? It is evident that it will cause Covid to spread, then why are there still rallies going on? Whenever there is a festival there is a lockdown or curfew that is brought into effect to not spread Covid but what about rallies, doesn't that spread covid? For the profit of politicians and political parties the public health should not be put into risk.

Satwika, IX H, Delhi Public School, Vasant Kunj

Welcome assembly for class Mont-X

Following the key visions of Chairman Dr A F Pinto, virtual special welcome assembly was organised by the teachers for the Ryanites of class Mont to X. Ryan International School, Sector 31 believes in the overall development of students. Keeping the same in view, a special virtual assembly was organised by the teachers to welcome the student after the winter break.

The assembly emphasised on welcoming the Ryanites with great zeal and encouraging their enthusiasm to focus not only on academics but



to excel in every field they pursue.

The assembly was further enriched by an enthralling speech by the school head N Geetha Srinivasa, who encouraged the Ryanites to be focused on their all round development. She also urged them to be focused towards their promises and achieve their goals.

Students participate in Ganga Utsav

The students of Hillwoods Academy participated in the Ganga Utsav-river festival 2021 organised from November 1-3 by the National Ganga Council (NMCG). Students took part in a number of activities like debate, poster making and paragraph writing. All the posters and write ups were



creatively designed and were full of information. A signature campaign was also organised where everyone expressed his/her views about river

Ganga. The students motivated the other students also to make an effort to clean the river.

Student Corner

AANSHI, class X-A, Seth Anandram Jaipuria School, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad



KASHISH RANA, class XI SI, Vidya Bharati School

Beautiful Sky

Oh! such a beautiful sky overhead,
Clouds floating by over the trees,
Over the mountains, seas and the fountains.

Flowers swaying in the wind
The gliding air, quite shrill
Far from all noise
Just a little quiet place.

Sunrays lighting a path
The tree taking a sunbath

Covered all over with leaves
While beautiful shadows it weaves.

Oh! such a beautiful day
To go out and play, find something new
Not to lie in bed, with nothing to do.

Birds are chirping
Look quite happy
Having a fun time
With their wings quite flappy.

ISHIKA, class VII, Jaspal Kaur, Shallimar Bagh

My trip to Qutub Minar

My trip to Qutub Minar was the most interesting experience in my life. This place is a rendezvous with eliteness. I went there with my parents.

It is a minaret and victory tower that forms part of the Qutub complex.

Qutub Minar is a soaring, 73 m-high tower of victory, built in 1193 by Qutub-ud-din Aibak. The tower has five distinct storeys, each marked by a projecting balcony and tapers from a 15 m diameter at the base to just 2.5 m at the top. But from few years



entry in the building is closed. The Qutub Minar is a crowded attraction, and visited by tourists from India and abroad every year.

It is a beautiful place of great natural beauty offering many photogenic visuals that appeal to the ocular senses.

In the Qutub complex an iron pillar stands which is famous for the rust-resistant composition of the metals used in its construction. It amused me a lot.

We took a lot of photographs. I am going to remember this visit throughout my life.

GARV, class VIII, Shanti Gyan Vidyapeeth School

Scholar badge distribution at NC Jindal

Recognising the consistent pursuits of the scholars to achieve academic excellence, Scholar Badge Distribution function for the session 2020-21 was held on a virtual platform at N C Jindal Public School, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi recently.

The occasion witnessed the presence of the school principal, Dr D K Pandey, vice-principal, Bharti Pushkarna and headmistress, Indu Jain.

Addressing the gathering, the principal congratulated the proud



parents on the academic achievement of their children, and motivated the scholars to engage

themselves in innovation, ideation and creative thinking through the multitude of opportunities provided through online as well as offline mode.

Around 692 scholars were honoured with badges and merit certificates. A mesmerising classical dance 'Tarang-A Rhythmic Flow of Innovation, Ideation & Imagination' was presented by Rishita Bagga (X C). The vote of thanks was proposed by the vice-principal, Bharati Pushkarna. The function concluded with the recital of the National Anthem.

