



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

MAJOR REFORMS IN SCHOOL EDUCATION, LESS EMPHASIS ON BOARD EXAMS

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the New Education Policy (NEP 2020), and renamed the HRD ministry as the education ministry



THE FOCUS

- 1 The policy has focused on making Board exams less stressful, with no high stakes to it. There can be a modular system introduced, and can be held twice. Board exams can be divided into two: objective and descriptive, with focus on application, and discourage rote-learning
- 2 All students will now take school examinations in Grades III, V, and VIII, which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. **Board exams for Grades X and XII will be continued**, but redesigned with holistic development as the main focus. The changes will be implemented from the 2021 academic session
- 3 There will be a holistic report card prepared for the child, which will have three kinds of assessment. First, the child will assess his/her performance. Second, by the classmates, and third, by the teachers. The report card will have the knowledge of the skills the child has acquired over the years in the school
- 4 Restructuring of the school curriculum and pedagogy will take place in a 5+3+3+4 design. Foundational state of 3 and 2 years would include play school, and Grades I and II; Preparatory stages: Grade III to V, Middle school: Grades VI to VIII and Secondary stage: Grades IX to XII

THE GOALS

- The policy gives nod to the global universities to set up campuses in India, and a complete overhaul of the regulatory system in higher education, besides suggesting that standalone technical institutions become multi-disciplinary.
- It seeks to achieve 50% and 100% gross enrolment ratio in higher and school education by 2030, and increase government's investment on education by up to 20% in the next 10 years.

EDUCATORS REACT

- ➔ It is a holistic policy that has been framed keeping in mind multi-disciplinary education. The easing of pressure from the Board exams by testing actual knowledge and logical thinking of the kids is a welcome move, as it will discourage rote-learning and rat race for marks. **BANDITA ROY**, VP, CPS Mundra, Ahmed
- ➔ The policy signals the government's intent to implement sweeping reforms in the education system. The move to reintegrate school dropouts into the education system, and the emphasis on mother tongue, classical languages and physical skills is laudable. **COL (RETD) GOPAL KARUNAKARAN**, CEO, Shiv Nadar School
- ➔ The policy looks very informative. The initial years are crucial, and the policy has taken consideration on that area. However, it needs to be seen, how it is implemented by various Boards. **KAMAL PREET KAUR**, Senior teacher, City Montessori School, GN2, Lucknow
- ➔ The NEP 2020 will bring about uniformity in our existing education system. It is also student-friendly, as it gives the students the scope to pursue their field of interest and learning, without additional pressure on them. **KIRANMAI C**, teacher, MES Kishore Kendra, Bengaluru
- ➔ The NEP has an inclusive and balanced outlook, which gives emphasis to arts, culture, creative, STEM courses, in addition to blended, multi-disciplinary, and immersive learning as well as augmenting digital learning. **SHARAD MEHRA**, CEO Asia Pacific, Global University Systems (GUS)

STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020



WEB EDITION

I RECOMMEND

5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD LEARN MULTIPLICATION TABLES

1 LEARN ONE, OTHERS SEEM EASIER: By starting with smaller tables and building up, you will learn the number rules, which will make learning other tables much easier. For example, once you know your 2 times table, you can learn your 4 times table simply by doubling the answers!



2 YOU COULD DO MENTAL ARITHMETIC: Memorising times tables makes it far quicker and easier for you to work out maths problems in your head. This will help you to solve questions, involving multiplication, addition, subtraction and division in their head, making the act of memorising multiplications a very worthwhile cause!

3 HELP UNDERSTAND OTHER CONCEPTS: Beyond memorising times tables, learning and understanding how they work can do wonders for building your knowledge of important mathematical concepts. These include, fractions, percentages and even shape. For example, using visual representations of times tables (such as counters) can help you to visualise the role of sequences, addition and fractions

4 THEY CAN BE USED IN REAL LIFE: Knowing times tables isn't just useful for weekly multiplication tests - they also come in handy outside of the classroom! How much would it cost to buy three comics which cost ₹ 20 each? Simply calculate 3 x 20! Or how many chocolates are there in total, if my four friends have five each? Work out 4 x 5! The possibilities are endless.

