



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020



WEB EDITION

MS DHONI RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

MAHI WAY: From railway tkt collector to CAPTAIN COOL

WHEN MS DHONI smashed the six that won the World Cup for India in 2011, it instantly became an iconic moment in cricket and established the man, who started out as a railway ticket collector, as one of the game's greats. Hard-hitting, unruffled even under pressure, the record of 'Captain Cool', and India's most

His countless endorsement deals and TV ads not only made him a sports superstar to rival Sachin Tendulkar but also put him in the Forbes list of the world's richest athletes. In 2015, his income was estimated to be \$31 million

successful captain, will be virtually impossible to beat. Holding the inaugural World T20 trophy in Johannesburg in 2007, and leading India to victory in the WC final against Sri Lanka at Mumbai's Wankhede stadium will remain etched amongst the most memorable Dhoni moments.

HERE'S WHY DHONI IS CAPTAIN COOL

- Dhoni was one of the country's most successful captains, before stepping down as the skipper of the limited-over teams in 2017
- Under his stewardship, India won the T20 World Cup in 2007, the 50-over World Cup in 2011, and the Champions Trophy in 2013
- The team also reached the top of the Test rankings in 2009 under his leadership

REACTIONS GALORE

What you've done for the country will always remain in everyone's heart. But the mutual respect and warmth, I've received from you will always stay in mine. The world has seen achievements, I've seen the person. I tip my hat to you @msdhoni

VIRAT KOHLI, Indian captain

Your contribution to Indian cricket has been immense, @msdhoni. Winning the 2011 World Cup together has been the best moment of my life. Wishing you and your family all the very best for your 2nd innings

SACHIN TENDULKAR, former Indian captain

Major announcements made by PM Modi on I-Day



1 EVERY INDIAN TO HAVE A DIGITAL HEALTH ID: PM Modi has unveiled an ambitious National Digital Health Mission, under which every Indian will get a health ID that will ease access to the medical services. The health ID will contain information about your medical data, prescriptions and diagnostic reports, and summaries of the previous discharge from the hospitals for ailments. The mission is expected to bring efficiency and transparency in the healthcare services in the country.

2 NEW CYBER SECURITY POLICY TO BE UNVEILED SOON: The draft of the National Cyber Security Strategy 2020 that envisages creating a secure cyberspace in India is ready, and is likely to be finalised this year. The government recently banned several Chinese apps to protect the personal data of Indian users.

3 SCHEMES FOR WOMEN: PM Modi talked about government's scheme to provide

sanitary napkins at ₹ 1. He said the government is deliberating on what should be the minimum age of marriage for women and has set up a committee to look into the matter. The minimum age of marriage for women is 18 years and 21 for men. PM Modi also talked about the economic empowerment of women.

4 ALL VILLAGES TO BE CONNECTED WITH OPTICAL FIBRE IN NEXT 1,000 DAYS: PM Modi announced that the task to connect India's over six lakh villages with optical fibre network will be completed in the next 1,000 days.

5 ₹100 LAKH CRORE TO BE SPENT ON INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS: PM Modi said that a plan has been prepared to connect the whole country with multi-model connectivity infrastructure. Nearly 7,000 projects in different sectors have been identified. In a way, it will be a new revolution in the infrastructure sector.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD LAUNCHES 'TEN-MINUTE BOOK CLUB'

The University of Oxford has launched a digital book club called 'Ten-Minute Book Club'

HOW DOES IT WORK: According to the website, every Friday, Oxford academics will choose and post a free literary excerpt that can be read in 10 minutes. Each extract is paired with free resources and an introduction by an expert suggesting themes or contexts to think about as you read.



HOW CAN YOU USE IT? Read yourself or have a discussion with family, friends, colleagues, or anyone else you'd like to connect with. Expect to be exposed to a mixture of classic well-known literature and outstanding works from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK? This week you can read an extract from the 19th century sociologist, author and critic W.E.B Du Bois' book, 'The Souls of Black Folk', which was published in 1903.

Access: <https://english.web.ox.ac.uk/ten-minute-book-club/du-bois-souls-of-black-folk>

MOTIVATE YOURSELF

FEELING DOWN?

