



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

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STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021



**Can patriotism be taught in schools?
EXPERTS' TAKE**

■ Children learn to respect, love and feel proud of the nation when they see the same sentiments reflected by everyone around them. They have to be exposed to events, celebrations, and programmes that bring awareness about our rich heritage. However, just reading a few pages of a textbook is not sufficient to make children feel love and pride for their country. Therefore, introducing lessons on patriotism in school curriculum at all levels, is indeed a necessary approach to build a morally-strong generation.
NIRMAL WADDAN, principal, The Kalyani School, Pune

■ I feel younger minds can be moulded as they are like soft clay. Hence, a sense of patriotism can be instilled in students via curriculum but this has to go hand in hand with concrete progress that is evident in the nation. Students can discern good from bad very easily. They will not appreciate just "bookish" patriotism but must be given reasons in practical life to genuinely feel a sense of nationalism and take pride in one's country.
ISHITA BASU, SENIOR TEACHER, LA MARTINIÈRE GIRLS' COLLEGE, LUCKNOW

■ Any value that is ingrained at an early age leaves a great impact on young minds, so is patriotism. It cannot be imposed upon children. In fact, it is a gradual process of creating a feeling of oneness and in turn, love, pride and appreciation for the country. Introducing a course on patriotism is not enough. Students should be made to learn their responsibilities towards their country by exposing them to realities of life.
PADMA KUMAR, PRINCIPAL, SGVP, AHMEDABAD

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DESHBHAKTI CURRICULUM AT DELHI GOVT SCHOOLS

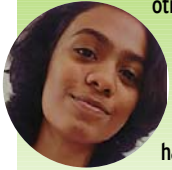
LESSONS ON PATRIOTISM

Starting the class with five minutes of 'deshbhakti dhyani', maintaining 'deshbhakti diary', Flag Day activity and exploring why 'India is glorious but still not developed', are among the main features of Delhi government's ambitious patriotism curriculum, which will be rolled out in its schools. The curriculum for nursery classes to XII, which was launched at a mega event on Tuesday, will not have any textbooks.

The topics include taking responsibility towards the country and its progress, constructive criticism, respect for and harmonious coexistence with others, critically thinking about issues confronting the country, comprehensive conception of patriotism, linking patriotism to the lived realities and everyday actions of students and working for the country's development with pride and honesty

**STUDENTS
REACT**

■ Patriotism is something that should come from within. It cannot be taught and has to be felt by the people of a country. I wouldn't want a separate course on patriotism, as I believe our current school curriculum has been adept in providing information about the national movement, which has helped us to shape our own definition and practices of patriotism.
Urmila Jithesh, class XII, Bhavan's Vidya Mandir, Elamakkara, Ernakulam



■ Patriotism, like religion and caste, has unfortunately been politicised in India. It has become the most-controversial and misunderstood concept. Hence, it is a good move to introduce patriotism as a subject in schools for a better understanding of the same.
Pavanthi B, grade X, Billabong High International School, Kanchipuram



■ I would love patriotism as a subject but only if it is introduced creatively and not like subjects like history, which are interesting to know initially, but in the end become a learning chore. It should be an interesting subject that can be taught through dance, music, and drama.
Anahita Jain, class VIII, Suncity school, Gurgaon



A NEW CHAPTER

■ According to officials, the 40-minute classes will be conducted every day for classes VI to VIII and twice a week for classes IX to XII
■ "Each class will begin with a five-minute activity called 'deshbhakti dhyani'. During the meditation, students will chant the lines 'I bow before my country and I respect Bharat Mata' in their minds," explained an official of the Directorate of Education (DoE)
■ "The children will then be asked to take a vow to honour their

country and preserve its heritage and history. In the end, the students will be asked to think of five people who they consider patriots and thank them in their minds," the official said

■ The students will be asked to maintain a notebook or diary as 'deshbhakti diary', which will be a reflective journal to document learnings, thoughts and feelings along the journey of the Deshbhakti Curriculum and will have homework notes



Indian legal advocacy wins 'alternative Nobel'

The Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment (LIFE), a Delhi-based organisation that uses the judicial system to advance environmental goals and empower vulnerable population, has won the Right Livelihood Award, known as the "Alternative Nobel". It shared the award with three activists: **Marthe Wandou**, a gender and peace activist, who has worked to prevent sexual violence against girls in the Lake Chad area of Cameroon; Russian environmental campaigner **Vladimir Silvyak**; and indigenous rights campaigner **Freda Huson** of the Wet'suwet'en people in Canada.



