



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020



WEB EDITION

SCHOOLS TO REOPEN FOR CLASSES IX-XII FROM SEPTEMBER 21

The ministry of health and family welfare has issued detailed guidelines for the reopening of schools for students of classes IX to XII on a VOLUNTARY BASIS, starting September 21. However, a student would need a written permission from parents to attend school. According to the guidelines, schools would function at 50 per cent capacity, and online classes will continue. Students of classes IX to XII have the option of attending classes virtually or physically on a voluntary basis. The ministry has also suggested that rather than closed classrooms, schools should utilise open spaces outdoors for student-teacher interaction, if the weather permits. Canteens inside the schools will remain closed.


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Guidelines before reopening

1 All schools reopening on September 21 would be required to have thermal guns at the school gates to check temperature of teachers and students

2 Before opening, schools must completely sanitise

the classrooms and ensure the availability of 1% hypochlorite solutions, alcohol wipes and sanitisers, the SOP said

3 Schools that were turned into quarantine centres would need to ensure deep cleaning of the premises before they reopen, it added

The SOP

■ Masks would be mandatory at all times for students, teachers and the non-teaching staff

■ Frequently-touched surfaces, like the door knobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, chairs, benches, washroom fixtures would be cleaned with hypochlorite solution

■ Teaching materials, computers, laptops, printers, shall

be disinfected with 70% alcohol wipes. ■ Deep cleaning of all drinking and hand washing stations, washrooms and lavatories would be ensured. ■ There would be no assembly, sports or events, which could lead to overcrowding of schools.

SANITISING MEASURES FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

➤ Students and teachers would be asked to dispose of used face covers and masks in separate covered bins placed in classrooms and common areas. ➤ These would remain stored for three days in the bins, and then disposed of as dry general solid waste after cutting and shredding

➤ Students would not be allowed to involve in cleaning activities

AT THE ENTRY POINT

■ Entrance to have mandatory hand hygiene (sanitiser dispenser) and thermal screening provisions

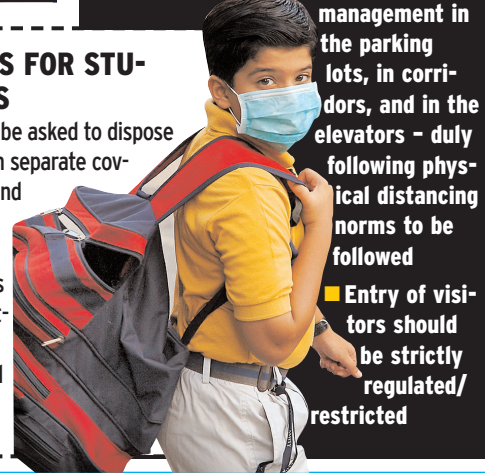
■ Multiple gates/separate gates, if feasible, should be used for entry and exit. ■ Only asymptomatic persons (teachers, employees and students) to be allowed in the school premises

■ If a teacher/employee/student is found to be symptomatic, he/she should be referred to the nearest health centre

■ Posters/standees on preventive measures about Covid-19 to be displayed prominently

■ Proper crowd management in the parking lots, in corridors, and in the elevators - duly following physical distancing norms to be followed

■ Entry of visitors should be strictly regulated/restricted



You share your BIRTHDAY with

JACK MA

SEPTEMBER 10

Chinese business magnate, investor and philanthropist, Jack Ma is the co-founder and former executive chairman of the Alibaba Group, a multinational technology conglomerate. Often listed as one of the world's most powerful people by the Forbes magazine, Ma retired from Alibaba to pursue educational work, philanthropy, and environmental causes, in September 2019. He stepped down in favour of Daniel Zhang, who succeeded him as the executive chairman of Alibaba



WORD WATCH

ASUNDER

Means into parts; apart from each other. Asunder can be traced back to the old English word, sundor, meaning, "apart." It is a relative of the verb sunder, which means, "to break apart" or "to become parted, disunited, or severed." The "into parts" sense of asunder is often used in the phrase, "tear asunder," which can be used both literally and figuratively (as in "a family torn asunder by tragedy").

