



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020



WEB EDITION

I sent a letter to my students...

2020: A FICTION-LIKE STORY!

Dear amazing batch of 2030,

Life was normal, when 2020 kickstarted – frolicking, partying, movies, planning vacations, and more. But everything came to a standstill abruptly around mid-March, courtesy, Covid-19. We were locked in our homes. Sounds like fiction? But indeed, it was a reality for us. New terms came up – lockdown, quarantine, PPE, sanitisation, social distancing...! Thanks to the online experiences, we lived a life of some strange sci-fi series. In short, virtual became real and reality became virtual. Confusing, mind boggling, 2020 was. But here we are, standing at a point on the timeline that looked like a horizon then. We did overcome and so we shall always. Yours faithfully,
ANJU RAJESH, GREGORIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, ERNAKULAM



The postman delivered it in 2030!

CLASS OF 2030:

Wondering what your teachers are talking about? Well, they are talking about the challenges they faced, while teaching students of 2020 batch, courtesy Covid-19. In a reminder to students of 2030, ahead of Teacher's Day, they share their experiences on how they rose to the challenge, and turned adversities into opportunities...

A YEAR OF NEW INNOVATIONS!

Dear Batch of 2030

'Word of the Year is 2020'. That was the headline a decade ago, the year, when a pandemic engulfed the world. Today, as you read it as just another chapter in your books, it may look as an ordinary event. Well, dear students, that wasn't the case. Online teaching, which is now quite common for you, was introduced to us for the first time. Am I audible? 'Mute yourself', 'I got disconnected'...and so on... were the key words to start a class. Online tools, Zoom meetings, assessing students on Google Forms, technical glitches... it was almost catastrophic at first. However, the pandemic taught us to take these challenges in our stride and here we are, a completely new tech-savvy generation! Yours,
SUPRIYA KHANNA, DPS, WHITEFIELD, B'LURU



FROM THE ASHES OF PANDEMIC, ROSE THE PHOENIX OF MAN'S COURAGE

Dear Graduates of 2030,

2020 was a year that almost never-lived, a never to be forgotten, challenging, innovative and standstill year. The normal calendar stopped, school schedules, sports and concert seasons disappeared. Masks, sanitisers, social distancing and home-confinement for endless time, were the only life-saving treatments available...the end was not in sight. But then, from the ashes of the pandemic, rose the phoenix of man's courage, the will power and the innovation that brought the world here to 2030, with a more tech-savvy, undaunted and better-equipped you to take on the world, crumbling every obstacle in your path on the way to excellence. Yours faithfully,
MANJIT KAUR, Delhi Public School, Secunderabad



THE SHOW THAT WENT ON...

Dear students,

Have you ever thought of a life, where you are caged within the four walls of the house, having no social life? Sounds scary? Well, we experienced it in 2020, courtesy the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a year of uncertainty, a year of despair for the ones, who lost their near ones, a year of struggle for those, whose finances and employment were at stake, and at the same time a year of innovation...everything was carried out digitally. But again, it made us more tech-savvy, as our days echoed with terms, like Zoom App, Google meet, Google Form, pdf, and so on. However, the need to reach out to our beloved students, despite all the odds, accepting the critical situations, gave us immense satisfaction. Yours faithfully,
LATIKA CHANNA, DC MONTESSORI SCHOOL, MANIMAJRA, CHANDIGARH



WE BECAME ZOOM-BIES, LIVING SUCCESSFULLY IN GOOGLY YEAR 2020

Dear students of 2030 batch,

The world is back to normal, and we have moved on since the 2020 pandemic...but it wasn't easy. Initially, we were left with our computers and smartphones to see the world. As all the teachers were not computer wizards, switching from face-to-face classes to online classes, were predominantly asynchronous. However, it was a blessing in disguise. It gave an equal footing to the extroverts and the introverts, resulting in honest conversations. Innovation through technology became handy, and the anonymity of not being physically present disappeared. Slowly, but steadily, we got accustomed to digital literacy and netiquette. Yours faithfully,
GOUTHAMI CHANDRASEKHAR, BETHEL MHSS, CHENNAI



