



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

[www.toistudent.com](http://www.toistudent.com)
**TODAY'S  
EDITION**

➤ Learn more about the history of Afghanistan and the country's present scenario after Taliban takeover

**PAGE 2**


➤ Another bumpy and surreal back-to-school season is upon us. Read what educationists and students have to say

**PAGE 3**


➤ US Open: World No 1 Ash Barty loses in the third round

**PAGE 4**

**STUDENT EDITION**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2021


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## Let's make virtual classes more vibrant: Sudha Murthy

Author and chairperson of Infosys Foundation, Sudha Murthy, feels that the online classes being held by schools owing to the pandemic need an overhaul in order to make them more interesting, and children more receptive. "What we are witnessing right now is just a 'translation' of a physical classroom into a virtual one, something, which is not working at all. We need to improvise and use our imagination to ensure that children receive what is being taught and do not get bored," she said.



Remember, obtaining high grades is not the only condition to succeed in life. What makes a person truly successful is an enormous amount of patience and adjustment. It is also about how good a team player he/she is

### ON THE RAT RACE TO SCORE A PERFECT 10

It's unfortunate that most of the educational institutions are just focussing on grades and ranks. Besides, parental pressure on children to aim for courses, which they (parents) could not take up, stunts the

overall growth of young minds. Those who draft the syllabus need to understand the importance of creative classes and soft skills where the real potential of children can emerge. Parents must stop wanting to complete their dreams through children

### ON AUDIO BOOKS

I belong to a generation that enjoys holding a physical copy of the book and reading, but considering the changing times, such platforms may introduce children to the magical world of stories

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## MISSION MARS

### Will it be safe for humans to fly to the Red planet?



Findings of a recent study suggests that humans should be able to safely travel to and from Mars, provided that the spacecraft has sufficient shielding and the round trip is shorter than approximately four years. Sending human travellers to Mars would require scientists and engineers to overcome a range of technological and safety obstacles. Here's some of them...

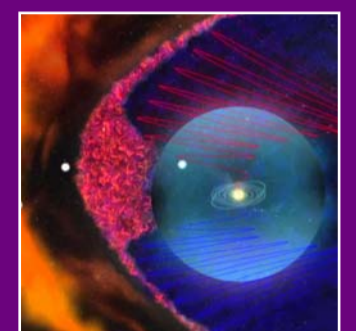


**1** According to scientists, particle radiation from the sun, distant stars and galaxies will be the greatest obstacle

**2** Experts say, the timing of a human mission to Mars would indeed make a difference: The scientists determined

that the best time for a flight to leave Earth would be when solar activity is at its peak, known as the solar maximum

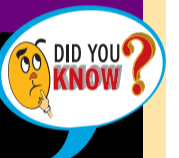
**3** Scientists' calculations demonstrate that it would be possible to shield a Mars-bound spacecraft from energetic particles from the sun because during solar maximum, the most dangerous and energetic particles from distant galaxies are deflected by the enhanced solar activity



■ The two main types of hazardous radiation in space are solar energetic particles and galactic cosmic rays; the intensity of each depends on solar activity

■ Galactic cosmic ray activity is lowest within the six to 12 months after the peak of solar activity, while solar energetic particles' intensity is greatest during solar maximum

The average flight to Mars takes about nine months



**4** Similarly, researchers recommend a mission not longer than four years because a longer journey would expose astronauts to a dangerously high amount of radiation during the round trip - even assuming they went when it was relatively safer than at other times

**5** They also reported that the main danger to such a flight would be particles from outside of our solar system

## Tokyo Paralympics: Krishna secures gold, Suhas clinches silver in badminton

### INDIA FINISHES WITH 19 MEDALS

Krishna Nagar secured a second gold medal in badminton after Suhas Yathiraj claimed a silver as it turned out to be a Super Sunday for the Indian badminton contingent at the Tokyo Paralympics.