5 INCREASES YOUR CONFIDENCE! Perhaps most importantly, memorising the tables will give you the confidence in your own skills.

This confidence will help you ace the SATs or other assessments

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Scientists revive microbes from 100 million years ago

Scientists have successfully revived microbes that had remained dormant at the bottom of the sea, since the age of the dinosaurs, allowing the organisms to eat and even multiply after eons in the deep. Their research sheds light on the remarkable survival power of some of the Earth's most primitive species, which can exist for millions of years, with barely any oxygen or food, before springing back to life in the lab.



A team led by the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology analysed ancient sediment samples deposited more than 100 million years ago on the seabed of the South Pacific, which is renowned for having far fewer nutrients in its sediment than normal, thereby making it a far-from-ideal site to maintain life over the millennia

Previous studies have shown how bacteria can live on some of the least hospitable places on the Earth, including around undersea vents that are devoid of oxygen

MADE IN INDIA

GOVT LAUNCHES 'MAUSAM' APP FOR WEATHER FORECASTS

The ministry of earth sciences has launched a mobile application, 'Mausam', for the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which is designed to communicate the weather information and forecasts to the public. Using the app, the public can access forecasts, radar images, and be proactively warned of the impending weather events.



- Mausam' has services, such as Nowcast, which will give three-hourly warnings of localised weather phenomena and their intensity issued for about 800 stations, and districts of the country by the State Meteorological Centres of IMD
- Apart from this, as a warning in case of approaching dangerous weather, alerts will be issued twice a day for all districts for the next five days in colour code (Red, Orange and Yellow) to warn citizens

NEWS IN BRIEF

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KASHMIR SAFFRON GETS GI TAG



The world-famous Kashmir Saffron has now got the prestigious geographical indication (GI) certification from the government of India to certify its authenticity and world class prominence. This is the first major step to put Saffron produced in the Valley on the World map with authentication. With the GI tag, Kashmir Saffron will acquire more prominence in the export market, and would help the farmers get the best remunerative price, feel experts.

GI certification enables those who have the right to use the signs in order to prevent the third parties using the sign. This GI certification would also stop the prevalent adulteration of Kashmir Saffron; authenticated Saffron will fetch much better prices

INDIAN-ORIGIN AUTHOR AVNI DOSHI ON 2020 BOOKER PRIZE LONGLIST



BOOKS

Dubai-based Indian-origin author **Avni Doshi** is among the 13 authors, longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize for her debut novel, 'Burnt Sugar', alongside double Booker winner Hilary Mantel for 'The Mirror and The Light'. The so-called, 'Booker Dozen' was unveiled on Tuesday.

ICC RANKINGS: KOHLI, ROHIT MAINTAIN TOP TWO SPOTS



SPORTS

Indian captain **Virat Kohli** and his deputy **Rohit Sharma** continue to occupy the top two batting spots in the ICC ODI rankings, while pacer **Jasprit Bumrah** stayed put in second place among bowlers in the latest list. With 871 rating points, Kohli is at the top, followed by **Rohit** (855) and **Pakistan's Babar Azam** (829). In the bowlers list, **Bumrah** (719) is behind New Zealand pacer, **Trent Boult** (722), while Afghanistan's **Mujeeb Ur Rahman** (701) occupies the third spot. **Ravindra Jadeja** is the lone Indian to feature in the top 10 all-rounders rankings at the eighth spot. Afghanistan's **Mohammad Nabi** is leading the pack in this category.

Teach children to navigate through fake news: Vice Prez

To deal with the menace of circulation of fake news, Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** has emphasised on the need to teach children to navigate through misinformation and fake news infesting the media landscape. Addressing young participants at the 'Times Scholars Event' through video conferencing, the VP asked the participants to develop the ability to analyse, and the courage to accept the truth, and discard the lies.

