



THE TIMES OF INDIA

www.toistudent.com

TODAY'S EDITION

Who says virtual classrooms can't be fun? Find out naughty classroom moments shared by teachers
PAGE 2



In Wizard's Corner, have fun with stories, games, vocabulary builder and activities
PAGE 3



Osaka fights back to win 3-setter against Coco Gauff at Cincinnati, US
PAGE 4



STUDENT EDITION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 2021



NEWS FROM KABUL



Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid

TALIBAN MEET KARZAI AND ABDULLAH

The Taliban, who have pledged a different rule in Afghanistan from their brutal regime two decades ago, met with former president Hamid Karzai and senior official Abdullah Abdullah as they seek to form a government. The talks came as president Ashraf Ghani - who fled Afghanistan as the insurgents closed in on Kabul - said from the UAE that he supported those negotiations and was in talks to return home.

"If I had stayed the President of Afghanistan, people would have been hanged and this would have been a dreadful disaster in our history. I am not fearful of an honourable death, and dishonouring Afghanistan was not acceptable to me, but I had to. I was taken out of Afghanistan to avoid bloodshed and the destruction of Afghanistan."

Ashraf Ghani

'ISLAMIC SCHOLARS TO DECIDE ROLE OF WOMEN'

A senior Taliban leader has said that the role of women in Afghanistan, including their right to work and education and dress, would ultimately be decided by a council of Islamic scholars. During their 1996-2001 rule, the Taliban stopped women from working, girls were not allowed to go to school and women had to wear burqas and be accompanied by a male relative while stepping out, as per the Islamic law. Agencies

Covid left us with imperfect substitutes. But can it fill the gap of perfect hugs?



Rose Gagnon could not hug her grandchildren for several months. Not being able to see and touch her loved ones every day because of Covid-19's social distancing protocols was taking a toll on the mental health of the 85-year old. Like many, she was feeling lonely and yearning for an emotional connection that had been hampered by the inability to embrace those most important to her. That's when Gagnon's granddaughter Carly Marinaro devised an innovative solution in the form of a 'hug time' device. Inside a frame made of PVC piping, Marinaro fashioned a see-through plastic barrier with two arm attachments, so that grandmother and granddaughter could share a hug while minimising the contact.

WHAT IS AFFECTION DEPRIVATION?

When individuals cannot hug their grandchildren, kiss their friends, or hold the hand of a dying loved, they undergo 'touch hunger', a colloquial term for what social scientists call 'affection deprivation'. It is a state in which individuals want or need more affection than they receive.

HOW IT IMPAIRS WELL-BEING

Similar to regular hunger, touch hunger serves as an alert that something important is missing - in this case, the sense of security, intimacy, and care that comes with tactile contact. As people have taken pains to so-

DEALING WITH 'TOUCH HUNGER'

- Affectionate communication comes in many forms, and not all of them have been curtailed by the pandemic. Even with social distancing, people can still say - "I love you"
- You can also share affectionate text messages and social media posts - and do facetime with your loved ones. Seeing each other every day has a huge bonding impact
- Hugging a pillow reduces the brain's experience of stress

cially distance, many have discovered the sense of deprivation that can accompany the lack of affectionate touch. Touch hunger is essential to well-being throughout our life span. Psychologist Ruth Feldman has demonstrated that touch is instrumental for healthy physical and cognitive development beginning in infancy. During adulthood, affectionate touch contributes to both psychological health and the body's ability to manage stress and reduce inflammation. Among the elderly, affectionate touch can enhance calmness and responsiveness. Touch is so powerful, in fact, that even imagining touch can reduce stress and pain, according to psychologists. ET

Young people are likelier to trust AI over humans: WEF report



The youth today are more likely to trust an artificial intelligence-run system than one controlled by humans, and they believe the 'fractures' in society are manifestations

of an underlying political problem, a World Economic Forum (WEF) report claimed recently. The report was launched as part of a drive to mark the International Youth Day, which is celebrated on August 12. The WEF drive, called a 'Youth-

Driven Recovery Plan', saw participation of over two million young people from across countries, including India, who shared their views on what will become the next normal for society, government, and business.