■ The 22-year-old Nagar, seeded second, defeated Hong Kong's Chu Man Kai 21-17 16-21 21-17 in the men's singles SH6 class final to retain his unbeaten run at the Games and join compatriot Pramod Bhagat in the gold medal winning list



**BHAGAT HAD CLAIMED INDIA'S FIRST GOLD IN BADMINTON IN SL3 CLASS ON THURSDAY**



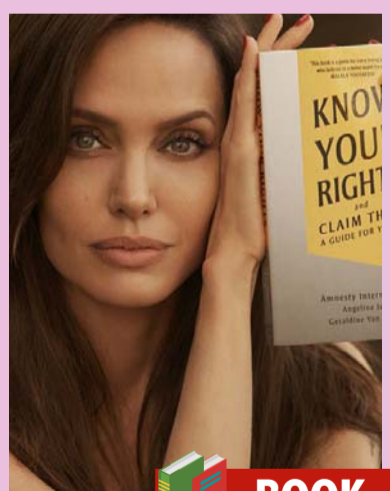
## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: JOLIE URGES KIDS

Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie says, she hopes to empower children around the world with tools to "fight back" for their rights with a book she has written with Amnesty International. 'Know Your Rights and Claim Them', written with human rights lawyer Geraldine Van Bueren, one of the original drafters of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, aims to equip kids with the knowledge to safely challenge injustices.

### HOW TO BE AN ACTIVIST

■ The book addresses identity, justice, education and protection from harm, among other issues. It provides guidance on becoming an activist, being safe and a glossary of terms and organisations.

■ The book is peppered with examples of powerful young voices from around the world, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, climate activist Greta Thunberg and 15-year-old Palestinian journalist Janna Jihad.


**BOOK**

## Study shows Coronavirus epidemic may have existed 21,000 years ago

The most recent common ancestor of sarbecoviruses – the family of coronaviruses to which SARS-CoV belongs – existed more than 21,000 years ago, nearly 30 times older than previous estimates, finds a study. The study showed that humanity may have been exposed to sarbecoviruses, which has the potential to jump from animals to humans, since the Paleolithic period, roughly 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 BC.

## NOW, TRANSFER YOUR WHATSAPP CHATS FROM IOS TO ANDROID

Facebook-owned WhatsApp has added the ability for users to migrate their chat history when switching from iOS to Samsung Android devices. Previously, if users selected WhatsApp's cloud backup feature, then iOS chat histories were stored in iCloud, while Android's histories backed up to Google Drive, making it almost impossible to transfer chats between phones that weren't running the same operating system.


**TECHAWAY**

## Rohit Sharma completes 15,000 runs in international cricket



Opener Rohit Sharma went past 15,000 runs in international cricket during India's second innings against England at The Oval on Friday. With this feat, the right-hander has joined an exclusive club, as he became only the eighth Indian batsman to achieve this feat in international cricket...

■ Sachin Tendulkar leads the pack with 34,357 runs

■ The other Indian players on the list are Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli, Sourav



Ganguly, MS Dhoni, Virender Sehwag and Mohammed Azharuddin

■ Rohit is the 39th on the list of leading run-getters in the world across formats



## WHY YOU MUST NOT HAVE FRUITS AFTER 4 PM

Fruits are one of the greatest sources of vitamins and minerals. Two servings of fresh fruits a day can keep you healthy and fit. It can aid in weight loss, help your organs perform their work efficiently and cut down the risk of chronic diseases. But just like there is an ideal time to have your meals, fruits too should be taken on fixed time to absorb maximum nutrients from it. If you believe in Ayurveda, then you must have your share of fruits before sunset to reap its health benefits

### WHY FRUITS MUST BE CONSUMED BEFORE SUNSET

Lifestyle and wellness coach Luke Coutinho recently took to his Instagram handle to enlighten his followers why fruits should be eaten before sunset. Luke wrote that as per Ayurveda, the ancient Indian system of medicine, eating fruits in the evening can disturb the sleep schedule and disrupt the digestion process. As we know that most fruits are simple carbs that means they can be broken down. They are a great source of instant energy, at the same time they also spike blood sugar levels. Having it close to bedtime may disrupt your sleep due to a rise in the blood sugar level. Besides, post-sunset, our metabolism slows down and it becomes difficult to digest carbs. So, it is better to limit the carb intake.

### FRUITS SHOULD BE TAKEN ALONE

Fruits should always be taken all alone and not be paired with dairy or vegetables. Taking fruits with dairy or vegetables can lead to the formation of toxins in the body. That happens due to improper digestion of fruits and low absorption of nutrients. The presence of toxins in the body can lead to illness and other health-related conditions.



# AFGHANISTAN

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHO IS TO BLAME?

