

# Opening e-classrooms to all, building a dream byte by byte

A dream born in an e-classroom can envision the future of education system. While teachers have fought all odds during the pandemic times—logistics, timeplan, funding and following abridged curriculum, little did they expect two major concerns—digital apartheid still prevalent in India and stress among kids coping with this transformation. A look at these two issues with numbers and how the government, policy makers and teachers are addressing the concerns.

## DIGITAL APARTHEID



**THE ISSUE:** The Delhi High Court recently directed private and government schools to provide gadgets and an internet package to students from the economically weaker sections, saying not doing so creates a "digital apartheid."

**SOLUTION:** The court ordered that if schools were to provide online education as a method of teaching, "they will have to ensure that the students belonging to the economically weaker sections also have access to gadgets".

## A LOOK AT NUMBERS

1,000 K-12 schools across the country are up for sale as they seek a cumulative investment of ₹7,500 CRORE within the next two-three years to stay open.

SOURCE: CERESTA VENTURES



Over the past year, we have had 1.8 billion children out of school globally leaving millions with huge gaps in learning & literacy. Mirai Partners is joining hands with HP to ensure we bridge this gap, with effective, scalable, and affordable solutions targeting literacy intervention and assessment, professional development around digital learning & teaching, and focusing on school improvement, by reducing costs and inefficiencies.

Official from Mirai, a technology firm

## STRESS AMONG COVID GENERATION

According to a survey from 'Save the Children' reported by Bloomberg, the pandemic's impact on the young generation has been deep and detrimental - and is getting worse. The 37-country survey taken from May through July 2020 of 17,565 parents and care-

givers, and 8,069 children aged between 11 and 17, revealed how the pandemic's psychological impact has intensified over time.

Photo: Gettyimages



## IN NUMBERS:

63% of children experienced an increase in "negative feelings" during the initial weeks of school closure, this rate rose steeply as the lockdown continued.

95% of children by month five of closure reported greater negative feelings

## How teachers can be an e-boss!

Managing a regular classroom may have been an uphill task for teachers, but imagine the helplessness of a teacher during an e-classroom? Think of an instance when a student suddenly disappears, or a parent Zoom bombs an e-classroom. Times NIE presents you some key values that can make the road smoother.

**1. DECISIVENESS:** Being the captain of the ship, leaders have the responsibility to take decisions without being exempted to go any wrong on that. The decisions need to be timely, clear and may not go down well with everyone. So, if you need to sternly tell a student to not unmute until asked, go ahead. This will have a demonstration effect, wherein others will follow the leader's command seriously.

**2. COMMUNICATION:** Communication is the key to an effective leadership. Make sure that the student gets an opportunity to express his concerns. Keep a designated slot of time for such interaction. Be sensitive while communicating through a digital medium.

**3. PLANNING:** A good plan and a well-done research is a must before online class. Create designated folders and date them on the desktop. Ensure that if you have to present something, you have done a trial before the class begins.

**4. KEEP MOTIVATING:** Try to keep their morale high by engaging them with games, activities, jokes and of course, don't forget to smile.

Dr Sanjay Chugh, psychiatrist, gives following steps to teachers on how they can overcome this.

How can teachers help?

- 1 Empathy and emotional intelligence play a key role during digital classroom
- 2 Even if you are seeing many kids on a screen, remember the student is

used to your attention and therefore, ensure equal participation

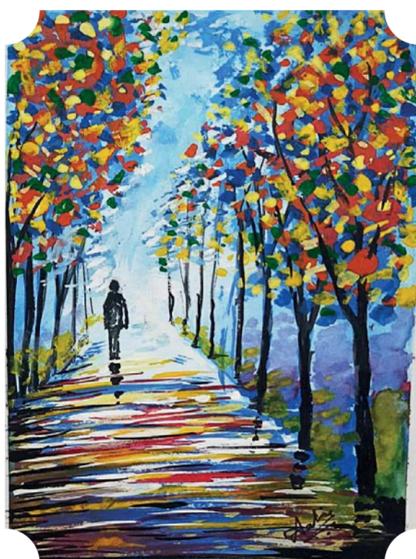
3 Avoid negative comments. Some are quick, tech-savvy learners, while others may take time to catch up. Hence, don't judge and if at all, you need to reinforce, try conveying through a one-on-one e-chat later.

## HOW TO REGISTER

Reinvent the Classroom - an exclusive event for school principals and administrators. To know more and register, visit

<http://reinventtheclassroom.in>

## Painters' Gallery



**HAPPY TIMES:** Suhana, class VIII, Samved School

**SPRING HUES:** Aalia Rizwan Kafi, class IX, DPS Whitefield

## THE EDUCATIONIST

# 'All credit to teachers to adapt to online education'

Meera Korde is the former principal of Saraswati Vidyalaya School and now the Chairman. She has experience of 35 years in the field of education. She shares some insights with Sakshi Kadam

**Q:** How would you say the students are coping up with the evolution of online education?

I believe the transition was satisfactory. I would give them all the credits to the teaching faculty as they helped the students to adapt to the new normal. The physical presence of a teacher is valuable for the development of the child. Eye-contact and connectivity to the students facilitate the teacher to elucidate the concept better and interpret their reactions as well. But, with the recent need of the hour, teachers have made it feasible to keep even screens interactive and activity-oriented.

