

# Rare skills that could become your newest hobby

There are many ways to live curiously, but one of the most fulfilling options might be mastering an obscure skill. Learning how to do something that few people even bother to attempt – whether it's Macramé or Marquetry – offers both knowledge and a sense of accomplishment that can boost your skill set. **TIMES NIE READERS AND TEACHERS** offer the skills that they'd like to learn or have used the lockdown to learn!

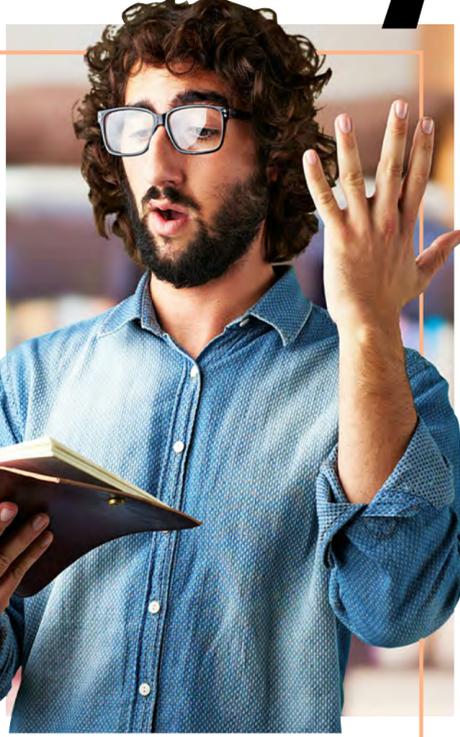
## STUDENTS SPEAK



**Marquetry**  
I love art, and when you add on some obscure and new themes to it, it becomes even better. Marquetry is one such art form that I accidentally stumbled upon while surfing the internet. It involves affixing intricate patterns of wood, metal, or organic material to flat surfaces of furniture. It requires delicate handwork, and this is why marquetry has piqued my interest. I believe that delicate handwork is something that is appreciated by everyone.  
**YOSHITA UPADHYAY, class X, Delhi Public School, Secunderabad**

### Cold reading

I'm trying to learn a skill called 'cold reading.' In simplest terms, it's real-life 'analytics' of a person's inclinations and attitudes. It involves quickly picking up signals, formulating information streams without the person knowing, and employing inductive reasoning to strike at accurate guesses about their personality without us knowing them and they knowing us! This is useful in life and work. How awesome would it be if we knew what someone expected and we delivered that?  
**ASISH SINGH, class XII, St Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore**



### Dog whisperer

I would love to learn to be a 'dog whisperer.' I have always loved and lived with dogs. And I would love to be able to talk to them and understand them. If they were hungry or feeling sick, it would help to be able to communicate with them. I enjoy watching anything available online on 'dog whisperers' and then try that on my pet 'Damru.'  
**NIHARIKA BAKSHI, V-B, Wynberg Allen School, Mussoorie**

### Conch blowing

A skill I learnt recently was blowing the conch. It may seem simple but requires a precise technique. One must be able to properly control one's breathing. When my grandfather was hospitalised with a lung issue, the doctors gave him an instru-



ment to blow air to strengthen his lungs. The doctor also pointed out that blowing a conch regularly helps strengthen the lungs. Since then I have been fascinated with the idea of learning to blow the conch.  
**AYUSH SHENOY, class VII, DPS Whitefield, Bengaluru**



## Six non-boring ways to eat broccoli

**H**ow often are we told, 'Eat more broccoli'. The green cruciferous vegetable is a powerhouse of health benefits – it's a rich source of vitamin C as well as fibre, protein, iron and potassium and makes for a great immune booster. No wonder ex-US President Barack Obama called it his favourite vegetable. If you have been consuming broccoli in just one or two ways, here are some ideas to up your cooking game.



**Broccoli pasta**  
Chop florets of broccoli and add to your wheat pasta. With cream and cheese as well as other sautéed veggies, it makes for a hearty and healthy wintertime treat.



**Quick-style roast**  
Another easy weeknight dinner idea is to just toss the florets in a pan with olive oil, a few seasonings and garlic. Be careful not to overcook it.



**Yes, you can make muffins too**  
You are sure to love this. Make savoury broccoli muffins with cheese and serve with a soup of your choice.



**Hearty soup**  
To make this, just blend broccoli and add it to the soup stock with salt and freshly ground pepper. Allow it to simmer and ladle it in a bowl with crusty bread.

