



Mr. Vikash Kumar Kar
Chief Executive Officer

From the CEO's Desk.....

The past several weeks have seen the whole world being affected by the pandemic but it has also witnessed that when we come together, we can really make a difference and win. I hope each one of you is safe and is making an effort to keep people around you safe.

As a Business Leader, on behalf of my team, I want to thank each one of you for the collaborative spirit displayed. We want to assure that entire team at Zee Learn will continue to stand with our Business Partners to tide over this phase and emerge stronger.

The situation has given us enough opportunities to strengthen our pedagogical delivery and be ready to navigate through such disruptions. In close coordination with you, our teams have begun implementing several initiatives on virtual learning with the sole aim of Mount Literans having the right learning in their safe and comforting environment. The team is taking every

possible measure to maintain seamless delivery of the curriculum through our Learning Management System involving academic plans and extra-curricular activities so that you do not miss out on fun while learning.

As a silver lining, I am sure that the moment has allowed you to practice things that you may have not have been able to pursue well earlier amidst your busy life. This could include anything from spending quality time with your loved ones at home, exploring meditation, yoga or even cooking; things through which you experience holistic wellbeing.

One early assignment that I would like to suggest all my Mount Literans is for students to write letters to their future selves about **“What changed in your life during this pandemic and how this new normal will see positive outcomes for the global community,”** and do share it with us. We would publish the best three in the next edition of this newsletter!!!!

No words would be enough to thank the efforts of our educators who have kept the torch of learning constantly lit and also managed their household chores without compromise.

This situation has given us an important lesson that together we can emerge stronger and that small wise steps can make a large impact on the global wellbeing. I am very confident that we will all emerge much stronger.

Stay Safe and Healthy!

Mr. Vikash Kumar Kar
Chief Executive Officer
Zee Learn Limited

Bien joué.....MOUNT LITERA ZEE SCHOOL, COIMBATORE

French is the second language in the world by the number of countries that have adopted it as an official or administrative language. Except for English, French is additionally one amongst the foremost spoken languages in all the 5 continents.

Therefore, learning an International language and more specifically French enhances one's resume and helps to build and develop one's career in the long run, and also enriches one's personality because learning a new language helps to open one's mind to a world of new cultures **at Mount Litera Zee Schools.**

Aditi Sharma of Grade X secured 98% - in All India First Rank in French Olympiad.

She gets an opportunity to meet the French Embassy and return ticket to France. Where she will interact with the French

The Award ceremony will be held on 17th April 2020 in New Delhi.



ADITI SHARMA
MLZS, Coimbatore

ATAL TINKERING LAB LAUNCHED AT MLZS, COIMBATORE

'Atal Tinkering Lab' (ATL) is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.

The first ATL is approved and launched in South India at Mount Litera Zee School, Coimbatore.

ATL is a work space where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode; and learn innovation skills. Young children will get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). ATL would contain educational and learning 'do it yourself' kits and equipment on – science, electronics, robotics, open source microcontroller boards, sensors and 3D printers and computers. Other facility is video conferencing.

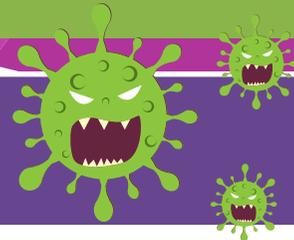
The lab will be set up in association with the Government with a Vision to **'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators'**.

The objective is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc. This will also be helpful for the students to develop their mechanical skills.

The Principal Ms. Themoli is thrilled to create a unique learning environment for the students of MLZS, Coimbatore.

The Lab work is underway. The ATL will be functional in the MLZS, Coimbatore from June 2020.

BEAT THE CORONA EMOTIONAL CHAOS!



Dr. Shyamala Dalvi
Lead - Inclusive Education,
Zee Learn Limited

Hi Parents,

As schools have closed and workplaces have gone remote to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, families everywhere are struggling to keep children healthy and occupied. You are anxious about how to protect and nurture kids through this crisis — given that you too have to juggle work obligations at the same time.

Let us understand that it is very natural to be anxious in the current circumstances. None of us have been trained to handle this crisis but how we manage this situation will have a lasting impact on our children.

It is important to know that during times of stress and crisis, it is common for children to seek more attachment and be more demanding on parents. By being more demanding they are just trying to feel secure and safe.

All over the world families and parents and children are facing these challenges and people are not sure what to do.

We have put down some pointers that we hope will be helpful in dealing with the crisis in a calm manner

1. KEEP ROUTINES IN PLACE

Setting and sticking to a regular schedule is the key, even when you're all at home all day. Children should get up, eat and go to bed at their normal times. Consistency and structure are calming during times of stress. In fact we must change into formal clothes not sit around in a night dress to get the feel of work time even if you are not working in an office. Children especially younger ones or those who are anxious, benefit from knowing what's going to happen and when.