CHANGING PHASE OF EDUCATION

The most freeing and empowering factor for humankind is education. Proper and good education is of paramount importance to all of us.

Education facilitates quality of learning and living throughout the life of people regardless of age, caste and creed, religion and geographical expanse. Today, parents know that their children can achieve success only through proper and structured education. They are aware that education is essential for their wards to improve on their knowledge, way of living as well as social and economic status throughout their life. It is a vital way to get success over all the individual and societal matters and it is constructive in nature. Spending eight long hours in school buildings, never ending home work, assignments, monotonous class room teaching are all reasons why many new generation parents opt for the

THE EDUCATIONIST

modularity and flexibility of home schooling and online educational platforms for their children. Parents can rest easy in knowing that today, schools pan India are moving away from the traditional teacher centric learning to child centric approach. Gone are the days when schools focused on teaching students to learn all that is in their text books and reproduce the same in their assignments. Schools have redefined themselves as a place to develop potential, to refine oneself, learn basic etiquette, while providing a variety of opportunities for multitasking, building communication, enhancing gender equality, building confidence and critical thinking. Child centric education is an "active

learning" process to help the child develop the knowledge and skills needed in life. The main aspects of child centered learning which schools focus on is allowing the child to learn at his own pace without pressurising him. Every child has got an individualistic learning style like kinesthetic, visual, auditory, linguistic etc. It is the role of the teacher to identify the learning style of the students and to facilitate them in their style of learning. Further students are made active participants in the learning process so they become responsible for their own learning. So, a child must walk into the portals of a school with the confidence that he will not be curtailed by rigid principles within the boundaries of the school building. Instead, school will be an avenue to explore possibilities, build skills, experience the excitement of learning in order to become worthy responsible citizens of the world.

JAYIS MATHEW SAJAN, Principal Advaita International School, Tiruppur



Express YOURSELF

My dearest subject

In the life of an individual, entering grade XI is a true battle in which we are faced with the difficult decision of which group to pursue for further studies. A tense atmosphere surrounds us, beginning with our parents, friends, relatives, and many of our relations. I chose the commerce group as a current grade XI student. Having a favourite subject in general would provide the foundation for us to flourish in our career and acquire a long list of accomplishments. It is business studies for me. Business studies is more than just a subject in the classroom. It gives us a better understanding of various businesses, their operations, and their aspects, which is useful in understanding our surroundings. Apart from that, it is a synthesis of a



SWATHI K S, class XI, National Model Senior Secondary School, Coimbatore

number of other disciplines, including accounting, finance, customising consumer demands, marketing, and a slew of others. In fact, Peter F Drucker is known as the 'Father of Business Studies'.

As a result, it prepares us for a professional environment in which we may channel our untapped potential, creativity, and abilities. This subject also prepares us with a broad understanding of business and its well-thought-out tactics, as well as specific skills in professional fields. Business studies also opens up a variety of fruitful opportunities prevailing in our economy. It also encourages and fosters to build doors for a variety of opportunities to knock like entrepreneurs which is essential for a nation's overall economic growth and development through which one can attain a sense of accomplishment.

Allure

Beginning of January's third week,
Coruscant Agni,
Reaching for a sight of
A young desi lady.
Her colossal eyes
A peek into the
deep dark meta galaxy.
The pitch black
boundary of the meta galaxy -
Winged kohli tip as
sharp as Cupid's arrow.
Overwhelming beauty
that causes this arrow
To make Cupid
strike himself, in love.
Intricately sculpted lips,
Pink diamond rain, on twin
mountains. Her structure, Isn't
she a sculpture? She is Medusa
before the curse, Making Goddess
Athena envious again.
She is heaven on the terrain,
With her stipples of acne
Proving beauty is
never perfect.

HASIKA VINOD The Geeky World School

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

Top-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

England 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

Rising T20 sensation M Shahrux 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 Shahrux 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 Shahrux 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.

Shahrux, 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