



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020



WEB EDITION

I RECOMMEND

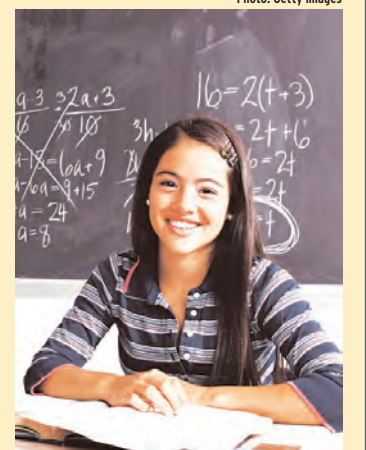
MAKING MATHS EASY

SUSHI MONSTER FREE

Aimed at improving the kids' math fluency and speed in addition and multiplication, the Sushi Monster has levels (seven for addition, five for multiplication), which includes 14 problems. Students can dedicate 10 minutes a day to improve their math fluency. Numbers appear on sushi plates, and are fed to a "sushi monster." Players are given a series of products and sums.

MONSTER MATH FREE ANDROID

Customise this fun math app to learn anything— from grade one math to grade five, including multiplication and division.



PRODIGY KIDS: MATH GAMES FREE + MEMBERSHIP UPGRADES

ANDROID

For kids aged 9 and up, this gamified, adaptive math app, lets kids earn points, have battles, go on quests, and learn maths. Two big selling points are that you can work at your level, and play with friends!

SPLASH MATH 3RD GRADE FREE

The Splash Math apps always provide great games for each math concept. If you get something wrong, they tell you the correct answer. That way you're not doing it incorrectly over and over again.

MATH NINJA TIMES TABLE FREE

ANDROID

Become a ninja and work your way through the times tables, fighting and learning from mistakes.

MATHTANGO FREE

Starting with addition and continuing through multiplication and division, this gives kids missions and games, so that they can build an island or a star base, filled with (cute) monsters and robots

VIEWPOINT

Photo: Getty Images

AI will be SMARTER THAN HUMANS within 5 years: MUSK

Tesla CEO Elon Musk has claimed that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be 'smarter' than any human, and would overtake us by 2025. "We are headed towards a situation, where AI will be smarter than humans, he said, adding that the time frame is less than five years from now. However, it doesn't mean that everything goes to hell in five years. It just means that things get unstable, the Space X CEO said.

WHY MUSK FEARS AI

➤ He described AI as an 'existential threat' to humanity. "I think we should be very careful about AI. If I were to guess like what our biggest existential threat is, it's probably that," he said.

➤ In 2016, Musk had said that humans risk being treated like house pets by AI, unless a technology is developed that can connect brains to computers

MUSK IS NOT ALONE IN SOUNDING THE ALARM

➤ AI scientists at the Oxford, the UC Berkeley, luminaries, like Stephen Hawking, and many other researchers, agree with Musk that AI could be very dangerous. They are concerned that we're eagerly working towards deploying powerful AI systems, which we might do so under conditions that are ripe for dangerous mistakes

➤ Nick Bostrom, in his book, 'Superintelligence' has said that a badly-designed AI system will be impossible to correct, once deployed. "Once unfriendly superintelligence exists, it would prevent us from replacing it or changing its preferences. Our fate will be sealed," he warns

➤ AI systems could rapidly develop unexpected capabilities – for example, an AI system that is as good as a human at inventing new machine-learning algorithms, or automating the process of machine-learning work could quickly become much better than a human, he adds

LET'S DEBATE

Q IS AI AN 'EXISTENTIAL THREAT' TO HUMANITY? Share your views at

toiniet75@gmail.com / timesniet75@gmail.com

NEP a major step to enhance access to quality education: Vice President



Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has expressed happiness over the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and called it a major step forward to enhance access to quality education for children and the youth. Welcoming the emphasis on a holistic, learner-centric, flexible system that seeks to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society, the VP said, it balances the rootedness and pride in India as well as acceptance of the best ideas and practices in the world of learning from across the globe.

