



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

Did you know the United States of America doesn't have an official language?

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An educationist tells us why and how to inculcate determination and grit among children

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Premier League: Harry Kane sinks Manchester City to open up PL title race

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022



HERE'S HOW STUDENTS CAN EASE INTO ROUTINE WITH HELP FROM ELDERS

- 1 Follow a schedule (sleep time and wake up time); Make sure you have sound sleep
- 2 Less screen time. Watch screen habits
- 3 Time for outdoor games
- 4 Practise pause after every period or two
- 5 Short breaks instead of long breaks in school
- 6 Elders need to ensure that they do not 'helicopter' children
- 7 Teachers need to be patient and correct the 'pandemic life' slowly
- 8 Teachers and parents need to be role models, and give children time to ease into pre-Covid regimen

(As suggested by Smita Ghosh, psychologist and happiness coach, Dr Prashant Bhimani, senior psychiatrist)

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Covid-19: Return to classroom BRINGS NEW CHALLENGES

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After nearly two years of hybrid learning (mostly online), as schools open up in many states across India, children, parents and teachers are facing the biggest challenge - how to bring back the pre-Covid disciplined regimen again. Everyone in the educational fraternity have been struck by the 'pandemic lifestyle' and its consequences - irregular sleeping hours, too much screen time, irregular eating habits, among others. While students are joyous of returning back to schools, they are facing a few hiccups in getting back to the old routine once again.

Asked about his experience of returning to school, a class IX student told a counsellor how his hands froze when he had to take down notes on day



1. With typing becoming a habit, he had to undergo counselling to overcome the problem.

Parents of another class VII student approached a counsellor when their daughter faced problems in school due to her irregular eating habits during the pandemic days. Parents said, once the school reopened, she had a tough time as her meal routine was highly indisciplined over the last two years. These are not isolated cases, as there are many students facing similar issues.

Teachers, looking into the transition from online to offline, said that children will have to be slowly eased into the

routine, as a lot of changes have happened and the learning gap is quite big.

Padma Kumar, principal, SGVP School, Ahmedabad, said, "These challenges are huge, and we will be following multiple strategies to deal with it. For English, maths, and science, we will initiate bridge courses that will focus on clearing the significant concepts to students."

Smita Das, principal, Sakar School, Ahmedabad, said, "Enforcing everything together will not work, so we plan to create an atmosphere wherein students are transitioned slowly into a regimen through activities."

Kamal Preet Kaur, teacher, CMS, Lucknow, said, "students will be asked to write long answers in the class itself so that they get back to the writing habit slowly."

(Names of students not taken on request)



MAJOR CHALLENGES BEING FACED BY STUDENTS

- Lack of acceptance and adjustment
- Auditory fatigue due to prolonged use of earphones and computer audio
- Eyesight issues such as dry eyes, headaches, inability to see things written on board, among others
- Feeling lethargic and sleepy in



classroom owing to indiscipline in sleeping pattern

- Irregular eating habits and too much of junk food-led obesity

HOW SCHOOLS PLAN TO BRIDGE THE ONLINE-OFFLINE GAP

■ We will give more stress on activities and co-curricular to help students feel comfortable and adjust to the formal environment. Teachers are hand-holding the students to adapt and adjust. For upper primary, many fun activities will be organised to make students comfortable in classroom

SONALI SEN, principal, DPS Newtown, Kolkata



■ We need to ensure that everyone is happy and feels like studying. We are encouraging students to attend school and take it slow as per their preference - the challenge is to ensure that safety protocols are followed and learning takes place. We all are working towards this goal.

NICHOLAS CORREA, executive director, New Horizon Group of Schools, Navi Mumbai

■ Teachers should plan test series on two-three chapters with a combination of short and long questions daily. The focus at this point is sheerly to make students write and comprehend concepts in the classrooms within a stipulated time.