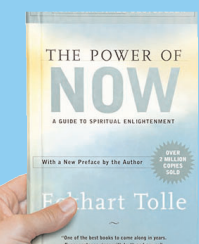
BOOK REVIEW

THE POWER OF NOW

Author: Eckhart Tolle; Price ₹499

Teachers often have this beautiful blend of loving unconditionally their students and yet, having the power to snap them to their attention almost in a military regime-like manner. What is the connection of educationists with this book? The book talks about how the teachers inculcate in you the very nature of how to live your life to the best, while realising your own worth and staying grounded. 'The Power of Now' has been dismissed as mere mumbo-jumbo by few critics, while many have found it a complete wholesome experience, wherein you grow beyond yourself.

- Reviewed by Malini Menon



Think about our future: 12-year-old climate activist writes to PM Modi



FOR A CAUSE

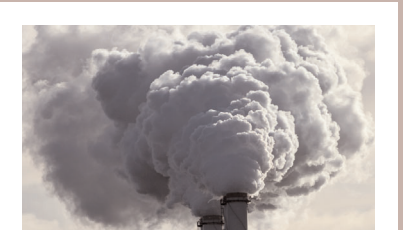
On the occasion of the first 'International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies' on Sept 7, a 12-year-old environmental activist wrote a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding clean air for all. If nothing is done, everyone will have to carry oxygen cylinders, she warned. In a hand-written letter to the Prime Minister, **Ridhima Pandey** from Haridwar, said, "Sir, kindly help us by making sure that an oxygen cylinder does not become an essential part of the life of children, which we have to carry on our shoulders everywhere in the future." I worry, if a 12-year-old like me finds it difficult to breathe, think of the babies or children younger to me living in cities, like Delhi and others," the 12-year-old rued.

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly had adopted a resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies during its 74th session. The day aims at raising awareness at all levels - individual, community, corporate and government - on the importance of clean air

FACTOID

900 MILLION TONS

That's the amount of carbon dioxide soaked up by the oceans across the world in a year, according to a new study. Carbon dioxide in the marine environment literally turns the water more acidic, causing coral bleaching. It also forces animals to flee to more hospitable regions



➤ Carbon dioxide (CO2) is one of the biggest contributors to global warming. After the gas is released into the atmosphere, it stays there, making it difficult for the heat to escape, and warming up the planet, in the process. ➤ It is primarily released from burning fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, as well as cement production

➤ The average monthly concentration of CO2 in the Earth's atmosphere, as of April 2019, is 413 parts per million (ppm). Before the Industrial Revolution, the concentration was just 280 ppm.

➤ CO2 concentration has fluctuated over the last 800,000 years between 180 to 280ppm, but has vastly been accelerated by pollution caused by humans.

Daily Mail

NEWS IN BRIEF

TIPTONIC



Planning to eat out? Follow these safety measures

With restaurants getting a green signal to reopen, after remaining closed for almost five months, restaurant owners are expecting that eating out culture will get a boost. However, as the threat of the virus still remains, follow the safety norms to minimise the risk of contracting the infection. Here are some precautions that you should take, while venturing out to eat...



KRITI SANON SHARES MANTRA

Actress Kriti Sanon has penned her mantra on Instagram. "You can never please anyone. So, don't even try. As long as you know your truth, as long as your heart is in sync with your conscience, as long as you still like the person you wake up as, and you understand the one you see in the mirror, you'll find peace in any storm," Kriti wrote.

CELEB TALK

Kriti has been sharing her thoughts on social media for a while now. Recently, people treated one of her posts as "cryptic", and linked it with the late actor Sushant Singh Rajput, who was found dead at his Bandra residence on June 14

IMAGINARY PLACES IN LITERATURE THAT BECAME ICONIC

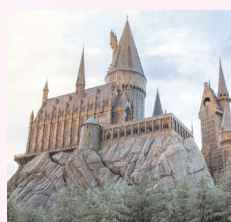
SHANGRI LA

Shangri-La is a fictional Tibetan land of eternal youth in James Hilton's 1933 novel, 'Lost Horizon'. Meaning 'mountain pass' in Tibetan language, it is described by Hilton as a mystical, harmonious valley, guided by a lamasery, enclosed in the western end of the Kunlun Mountains



HOGWARTS

For those of us, who grew up reading the Harry Potter books and watching the movies, it has been a collective fantasy to study at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. It is a place of learning, where children learn how to practice magic in several forms, including potions and spells. It is full of magical creatures, enchanted plants, and all kinds of magical adventures.