➤ The VP expressed happiness over the importance given to the mother tongue at the primary level in the policy

➤ "Diversity and respect for the local context as well as a recognition of the importance of India's classical languages will undoubtedly give learners a holistic world view. The focus of NEP-2020 on ethics and human and Constitutional values would go a long way in the creation of an enlightened citizenship essential for deepening our democratic roots," Naidu said

➤ Calling the NEP-2020's vision as "truly global and essentially Indian", Naidu said that it exemplifies India's timeless quest for welcoming noble thoughts from all over the world

SPACE

Mysterious cloud reappears on Mars

Scientists have claimed that a mysterious giant cloud hanging over the surface of Mars, which was first spotted in 2018, has recently reappeared on the Red Planet. Made of water ice, the elongated cloud sits 19.956 km above the volcano Arsia Mons, and stretches some 1786.372 km in length.



➤ Scientists say it seems to appear around Mars's southern summer solstice – when the southern hemisphere is hit with a large amount of daylight

➤ However, experts are not clear why it has formed, how long it will stay, or when it will disappear from the Martian atmosphere ➤ According to Daily Mail, the summer solstice on Mars is similar to the event that occurs on December 21 on the Earth – when the sun is in the southernmost position in the sky ➤ Researchers have observed that the mysterious Mars cloud expands for three hours in the early morning, and disappears a few hours later

MADE IN INDIA

AT 18-FOOT, 8-INCH, AUSTRALIA ZOO'S 'FOREST' IS THE WORLD'S TALLEST GIRAFFE

A 12-year-old giraffe at the Australian Zoo in Queensland has set a Guinness World Record as the world's tallest, standing at 18-foot, 8-inches. Named, 'Forest', the giraffe was born at the Auckland Zoo in New Zealand in 2007, and was moved to his new home, just two years later. Forest is so tall that he stands head and shoulders over two other giraffes at the Australian Zoo. He is the only male in the herd.



IN THE RECORD BOOK

According to the Guinness World Records, the process of measuring Forest's precise height was not straightforward. Their website mentions that the staff at the zoo had to create a 'specially-marked measuring pole', and rig it close to a hay dispenser close to the giraffe's house



LEONARDO DICAPRIO TO DEVELOP UTOPIAN SERIES 'ISLAND'

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio's production house, Appian Way and In Good Company Films are all set to develop a utopian series, 'Island', which is based on Aldous Huxley's novel of the same name.

ENTERTAINMENT

NEWS IN BRIEF

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GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS AWARDS CERTIFICATE TO SHAKUNTALA DEVI FOR 'FASTEST HUMAN COMPUTATION'

The Guinness World Records has honoured math genius Shakuntala Devi with the long overdue record title for the 'fastest human computation', four decades after she achieved the feat. The certification was received by Anupama Banerji, the daughter of the late mathematician. The honour came a day before 'Shakuntala Devi', a biopic on Banerji's mother, started streaming on Amazon Prime Video. The film was released on July 31. Directed by Anu Menon, the film stars Vidya Balan in the title role.



The fastest human computation is 28 seconds, and was achieved by Shakuntala Devi by successfully multiplying two randomly selected 13-digit numbers at the Imperial College London, UK, on June 18, 1980

facebook

FACEBOOK IS SET TO FINALLY GET THE RIGHTS TO SHOW MUSIC VIDEOS

Facebook Inc has completed a series of deals for the right to show music videos, according to sources, vaulting the social network into a medium dominated by YouTube. Partnerships with the three largest music companies — Universal Music Group, Sony Music Entertainment and Warner Music Group—are expected to be announced soon, revealed the sources.

TECH BUZZ

➤ Facebook has been looking for ways to increase the video consumption on its service, tapping into a promising market.

➤ Video advertising is often more lucrative than other types of ads, and video-based rival TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance Ltd., has been gaining users at a rapid clip. At the same time, music video consumption has soared on YouTube during the coronavirus pandemic

Last month, Microsoft Corp had announced that it would shutter Mixer, its streaming service for gamers, and moved existing partners on to the Facebook's service, instead

FACTOID 6.7 MN

■ The number of children under the age of five across the world, who could suffer from wasting this year due to the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UNICEF has warned. According to the UNICEF, in India, there are still around 20 million children, under five years of age, who are suffering from wasting. According to the Global Hunger Index 2019, wasting among children in India rose from 16.5 per cent in 2008-2012 to 20.8 per cent in 2014-2018