1 Founded in 2005 by lawyers Ritwick Dutta and Rahul Choudhary, LIFE's attorneys are among India's leading public interest lawyers. It has represented tribals in Odisha against Vedanta over its Bauxite mines in the Niyamgiri Hills, local communities against the Jindal Steels and Power's mine in Chhattisgarh, horticulturalists opposing Lafarge's limestone mining in Himachal Pradesh, and mango farmers in Ratnagiri against JSW's thermal power plant, among others

2 LIFE has helped communities fight against some of India's most-significant environmental threats: the construction of ecologically destructive projects in violation of the law, preventing deforestation and making industrial polluters pay for the damage caused to the environment and public health, said the Swedish Right Livelihood Foundation, which awards the prize

WINTER OLYMPICS WILL BE HELD IN CLOSED-LOOP SYSTEM

All athletes and Games participants at next year's Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing will not have to undergo mandatory quarantine, if they are fully-vaccinated and instead will enter the 'closed-loop management system' upon arrival and will be able to travel and train at the venues, according to the Covid-19 related Standard Operating Protocols (SOP) prepared by the organising committee for the Games.

As of now, the Organising Committee has decided to only allow domestic spectators, and tickets will be sold only to those from mainland China that are fully-vaccinated

Sun block: NASA's Mars missions will halt communication



NASA will halt commanding its Mars missions for the next few weeks as Earth and the Red Planet are on opposite sides of the sun, the US space agency has said. The period, called Mars solar conjunction, happens every two years. This year it falls between October 2 and October 16. While the missions on the Red Planet will continue collecting data, engineers back on Earth will stop sending commands to them until October 16, the agency said. Before the conjunction begins, NASA engineers will send Mars spacecraft a list of simple commands to carry out for a few weeks. A few missions are likely to extend the commanding moratorium, as it is called, a day or two in either direction, depending on the angular distance between Mars and the sun in Earth's sky.

WHICH IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITH A REIGNING EMPEROR?

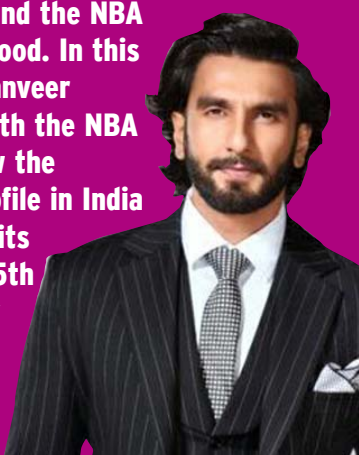
CLUE 1: It's the third-largest economy in the world (nominal GDP in \$) and also the world's largest creditor nation.
CLUE 2: The world's fourth largest island country, it encompasses about 6,852 islands.
CLUE 3: Till date, it has hosted two Summer Olympics, a FIFA World Cup, a Rugby World Cup and two Winter Olympics.

NEWS IN CLUES

Answer: **JAPAN**. The country's former foreign minister **Fumio Kishida** has won the governing party leadership election and is set to become the **next prime minister**. Kishida replaces outgoing party leader PM Yoshihide Suga, who is stepping down after serving only one year since taking office last September

Actor Ranveer Singh named NBA brand ambassador for India

Ranveer Singh on Thursday was named as the **National Basketball Association (NBA)** brand ambassador for India. The Bollywood star says, he has loved basketball and the NBA since childhood. In this capacity, Ranveer will work with the NBA to help grow the league's profile in India throughout its landmark 75th Anniversary Season in 2021-22.



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COLLECTOR'S EDITION
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 The celebration starts early on our website from Monday, September 27, 2021

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AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

ON THE WEBSITE
 Online Debate Session on Gandhi's relevance now where students can send up their videos: #OmGandhiChallenge as students send one daily task of Gandhi and report back. Reimagine Gandhi as Superman as we invite them to send us their art, poem, essays on all things Gandhi.

HINDI DIWAS

Activities emphasise importance of Hindi as national language

A special event was organised on the occasion of 'Hindi Diwas' on September 14, 2021. The Hindi department worked hard to bring to fruition a flawless virtual assembly. The guest of honour was litterateur and well-known author Pratik Bharat Palod.

Principal Kamava Bopanna, vice-principal Lovely Dutta and senior mistress Bhavana Jaiswal were part of the programme.

DPS WHITEFIELD

The assembly started with a prayer by Aarav Kundu of class IV. Avyanshi Kriti of class II presented the thought for the day. Beautiful poems were presented by Shubham Dey, Gati Bajaj, Avyaan Kashyap, Hanishka Mishra and Jithin Sravani of class I. Shaurya Kapoor of class VI delivered an inspiring speech. The students enlightened the audience with facts about Hindi language and its rich heritage.

A mesmerising dance performance was given by Sai Aarna, Shravya Shandilya and Parvati Rajesh of classes III and IV. To showcase the eminence of Hindi in our country, a heart-warming



poem was presented by Rati Pandey and Snigdha Tiwari of class IX, followed by a self-composed poem by Hindi teacher Deepali Pant Tiwari. The programme ended with the national anthem played

by Kapishnu of class VII on the keyboard.

The guests and the audience were full of appreciation for the insightful and enthralling performances.

The school celebrated Hindi Pakhwara (Hindi Fortnight) from September 14 to 28, 2021. The celebration was primarily aimed at encouraging non-Hindi speakers to acquire proficiency over the language and develop interest in Hindi literature.