WATCH OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL

TEACHER'S DAY EDITION

September 4, 2020

KAJOL HOPES 'CELFIE' AND 'COMPASSION' WILL OUTLAST COVID

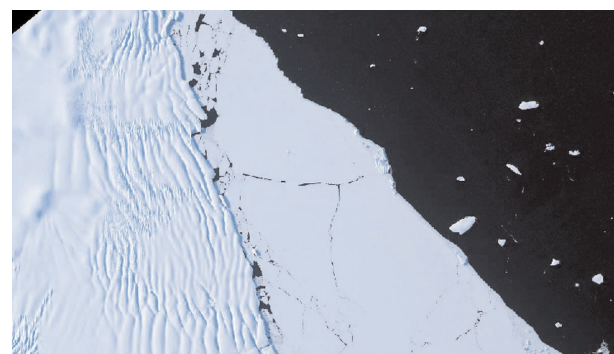
Actress Kajol hopes compassion will outlast and outgrow Covid. She shared her thoughts in a new post on social media. In a new Instagram selfie, Kajol looks at the camera, with her specs placed on her head. "C for celfie, C for Compassion, C for COVID, aiming for the first two to outlast and outgrow the last one. Keep on swimming! #Cfor #GrowAndGlow," she wrote.



CELEB TALK

On the work front, Kajol is set to make her digital debut with 'Tribhanga', directed by Renuka Shahane. It is a drama set in Mumbai, weaving a complex tale that goes back and forth through three generations of the same family, from the late 1980s to the present day

Antarctica ice shelves vulnerable to meltwater: Study



Meltwater could undermine the walls of ice holding back Antarctica's glaciers, scientists have warned, a finding that underscores concern about the potential for a significant sea level rise. According to experts, the ice shelves, formed over thousands of years, serve as dams to prevent much of the continent's snow and ice from flowing towards the ocean. Scientists found that about 60% of the ice shelf area is vulnerable to a process called hydrofracturing, in which meltwater seeps into the shelves' crevasses, some of which are hundreds of metres deep, and triggers collapse. "This meltwater is heavier than ice, so it can penetrate through the entire ice thickness, just like a knife," says a climate scientist.

- According to experts, it's unclear how long such a process might take. Antarctica weather is highly-variable, making it difficult for the scientists to determine how much of a role is being played by human-caused climate change
- Scientists fear that losing ice shelves to hydrofracturing will leave Antarctica's ice sheets a more direct pathway to the ocean, which could accelerate ice loss and contribute to the sea level rise
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports have projected future sea levels to rise by more than a metre by 2100
- More than half of the world's freshwater is locked into Antarctica's ice

GOOGLE LAUNCHES KIDS SPACE ON SELECT ANDROID TABLETS

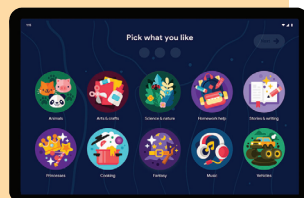
Google has launched a new kids mode on selected Android tablets that features apps, books and videos for children to explore, learn and have fun as they stay home. Google Kids Space will be available globally on certain Lenovo tablets first, including the new Lenovo Smart Tab M10 HD Gen 2, and will arrive on more Android tablets soon. Kids Space requires a Google Account for your child. Google Assistant is not yet available in Kids Space.

TECH BUZZ

1 For Kids Space, Google worked with the top publishers to make popular children's books free of charge, and have over 400 free books available in the US alone

2 In the Watch and Make tabs, kids can view creative and fun videos from YouTube Kids that are engaging and encourage off-screen activities

3 Google earlier launched a new kids tab in Google Play that helps parents easily find and pick "teacher-approved" apps for their kids



NEWS IN BRIEF

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

We want to see children returning to school and people returning to work places, but we want to see it done safely. No country can just pretend that the pandemic is over. The reality is that this virus spreads easily.

Opening up without control is a recipe for disaster

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general, WHO

QUOTE UNQUOTE



HOW OLD ARE YOU ON OTHER PLANETS? USE THIS CALCULATOR

Exploratorium, a museum of science, technology, and arts in San Francisco, has put together a handy calculator that lets you see exactly just how old you would be on the other planets in our solar system.

HOW IT WORKS: Just enter your date of birth, and the calculator will reveal your age in days and

years, as well as when your next birthday would be. For example, if your birthday is January 4, 1992, on the Earth, you are 28 years old. However, on Mercury, you would be 118.9 years old, and your next birthday would be on September 1, 2020, while on Neptune, you would be just 0.17 years old, and your next birthday wouldn't be until Aug 11, 2240!

WHY IS THAT SO

➤ According to Exploratorium, "The Earth rotates on its axis, like a spinning top, and revolves around the sun, like a tetherball at the end of a string going around the centre pole." A day is defined by the time it takes for the top-like rotation of the Earth on its axis ➤ There are no rules that govern the rotation rates of the planets, it all depends on how much "spin" was in the original material that went into forming each one. The revolution of the Earth around the sun is how we define a year. While the Earth takes 365 days to make one circuit, Mercury, takes only 88 days

TAYLOR SWIFT WINS BEST DIRECTION AWARD

American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift made history in the MTV VMAs world recently, as she won the award for best direction, a first for any solo female artiste in the show's history. According to Fox News, the 30-year-old songstress made her directorial debut for her single, 'The Man,' which calls out male privilege and sexism. In the video, Swift dresses up as the male character, and shows how much easier life would be as a man.