2. BE MATTER OF FACT

Discuss the current situation with your children in an honest and age-appropriate way. If your children have concerns, addressing them together may ease their anxiety. Tell them as much as they can take. Be aware of the changes that may happen in your child's behaviour while you are talking about it. Children observe adults' behaviours and emotions for cues on how to manage their own emotions during difficult times.

3. LET'S EXERCISE

Parents, we all know that the one of the hormones related to make us happy is 'endorphin'. This gets released when we exercise, so this is a very opportune time to work on the physical exercising. Lot of videos on 'youtube' give you interesting options. Try it out with your children too. Believe it!! It's going to be fun

4. MANAGING EMOTIONS

Every child has his or her own way of expressing emotions. Children feel relieved if they can express and communicate their feelings in a safe and supportive environment. Help children find positive ways to express feelings such as fear and sadness. If a child asks something about the situation talk about it, explain without your anxiety taking over. For those moments when you do catch yourself feeling anxious, try to avoid talking about your concerns within earshot of children. If you feel your child's reactions are something that you are not able to handle call your counsellor/ doctor who can suggest interventions. Yoga and deep breathing have positive effects on the stress relief.

5. FAMILY BONDING

Parents, though this time is stressful, it is also a time when all of you are together, so make the most of these times. Play games that you may not have had the time to play ever (due to paucity of time). Do the kitchen chores together (washing dishes, dusting, cleaning vegetables). Delegate work. It helps the children to feel secure and a part of the system. It will build self-confidence and a sense of responsibility in them. Learn to try out new things – it could be music, art, cooking, cleaning, stitching, storytelling.

6. LIMIT CONSUMPTION OF NEWS

Staying informed is important, but it's a good idea to limit consumption of news and social media that has the potential to feed your anxiety, and that of your kids. Turn the TV off and mute or unfollow friends or co-workers who are prone to sharing panic-inducing posts.

7. STAY IN TOUCH VIRTUALLY

Keep your support network strong, even when you're only able to call or text friends and family. Physical socializing may not be possible but you must find time to connect virtually with all your friends and family. Socializing plays an important role in regulating your mood and helping you stay grounded. And the same is true for your children. Communication can help kids feel less alone and mitigate some of the stress that comes from being away from friends. So allow them to video call sometimes. They can share one positive thing or new thing that they have tried at home like a new drawing, learnt to fold clothes, lay the table etc.

8. WORK FROM HOME OR VACATION TIME?

Though adults are feeling apprehensive, to most children the words "School's closed" are cause for celebration. Let kids know that they are at home because of a reason and it is not vacation time. That is why having a daily routine is essential for children to understand the difference between a vacation and a work from home situation.

9. CHECK IN WITH LITTLE KIDS

Young children may be oblivious to the facts of the situation, but they may still feel unsettled by the changes in routine, or pick up on the fact that people around them are worried and upset. Children who are throwing a tantrum more than usual, being defiant or acting out may actually be feeling anxious. Always make sure to respond to outbursts in a calm, consistent, comforting way.

Finally Parents - "Be creative and be flexible," "and try not to be hard on yourself. You have to find a balance that works for your family. The goal should be to stay sane and stay safe.



BEAT THE CORONA EMOTIONAL CHAOS!

Hey Boys and Girls!

You have been home for sometime now. Initially very excited that you have got 'holidays' but slowly realizing that it is not really a holiday. There is so much of stress all around, everyone is in a lockdown, all are at home –no one being able to go out at all. Those adults who do go out are associated with essential services or are working in the health department etc.

I am sure loads of information is getting circulated through the social media, watsapp, news channel, and so on. But I do hope you are listening to the right messages for example our PM's speech, guidelines from WHO, information from our ministry of health and family welfare.

You all are now growing up and are able to think and reason and that is why this note is addressed to you and not your parents. This time or these days if utilized well can be a lot of fun and a phase of new learning. Let's see how we can make these days productive and interesting.

1. HAVE A ROUTINE

All of us are creatures of habit. If we don't have a routine we will forget the difference between day and night!!! So get up at the usual time, do all the routine work, set time for studies, set time for helping in the household chores. Also add exercise to your routine. Why exercise!! Putting down reasons for that too.



2. FIT OR FAT

Being at home whole day, eating delicious food cooked by Mom or Grandmom and of course watching TV will only lead to putting on weight. So bring in exercise to your routine. Did you know that exercising releases endorphins hormone which helps us feeling good!! Honestly, check it on Google. In fact exercise is very essential in the times of stress. So go on – do some crunches/ yoga/ dancing or spot jogging. Do it alone, with your siblings or with your parents. The idea is have fun and be fit.



3. KNOW YOUR FACTS

Talk with your parents about the situation. Clarify your doubts. It is natural to feel a little overwhelmed with this situation, sharing your thoughts with family helps reducing the stress. Watch news only from correct sources. Don't believe every forward on the watsapp. Beware of fake news. If you are feeling troubled it is better to switch off from the information overload. Adults' or your parents may also be a little tense and uncertain and that too is natural, because no one had planned for this situation. But remember this is a phase and things will get sorted out in due course of time.