**Q:** Were you approached by any



Meera Korde, Chairman

parents/students who weren't comfortable with the switch to online lectures?

I would say about 1%-3% of parents suggested that they didn't have the resources for online education. However, we record all our lectures and it helps them tremendously.

**Q:** How complicated are the evaluation and assessment?

It is fairly difficult with the lack of writing as a form of assessment. We have formulated a system where we have encompassed both objective and subjective forms of assessments. However, it is persuading to cheat. But it is the obligation of the parent and the learner to comprehend the circumstance and act accordingly.

## Express YOURSELF

### FESTIVALS - THE SOUL OF INCREDIBLE INDIA

Festivals are truly the soul of India. We celebrate so many different festivals round the year. We decorate our houses with flowers, rangolis, buntings and other decorative items. During Diwali, we put up diyas or a tree with decorations for Christmas. All of these add beauty of our homes and give it a festive atmosphere.

I love festivals because we pray to god, eat delicious food, decorate our houses and meet friends and relatives. We get gifts and blessings from our elders. I love listening to the stories behind each festival. There's joy and laughter in the air.

I generally plan many new games for the whole family to enjoy. Some of my favourite games are ball in the bucket, balloon race and many others. Ring the things is one game every member participates in. They all want to win the little prizes in the end. It is fascinating that we have fes-



tivals for each season. Christmas in the winter season, Holi and Baisakhi in spring, Durga Puja in autumn or Makar Sankranti to mark the end of winter season. The festive spirit prevails throughout the year. During this pandemic we are not able to invite friends over for celebrations. But we can always

schedule online meetings to greet and wish them. Share sweets and food with the local helpers, like the guards or vendors; donate books to an orphanage and think of other ways to make the festivals special for them as well.

Dhairya Khanna, class V, DPS Whitefield, Bangalore

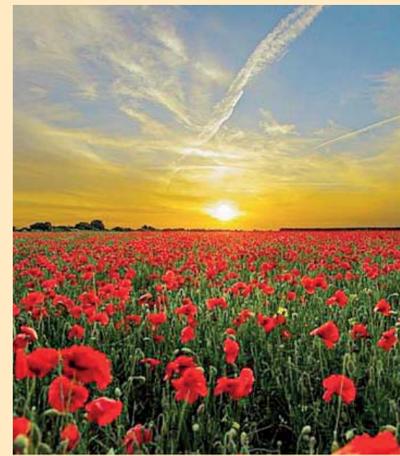
### A BEAUTIFUL DAY

I see her every day,  
Walking with her dog,  
With a stick in her hand she would say,  
What a beautiful day!

Even if there was rain,  
She would embrace it with joy,  
And in the air, she would twirl her cane,  
Laughing and singing on the lane.

In winter, on the coldest day,  
She would still be seen outside,  
With a stick in her hand she would say,  
What a beautiful day!

The surprising thing was that every day,  
She had no sight,  
Yet with her stick she would say,  
What a beautiful day!  
Shivani Neelamraju, class VIII, Greenwood High, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru



# END OF THE ROAD?

Keeping their performance in mind, the IPL franchises are expected to offload a few players from their roster ahead of IPL 2021. We take a look at a few players who are likely to be released & might also go unsold

## MURALI VIJAY

Backed to kick off the proceedings at the start, Murali Vijay flopped and was dropped after he failed to deliver in the first three matches. Towards the end of the season, CSK gave clear signs of moving on from him when they backed Ruturaj Gaikwad. With three back-to-back half-centuries, Gaikwad has fixed the opening spot and Vijay isn't expected to be retained by CSK. Once a star performer in IPL, Vijay isn't expected to draw a bid as well. In 2018, only CSK bid for Vijay in the second round.

## UMESH YADAV

Bought by RCB for ₹4.2 crore in 2018, Umesh Yadav went wicketless in two matches. After he leaked 83 runs, RCB moved on from him and did not pick him even when they needed an Indian pacer to replace Navdeep Saini. The team's tactics suggest he will be released, and other teams might not bid for him. Since he is a part of the Test team, Yadav hasn't played much white-ball cricket in the past two years, which could be one of the reasons for his struggle.

## JAYDEV UNADKAT

Backed by Rajasthan Royals for the third consecutive season, Jaydev Unadkat once again returned with a below-par performance and only managed four wickets in seven matches, leaking runs at 9.91. Going into the next season, he is likely to be released. Keeping his performance in mind, other teams might also be reluctant to bid for him.