ENTERTAINMENT

■ In the music video, the 'Love Story' singer underwent a major transformation, using prosthetics and a movement coach to become a man. Dwayne Johnson provided the voice-over for Swift's speaking parts in the video



A DIGITAL DANCE-OFF HELD ONLINE

With theatres closed around the world, three South American dancers created a digital dance-off for aspiring twirlers on Instagram. Called @stayhomedancecompetition, the competition, which was open to all, attracted hundreds of applicants, some professionals, other youngsters, dancing from their homes. A panel of renowned expert judges assessed each dance, and viewers could also vote with "likes."



■ The competition challenged the dancers to raise awareness about the pandemic, and honour an artiste. In one video, a mother wearing a doctor's coat and a mask guards her daughter, while she dances ■ Giovana Soria, 18, a Paraguayan, said her dance was to encourage people to take steps to prevent the spread of the virus



Our Success Stories

Revise your way to the top

MARKS: 92%
(485/500)


STUDENT: Harshitha Harinath Reddy
CLASS: XII (Commerce)
BOARD: CBSE
SCHOOL: Ganges Valley School, Hyderabad

If you would like to showcase your school's topper in NIE, send in their details to hyd.nie@gmail.com

Your initial reaction on hearing the news? I expected some decent marks after attempting my board exams, but when the results were declared it took me by surprise. I was pretty delighted to see that my performance in the exams was far more exceptional than I expected as I am the topper of my school now. That moment I realised that I've done justice to what my parents, teachers, friends and school expected from me.

What do you attribute your success to? I attribute my success to my parents for being there always and my subject teachers, former teachers who have showered their blessings upon me and believed in me throughout my studies, without them I would never have achieved this success. In all of my achievements in future I shall be grateful to them for the morals, teachings and values they've imbibed in me. I would give the credit to my school for always supporting me to reach this height and my friends who have motivated me through all the odds.

Your message to the students appearing the boards?

Just keep revising the notes every day for at least one hour to retain the learning in mind as my teacher constantly instructed us to do. Never forget to believe in yourself and your teachers. Give your best without fearing the result and you will see for yourself being elated by your performance.

Your future plans?

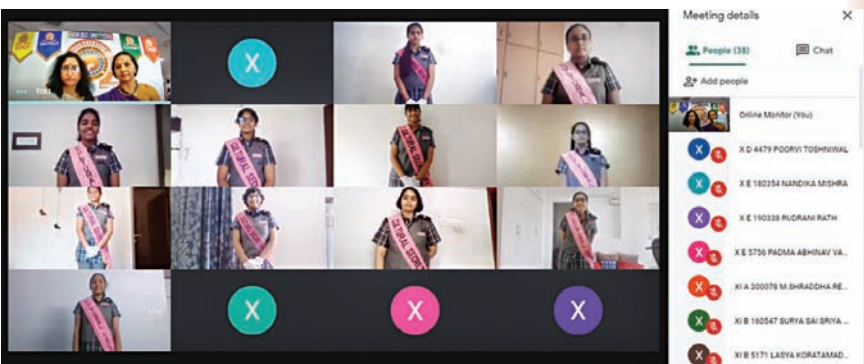
Next I am planning to do B Com (Honors) degree and am preparing myself to attempt UPSC exam. My ultimate goal is to become a civil servant (IAS) officer because all I want is to serve my country with righteousness, knowledge, empathy and try my best to make at least a small change in the world to see its future is in the hands of worthy and capable beings. I want to lead my life for a cause, not for applause.

School heads take charge online

DDMS (AMS) P Obul Reddy Public School Hyderabad

The establishment of a Student Council gives students an opportunity to acquire planning and organisational skills, and leadership skills which will prepare them for their future. The Durgabai Deshmukh Mahila Sabha P Obul Reddy Public School conducted their Investiture Ceremony recently, where the newly elected Student Council was conferred with their responsibilities and duties. This first of its kind ceremony was indeed unique because it was live-streamed on YouTube.

Chairman, DDMS P Obul Reddy Educational Academy, S V Rao presided over the occasion as the chief guest. Principal Latha Shankar, vice principal Vinitha Anil, headmistress Uditia Reddy and K Vi-



jaya Durga were also present.

