



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## ONLY 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL? New model may have 50% HOME CLASSES



**T**he 220 working days and 1,320 hours of in-school studying model is likely to be replaced with a combination of school and home learning under a new normal dictated by the Covid-19 pandemic, people aware of the development said. The Union human resources development ministry is working on a proposed framework that will cut down the in-school learning time to 100 days and 600 hours, and add an equal proportion of 100 days and 600 'active learning hours' at home, they said.

### SCHOOL YEAR 2020-21: THE LIKELY MODEL

- ▶ It is proposed that not more than 30%-50% students attend school at one time with a graded format, and possibly double shifts
- ▶ Those in class I to V may attend school twice a week, while classes VI to VIII may attend 2-4 times a week and classes IX to XII may attend 4-5 times a week
- ▶ A weekly time-table system is advised, with the typical 46-minute period truncated to a 30-minute one. A separate hour-long integrated lesson may be planned for some subjects
- ▶ Flexibility in attendance and sick leave formats, and even allowing students – with consent of their parents – to study from home with proper learning protocols are proposed

### ASSESSMENT

The HRD ministry is likely to discourage pen and paper-based assessments, and pitch for 'non-stressful assessment' formats— from role play, quizzes, presentations in class, project work and portfolios at home

### FROM A DISTANCE, WITH A MASK

- ▶ Open air/temporary outdoor classes with physical distancing where possible. Six-feet distance in class, staff rooms and reception. Schools to decide SOPs for lab and playground usage
- ▶ Separate lanes for entry and exit to school, multiple exit areas and staggered entry and exit timings
- ▶ School transport to be sanitised twice daily; one seat, one child policy; no curtains in bus; pick and drop by parents for primary school goers; car pooling to be discouraged

**STUDENT EDITION**  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020  
**WEB EDITION**

### IRECOMMEND

### BOOKS/VOCAB BUILDERS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

nitya.shukla@timesgroup.com  
**VOCABULARY.COM**  
Vocabulary.Com asks you a wide range of questions. It is activity-based and ensures that you understand the meanings and nuances of every word that you are learning.



**7LITTLEWORDS.COM**  
Try this if you enjoy brain-teasing crossword puzzles, word finds, anagrams or trivia quizzes. Each bite-size puzzle consists of 7 clues, 7 mystery words, and 20 tiles with groups of letters. Solve the clues and unscramble the letter tiles to find the puzzle answers.

**WORDUP (APP)**  
This neat app, an AI-powered vocabulary learning, has ranked all the words in the English language in order of how useful they are. It is a must for focused learning lessons!

### MODI'S MANN KI BAAT



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Sunday, addressed the 65th edition of his monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat', on the final day of the fourth phase of nationwide lockdown. Incidentally, the 'Mann Ki Baat' address comes a day after the one-year anniversary of the second term of the Modi government. Here's what he said about the economy and social distancing...  
"A major chunk of the economy is active now. There should be no laxity in maintaining six-foot distance (do gaj doori); wear masks and stay indoors as much as possible. We need to be more vigilant now. Due to everyone's support, fight against Covid-19 is being fought strongly"

### CHINA REMEASURES MOUNT EVEREST

**MAPPING A NEW CHART**  
A Chinese survey team recently completed its mission of remeasuring the highest mountain peak in the world using indigenous 5G technology and satellite navigation. The Chinese expedition of Mount Everest was even viewed by millions through live streaming enabled with 5G communication technology.



**CHINA, NEPAL AND MOUNT EVEREST'S HEIGHT!**  
▶ According to China's measurement, the height of Mt Everest is 8,844.43 metres— four metres less than Nepal's calculations  
▶ In the past, Chinese surveyors have conducted six rounds of scaled measurement on Mt Everest, and released the height of the peak twice in 1975 and 2005— 8,848.13 metres and 8,844.43 metres respectively

In Tibetan language, Mount Everest is known as 'Mount Qomolangma'



### NEWS IN BRIEF

### PARTON SINGS LOCKDOWN-INSPIRED SONG, 'WHEN LIFE IS GOOD AGAIN'

**MUSIC**  
American singer-songwriter Dolly Parton may be stuck at home, but she's still making music. According to Fox News, the 74-year-old country icon has churned out a new song, 'When Life is Good Again,' inspired by the lessons learned during the coronavirus quarantine. The song, released exclusively throughout Entertainment Weekly, touches themes of compassion, thoughtfulness and living in the moment—all habits Parton pledges to hold up after the pandemic ends.