WHAT THE YOUNG BELIEVE

1 According to the survey, young people believe there is a serious crisis in politics, especially with regards to climate change policies, and income inequality.

2 They believe that the fractures that have come to bear in society are manifestations of an underlying political problem. Concerns about corruption and stale political leadership have become urgent priorities for young people if they are to keep faith in the political system.

3 Young people claim they are more likely to trust a system run by artificial intelligence than humans. As part of the solution, they hope for greater investment in programmes that

help young 'progressive voices' join governments and become policy-makers.

4 Still smarting from the effects of the 2008 financial crisis and faced with stagnating incomes, young

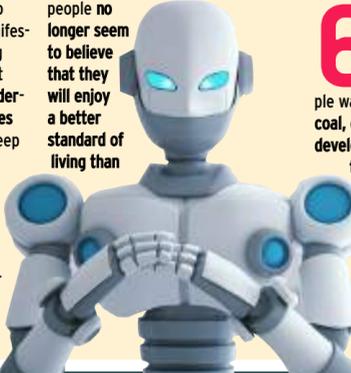
people no longer seem to believe that they will enjoy a better standard of living than

their parents did, the report said.

5 The millennials feel inadequately skilled and close to a quarter said they would risk falling into debt if faced with an unexpected medical expense," the report said.

6 Climate change also ranked high among the concerns that are on most young people's mind. Young people want to see a halt on all new coal, oil and gas exploration and development to limit global warming to the 1.5°C limit set out in the Paris Agreement.

7 Another fact highlighted in the report was that though the young champion an open internet, they are concerned about its misuse. ET



Three women judges among Collegium recommendations for SC

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has recommended nine names, including those of three women judges, to the government for appointment as judges to the top court. The three women judges include Justice B V Nagarathna of the Karnataka High Court, Justice Hima Kohli, Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court and Justice Bela Trivedi of the Gujarat High Court. PTI



HOW ARE SC JUDGES APPOINTED

Whenever a vacancy is expected to arise in the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) will initiate proposal and forward his recommendation to the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to fill up the vacancy. The opinion of the CJI for appointment of a judge of the SC should be formed in consultation with a Collegium of the four senior-most puisne (denoting a judge of a superior court inferior

in rank to chief justice) judges of the SC. If the successor CJI is not one of the four senior-most puisne judges, he would be made part of the Collegium as he should have a hand in selection of judges who will function during his term as Chief Justice of India. After receipt of the final recommendation of the CJI, the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs will put up the recommendations to the Prime Minister, who will advise the President in the matter of appointment.



India's largest hockey stadium will be ready by July: Odisha govt



The Odisha government has said that the country's largest hockey stadium, currently under construction at Rourkela in Odisha, will be completed by July next year. The 20,000-capacity Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, along with the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, will be the venues to host the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.



ZARA TAKES OFF ON SOLO FLIGHT AROUND THE WORLD

Pilot Zara Rutherford, 19, took off on Wednesday at the start of a three-month bid to become the youngest woman to fly solo round the world. Rutherford departed from Kortrijk-Wevelgem Airport in western Belgium in her Shark ultra-

light, the world's fastest microlight aircraft. The British-Belgian flyer hopes her voyage will encourage more girls and women to study and work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), and spark girls' interest in aviation. AFP

THIS DAY THAT YEAR



Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was born on August 20 in 1944. His birth anniversary is observed as Sadbhavana Diwas. Gandhi was India's youngest prime minister at the age of 40. Sadbhavana Diwas 2021 marks the 77th birth anniversary of the former prime minister.

