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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

CBSE REDUCES CLASS IX-XII SYLLABUS FOR 2020-21 ACADEMIC SESSION

IS IT A GOOD MOVE?

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has rationalised the syllabus for classes IX to XII for the academic year 2020-21 by up to 30 per cent to make up for the academic loss caused due to Covid-19, Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal said recently. In the process, the Board has dropped chapters on democracy, demonetisation, nationalism, secularism, among others, as per the updated syllabus. What does it mean for the students and how will it impact them?

The **BIG DEBATE**

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has also announced a reduction of up to 25 per cent in syllabus for classes X and XII Board exams in 2021



STUDENTS REACT

As online classes are new to all of us, it would have been tough to cover the entire syllabus. It is a good decision; now, all the students will be able to prepare this limited syllabus thoroughly. Moreover, it will reduce the pressure of the students. Besides, it will also help the government school students in catching up with the private schools, as they joined virtual classes concept late. **BHAVYA GULATI**, class XII, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula

This is a good move by the CBSE. Instead of rushing to complete an extended syllabus and feeling unnecessary pressure, students will now have more bandwidth to focus and learn on what they are being taught. **MRIDULA GOEL**, class XII, DPS R K Puram, New Delhi

It's a welcome move, but will this reduced syllabus extend to the entrance examinations for admission into the colleges next academic year? The Board should clarify. **ARMAAN ABRAHAM JETTI**, class XII, Meridian School, Hyderabad

HOW DOES A 30% CUT IN CBSE'S SYLLABUS LOOK LIKE?

➤ In physics, both Newton's 'laws of motion' and Kepler's 'laws of planetary motion' will be chucked out of the course; in biology, topics, such as 'living world' and 'plant kingdom' have been deleted for class XI, while for class XII, 'reproduction in organism' have been excluded ➤ Some of the cuts have generated a political controversy, such as demonetisation, nationalism, citizenship and democratic rights ➤ Even the number of classes have been reduced

EDUCATORS ON DELETED CHAPTERS

➤ The reduced syllabus will give more time to ensure that children understand the concept, as now we use videos and PowerPoint presentations to facilitate learning. **BIJOYA MITRA**, educator, DPS, Ahmed

➤ The deleted chapters, which contain concepts that teachers feel are essential for the students to learn, can be taught, but they will not be included for internal evaluation or Boards **MANJU SHARMA**, principal, DPS, South, Bengaluru

HOW SCHOOLS PLAN TO COVER THE DELETED PORTIONS

➤ Topics like secularism can be taught while teaching Right to Freedom of Religion **KANAK SHANKAR MUKHERJEE**, teacher, Psc, LSA, Kolkata

If the lesson that has already been taught is deleted, then it is not an issue, as every context has its own specific and general objectives **N M SHALIKA BANU**, teacher, Fathima CSSC, Chennai

➤ The portions have been removed in such a way that it does not affect the flow of learning, when children are promoted to the next class. **VALSALA S**, PGT, Toc H Public School, Vyttila, Ernakulam

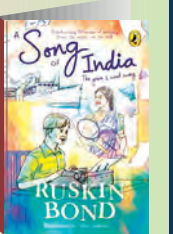
Be a part of this debate; share your views at toinie175@gmail.com or timesofindia.com

I RECOMMEND

NEW LAUNCH

Ruskin Bond's 'A Song of India'

A new book by writer Ruskin Bond will shed light on his lesser known life before he became a successful author; publishers Puffin Books has announced.



The illustrated book, 'A Song of India', scheduled to hit the stands on July 20, will mark the 70th year of Bond's literary career

WORD WATCH

BROMIDE:

means a binary compound of bromine with another element or a radical including some (such as potassium bromide) used as sedatives; a commonplace or tiresome person; bore

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Until we educate the entire human race, racism will not stop: Holding

Former cricketer, Michael Holding, didn't hold back as he delivered a powerful message against racism recently, asserting that the black race has been dehumanised and its accomplishments wiped off from a history, "written by people, who do the harm." Holding, who will retire from commentary at the end of next year, talked about racism at the global level.



