

# JET, SET, GOAL!

Wield a pencil, sharpen your mind and get cracking. Try this Times NIE worksheet that is set to keep your brain ticking

## YOUR OPINION

### Is punishment in teacher-student equation justified?

What took years of painstaking talem and riyaz to establish is threatening to come undone for Rahat Fateh Ali Khan. We're not talking about the singer's voice, which is still as mellifluous, but about that ephemeral thing — reputation — which has taken a severe beating (pun unintended), courtesy a viral video that shows Khan mercilessly thrashing an associate with a shoe. The incident was shocking enough, but what made matters worse is a subsequent video that the singer released, where he dismisses what from every angle is a brutal assault as a personal matter between Ustad and shagird. The victim of the attack and his father stand next to him and offer their two bits, propping up Khan's indefensible logic. The singer's casual dismissal of the violence has sparked a social media outrage. The bruises from the thrashing might heal, but how does one remedy this feudal mindset that normalises violence in the name of course correction? TNN

**Students, tell us your opinion:**  
Prompts: (Pick any one) 1. Are you aware of this video? What makes it worse, the video or the clarification that follows? 2. "The art of a sincere and heartfelt apology is one of the greatest skills you will ever learn." Write about the power of apology. 3. A college in the US teaches a course on art of apology. What would you expect from this course? 4. Do you think Khan is justified? Can punishment lead to better results?



Share your thoughts at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)  
(Please send in a word doc format)

## HOW TO USE THIS PAGE

'Skill Sift' is a page designed to promote the "21st century skills" or the 3Ls:

- Learning Skills: Critical Thinking, Creativity & Innovation, Collaboration, Communication
- Literacy Skills: Information Literacy, Media Literacy, Technology Literacy
- Life Skills: Flexibility and Adaptability, Leadership and

Responsibility, Initiative and Self-Direction, Productivity & Accountability, Social and Cross-Cultural Interaction

You can use this page daily to:

1. Enhance critical and creative thinking skills
2. Increase news awareness
3. Start a discussion on important current topics
4. Expand worldviews
5. Improve writing skills
6. Enhance visual thinking

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## QUIZ TIME

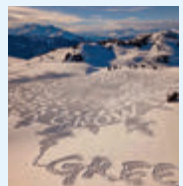


**Question 1:** Name this international performance artist troupe renowned for conducting protests and activities while donning an all-red attire, aiming to shed light on the global environmental crisis.

- ☐ Red Brigade
- ☐ Last Generation
- ☐ PETA
- ☐ Greenpeace

**Question 2:** What was hurled at the famed 'Mona Lisa' painting, the Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece in Paris's Louvre museum in the latest instance of environmental activism? (Note: The painting was not damaged due to its glass casing)

- ☐ Pie
- ☐ Soup
- ☐ Pudding
- ☐ Mousse



**Question 3:** During the 2024 World Economic Forum (Davos), which artist created the protest art piece 'Life over Growth!' for Greenpeace, aiming to highlight the climate crisis, species extinction, and social inequality?

- ☐ Banksy
- ☐ Shepard Fairey
- ☐ Simon Beck
- ☐ Ai Weiwei

**Question 4:** At the Global Science Festival of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram, who among the following Indian figures delivered a speech emphasizing conservation and environmentalism? (Hint: He is also known as the 'Waterman of India'.)

- ☐ Abhiir Bhalla
- ☐ Rajendra Singh
- ☐ Greta Thunberg
- ☐ Jadav Payeng

Answers: 1. Red Brigade; 2. Soup; 3. Simon Beck; 4. Jadav Payeng

## WRITE PRACTICE

### HOW TO

### WRITE A SHORT STORY

- **Interesting characters:** The most crucial element of a story are the people in it. The five key elements (or stages) of story writing are: character, setting, plot, conflict, theme.
- **Know the marking:** As part of your English test paper, it's usually a 10-mark question. The Title holds 1 mark and content is 4. The majority goes to expression for 5 marks where it's further divided in to coherence, relevance of ideas for 2½ marks and accuracy, appropriate words



and correct spellings for 2½ marks. (Source: [successcds.net](http://successcds.net)) Knowing the marking helps you decide how to approach your story.