By Advait Joshi, class XI, Shri Ram School - Aravali, Gurugram. He likes Economics, and has participated in many MUN's and won awards



### A BRIEF HISTORY

The instability in the state of Afghanistan started way before the 9/11 attacks. In the December of 1979, during the cold war, Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan to set up a pro-Soviet government there. The strategic location and the chance to have another ally was an offer too tempting for the Soviet Union to pass on and it began a whole war against the country and the Mujahideen, the guerrilla warfare fighters of Afghanistan. The US and Saudi Arabia funnelled in weapons and resources to the Mujahideen through Pakistan in the 1980s, and in 1989, the war ended with no real winner. After this, the country saw a civil war, which saw the Taliban set up their regime in Afghanistan until the entry of the United States in 2001.

On September 11, 2001, Operatives from the terrorist group Al-Qaeda hijacked four commercial airplanes, crashing two of them into the World Trade Centers, one in the Pentagon Building and one in Pennsylvania, resulting in the death of nearly 3,000 people and injuring thousands more. The attack was the deadliest terrorist attack on US soil. Then-President George W Bush vowed to “win the war against terrorism,” and zeroed in on Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, even though none of the 19 hijackers were from Afghanistan. He then signed into law a joint resolution to authorise using military force against those responsible for 9/11.



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### WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AFGHANISTAN RIGHT NOW?

On August 15, India's Independence Day, Afghanistan lost its independence. Taliban was able to overthrow the old government, with the now ex-president Ashraf Ghani fleeing the country. Taliban officials said their only goal is to implement a government as per the Sharia law that restricts the role of women in society, and even though majority of Afghanistan wanted Sharia law in the polls done before, many are trying to leave the country as refugees. Airports and runways are overcrowded with people and many are losing their lives in the mayhem. Mothers are throwing their babies over borders so they don't have to live in Afghanistan. UK has pledged to take in 20,000 Afghan refugees, and many more will seek refuge around the world. Taliban insisted upon its commitment to peace, but accounts of human rights violations against the people of Afghanistan by Taliban tell a different story.



### WHO IS TO BLAME?

#### The American Side

The speed at which the government of Afghanistan collapsed is something nobody could fathom, not even the Biden Administration, and many say that the pulling out of American troops allowed Taliban to take over the country. First of all, the entry of US into Afghanistan to fight the war against terror for almost 20 years was a decision that led to deaths of thousands of innocent civilians. US was backed by a foreign policy that would never reward them in leaving an un-winnable war. US strived to protect Afghanistan from the Taliban and other terror organisations, but the fact that they left the country with such swiftness contradicts their whole foreign policy. America took no steps to train the Afghan police or army to fight Taliban, and followed no accurate schedule in the withdrawal of troops. The reality that US entered the war and left without tangible results makes people question America's credibility in this long war.

#### The Afghan Side

The US national security advisor Jake Sullivan said the Afghan Army “chose not to fight for its country.” Afghan security forces “had the training, the size, the capability to defend their country,” he said. “This comes down to the issue of will and leadership. I did not, nor did anyone else, see a collapse of an army that size in 11 days.” This statement has an element of truth. There was a high level of corruption in the Afghan military, and that was something the US could never come to terms with. The Biden administration asserted that Afghan army had a force of 300,000. However, the Afghan military and police payrolls contained many what some call “ghost soldiers,” officers who did not exist but were listed so that officials could receive extra payments. The SIGAR or the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan reconstruction found that there was a gap between recorded and actual strength in the number of police/army personnel in the southern pro-Taliban provinces in recent years. This widespread corruption led to the inevitable demoralisation of the Afghan fighting force. Overall, Afghanistan was used as a pawn between geo-political superpowers. The world though is sad for the people of Afghanistan whose lives have been robbed of freedom for many decades. Although, for this current chaos, I believe both sides, the Afghanistan and the US - both have their reasons.

## A Short History Of

# America's Involvement in Afghanistan



By DURGA BASU  
Class: X, Vasant Valley School, New Delhi

The Twin Towers engulfed by flames, George W Bush's war on terror, Taliban's refusal to hand over Osama bin Laden and finally, joyous sights of victorious NATO troops marching through Kabul, having ended five years of Taliban rule in 2001. Many of our parents will easily remember and recall these historic events and most of us associate the barbaric New York City attack with the beginning of US intervention in Afghanistan. But the truth is American intervention far predates 9/11 and actually started in the mid 20th century.

During the 1950s, both the US and USSR were heavily involved with infrastructure building in the, then Kingdom. The United States worked on the Helmand Valley project, an irrigation and agricultural project to build dams in southern Afghanistan. Both countries cooperated with King Zahir Shah.