History is written by the conqueror not by those who are conquered, history is written by people who do the harm, not by those who get harmed... We are being brainwashed; not just black people, white people are being brainwashed in different ways. Everything should be taught. I was never taught anything good about the black people; you cannot have a society that is brought up teaching what is convenient for them **MICHAEL HOLDING**, commentator and former cricketer

INSTAGRAM INTRODUCES 'REELS' IN INDIA

A little over a week after ByteDance-owned short video app TikTok was banned in India, Facebook's photo sharing app Instagram has announced the extension of testing of its short video format Reels in India. Reels has already been tested in Brazil, Germany and France, before India.

The company said Reels will enable people to record and edit 15 seconds multi-clip videos with audio effects, and users could share Reels content on their feed, or through a new space on the explore section

TECH BUZZ

GOOGLE TO PROVIDE QUICK FACTS ABOUT IMAGES YOU SEARCH



Google has announced a new feature that will make it easy to find quick facts about what people see on Google images in the form of a Knowledge Graph. The feature would include people, places or things related to the image from the Knowledge Graph's database of billions of facts, helping users explore the topic more. "To generate these links to relevant Knowledge Graph entities, we take what we understand about the image through learning, which evaluates an image's visual and text signals, and combine it with Google's understanding of the text on the image's web page," the company said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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SATYARTH NAYAK'S NEXT BOOK IS ON INDIAN MYTHOLOGY

After penning a thriller and then a biography about late Bollywood actress Sridevi, author-screenwriter Satyarth Nayak will now write a book on Indian mythology. Titled, '100 Tales from the Puranas' the book has been inspired from the Puranas. It is expected to be released in 2021.



The Puranas of Hinduism are an ancient source of wisdom, which are relevant even today. Out of the 18 Puranas, Nayak will select 100 greatest stories for his upcoming book, which will not only entertain but also enlighten the new age readers

U-17 WOMEN'S WC PROBABLE SAI SANKHE SCORES 96.2% IN CLASS X ICSE EXAMS

India's SAFF Under-15 Women's Championship-winning player Sai Sankhe has set an example for others as she scored 96.2 per cent in her ICSE class X examinations.



ON THE PRESSURE TO PERFORM: "The pressure was there, as I really wanted to do very well in my boards and ace them. With the result I secured, I am very happy. If you love football and consider education to be as important, you can do both together - hands down. After the evening training, I would study again. Basically, whatever time I could get, I used it to study and prepare, Sai said.

CURB CLIMATE CHANGE, PROTECT ENVIRONMENT TO PREVENT FUTURE PANDEMICS, COUNTRIES TOLD

Land degradation, wildlife exploitation, intensive farming, and climate change are driving the rise in diseases, which like

ENVIRONMENT

the coronavirus are passed on from animals to humans, the UN experts have warned...

➤ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) have jointly identified seven trends responsible for such diseases, calling on governments to take steps to stop future pandemics ➤ Known as zoonotic, these trends, include demand for animal protein, extraction of natural resources and urbanisation, intensive and unsustainable farming, exploitation of wildlife, increased travel and



transportation, food supply changes, and climate change ➤ "The science is clear; if we keep on exploiting wildlife and our ecosystems, then we can expect to see a steady stream of diseases, jumping from animals to humans in the future," said UNEP executive director Inger Andersen

VIEWPOINT

We have asked every state to adopt one sport: Rijiju

Union sports minister Kiren Rijiju has said that the government has asked every state to adopt one sport each and focus on its development, in a bid to achieve more medals at the Olympics. Rijiju, who was speaking at a webinar on the 'Role of Corporate India for Fit India' organised by Assocham, said the corporate sector will also be told to do the same.



