Alfred Lord Tennyson has rightly quoted - “Old order changeth, yielding place to new”. Welcome to Mount Litera Zee School, a school that believes in the lines “Great changes in the destiny of mankind can be stimulated only in the minds of little children”. In this competitive world, no amount of effort is sufficient, there is always something more to achieve. The desires, ambition, passions are unlimited. We need to prepare our children in such a way that they realize their inherent talents and hone their hidden potential to deliver it at its best with the time and situation. That is education in true sense.

Abraham Lincoln wonderfully said “Whatever you are, be a Good One”. We are a team of learners, working together to enlighten the young minds that are wrapped in dreams. Children are a bundle of talents and we just help them untie the ribbon. We aim at making our students market - ready, unmasking to the world their capacity of hard work and boundless knowledge.

The seeds of discipline that are sown in the hearts and minds of our students, help them to germinate into the torch-bearers of tomorrow. The learners of Mount Litera Zee School are fortunate to be living in an environment that is conducive to teaching and learning and an all round growth. While academics forms the core of our curricular structure here, the importance on sports and other co-curricular activities is never undermined. The school provides new vistas of growth where children can bloom and explore their individual potential in myriad ways.

As the director of Mount Litera Zee School, I have great moral, ethical, and legal obligations to see that all students achieve their full potential and receive an equal opportunity to succeed in society. I also have a moral duty to keep all my staff, who is more like a family to me, happy and satisfied at the end of the day. I wake up with a dream to create a place for children where they can boast that MLZS, Pali is among the top schools globally. This dream can only come true if we as a team can succeed in inculcating the Learners Attribute of Values, Attitudes, Motivation, Empathy, Knowledge and Skills in each of the students through a strong team of teachers.

I seek blessings of all my well wishers and gurus and support of all the parents in accomplishing the vision and the mission of Mount Litera Zee School, Pali.

Ms. Nirmala Charan
Director.
MLZS, Pali
**Message From Principal**

“As I walk around the school every day, I hear the intense dialogues of eager minds, the lovely voices of rhymes and recitations resonating the corridors, the cheers of triumphs & excitement of sports enthusiasts in fields, the rhythmic beats of dancer’s feet & the melodic harmony of music and the young artists painting their dreams in art studio. The perpetual energy, movement & enthusiasm permeate the atmosphere at MLZS, Pali. Yes we are a lively community with a difference. We value individualism, creativity, innovation and sportsman spirit and we strive hard to nurture all this in our students, in pursuit of excellence.

The school’s genuine concern ensures student’s healthy, emotional and physical growth along with building intellectual capacity. This empowers our students to develop their self-esteem, self-awareness and self-confidence. Sharing ideas, analysing situations and expressing them confidently are essential skills that are inculcated here in a non-threatening environment where ‘Experiential Learning’ becomes a sure possibility.

In addition to rigorous scholastic programmes, we also focus on developing both, the mental and the physical abilities of a student. The activities provide holistic grooming of the student wherein the child is able to explore his true potential. Besides the usual procedural teaching, we persistently upgrade and update our teaching tools and techniques in sync with the latest global trends. From interactive teaching methods to a healthy teacher student relationship, we work around making studies as enjoyable and meaningful as possible.

While studying at the school, the students are groomed to become confident, articulate and enlightened young citizens, ready to step into global society with dignity, honour and integrity.

As the Principal of the school, I feel honoured and privileged to be part of MLZS, Pali, an educational institution where every stakeholder is a learner and every day opens an opportunity to learn and discover. We look at ourselves as a community of learners, where everyone learns including our teachers, parents & staff.

We strive to instil in our students strong values along with a set of skills as wings which will carry them far and wide and help them to navigate their way in times of adversity. In other words, our students are being equipped to face the challenges of the rapidly changing world.

A child’s learning and right development involves and revolves around an effective partnership between home & school. We know the stronger the partnership is, the more our children will benefit.

Whilst we know that the knowledge, skills and the values imparted at school will help the child face the world but we also acknowledge that learning is social, and in this context we encourage parents to be in close communication with the educators so that the right socio-cultural and emotional development of our children with IQ and EQ balanced takes place. I look forward towards working with all stake holders so as to co-create a school where parents feel welcomed, the students are engaged in meaningful learning and the staff members feel valued and appreciated for their efforts.

Today’s world is a community of empowered, enlightened and enterprising nations. Let’s join hands to make it even more powerful with conscientious, smart and confident citizens who would make us proud of their multifaceted growth in the days to come.