4. STUDY TIME OR VACATION

I am sure in your minds you must be feeling that 'wow what fun no studies/ exams'. But there is a difference in this time of yours at home. It is called 'work from home'. Am sure many of your parents must be continuing to work despite being at home. So for you too, it is 'studying from home'. It is essential that you follow the schedule. Your teachers must be sending work for you, planned out so that you don't miss out on learning. Ensure that you follow that and complete whatever assignments are given.



BEAT THE CORONA EMOTIONAL CHAOS!

5. FAMILY BONDING TIME

Though all of you are at home, and it seems a stressful time, you can still make it a family bonding time. Get your parents to play games that they used to play in their childhood. Teach them new games that they are not aware of. Set a time for it, everyday. Do the kitchen chores together(learn to wash dishes, dust, clean vegetables, dry clothes etc). Sharing household chores proves that you are old enough to help at home. It will build self- confidence and a sense of responsibility, and as for your parents they will feel proud that their child is capable. Learn also to try out new things – it could be music, art, cooking, cleaning, stitching, story telling.



6. LIMIT CONSUMPTION OF NEWS

Staying informed is important, but it's a good idea to limit consumption of news and social media that has the potential to feed your anxiety, and be a cause of tension for everyone at home. Turn the TV off, don't spend too much time on gadgets may it be phone, computers, and whatever else that makes you only look at the screen. There is research that states that too much screen time interferes with attention skills, sleep issues, loneliness. There are more effects – try researching about it. Obviously you will ask 'what should we do if not play on the smartphone'. This is where the whole scheduling thing will work. Have a plan for everyday.

By the end of this .. you would have changed into a mature, grown up and responsible young girl or a boy or should we say young adults...

All the very best !!



MOUNT LITERA ZEE SCHOOL, MYSORE

PRINCIPAL BAGS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD 2019

The 'Global Gurus - Pragyaan Brahma' AWARD -2019 is a Media platform who works in the field of education, healthcare, & CSR and create platforms where corporate, government & other industry leaders can come together to discuss & deliberate.

DR. PREETHY VINCENT, Principal, Mount Litera Zee School, Mysore

was awarded "Principal of the Year 2019" "CERTIFICATE OF HONOR" by BRAIN WONDERS – India's largest Career counseling company.

The Award was presented by GLOBAL GURUS, Pragyaan Brahma, Chinmaya Mission, Delhi. Brainwonders was established under the concept of Research and Development from Dermatoglyphic theory and the application(DMIT) from the latest technology. With the DMIT analysis, our analysts are able to discover the inborn intelligence of each child and the best way to learn.



IRRFAN KHAN



Sahabzade Irrfan Ali Khan or Irrfan Khan was born and brought up in Jaipur, India. He was born into a Muslim Nawab family. He was studying for his M.A. degree when he earned a scholarship to study at the National School of Drama (NSD) in New Delhi in 1984.

Irrfan was a skilled cricket player. In his early 20's he was selected for the CK Nayudu Tournament (a stepping stone to First Class cricket). He did not turn up for the tournament owing to lack of funds and as a result he focused on acting.

CAREER

After graduating in 1987, Khan moved to Mumbai, where he acted in numerous television serials like 'Chanakya', 'Sara Jahan Hamara', 'Banegi Apni Baat' and 'Chandrakanta' (Doordarshan) and 'Star Bestsellers' (Star Plus), Sparsh, etc.

He was the main villain in a series called Darr (which aired on Star Plus), where he played the role of a psycho serial killer, opposite Kay Kay Menon. He also played the role of the famous revolutionary Urdu poet and Marxist political activist of India Makhdoom Mohiuddin in Kahkashan produced by Ali Sardar Jafri.

He acted in some of the episodes of Star Bestsellers (aired on Star-Plus). In one of the episodes, his role was of a shopkeeper who has a misconception that his landlord's wife was trying to seduce him & it turns out that his own wife (Tisca Chopra) was cheating on him.

In the other one, he played the role of an office-accountant who, after been insulted by his lady-boss, took revenge by making her mad. He also appeared in a serial called Bhanvar (aired on SET India) in two episodes. In one episode, he performed the role of a thug who somehow landed in a court, where he presented himself as a lawyer.

Theatre and television kept him afloat until Mira Nair offered him a cameo in Salaam Bombay (1988) though his role was edited out in the final film.

In the 1990s, he appeared in the critically acclaimed film Ek Doctor Ki Maut and Such a Long Journey (1998) and various other films which went unnoticed.

After many unsuccessful films, things changed when London-based director Asif Kapadia gave him the lead in The Warrior, a historical film completed in 11 weeks on the locals in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. In 2001, The Warrior stormed in international film festivals, making Irrfan Khan a known face, world over.

In 2003, he acted in Indian born writer-director, Asvin Kumar's short film, Road to Ladakh. After the film received rave reviews at international festivals, the film was made into a full length feature, again starring Irrfan Khan. That same year he played the title role in the critically acclaimed Maqbool, an adaptation of Shakespeare's Macbeth.