THE PROPOSAL

1 "We have written to the states to choose (a sport). For example, if Manipur chooses boxing and sepak takraw, it also can do football or archery, but it has to focus on the discipline it has selected, Rijiju said

2 "We have made certain policy changes, like each corporate will be advised to adopt a certain discipline and focus on it. It won't stop you from supporting other sports," he added

3 "A country the size of India won't be playing just one or two disciplines. We have identified 14 disciplines as priority sports, like archery, wrestling, boxing, hockey, shooting etc. I have kept the option open for more as well," he announced

4 Rijiju said 14 sports have been identified as priority disciplines, which will be developed as medal prospects for the Olympics

Q Is it a good move? Will it usher in a bright future for sports in our country?

Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com You can also post your comments at toistudent.com

FACTOID

₹ 67.4 CRORE (\$8MN)

■ Price of the Chinese encyclopedia volumes that was sold at an auction recently. Dating back to the 15th century, the encyclopedia, known as the Yongle Dadian, was commissioned by a ruler of the Ming Dynasty, who reigned from 1402 to 1424. The Yongle Dadian consisted of 22,877 chapters originally. It was the largest encyclopedia in the world

■ The original was used to make two copies. Unfortunately, the first draft was lost due to wars, theft and fires, which occurred under the Ming Dynasty. It measures 20 inches by 12 inches, and was written in red and black ink on paper, at a time when printing technology was already developed in China

IS IT A GOOD MOVE?

CBSE REDUCES CLASS IX-XII SYLLABUS FOR 2020-21 ACADEMIC SESSION

EASING STRESS

It's a deserving advantage for board students. This has relieved the stress of coping with the syllabus in this strange new situation. There has been a controversy over the omission of key topics from the syllabus, but keeping everything in view, the basic concept of the deleted lessons will be captured in the revised syllabus.

Sara Joshi, class X, Suprabhat Model High School, Nacharam, Hyderabad



WEAK FOUNDATION

While reducing the portion by 30% may have been a good decision for ones who need to write boards for the year 2020-2021, it has dealt a major blow to the current IX and XI graders. Several topics considered necessary to lay a good foundation for classes X and XI have been removed which will hinder in understanding of concepts going further.

Padmasritha M, class XI, P Obul Reddy Public School, Hyderabad



KEY TOPICS MISSING

I must say that I did not see this coming, it was very unexpected. But I think that it is a good move as the pandemic has taken a toll on all of us. It has reduced the pressure on students as well as teachers. But on the other hand, this might mean losing out on many topics which might form the basis of future education.

Manjari Paruchuri, class IX, Delhi School of Excellence, Attapur, Hyderabad



SENSIBLE STEP

All schools are closed as the invisible enemy is still lurking around. Although online schooling is slowly catching on, it has unfortunately not reached everybody. This has made it impossible for teachers to complete the entire syllabus in time. Hence I believe that this is a sensible decision. It will boost the confidence of students and reduce their stress.

Yoshita Upadhyay, class X D, Delhi Public School, Secunderabad



ENCOURAGING

It's a major relief for CBSE students. In a way it encourages students to give their best as the syllabus has been made much easier. The announcement has given us clarity on how hard we should be studying as well. But despite the hard work we may put in, we may be regarded as the batch of 2020-2021, the batch who had it easy because of the pandemic!

Trisha Boorugu, class X A, Delhi Public School, Secunderabad



BOOST FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED

During such unprecedented times, reduction of the CBSE syllabus by 30 per cent is a great initiative. Students who cannot afford online teaching will miss a lot of school time and have trouble giving the board exams without effective learning. I believe such an initiative will be a massive help for those students and for the rest of us too.

Shreya Dhanania, class X A, Delhi Public School, Secunderabad



UNCERTAINTIES REMAIN

These are uncertain times. My worry is about the pattern of the question paper. Will the board change it? Will it be only MCQs or will the board retain the normal pattern? This may depend upon the situation by the end of the year. Hope these and other uncertainties around us end soon.