MALGUDI

Malgudi, a fictional town, located in South India, is a regular feature in the novels and short stories of RK Narayan. Malgudi, a blend of two Bangalore localities - Malleshwaram and Basavanagudi, was successfully portrayed as a miniature India by Narayan through his stories



RIVER HEIGHTS

A fictional town in the Nancy Drew series, River Heights is the place, where Nancy Drew lives with her father, attorney Carson Drew, and their housekeeper, Hannah Gruen. It is where all the action, suspense and drama takes place.



LILLIPUT

Lilliput, a fictional island that appears in the first part of the 1726 novel, 'Gulliver's Travels' by Jonathan Swift, is located in the South Indian Ocean, and inhabited by tiny people, who are about one-twelfth the height of ordinary human beings. Lilliput is ruled by a self-styled emperor, and its capital is Mildendo



QUOTE UNQUOTE

This will not be the last pandemic. History teaches us that outbreaks and pandemics are a fact of life. But when the next pandemic comes, the world must be ready - more ready than it was this time

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, chief, WHO





Our Success Stories

Reach the top with right routine

STUDENT: Arshia Tangri
CLASS: XII (Humanities with Maths)
BOARD: CBSE
SCHOOL: Army Public School, Bolarum

MARKS: 97.8%



Your initial reaction on hearing the news?

Well, I was thrilled! After a year of earnest toil and a rather long wait, my hard work finally paid off. What made me happier was the fact that I had made my teachers and parents proud.

What do you attribute your success to?

I credit my success to my school, APS Bolarum, solely. It was the efforts of my teachers, who left no stone unturned to ensure that I did my best, and of course the captain of the ship, principal Mrs Govind, without who's leadership and direction it wouldn't have been possible. The motivation was such that one couldn't have helped but give the best. Last but not the least, I give credit to my parents and my brother, who were a constant source of support and encouragement.

Your message to the students appearing for the boards?
Your principal and teachers are a class apart. Just follow the routine and you won't only sail through, you'll touch the acme.

Your future plans?
Next, I want to pursue Economic Honours from a good college in Delhi University and eventually appear for the UPSC Civil Services examination to realise my goal of becoming an IAS officer.

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

Towards a greener environment

Haritha Haram was celebrated as a week-long programme in Durgabai Deshmukh Mahila Sabha P Obul Reddy Public School. A virtual show was organised for the students of pre-primary wing where they came dressed as farmers, trees and many other characters. They spoke about the importance of trees and how to save them. Teachers also enthusiastically participated by enacting the role of farmers.

In the middle and senior wings, an adopt-a-tree scheme was proposed by teachers to instill a sense of responsibility in students towards nature. Teachers and students expressed their views on how the school can be converted into a green zone. Students presented posters, planted saplings and enthusiastically wrote and recited poems and articles on nature. They were made to understand the concept of 'Vriksho Rakshathi Rakshitaha.'

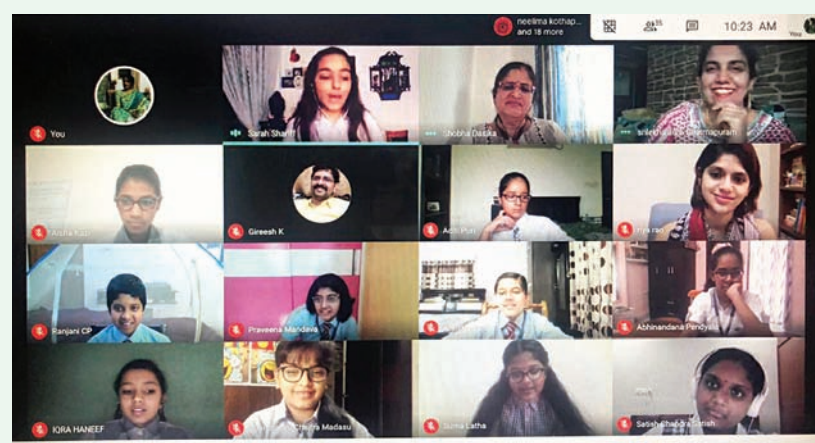
DDMS (AMS) P Obul Reddy Public School
Hyderabad