What is the most important thing one learns in school?
Self-esteem, support, and friendship.

- Terry Tempest Williams

With Warm regards,

Ms. Asha Tiwari
Principal
MLZS, Pali
GUIDANCE on BOARD EXAM PREPARATION

Once we decide we have to do something we can go miles ahead

This quote speaks about how when we decide to achieve something we can achieve much more than what we have decided.

Ms. Joice Lobo
Principal
MLZS, Kanakapura

Dear Students,

Board exams are the decisive factor for your future endeavour.

By recording your goals and dreams on paper, you set in motion the process of becoming the person you most want to be. Put your future in your own good hands. As students, preparing for the 10th board examination you have to prepare well. Till now you had have faced some ground competitions with your classmates but this time you will have to face a great competition with numerous students across.

Effective study skills must be practiced in order to improve. It’s not enough to “think about” studying – you actually have to do it and then reflect on what you could be doing better. Here are a few tips.

Always believe in yourself. Get yourself organized. Manage your time well.

Planning is the most important factor while preparing for the exams. Prepare a time table for board preparations and give enough time for each subject.

Try to include short breaks between long hours of studies. Make sure to give some time for playing and re-energizing yourself. Meditating in between will surely help you relax and increase your concentration span.

Change your study topics every 1-2 hours to keep things interesting. Give yourself rewards for even small achievements with your studying. Follow the proper exercise, healthy diet and complete & comfortable sleep. Beside good preparation and study, rest and sleep are also essential for best learning.

The key to dealing effectively with exam anxiety is to work on what you have control over (how you study, what you study etc.) and not worry about what you can’t control (kinds of questions, how other students perform etc.)

You have to sacrifice from social media, friends, and other attachments. It is very important to train yourself to concentrate on the end results of the exams rather than getting distracted by the social media.

Whichever subject you study today you need to repeat the revision after two days again which will be helpful in reinforcement of the concepts.

Do not leave anything for the last moment which may create unnecessary tensions in you.

To get high marks, you will need to cover the entire syllabus with revision. Practice the sample papers along with the questions given at the end of the topic.

At the time of examination, you will have to do a fair amount of writing for this writing practice is very essential. Solve at least six complete papers at home by adhering to three hours time duration.

Each one of you have been blessed with innate potential within you. Tap that YOU and you can achieve whatever you have decided to. Believe in yourself. You all are born leaders. Take the lead and aim high.

The key to effective studying is all about planning – it’s a good idea to start that process NOW!

Wishing you all the very best in your exams. May all your dreams come true. May success follow you wherever you go!

Best wishes,

Ms. Joice Lobo
Principal
MLZS, Kanakapura.
The new decade at Mount Litera Zee School, Gwalior started on a celebratory note. The school hosted the Unique – U event, Third Regional Round for two other sister schools from Bhind and Jhansi.

The young Literans from all the three branches prepared themselves for an elocution (English/Hindi), extempore (English/Hindi), G.K. Quiz & Science exhibition. They were judged by the experts in their respective fields, Mr. Bhushan (RSD Zee Learn), Mr. Nitin (Key Accounts Manager Zee Learn), Mr. Sant Kumar (Ex. Joint Director Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Group of School, Bhopal), Ms. Shilpa Kinger(Professor ITM University, Gwalior), Ms. Meghna Sahni (Personality Development Trainer). The event was graced by the presence of Mr. Raghvendra Singh Tomar (Chairman, MLZS Gwalior), Ms. Archana Tomar (Director, MLZS Gwalior) and Principal (MLZS, Jhansi).

Judges for all the competitions appreciated the Uniqueness of preparation & presentation done by the Mount Literans. The enthralling G.K. Quiz, the stimulating Science Exhibition and the thought provoking Elocution & Extempore were conducted simultaneously at different venues on the school campus.

After an eventful and energetic day the event came to an end with a formal closing ceremony. MLZS, Gwalior lifted the spirits of the audience by presenting captivating cultural performances.

Mr. Bhushan (RSD, Zee Learn) addressed the MLZS family and reminded everyone how Zee Learn has been preparing students, to make this world a better place. The results were declared & the trophies were distributed. Everyone was appreciated for their participation by Mr. Sunil Bhalla Principal, MLZS, Gwalior.

MLZS, Bhind bagged 13 trophies, MLZS, Gwalior 10 trophies & MLZS, Bhind 6 trophies.

This event was a proof that Mount Literans have been preparing themselves for the ever changing world & stepping into the new decade, inspired & motivated.
WHO IS AMITABH BACHCHAN?