Rachakonda Jayadeep Shankar, class X G, Army Public School, Bolaram



GREEN MISSION GOES DIGITAL

M Shilpika, Principal, Rainbow Group of Schools, Beeramguda

Rainbow Group of Schools conducted 'Haritha Haram,' a plantation programme on the school premises for maintaining all the Covid-19 precautions like sanitizing, masking and social distancing.

The coronavirus pandemic has not only impacted our lives but has also introduced new norms to our lifestyle of which 'going digital' has

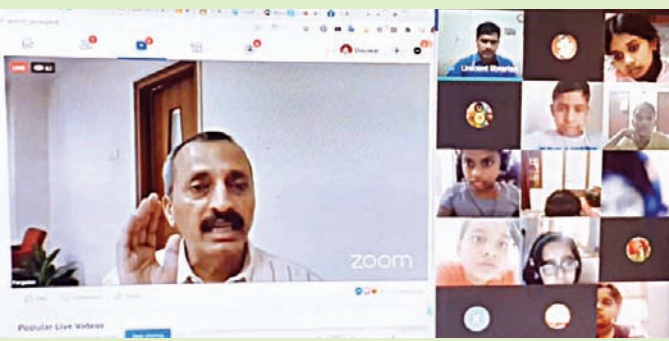


taken a major dominance. Around the world, schools in over 100 countries are closed to protect children from the virus, which has been affecting the education of nearly one billion children. For the lucky ones, home schooling and online classes by teachers have

become the new normal. Every weekend we engage the children with activities and this time we conducted Haritha - Haram by asking every parent and employees of the school to plant a sapling in their respective places and become a green warrior.

Sai Sharanya, class IX B, Unicent School, Nagole, Hyderabad

To protect our nature is an essential responsibility. Celebrating the state government's green initiative Haritha Haram, an informative Virtual Environmental Awareness programme was held from June 29 to July 7, organised by Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park. The webinars were conducted by a panel of guests on engrossing topics for each day like the forest landscapes of Telangana, impor-



tance of national parks and sanctuaries with emphasis on Harina Vanasthali national park, green strides for a social movement, forests for human survival, the biodiversity of Telangana, importance of birds and insects in the ecosystem, etc. The address by the Animal Warriors team on the last day motivated the students to participate in nature conservation activities and help in the rescue of wildlife. The school lauded R M Dobriyal, IFS and the guests, the team of Animal warriors, Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park, who strived to enlighten the participants on the crucial topic of environment protection.

Army Public School, Golconda

Army Public School, Golconda celebrated Van Mahotsav week with great zeal to bring awareness about the importance of green cover around us. The school devised a novel idea of making the students and entire teachers' fraternity come together for a virtual celebration of the Trees Festival.

The event commenced with 'Walk the Talk' where Basha, PGT (Bio) was in conversation with Vidya Muralidharan, principal of APS Golconda through Google meet and FB Live. The event showcased the green cover addition to the school over the past



decade. She planted a sapling which was dedicated to teachers and students. Despite restrictions, the event presented an opportunity for children

to visit the school environment through a digital platform after many months. A virtual tour of the school herbal garden emphasising the need

to plant medicinal varieties was presented. The principal exhorted the students by stating, "Research has shown the presence of trees in a community can encourage people to be more physically active. The urban forest is increasingly being recognised for its benefits to public health and wellbeing, in addition to affecting their attitudes and behaviours."

This was followed by an interactive session by the students of class XII. The theme of the session was important steps taken by the government to save forests. Students from different classes participated in Tree Talks and other virtual activities related to Van Mahotsav.

Children also planted sapling at their homes and shared pictures with their classmates digitally.

'The End', Possibly

Emmanuel Biju, class VII C, Cornerstone School, Chandanagar, Hyderabad

15, 5, 2, 1 and... 0". "Humans are eradicated from Earth". I opened my eyes and started hovering in the air. I was in a sort of weightless vaporous form. A few moments later I heard a kind of robotic voice which said, "Humans have been eradicated from Earth".

"No way!", I told the voice. I was perplexed. That's when a bolt of lightning hit my face. It was a portal, something like a time machine. I was standing at the same spot in the same city.