Asked to bowl in a crunch situation against RCB, Unadkat went for 25 runs, which saw RCB pull off the miraculous chase. The team management moved on from Unadkat after that game and he remained on the bench. No doubts, Unadkat's numbers in 2019/20 Ranji Trophy (67 wickets) make him one of the best red-ball bowlers but his performance has dropped in IPL, which can see him failing to get a buyer.

## DALE STEYN

No surprises. The veteran pacer was bought by Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) to bring the firepower he brought in 2019 but his comeback was a disappointment. Steyn only managed one wicket in three matches and leaked runs at 11.40. RCB brought him back into playing XI but he flopped once again. He is set to be released, and may not draw a bid.

## SHELDON COTTRELL

There is a list of players who bagged a mega-contract in one season and went unsold in the very next. Given his performance in IPL 2020, he is likely to join that list. Bought by KXIP at ₹8.5 crore, Cottrell only managed six wickets. Despite being hit for five sixes in an over by Rahul Tewatia, the team kept him in playing XI but he couldn't deliver. He looks set to be released.



## Kohli's return will create a big hole: Ian Chappell

The legendary Ian Chappell believes that Virat Kohli's departure after the first India-Australia Test next month will leave a "big hole" in the visiting line-up, creating a selection dilemma which could ultimately decide which way the series goes. Kohli will return home after the first Test in Adelaide from December 17 to 21, to welcome his first child.



This creates both a big hole in the Indian batting order and an opportunity for one of their talented young players to make a name for himself.

What was already shaping up as an exciting tussle now has the added stimulus of crucial selection decisions. The result could well come down to who is the bravest set of selectors.

Ian Chappell, former Australian captain

## I'm not part of a 'Fab Four'

Dominic Thiem



## Ronaldo levels up with Ibrahimovic in battle of evergreen strikers



Cristiano Ronaldo moved level on eight Serie A goals for the season with AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic as he and the Swede continue to defy their advancing years and show the youngsters how it is done. With a combined age of almost 75, you could forgive both Ronaldo and Ibrahimovic for at least showing signs of weariness, but the goals show no signs of drying up as the pair drive their teams to the top two spots in the standings.



## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### SPORTS QUIZ | Olympic Records

**Q1:** Which Jamaican player is an eight-time Olympic champion and the 100m and 200m world record holder?  
a) Usain Bolt  b) Florence Griffith-Joyner   
c) Christine Arron  d) Carmelita Jeter

**Q2:** Michael Phelps' Olympics medal tally consists of gold medals, the most ever won?  
a) 31  b) 29  c) 26  d) 23

**Q3:** At the 1992 Barcelona Games, this US Dream Team player became the second-highest scorer with 14.9 points per game and made a tournament-high 37 steals. Who was the player?  
a) Kobe Bryant  b) Michael Jordan   
c) Dennis Rodman  d) Magic Johnson

**Q4:** Nineteen-year-old Carson Foster is the reigning world junior champion of which Olympic event?  
a) Swimming  b) Badminton   
c) Basketball  d) Archery

**Q5:** Which player made Olympic history after winning gold medals in the 5,000m and 10,000m race events at the London 2012 Olympic Games. He also got "double-double", winning gold medals in the same two events four years later at the Rio 2016 Games.  
a) Alberto Salazar  b) Galen Rupp   
c) Mo Farah  d) Joshua Cheptegei



**Q6:** In Phelps' final individual event at Rio 2016, he won a silver in the 100-meter butterfly. Who beat him to the gold medal?  
a) Ryan Lochte  b) Nathan Adrian   
c) Ryan Murphy  d) Joseph Schooling

**Q7:** Which athlete is a world record holder in three events - the 1,500m, the mile and 2000m races?  
a) Hicham El Guerrouj  b) Noureddine Morceli   
c) Bernard Lagat  d) None of the above

**Q8:** Who set a 72-arrow world record in the Olympic archery event at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games?  
a) Oh Kyo-moon  b) Ku Bon-chan   
c) Kim Woo-jin  d) None of the above

**Q9:** At Rio 2016 Olympics, which Canadian player scored after just 19 seconds of play, making

it the fastest goal in an Olympics women's football match ever?  
a) Jordyn Huitema  b) Jessie Fleming   
c) Janine Beckie  d) Caroline Weir

**Q10:** Which country has the highest number of Olympic medals in table tennis?  
a) South Korea  b) China   
c) Germany  d) Japan

**Q11:** During which Olympics did Michael Phelps break seven world records in winning eight swimming golds during an astonishing display?  
a) Athens 2004  b) Beijing 2008   
c) London 2012  d) Rio 2016

**ANSWERS:** 1- a) Usain Bolt 2- d) 23 3- b) Michael Jordan 4- a) Swimming 5- c) Mo Farah 6- d) Joseph Schooling 7- a) Hicham El Guerrouj 8- c) Kim Woo-jin 9- c) Janine Beckie 10- b) China 11- b) Beijing 2008