Amitabh Bachchan is a Bollywood actor who, in 1969, debuted in Saat Hindustani. His role in 1972’s Zanjeer made him an action movie star. In the 1980s, Bachchan held a seat in the Indian Parliament. In the 1990s, he started his own production company. He returned to acting in 1997, with Mrityudaata. In 2000, he began hosting the Indian version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.

EARLY LIFE

Amitabh Harivansh Bachchan, best known as Amitabh Bachchan, was born in Allahabad, India on October 11, 1942. India was still a British colony at the time, and would not achieve independence until five years later. Bachchan’s father was the renowned Hindi poet Dr. Harivansh Rai. His mother, Teji Bachchan, was a Sikh socialite. He has one younger brother, named Ajitabh.

Bachchan went to Sherwood College boarding school before enrolling in Delhi University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. Once he graduated, he became a freight broker in Calcutta. After a few years in Calcutta, Bachchan was ready for a change. He decided to move to Bombay and take a stab at Bollywood show business. By this time, India had been independent for nearly two decades, and Hindi cinema was thriving.

EARLY FILM CAREER

In 1969, Bachchan made his film debut in Saat Hindustani. Although the movie tanked at the box office, Bachchan still managed to capture the attention of directors. Soon enough, the offers started rolling in.

By the early 1970s, Bachchan had garnered popularity with audiences as the “angry young man” in a series of successful Hindi feature films. His starring role in Zanjeer was particularly instrumental in launching him to stardom as an action-movie hero. Bachchan’s performances in films like Laawaris, Coolie, Naseeb, Silsila, Sharaabi and Jaadugar continued to enamor fans of the tall and handsome action hero, and also landed him multiple Fanfare Awards. From the 1970s through the early 1980s, the swashbuckling Bachchan appeared in more than 100 films. He seized opportunities to work with India’s most acclaimed directors, such as Prakash Mehra, and dominated the silver screen with films like Trishul, Sholay and Chashme Buddoor. In addition to acting, Bachchan’s roles often required him to sing.

POLITICS AND BUSINESS

In 1982, Bachchan had a serious accident while filming. Fans prayed for his recovery. Bachchan survived the accident, but it prompted him to change career paths. In 1984, he traded his Bollywood stardom for a seat in the Indian Parliament. His political aspirations proved to be short-lived; in 1987, he left his seat due to unexpected controversy.

By the 1990s, the limelight surrounding Bachchan had begun to fade. But his decision to start his own entertainment production company, Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited, and make himself CEO, put him back in the headlines.

BACK TO ACTING

Bachchan followed his true calling and returned to the silver screen in 1997 with the film Mrityudaata, produced by ABCL. In 2000, he also started hosting the Indian version of the television game show Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?. Despite a few box-office failures in the 1990s, in the 2000s, Bachchan climbed his way back up to stardom as a film actor, earning additional Filmfare and International Film Award nominations for his work on films like Baghban (2003), Khakee (2004) and Paa (2009).

PERSONAL LIFE

Bachchan married movie actress Jaya Bhaduri in 1973. The couple have two children, a daughter and a son. Their daughter, Shweta Bachchan Nanda, is married to industrialist Nikhil Nanda, whose grandfather was the film director Raj Kapoor. Bachchan and Bhaduri’s son, Abhishek Bachchan, is also an actor and is married to actress Aishwarya Rai.

In addition to being a father and an actor, Bachchan devotes his time to charitable causes. In 2003 he was appointed a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
EAT WELL, LIVE WELL

Life is all about compromises. Well if you think that you can ignore your bad eating habits just because you are naturally fit or because you exercise regularly then you are absolutely wrong.

’Why do people eat?’- to supply our body with proper nutrients like carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals and vitamins, but is it important to eat everything? Why don't we change our lifestyle and why don't we try to have nutrients but not taste? Taste is found in everything from a salad to a cheese burger everything is tasty! You just have to feel it.

Healthy food is an important component of our lives, just like our vehicles can't move without fuel as fuel gives them energy. Hence, we also cannot be in motion without food as food also acts as our fuel and gives us energy to work.

A healthy eating plan includes all the nutrition and it emphasizes vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, fat free or low-fat dairy products and lean meat, fish, eggs etc. Everything limited is required in a healthy eating plan like limited fats, as if they are reduced to a normal fit man, he can feel sick and weak even if it is increased then a required amount it can cause harmful effects like obesity, nausea, diarrhea etc.

