

BE CAUTIOUS OF THE WORLD OF WEB

By Ankita Rath

The digital podium recorded a houseful show as students from different schools across the city poured in to be a part of the Times NIE Students' Webinar held on Zoom video-conferencing platform on Wednesday at 3:00pm. The event was sponsored by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in association with Roots Degree College. The panel members for the session were B Sumathi, Deputy Inspector of Police (DIG) of Women Safety Wing, Government of Telangana, Dr C Veerender, Psychologist, PD Trainer, and MD at You & Me Counselling Center and BP Padala, chairman of Roots Collegium.

The dignitaries shared their insights on the topic 'Safety and Security on Social Platforms' and cautioned the young audience to ensure maximum safety while using any social media platforms.

Citing a few instances from the cases that she comes across every day, Sumathi said, "We come across a lot of cases where parents complain that they are unable to keep a track of their children's social media activities. Naturally situations like this are directly proportional to increase in crimes. While using any social media platform, people reveal some information about themselves to a larger group of known and unknown people which can make them vulnerable at some point of time. When an untoward situation crops up, people come to us asking for pro-

Times NIE Students' Webinar held on Zoom addresses the safety challenges students face on online platforms



tection. Here I would like to clarify that law can only protect you in a legal way, but it can't protect you in a personal way. Your safety lies in your own hands when you are using the social media."

The DIG further added, "Among the many cases registered with us on a daily basis, the highest amount of crimes is related to cyber stalking. When you put some information of yours on the web, people might take advantage of it out of their own

ulterior agenda. In a post COVID-19 scenario, people especially children and youngsters have been spending a lot of time online which has increased the crime rate. This needs to be checked."

Both the other panelists, Dr C Veerender and BP Padala seconded the opinion of the DIG and urged children to avoid being on social media platforms for longer duration.

Alerting the young social media handlers, Veerender said, "Social media is not our personal media. Though you might have a personal account,



it doesn't mean that anything you present, write or talk about will be personal. Anything that you post online has a possibility to remain on the internet for a lifetime. There are so many tragic cases involving teenagers and adults that we come across on news. So, be conscious when you post something on social media."

"I will suggest you not to post anything personal as hackers may retrieve these data and engage

in malicious activities. Teenagers must always avoid expressing their emotions - love or anger on social media. Be careful as it is your responsibility to take care of yourself and your family," he added.

Putting out a word of advice for the audience, Padala said, "Be careful what kind of online platform you are using, with whom you are befriending. If you face any cyber bullying, don't hesitate to inform your parents in real time, however embarrassing it might be. It is always better to take action rather than succumbing to blackmail."

The 90-minutes engaging session concluded with announcement of the much-awaited results of the recently conducted Times NIE Article Writing and News Bulletin Anchor contests. Nearly 2000 students had enthusiastically participated in the digital contests and showcased their creativity. The bottom half of the page is dedicated to our winners!

EXPERTS RESPOND TO QUERIES

Q. Suggest some tips on how to study well and concentrate during this pandemic.

Joshihitha, class VII, Vista School

A. Whether there is pandemic or not, you must focus on your curriculum, online classes and assignments and reduce as much time as possible on social media as it is a huge distraction. Someone who uses social media extensively tends to use acronyms like LoL, Brb, etc. It leads to poor syntax. Instead pursue your passion by getting enrolled in online courses depending on your choice. Learn to utilise your time well and hone your skills. - B P PADALA

Q. How can we know if a website is secure or not?

V Eashan, class VII, Vidyajali Grammar School

A. If the website or App is present on Google play store it will be authenticated in some or other way. You can check on their records like if they are present on any other social media platforms with data of previous work. If it exists, we can come to some conclusion that these sites are secure. - B SUMATHI

Q. What are some of the effective methods that you would suggest to disconnect from social media?

Sri Sidhvi Dindi, class XI, P Obul Reddy Public School

A. People who are addicted to social media need to ask themselves if it helps them in any way or is it only for time pass. If it is the latter, they must realise that they need to come out of it as soon as possible. The first step is to disconnect the WIFI or may be just use of 30 mins to one hour in a day. You need to learn to control your urge of using social media extensively.

- DR C VEERENDER

SHINE ON, WRITERS & ANCHORS!

ARTICLE-WRITING CONTEST

SENIOR CATEGORY WINNERS

TOPIC: HOW HAS THE LOCKDOWN IMPACTED YOUR LIFE?