But unlike before, the street in which I was standing was bustling with people. Children were happily

playing in parks and having the time of their lives. Then suddenly, the same robotic and metallic voice said, "The city that you see is the same. But we are here three years before the humans were eradicated".

I tried to hold on to a tree due to shock but I couldn't as I wasn't in my

FIRST PERSON

physical form. I asked, "What happened in three years?" The voice replied, "Don't you know about the plague called..." And before it could finish the sentence, I uttered "Coronavirus."

"Coronavirus was a minor disease. But due to human carelessness the disease started spreading exponentially. The virus was given a lot of time to evolve until it grew into a strong

and lethal pathogen," the robot said.

"The fate of mankind was decided. They tried to find the cure as fast as possible. But like a last minute turbulence, it all fell apart. The virus had taken over. The last few infected survivors lied in beds watching the world end," it added.

These words made my eyes wet. I asked grimly, "Why have you brought me here?"

The voice replied, "You are one of the few people who love sharing knowledge. If you start spreading your knowledge, it could infect more people than the virus."

Suddenly, a gleam of light hit my face. I opened my eyes, stunned and dazed. After my online classes and homework, I sat alone with my pen and paper. "Time to write!", I told myself.

E-EXTEMPORE KEEPS YOUNG MINDS TICKING



Pallavi Model School, Alwal, Hyderabad

Pallavi Model School, Alwal hosted an e-extempore, 'Off-the-Cuff competition in three categories and languages. About 85 participants from 14 schools came together on one e- platform on the occasion of World Population Day, raising awareness about the health and rights of women amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The maximum number of participants were from Pallavi Model School, Bowenpally, Niraj International School and Sadhu Vaswani International School, who were honoured with certificates.

Other schools that joined the competition were Unicent School, Pallavi Model School, Boduppal, Pallavi International School, Gandipet, Suchitra Academy, Pearson School, Kompally, Times School, Bandlaguda, Times School, Kandlakoya, Pallavi International School, Saroonagar, Akshara Vagdevi International School and St Peters International School.

The jury had eminent educators, Surya Kala, Dr Pushpa Sharma, PV Sheshu Babu and Dr Usha Prasad Paruchuri, who impressed the gathering with their talk. Under the able guidance and motivation of academic director T Sudha and principal Sunir Nagi, the competition turned out to be a success.

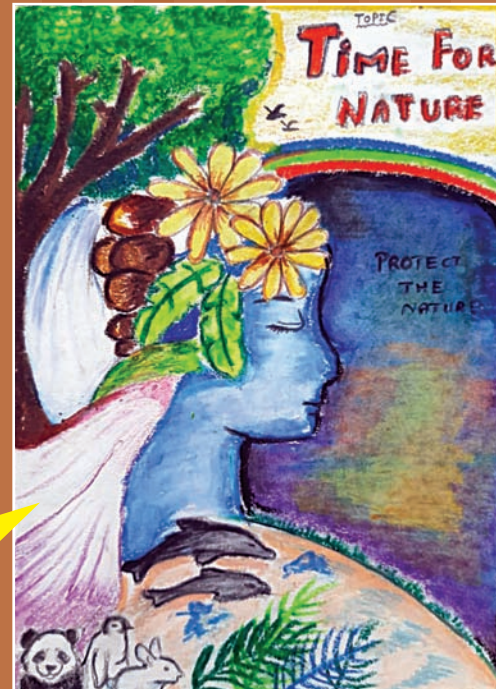
Painters' Gallery



Vaishnavi, class IX, Sree Narayana Vidya Bhavan, Hyderabad

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Sujata Basumatary, class VIII C, Delhi Public School, Nadergul, Hyderabad



Ananya Nema, class I, Sister Nivedita School, Ameerpet



Khyathi, class VII, Silver Oaks International School, Hyderabad



Rekha, class VII D, Little Flower High School, Abids, Hyderabad



Roshini, class V, Sree Narayana Vidya Bhavan, Hyderabad