**Add it to your pizza**  
Why not use broccoli as a topping on pizza? Just sauté it in a little olive oil and pepper and add it to the pizza before you bake it.

**Broccoli brownies:** Yes, broccoli brownies are a thing! To prepare them, just add the strained puree to your chocolate and sugar and bake it.

## NIE RECOMMENDS

### Suminagashi

Master Suminagashi, the Japanese style of paper marbling and post it on Instagram's inspirational #marbled-monday thread.



### Stained glass

Try your hand at colouring glass and give the window panes in your house a new lease of life!



### Champion memorisation

To boost your memory, read the book 'Moonwalking with Einstein' and practice unique methods to remember everything.



### Playing the harp

Learning to play an instrument helps with problem solving, planning and more. Try this: <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-playing-an-instrument-benefits-your-brain-anita-collins>.



### Become an expert

Lifehacker recommends you become an expert on a particular subject. According to them, a high level of expertise will be helpful.



### Hardware hacker

Knowing how to troubleshoot problems on your PC can make you incredibly self-reliant!

### Recipe inventor

After all cooking is one of the best examples of self-learning. You have to try it on your own, add a personal touch, and experiment with ingredients before you find the perfect balance.



### Blogging or vlogging

A great hobby, it hones your writing skills. Once you find your particular style, you can create a blog.

## EDUCATORS



### Macramé

I would like to learn the art of Macramé. This art form is fascinating and your creative side is challenged when you see how much you can achieve using different kinds of knots. Various combinations of these knots can result in creating traditional or contemporary designs. The final product gives the effect of a weave or a knit. The knots can be mastered with regular practice and there are quite a few tutorials to help design elegant and stylish pieces. Macramé is so versatile that it can be used to make jewellery, purses, decorative pieces like wall hangings, etc.  
**SUPRIYA KHANNA, teacher, DPS Whitefield, Bengaluru**



**Bhangra:** Being a social media fan, I have been floored by multiple videos sent by members of a group called Bhangra Empire. The energetic moves by the students of this group have inspired me. I am slowly learning to groove...

**USHA RAMASWAMY, Senior School Head, The Shri Ram Universal, Hyderabad**



### Storytelling

Human beings have passed knowledge from generation to generation through stories. This is the oldest form of teaching. Stories define us, shape us, control us and make us. I have developed this skill of storytelling



during this pandemic. I read mythological stories and narrate them in my own style.  
**SARITA BIJALWAN, Librarian, The Indian Academy, Nehruagram, Dehradun**

## QUIZ TIME (MIXED BAG)

**Q.1) According to the World Bank, India was the \_\_\_ largest economy in 2018.**

- A. 3rd B. 8th C. 5th D. 7th

**Q.2) Which state government has launched the awareness campaign 'Save Green, Stay Clean'?**

- A. West Bengal B. Andhra Pradesh C. Tamil Nadu D. Odisha

**Q.3) Who among the following has been honoured with the Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2019?**

- A. Vijay Shekhar Sharma B. Mukesh Ambani C. Ruhan Rajput D. Siddhartha Lal



**Ruhan Rajput, co-founder and director of Einfolge Technologies Pvt Ltd, was conferred the prestigious Entrepreneur Award 2019**

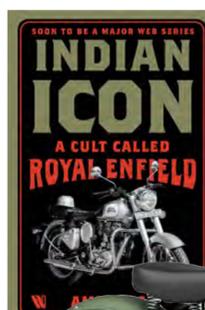
## ANSWERS

1. D) 7th 2. A) West Bengal 3. C) Ruhan Rajput

## Royal Enfield: Book tells story behind making of Indian biking giant

**A** new book maps the trail-blazing story of the brand, the company and most of all, the individuals who have made Royal Enfield what it is now – a premium homegrown consumer brand for the global markets. The book, 'Indian Icon: A Cult Called Royal Enfield', is written by journalist Amrit Raj. Besides spilling the beans on the "behind-the-scenes takeover dramas" and the bare-knuckled battle to create the iconic brand, it is also the story of the clash of the old guard with the new, leading to dramatic changes in the business.

"New brands aspire for the kind of devotion that an Enfield enjoys. Its distinctive look and feel, the sound of its engine and the image that it creates of its rider have all contributed to putting the brand on the kind of pedestal



that others could only dream of. The book takes you to the heart of the Royal Enfield story," says Raj. From the beginning of the brand's journey in India (early 1950s), the Enfield bikes have had quite a ride. Initial success and

acceptance notwithstanding, by the 1980s, the brand was considered a complete underachiever: Come 1990, Vikram Lal of Eicher took over it and gave it a whole new lease of life. Later, his son Siddhartha brought marketing and product together and catapulted the bike to an iconic status.