CELEB TALK



VP'S TIPS

- A well-read student is definitely better prepared to overcome the challenges in life. So, **read as much as you can**
- **Aim high and dream high.** You can only realise your dream through self-discipline, hard work, sincerity and perseverance
- **Do not get disturbed by the events**, which are beyond one's control. Develop a strong emotional quotient, and the ability to weather the ups and downs in life

Global warming may unleash Asian monsoon fury: Study

As the world braces itself for the impact of climate change, a latest research has revealed that global warming means more rain for Asian monsoon regions, which can be devastating for countries, like India, in the form of more floods.

The over-a-month-long devastating flood in Assam this season continues to remain grim, with nearly 100 deaths and 26.37 lakh people already affected. Nearly 10 lakh people are left distressed in Bihar

ENVIRONMENT



- ➔ Researchers from the Tokyo Metropolitan University simulated 30 years of global warming to show significantly elevated levels of precipitation in the monsoon "trough," a zone spanning northern India, the Indo-China peninsula and the western parts of the North Pacific, with tropical disturbances, such as typhoons, and concentrated water vapour playing key roles
- ➔ The effects of the monsoon season in Asia can be devastating. Examples include the 2018 and 2020 floods in western Japan and the east Asian countries. The region is home to a large population, and the monsoons are a major driver of global water cycles

FACTOID 6,940

Entries have been received for the 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge', which was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, earlier this month. The category-wise breakup of the apps submitted, include 1,142 under business category, 901 under health and wellness, 1,062 e-learning, 1,155 social networking, 326 games, 662 under office and work from home category, 237 news and 320 under entertainment category. Around 1,135 apps have been submitted under the others category



Steps to become your child's bestie!



There's no bond as beautiful and strong as friendship. Friendship, to a large extent, moulds a child's behaviour and character. That's why you should always be careful about the kind of friends that your child chooses to be with. So becoming your child's best friend yourself always sounds like a very good idea. It's a great way to inculcate good habits and helps you to understand your child better. Here are a few ways you can try to be your child's best friend

1 PLAY WITH THEM: There's no child who does not love to play. If your child loves a game that requires another partner, never think twice before becoming that partner. It will not only help him see you in a new light but also bridge any gap in your mutual relationship.

2 WATCH MOVIES TOGETHER: Children love their movies. From animation to adventure, depending upon their taste, they have a long list of their favourite movies. Watch as many as you can with them. It will make them think that you share their taste in movies.

3 TAKE THEM TO THEIR FAVOURITE PLACE: Outdoor activities may be a bad idea now. But do ask your children about a place they would like to visit in the near future. Help them plan this trip. Also, let them plan a holiday. You can put forward some options, but always let them make a choice. It tells them that you value their opinion and preferences.

4 INVOLVE THEM IN DAY TO DAY WORK: A lot of things happen in a home every day. Let your child be a part of it. Ask them how they want to help you. Take them out for grocery shopping or have them help you clean the house. This way you will be able to do something and spend some time together.



5 APPRECIATE THEIR EFFORTS: Children feel really good when their efforts get appreciated. If you want to be their best friend, keep appreciating them whenever they do something good. It will fill them with confidence and they will keep up the good work too.

6 COOK THE FOOD THEY LOVE: If you want to be your child's best friend, the route to take is via their stomach. Often cook the food they love the most. Share the recipe with them and involve them in the cooking process. Eat it together and tell them how good their choice of food is.

7 DON'T JUST ASK, SHARE: Right from 'how did the school go' to 'who's that friend

of yours', parents ask a lot of questions. It's time to give it a break and start sharing with them. Tell them how your day was when you get a chance. Talk about what you like, how you were at different things when young, and anything that you think they will listen to.

8 LEAVE THEM ALONE: Though you always feel the need to keep an eye on your child, it's sometimes better to leave them alone. Children, no matter what age they are, need their space. So once in a while just leave them alone and let them be on their own.