During the global coronavirus crisis, Parton has been very active and has started a web series in which she reads bedtime stories to children. In April, Parton also pledged a million-dollar donation to Vanderbilt University's research towards Covid-19

### A GALAXY THAT RESEMBLES A COFFEE

**SPACE**  
NASA's Hubble telescope has released an image of a spiral galaxy, NGC 3895 that in colour and shape resembles a coffee. The galaxy's existence was known earlier as well, and it has been captured by the telescope in the past as well. However, the current image is trending online for its aesthetic beauty. The Hubble Space Telescope released the image under the title, 'One Large Stellar Latte To Go'.



- ▶ The galaxy, located at a distance of over 161 million-light years, is part of Ursa Major. (For the uninitiated, one light year is equal to the distance covered by light in one year, or 6 million miles)
- ▶ It was discovered by German-born British astronomer William Herschel on March 18, 1790
- ▶ The galaxy has a diameter of approximately 45,000 light years

### YEESSSS DUUUUDE! TWITTER USERS STRETCH WORDS TO MODIFY THEIR MEANING, STUDY SHOWS

**TECH BUZZ**  
Twitter users stretch words such as 'yes', 'dude' and 'hey' to modify their meaning, according to researchers who analysed 100 billion tweets. The US linguist experts say stretched words that convey a different meaning than the original are a common feature of social media but are rare in formal writing.

**STRETCHED WORDS AND THEIR MEANING**

<b>SURE:</b> (suuuuure).	Sarcasm
<b>DUDE:</b> (duuuuude).	Incredulity or frustration
<b>YES:</b> (yeeessss).	Excitement
<b>NO:</b> (nooooo).	Dread, disappointment
<b>HELP:</b> (heellllp).	Increased desperation
<b>HEY:</b> (heyyyyy).	Relaxation, casualness, overconfidence, flirtation
<b>ARGH:</b> (arrrrrggggghhhhh).	Immense pain



### 'LETTERS TO MOTHER' WRITTEN BY PM MODI, WHEN HE WAS YOUNG TO BE PUBLISHED

**BOOK**  
Many letters that Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a young man wrote to mother goddess, whom he addressed as 'jagat janani', every night on varied topics, will be published in a book form in English by Harper Collins next month. Translated from Gujarati by film critic Bhawana Somaaya, the book will be released as ebook and hardback. These letters have been taken from Modi's diary, dating back to 1986.



### MEET SHERLOC, THE DETECTIVE ABOARD PERSEVERANCE ROVER

**SPACE**  
Mars is far away from 221B Baker Street, but one of fiction's best-known detectives, Sherlock Holmes, will be represented on the Red Planet after NASA's Perseverance rover touches down on Feb 18, 2021. SHERLOC, an instrument at the end of the rover's robotic arm, will hunt for sand-grain-sized clues in Martian rocks while working in tandem with WATSON, a camera that will take close-up pictures of rock textures. Together, they will study rock surfaces, mapping out the presence of certain minerals, which are the carbon-based building blocks of life on Earth.



## 5 tips to improve your smart phone's battery life

- 1 TURN OFF VIBRATION AND HAPTIC FEEDBACK:** Most of us like the mild vibrations while typing on our smartphone's keyboard. However, since they consume battery, as we spend a lot of time on typing throughout the day, it is best to keep it on a switch-off mode. Besides, according to tech experts, it is also advisable to turn off the 'haptic feedback' (technology that can create an experience of touch by applying forces, vibrations, or motions to the user), as it actually takes more battery power to vibrate your phone, than it does to ring.
- 2 GO FOR BLACK-COLOURED WALLPAPERS:** If your smartphone boasts of an AMOLED display (a technology that describes a specific type of thin-film-display), then applying black-coloured wallpapers will help you save battery life. This is because pixels that make the AMOLED displays, utilise battery power to illuminate light colours, and don't need any energy to show black colour. In other words, the more dark or black pixels you have on your AMOLED display, the less power it consumes to illuminate them, thus saving the battery.
- 3 DON'T MISS ON ANDROID UPDATES:** Updating apps might seem to be a cumbersome task, but it actually helps in improving the overall smartphone performance and battery life. This is because developers keep updating apps to improve on battery and memory optimisation. So, make sure your smartphone has the latest version of apps installed.
- 4 TURN ON AIRPLANE MODE:** This is not an everyday solution, but can help you cut battery usage. Turning on airplane mode will not only cut you off from the outside world, but will also allow your smartphone to last longer for multimedia apps, such as videos, music player or games that don't need any connectivity.
- 5 CHECK GPS, BLUETOOTH:** If you are not using GPS or Bluetooth, switch them off. Ensure that the Wi-Fi and mobile data are not switched on simultaneously.