The relationship between the nations hit a turning point when the King's cousin Daud Khan overthrew him in a bloodless coup and declared himself President of the Republic of Afghanistan. Khan had previously served as royal Prime Minister and was known for supporting the Soviet Union. His presidency made the United States increasingly uncomfortable. At the same time he also angered the Soviets by preaching Afghan self dependence and allying his country with anti Soviet countries.

However, military involvement began in the late 1970s, where Daud Khan was himself overthrown and a Marxist Leninist government was formed in Kabul. The United States started covertly funneling money into armed resistance groups through the Pakistani intelligence services.



This agitated the USSR and they invaded Afghanistan in 1979. However, it is a myth that the Soviet invasion started the Afghan civil war, as we have learnt, the western backing for rebels had started before the invasion happened. This backing for the Mujahideen (Islamic fighters engaging in war) only became public after the invasion.

It is also a common myth that the United States created the Mujahideen, they simply exploited the group but they didn't fund them completely. Most funds were received by Gulbuddin Hekmatkar, a prominent Islamic fighter. The US also committed a blunder when they convinced Egypt to release Ayman al-Zawahiri, second in command of Al-Qaeda. He was brought to Afghanistan as an attempt to bring in foreign fighters to ally with the Mujahideen. This meddling formed both the Al-Qaeda and Taliban. And the withdrawal of American and Soviet forces was the true element that triggered the civil war and plunged the mountainous nation into chaos.

What happened after Taliban seized power is well known: strict Sharia law and the refusal to release Osama bin Laden, which led to the famous NATO invasion of 2001. What happened next is history - the history that Taliban has hopefully learnt from for their second time in power.

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## Easy Recipes

## Salty & sweet Kiwi Juice



### INGREDIENTS

3 large kiwis  
Salt as required  
Water as required  
2 tablespoon sugar  
Black salt as required

Kiwi fruit is a nutritional powerhouse and is great for health. Juice it and reap the benefits. Here's the recipe

**STEP 1: Peel kiwis** - Peel the kiwis and then scoop out all the pulp neatly. Transfer the pulp to a bowl.

**STEP 2: Blend all the ingredients** - In a blender, add sugar, salt, kiwi pulp and 4 cups of chilled water. Blend everything together until frothy.

**STEP 3: Garnish it with black salt** - Pour the juice into two glasses and then sprinkle some black salt. Mix it well.

**STEP 4: Your kiwi juice is ready** - Drop one ice cube and you are good to go. Enjoy the delicious taste and goodness of kiwi juice.

Kiwi is loaded with vitamin C and is great for gut health

## Towards blended learning and changing role of teachers

September 5 is celebrated as 'Teachers' Day' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, the second president of India, a renowned teacher and a philosopher for his commendable contribution to education.

During the present scenario, teachers have breathed in a new breath of life in the teaching-learning processes by designing adequate learning strategies to suit the needs of the learners. As a result, it has provided students with an opportunity to continue their learning uninterrupted in ways, more than one. In addition to the benefits felt by the students, virtual learning has provided teachers with an opportunity to up-skill and re-skill themselves to become relevant to the new generation of students. Virtual learning thus offers significant benefits even for educators and enables



**DR. GRACE PINTO**, Managing Director, Ryan International Group of Institutions, sector 31, Gurugram

them to rethink pedagogy and holistic development.

Considering the current scenario, virtual learning offers a suitable mode of teaching and learning and has become an opportunity door for teachers to positively

impact the lives of so many school children during these challenging times. But the question that arises is, 'Can technology optimally replace physical teaching?' A teacher is not just a facilitator of knowledge, but he/she is also a mentor, a guide, a friend and a role model for the students. Whether on the online interactive platform or in a physical classroom, teachers as

mentors are trained to handle different emotional issues students face. In a physical classroom, a teacher gives personal feedback and guides students based on the years of experience they have acquired. A teacher understands the importance of inculcating fundamental human values. A young child needs to know and understand the importance of basic values in life that teachers can impart to them through value education, thus helping them be socially responsible citizens of our society.

Holistic development through extra-curricular, one-on-one communication, experiential learning, and school activities with teachers as mentors will remain an integral part of a child's education. Technology has made data and resources available to everyone, but it needs an expert to guide the students through the maze and navigate through all the resources. A teacher can help the child do that.

### Teachers: Our guiding force



“Educating a child should be holistic and not just a process of stuffing their heads with information. Just coming to class and learning a few lessons is not really the education that a child needs. We have to see to the total development of the body and the mind because they are linked. Therefore, we (teachers) have an important role in making any country great and glorious.”