Today, Enfield has become a symbol of successful and inspirational business turn-arounds. [www.royalenfield.com](http://www.royalenfield.com)



# IS THERE A NEED TO RELOOK AT THE CONCUSSION RULE?



Ravindra Jadeja braved an injury to hit a match-winning 44 vs Australia in 1st T20I

Spinner Yuzvendra Chahal came on as a concussion substitute for injured Ravindra Jadeja in the 1st T20I against Australia, a move that did not go down well with many. The concussion substitution law allows teams to have a like-to-like replacement for a concussed player

## IT WAS FAIR TO USE THE CONCUSSION RULE

I understand that Australia must be frustrated, but it could be a delayed concussion as well. If there is a concussion, and there is a concussion rule, why not use it. India used it to the best of their advantage bringing in a wrist spinner. We kept talking about how India may miss a wrist spinner and they did not miss the wrist spinner. He had a huge impact on this game. If there is actually concussion, it is fair on India to use that.

**Gautam Gambhir, former India opener**



## AUS WERE FIRST BENEFICIARIES OF CONCUSSION SUBSTITUTE

When Steve Smith was hit on the head, Labuschagne came out to bat in place of him and made runs. So, Australia also got that advantage. So I think Australia shouldn't complain. They might have



just one contention that Jadeja continued to bat and made runs but when you open your helmet inside the dressing room then you might witness some swelling, you might feel dizziness. There is a possibility.

**Virender Sehwag, former Indian cricketer**

## IT WAS NOT JADEJA'S CALL TO ASK FOR A PHYSIO

I don't think it is Jadeja's call to ask for a physio. It is for the umpires to stop the game and call for a physio. That did not happen perhaps because Jadeja ran for the single and he continued to play. He was fine. And concussion doesn't necessarily mean it has to happen on the field. You can come back to the dressing room and then you may have a headache or dizziness. That's when the doctors will step in and stop. That's what probably happened in this case.

**Anil Kumble, former Indian captain**



## IF YOU CAN'T PLAY THE BOUNCER, YOU DON'T DESERVE A SUBSTITUTE

An Australian match referee (David Boom) had no objection to that. So I don't see why there is so much noise about it. On the business of concussion substitute itself, I don't agree because maybe I'm old-fashioned, I've always believed that if you're not good enough to play the bouncer and you get hit on the helmet then you don't deserve substitutes. But at the moment it is being allowed according to the rules of the game, everything was done according to it and there was no problem with Chahal playing instead of Ravindra Jadeja.

**Sunil Gavaskar, former Indian captain**



## WE ARE MASTERS AT TRYING TO FIND A LOOPHOLE IN RULES

After this, there's going to be a lot of thought given to the concussion substitute, the whole concept purely because we as players - all of us - there are rules made with good intention but we are masters at trying to find a loophole in the rule for our own advantage. Whether India took an advantage, we don't know, but there's something the ICC needs to start looking at, so that one team doesn't get such a massive advantage.

**Sanjay Manjrekar, former Indian cricketer**



## Pandya powers India to thrilling T20 series win over Australia



**H**ardik Pandya powered India to a gripping second T20 international victory to take the series against Australia in Sydney. Pandya hit an enormous six off debutant Daniel Sams to get the winning runs - and victory by six wickets - with two balls to spare. Shikhar Dhawan earlier hit 52 off 36 balls and Virat Kohli looked threatening before being caught behind for 40, giving Sams a prized wicket. New skipper Matthew Wade and Steve Smith hit half-centuries apiece to carry Australia to 194 for five after batting first. **AP**

The fact that we don't have Rohit and Bumrah, our established white ball players, in and still doing well makes me happy. Everyone has played 14 games at least, recently - so they know what their plans are.

The reason was Hardik coming into the team in 2016 was pure ability. He has raw talent. And now he realises that this is his time, the next 4-5 years, to be that bankable player that can win you games from anywhere.