## Decoded: Containment Zones

**What:** The Centre has extended the lockdown in the country till June 30, but the restrictions have been kept limited to the **containment zones**. States will be allowed to mark their own containment zones based on the number of coronavirus cases.

**HOW:** Only essential services like groceries, medical supply, water supply, etc, are allowed in containment zones.

- ▶ Authorities ban movement inside such areas; they also block entry and exit points so that infected people can't spread the virus.
- ▶ Kolkata has more than 280 such zones; Delhi has 122, whereas Mumbai, the worst coronavirus-hit city, has over 660 areas listed as containment zones.
- ▶ There is also intensive contact tracing, house-to-house surveillance and other clinical interventions in containment zones.

**WHY:** Areas that are notified by the authorities as high-risk zones, with a higher number of coronavirus cases are called containment zones. The civic bodies decide which area qualifies to be listed as a containment zone. The basic idea behind such a demarcation is to limit the virus in an enclosed space and prevent its spread to other areas.



Photo: Getty Images

GIVE IT A THOUGHT!

THE LOSS OF THE LIP

By Mitall Kumar

COVID-19 has brought along with it an entire array of problems and crises. I will not use this platform to throw light on all of them as enough has been said already. My concern here is rather more literary and very close to my heart. As an English teacher, I feel that the disease has, mercilessly, snatched away an entire chunk of expression from the English Language. Let me be a little more explicit.

COVID-19 has, inadvertently, caused the loss of the 'lip' in the field of English expression. It is not only the disease but its tool of protection which is causing me such agony. Yes, your guess is right. By

the word tool, I mean the glorious MASK which has become the sole means of our existence and survival today. It adorns our faces and we sport it like armour, our shield against the virus. This mask has



'wiped away the smile' from our lips and hidden it for good.

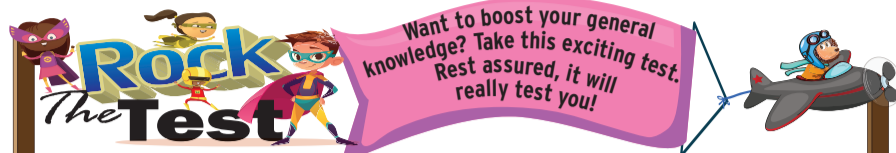
Courtesy of COVID-19, now we will never get to see a 'lopsided grin' or a 'sneering lip'. Students

will never know the use of the expression 'trembling lip' and the plethora of emotions that it can convey because of the simple reason that they will never get to see it! After all, you cannot relate to something which you have not seen. 'Reading the lip' will become a thing of the past and a 'stiff upper lip' will make no sense. A heart-throbbing 'rakish smile', which could set hearts on fire, will never be seen again. I am sure that when Shakespeare had written 'Teach not thy lip such scorn, for it was made for kissing lady, not for such contempt', he had never in his wildest imagination thought that such a plight could befall the human race!

COVID-19 has ensured that now children grow up with the mask. Sadly, they will never really

understand the significance of a 'heartwarming smile'. Lips will forever be hidden behind the mask and the smile will be dead and buried forever. Humanity is fighting the present pandemic with grit and determination but I just wonder...

Will our resilience bear fruit? Will the Mona Lisa ever smile again?



Want to boost your general knowledge? Take this exciting test. Rest assured, it will really test you!

Q1: Which one of the following is not needed in a nuclear fission reactor?

- A: Moderator
- B: Coolant
- C: Accelerator
- D: Control device

- B: heating above 100°C
- C: passing an electric current
- D: just keeping it for 10 min

- electrons from outside
- C: it has lost some of its electrons
- D: None of the above

SCIENCE

Theme: Biology

Q2: When items or jewellery made of metals such as copper or nickel are placed in a solution having a salt of gold, a thin film of gold is deposited by

- A: cooling to below 0°C

Q3: A body is charged negatively. It implies that

- A: it has lost some of its protons
- B: it has acquired some

Q4: Contact lenses are made from

- A: polyvinyl chloride
- B: polystyrene
- C: Lucite
- D: Teflon

ANSWERS:

- 1. B, 2. C, 3. A, 4. A

Winner: Collaborative Writing Part 2

Bringing out the best in us!