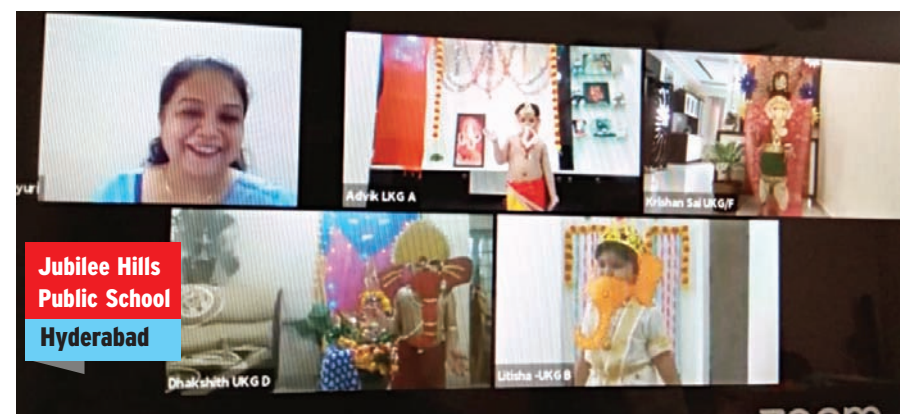
Celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi like never before

Amidst the difficulties that the pandemic has caused, the pre-primary department of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School, Jubilee Hills organised the celebrations for Ganesh Chaturthi online. The teachers arranged Lord Ganesh idols at their homes and showed the children how Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated. The children were told the story of Lord Ganesh and were asked to make eco-friendly idols that they displayed virtually to their classmates. A variety of songs, that the teachers had taught them, were sung by the students, adding more festivity to the celebrations.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Public School
Jubilee Hills



every competition but what they learnt from the event is that when the situation is not under your control, instead of feeling dejected, take the best out of it and change the thought process, which would help to live life to its fullest.



At Jubilee Hills Public School, Ganesh Chaturthi was celebrated virtually on Zoom platform. Chief guest, chairman, A Murali Mukund, commended the impeccable coordination and wonderful screen presence of all the participants. He expressed his happiness in celebrating the festival with over 3000 members of the JHPS family. He also appreciated the various Bal Ganeshas from different homes and shared that he looked forward to getting back with students in school post pandemic.

Students, parents and staff were a part of the celebrations. Students from pre-primary to the senior school participated in the cultural programmes. The celebrations began with a rendition of a beautiful Telugu prayer song. The students from pre-primary wing depicted an excerpt from the legends of Lord Ganesh in the form of a skit. The children also presented a ramp walk as Bal Ganeshas. The primary and

secondary wings hailed the Lord in soulful recitations, speeches and dances.

Apprising the new generations with the significance of the day, several speeches were rendered in Hindi, Telugu and English languages.

A prayer rendition on the violin brought the programme to a close but the celebration went on. Parents joined the celebrations and thanked the school for encouraging children to participate in various activities.

Paying tributes to freedom fighters



Every year, the Independence Day celebrations are filled with grandeur at Silver Oaks International School. The day is marked with beautiful songs, a march past, speeches, and many other things. This year, the pandemic kept us locked inside our own homes but that did not stop the school from celebrating the important day.

This year, along with the entire school event, each class independently planned fun-filled activities. Different classes planned different things for the parents to watch and participate in. Some

Hasita Pattipaty, class XI, Silver Oaks International School
Hyderabad

made special videos of them singing and dancing and some created independence themed games which parents could participate in. The entire programme was planned by the students with the support of the teachers. The classes even made their own invitation cards and sent

them to the parents, asking them to join this year's unique celebration.

The events went on smoothly with parents joining their children and participating in the fun programmes.

Everyone participated with great enthusiasm right from students to teachers to families, all played a big role in making this event a memorable one.