A blog by
nurturey.com

Think of "best" as a behaviour, not a label

"Friendships at this age are crucial to connectedness and happiness, but the downside of the best-friend label is it implies a ranking," says Deborah Gilboa, M.D., assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and founder



Whether your child has a BFF, wants one, or isn't yet clued in to the concept, these tips will help you teach her what true friendship entails.

There are pros and cons to having a best buddy. Help your child navigate the relationship

Is your kid ready for a Best friend?



change as kids grow, switch classrooms, or move to another town.

Give your child space to experiment

The skills your child develops now will help them navigate relationships later in life. "Close friendships are a wonderful emotional resource for children because they provide a sense of security, teach empathy, and offer a chance to learn conflict resolution," says 'Parents' advisor Wendy Mogel, author of 'The Blessing of a Skinned Knee'. Rather than meddle in your child's social life, give her the freedom to figure out how to handle some of the ups and downs of relationships alone. Remember that early relationships

Be prepared for breakups

If your child gets "dumped" by a friend, allow them to grieve. If they want guidance, help brainstorm ways to handle the situation. Out of anger, your child may say, "I want to tell him/her that I hate them." Don't instantly discard a bad idea. Act it out to show your child how the other person might react. They will see that some ideas can yield better results than others. You will teach them to shift focus from "What do I want to do?" to "What is the result I want?" Suggest they set small goals to help them move on, like inviting another friend over or sitting with a different classmate at lunch.

Excerpt from Parents Magazine

WHAT'S HOT!

STAY GROUNDED

Sleep better and reduce inflammation in the body with 'Earthing'



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Researchers say that our lifestyles, including wearing heavy-soled shoes, working indoors and travelling by car have cut down our earth-body connections and this may be responsible for increased levels of chronic illness. In urban centres, we are fast losing touch with the Earth and its healing properties. Everything is so sanitised that there's no room for 'raw' and 'natural'. Grounding or Earthing therapy stems from this reality. It has been seen that connecting yourself with the Earth's natural energy, by walking barefoot on sand, grass, dirt or rock can lessen long-lasting pain, tiredness etc. In short, the moment your bare feet or skin comes in close contact with the Earth, free electrons are taken up into the body. These electrons are nature's biggest antioxidants and aid in neutralising body's harmful free radicals.

Cure for insomnia?

According to long-time earthing leaders, when the charges in the body are not balanced, our biological processes are impacted and can create issues such as inflammation, anxiety, insomnia, and other resulting conditions. Earthing brings about that balance by using our bodies' positive charge against Earth's trillion-megawatt negative charge. Earthing is a natural sleep

OTHER WAYS

EAT RIGHT: Consume as many fresh vegetables as you can, particularly root vegetables growing under the soil that carry sturdy earth energy. These will be foods like potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots and ginger. Other grounding foods include avocado, mango, papaya, grapes, olives, berries, coconuts, figs, melons. For flavouring, use warming spices such as ginger, nutmeg, garlic.

SALT BATH: Salts comprise natural healing components just as water does, so when you combine them in a warm tub, you take cleansing to a spiritual level.

GET DIRTY: Working with soil or clay helps in grounding. Gardening, is a wonderful grounding activity!

— Inputs from fitness expert Shalini Bhargava



aid that can facilitate in resetting your body clock, thus breaking down the insomnia cycle. In the first place, it has been associated to augmented melatonin levels which make it almost effortless to fall asleep at night. Apart from refining sleep patterns, the process of grounding helps in reducing chronic pain.

Kinds of Earthing

Outdoor Earthing: Taking a walk outside barefoot is the easiest and most inexpensive way to ground yourself or practice the earthing technique. If you are near an ocean or swimmable natural water, that is even better. To work effectively, the skin should be in direct contact with rock, dirt or water.

Indoor Earthing: You can always get some of the similar results even by staying indoors. An earthing mat can be placed under your arms or below your feet while you are working on a computer to decrease the number of electric and magnetic fields that you are being exposed to.

Emotional Earthing: Earthing also affects emotional health. It has also been researched that grounding recovers mood, diminishes stress, and soothes the mind.