- **Follow the basics:** Developing and writing a good story needs the art of narration. Narrate in a sequential order leading to the final conclusion. Follow the basic theme as expounded by the input or by the introductory lines. The beginning and the concluding lines must support the events described in the story. (Source: [learncbse.in](http://learncbse.in))
- **Subplots:** Deepen your plot with subplots.

A subplot is 'a secondary plot, or a strand of the main plot that runs parallel to it and supports it'.

■ **Ending:** A good ending offers your readers a resolution that pulls the threads of the story together neatly and includes the result of the central conflict. Make sure your resolution matches the story.

■ **Quick Tips:** The golden rule for selecting characters in story writing is "Fewer is better". Use adjectives to bring your story to life. For the setting, use descriptors like a bustling supermarket, crowded metro train, or drizzling evening. Prompt: Write a story in 150-200 words beginning with the following line and give it a suitable title. Night before the zonal debate competition .... Everyone was fast asleep, while I was practicing... suddenly. (From Board 2014, [learncbse.in](http://learncbse.in))

## YOUR QUESTION ANSWERED

### Q WHY IS THE CHIEF MINISTER RATHER THAN THE GOVERNOR CONSIDERED 'REAL EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY'?

**Answer:** The Constitution of India provides for a Parliamentary form of government in the states as in the Centre. This means that India will have the executive constituting the 'Head of the State' as the nominal executive, and a 'Council of Ministers' headed by the Prime Minister as the real executive. Hence, the President at the centre and the Governor in the state have been made only nominal executives. The real executives are the Prime Minister



at the centre and chief minister in the state. Q Which of the following statements concerning the chief minister (CM) is/are FALSE? a) At the time of appointment, the CM need not be a member of the state

legislature. b) The CM can recommend the dissolution of the legislative assembly to the Governor. c) The CM must always prove his majority in the legislative assembly before his appointment. d) The Governor who does the final appointment of the CM.

Ans: c; The CM can prove his/her majority in the legislative assembly after his appointment. Also, the CM need not be a member of the state legislature but after the appointment, he/she must get elected to the state legislature within 6 months.

**IN THE NEWS FOR:** A JMM legislature party leader Champai Soren took oath as the chief minister of Jharkhand. He was administered the oath of office by Governor C P Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan. Along with Soren, senior Congress leader Alamgir Alam and RJD leader Satyanand Bhokta took oath as state ministers. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Durbar Hall of the Raj Bhavan and senior leaders of the JMM-led alliance were present on the occasion. The 67-year-old tribal leader was sworn in as the 12th CM of the state.



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## GET THE PICTURE

### What do you think is happening in the picture?

1. Write a caption. (Less than 20 words)

2. Ever visited Kashmir? Write three reasons one must go. Or if you have experienced snow in real life, share the experience.



WHAT'S HAPPENING? Dal Lake with a backdrop of snow-covered mountains after first snowfall in Srinagar on Feb 1, 2024.

Most of the hill stations of India received their first snowfall last week. Studies suggest that warming in the Himalayas has been much greater than the global average of 0.74 degrees Celsius over the last 100 years, according to the Hindukush Himalaya Assessment Report.

## WORD OF THE DAY

### ad hoc

ad hoc / adjective

The word was in news after thousands responded for a job call in Israel. Can you use it in a sentence?

### WRITE SENTENCE HERE

Ad hoc: .....

### WHAT IT MEANS

■ (Adjective) concerned or dealing with a specific subject, purpose, or end. Eg: "The ad hoc committee disbanded after its final report."

■ (Adverb) for special purpose or end presently under consideration. Eg: "Committee formed ad hoc for the issue."

### USED IN CONTEXT

Israel's request for 10,000 ad hoc construction workers to alleviate a labour shortage caused by its war with Hamas had prompted thousands of men from Haryana, Punjab, UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, MP and Delhi to converge on a recruitment centre in Rohtak between Jan 16 and 21. Faced with struggles to find jobs and meagre earnings in India, masons, painters, electricians, plumbers, expressed their readiness to venture into a country embroiled in war.

## LET'S TALK

### 'STORIES' OF A BUILDING

Create a chat between Rhea and Ryan



### WHAT'S THIS PIC?

The Building Stories exhibit at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. The exhibit brings to life the architecture, engineering, construction, and design found in the pages of children's books. Prompt: Create a conversation on why you'd like to visit this

Rhea: .....