**UPASANA GROVER**, Teacher Coordinator, Ryan International School, sector 31, Gurugram

Being teacher is the highest privilege, having one is a blessing. A good teacher can foster optimism, confidence and become a good role model. Every teacher is a reflection of his or her students and I am proud to be reflection of my students and feel honoured to be part of Inspire School.

**MANSI SOI**, Inspire, Paschim Vihar



“Since when we were in tiny tunics, playing chalk-fight in the nursery class, to when we have calculus doubts in high school, our teachers have always played the most important role. They wipe our tears on our first day of school and wipe their own tears the day we leave. Be it the blackboard, whiteboard or desktop, a teacher's dedication always remains the same.”

**Pragya Munshi**, class XII, Delhi Public School, sec 45, Gurugram

Thank you for continually inspiring me to do my best. You help me strive for goals, I found guidance, friendship, discipline and love, everything in one person. And that person is you.

**Suryansh Mehta**, Inspire School, Paschim Vihar

## National Sports day celebration at ASN

**ASN Senior Secondary School**, Mayur Vihar 1, celebrated National Sports Day 2021 with a lot of enthusiasm and zest. The day marked the birth anniversary of legendary player late Major Dhyan Chand. Dr Meenakshi Pahuja graced the program as the chief guest of the day. The international medalist swimmer is a three-time 'Limca book' record holder and recipient of Nari Shakti Puraskar.

The program started with the



'Saraswati vandana' followed by a homage paid to the legendary Hockey Player Major Dhyan Chand. Junior wing students conducted a special program titled 'Khelega India to badhega India'. The programme commenced with

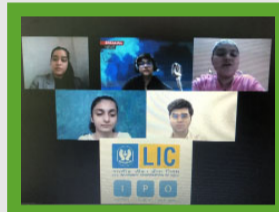
highlights of the activities undertaken by the school as part of the Fit India initiative. A presentation followed this on basic yoga, sports and fitness drills possible indoors, and a thoughtful skit on the importance of sports and physical fitness in our daily lives.

Middle wing students conducted a special e-assembly on the theme 'Khel kood swasthya ka mool'. ASNites then congratulated and celebrated the Indian Tokyo Olympians 2021 victory through a short video presentation.

### Mount Carmel organises 'Comm-Passion 2021'

**Mount Carmel School**, Anand Niketan, commerce department organised online 'Comm-Passion 2021' for class XI and XII Commerce and Economics students.

'Comm-Passion' started with the word of prayer by acting

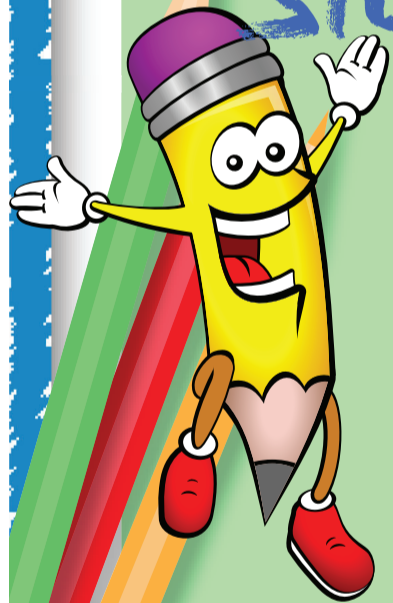


principal Roma Das. Best teams were felicitated with certificates. First position was secured by Suryansh Saxena and team, second position was secured by Chirag Rohilla and team, and third position was se-

cured by Shivali Vohra and team.

Second event of the day was a workshop by Ecoholics, an educational initiative by Sanat Shrivastava (CEO and economist) and Asawari Savarikar (chief academic officer). Third was a career counselling workshop conducted by Amit Kumar Julia, CA and Co-founder of international school of professional education.

## Student Corner



**VISHESH KUMAR SHUKUL**, class VII, The Air Force School, Subroto Park

*rachayange, Yeh baat samaajh mein aayi!*

*Megha Ma'am brings sunshine  
She taught us that legends have no age  
And courage makes a Changun and a Thenyak.  
We learn new words,  
We pick up new phrases,  
The journey of English Makes us go crazy...*



### My teachers, the pillars of my life

*My dear teachers  
You bring the world with you!*

*Abha Ma'am arrives and we  
juggle with numbers.  
Her live worksheets... make us  
think I wish I could solve them  
in a blink.  
The day I get a star, I am over  
the moon!*

*Neetu Ma'am arrives and we*

*dive in the environment.  
We solve the puzzles on India  
and the world.  
Her activities simplify the  
concepts,  
I wish she had taught me  
EVS earlier.*

*We go to the coding world with  
Manisha ma'am,  
She inspires me for creating  
my own computer games.*

*Jyoti ma'am ne Hindi sikhai,  
Hawa ki duniya se wakfiyat  
karai,  
Hum balak nav itihaas*

*Oh dear teachers!  
I wish we could meet  
your teaching skills are the  
best anyone can get  
If you don't believe me...  
Let's have a bet.*

**DAKSHA KHARB**, class V,  
Tagore Intl School,  
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

## Gunbir Baveja brings pride to DPS

Gunbir Baveja is a student of class XII of Delhi Public School, Dwarka with astonishing achievements to his credit at a very young age. He is a grand award winner at IRIS National Fair 2020-2021 and received a special award by Yale Engineering Association for the 'Most Outstanding Exhibition in STEM' in the category 'Earth and Environmental Sciences'.



He represented India at the Virtual Regeneration ISEF, the world's largest pre-college science fair where Wolfram granted him a subscription to the

world's most advanced knowledge engine.

As the only participant from India to get selected without being affiliated to the Insef, he won the second award at Global Youth Science & Technology Bowl 2021, Hong Kong. He bagged a bronze medal at the Genius Olympiad, and a 15,000 USD scholarship to RIT.

He wrote a paper on 'Earthquake Magnitude and b-value prediction model using Extreme Learning Machines', which was accepted by ICDA-TA- one of the largest conferences held in the field of Data Science and AI, and was invited to present his research paper at Las Vegas.

## National Sports Day at Mamta Modern

**Mamta Modern Sr Sec School**, Vikaspuri celebrated National Sports day on August 29 with great fervour. The event was organised to commemorate birth anniversary of In-



dian Hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. A special assembly was organised by class VI to promote sportsmanship among our students. The students of class VI participated with great zeal and took back a lot of important values to be practiced in life.

## THE EDUCATIONIST

### Treasure it before you trash it

Honestly, how many times have you slammed your grandparent for telling you that one should not trim their nails after nightfall? Or when they said black should not be worn for a happy occasion? It is more than often that we put aside anything and everything that elders want us to do as either 'outdated' or 'Superstition'. Are they?

Let's begin with the washing of hands and feet before entering the house. Isn't that what we have been advised to do by health experts to keep the virus or any other infection at bay? Walking under a ladder may not bring us bad luck but we sure agree that it can be dangerous for the person walking below it and the one standing atop it. A broken mirror can cause for physical hurt, so it was rightly believed that it had to be disposed off immediately (otherwise, it would bring bad health) People have broken a bone or two when they have accidentally stepped on a crack on the floor. Our elders justly asked us not to do that.

Haven't we seen so many cross their fingers while expecting good news? Or seen people stopping in their tracks if a cat crosses their path? While there is no scientific or logical basis for many practices, not all of them can be put aside without consideration. Although the number 13 is not unlucky for all, sleeping below the peepal tree at night can be harmful to all due to release of carbon diox-

ide during photosynthesis (not because of ghosts!)

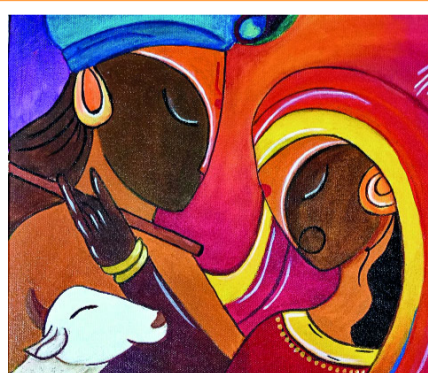
The practices of our forefathers had wisdom which they could not communicate in the way this generation thinks. Nevertheless, they wanted us to follow a certain way of life to ensure that our health was taken care of in natural, organic ways, that we did not expose ourselves to environmental hazards, and that we were psychologically and emotionally cared for. There are some beliefs which can certainly be discarded, but to ignore well-meaning traditions would not be in keeping with preserving the rich legacy of our country.

Next time we hear anything the elders want us to do, let us pause and ponder whether there is science behind it, if there is solid logic in doing it or sometimes, if it gives us pure joy without harming anyone. These are rich cultural heritage components that we are carrying forward. The western world would give anything to learn and follow them for the benefits they bring. It's a general trend to ape the West but let's also be aware that many of our ancestral treasures travel all over the world and come back repackaged, which we accept happily!