Take inspiration from Amy Morin, a psychotherapist and TEDx speaker, who has written a book called '13 Things Mentally Strong People Don't Do.' She says, "Mentally strong people don't sit around feeling sorry about their circumstances or how others have treated them. Instead, they take responsibility for their role in life and understand that life isn't always easy or fair."

You too can take the lead by sharing your views. To start with, do send your views on:

- 1 Does technology make one feel more alone?
- 2 Has social media/selfie-culture added to humanity's narcissism?
- 3 Have you ever tried deleting your social media account? How was the experience of walking away?
- 4 Has technology and online learning added to your learning experience?
- 5 What is better when it comes to learning a second language? Apps or classes with a teacher.

Send your articles at toinie175@gmail.com

IIT, Bombay graduates develop android app for online learning on 2G service

Two graduates of the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT, Bombay, have developed an android application for online learning for students. Called, 'Wise App', it will help students for online learning on the 2G service. The application is user-friendly, free of cost, and comes without any advertisements. Mubeen Masudi and Bilal Abidi,



INNOVATION

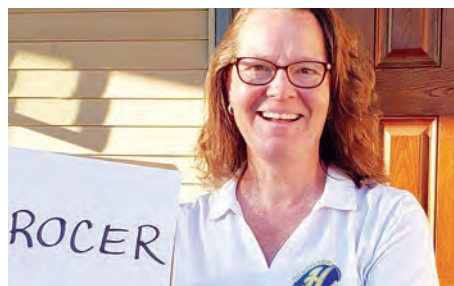


the developers of the app said, "Wise App, which works on 2G, enables teachers to schedule and conduct live classes on ZOOM without having to share meeting IDs and passwords. Additionally, it enables the teachers to send and receive assignments, facilitate discussions, share material, and receive automated attendance reports, all at one place."

It took two months for Abidi to develop the app. The app was launched in Google Playstore last week

IN THE RECORD BOOK

WOMAN SPELLS 56 WORDS BACKWARDS IN ONE MINUTE



Ginzama yllaiciffO! Read that backwards. A woman's unusual talent of spelling backwards has earned her a place in the Guinness World Records. **Pam Onnen**, from Hastings in Minnesota, spelt 56 words backwards in just a minute. The Guinness World Records shared a video of Onnen spelling 56 words backwards from a randomised list in a duration of one minute. The video also featured her reciting the English alphabet backwards.

The previous record of most words spelled backwards in one minute was 17



SHARON STONE'S MEMOIR TO HIT BOOKSHELVES IN MARCH 2021

Actor Sharon Stone's memoir, 'The Beauty of Living Twice' will be released in March 2021. The 62-year-old actor shared the news in a post on Twitter, where she also unveiled the book's cover. The book will be published by Alfred A Knopf. The memoir will be released simultaneously in hardcover and as an ebook. Stone will also narrate the book for its audible edition.

BOOK

NEWS IN BRIEF

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MILEY CYRUS RELEASES SELF-DIRECTED MUSIC VIDEO 'MIDNIGHT SKY'

After creating a buzz in the social media for the past few weeks, singer Miley Cyrus has released her highly-anticipated single, 'Midnight Sky'. According to Billboard, the song is the first single from her upcoming album, 'She Is Miley Cyrus'. The 27-year-old musician made the official announcement on Twitter, sharing a brief clip of the music video that has been directed by her.

- Clocking in at three-minute and 42-seconds, the official music video is all glitzy-glamour and colourful.
- The musician shines in the video as she is seen decked in neon and shimmery body fit attire, teamed up with crystal-covered long black gloves.
- However, Cyrus is yet to announce an official release date for 'She Is Miley Cyrus'



CLIMATE CHANGE, NOT HUMANS LED TO THE EXTINCTION OF THE WOOLLY RHINO

Awoolly brown rhinoceros that weighed two tons, once roamed in northeastern Siberia, before mysteriously disappearing around 14,000 years ago. Was its demise caused by humans, or the warming climate of the time? A new study by scientists say the population of the animal, also known by its scientific name, *Coelodonta antiquitatis*, remained stable for millennia as they lived alongside humans, before dropping sharply towards the end of the last ice age.