1st PRIZE
Chitrita Gehlot,
class X-F, Army Public
School, Bolarum

Three months earlier, if someone would have told me that I could wake up when I wanted, binge watch my favourite shows, read books all day, I would have been delighted at that idea. But now, when that is the reality of my life, it feels incomplete. But since, it is the need of the hour, I have learnt to live with it.

Despite all the negativity surrounding the lockdown, it has given me a chance to....

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2nd PRIZE
Nishka Jhawar, class
XI-B, Meridian School,
for Girls and Boys

The global Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly entered our lives and put everything to a halt. It affected the lives of people around the world bringing a flood of tension and worries followed by negative thoughts and piles of boredom. I was also one among the bored peoples and I did not know what to do.

The lockdown brought a major impact on my life. As soon as my board exams got over....

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3rd PRIZE
M Shraddha Reddy,
class IX, DDMS P Obul
Reddy Public School

"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty." Being an optimist, I believe that lockdown is indeed a wonderful opportunity to cut adrift and find oneself. So on, when all is well, each one will look back on this period of life and be so glad that we never gave up.

There has been a positive impact in my life due to the lockdown. I used this time effectively...

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SPECIAL MENTION

1 Swapna Swaravujulla,
Class X-D, Bharatiya Vidya
Bhavan's Public School,
Jubilee Hills

2 Nethu Abhishek, class IX-E,
Pallavi Model School, Alwal

3 Vidit Gupta, class - VIII B,
The Shri Ram Universal
School

4 Krishnashree, class X-D,
CRPF Public school

5 Naman Kutteri, class VIII-A,
Gitanjali Devshala

6 Garimaa, class IX-B, Delhi
Public School, Secunderabad

7 Swati Rani, class IX-C, Pallavi
Model School, Boduppal

NEWS BULLETIN ANCHOR CONTEST

1st PRIZE
A Karthika Harini,
class V-A, Delhi Public
School, Miyapur

Shraddha Myneni,
class VIII-B,
Bharatiya Vidya
Bhavans, Atmakuri
Rama Rao

3rd PRIZE
Siddardh Naidu
Alamanda,
class IX-C, Samashti
International School

Farah Mariam,
class X, Delhi
School Of
Excellence, Attapur

5th PRIZE
I Jaikar,
class X, Unicent
School Nagole

To watch the NEWS BULLETIN videos anchored by the winners, click on their names

ARTICLE-WRITING CONTEST

JUNIOR CATEGORY WINNERS

TOPIC: TELL US A MEMORABLE CHAPTER FROM YOUR QUARANTINE DIARY

1st PRIZE
Anwesha Acharya,
class VII-I, Kennedy
High The Global School

Quarantine Cuisine. Who would've thought those two words could go so well together? I have always had a passion for cooking. I would've never thought that I could make so many dishes. Quarantine Cuisine. Who would've thought those two words could go so well together? Although, I have always had a passion for the culinary arts, I would've never thought that I could make so many dishes...

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)

2nd PRIZE
Srirama Lasya
Mansvini Poduri, class
VII B, Delhi School of
Excellence, Manikonda

How many of us would have ever thought 'Living with basics' gives Joy? Did you ever feel that 'Learning' is fun? I am glad to say that I experienced both during the terrible times - COVID.

Learning started with understanding new words like Corona Virus, COVID, Quarantine, Social distancing etc. Being at home and not meeting friends...

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3rd PRIZE
Advaita Mamidipally,
class VI, Vista School

That morning seemed boring, with nothing fun to do. I woke up, recollecting the 'family culinary contest' we had a few weeks ago. I longed for another. I went to the kitchen, where I saw Mom cooking and asked her if we could have another culinary contest. Luckily, she said that, instead of wasting groceries on a contest, I could make something special. I ran back to google...

[READ MORE ONLINE](#)

SPECIAL MENTION

1 Aarush Mrinank Pal, class VII-E,
Oasis School Raidurg

2 Rasi Iyer, class VI-D, Tatva
Global School

3 Danika Bose, class VI-D, The
Global Edge School,
Kukatpally

4 Ashutosh Biswal, class VII,
Sister Nivedita School

5 Saisha Jain, class VII- F,
Delhi Public School,
Hyderabad

6 Kazim Hussain, class V-B,
Insight International School

7 Venya K P, class VI, Silver
Oaks International School