"Be strong now, because things will get better. It might be stormy now but it can't rain forever."

for stray animals. We can also enjoy some interesting movies with our parents. We are becoming more aware of what's happening in the world by watching news. We have also become more creative by sketching and colouring.

Hello! We are Radhya and Mishka. We know this lockdown is a hard time but it is only to protect us from COVID-19. We also think that this lockdown is bringing out the best in us as we can spend more time with our parents. Now, our parents are working from home and so are we! We spend time with our parents by playing indoor games like chess, carrom, watching mythological tales like Ramayana, Mahabharata and become more knowledgeable by reading books.

In short this lockdown has ensured that we enjoy. "The air we never breathed, the chirping of birds we never heard, the sky we never saw and above of all our family whom we missed." But it also makes us a little sad that we can't meet our teachers and friends, we are unable to go to the park to play and have to stay indoors. We pray and hope that the lockdown gets over soon and we can get back to our normal lives. Also hope COVID-19 is defeated world over through a vaccine. Stay home stay safe.

By: Mishka and Radhya, class 4, Nirmal Bhartiya School, Delhi

Send us your write-up at timesnie175@gmail.com

Quiz time GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Q.1) Which actor is playing Kapil Dev in the upcoming sports film '83'?

- A. Ranbir Kapoor
- B. Ranveer Singh
- C. Hrithik Roshan
- D. Salman Khan

- C. Hiriyur
- D. Hosadurga

Q.3) Who was the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations 2020?

- A. Pakistan PM Imran Khan
- B. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro
- C. US President Donald Trump
- D. Former US President Barack Obama

Q.2) ISRO recently proposed to set up Human Space Flight Centre in which city?

- A. Challakere
- B. Channagiri

ANSWERS

- 1. B) Ranveer Singh 2. A) Challakere 3. B) Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

COMMONLY MISPRONOUNCED WORD

ENGLISH VINGLISH



Mispronunciation

How you pronounce it: mis-pro-nun-see-ay-shun

How it's really pronounced: mis-pro-noun-see-ay-shun



How it's really pronounced: pre-rog-a-tive

Larvae

How you pronounce it: lar-vee

How it's really pronounced: not lar-vey

Wikipedia

How you pronounce it: Wick-i-pee-dee-a

How it's really pronounced: Wee-key-pee-dee-a

Spurious

How you pronounce it: spyoor-ee-us

How it's really pronounced: spur-ee-us

Alumnae

How you pronounce it: a-lum-nee

How it's really pronounced: a-lum-nay

Forte

How you pronounce it: For-tay

How it's really pronounced: Fort

Prerogative

How you pronounce it: per-rog-a-tive

Disastrous

How you pronounce it: di-zas-tres

How it's really pronounced: di-zas-ter-es

CHECK YOUR APTITUDE



1) A cycle is bought for ₹900 and sold for ₹900 and ₹1080, find the gain percent?

- A. 16 2/3%, B. 20%
- C. 18%, D. 25%

2) An article is bought for ₹675 and sold for ₹900, find the gain percent?

- A. 16 2/3%, B. 30%
- C. 33 1/3%, D. 33 1/6%

3) An article is bought for ₹600 and sold for ₹500, find the loss percent?

- A. 16 4/3%, B. 100/3%
- C. 16%, D. 16 2/3%

ANSWER: 1. 20%, 2. 33 1/3%, 3. 16 2/3%, 4. 18%

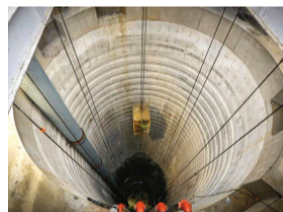


EDIFICE

KNOWLEDGE BANK

Delaware Aqueduct

This aqueduct in the New York City water supply system is 13.5-ft



wide and 137-km-long. It takes water from the Rondout, Cannonsville, Neversink, and Pepacton reservoirs on river Hudson's west bank through the Chelsea pump station into the West Branch, Kensico, and Hillview reservoirs on the east bank, ending at Hillview in Yonkers, New York. Constructed between 1939 and 1945, it carries approximately half of New York City's water supply of 1.3 billion US gallons per day.

Sanitization drive held at Shri Shikshayatan

The Shikshayatan Foundation conducted an extensive sanitization programme in the Shri Shikshayatan School and Shri Shikshayatan College on May 12 in collaboration with West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services, Government of West Bengal.