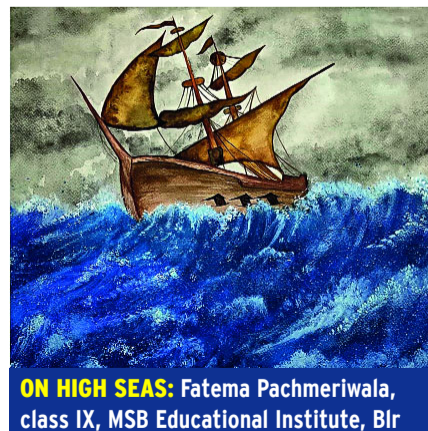
As they say, treasure it before you trash it! Next time your grandmother wants to hang 'nimbu mirchi' (lemon and chillies) to ward off the evil eye, don't laugh it off, they have insecticidal properties and keep unwanted intruders, the insects, away!



**Anupama Ramachandra**, principal, Delhi Public School E-City, Bengaluru



**RADHA AND KRISHNA**: Diya M, class IX, MES Kishore Kendra PS, Bengaluru



**ON HIGH SEAS**: Fatema Pachmeriwalla, class IX, MSB Educational Institute, Bir

## Express YOURSELF



**ANIME**: M Chinmayi, class VII, HAL Public School, Bengaluru

### I OWE MY LIFE TO YOU

I know I was not the best,  
You made me special.  
I know I was slow  
You made me steady.  
I know I was not smart  
You made me extraordinary.  
I know I was not polite,  
You made me humble.  
I know I was not a good child,  
You made me a respectable citizen.  
I know I was heartless  
You embraced me with all your heart.  
I know I don't have anything to pay you back  
So, I owe my life to you.

**Ananya J**, class IX, Samsiddh MLZS, HSR, Blr

# NOVAK DJOKOVIC

## A STEP CLOSER TO HISTORY

After tackling two U.S. Open debutants, the Serbian faced an old foe reaching the fourth round with a 6-7(4) 6-3 6-3 6-2 win over Kei Nishikori

**F**ollowing first-ever meetings with Denmark's Holger Rune and Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor, Djokovic faced a seasoned campaigner in Nishikori, who was runner-up at the 2014 U.S. Open having beaten the Serb to move into that year's final. Since then it has been one-way traffic in the rivalry with Djokovic sweeping 17 straight contests against the Japanese player, improving his head-to-head record to 18-2. But after Nishikori's 6-2 6-0 quarter-final thumping at the hands of the world No. 1 at the Tokyo Olympics, the 31-year-old made Djokovic sweat for his victory. "So far the toughest match of the tournament for me," said Djokovic.

### Crowd cheers for the Serb

Usually the headliner under the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights, Djokovic made a matinee appearance on Saturday and appeared unsettled by the conditions as he went to work under a blazing sun. For the first time this week New York fans, who have not always embraced Djokovic, got behind the history-hunting Serb, showering him with cheers that had largely gone

to his opponents. While Djokovic did not need the fans to get through the opening week, he knows the path gets harder and at some point will most likely need the energy the crowd can bring to get him through a rough patch. "Arthur Ashe is the place where you bring the energy," said Djokovic. "That's where you feel this kind of electric atmosphere, particularly in the matches like this where it's decided in a few points. 'Yeah, the crowd was involved. It was loud. It was nice. I thrived on that.'"

**The opening two rounds obviously felt well, played good. But the pace of the ball and the speed of Nishikori's tennis today was just higher than the opening two rounds' opponents that I had.**  
**NOVAK DJOKOVIC**

### The Joker in control

A tight opening set was snatched by Nishikori in a tiebreak before Djokovic managed to settle into the contest, breaking the Japanese player

twice in the second on his way to leveling the match at a set apiece. In another workmanlike effort, the top seed took the decisive break in the third to go ahead 5-3, then held serve for a 2-1 lead. Now in control, Djokovic would leave Nishikori no openings to hope for a comeback, storming through the last four games of the fourth set to close out the contest in style. Djokovic now awaits the winner of the match between U.S. wildcard Jenson Brooksby and Russian Aslan Karatsev.