The ceremony began with a melodious invocation song followed by a welcome address by principal Latha Shankar, who appealed to the young leaders to be role models for others by serving with humility, warmth and passion. Chairman Rao administered the oath while the young leaders were invested with their duties in their respective homes. Par-



ents proudly took up the honour of investing their children with badges, collars and sashes.

The chairman congratulated the elected and selected members of the Student Council and appealed to them to uphold the noble values of the school and serve humanity. It was a solemn occasion where the young students were all set to don the mantle of leadership and discharge their duties with

enthusiasm.

Niyati Agarwal of class XII G was chosen as the Head Girl while Ravi Pavuluri of class XII C was elected as the Head Boy for the year 2020 - 2021. Riya Sancheti and Jeessa Bhansali were chosen as Deputy Head Girls while Eswar Pamula and Parthav Shetia were chosen as Deputy Head boys. The Cultural Secretaries, Sports Captains, House Captains, House vice captains, and Editorial Team were also invested with their duties.

School Super League: World's biggest inter-school quiz competition targets over 1 crore students

This year, the School Super League mega event is being presented in a fun, fresh and completely online version via an App. This event is being organised by The Times of India - Newspaper in Education programme in association with Byju's Learning App. The challenge, rigorously designed by experts in the field, aims at helping students gain insight into their scientific, mathematical and social science aptitude.

The revived, refreshed and revitalized event will be held across the country, reaching out to over 30,000 plus schools and more than 1 crore students. The challenge will be held in three

THE TIMES OF INDIA



Learning App worth Rs 25,000 each and get a chance to take part in the state finals. The national round, scheduled to be held in Mumbai, will be aired on television. The national level winning teams (winners, 1st runners up, 2nd runners up) will be the proud winners of the grand prize: An all-sponsored trip to NASA along with their school principals.

Speaking about this competition, Atit Mehta, VP - Marketing, BYJU'S said, "We have taken extraordinary steps to ensure that students don't miss out on their favourite school quiz this year. In fact, thanks to the growing acceptance and adoption of digital learning, we expect the participation to be higher than ever before. Never has a school quiz been held at such a scale before. Our new format will give students across all parts of the country a transparent and unbiased platform to compete and showcase their capabilities to the entire nation. Online learning has been breaking the glass ceiling that existed in education. With such an initiative we want to further ignite the passion and love for learning among children everywhere."

So, if you think, you have what it takes to be next Aptitude Wizard of your city, be sure to take part in Round 1 of School Super League. Please contact your Times NIE Teacher Coordinator for more details or reach out to Times NIE at niecontests@gmail.com. Hurry

BYJU'S

categories: sub-juniors comprising students of classes III and IV, juniors comprising students of classes V, VI and VII, and seniors comprising classes VIII, IX and X students. Every participant will

receive an 'E-Certificate of Participation', a 60-day free subscription to BYJU'S The Learning App worth Rs 6,000, besides Rs 5,000 in their BYJU'S wallets, which can be redeemed to purchase any BYJU'S course from classes I to XII, thus contributing to their knowledge pool.

Every class topper will also get a One Year online subscription to Premium BYJU'S - The



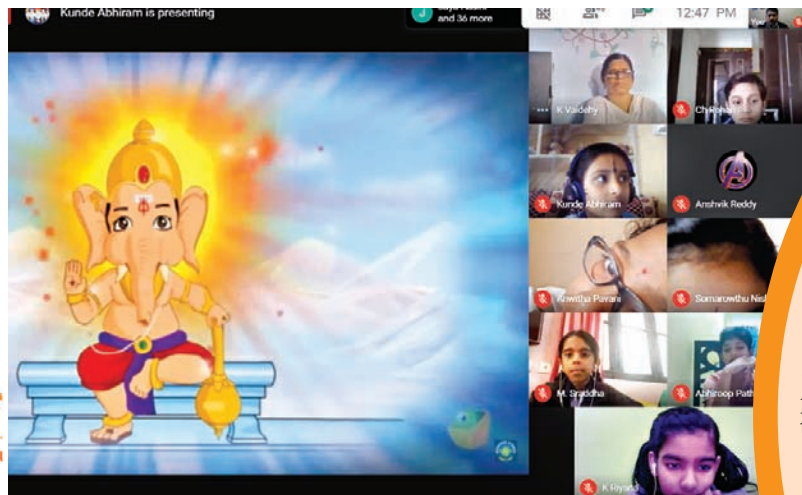
WELCOMING THE NEW STUDENT COUNCIL

D Vineeth, class IX G, Silver Oaks School Hyderabad



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 has proved to be different and challenging. The virus has physically distanced us, but our learning has been intact, thanks to the technology that we are surrounded by. This year, the acorns of Silver Oaks School took part in a unique election process, considering the learning from home situation. All the different branches of the school came together on an online platform and acknowledged the student leaders who were elected. The young leaders actively participated in the oath taking ceremony. In a nutshell, it was a privilege to be a part of the election process which ensured the formation of an efficient Student Council to which I will extend my complete support.