The benefits of eating healthy not only have a good effect on us physically but also mentally. It has many benefits such as weight loss, reduced cancer risks, diabetes management, heart stroke prevention etc.

It concludes that one should eat healthy to be healthy and to take care of our health is our first and most important job because health is wealth.

- Keshav Aggarwal
VI-A
MLZS, Bhatinda
If I had wings

If I had wings
I would have not spent my time on swings.
The sky would have been my home,
Which shines like a beautiful poem.
The sky, full of clouds and hope,
Makes me realize that there’s some scope.
Everything would have been mine,
But there is a difference between lustre and shine.
When everything will be mine,
Then I will definitely shine.
Up above the sky,
The universe says ‘Hi’
My childhood would have not witnessed swings
If I had wings

Written by - Anjali Singh
Grade - VIII
MLZS, Chandrapur

If I had wings

I would fly
Higher and higher,
With the beautiful birds
In the sky.
I would explore
The whole world
With my wings.
If I had wings,
I would hover over
The blue sea and listen
To the waves lapping on
The shire.
If I had wings,
I would drop sweets
From the sky and let kids
Enjoy them.

Written - Kanan Dholkiya
Grade - VII
MLZS, Chandrapur
**MY CLASSROOM**

My classroom is my bae  
I come here everyday  
Teachers come here to teach  
And sometimes we feel we are on a beach.

Boys come here to drool  
And girls to rule  
This is the small world  
Where legends stay

And chaos is created everyday.  
Imagination is drafted here only  
You will never feel lonely  
We come here to learn

And will create history.  
As this place is a big laboratory  
Every problem has a solution here  
Every query is investigated, assessed and concluded.

My classroom is my bae  
I come here everyday  
by  
**- Ms. Smriti Kumari**  
IX  
**MLZS, Nagothane.**

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**MOM & DAD YOU ARE THE BEST**

Mom and dad you are the best  
I will never be able to comprehend  
How greatly I am blessed  
When it comes to parents

Mom and dad you are the best  
You loved me and protected me  
And raised me with great care  
Every time when I needed you

You were always there  
If I look into my heart  
Closely I would see  
A special place is there  
For you within me

You give us blessings  
You are there to share our sorrows  
Help us grow with confidence  
And face the world with credence

Trust me  
You are my guiding angel  
And I love you more than anything  
Earthly or divine.

by  
**Ms. Sneha Vikram Vedpathak**  
VIII  
**MLZS, Nagothane.**
Art Effect

JHENKAR C - Grade : I
NIYA NAIJU - Grade : I
ADITHYA P - Grade : II
PIYUSH K KAROHATHKAR - Grade : I
THANMAY M NAYAK - Grade : III
Honesty and integrity are important traits to have in one’s life. In school, good student-teacher relationships come from mutual respect and trust.

In order to inculcate the values of honesty and integrity in students, MLZS-C initiated to set up Honesty Kiosk. Students can pick any stationery article from the Honesty Kiosk and deposit the equivalent amount in a money box. There shall be no monitoring whatsoever and the shop is run on a no-profit basis.

Although the response was very good, losses were incurred initially. But gradually over a period of 10 days, the students realised the system of Honesty Kiosk and began paying honestly for the articles bought by them. We hope that this small step will go a long way in building the foundation of life of these young Mount Literans and turn them into responsible citizens of tomorrow.
Like every year, in this year also on 29th January, 2020, Mount Litera Zee School, Contai celebrated Basant Panchami, the celebration dedicated to Devi Saraswati, goddess of knowledge and wisdom, with great enthusiasm.

Student’s colorful participation in the celebration made it a grand one. Students and all staff including honorable principal of the school Dr. Yogesh Maheswari offered flowers to goddess seeking her blessings in this auspicious occasion. At the end of Puja, students, parents and the others associated with the institution were distributed prasadi.

Abhigyan Chaudhuri
Assistant Teacher
MLZS, Contai
MLZS, Mylaudy on an International Platform

Martial Arts aces of MLZS, Mylaudy do the School and country proud at International Karate Tournament Held in Sri Lanka

Students of MLZS, Mylaudy, Raghav of Grade VIII and Austell Aaron Carter of Grade VII, participated in the International Karate Tournament held on 26.12.2019 at Sri Lanka.

Raghav won the first prize in Kumithe and Katta and stood second in team katta.

Austell Aaron Carter won the Second prize in Kumithe and Katta and stood First in team katta.

They have brought many laurels to the school and made MLZS, Mylaudy proud. Their participation and victory in the international tournament make us and the country feel proud.