DEVIKA ATWAR, vice-principal, KV3 BRD, Chandigarh

(Inputs by Annie Cherian, Sugandha Indulker and Rupa Talukdar)

Rohit Sharma crowned all-format captain

The coronation of Rohit Sharma in place of Virat Kohli as India's captain across all three formats is complete. As expected, India's chief selector Chetan Sharma on Saturday named Rohit as India's new Test captain - weeks after Kohli resigned following the series defeat in South Africa - while announcing the squads for the three T20Is against Sri Lanka and the two-Test series, against the same team, at home next month. The star opener was given the white-ball captaincy just a couple of months back. Sharma said that he considered Rohit Sharma the 'No. 1 cricketer' in the country, making it clear that the batsman will lead the team when fit.

- Pacer Jasprit Bumrah will be Rohit's deputy in both the T20I and Test series. KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant and Bumrah will be groomed as future captains under the 34-year-old's leadership, according to Chetan Sharma



Most state assemblies sit for barely 30 days a year!

After weeks and months of intense and often polarising politics and enormous amounts of money spent on campaigning and conduct of elections, most state legislatures sit for barely 30 days a year.



The states with the highest average of assembly sittings in a year over the last decade are Odisha (46) and Kerala (43), but even these are much lower than the average of 63 for the Lok Sabha.

- Even Lok Sabha's attendance pales in comparison to national legislatures elsewhere
- The US House of Representatives, for instance, was in session for 163 days in 2020 and 166 days in 2021 and the Senate for 192 days both years.
- The UK House of Commons had 147 sittings in 2020, in line with its yearly average of about 155 over the previous decade. Japan's Diet, or House of



Representatives, meets 150 days a year apart from any extraordinary or special sessions.

■ In Canada, the House of Commons is to sit on 127 days this year and Germany's Bundestag, where it is mandatory for members to attend on sitting days, meet 104 days this year.

Q TIME FOR VOTERS TO MAKE IT AN ELECTORAL ISSUE? SHARE YOUR VIEWS AT TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM

80% of India's adults now fully vaccinated, 97% got 1st shot: Government

Over 80% of India's adult population is now fully vaccinated against Covid-19 with two doses of the jabs, while nearly 97% have initiated vaccination with at least first dose, indicating significant progress towards complete coverage among those above 18 years. Overall, a total of more than 175 crore doses of Covid vaccines had been administered in India till Saturday. Apart from primary (two doses) vaccination among adults, this includes 1.9 crore 'precautionary doses' or boosters given to health and frontline workers along with elderly above 60 years of age. Besides, the total administered doses also includes 7.5 crore doses given to youngsters of 15-17 years age.



Mumbai To Host International Olympic Committee Session In 2023

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Saturday awarded India the right to host the IOC Session in Mumbai next year. Nita Ambani, the Indian representative on the committee, described it as "a significant development for the country's Olympic aspiration". India will host the session for the first time since 1983. The session will be hosted at the state-of-the-art, brand new Jio World Convention Centre. Mumbai received a historic 99% of the votes in favour of its bid from the delegates participating in the process, with 75 members endorsing its candidature in the session held at Beijing.

Another pandemic is coming with a different virus: Gates

Philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has warned that the risks of severe disease from Covid-19 may have "dramatically reduced" but another pandemic is all but certain. Speaking to a business channel, the world's fourth-richest man said that "a potential new pandemic would likely stem from a different pathogen to that of the coronavirus family," adding that advances in medical technology should help the world do a better job of fighting it - if investments are made now.

Gates, through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has partnered with the UK's Wellcome Trust to donate \$300 million to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, which helped form the Covax programme to deliver vaccines to low- and middle-income countries



ORAL TRADITION



VANISHING Words

One language dies every 14 days. By the next century nearly half of the roughly 7,000 languages spoken on Earth will probably vanish, as English, Mandarin and Spanish take over native tongues

Cristina Calderón – the last living speaker of Yamana language -- died this Wednesday, aged 93. With her also died the Chilean indigenous language. She had mastered the Yamana language of the Yagan

community, and after the death of her sister in 2003 was the last person in the world who could speak it. She worked to save her knowledge by creating a dictionary of the language with transla-

tions to Spanish. Although there are still a few dozen Yagans left, over the generations people from the community stopped learning the language, which was consid-