ENVIRONMENT



➤ Humans arrived in this part of Siberia 30,000 years ago. Though they hunted the rhinos, the animal's population remained steady for 12,000 more years, until an abrupt period of warming, known as the Bolling-Allerod

FACTOID \$1.5 MN

■ Price of a Covid mask that is being created by Israeli jewellers for an unnamed US-based client. "Made out of 18-carat gold and studded with 3,600 black and white diamonds, the mask will be fitted with an N99 filter to offer a high level of protection," says Isaac Levy, owner of the Yvel jewellery brand that is making the mask. He described the client as a Chinese art collector living in the US. The mask, which a team of around 25 artisans is working on, might be viewed as a vulgar display of wealth during hard economic times, but for Levy, it is above all a work of art



FREQUENT LAUGHTER HELPS BUST STRESS

HEALTH

➤ It is estimated that people typically laugh 18 times a day, generally during interactions with other people, and depending on the degree of pleasure they experience. Researchers have also reported differences related to the time of day, age, and gender. For example, it is known that women smile more than men on an average



DID YOU KNOW?

It's hard to catch your breath, when you laugh, because your diaphragm spasms. This is precisely why your laughter sounds like 'ha-ha-ha' or 'ho-ho-ho' or 'he-he-he'

Let's have a laughing session. Take at least 5-10 minutes from your daily routine and laugh with your friends, elders, especially your grandparents. You can share your laughing tips with us at toinie175@gmail.com

TEACHING & LEARNING, the way forward

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic wrecking havoc across the world, work spaces have shifted from the office to the home. Schools too have been forced to adopt new strategies to reach out to their students. Principals share the strategies their schools have adopted to cope with the limitations they have been compelled to deal with during the lockdown in place since the middle of March...

The pandemic which gave way to a nationwide lockdown could not have been anticipated. But, in retrospect, this crisis has given the opportunity to usher in a new era of learning, one that is based on the fundamental principles of schooling — care, concern, and compassion. The pandemic has radically changed the concept of traditional education in the past few months and virtual learning might be the new future of education. Before the pandemic, technology was just considered as a means of entertainment. Earlier, teachers were not so familiar with online teaching at the school level, except, may be, for the computer lectures. Now, along with teachers, every profession has chosen the virtual platform, providing precious opportunities to both new learners and experts.

In keeping with the call of the day, BDM International has kept no stone unturned to reach out to the student community and strive harder every day for the greater good of the society and the various strategies taken up by the school are —

■ **Regular scheduled online classes and evaluation:** Academic teachers and subject experts have been on their toes to make the online classes fruitful and interesting. From presenting PPTs and sharing well researched topic-oriented videos, the work has been 24x7. Customised and student-friendly Apps have been developed to make the process of evaluation at regular intervals feasible for both teachers and students. Teachers are working, planning, creating and caring for not only their families but also for their own students, while following the new normal. Taking care of household chores and conducting online classes with the same dedication and grit like usual times is no easy task; but the clan is surviving with grace and honour.

■ **Regular extra-curricular tutorials:** Some proverbs like "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy" hold true in today's situation as well. Hence, extra-curricular activity online tutorials are posted regularly on social media and the school app to keep healthy and sound mind and body.



VIJAYA CHOWDHURY, PRINCIPAL,
BDM INTERNATIONAL

■ **Tele Counselling:** The school counsellors are made available for telephonic conversations not only for the students but also the parents. They provide with valuable guidance and inputs to cope with this difficult situation, thus taking care of the mental health.

■ **Webinars and Workshops:** The new normal calls for new strategies and as a guideline and reference for the teachers and students both, various webinars and workshops are conducted at regular intervals to make everyone associated with academics, get an overall idea about what the current situation demands and implement the new ideas in a virtual classroom situation.

■ **The Celebrations:** School is an arena where children are made to understand various values, and through the notion of celebrating various important days, these moral values are inculcated with in them throughout the entire academic year. As this year, physical presence of children is withheld, the important days like Rabindra Jayanti, Mother's Day, World Yoga Day, Father's Day, World Environment Day, Nazrul Jayanti, International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, World Doctor's Day, to name a few, were celebrated virtually. Students have been trained online, the compilation has been executed and the expert core team made the videos available in a virtual platform to reach out to a greater audience.