Annual Day Celebration

At MLZS, Mylaudy Celebrating School Annual day provides the students an opportunity to showcase their various talents. The 6th Annual Day was celebrated on 21st December 2019 with a splendid theme for the evening "AURAFIESTA” which means ‘spreading the atmosphere of happiness’. Mr. Vasantha Kumar, MP, who is an active politician and philanthropist and Mr. Suresh Rajan, M.L.A were the chief guests for the evening.

Various dance programs, skits, mime and music concert were lined up as part of the cultural event.

Some of the dedicated teachers were awarded “Outstanding Teacher” award by the Guest of honor and our Chairman Mr. Thillai Chelvam, at the event.
Pongal was celebrated at MLZS, Mylaudy on 13 January 2020. On the occasion all teachers and students wore traditional dresses and looked very pretty. An inter-house Rangoli Competition was conducted. Parents and Grandparents were invited for the celebration. Staff members prepared pongal in the open space of the school portico. Various traditional games were conducted for the assembled parents and prizes were distributed to the winners.

A mini village was setup in the garden with traditional household things and an exciting bullock cart ride was also arranged. Everyone was served with a bowl of pongal and sugarcane. Students enjoyed the cart ride at the end of the celebration.

In this edition we bring you few words made popular by the Millennials, do enjoy reading them all and add them all in your word bank!

**WORD OF THE MONTH**

**HANGRY**
Researchers have proven that we experience anger when hungry, due to low levels of glucose. Without simple sugars like glucose, our brains can’t function properly. **Hangry** is the perfect adjective to describe that awful feeling when you’re stuck between an early lunch and late dinner.

"**SALTY**"
It sounds like a word only George Takei could pull off, but it’s become a favorite among millennials. It means being in a bad or grumpy mood.

"**TROLLS**"
Saying nasty things to strangers online.

**CRONUT**
Have you tasted the **cronut** yet? Imagine a **doughnut** and a croissant met on Tinder and created sweet, cinnamon-coated children. Love at first bite!

**STAYCATION**
A successful **staycation** maximizes your leisure time without breaking the bank. This frugal approach to vacationing requires a bit of imagination, but can yield surprising results.

Rather than traveling to an exotic country and spending thousands of dollars, simply stay local and get creative! Visit nearby parks, museums, and libraries. Your staycation can be a clever way of supporting local businesses while exploring hidden gems of your community.

"**BOUNCE**"
It's "when you have to leave someplace quickly. "I gotta bounce"

"**JOMO**"
The "fear of missing out" (FOMO) is so last generation. Millennials have upgraded to the next best emotion, the joy of missing out, or JOMO.
Mathematics has been considered as important subjects from ancient times in our country. It has been written in Vedangajyotisam by highlighting the importance of mathematics that

"Yatha sikha mayuranam, Naganam manayo yatha Tadvadvedangasastranam, Ganitam murdhan sthitam"

Just as branches of a peacock and jewel-stone of a snake are placed at the highest place of body (forehead), similarly position of Ganit is highest in all the branches of Vedah and Shastras.

This fact was well known by Indian philosophers and scholars that’s why they have given more concentration on mathematics. When the knowledge of mathematics was zero in Arabian and European countries that time mathematics had got remarkable achievement in India. In this contest it is better to say that mathematics was the Gyan Guru of the world in the 12th century.

In India mathematics has been originated from Rig-Veda. The history of mathematics could be divide in five periods.

1. Ancient Period (Before 500 BC)
   In this period Arithmetic, Algebra and geometry were methodically established.

(A) Vedic Period (1000 BC at least 6000 BC)
   In this period the invention of ‘zero’ and decimal value system was the great achievement of India in the field of mathematics. Decimal value system first reached to Arabian countries from India and then from Arabian to Western countries, because of this Arabian people called numbers 1 to 9 as ‘HINDSA’ and Western countries 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 are called as ‘HINDU ARABIC NUMERALS’

(B) Post Vedic Period (from 1000 to 500 B.C.)
   In this period Bodhayan, Aapastamb and Katyan mathematicians were very popular. In this period Bodhayan the famous mathematician invented ‘Bodhayan Sulv Sutra’ which is later known as Pythagorus theorem.

2. Pre Middle Time (500 BC- 400 AD)
   Vaychali Ganit, Surya Siddhanta and Ganita Anoyog of this time, rest of the writings of this time are lost. From the remainder pages of this time and the literature of Aryabhatt, Brahmagupt et-cetera of Middle Time, we can conclude that in this time too Mathematics underwent sufficient development.