TEST YOURSELF

HISTORY MYSTERY

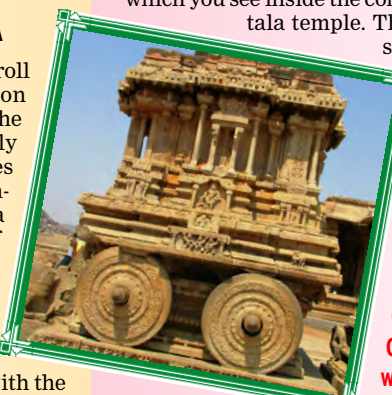


PATTACHITRA

Pattachitra is a scroll painting done on cloth. It is one of the oldest and widely practiced painting styles of Odisha and West Bengal. The pattachitra painting is a mix of both folk and classical designs. Most of these paintings depict stories of Hindu gods and cultural beliefs. Flat design and pointed facial features are common in this style. A pattachitra is incomplete without a vibrant border. It is believed that pattachitra originated in the 12th century with the beginning of Lord Jagannath traditions.

Q. What does the above Pattachitra depict?

Ans.: This is a pattachitra of Balaram, Subhadra, and Lord Jagannath.



CHARIOT, HAMPI

The iconic chariot was built by the Great King of Vijayanagara, Shri Krishna Deva Raya during the 16th century. It is said that the king got fascinated with the Konark Sun temple chariot while fighting a battle in Odisha, and wanted one of that kind in his empire. The Chariot is actually a shrine dedicated to Garuda, which you see inside the complex of the Vijaya Vittala temple. There used to be a massive sculpture of Garuda seated atop the chariot but now, it is a ruin. Inspired by the Dravidian style of architecture, the chariot is a colossal structure that shows the skill of the earlier craftsmen and architects.

Q. Other than Stone Chariot at Hampi, where are the other 2 famous chariots located.

Ans.: Konark (Odisha) and Mahabalipuram (Chennai)

Content and pics by 'History Diaries'. Co-founded by IIT-Delhi alumni, it is an initiative to make history interesting, engaging and relevant, transforming the way it is being taught in schools

Quiz time



MIXED BAG

Ovipsha Dasgupta, class XI,
The Heritage School, Kolkata

Q.1) Which book is called the 'Mona Lisa' of English Literature?

A. Gone with the Wind B. Wuthering Heights C. Look Back in Anger D. Jane Eyre

Q.2) What are the dots on 'i' and 'j' called?

A. Tittle B. Hyphen C. Asterisk D. Comma



Q.3) Which is the only play written by William Shakespeare that has the name of an English city in its title?

A. The Merry Wives of Windsor B. The Taming of the Shrew C. The Tempest D. A Midsummer Night's Dream

Q.4) "Behind every great fortune, there is a crime" is the opening line of which book?

A. The Sicilian B. The Godfather C. The Family Corleone D. Fools Die

ANSWERS

1. B) Wuthering Heights, 2. A) Tittle, 3. A) The Merry Wives of Windsor, 4. B) The Godfather

KNOWLEDGE BANK



American Goldfinch

This is a small North American bird belonging to the finch family. It is



migratory, dwelling from mid-Alberta to North Carolina during the breeding season, and from just south of the Canada-US border to Mexico during winter. The American goldfinch is a granivore and adapted for the consumption of seedheads, with a conical beak to remove the seeds and agile feet to grip the stems of seedheads while feeding.

CHECK YOUR APTITUDE

1) If one-third of one-fourth of a number is 15, then three-tenth of that number is:

A. 49 B. 28 C. 21 D. 54

2) Three times the first of three consecutive odd integers is 3 more than twice the third. The

third integer is:

A. 8 B. 0 C. 15 D. 16

3) Three times the first of three consecutive odd integers is 3 more than twice the third. The

third integer is:

A. 154400 B. 223600 C. 153600 D. 443600

ANSWER: 1. 54 2. 15 3. 153600