His first Bollywood main lead role came in 2005 with the film Rog. Thereafter, he appeared in several films either playing the leading role or a supporting role as a villain. In 2004, he won the Filmfare Best Villain Award for his role in the film Haasil.

In 2007, he appeared in the box office hits Metro, for which he received a Filmfare Best Supporting Actor Award, and The Namesake, which was a hit overseas. They were closely followed by his appearance in the international films A Mighty Heart and The Darjeeling Limited.

Even after becoming a successful actor in Bollywood, he has not severed his ties with television. He used to anchor a show 'Mano Ya Na Mano' (aired on Star One). He had hosted another programme called "Kya Kahen" which was on the similar lines of Mano Ya Na Mano based on superstition and extra sensory perception.

In 2008, he featured as a narrator in an Arts Alliance production, id - Identity of the Soul. The performers toured worldwide, where tens of thousands turned out to see the event as it toured the West Bank. He also played the police inspector in the 2008 film Slumdog Millionaire, for which he won the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

His international recognition came when he portrayed the role of a Non Resident Bengali Professor in the USA in the lead role of the English movie The Namesake directed by Mira Nair. This movie was critically acclaimed by every important US newspaper. After this movie, he was a recognizable actor abroad. In fact, Khan was unknown there until this movie made him a household name in India.

PERSONAL LIFE

Khan is married to writer Sutapa Sikdar who's also an NSD graduate and they have a son named Babil. On March 16, 2018, Khan announced through a Twitter post that he is suffering from neuroendocrine tumour. He also said that he will be travelling abroad for his treatment.

DEATH

He died at the age of 54, was under observation for colon infection.



NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY OBSERVED AT MLZS, CONTAI

The day started with a delightful speech delivered by grade 8 students Shreyanka Sathpathy and Priyanka Das based on the significance of National science day. Then one collage demonstration was presented by Irin Khan of class11. Then it was the time to felicitate our guest of honour Dr. Sabyasachi Nanda who graced the occasion. In the same time the declaration of the fund money(Rs 1022) collected from the Waste Material Stall was handed over to the School authority. Selected students of all the classes (From 3 to 11) have participated with full enthusiasm. Our Sr. Coordinator Mr. Jayanta Ghosal Sir, Middle School Coordinator MS Satabdi Panigrahi Madam, Primary In charge Mrs Rimu Roy Das Madam and Honorable Kalyan Sir were present during the activity. They have given their valuable feedback for the same. Moreover the session was a vibrant and stimulating one.

All the students have put their best effort to make the session successful.



SANSKAAR - A Moral and Cultural Development Program at Mount Litera Zee Schools, SOUTH

Pride Valley Mount Litera Zee School, organised a Math Mela on 18 January 2020 to showcase that Math is an interesting subject and it can be taught in various ways using models, board games. The Activity was conducted for students of Grade 1 to Grade VI.

Students explained different methods, Short formulae for fast calculation of high number combination . The tricks to solve the problems through various hands on activities were amusing and convincing for parents.

Parents were happy to see their ward's performance and the way they explained various Mathematical concepts. It was an exploratory event for both students and parents.



Student Led Conference held at MLZS, Nagothane

Jindal Mount Litera Zee School, Nagothane has set a new benchmark by conducting activities in such a way that the students not only enjoy but also learn a great deal from it. This perspective was showcased by the students during their student-led conference which was held in January 2020.

Students displayed an exhibition cum sale of their articles for the parents and teachers. Master Vansham Gupta, Aishwarya Shinde, Jaishid Rathod, Anurag Patel and Gargi Mehta of class V-B displayed their paintings.

Miss. Poorva Joshi, Aarya Jadhav of class IV-B, Pooja Bhatt of V-A and Muskan Shaikh of V-C displayed their craftwork for sale. Through this students acquired the knowledge of marketing skills and self-belief enhanced among the students. This concept was appreciated by the parents.



MLZS, Nagothane students bags Veer Sarvarkar State Level Drawing Competition

Today's world is competitive. Their competitions give us a chance to brush up on our skills and show our talent. Students from Jindal Mount Litera Zee School, Nagothane participated in veer Savarkar State Level drawing competition held at Dadar, Mumbai on 2nd February 2020. Master Swayam Sajekar and Miss Mrudula Wachkavde of class IV-B and Master Viraj Bharose of class I-A achieved consolation prizes. Art teacher Mr Ganesh Rane also received the consolation Prize.



Art Attack !