The basic purpose of this initiative by an educational institute is to create a germ free atmosphere for the young minds and all staff members who are part of this beautiful abode of learning.

Bratati Bhattacharyya, secretary general, Shikshayatan Foundation, said: "The institute is committed to safeguard the lives of their stakeholders from this dreaded virus pandemic. The young folks are the future leaders of our nation and the staff members are the committed resources who transforms lives."

She profusely thanked the Fire department for the excellent services they provided.



SCHOOL IS COOL

Promoting our wellbeing in these challenging times

The entire world is facing a completely unprecedented crises due to novel corona virus. It is heartening to see the solidarity exhibited by the teachers, students and parents all over the world in the uncertain times of the Covid-19 pandemic. I believe that teachers are part of large-scale systemic change and are making history as they are the first ones to tackle a challenge that we are facing now.

We at Khalsa Model Senior Secondary School (KMSSS), Dunlop, Kolkata, after analysing and assessing our resources in the situation of unknown, started with online classes phase wise to engage the students



DR GURMEET K ARJANI, PRINCIPAL, KHALSA MODEL SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, DUNLOP, KOLKATA

in a productive manner. We also understand the fact that home learning may itself be a source of stress for families and learners, with pressure to take on new respon-

sibilities, sometimes with limited time or resources. Parents who do not have the same level of education, or do not speak the major language of instruction in the school, it became more important that school plays the critical role in supporting the health and well-being of all. So, we decided that the online classes to be more value added and not just syllabus oriented. The most vital thing in teaching learning process is relationship and connection with the student. Our teachers at KMSSS are finding the most creative and unique ways to use technology to maintain these fundamental and essential connection with the students and par-

ents. To my amazement the smiles that light up the online classes, look the same as in classroom.

Parents have been the integral part in this system of learning from the very initial stage. Teams dedicated to appreciate the parent's perspective are in continuous interaction with them. This also served as a medium for the parents to express their gratitude towards teachers and acknowledge their hard work, sincerity and efforts.

We have a schedule for counselling and follow up sessions for the students. Organising virtual celebration of various events, conducting competitions and activities for the students to showcase their talents. Some very interesting, fun filled creative activities for the summer break have been designed, to list some: mindful exercises,

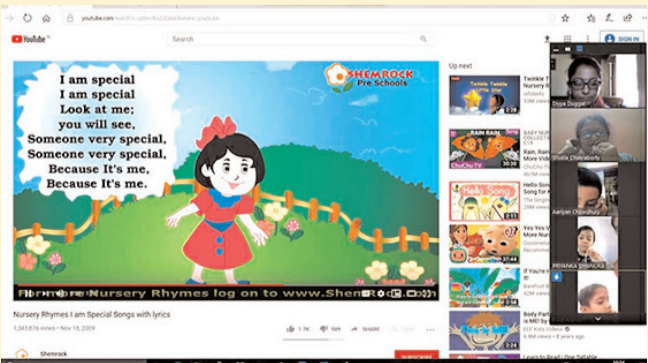


yoga, fun with colours, fun with nutrients, physical exercises, gardening etc.

We are ensuring all the measures to keep children safe during the pandemic and in no way reduce the quality of education our children are entitled to. In addition, we are focusing on lasting health and well-being; an approach that entails lasting growth on all levels.

(Dr Arjani is also a consulting psychologist and an active member of the Rehabilitation Council of India)

BHS junior students attend ZOOM CLASSES



It's truly said that 'A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge and wisdom in the pupils' no matter how difficult the ways are. E Learning is the call of the hour...the new normal. Hence the cyber immigrants are leaving no stones unturned to educate the Cyber natives. For teachers lockdown or no lockdown teaching Generation Z is a challenge in itself. The big difference now is that classroom teaching has been replaced by online teaching. Teachers of Birla High School Junior Section are working 24/7 to manage their household chores along with conducting virtual classes for their students. Students from nursery to class V

were thrilled to attend Zoom classes hosted by their teachers. Few enthusiastic ones were in school uniform to attend their classes. With their will teachers and students are bridging the distance and learning continues. Each and every teacher continues to stay connected with their students, making them study from home by uploading lectures and instructional videos on YouTube and adopting the Zoom App. The students too are reciprocating enthusiastically by attending the classes and completing their home assignments. People expect to be bored by E Learning but at BHS it's just the opposite...we are having 100% attendance and children are Zooming enthusiastically.