10 days of flowers, feast and funfair in God's Own Country

Kerala celebrates the annual festival of harvest 'Onam' at this time. The festival begins on the day known as 'Atham', and ends on the tenth day, known as 'Thiruvonam', also considered the most auspicious day during the festival of Onam. This year, the festival of Onam will start on August 12 and conclude on August 23. Thiruvonam will be held on August 21

Atham: The first day of Onam involves decorating the home with yellow flowers known as pookalam.
Chithira: People clean homes, adding another layer of flowers to the pookalam.
Chodi: Family members get together and exchange gifts, known as 'Onakodi' and jewellery.
Vishakam: It marks the preparation of Onam sadhya (feast).
Anizham: The annual boat race 'Vallamkali' is held on Pamba river



Thriketta: Schools are shut and kids gear up for celebrations.
Moolam: Beginning of sadhya and many dance performances.
Pooradam: Devotees place the idols of Vamana and King Mahabali in the centre of the pookalam.
Uthradom: People buy fruits and veggies to prepare the grand meal.
Thiruvonam: People exchange gifts, have Thiruvona Sadya and wish their family members and friends.

Mahabali, who belonged to the asuras, was a kind-hearted king and loved by the people. This made the Gods insecure of his fame. So, Lord Vishnu stepped in the form of a dwarf, Vamana, in front of the king and sought 'three pieces of land' as wishes. When the wish was granted, Vamana grew in size and in his first and second steps, he covered the sky, and the nether-world. When Lord Vishnu was about to take his third step, the king offered his own head to the God. This impressed Vishnu and made him grant the king the right to visit his kingdom once every year during this time

SPORTS: A gateway to better physical and emotional well-being

Sports is one of the greatest gifts to mankind. The proverb 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy', doesn't go without saying that sports is the panacea for all ills. In fact as per 'True Sport Report' children who participate in any kind of sports have shown improved academic achievement, higher self-esteem, fewer behavioural problems and healthier psychological adjustment. Sports is associated with relaxation, enhanced creativity and memory; better mood swings and problem solving abilities.

The pertinent question is that, if sports is so pivotal to life why is it not made an integral part of school curriculum? Schools in India are gradually beginning to realise the importance of sports in the overall develop-



ANITA WADEHRA, Principal
DL DAV Model School

ment of children. PE is no longer physical education but powerful education.

'You don't stop playing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop playing'. According to Aspen Project Play, besides physical benefits, emotional characteristics such as attitude, attention, and concentration are superior among children who play school sports. Also the three 'Ps' of life: persistence, patience and practice works for them at every phase of life. Several researchers have indicated that children who participate in sports are less likely to move towards crime or indulge in alcohol or drugs.

Sports is often perceived as a complete waste of time and instead, students should utilise their time in learning and studying. However, such thinking needs to

change. No other thing in life affords children such opportunity to develop positive character traits and values as sports does. And of course it is an inexhaustible source of inspiration and happiness.

In light of the current situation worldwide, when we are grappling to survive from a virus threatening to strike at our very existence, being physically active is a challenge for everyone. It is likely that this will boost immune system to help minimise the deleterious effects of the virus, ameliorate symptoms, expedite recovery times and lower the likelihood that we can infect others with whom we come into contact.

Give sports a part of your child's life, and it will give back something to cherish a lifetime. Isn't that what we all need?

Shining stars of CBSE class XII

DVM Public School, Gr Noida		Ramjas School, Pusa Road, New Delhi	
Ankita Kumari	96% (S)	Pranav Jain	98% (S)
Muskaan Nayak	95% (C)	Piyush Chauhan	98% (S)
Himalaya Public Sr Sec School, North West, D-12, sector-7, Rohini, Delhi		Nandini Nagpal	98.40% (C)
Shubham Hazra	95.60% (S)	Tanushree Agrawal	96.80% (H)
Geetika Kukreja	97.20% (C)	The Khaitan School, Noida	
Piyush Sharma	95.60% (H)	Harshit Chauhan	99% (S)
Aishwarya Sareen	95.60% (H)	Dishita Bihani	98.8% (C)
Dhruv	95.60% (H)	Tanishka Khattar	99.8% (H)
Nehru International Public School, Noida		Tagore Sr Sec School, Mayapuri	
Devansh Tripathi	95.6% (S)	Sanjana Gupta	95.6% (S)
Nitish Kumar Sharma	95.6% (C)	Aman Kr.Ray	95.8% (C)
		Umrah Husain	95.6% (H)

S - Science; C - Commerce; H - Humanities; V - Vocational

We love our school

Our school Shanti Gyan Vidyapeeth School, Delhi is going in sync with the challenges posed by this pandemic and it is continuously motivating students to know the importance of education and its inculcation, with a blend of traditional values and modern outlook.