Sathanang Sutra, Bhagvati Sutra and Anoyogdwar Sutra are famous books of this time. Apart from these the book titled Tatvarthaadigyam Sutra Bhashya of Jain philosopher Omaswati (135 BC) and the book titled Tiloyapannati of Aacharya (Guru) Yativrisham (176 BC) are famous writings of this time.

3. Middle Time or Golden Age 400 AD- 1200 AD)
   This period is called golden age of Indian Mathematics. In this time great mathematicians like Aryabhatt, Brahmgupt, Mahaveeracharya, Bhaskaracharya, Neel Kanta who gave a broad and clear shape to almost all the branches of mathematics which we are using today. The principles and methods which are in form of Sutra (formulae) in Vedas were brought forward with their full potential, in front of the common masses. The invention of value of ‘π’ up to four digit 3.1416 was by Aryabhatt 1st. To respect this time India gave the name “Aryabhatt” to its first space satellite.
4. Modern Period (1800 AD - Current)

In this time great mathematicians like Nrisingh Bapudev Shastri (1831 AD), Sudhakar Dwived (1831 AD), Ramanujam (1889 AD), Swami Bharti Krishnateerthaji Maharaj (1884-1960 AD). Swami Bharti Krishnateerthaji Maharaj wrote the book titled *Vedic Ganit*.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. Mathematics is the study of abstract system built of abstract elements. These elements are not described in concrete fashion.
2. Mathematics is the language in which God has written the universe.
3. Mathematics is the science of calculation.

**Reasons for keeping Mathematics in the school curriculum:**

1. Mathematics is the basic of the all sciences (Subjects).
2. Mathematics is the much related to human life.
3. Mathematics provides a definite way of thinking.

In this way Mathematics play a crucial role in our life. It is said that Mathematics is one of the subjects which is used in our daily life after than mother language. So, we must learn Mathematics whole heartedly and develop its importance in our life as well as we take further the warble of our ancestors. So, that India should get the highest position a world level in Mathematics.

*By this expectation………………*

**Govind Gupta**  
HOD Mathematics  
MLZS, Nagothane

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**Dear Mount Literans**  
Send in your picture story/article on any topic of your choice (Max 500 words) and get a chance to be featured in "The Literati"  
mail us at theliterati@mountlitera.com
India jumps five ranks to 35th in Worldwide Education for the Future Index 2019

India makes strides in teaching youths the skills for future. India jumped five ranks in the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019, as per a report published by The Economist Intelligence Unit.

The index ranks countries based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education. The report analyses education system from the perspective of skill-based education “in areas such as critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, collaboration, creativity and entrepreneurship, as well as digital and technical skills.”

Improvement across teaching and socio-economic environments

India ranked 35th on the overall index in 2019 with a total score of 53, based on three categories – policy environment, teaching environment and overall socio-economic environment. The country ranked 40th with an overall score of 41.2 across categories in 2018.

“Among the world’s largest economies, the US, UK, France and Russia all fell back in the index, while China, India and Indonesia took steps forward,” the report said.

In 2019, India scored 56.3 in policy environment falling from a 61.5 score in 2018. India’s score of 52.2 in the teaching environment category and 50.1 in the socio-economic environment category increased significantly from 32.2 and 33.3 in 2018 respectively.

POLICY CHANGES IN EDUCATION

The report, however, attributed India’s growth to the new education policy introduced by the government.

“India has made particular strides in the policy environment, with a new national education policy published in early 2019 that explicitly mentions future-oriented skills such as critical thinking, communication and entrepreneurship.” the report said.

India’s Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Union Budget 2020, had highlighted a New Education Policy to be announced soon under ‘Aspirational India’ that will focus on “greater inflow of finance to attract talented teachers, innovate and build better labs.” The policy will focus further on skill-based education.

FM had promised allocation of ₹99,300 crore to education and ₹3,000 crore for skills. The Ministry had also proposed to start degree level full-fledged online education programme along with apprenticeship embedded degree or diploma courses in 150 higher educational institutions which will begin by March 2021.

SHORTCOMINGS

The 2018 WEFFI report had highlighted the shortcomings in India’s education system emphasizing upon its inability to utilise the opportunity of internationalising its higher education system.

“China, India and Malaysia, for example, all have a great appetite to internationalise higher education systems” points out Rajika Bhandari of the Institute of International Education had said, as quoted in the report. Budget 2020 also proposed new additions to its study in India programme.