ECO & E-FRIENDLY GANESH FESTIVITIES



Vaishnavi M, class VIII A, Unicent School Nagole, Hyderabad

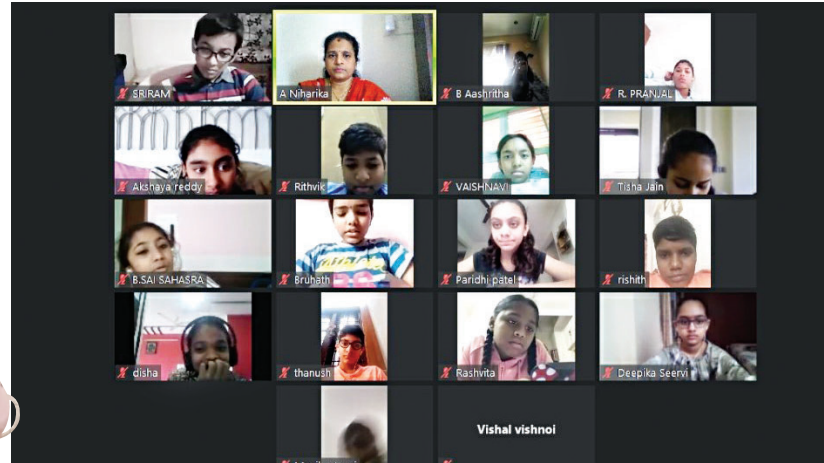
Ganesh Chaturthi is one of the biggest festivals which is celebrated to mark the birth of Lord Ganesh. Unicent School, Nagole, celebrated this occasion with great fervour in a special online assembly. The assembly commenced

with a devotional song including slokas. A speech was delivered on the significance of the festival. There was a video presentation showing the story of the birth of Lord Ganesh, the God of wisdom and remover of obstacles. Students performed a dance as an obeisance to the God. The importance of making Ganesh idols using natural materials like clay and mud was emphasised to reduce the environmental pollution.



Pallavi Model School Boduppal

To inculcate the spirit of oneness, students of Pallavi Model School, Boduppal celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi by organising a special assembly virtually. The students from pre-primary II wing along with their parents enthusiastically participated in the celebrations and performed prayers and presented devotional songs and dances. The significance of the festival was explained by one of the parents. Children came dressed in their traditional attire to mark the occasion. The session ended with a fun-filled activity of making Lord Ganesh idols by using leaves.



Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated in TNR Excellencia Academy with great joy. This festival is celebrated mark the birth of Lord Ganesh who is also referred as the remover of all obstacles.

People believe that Lord Ganesh comes every year and brings prosperity and success. Furthermore, they welcome Lord

TNR Excellencia Academy Hyderabad

Ganesh in their homes with this festival with the belief that he will remove all their sufferings. Ganesh Chaturthi sparks joy all over the country and unites people with celebrations. The festival is celebrated for 11

days. It begins on the Chaturthi when people install the statue of Lord Ganesh in their homes and communities. This festival ends on Anant Chaturdashi with Ganesh Visarjan. The devotees of the Lord offer their prayers, sing devotional songs for him and recite various mantras in his praise. They perform aartis and seek his blessings on them.



Gitanjali Devashray

Gitanjali Devashray celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi with much fervour amidst the trying pandemic times. Students welcomed their favourite 'Ganpati Bappa' not by buying the idols from store but by making their own idols using creativity and skillfulness. A unique competition was held in every class of both primary and secondary wings.

Students were asked to upload selfies with their handmade idols and the three best entries from each class were awarded. The celebrations witnessed a wide gamut of creative Lord Ganesh idols made with utensils, clay, pencil shavings, dry fruits, pulses, vegetables, CDs, newspaper and many other.

This was a wonderful opportunity for students to spend quality time with their family and create memories for life.



Niraj Public School Ameerpet

Ganesh Chaturthi is a festival celebrating the birth of Lord Ganesh. The festival is marked with the installation of Ganesh clay idols in homes or public places. Some of the essence of the festival are chanting of vedic hymns and prayers, offering of sweets such as modak and other savouries to the God. The festival ends on the tenth day wherein the idol is carried in a public procession with music and then immersed in a nearby water body.

Students of Niraj Public School celebrated the festival with utmost enthusiasm by making cute Ganesh idols using different materials available at their homes.