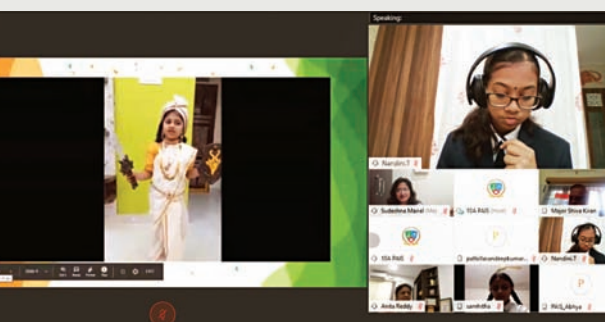
Niraj Public School

Ameerpet



Pallavi International School
Keesara

Amidst the COVID 19 pandemic, the 74th Independence Day of our country was celebrated with patriotic fervour digitally in Pallavi International School, Keesara. Students, parents and the staff connected on the virtual platform to mark the occasion. Headmistress Grecilda Rose welcomed chief guest Dr P Manjusree, scientist - SG, NRSC/ISRO. After the virtual flag hoisting, the chief guest highlighted how satellites help us to find the problem areas and rectify them. She asked students to have freedom in mind and faith in their parents, teachers and friends. She also reiterated that we need to salute the soldiers and doctors



The programme began with a rendition of patriotic songs expressing the joy of freedom. An art exhibition and fancy dress competition were held followed by scintillating dance performances signifying the message of beauty in the mind, purity in words and unity in the soul which was the special attraction of the day. Major Shiva Kiran lauded the students for their performances and asked them to inculcate the virtuous qualities right from the

young age and grow into true human beings. Director Anita Reddy conveyed that every student can achieve success by setting a goal and trying to overcome the hurdles. She concluded her speech by giving a mantra to follow 'I Can.' Principal Sudeshna Mairal urged every student to ignite the spirit of patriotism in their hearts not only on specific days but every day and in every walk of life.



Students who are standing in frontline and fighting for us by working day and night.

Sushil Kumar, director, spoke about the importance of online platforms and applauded the students for their efforts and the teachers for coordinating the events well. The cultural activities included fancy dress competition on 'Freedom Fighters' for students of classes I and II and 'Unity in Diversity - traditional dresses of India' for the students of classes III and IV.

Students showcased different states by wearing traditional dresses and talking about the culture of the state that they represented.

Students gave speeches in English, Hindi and Telugu emphasising on the freedom struggle. Patriotic song and dance performances were also a part of the celebrations. A virtual historical walk was arranged for the students to make them aware of the key events as a part of India's freedom struggle.

MY VIBRANT INDIA

As a patriotic citizen I can say, India is unique in its own way. All the states have a role to play. To make India look like what it is today. Oh how attractive is its beauty, The Himalayas crowning it, add to this majesty. I am at peace standing amidst its greenery, Never tired from watching this pleasant scenery.

Look how diverse India is, The cultures practiced here bring me a bliss. The festivals of colours and lights, That! I'd never miss! Acknowledge how different our languages are, All are equal, everything's on par. Among the languages Hindi's the star, But that does mean others are kept afar. Learn our past, for it is pretty historic, Our Nation's father had stood up against all things satiric.

Our freedom fighters prevented, many things catastrophic, It's fruit that we enjoy today, that's pretty classic! I am proud to be an Indian, And ought to be responsible citizen. Do my part to serve the nation, To let India gain world recognition!

Shriya Rao B, class X, Sister Nivedita School

TEACHERS ARE OUR SUPERHEROES

Dear Teachers, You are all Superheroes, just without a cape! Our future brightens, with each lesson you teach Each smile you lengthen, Each goal you help reach For the dawn/awakening in each Doctor, Engineer and Scientist, Begins with a Teacher The Knowledge Specialist! As teachers you motivate us To become the best we possibly can be You always help us no matter what, Putting your needs second, like a mother Although our errors are in plenty. Students move ahead and go on To find their hopes and dreams, But always remember the teachers Who cast the beams, teaching is a unique calling That burns deep inside, to instruct, develop and mould Thirsty, inquisitive minds. To all the humble, nurturing teachers out there, Thank you all for your compassionate care.

Nigel George Joseph, class VII D, Delhi School of Excellence, Attapur