The hard work of our school can be estimated with a recent invitation to the students of Shanti



Gyan Vidyapeeth School to have a panel discussion on 'child rights' on TEN News channel.

Though it was boring to sit at home, but the entertaining online activities like Pikachu dance, cold

cooking, mask making, virtual party etc were truly engaging. We celebrated Dussehra, Diwali, Earth Day, Mother's Day, Father's day and much more with interesting activities.

Online competitions like yoga, debate and extempore gave us confidence to grow with strength and adopt competitive spirit. Last but not least, birthday celebration at our home by school is something which we all cannot forget. Yes, birthday at our home! We are fortunate enough to be part of SGV School.

'Euphony-2021: A Journey from Swadeshi to Swawlambi'

The Indian Heights School, sector 23, Dwarka organised its annual inter-school fest, 'Euphony 2021, A Journey from Swadeshi to Swawlambi' with zeal and enthusiasm.

The event culminated with a live 'Prize Distribution Ceremony'. More than 80 schools participated in the mega event. Euphony 2021, aimed to make students '21st century ready' citizens

empowering them with the competencies to understand, interpret and innovate real life situations. School principal, Archana Narain infused students with her inspirational speech.

Mahatma's dream of INDEPENDENT INDIA

Today when I am penning my thoughts, I feel grappled with mixed thoughts of what rightly is the meaning of independence. I have not experienced the freedom struggle but I have read in books that contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in attaining independence was remarkable.

I feel privileged to be born in a free India but one thought which constantly ponders my mind is, are we celebrating independence in true sense? We seem to be

forgetting the true meaning and essence of freedom which Gandhi had dreamed of. The time has come, that we aim to build strong economic and social foundations, by making the citizens of the country self-reliant and self-sufficient. This can be achieved not only by strengthening the education system digitally, but also by following the basic education as proposed by Gandhi.

In this digital era of competition and aspiration to touch the sky, the students are taking education

as a burden, which has resulted in loosening the strands of basic education as proposed by Bapu. He aimed for an education system which would not only make a child literate but will teach him how to sustain life and to make himself future ready. The time has come that the government brings changes in education system by introducing basic education to combat with insecurities arising out of situations such as Covid pandemic which would benefit the future generations.

Then only it would be a true homage to Gandhi and his nation 'Bharat'.
Divya Dabola, Class X A, St Paul's school Arya Nagar Delhi

The value of tolerance

To emphasise the value of tolerance, a special assembly at ASN International School, Mayur Vihar, phase I was presented by the energetic students of class II A on August 7.

The assembly commenced with a prayer song followed by a skit where students shared a beautiful story expressing the value of being patient and tolerant. In the presentation students also highlighted the ways to build tolerance in life.

The presentation very effectively enhanced the thought that tolerance is not a sign of weakness, but of



strength, courage and the highest result of education.

The presentation came to its finale with the address of head mistress Shivani Khanna to the teachers, students, and parents for their immense support and earnest hard work.

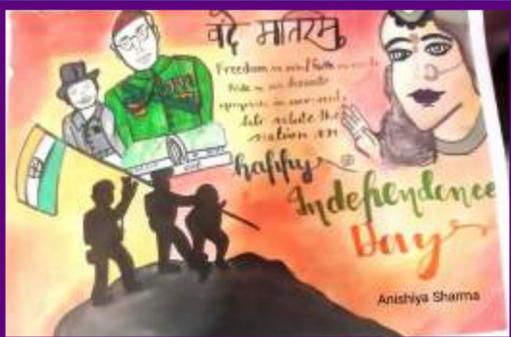
Student Corner



YASHITA TANEJA,
class X, Bhatnagar International School, Paschim Vihar

ANISHIYA SHARMA,
class X, Bhatnagar International School, Paschim Vihar

AAFREEN PERVEEN,
class VIII E, Hamdard Public School



Imagine

In the world full of possessions, imagine a spark of selfless passion.
No spiky boundary lines for mother nation,
No killing for pride under relations.