**Virat Kohli, India captain**

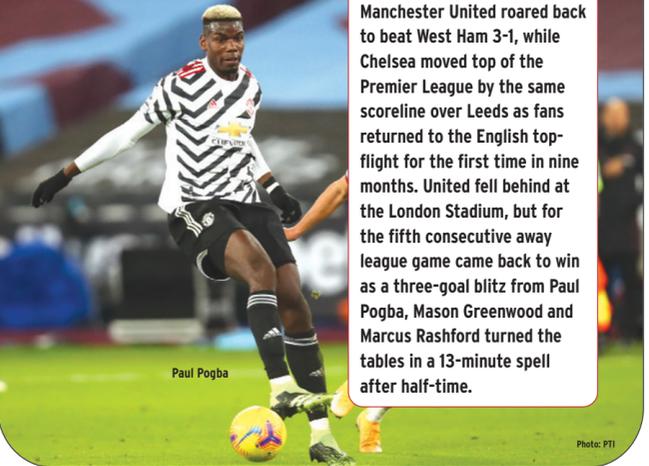
## Barcelona should have sold Lionel Messi



Barcelona's interim president Carlos Tusquets

Barcelona's interim president Carlos Tusquets feels the club should have sold Lionel Messi during the summer transfers. Messi was linked to a move to Manchester City and sent a letter stating his intention to leave. He later said it was due to being disillusioned with the direction the ex-director was taking the club in.

## Man U beat West Ham 3-1, Chelsea go top of Premier League



Paul Pogba

Manchester United roared back to beat West Ham 3-1, while Chelsea moved top of the Premier League by the same scoreline over Leeds as fans returned to the English top-flight for the first time in nine months. United fell behind at the London Stadium, but for the fifth consecutive away league game came back to win as a three-goal blitz from Paul Pogba, Mason Greenwood and Marcus Rashford turned the tables in a 13-minute spell after half-time.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

**Q1:** Which country stood first on the medal tally of Commonwealth Weightlifting Championship held in July 2019 at Apia, Samoa?

- a) South Korea  b) China   
 c) Australia  d) India

**Q2:** At Rio 2016 Olympics, which Indian female wrestler won the bronze medal, defeating Kyrgyzstan's Aisuluu Tynybekova?

- a) Sakshi Malik  b) Vinesh Phogat   
 c) Geeta Phogat  d) Babita Kumari

**Q3:** In which year was the first FIVB World Championship in volleyball held?

- a) 1949  b) 1950  c) 1951  d) 1952

**Q4:** At which Grand Slam tournament is the Musketeers' Trophy awarded to the winner of Men's Singles competition?

- a) Australian Open  b) US Open   
 c) French Open  d) Wimbledon

**Q5:** Which Indian state does the modern game of polo (horse-back) originate from?

- a) Goa  b) Maharashtra   
 c) Manipur  d) Kerala

**Q6:** A form of martial arts, which country is associated with?

- a) Japan  b) India   
 c) Indonesia  d) Russia

**Q7:** How many Olympic medals has Michael Phelps won?

- a) 22  b) 24  c) 26  d) 28



Michael Phelps

**Q8:** In the 1980 Moscow Olympics, India won a Gold in hockey. Who was the captain of the Indian team?

- a) Dhanraj Pillai  b) Dhyan Chand   
 c) Pargat Singh  d) Vasudevan Baskaran

**Q9:** Who was the first Indian gymnast to make it to the finals in individual vault in her debut Olympic Games?

- a) Aruna Reddy  b) Dipa Karmakar   
 c) Kalpana Debnath  d) Krupal Patel

**Q10:** Which Indian player won the 2019 World Rapid Chess Championship, defeating China's Lei Tingjie?

- a) Bhakti Kulkarni  b) Tania Sachdev   
 c) Harika Dronavalli  d) Koneru Humpy

**Q11:** Name the first-ever Indian athlete, nicknamed

'Dhing Express', to win a gold medal at the IAAF World U20 Championships?

- a) Dutee Chand  b) Anjali Devi   
 c) Hima Das  d) M R Poovamma

**Q12:** Who among the following was the first heavyweight boxer to go undefeated throughout his career?

- a) Frank Bruno  b) Gerry Cooney   
 c) Rocky Marciano  d) Joe Frazier

**Q13:** Which Japanese figure skater is the first Asian to win an Olympic gold?

- a) Yuzuru Hanyu  b) Shoma Uno   
 c) Daisuke Takahashi  d) Nathan Chen

**ANSWERS:** 1- d) India 2- a) Sakshi Malik 3- a) 1949 4- c) French Open 5- c) Manipur 6- d) Russia 7- d) 28 8- d) Vasudevan Baskaran 9- b) Dipa Karmakar 10- d) Koneru Humpy 11- c) Hima Das 12- c) Rocky Marciano 13- a) Yuzuru Hanyu