■ **The International Contacts:** BDMI has been part of various international projects over the years and in continuation of the international projects, the teams have been working round the clock to maintain the international contacts. On the virtual platform, online reading sessions with renowned authors have been conducted and the responses from the foreign schools have been overwhelming.

BDMI values the notion "Future is theirs, those who believe in the Present" and the Family believes that the school and the teacher community are the next level of Covid warriors, as both are fighting for the nation and shaping the future of tomorrow.

Let me begin with a cliché! - 'Change is the only constant.' Everyone, especially the teaching fraternity will vouch for this. Almost overnight our whole world has changed in more ways than one. The scenario has changed completely for students, teachers and parents.

One Friday afternoon in March we were told to ask students to stay at home and not come to school for a few days. There were groans of protest from students and teachers as this was the best time of the academic year. Exams were over, results were prepared and children were enjoying their time in school rehearsing for the annual day — a much awaited event in any school.

While the world came to an almost standstill with lockdowns announced in almost every part of the earth, there was one group of people — the educationists, who were working overtime. In our country the new academic session for most schools begins around April 1. Teachers had no time to waste. Schools immediately made a paradigm shift — from brick and mortar spaces to the digital space.

The teaching fraternity was forced to change gears, and even those who had resisted so far had to embrace technology and integrate 21st Century skills to facilitate learning. Kudos to the teachers for making this shift without fuss or noise. There was no scope for any formal training. They learnt on the



MINNIE SENGUPTA, PRINCIPAL
BIRLA HIGH SCHOOL, MUKUNDAPUR

mediately switch over to the digital medium.

The online portal we are using at present is the Google Classroom — the complete package with live streaming of lessons, the Jamboard, Online assignment submission by students, Online correction by teachers, and live meeting sessions.

The online assessment tools we use are Socrative and Google Forms.

I am proud to say, that some of our teachers are extremely Tech savvy and are happily sharing their expertise not only with their colleagues in our school but also with teachers across many other schools. I must say the digital world never fails to surprise us with newer options. Almost everyday while using and browsing the platform, teachers are discovering more tools to enhance the learning process. What is needed is an open mind and a will to try out the new.

By using Online Google forms we also reached out to the parents to get a feedback from them about how effective the digital methods we are using now are. Encouraging feedback has been received. I am very happy to share that parents and students are very happy with the techniques being followed. However, they have contributed valuable suggestions which we are happy to implement.

The teaching fraternity has done us proud!! Collars up friends!!

Little did we envisage an impending visit by a tiny virus as we were wrapping up our session 2019-20 and that it would have a crippling effect and throw our lives out of gear. The enemy who invaded us was too small for our eyes to see, but deadly enough to completely ravage the status quo and turn our society upside down. It was easily the biggest disruptor in our lifetime, of a life we had all grown accustomed to.

As social distance and masks and sanitizers became the new normal and institutions were forced to shut doors, we at IVWS had two options. We could either brood over the gloriousness of the interrupted yesterday, or we could bloom towards an innovative tomorrow. It was an easy choice in the end.

With technology on our side, we decided to adapt, evolve and embrace the changed scenario by completely rebooting all we have known about school education. We were prepared to trade off the buzz in the school corridors with the hum of microphone in online classrooms, the tapping of feet in dance rooms with the merriment of joining web-enabled dance practices and the music floating from the music room with the delight of digital tunes reverberating on the ether of Internet. We had to re-imagine the whole process of imparting education and we needed our teachers, students and parents to be on the same page. It was heartening to see their resilient attitude. After all, we were trying to take the process of teaching and learning outside the realm of classrooms, from homes (of teachers) to homes (of students). It was a paradigm shift.