MOUNT LITERA ZEE SCHOOL, CHANDRAPUR



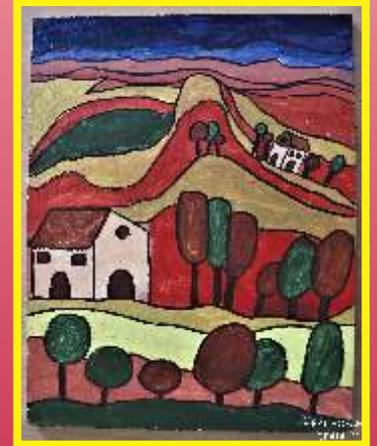
HIRAL HOKAM
Grade: V



RISHI JADWANI
Grade: VII



KANAN DHOLAKIA
Grade: VII



HIRAL HOKAM
Grade: V

MOUNT LITERA ZEE SCHOOL, MYSORE



THANMAY M NAYAK
Grade: 3E

ADITHYA P
Grade: II E



PIYUSH K KAROHATHKAR
Grade: I B

NIYA NAIJU
Grade: I B



MLZS, Jagdalpur apply Camping Therapy for its Mount Literans with finesse.....

“In a Journey, Who You Travel With Is More Important Than The Destination.”

Above statement is so true in our life.

To experience the essence of this quote and to make the children explore this feeling of warmth of a family at school and to develop the emotional, social skills and enhance their life skills, MLZS Jagdalpur organized a *Night Camp* on 22nd February 2020 (Saturday).

The campers had a "fun-tastic" evening. There were series of fun-filled activities. They were welcomed to their first night camp ever, with Camp Opening ceremony and learning outcome, do's and don'ts by respected Principal Farhan Ahmed sir.

After this **"Honey make a new Buddy"** Game was played to do a small interaction, in which campers were told to sit together with those who wore same color dresses. This game helped the campers to open up, unplug and build friendship with new people.

Secondly, ***Colour Handprint*** of the campers were taken in the Canvas. Making handprint crafts as an opportunity to freeze and preserve a moment in time. Sometimes those moments are captured in paint, ink or clay but one thing is for sure, when it comes to child's handprints there is no time like the present to capture this particular moment.

"Wiggles & Giggles- Go Round and Round" Our next games name was little confusing but the game was very simple, which is commonly known as ***Musical Chair***. This game was for Grade-1, 2&3. The campers enjoyed the game very much.

And for Grade- 4 to 7 we had **"Brain Train Activity"** which was a memory game to check the memory power of the campers.

The most awaited part of the night camp was ***Glow in the Dark*** i.e., ***Bonfire***. Everything looks prettier when a bonfire glows around it. And the campers started glowing by showing their hidden talents (dance, song, poems, jokes etc.) as they got a platform named ***Talent Show.***

Good times with friends makes the best memories and movies add stars on that. **"Binge- Movie Time"** was the one of those memories for the campers. In which they learned handling real life Situation by watching **"Touch"** a thought provoking movie by Chhattisgarh Police made for Children Awareness.

Some things just make you feel instantly better! Food is one among them. It was not just an ordinary dinner. It was ***Pool Dinner*** were campers brought food from home and showed the quality of caring and sharing their varieties of food which was a small example of diversity.

To Develop sportsmanship, decision making, management and helping to grow as responsible members of their families. There was a session of **"Life Skills"** which included ***folding clothes, preparing school bag, tying a tie, tying shoe lace etc.*** to develop system for daily living and getting ready for Hostel Life ahead, essential for Career building.

Before going to the bed, it was the time for **"Grandma Tales"** In this, teachers dressed like grand mother and narrated a story to the campers which gave a moral- ***Always speak the truth.***

After this it was the bed time, campers went to their room, they brushed their teeth and they then retired to bed in dreamland with their friends and teachers.

The next morning saw a fresh start and the campers in their renewed energy made their bed as last night they learned bed making in the ***Life Skills*** session.

Then along with their Principal sir and teachers, they were out on the field for some ***Yoga and Meditation.***

"Healthy mind resides in Healthy body" based on this principle all campers got guided for healthy start of every day (***even at home***). Campers performed various Asanas of Yoga after light warmup in the Calm surroundings of MLZS Jagdalpur.

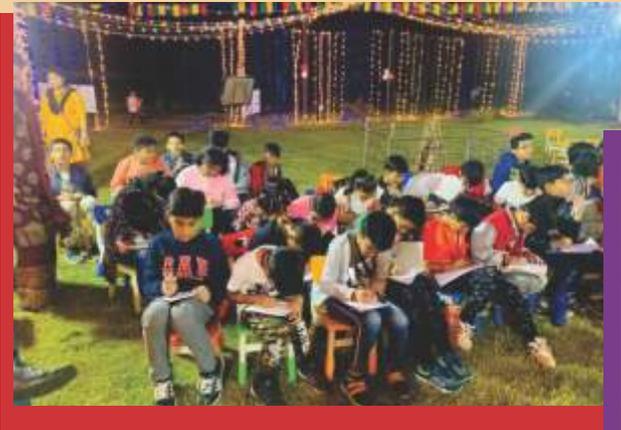
Appreciating that health of mind and body is a sacred gift and that physical fitness and mental well-being are conditions to be achieved and maintained..

"Healthy body requires healthy food", campers served with Healthy Breakfast and in their wait time for their parent to pick them back home they utilized by sweating again with their friends.

Winners of various activities were recognized by Principal MLZS Jagdalpur, few of them expressed their learning as well before all other campers.