Imagine the compassionate humans roaming like the birds in the miracle-full sky,
with no boundaries to live inside,
With no obligations to be buried by.
Imagine no child living under,
The cover of greed and hunger.
Imagine seeing poor rove,

Not for money but for love.
Imagine no religions, no race, no cast, no hate for face,
we all devoting the mother Earth,
for giving us the life of which we are not even worth.

Imagine people dying with memories,
not with tall redwoods of unfulfilled dreams,
Earth surrounded by peace for centuries,
hope it's not just the daydream!

Dhruv Singla, class X,
Wisdom Valley Global School, Palwal



HILARIOUS COMEBACKS

Education is indeed a noble and gratifying profession but then, it is also a profession that leaves a lot of memories etched in one's mind; Some good, some painful but a lot of them are simply hilarious. Today as I write this article, it seems like rewinding a video tape that's recorded with several uproarious anecdotes. So here goes the first one, "How do convert kg (kilograms) into g (grams)?" I asked a set of students. I was astonished and amazed to see that

one of the most passive backbenchers in the class raising his hand to answer. I asked him to come forward and explain the concept of this conversion to the entire class. Enthusiastically he came forward, picked up the duster and rubbed off the letter 'k'. VOILA! He'd got the answer! I didn't actually know how to react while the entire class started laughing hysterically.

In one of my online Economics classes, I asked a student to differentiate between depreciation and devaluation. The student gave me an impeccable answer. But as she answered she kept looking down. I asked her if she was looking at her book and answering. As was

expected, she said, "No, ma'am, I studied the whole night." She spoke with such conviction that for once even I believed her. But then, you know there's that teacher's instinct that almost every time comes true. I asked her to look at the fan in her room. Taken aback, she however followed my instruction. I put forth the same question and this time she was not able to answer. That incident made all the students realise that my online classes were not to be taken casually.

I could go on and on but for now, this'll be the last one. So, one day, I entered the classroom and informed the students to get ready for a quiz on Consumer Behaviour. To this one of the students said, "Ma'am, I am not prepared. Please give us a day's time to prepare." I told him, "I have been asking you to prepare for this quiz for the last one week now." He said, "But I never heard about it." To this I simply said, "Sorry son, I wake you up only when there is an important announcement!" After this incident, that student went on to become one of the most vigilant students in my class and I never had to say, "Pay attention class".

BANDAN PREET MAHAJAN,
former educator, Kamal Public Sr Sec School, Vikaspuri, New Delhi



If I were a book, I would show my readers a whole new world.

If I were a book, I would overwhelm readers with stories written in me. I'd capture readers and take them away from reality. I'd make readers feel joyous when the characters succeed, but they will also have to face the dark times where the character is in misery.

IF I WERE A BOOK

I would love to see the fanfictions, head-cans and fan arts related to the story. If I were a book, I'd love to have an attractive and colourful cover page, so that many people chose to read me. I'd like it when people do gorgeous illustrations for the story.

Sometimes, I'd be sad that a story in me didn't gain enough atten-

tion, even when it deserved it. On the other hand, I'd be delighted to give information, knowledge and entertainment to those who read me. If I were a book, I would hope that every person who reads me takes good care of me and does not damage my cover or pages.

I'd hate it when people would reach the words, 'The end', but still hope that the next reader would be pleased to see me.

As a book, I would be your best and most

loyal friend. I'd love to know what the reader thinks about me and how they imagined the characters and scenes in the story. I wouldn't like to be stuffed

into a private library, but would like to be in a public one, where many people would enjoy the secrets within me.

NIYATI KESWANI,
class VIII, Vidya Valley, Pune