There were glitches and frustrations. There were mistakes and difficulties, but we at IVWS stuck with it. And in just a few days, most of the crinkles were ironed out. We made, scrapped and re-made rules and procedures as we went ahead. This trial-and-error method paid rich dividends in the long run. Soon enough, we knew what worked and what did not in online classes. We adjusted our ground rules accordingly. We established camera protocols, microphone usage rules, attire concords and etiquette of remote etiquettes acceptable in online sessions in consultation with parents and teachers. We made sure the school



ANITA GEORGE, PRINCIPAL,
INDUS VALLEY WORLD SCHOOL

mobile app is exploited to its full potential, thereby providing teachers with a systematic platform for upload of learning materials like presentations, documents, spreadsheets, videos etc., and a mechanism for students to access these resources in an organized manner. As we became more confident of the new scheme of things, we introduced optional co-curricular classes online on weekends which helped a lot of students to de-stress and relax in these challenging times. Our teachers even crafted, practised and presented a wonderful online cultural programme on Poila Boishakh which the students were in remote attendance. This was reciprocated by the students with their online programmes on Rabindra Jayanti and on World Music Day.

Today, IVWS is operating in full swing. Online classes are held on all school days according to fixed time-tables with sufficient gaps between consecutive classes to ensure students and teachers do not suffer from digital fatigue. Special Educators and School Counsellors take exclusive and personalized sessions for children with special needs to help them cope with challenges of online education. Our teachers are continuously being encouraged to attend various webinars and online workshops to keep themselves abreast with the changing times and the nuances of their new workspace environment. Morning Assemblies are being presided over by the Principal, class wise to inspire and motivate students about their self-worth, lasting values, peer acceptance, taking responsibility, dream dreams, being resilient and respecting ground rules. The class teachers have also been given a special time with their students once a week - a space where the students can speak their heart out.

It is no doubt a collective and a unanimous effort of the IVWS Team to recalibrate with the help of technology, to provide continuity in the education despite difficult times. We must admit that we miss the school environment, and we crave to have them back once it is safe to do so. Once we do that, we hope the natural osmosis of "old normal" and "new normal" would blend to gift us a "better normal".

With the blessings of our director sir and our administrative director ma'am, I started my journey as principal-in-charge on April 1, 2020. After taking the responsibility, my first and major challenge was to adopt a unique teaching strategy during this lockdown period in a suburban town like Haldia, where students belong to mixed economic backgrounds, and many of them don't have proper internet connectivity. It was very difficult for us to adopt Zoom or Google Meet based direct interactive teaching or a service provider based virtual teaching which were adopted by most of the private metropolitan schools of our country. So, I had to find out an innovative methodology which could be implemented in our school.

My next hurdle, was to convince all our teachers to take classes through online mode, in which neither they nor the students were accustomed then. I feel really fortunate that we have a dedicated and self-motivated set of teachers who are always ready to accept any challenge. So, we all decided to take the classes through our smartphones using the most widely used, user friendly platform, the WhatsApp platform. Each and every class teacher created a WhatsApp group which included all the students and subject teachers. We made a central timetable for each class and section. Each teacher entered and started teaching in this group just like the regular school classes and exited after their class time was over. Regular entry and exit of teachers followed according to the e-class time table. Initially it was decided that the teachers would be doing their board work on a white A4 paper with colour pens, take snapshots and post them in the group. This would be followed by a voice message to explain the part being taught. It was decided that the voice message would not exceed the speech time of five minutes to reduce the file size and make them easy to upload and download.

Gradually, teachers and students have got acquainted with this platform and they have innovated more advanced methods of teaching. They felt that if we could merge the images with voice then it will be much more attractive and easier to comprehend for the students. To reduce the file size they used different online tools. Using Microsoft PowerPoint, they made attractive light-weight short videos which they sent to the students to clear their concepts of complex science problems.



BABITA SAHA, PRINCIPAL, BHAVAN'S NETAJI SUBHASH
CHANDRA BOSE VIDYANIKETAN, HALDIA TOWNSHIP

With the help and initiative of some present and ex-students we made our own YouTube channel, 'e-Bhavan's Bhavna'. With unbelievable motivation to do something good, our students celebrated 'e-Rabindra Jayanti' through this channel. They collected songs, poems, speeches, posters, and photographs through WhatsApp and assembled them to create a meaningful programme. Thereafter they used this platform to celebrate various other programmes, including International Yoga Day, World Environment Day, Vamnahotsav, etc.