WASTING IS A LIFE-THREATENING FORM OF MALNUTRITION, WHICH MAKES CHILDREN TOO THIN AND WEAK, AND PUTS THEM AT GREATER RISK OF DYING, POOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING

Music COULD BE THE SECRET TO EATING LESS

Listening to slow and steady music while eating, slows down the food intake, a new study suggests. According to researchers, the presence of a downbeat tempo influences how much people scoff their food, because humans have a tendency to subconsciously eat to the beat of the music. When the music played is slow and legato (smooth, flowing), this amplifies the effect, and further reduces the food consumption. Scientists say the findings could be used by the schools or the restaurants as a way to control the amount people consume.

For the study, the food scientists recruited more than 200 volunteers, and secretly recorded them eating chocolate. They timed how long it took for the participants to get through five



THE TEMPO OF MUSIC HAS LONG BEEN LINKED TO THE LEVELS OF EXCITEMENT – A QUICKER BEAT RAISES THE HEART RATE, WHILE A SLOWER RHYTHM INDUCES RELAXATION

➤ The results from these experiments confirm that music could be employed as a contextual cue to modulate eating speed, contributing to healthier eating behaviours, such as eating more slowly, and consuming less food

➤ A longer eating duration could be due to an entertainment effect, where subjects (either consciously or not) align their own chewing rhythm to the beat of the music, thus resulting in chewing slower, when listening to slower music and vice-versa

pieces of chocolate. When eating in silence, the average amount of time it took was 24 seconds. When upbeat music of 180 beats per minute was played, the people took 10 seconds longer to eat all the snacks. However, when played slow

music, at just 45 bpm, the eating speed went down again, this time taking a further four seconds to devour all the chocolates.



Photo: Getty Images

BACK TO SCHOOL SOON?

Students across the city talk to RUPAM SHUKLA about the pros and cons of reopening schools in the midst of this deadly pandemic

The HRD (now Education) ministry has decided to take the opinion of parents and has asked them to decide in which month they wish the schools to reopen, in September this year or in March 2021. Let us find out what students from city schools have to say about this...

With schools being shut since March and education losing its regular pace due to online classes, I strongly feel that it is high time that schools reopened. Many students, are unable to join online classes due to limited resources. Reopening of schools will surely benefit them. - **Abinash Pati, Class XII, Sunrise English Medium School**

In this current stage of community transmission, the future is absolutely unpredictable. Until and unless a vaccine is developed, reopening schools isn't even an option to consider. Maintaining social distancing in school itself is a challenge. So waiting for a vaccine and keeping schools shut until the situation normalises is the best thing to do at the moment. - **Anoushka Banerjee, Class XII, BDMI**

Reopening schools might turn out to be a disastrous step as the Covid crisis is raising its ugly head higher and higher with each passing day. Junior and middle school students should go back to school only when things come back to normal while planning must be done on conducting the 2021 board exams with adequate safety measures. - **Md**

Safiruddin, Class XII, St Sebastian's School

Educational institutions should be opened as early as possible as they play an important role in our lives. The less privileged children who study in government school get not only education but meals as well. On the other hand, online classes requires certain resources which many are unable to afford. - **Jayant Singh, Class IX, Agrasain Boy's School**

When one compares online and conventional classes, we can easily conclude that online classes have several disadvantages including its ill effects on the mind and eyes of students. Keeping schools shut is not a permanent solution and the government must plan to reopen them at the earliest. - **Chandani Singh, Class XII, Sunrise English Medium School**

It is certainly unfair to reopen schools this year. Students lives should be the first thing which should be thought of. Not only students but teachers too may get exposed to Covid-19, thereby making the scenario even more disastrous. - **Sumit Ray, Class X, St Aloisius Orphanage & Day School, Howrah.**

The MHRD's plan of reopening schools during Covid 19 is questionable. I think school should not be opened because maintaining social distance and other norms are extremely difficult in schools, which will put the lives of the future generation at stake. Thus, schools should remain closed until the situation normalises. - **Dhruv Kaushik, Class IX, Agrasain Boy's School**

The ministry has taken an apt decision to put forward the question to reopen schools to the parents. This will not

just imply largescale inputs from the parents, but would also help the authorities to form new resolutions and take decisions that would be decisive and effective at the ground level. - **Harsh Kumar Agarwal, Class X, National English School**

I don't find it safe for schools to open by October. We have alternatives to continue classes and exams through online platforms. What needs to be prioritised more is the health of the students. Once the situation stabilises, schools can then be reopened. - **Meghamala Chakraborty, Class X, National English School**

It is shocking, nay disturbing, that the government is exploring the option of opening schools so soon while the Covid-19 rates haven't even peaked yet. Going to school this year would cause severe community transmission through public transport. Also, all schools can't be expected to enforce full Covid-safety measures due to constraints of funds and space. - **Asish Singh, Class XII, St. Augustine's Day School Barrackpore**

The number of Covid-19 cases in India is rising alarmingly. In such a situation, putting the lives of students and their family members at risk would be the worst idea. Educational institutions must continue imparting education through online classes till the vaccine is available to each and every family in India. - **Alaka Agarwal, Class XII, Agrasain Balika Siksha Sadan**

The current situation in our country is alarming and the student, the future of this country, should not be casually dealt with. It is not quite permissible to reopen schools till the rate of spread of this virus decreases, even if it takes a year to subside. - **Unneta Chatterjee, Class XII, Agrasain Balika Siksha Sadan**

It is obvious that it's not possible for everyone, every time to follow each and every precautionary measure and we are with 30 to 50 students on an average in a classroom, physically. Virtual learning is now the best and safest alternative. Schools should not reopen before October. - **Sagnic Basu, Class XII, St Augustine's Day School, Shyamnagar**

I believe that the need of the hour is to develop a new outlook to education, rather than taking a hasty step of reopening schools, which might have a similar jeopardising effect like the quick decision to lift the lockdown. The MHRD's decision to reopen schools in the upcoming months, need to be scrutinised and analysed properly before its implementation. - **Aadrit Banerjee, Class XII, Apeejay School, Park Street**

(Rupam is a class XII student at Sunrise English Medium School)



Asian International School students participate in VVM-MSMT contest

Times of India-NIE invites all students to send in their articles, poems and paintings with their name, school, class, photograph and phone number to kolkatanie_reporters@gmail.com. For our social media feed mail to kolkatanieonline@gmail.com with your school's official FB/Twitter handles

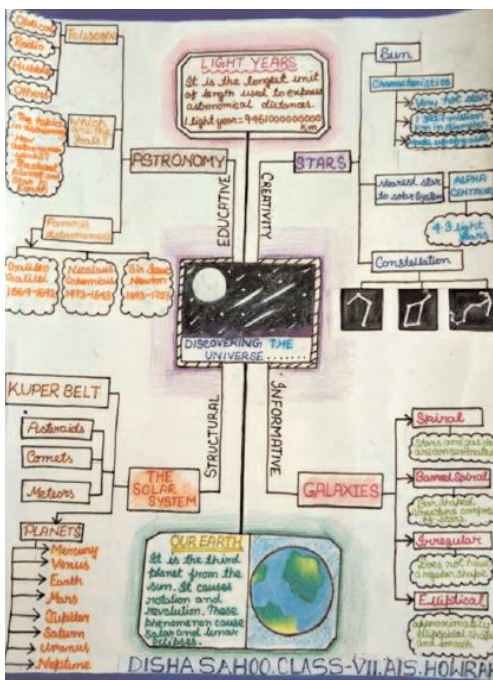
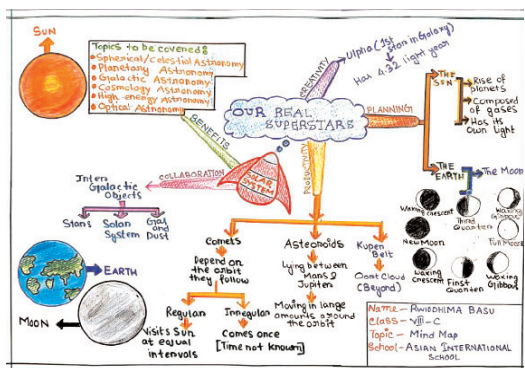
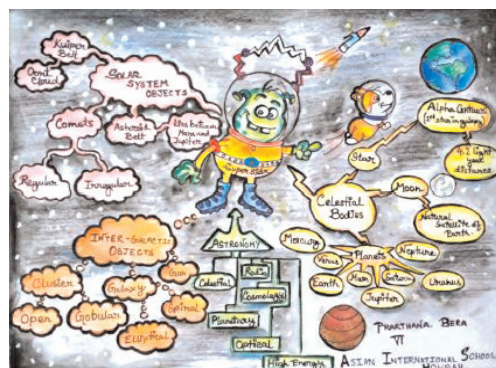
PAINTER'S GALLERY

Vidarthi Vigyan Manthan-Mann Se Mastishk Tak was organized by Vigyan Prasar Kendra, Govt. of India. The VVM-MSMT 2020 contest found proliferating young minds, nationwide. Students were to make a mind map on an A3 size sheet after watching a video, 'MSMT-Junior'. The activity was mainly assigned for the students from classes VI to XI who had to

register themselves for VVM 2019-20. Students of Asian International School had participated in this fruitifying online mind bout. Nine students from middle school to senior sections had participated from AIS who had to submit the mind maps by June 20. The activity mainly involved visualization of a given lecture, story or subject matter after which a mind map had to be made comprising

of teaching-learning technique. Students understood the ideas and concepts for building the mind map on the theme "Astronomical science". The panel of experts had screened through their wise and judicious execution of map making thereby providing e-certificates of appreciation to all the participants.

The best three chosen mind maps are above and right.



Archisman Ghosh, former student, MP Birla Foundation Higher Secondary School



Ushana Das, Class VIII, Calcutta Girls' High School

TIES THAT BIND

On this Raksha Bandhan day students wax eloquent about the bond they share with their beloved brothers

India is a land of diverse heritage and culture where our everyday lives are intertwined with different religious festivals and vibrant cultural occasions. It is India's beauty to harbour so many divergent religious groups who have learnt to live together harmoniously. Every day, there are so many different festivals celebrated to celebrate this manifoldness based on our everyday relations.

Undoubtedly, the relationship of a brother and sister is one of the most open hearted and deepening relationships. This is why on the full-moon day of the month of Sravana, the holy festival of Raksha Bandhan is celebrated.

In my life, I am blessed with a wonderful sister who has supported me through every thick and thin yet the gaping hole of a supportive big brother was always present, someone with whom I could do all those mischievous pranks with. Even though I missed out on that, that hole was replaced with a younger cousin brother instead. Rehan was younger than me by four years, yet those simple moments we spent together bridged all those years together, filling my heart with a sense of wholeness and joy whenever we spent our time together. Whether it were those occasional sneaky encounters to the local shop to grab some sweets, or those anticipated games of hide and seek, every memory always held a special place in my heart. We had many fallouts over the years though. Occasionally when during my exam months I was unable to visit him, Rehan used to resentfully ignore all my calls on the misunderstanding that I had got bored of his company, when it was the complete opposite!!

However, as they say, every fight, every argument, every emotional moment and every joy-filled encounter builds up the memories of our lives, giving it the essence of living it to the fullest.

So today as we live in times of uncertainty and despair, separated from our loved ones, it is

important to appreciate their presence in every single moment, just as I am thankful to God for giving me a brother like Rehan. This is to every brother in the world, Happy Raksha Bandhan!!!

- **Maneeka Khan, Class X, The Heritage School**

A BOND FOREVER

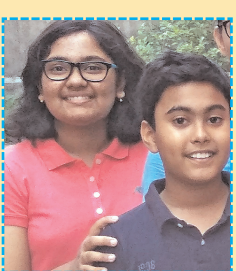
The bonding between a brother and a sister is simply unique and it can't be described in words. Although I don't have any brother of my own but I'm very thankful to God, who gave me my cousin brothers who are no less than my own brother. We can't meet or talk everyday but that distance doesn't matter at all as our love for each other will never end. It doesn't matter whether they are younger or elder; they always act like elders. They fight with me and at the same time they fight for me. They support me, guide me and most importantly never hurt me. They are also my personal photographers.

No matter the distances between us, my rakhi will always reach on time, to be tied on the wrist of my loving brothers with the heartwarming wishes of joy and happiness to illuminate their life. And I'll always pray to God to keep our relationship working for a lifetime.