### Lloyd Harris ousts Shapovalov

South African Lloyd Harris reached the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time on Saturday with a 6-4 6-4 6-4 victory over Canadian world number 10 Denis Shapovalov at the U.S. Open. The 22-year-old Shapovalov, seeded seventh at the hardcourt major this year, came into Saturday's match at the Louis Armstrong Stadium having lost his only previous meeting against Harris in March. Since that Dubai meeting, the South African, 24, has made rapid strides in his career, defeating 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafa Nadal in Washington last month and has climbed up to a career-best ranking of 46th. **REUTERS**



Novak Djokovic reacts after scoring a point

## SUHAS YATHIRAJ SETTLES FOR SILVER

The IAS officer ended his campaign with a historic silver in the men's singles SL4 class Badminton final

**T**he 38-year-old Noida district magistrate, who has an impairment in one of his ankles, produced an entertaining performance before narrowly going down 21-15 17-21 15-21 to two-time world champion Mazur in a 62-minute summit clash. Suhas had lost to Mazur, who has won three gold medals in European Championships as well, in the qualifying group A match but the India made a tremendous effort in the final to challenge his world No. 1 rival. The district magistrate of Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) thus also became the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympics. Suhas had earlier outwitted Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan 21-9 21-15 in the semifinal. In SL4 bronze medal play-off, second seed Tarun Dhillon went down 17-21 11-21 to Indonesia's Fredy Setiawan in 32 minutes to miss out of a medal at the Tottori national stadium.

A computer engineer, Suhas went on to become an IAS officer and has been posted as a district magistrate of Noida since 2020, a role that saw him at the forefront of the

fight against COVID-19 pandemic. On court, he has won gold medals at 2017 BWF Turkish Para badminton championship in men's singles and men's doubles. He also won gold in 2016 Asia championships, besides a bronze at 2018 Asian Para Games. **PTI**

**It is a proud and prestigious moment to win a medal for the country in the world's largest sporting arena.**

**SUHAS YATHIRAJ**

Silver medallist Suhas Lalinkere Yathiraj of India poses on the podium



Photo: REUTERS

## WORLD NO. 1 ASH BARTY LOSES IN THIRD ROUND

**W**orld number one Ash Barty crashed out of the third round of the U.S. Open, losing 6-2 1-6 7-6(5) to American Shelby Rogers. There were early signs of trouble for heavy favorite Barty, who handed Rogers a break with four double faults in the third game, and got fewer than half of her first serves in as.

The Wimbledon champion found her form in the second set, getting a critical break in the fourth game with a forehand winner and again converting on break point in the sixth as Rogers whacked the ball into the net. Up 5-2 in the final set, the Australian appeared poised to walk away with the win in but Rogers roared back, winning four straight games in front of an electric home crowd. **REUTERS**



Photo: AFP

## QUIZ TIME!

**Q1:** Which Indian player holds the unbroken record of scoring five goals in an Olympic final?

- Balbir Singh Sr.
- Dhyanchand
- Ashok Kumar
- None of the above

**Q2:** Where will the 2021 Tour de France start?

- Ireland
- Denmark
- Belgium
- France

**Q3:** Which female tennis player has won the highest number of Grand Slams?

- Steffi Graf
- Simona Halep
- Serena Williams
- Maria Sharapova

**Q4:** Which is the second-largest cricket ground in the world, by capacity?

- Eden Gardens
- Melbourne Cricket Ground
- Perth Stadium
- Adelaide Oval

**Q5:** Which of the following is awarded to individuals for promoting education, culture, development and peace through sport?

- Olympic Cup
- Olympic Laurel
- Olympic Town
- Olympic Order

**Q6:** How many Intl. centuries, Tests and ODI combined, has Sachin Tendulkar scored?

- 100
- 90
- 120
- 84



Photo: TOI

**Q7:** Who among the following is the only player to complete a Grand Slam in tennis in a Junior discipline?

- Stefan Edberg
- Rod Laver
- Ivan Lendl
- Boris Becker

**Q8:** Who won the most valuable player (MVP) award in the 2018 Asian Games?

- Lin Dan
- Kosuke Hagino
- Rikako Ikee
- Koji Ito

**Q9:** Which country won the gold medal in women's hockey at the 2018 Winter

**Olympic Games?**

- Canada
- USA
- Russia
- Finland

**Q10:** Each team is allowed a maximum of how many touches before the ball goes over the net in a game of Volleyball?

- Three
- Two
- Four
- Five

**ANSWERS:** 1. a. Balbir Singh Sr. 2. d. France 3. c. Serena Williams 4. b. Melbourne Cricket Ground 5. b. Olympic Laurel 6. a. 100 7. a. Stefan Edberg 8. c. Rikako Ikee 9. b. USA 10. a. Three