“India should be a preferred destination for higher education. Hence, under its “Study in India” programme, Ind-SAT is proposed to be held in Asian and African countries. It shall be used for benchmarking foreign candidates who receive scholarships for studying in Indian higher education centres,” Sitharaman had said in her speech.

A decentralised education system is another shortcoming of India’s education policy according to the 2019 report.

“Well-intentioned policy goals relating to future skills development often do not get filtered downward, a hazard in economies such as the US and India that have large, decentralised education systems,” the report said. Finland was at the apex of the index, with strengths across each category followed by Sweden.

The report and index were commissioned by the Yidan Prize Foundation. (Source – Hindu Business Line)
We need to start teaching young children about cybersecurity

- Hackers and fraudsters are increasingly targeting children, who are now using tech at an earlier age.
- Elementary school curricula should incorporate cybersecurity.
- Existing voluntary programmes aimed at younger children can show the way.

There are basic lessons children need to learn early in life to ensure their safety. Look both ways before crossing the street. Wear seatbelts. Avoid talking to strangers.

It's time to add another to the list: Beware hackers and cyber creeps.

In this era of rapid technological advancement, children need to immerse themselves in technology at a young age in order to start learning the skills they will use throughout their lives.

But they also need to be warned about the risks that accompany all those cool smartphone and computer applications. All too often, that isn't happening.

Elementary school teachers should include these cybersecurity basics in their everyday curricula. At a minimum, every young child should know how to keep their information private, to refrain from responding to strangers and to report anything unusual to an adult. Today, many don't.

Cyberattacks are nothing new, of course. But what is less understood is the extent to which children increasingly are being targeted. About one in four youth in the US will experience identity theft or fraud before they reach the age of 18, according to a 2019 estimate by the consumer credit reporting company Experian. Fraudsters are targeting their clean credit histories and, increasingly, their virtual wallets. What's more, about one in five American young people experience unwanted online exposure to sexually explicit material, while one in nine experience online sexual solicitation, according to a recent study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health. The main reason hackers and online fraudsters focus on youth is because children have easy access to the internet and smartphone apps and only minimal knowledge of the risks. Nearly half of American children ages three and four use the internet from their home, according to the National Center of Education Statistics.

Voluntary programmes in the US and elsewhere teach cyber literacy in greater depth than most national standards require. They range from cyber summer camps and national competitions to education modules for teachers to use in the classroom. But many are designed primarily for middle school and high school students. In Israel, for example, the Cyber Education Center’s Magshimim programme teaches high school students computer programming skills and how to mitigate different types of cyberattacks.

A handful of voluntary programmes provide online safety resources for elementary school students, beginning in kindergarten. Through its National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center (NICERC), the Department of Homeland Security offers free full-year K-12 STEM and cybersecurity courses to teachers and school districts. The Air Force Association's national CyberPatriot education programme offers free teaching modules like “security showdown” to teach kindergarteners what information is safe to share with strangers online, and publishes children's books like “Sarah the Cyber Hero.”

Kids can absorb this information like sponges. In just one day, through its CyberFirst initiative, the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre teaches children as young as 11 how to avoid the most common passwords, what information is collected every time they use social media, and how to track down “patient zero” when a cyberattack hits.

But such programmes, helpful though they are, don't reach millions of primary school students already at risk of becoming cyber victims.

As a cybersecurity expert, I prepare people for worst-case scenarios - and over the years, I have seen many of them materialize. Cyberattacks are today’s greatest threats to businesses, governments and societies. Every time technological innovations redefine what is possible, they simultaneously create new, unpredictable and interlinked vulnerabilities.

The combination of technological advances, higher interconnectivity and delays in cyber awareness permits global cyberattacks to spread like contagions. Targets are bigger than ever before and are leaving broader collateral damage.

Cyberattacks are no longer just concerns for companies and governments. Over the summer, a series of attacks on school district systems prompted Louisiana governor John Bel Edwards to declare a statewide emergency.

It doesn't have to be this way. As teachers incorporate more online educational tools into their curricula and parents permit children to play with online apps, they can simultaneously teach students of all ages basic cybersecurity skills and encourage them to become cybersecurity experts themselves. Children can be equipped to protect themselves from cyberthreats automatically, just like they look both ways before crossing the street.

Kids can soak up basic cybersecurity skills as rapidly as they pick up new technologies. We owe it to them to make that possible.