Ryan: .....

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## DYING LANGUAGES VANISHING THREADS OF TIME

Languages represent the very foundation of a culture's identity and heritage, carrying within them stories, traditions, and beliefs that are essential for cultural preservation. However, the world is experiencing a crisis as many languages are fading away due to globalisation, urbanisation, and migration. The survey on Indian languages was carried out by Bhasha Research and Publication Centre and its findings revealed that in the early 60s, India had 1,100 languages, out of which 220 have disappeared by now.

### BLAME GLOBALISATION?

The problem of fading languages is complex, with one of the primary reasons being the spread of dominant languages through globalisation. As people move to urban areas and interact with different cultures, they tend to adopt the dominant language, leading to a decline in the use of their native language. Also, many mi-

nority languages lack government support, making it difficult to preserve them.

### PRESERVE LANGUAGES

Languages are fundamental for the preservation of ancient structures and heritage sites. For example, many ancient structures contain inscriptions and texts written in languages that are no longer spoken. Without the knowledge of these languages, it becomes challenging to understand the significance of these structures and their place in history. When a language dies, it takes with it the understanding of the culture and history that it represents. This loss is significant for indigenous cultures whose languages are often closely tied to their land, customs, and beliefs.

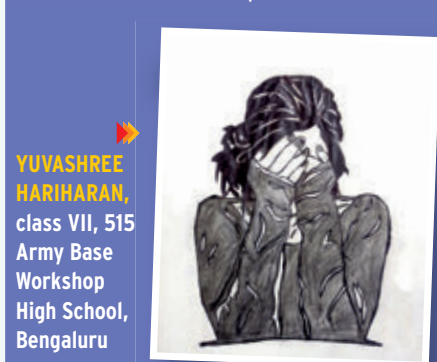
Preserving languages is also crucial for promotion of linguistic diversity. It is time we take this issue seriously and work towards preserving the world's endangered languages to ensure that these languages continue to thrive for generations to come.

KOWSHIK SRIVATSAN, class XI, The Indian Public School, Salem, Tamil Nadu

## Painters' Gallery



BHOOMIKA DADLANI, class V, Udgam School for Children, Ahmedabad



YUVASHREE HARIHARAN, class VII, 515 Army Base Workshop High School, Bengaluru

## TEENAGE: MIXED BAG OF FUN AND CHALLENGES

Teenage is a transformative time in your life. It's a period filled with self-discovery, growth, and endless possibilities. As a teen, you're navigating your way through a world of new experiences, emotions, and responsibilities. It can be challenging at times, but it's also an exciting chapter full of opportunities for personal development. It's a time to try new things, step out of your comfort zone, and discover what truly makes you happy, whether it's pursuing a hobby, or taking up a new sport. Embracing these opportunities can lead to great experiences and lifelong friendships.

It's important to remember that being a teenager also comes with its fair share of challenges. You may face peer pressure, academic stress, or even moments of self-doubt. But don't let these obstacles define you.



Instead, use them as stepping stones to learn and grow from. Surround yourself with supportive friends and family who believe in you.

Remember, your teenage years are just the beginning of an incredible journey. Embrace the challenges, celebrate your successes, and never stop dreaming big. You have the power to shape your future and make a positive impact on the world. So go out there, be true to yourself, and make the most of these wonderful years.

NITYA SINGH, class VIII, Deep Jyoti School, Maharashtra

Do you want to be our next contributor? Share your thoughts at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com). You can also log in to [toistudent.com](http://toistudent.com)

### TIME CHANGES

When I needed someone  
To laugh with me,  
On my stupid jokes  
To stand with me,  
In all my difficulties  
To keep their foolish names  
But, no one was there  
Still I was not alone  
I know, time changes.  
When I became so  
Appealing that everyone,  
Wanted to be my buddy  
So self-reliant towards me  
Got resentful towards me  
Relating with me,  
As a particle towards moon.  
When I saw the sky,  
Jewels came out from my eyes  
At that time I learned,  
To have self-esteem,  
To be self-explanatory  
But, now I was with me  
Ya, time changed.

SRISHTI PORIYA, class IX, Prabhu Dayal public School, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi