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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Online classes only short-term response, need to make schools resilient to turbulence: Nandan Nilekani

The rapid shift to teaching and learning activities online prompted by closure of schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic is only a "short-term response", and we need to fundamentally reimagine schools as a resilient system, which can function under continuous turbulence, according to Nandan Nilekani, co-founder, Infosys. While delivering the keynote address at a virtual conference on 'Future of Schools: Overcoming Covid-19 challenge and beyond', organised by Ashoka University, Nilekani said, **classroom should not be the only location, teacher, the only facilitator and textbook, the only medium, for the road ahead.**

“Covid-19 pandemic is an unprecedented disruption, and we have to now strive for education excellence in a 'seismic era'. We need to be able to virtualise space so that schooling can be done from anywhere. Schooling beyond school, learning beyond classroom and playing beyond playground should be our motive, when we look forward to synchronising teaching learning experience ...it should no longer be about proximity -Nandan Nilekani”



Creativity can't be transferred through online classes: Kasturirangan

The concept of online teaching—learning for school children—has not found favour with eminent scientist K Kasturirangan, who said **direct physical and mental connection is important to bring out aspects, such as playfulness and creativity in them.** The National Education Policy, 2019 draft committee chairperson stressed the need for face-to-face contacts, interactions, exchange of ideas and thoughts

as he backed the traditional mode, amid a debate on online classes for children due to Covid-19-induced closure of schools. He said, **86% of the brain grows by the age of eight, adding that issues associated with the early phase of children need to be assessed and evaluated carefully, and any kind of new approach needs a scientific basis.**

“The issue of online education for school children needs to be looked into very carefully, and one should not jump into any kind of approach without any scientific basis”



K Kasturirangan

Be patient & hopeful: Pichai's message for 'Class of 2020'

The post-Covid world is starting to shape up, and it's looking different. The new normal now includes working remotely and managing work and life, while maintaining social distancing norms. Taking a cue from the new emerging world order, YouTube organised a virtual graduation ceremony on Saturday for students, who won't receive their in-person farewell due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. In attendance was a stellar crowd comprising former US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama, Beyoncé, Lady Gaga, Malala Yousafzai, among others. But what left a mark on the virtual crowd was **Sundar Pichai's inspirational message to the 'Class of 2020' that encouraged them to BE THE CHANGE.**

CELEB TALK

'SUNDAR' TIPS



- In his speech to the outgoing students of 2020, the Google CEO said that while it can be difficult to find hope in these bleak moments, it is **important to celebrate the knowledge that one has gained in these difficult times.** "You will prevail," he stressed.
- Speaking from the backyard of his San Francisco home, the 47-year-old tech boss cited examples of the deadly pandemic of 1920, Vietnam War in 1970 and 9/11 Terrorist Attack in 2001, and said that history suggests **'we have every reason to be hopeful'.**
- In his note, which was also posted on Google's blog, Pichai pointed out an 'interesting trend', and said that it is conventional for every generation to underestimate the potential of the following one. He also mentioned that people forget that **the progress of one generation is the foundational premise for the next.** "It takes a new set of people to come along and realise all the possibilities," he added.

DO YOU WANT TO START A CHARITY CLUB?



WHAT IS IT? Charity clubs are clubs that are linked to a specific charity with the goal of raising awareness, working, or raising money for that charity

WHY WE SHOULD START A CLUB?

- Get to meet new people, do an activity you enjoy, and gain leadership experience.
- Being a part of a club or starting one is a soft skill that many employers are looking for these days.
- It also gives an edge to your college application form

CHARITY CLUB IDEAS

- Operation Smile club**
 ■ Host fundraisers in your society to raise awareness for Operation Smile to provide free surgeries to children with a cleft lip
 ■ Organise a walk to raise awareness for cleft lips
 ■ Bring in (or Skype with) a child who received help from Operation Smile to talk about how the surgery changed their life
- Children's Hospital volunteer club**
 ■ Organise volunteer opportunities at a local children's hospital
 ■ Host a book donation drive to collect books to donate to the Children's Hospital
- Soup Kitchen volunteer club**
 ■ Organise volunteer opportunities for club members at a local Soup Kitchen
 ■ Host a toiletry collection drive to donate to those who need it
 ■ Host a food collection drive to donate to the soup kitchen
- Save Endangered Species club**
 ■ Organise volunteer opportunities for club members at local animal shelters
 ■ Host a fundraiser to donate money to the WWF
 ■ Visit a wildlife rescue centre virtually
 ■ Plan a quiz to know more about an endangered species in another country

BOOK REVIEW

Aliens for Breakfast by Stephanie Spinner

'Aliens for Breakfast' is about a school boy, Richard, living an ordinary life, until he finds an alien, Aric, who is forced to land on Earth for an unusual task. Aric encounters Richard after his landing on Earth, they become friends, and have a wonderful journey together. This book took me to a utopian world that is devoid of any discrimination and hatred for one another. A fun read!
 Sonakshi, class VII, Jain Bharati Mrigavati Vidyalaya, New Delhi

INDIA'S ECONOMY TO SHRINK BY 3.2% IN 2020-21, WORST SINCE 1979: WB

India's economy will shrink by 3.2 per cent in the current fiscal, the World Bank said on Monday as it joined a chorus of international agencies that are forecasting a contraction in growth rate due to the coronavirus lockdown, halting economic activity. The Washington-based multilateral lender said that the Covid-19 pandemic and the multi-phased lockdown imposed to curb its spread has resulted in a devastating blow to the Indian economy.



ECONOMY

- International rating agencies like Moody's Investors Service, Fitch Rating and S&P Global Ratings have all predicted a 4-5 per cent contraction in India's economic growth rate during April 2020 to March 2021 fiscal.
- Crisis! has said this would be the country's fourth recession since Independence, first since liberalisation, and perhaps the worst to date.

CORONAVIRUS SITUATION 'WORSENING' WORLDWIDE: WHO

The World Health Organisation said on Monday that the coronavirus pandemic situation was worsening around the globe as it warned against complacency. The WHO said it had recorded its highest daily tally of new infections, with Covid-19 raging in the US. As mass protests for racial justice sweep across US and beyond, the United Nations' health agency urged demonstrators to take precautions while participating.



ALERT

- ❖ The novel coronavirus has killed more than 403,000 people, out of at least seven million infected, since the outbreak emerged in China, last December
- ❖ After East Asia, Europe became the epicentre of the disease, but has now been overtaken by the US

NEWS IN BRIEF

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CORONA-RELATED SEARCHES SEE A DROP, NOW, PEOPLE GOOGLING FILMS, WEATHER

After dominating the conversations for weeks, coronavirus seems to be falling off the popularity charts as netizens in the country went back to searching for topics like films and weather on Google in May. According to Google search trends, the search volume for coronavirus in May was half of that in April, even though the number of Covid-19 cases have continued to rise in the country. An exception was cricket. With no tournaments being organised in the wake of the pandemic, coronavirus was "five times more searched than cricket", showed the trends.



- Coronavirus dropped to 12th most-searched topic overall during May, behind topics like, 'film', 'meaning', 'news' and 'weather'

- All these terms are consistently highly-searched topics in India. This probably indicates that people are trying to return back to consumption patterns seen in the pre-Covid times.

- The top trending search term overall for May was 'Lockdown 4.0', followed by 'Eid Mubarak'

- Netizens also sought answers to questions like 'Which disease is related to coronavirus?', 'Can asymptomatic people spread coronavirus?', and 'Will lockdown extend after 17 May?'

- The state/UT with the highest search interest for coronavirus over May is Goa, followed by Meghalaya, Chandigarh and Tripura

SPORTS

INDIA WILL BE IN TOP-10 AT 2028 OLYMPICS: KIREN RIJJU

India has historically underwhelmed at the multi-national event, as far as medals are concerned. In the last edition of the Olympics in Rio, Indian athletes returned home with just two medals — PV Sindhu (silver) and Sakshi Malik (bronze) — finishing 67th on the table. The country has never managed to breach the double-digit mark, with the highest being six at the London Olympics in 2012 — two silvers and four bronze medals. Despite such numbers, Union sports minister Kiren Rijju said the country will be targeting a record medal haul at the 2028 Olympics. Pinning hopes on junior athletes, he said, the whole country will witness the progress at the 2024 Olympics. "The 2024 Games is a mid-term goal but the long term is 2028," Rijju asserted during an Instagram session with Commonwealth gold medallist Manika Batra.



TREASURE CHEST WORTH \$1 MN FOUND 10 YRS AFTER BEING HIDDEN IN MOUNTAINS

A bronze chest filled with gold, jewels, and other valuables worth more than \$1 million, and hidden a decade ago somewhere in the Rocky Mountains in the US has been found, according to Forrest Fenn, who created the treasure hunt. "The search is over! It was in the lush, forested vegetation of the Rocky Mountains and had not moved from the spot where I hid it, more than 10 years ago," Fenn, 89, announced on his website. "I don't know the person who found it but the poem in my book led him to the spot," he said.



- Fenn had included the clues leading to the treasure's location in a 24-line poem that was published in his 2010 autobiography, 'The Thrill of the Chase'
- Fenn estimates that as many as 3.5 lakh people from all over the world have tried to search the treasure in the past 10 years. Some of them were so dedicated that they quit their jobs

HOW TO

PREPARE BEFORE HOSTING WEBINARS

Hosting a webinar is a project that should take careful thought, deliberation and focus – all of which involve time

DETERMINE YOUR WEBINAR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Ask yourself, 'what are my webinar goals?' When you are presenting yourself on a webinar, it should not be for your benefit only. The webinar should be also for those attending it. Your first thought should always be what topic would be useful for the registrants, and help achieve my goals? For each webinar, you should come up with at least 1-3 goal statements.

SELECT YOUR WEBINAR TARGET AUDIENCE

- Selecting your target market for the webinar is key. You must figure out your audience. It makes sense for you to even select level-wise webinars so that you are speaking with a specific age group at a particular time.



PICK A WEBINAR TOPIC

- While building your first webinar (or any webinar for that matter) picking up a relevant topic is very important. The topic and title alone will be the deciding factor in judging if someone is interested in your webinar content and if it applies to them or not. Check out these things: Your target audience and meaningful topics before finalising a webinar.

PICK A SOFTWARE TO HOST YOUR WEBINAR

- After determining the goals, objectives, target audience and potential topics for your very first webinar, you need to figure out how you're going to actually deliver your webinar. There are tons of web conferencing, webinar hosting and video conferencing solutions. You can search for them online.

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CovidDreams

DR DEVIYANI SINGH
an educator

They quarantined my body but they couldn't confine my mind's eye. Every night I soar into outer-space with the stars. Run rings around Jupiter and play catch with comrade Mars. Stern Saturn chided me while Venus winked. Neptune and Pluto watched from afar. I smiled back; they were gone in a blink. Mercury was temperamental and Uranus unpredictable.

I played hopscotch with the constellations; took a big leap on the Great Bear. Tried on Orion's belt, it didn't fit. The Comets exploded with mirth at my expanding lockdown girth. Then I rode around the galactic carousel of the Milky Way on mighty Pegasus.

► Purple lightning flashed across the peach palette of dawn. The dream had ended but the nightmare of dark dreary days had begun again...

An astronaut floated by; his white spacesuit reminded me of the PPEs in hospitals. Frightened, I plummeted through the Firmament into Earth's Oceans. Letting the Great Barrier Reef soothe my grief. The kaleidoscopic corals lit up my monochromatic life. Psychedelich fish darted out of their marine homes; no aquarantine here. I watched scores of Oliver Ridley turtles migrating on the ocean currents like the mélange



of migrant labourers trudging miles without rest. Unlike the turtles they didn't have the empty beaches of Puri to nest. There appeared a diver; his breath rasping in and out of his aqua lungs like the ventilators of dying Covid patients. I felt I was drowning, thrashed to the surface gasping for air. Only to remember even air was unsafe.

I headed for the Poles and swam beneath the ice caps; skated with penguins and polar bears; they had not yet met Mr. Covid and had no fears. I held on to a shark's fin and surfed on the waves. Whales followed me with their tiny eyes; their sonar songs soothed my senses. Surfacing and spouting air in a big whoosh like the patients who were able to breathe at last. Their tail fins landed with loud claps flat on the water as if applauding the doctors and patients on recovery.

I flew to the mighty Himalayas and perched myself atop Everest, enjoying the sights. I saw a long line of climbers waiting to summit. Their laboured breathing from oxygen cylinders jolted me

back to the scenes of overcrowded Covid tents in Italy. I grabbed a pair of skis, and zigzagged at breakneck speed till I reached the powder slopes; leaving a mist of snow in my wake. Then I plunged into a mountain stream. The crystal clear water gurgled over boulders. I lay back arms folded, feeling like a river fairy cascading with the current. I squealed in childish delight as the roller coaster rapids tossed me around.

The river tumbled into the salty sea. The warm sun vaporised the droplets and I drifted in pristine white clouds. They turned dark and heavy, drenching the Earth in torrential rain, which alas could not cleanse the virus.

I woke to a loud clap of thunder. Purple lightning flashed across the peach palette of dawn. The dream had ended but the nightmare of dark dreary days had begun again.



KNOWLEDGE BANK

Pluto

It is a dwarf planet in the Kuiper belt, a ring of bodies beyond the orbit of Neptune.



Pluto was discovered on February 18, 1930. Its status as a planet was questioned following the discovery of several objects of similar size in the Kuiper belt. Jupiter hasn't made a full orbit of the sun since that time because of its too slow orbit. In fact, it takes Pluto 248.09 years to make one orbit around the sun. This means that Pluto will make its first full orbit on March 23, 2178, since 1930.

Quiz time

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Q.1) Bijapur is known for its ____.

- A. Gol Gumbaz
B. Gateway
C. Gol Tekaddi
D. Gol Golu

Q.2) BC Roy Award is given in the field of ____.

- A. Medicine B. Art
C. Engineering
D. Science

Q.3) What did Benjamin Franklin invent?

- A. Dollar Bill
B. Bifocal spectacles
C. Tyre D. Motor Car

Q.4) Where is the seat of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)?

- A. Hague
B. Rotterdam

- C. Amsterdam
D. Utrecht

Q.5) How many moons does the planet Jupiter have?

- A. 70 B. 22 C. 79 D. 30



Gol Gumbaz built in 1626 at Bijapur is the mausoleum of king Muhammad Adil Shah of the Adil Shah Dynasty.

ANSWERS

1. A) Gol Gumbaz 2. D) Bifocal spectacles 3. A) Medicine 4. B) Bifocal spectacles 5. C) 79



ENGLISH QUIZ

In questions given below out of four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given word/sentence.

- Q.1) Extreme old age when a man behaves like a fool.
A. Imbecility B. Senility
C. Dotage D. Old age

- Q.2) That which cannot be corrected.
A. Unintelligible
B. Indelible C. Illegible
D. Incurable

- Q.3) The study of ancient societies.
A. Anthropology
B. Archaeology C. History
D. Ethnology

- Q.4) A person of good understanding, knowledge and reasoning power.
A. Expert B. Intellectual C. Snob D. Literate

- Q.5) A person who insists on something.
A. Disciplinarian
B. Instantaneous
C. Boaster D. Stickler

ANSWERS

(D) (C) (B) (C) (B) (D) (B) (C) (D)

INDIA SHINING

TURNING THE PAGES OF HISTORY TO DISCOVER TIMELESS LEGACIES

Fort Bassein, Maharashtra

Fort Bassein, also known as the Vasai Fort or Fort Baçaim, is a large fort in the town of Vasai, in the Palghar district of Maharashtra. It is said to



have been built by Yadavas of Devagiri in 1184. According to historian José Gerson da Cunha, during this time, Bassein and its surrounding areas appeared to have been ruled by the Chalukya dynasty of Karnataka. Fort Bassein is a monument of national importance and is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

COMMON GRAMMATICAL MISTAKES

1. GORILLA/GUERRILLA

THE RULES:

- "Gorilla" - it is the largest of the anthropoid apes.
- "Guerrilla" - means a member of a band of irregular soldiers that uses guerrilla warfare.

HOW NOT TO DO IT:

- It was the only **guerrilla** in that zoo.
- Their **gorilla** tactics took the enemy by surprise.

HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY:

- It was the only **gorilla** in that zoo.
- Their **guerrilla** tactics took the enemy by surprise.

SCHOOL IS COOL

RABINDRA JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

St Augustine's Day School Barrackpore & Shyamnagar

Rabindra Jayanti, the 159th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated online and live by all the students from nursery to class XII, their teachers & parents on May 8 by St Augustine's Day School Barrackpore and Shyamnagar. The programme that lasted the entire day from 8 am till 6.30 pm had performances not just by students but by teachers and their parents as well. It included Shrutinatak (play reading), Rabindrasangeet, dances, recitations and even Tagore's message on malaria and the plague pandemic during his time. Nearly 6000 students, many parents and over 200 teachers, logged in to the platform normally used for online classes, in different time slots to enjoy the performances.

An informative video on Tagore, prepared by the school, was shown to all, followed by live performances by students over the online platform. Songs like "Kotobare bhebechi", "Prano bhoirye trisha hohiye", "Hey nuton" and many more were sung; "Beerpurush", "Proshno", "Where the mind is without fear" and many more recitations followed by students dancing to "Khola hawa", "Hare rere rere amay chere dere" and many more, with the teacher as the anchor. The performers were dressed in colourful costumes. Students performed "Chhatrer Porikha" and "1400 Saal" as Shrutinatak. The senior students prepared a presentation on Tagore's message on malaria and plague pandemic. Instrumental performances on flute, guitar and table were also included.

Some parents, like the father of Sayantika Mondal (UKG, Shyamnagar school) joined in the celebration, not just to watch the live singing and dancing but also to perform themselves!

Later in the evening, the teachers put



up their own program with over 200 teachers joining online. They sang popular Rabindra Sangeet accompanied by music played by self or family members "Anondo loko", "Aalo amar aalo", "Adhhe ghume", "Chader hansi" were some of the songs. Some of these were even accompanied by teachers dancing. They even put up a Shrutinatak "Rwoger Chikitsha", each performing from their own homes but in total sync with each other creating perfect comic timing!

In a time, where the young generation have huge number of options to entertain themselves, like social media, video games, YouTube, online movies, animes, comics and cartoons it was heartening to see these students keeping alive the legacy of our great Nobel Laureate by comfortably performing his works. That too, for the first time using technology to bring the entire programme to life...live and online!

Tribeni Tissues Vidyapith

It is indeed a wonderful serendipity to generate a burst of creative activity during times of adversity like this ongoing uncertain period of lockdown in a bid to fight Covid-19. Creativity is defiant in the face of adversity and difficult times produce great opportunities. Turning the pages of literary history, William Shakespeare made the best of being quarantined during the 1606 plague to write King Lear, Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra. Sir Isaac Newton's Theory of Gravity germinated during his isolation period to avoid the bubonic plague.

Likewise here in Tribeni Tissues Vidyapith students under the tutelage of R S Sharma, director, have been exploring creativity as the transformation of adversity. Besides online academics their safe time at home is further fructified by multi-

farious co-curricular activities and celebrations. Being away from school campus did not deter the genius of the students and teachers to come together in shaping eye-soothing and ear-pleasing shradhanjali tributes to literary stalwarts namely Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam in the form of songs, dances, recitations. The im-



pact of these personalities on the young minds was such that they used this distressing period of isolation to embrace productivity in the form of creative brilliance.

The virtual celebration of the 159th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore and the 121st birth commemoration of Kazi Nazrul Islam by the united efforts of the Tribeni Tissues Vidyapith family culminated into grand shows with technical support and aesthetics.

Indus Valley World School

Amidst the fear and panic caused by the outbreak of the threatening pandemic, we at Indus Valley World School celebrated Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary very differently this year on May 8 through the school Facebook page. His wise words in the "Crisis of Civilisation" are remembered even today when the world is facing this tragic situation.

The theme of the virtual celebration was "Amra Korbo Joy" as suggested by our director. Scripted by our Bengali department the programme was a mix of Tagore's poems and songs befitting the theme. Forty students spread across grades II

to XI participated whole heartedly, rehearsing with their music and dance teachers daily over two weeks to the tune of memorable Rabindra Sangeet like 'Sakatore oi...', 'Nai nai bhoi', and 'Ami bhoi korbo na' to achieve some-



thing never done before.

The challenging task of editing fell into the talented hands of Rohosen Bhattacharya (CBSE Batch of 2020) who achieved this mammoth task of editing nearly 100 clips to bring together a compilation of a 23-minute video honouring Tagore.

Under the leadership of our dean of arts the entire creative team of teachers and students came together and made this possible. The contribution of all the parents of the participants is indeed noteworthy and that makes up the true spirit of IVWS.



ACTIVITY

FUN-ZONE



Want to boost your general knowledge? Take this exciting test. Rest assured, it will really test you!



Q1: Which is a synonym of coruscate?

- A: Burn
B: Blind
C: Fade
D: Sparkle

Q2: Which is a synonym of delineate?

- A: Forgive
B: Outline
C: Delegate
D: Misinterpret

Q3: Which is a synonym of erroneous?

- A: Questionable
B: Cooperative
C: Ineffective
D: Incorrect

Q4: Which is a synonym of degradation?

- A: Privacy
B: Immorality
C: Permission
D: Firmness

Q5: Which is a synonym of esteem?

- A: Present
B: Location

GRAMMAR

Theme: Synonym

C: Knowledge
D: Admiration

Q6: Which is a synonym of exploit?

- A: Notice B: Educate
C: Irritate D: Abuse

Q7: Which is a synonym of chicanery?

- A: Feature
B: Dishonesty
C: Punishment

D: Attitude

Q8: Which is a synonym of coalesce?

- A: Imagine B: Combine
C: Guarantee D: Teach

Q9: Which is a synonym of circumspect?

- A: Ordinary B: Cautious
C: Warm D: Dressy

Q10: Which is a synonym of degenerate?

- A: Clumsy
B: Nosy
C: Corrupt
D: Familiar

ANSWERS: 1. D 2. B 3. B 4. D 5. D 6. D 7. B 8. B 9. B 10. C