A variety of competitions were held throughout the fortnight and commenced with the inaugural ceremony on Sept 14, 2021 on the occasion of

SAINIK SCHOOL BIJAPUR

Hindi Diwas. Senior Lecturer at Govt PU College, Vijayapura Mahadevi S K was the chief guest for the function. Principal Capt (IN) Vinay Tiwari addressed the cadets and stressed upon the importance of Hindi as a national language.

A series of competitions were held during the fortnight including essay writing on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Hindi as a National and Official Language', story writing, dialogue writing, poem writing, debate and elocution. An enthusiastic response was received from the cadets.

The concluding ceremony was held on Sept 28, 2021. Senior lecturer in Hindi and administrative officer at Jnanajyothi PU College, Vijayapur, Dhanraj M was the chief guest. He delivered a speech on the topic 'Importance of Hindi as a Link Language'.



Vice-principal Lt Cdr Ravikant Shukla, administrative officer Major Vikram Singh, SM, senior master C Rama Rao and staff members were

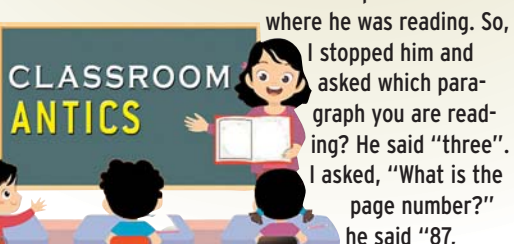
present on the occasion. Staff members of Hindi department of the school coordinated the programme through digital platform.

Funny story from my English class

With schools still shut due to the pandemic and classes being conducted in full swing on the digital medium, teachers have equipped themselves with new skills in the realm of technology. The charm of offline classes has faded within one and a half years. I see students log into online classes and get busy doing their own work. This is the scenario everywhere. You thought only students are having all the fun? Read these hilarious yet memorable experiences that happen with teachers, in online classes. I gave a half-an-hour reading activity to my children so that I can understand how well they can read and in which way I can help them. I said, "Children all of you take page number 87 in your English textbook, I give you five minutes' time, read the page thoroughly, I may ask you to read any passage from that page". Students started



reading, some children even asked how to pronounce certain difficult words and I helped them. After five minutes I called out few students to read aloud in the class. I called a particular student and said, "Come on child read paragraph three. I searched the line he was reading in the passage and I couldn't find out. Children were puzzled about



mam". The entire class was in complete commotion. Suddenly something flickered me and I asked "Which book you are reading from? He said, "Supplementary Reading Book mam". The class filled with thunder of laughter and I too laughed my heart out. But still, the innocent boy didn't understand why everyone

laughed. Ultimately, I made the boy understand the mistake he did and appreciated the quick response he gave in the class. So finally, as a teacher what I understood from this is that the boy is good at reading and I must focus on his listening skill. The class was unforgettable and lively. Whatever the

situation is I never stop teaching and my children never stop learning.

S. VINOLA MARY, Teacher, ELGI Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore

An artistic view of transformation



Art by Channa Keshava



Art by Anupama T N

Too many times we concentrate on the things we want to change rather than being the change. Transformation, renewal or even a rebirth can be the commencement of a beautiful life-altering journey. This year's inter-EuroSchool art competition Hues was themed Aurelia - The Transformation. It stirred up and awoke different feelings within us as we all stand transformed af-

ter battling two years of pandemic warfare.

The competition was conducted virtually this year as well and the outcome was deep, rich and profound indeed, using all the emotions that the unprecedented times have served us.

Radhika Rastogi of class VIII secured 2nd place and Tanavish Basharat Shah of

class VI won 3rd place in Level 4 of the competition. Ahana Agarwal of class II held 2nd place in Level 1. Bhavesh Kumar of class IV and Suraj Reddy of class XI both received a 'Special Mention' for their art pieces. These are commending achievements from our students who competed against participants from across India.

Parent of Shruthi of class III, Chandana, bagged 3rd position in the parent's category, while parent of Sharon Taji of class VII, Lin Taji, got 'Special Mention'. Congratulations to both!

Art teachers Channa Keshava and Anupama T N secured the 2nd and 3rd position in the Teacher's category for the competition.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Being a teacher is not a simple job. The teacher is the person who is responsible for creating responsible citizens of the

country. She teaches what is right and wrong. The work of a teacher is not limited to academics but they teach students to look beyond life

IF I WERE A TEACHER

and impart life lessons. They teach us to look within ourselves. If I were a teacher I would teach children about life and the essence of relationships. I will teach them to connect with people who care and love us and not with gadgets. I will make them understand that we should not live inside machines but in the real world which is full of love and creativity. I will teach them

what is the value of the best teacher in life and how important it is to be empathetic, loving and caring in today's world. Teaching is not a profession, it's a sacrifice and the holiest work. Albert Einstein once stated that "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creativity, expression and knowledge" has always impressed me a lot and I would love to be a teacher someday. I salute the great minds, for their sacrifice, love, kindness and everything that they have given to me. Thank you, teachers.

ULLAS, R, Class IX, Trinity Matriculation Hr. Sec School, Coimbatore



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