Campers left MLZS on the next morning with an expectation to meet again, soon. This camp acted as stress buster for all participants and we expect that its positive impact will be reflected in their daily life.

The aim was to make the campers develop self confidence, self esteem. Developing awareness of self in relationship to nature. Discovering creativity and new interest among campers. To Develop leadership quality. Helping campers work together with their own peer groups, sharing responsibilities and relating self to other people. Helps to recognize the worth of all persons and work for inter- racial and inter group understanding. To Adapt new/ supportive surroundings meant for Holistic development.



National News

Intel joins CBSE to empower 1 lakh Indian students in Artificial Intelligence

Initiatives include the roll-out of an Artificial Intelligence curriculum framework for grades VIII, IX and X for 22,000 schools, with the aim to empower 1 lakh students within 2020, Intel said

Tech giant Intel and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to digitally empower nearly 1 lakh students with Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration in India's education system.

Initiatives include the roll-out of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum framework for grades VIII, IX and X for 22,000 schools, with the aim to empower 1 lakh students within 2020, the company said in a statement.

The curriculum is based on 'Intel AI For Youth', which is an immersive, hands-on learning programme using experiential methodologies covering both social and technological skills.

"AI has become a strategic imperative for worldwide economic growth and will continue to be one of the most crucial technologies of the future," said Shweta Khurana, Director-Programmes, Partnerships and Policy Group at Intel India.

"Our collaboration with CBSE is a meaningful step towards enabling our youth to become digitally-empowered and effectively utilise emerging technologies such as AI to solve pressing local and global challenges," Khurana added.

The MoU also stated that Intel along with CBSE will soon be launching a 'National AI Olympiad' to motivate young students to showcase their meaningful social impact solutions as evidence of achievement.

According to the company, it has been estimated that by 2030, AI, in all its applications, is predicted to contribute US\$15.7 trillion to the global economy.

India's own AI strategy identified artificial intelligence as an opportunity and solution provider for inclusive economic growth and social development.

The comprehensive programme called 'Intel AI For Youth,' aimed at empowering the young generation to become AI-ready.

Together with CBSE, the chip-making giant has curated an outcome-oriented AI curriculum for students of grade VIII and above.

The curriculum was piloted with eight schools, training youth to create AI projects focused on social impact in 2019, with the aim of empowering 1,00,000 students with AI-readiness skills in 2020.

"Our collaboration with Intel has helped us empower the youth with AI skills in an inclusive way and we hope to take this journey ahead in a big way in the coming years," said Biswajit Saha, Director, Skill Education and Training, CBSE. (Source – The Hindu)



National News

How India's behemoth railways are joining the fight against Covid-19

India is preparing for a potential surge in Covid-19 patients by tapping into an unusual resource: its trains, which power the world's fourth biggest rail network.

The country suspended its passenger trains for the first time after it announced a three-week lockdown on 25 March to contain the coronavirus. As of Wednesday, it had reported 4,643 active cases and 149 deaths, and the numbers are rapidly increasing.

"We, at the railways, thought: how can we contribute?" its spokesman, Rajesh Bajpai, told the BBC. "So we came up with this idea and everyone liked it."

Work has already begun to convert 5,000 train coaches into quarantine or isolation wards, which amounts to 40,000 beds. And the railway ministry says it's prepared to convert 15,000 more coaches.

The Indian railways - as the ministry is known - is a behemoth. Largely constructed during British rule, it's still the mainstay of India's public transport, and includes some of the world's busiest urban rail systems. It transports 23 million passengers a day and its 12,000 trains crisscross 65,000km (40,389 miles) of tracks, connecting the remotest parts of India.

Mr Bajpai says the coaches can be spared as they are mostly trying to convert older ones, and passengers will be fewer than ever in the coming months even if restrictions are eased.

He adds that this is not unusual for the railways, which already runs several "special" trains, from luxury trains to exhibition trains to a hospital train, complete with operation theatres.

"The coach is a shell and inside, you can provide anything - a drawing room, a dining room, a kitchen, a hospital."

A looming crisis?

And India may well need the extra beds.

States have already turned all sorts of spaces - sports centres, stadiums, wedding venues, hotels, resorts - into quarantine or isolation centres. But officials fear they will run out of space as the country ramps up testing.

For every person who tests positive, there are scores more who need to be traced, quarantined and, if necessary, isolated. But isolation at home is not always an option in India's joint family households - and especially not in its densely-populated slums.

In Mumbai's Dharavi, a sprawling slum, officials sealed off an entire building where 300 people lived after one of its residents tested positive. But the looming concern is, in the event of more such outbreaks, where will they send high-risk or symptomatic patients?

"There are so many options available and this [the coaches] is one of the options," Mr Bajpai says.

He doesn't foresee them being used until beds in existing quarantine or isolation centres are filled. But, he adds, they will keep them ready with the necessary facilities.