(Source – World Economic Forum)
India celebrates National Science Day on 28 February every year in honour of physicist C.V. Raman’s discovery of the Raman Effect, which gave Asia its first Nobel in the Sciences in 1930. Raman and his student-collaborator K.S. Krishnan made the discovery of the phenomenon in 1928. But Raman’s Nobel win came two years later. It was the first Nobel in Physics for a non-white person, and for an Indian scientist.

As India celebrates another year of the physicist’s discovery, The Print details the science behind it.

**The Raman Effect**

In 1921, C.V. Raman was on a trip to Europe when he noticed the striking blue colour of some icebergs and the Mediterranean Sea. He was inspired to want to understand the reason behind the phenomenon.

He conducted experiments with transparent blocks of ice and light from a mercury arc lamp. He recorded the spectra from shining the light through ice and detected what would come to be known as the Raman Lines, caused by the Raman Effect.

The Raman Effect is the process of scattering of light particles by molecules of a medium. The scattering occurs due to a change in the wavelength of light as it enters the medium. When a beam of light travels through a dust-free, transparent chemical, a small fraction of the light emerges in directions other than where it should.

Light consists of particles called photons, whose energy is directly proportional to the frequency with which they travel. When they strike molecules in a medium at high speeds, they bounce back and scatter in different directions depending on the angle with which they hit the molecules.

Most of these scatterings are elastic — the photons retain their energy and are deflected with the same speed as they were traveling with.

However, once in a while, the molecules of the medium light passes through absorb or give energy to photons that strike them. The light particles then bounce with decreased or increased energy, and thus, frequency.

When frequency shifts, so does wavelength.

This means that light refracted from a body, like the Mediterranean Sea or an iceberg, can appear to be of a different colour.

The effect is extremely negligible when measured and occurs in very low amounts, but each medium contains a specific molecular scattering signature, related to the particular molecule and its numbers.

This gave birth to the field of Raman spectroscopy, which has extensive applications around the globe, and across fields. It can help in determining chemical bonding structures, characterise materials, determine temperature, find out crystalline orientation, identify pharmaceutical chemicals, discover counterfeit drugs, identify pigments in old paintings and historical documents, and detect explosives using lasers from a distance.

Raman and Krishnan’s work was expected to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1928, and the next year, but didn’t until 1930. Raman won solely; Krishnan didn’t share the award, although his name was given an honourable mention.

**National Science Day**

In 1986, the Indian government instituted the National Science Day on 28 February, to be celebrated annually in academic and scientific institutions of all levels. The celebrations include public speeches, TV programmes, science exhibitions, and science popularisation awards. Every year, the day is celebrated with different themes to raise awareness about the importance of science in everyday life. The themes have ranged from waste management to information technology to GM crops. This year’s theme is ‘Women in Science’.

In an era of increased awareness about the problems plaguing women in STEM, many have criticised the commemoration of a well-celebrated male scientist, and setting the Nobel Prize, which is rapidly sinking into irreverence, as a benchmark.

Celebrating this year’s theme seems particularly ironic as Raman was well-documented for engaging in sexual discrimination against women in the sciences despite public championship of women’s education.

Raman denied admission to Kamala Bhagvat, a promising biochemist, to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). She staged a satyagraha outside his office, after which he admitted her under the conditions that she will be on probation for a year and she shouldn’t be “a distraction” to male researchers. (Source – The Print)
Indian men’s hockey team achieves all-time highest ranking

India’s excellent form in the first three rounds of the second edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League has seen the team move up a place to fourth.

The Indian men’s hockey team achieved its all-time highest ranking when it climbed up a place to fourth in the recently released FIH world rankings.

India’s excellent form in the first three rounds of the second edition of the FIH Hockey Pro League has seen the team move up a place from fifth in the rankings, a system that was introduced in 2003.

India’s rise comes at the expense of Olympic champion Argentina, which dropped to the fifth place.

World champion Belgium — which in January defeated Australia in Sydney to wrestle top spot from its opponent — remains in pole position, with the Kookaburras (2nd) and the Netherlands (3rd) also holding their positions in the top three.

Germany and England remain in sixth and seventh position, respectively, while New Zealand, which has earned two wins in its last three FIH Hockey Pro League matches, is static at eighth place after briefly dropping below Spain to ninth last month.

In the women’s list, India occupies the ninth spot. The Netherlands is at the top followed by Australia, Argentina, Germany and England.

The new model for calculating the FIH world rankings was introduced on January 1 2020, moving away from the previous tournament-based rankings system to a dynamic, match-based model where opposing teams exchange points in official, FIH sanctioned games.

The number of points exchanged depends on the result of the match, the relative ranking of the teams and the importance of the match.