Feeling the success of their programmes, our art and craft teachers also created a new YouTube channel 'Bhavan's Creative Corner' to refresh our students mind during this lockdown by motivating them to create something new with the daily household articles. Recently, our yoga teachers have also started using this platform to give students proper physical training to keep their body healthy and fit.

I feel, in the meantime Bhavan's Haldia family has realised that we have to continue online classes by compulsion, and we really don't know how long this will carry on. So, the only thing we can do is, to modify and upgrade this system periodically, considering all our limitations. I hope, our joint effort shall pave a new way to overcome these trying times.....

Adamas World School hosts Summer E-Fiesta

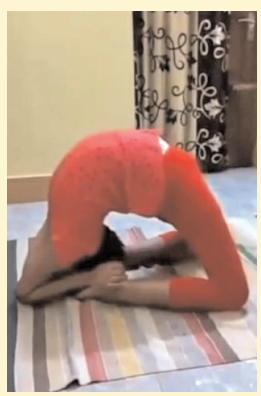
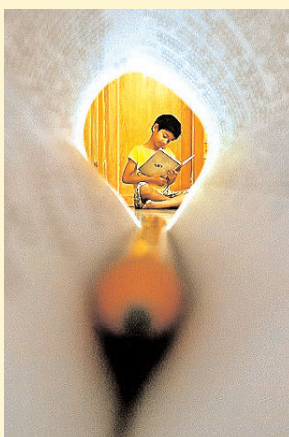
Adamas World School organized a Summer E-Fiesta, an intra school cultural fest to harvest and celebrate the plethora of talents that the students present. The Covid-19 pandemic which was enough to daunt even the strongest could not so much as dampen the spirits of the school prodigies whose enthusiasm and zeal was exceptional. The E-Fiesta has received an overwhelming response from the students across all age groups.

It started as an initiative, to keep the spirit of the competition alive in the hearts of our children in this time of isolation and social distancing. But soon it turned out to be a unique online platform to showcase their skills from the comfort and safety of their homes. The students were divided into three groups - Star Kids (nursery to class II), Little Champs (classes III to VIII) and Show Stoppers (classes IX to XII). The participants could choose from a wide range of events touching all the genres of art, starting from music to dancing, painting, poster making, photography, drama, creative writing and last but not the least, yoga.

To participate, the students had to take a picture or record their piece of work and send it to the respective teachers-in-charge.

Among our panel of eminent judges we were honoured to have with us, the senior features editor with the Times of India group; Urmila Bhowmick - noted Odissi danseuse and choreographer, actor and director Sumitro Banerjee and Anasua Choudhury, renowned playback singer. Together they shouldered the immense task of shortlisting the best entries and selecting the winners.

The results were declared on July 6. The entire process, starting from participation to selection was executed online due to the present scenario of the Covid-19 outbreak. This Summer E-Fiesta will forever remain etched in our hearts, as a bright instance of the unput-downable spirit of Adamas World School, which values talent and aims at bringing out the best in the children, even in the wake of crisis.



Virtual UK education fair for students

Set your study in UK plan in motion. These words welcomed students to the virtual UK education fair on August 8. A grand fair was organised by the British Council for us to visit from comforts of our homes. It provided all the information needed about courses, applications, scholarships, IELTS, post-study work visas and graduate immigration route, finance, hostels and much more.

The fair provided a visit to a vast number of universities including some top universities like University of Birmingham, Brunel University, London, University of York, Imperial College London, University of Manchester, Lancaster University, University of Bath, London Metropolitan University and few others. The British Council is UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. They are on the ground in six continents and over 100 countries bringing international opportunity to life, every day with four active centres working across India. 120. The fair very efficiently explained about the visa application, graduate routes, hostel stays, and scholarships. The fair also had a separate room for IELTS and a particular university based question.

The IELTS has more than 800 British Council tests centres worldwide, with experienced, professional and well-trained staffs. The tests are available at more than 50 cities in India. Some computer developed IELTS centres in India are in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, and Hyderabad, Mumbai, Vijayawada and Pune.

The virtual UK Fair provided a lot of information for the students in these tough times, making learning easier and gaining a better access to future.

Zainab Iqbal, Arjaita Aditya & Asish Singh