That includes converting one of the two toilets in each coach into a "bathing room", providing oxygen cylinders in every coach, and modifying all the cabins so they can hold medical equipment. And then there are measures that are specific to Covid-19 - such as replacing taps that turn with those that have long handles, and fitting dustbins with foot pedals.

The ministry has also ordered extra coat hooks and mosquito nets for every cabin, and has instructed officials to make sure that charging points are working, the upholstery "is in good condition" and "broken panels are replaced".

National News

The coaches are being readied in 130 different locations across the country, but it's yet to be decided where they will be stationed.

Mr Bajpai says it's up to states to decide which stations they want the coaches in. But that in itself is a process because the coaches need regular water and electric supply.

And there are other concerns too. Summer has begun and large parts of India record scorching temperatures, often more than 40C. And the coaches that are being converted are not air-conditioned.

"The patient will be very uncomfortable. Doctors and nurses will be wearing protective gear, and they will find it very difficult," says Vivek Sahai, a former chairman of the railway board.

He also says not everyone might be comfortable squatting to use Indian-style toilets; and he wonders if all the designated coaches have a proper system of waste management. (Indian coaches are designed to dispose of human waste onto the tracks although new technologies have begun to be adopted in recent years.)

"I am not saying it cannot be done but they have to take care of these things," he says. "But if anybody can do it, it's the railways." However, some experts say that this by itself is not going to help solve India's problems.

"You don't just need space," says Dr Sumit Sengupta, a pulmonologist. "We need thousands of doctors and nurses if you really have to make a dent."

India is severely short of both, and at least three hospitals have been sealed this week alone after members of the staff tested positive.

"Why isolate someone who has symptoms when there is no treatment? Because you don't want them to spread the infection," Dr Sengupta says.

But, he adds, the virus is spreading anyway because so many patients are asymptomatic. He says isolating symptomatic patients will not help unless India starts testing aggressively.

"This will work only as part of a larger strategy," he adds. "Test, trace and isolate. Test should come first."

(Source – BBC)





Science News

60 students selected for PM innovative programme 'DHRUV' at ISRO headquarters

TOP 10 TIPS TO STAY SAFE DURING AN EPIDEMIC

Don't panic. From flu to COVID-19, these key steps can limit your risk of most infections

Whether **Bird Flu**, the coronavirus **COVID-19**, **MERS** or **Zika**, the threat of a serious epidemic can strike fear in people across the globe. It's wise to respect these infections. After all, each can seriously sicken people. Still, there's no reason to panic. You can protect yourself by practicing good hygiene.

Here's what infectious-disease experts and officials at the World Health Organization advise:

1. WASH YOUR HANDS!

Often. Assume that sneezes or germ hands have left infectious residues on every surface that you have not personally cleaned or seen cleaned (especially outside your home). Scrub away for 20 seconds. (Sing the Happy Birthday song twice — and not quickly — while you wash.) Don't forget to wash between fingers and under nails. If soap and water is unavailable, you can disinfect hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Another option: If you have to turn a door knob, put a clean tissue or paper towel between the knob and your hand.



2. DISINFECT SURFACES

These include desk tops, phone keypads, computer keyboards, TV remotes, door handles and kitchen counters. Rub them down with a rag or paper towel that has been dampened with alcohol-based disinfectant. (Don't get electronics wet. A dampened rag is sufficient and won't harm your devices.)

3. DON'T EAT FOOD OR HANDLE DISHES OR UTENSILS TOUCHED BY A SICK FAMILY MEMBER

If you must touch a spoon someone else has handled (but not had in their mouth), do so. Then wash your hands.

4. DON'T SHARE A TOWEL WITH ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD WHO IS SICK

Get your own and make sure it is washed regularly with hot water. Dry towels in the sun or a hot dryer cycle.

5. DON'T SHAKE HANDS, KISS OR HUG PEOPLE

This is the time for fist- or elbow bumps or smile from an arm's distance





Science News

6. DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

It's hard not to. Most people do it without thinking several times each hour. But germs you pick up from touching a contaminated surface may begin reproducing as soon as they contact moist areas of our eyes, nose and mouth.



7. AVOID CROWDS

If you must go out where plenty of people are present, whenever possible keep a cough's distance away from them — about a meter (or yard). Someone near to you may be infected and show no symptoms.



8. WEAR GLOVES WHILE OUT IN PUBLIC

Any cotton, wool or lycra glove will do. Don't touch the outside of the gloves when you remove them. And once home, wash the gloves in hot water (but don't dry wool ones with heat or they'll shrink). Disposable latex or other types of plastic gloves can be reused several times if you spray the outside with an alcohol-based disinfectant right before taking them off.

9. DON'T SHARE PAPERS

Now is the time to use digital documents. If your teachers don't ask you to write papers on a computer, suggest it. But make sure that everyone is expecting to move documents this way and looks for them. When it comes to the daily mail, dispose of envelopes and any papers you don't need as soon as you can. And then wash your hands.

10. PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

Wash your hands. Cough and sneeze into your elbow. Keep in mind that you may become infected and show no symptoms. This means you might be able to infect people at high risk of serious disease, such as an elderly grandparent or a classmate with asthma. Finally, what about masks? Viruses can pass through the materials in most masks. There are some very expensive types (known as N-95 and N-99) that have been made to largely control exposure to disease. But during epidemics, they should be reserved to help those on the frontlines of disease — doctors and nurses. Cheaper surgical masks tend to help healthy people. Their biggest benefit is in curbing the release of infected droplets of saliva and snot from people who are already ill.

WORDS OF THE MONTH

AT THE ONSET OF THE LOCKDOWN LET US DECIPHER THE TERMINOLOGY YOU HEAR ON EVERYDAY BASIS

1. COVID -19 - Corona Virus Infectious Disease caused by Corona virus strain 19

2. SOCIAL DISTANCING : has been in use since the early 19th century, initially with the meaning of “the degree of acceptance or rejection of social interaction between individuals and especially those belonging to different social groups (such as those based on race, ethnicity, class, or gender).”

In modern use the term is more often encountered with the meaning of “the avoidance of close contact with other people during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection.” The practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance from other people is referred to as social distancing.

3. EPIDEMIC OUTBREAK : An outbreak is “a sudden rise in the incidence of a disease”; an epidemic is “an outbreak of disease that spreads quickly and affects many individuals at the same time”

4. PANDEMIC OUTBREAK : a pandemic is “an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area and affects an exceptionally high proportion of the population.” An outbreak may become an epidemic if it spreads enough, as an epidemic may likewise become a pandemic.

5. COMMUNITY SPREAD : “the spread of a contagious disease within a community.” It also has the specific meaning of “the spread of a contagious disease to individuals in a particular geographic location who have no known contact with other infected individuals or who have not recently traveled to an area where the disease has any documented cases.”

6. QUARANTINE : is currently most often found with the meaning of “a restraint upon the activities or communication of persons or the transport of goods designed to prevent the spread of disease or pests for a specified number of days.

7. ISOLATION: is the complete separation from others of a person suffering from contagious or infectious disease.

8. CONTAGIOUS AND INFECTIOUS : Contagious and infectious often cause confusion, as the words overlap in significant ways, yet also have meanings which are in some ways distinct. Contagious is “transmissible by direct or indirect contact with an infected person,” and infectious is “producing or capable of producing infection” and “containing pathogenic agents which may be transmitted.” Both infectious and contagious diseases are caused by **bacteria** and **viruses**; they differ in that contagious diseases may be spread by direct or indirect contact.

An ailment such as food poisoning is infectious, it is capable of producing infection, but it is not contagious. The **coronavirus**, on the other hand, is both contagious and infectious. Anything that is contagious is automatically also infectious, but the reverse is not true. Both words are frequently used in a figurative manner.

9. VENTILATOR : is a machine that helps a patient breathe. It pumps oxygen into the lungs and removes carbon dioxide through a tube.

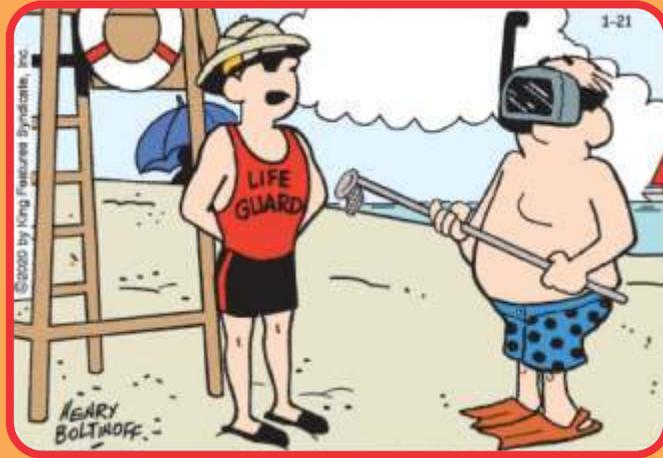
Because COVID-19 is a respiratory disease, it can cause lung inflammation, which makes it hard for patients to breathe. That's why ventilators are necessary to help treat some patients with the infection, depending on the severity of their symptoms.

10. WHO

WHO stands for the World Health Organization, a United Nations agency based in Geneva, Switzerland.

According to the WHO, its main role is to direct and coordinate international health within the United Nations system. Their main areas of work are health systems; health through the life-course; noncommunicable and communicable diseases; preparedness, surveillance and response; and corporate services.

FIND THE DIFFERENCE



Differences:
 1. Flipper is longer. 2. Hat is different. 3. Ear is smaller.
 4. Rung is missing from ladder. 5. Stripe on swimsuit wider.
 6. Man is thinner.

SUDOKO

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WORLD SEARCH

Circulatory System

T	H	N	U	O	T	H	A	M	I	M	D	R	C
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- CARDIAC
- ATRIUM
- ARTERY
- BLOOD
- CIRCULATORY
- PUMP
- VENTRICLE
- HEART
- VEINS
- MUSCLE

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