I love all of them beyond words. - **Ishani Banerjee, Class XII, National High School**

MY SUPPORT SYSTEM

To me, a brother is more than just another



family member - siblings have the opportunity to influence the lives of one another, to act as positive role models and to become a support system for one another in times of need.

Whenever you go through a horrible breakup, your little brother will be the first to put it all in perspective by reminding you the guy "had a gut anyway" or was "too dumb" for you. Oddly enough, when the tears dry up and your tunnel vision clears, you'll realize he was actually right. You may be daddy's little girl, but I promise you, daddy doesn't know half of what you've really been up to; whereas, your brother is the one who will hold the window open for you while you sneak out.

He's seen you at your worst and loves you regardless. In addition to speaking the same language, you have the same sense of humour: You grow up with the same jokes and watch the same comedians growing up. You can feel free to laugh about or share things with your little brother that others might judge you for because he probably finds them funny, too. Your little brother knows that you've had shameful moments, and while he'll tease mercilessly for them, he'll never expose you or your secrets. You're safe with him, even at your low points. Your little brother looks up to you. Despite seeing you hungover or in a complete manic state, he still thinks you're the bee's knees and strives to be like you one day. He'll ask for fashion advice, dating advice and even career advice when he's ready because he values your opinion. Unlike a friendship, you don't have to work at keeping a relationship with your brother alive. He will be there for you even if you talked two days ago or two months ago. Life gets busy, and we don't always get a chance to keep up with our loved ones, especially if they live far away. You and your brother can pick up anytime, right where you left off. Sure, your mom is proud of you, but your little brother is in awe of you. He can't fathom how you can be so successful at such a young age. He screams the loudest at all your graduations and brags about you to all his friends.

With a little prodding, he'd go to the ends of the earth for you because you are his sister and he loves you the most.

- **Soumilee Bhattacharyya, Class XII, Apeejay School, Park Street**



that we have for each other: - **Barbie Chhabra, Class XII, St Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore**

MY GUARDIAN

My relationship with my brother Praseon Ranjan is just like ice and fire. We are total opposites, but one is enough to calm down the other. We both are the worst enemies yet the closest of friends. He is like my guardian. Good or bad, he stays with me through thick and thin, in whatever contexts, never leaves when I am in trouble but holds my hands, providing a source of strength to endure hardships. He showers love and blessings on me although never expresses it. Apart from jokes and normal brother-sister fights, without him my life would be so boring. He is my technical guide, my Netflix mate, my Amazon Prime subscription provider and cheese burst pizza partner. He can even share the last piece of his pizza with me. Just because of him, my childhood was so different. He made me watch Roadies, cricket matches and even WWW when I was a kid.

MY SAVIOUR

In the prevailing situation of this pandemic, going rakhi shopping is unsafe. Since my brother Anish is always enthusiastic about this festival, we plan to celebrate it with handmade rakhis. Anish has always been my emotional support, providing me the strength to fight the odds, and a saviour. He's the person I'd run for advice when in need for I absolutely trust his maturity and sensibility. Home without him wouldn't have been the happy place it is. Though we indulge in a lot of arguments, but at the end of the day we are back to being the crazy duo doing crazy stuff such as going on trips without our parents, club hopping, trying momos at different food joints, late night drives and the list never ends. From facing the uncertainties together to cherishing the best we have, I've seen my baby brother become a chivalrous, calm and patient young man. I hope this Raksha Bandhan brings every brother-sister duo the same happiness, strength and compassion

Some things are inexplicable. So is this. I will not say anything more about my relationship with my brother but just hope that this bond grows.

- **Richa Pragya, Class XII, St Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore**

A FOND WISH

The festival of brother and sister is not celebrated by me, because I don't have a brother. I am the eldest sibling of my family with a younger sister and I have always wished for a brother - an elder brother. When I had a child I always watched girls with their brothers, all my cousins have one too, in fact my friends too and when they talk about their brothers, I envy them. I wish, I had a brother with whom I can share my secrets and insecurities, like everyone else. Maybe having an elder brother would free me from some responsibilities as well. Someone who is always by my side, who supports me and loves me unconditionally. Happy Raksha Bandhan. - **Zainab Iqbal, Class X, St. Sebastian's School**