PRESERVATION TECHNIQUE

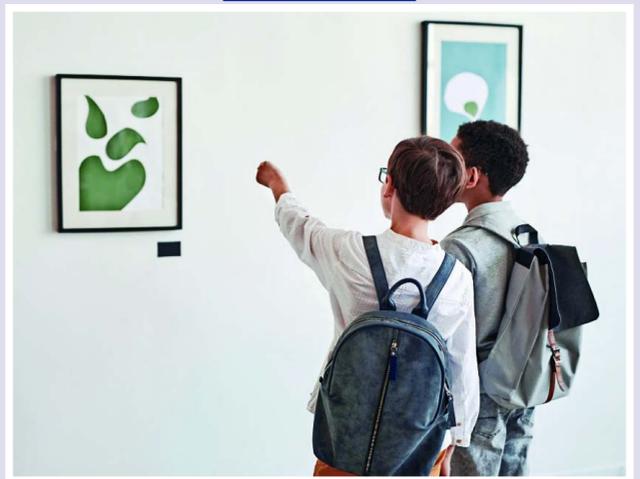
Researchers are currently recording and documenting some of the most critically endangered languages. Moreover, digital classrooms, podcasts, audio recordings, phone applications, and computer programmes are all available in a number of endangered languages. The idea behind this preservation technique is that the language could be reintroduced at some point in the future should a person or group of people be interested in reviving the tongue. One example of this is with the North American native language Miami, which became extinct in the 1960's. Today, it is offered as a course at the Miami University in the US state of Ohio.

ered "isolated" since it was difficult to determine the origin of its words.

LANGUAGES NEED OUR HELP

Some people argue that language loss, like species loss, is simply a fact of life on an ever-evolving planet. But if we can spend huge amounts of money protecting our biodiversity, why can't we do the same for language? Just as ecosystems provide a wealth of services for humanity, languages, too, are ripe with possibility. They contain a wealth of knowledge, including geography, zoology, mathematics, navigation, astronomy and more. When a language dies, a wide range of information is lost forever. The oral traditions of an entire culture are gone and with that, the songs, anecdotes, phrases, poems and expressions.

WORD GETS AROUND



8 TERMS TO MAKE YOU ART SMART

AVANT-GARDE

A French term that means "advance guard." It's a term that can be applied to artists and artworks as well as art movements as a whole. It is usually a stand-in phrase for art that is experimental, unusual, and forward-thinking.

Impressionism developed in France in the 19th century and is based on the practice of painting out of doors and spontaneously 'on the spot' rather than in a studio. Main impressionist subjects were landscapes and scenes of everyday life

TEXTURE

In painting, there are so many ways texture can and has been manipulated. Historic European artists created paintings with glassy, texture-less surfaces. Modern painters embraced texture, whether allowing paint to seep into a surface or build up onto it. Impasto is the process or technique of thickly applying paint to a surface.

BRUSHWORK

There is a variety of brush techniques artists have used and evolved over the centuries in order to handle and apply paint including scumbling, dragging, and stippling among others. It also refers to the size, shape and texture of the strokes.

STILL LIFE

A painting or other two-dimensional work in which the subject matter is an arrangement of objects - fruit, flowers, tableware, pottery, and so forth - brought together for their pleasing contrasts of shape, colour, and texture.

SURREALISM

A painting style of the early 20th century that emphasized imagery and visions from dreams and fantasies, as well as an intuitive, spontaneous method of recording such imagery, often combining unrelated or unexpected objects in compositions.

MIXED MEDIA

An artwork in which more than one medium or material has been incorporated is described as mixed media. Assemblage and collage are popular mixed media art forms.

PERFORMANCE ART

Art in which there is no concrete object, but rather a series of events performed by the artist in front of an audience, possibly including music, recitation, audio-visual presentations, or other elements.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

PROVERB VS ADAGE

A Proverb is a short, common saying or phrase. It particularly gives advice or shares a universal truth. Synonyms for proverb include byword, which can also be someone or something that

is the best example of a group. Following are some examples:

- Always respect your teachers.
- Always obey your elders.
- Don't waste your time.
- Never tell you any secret, even to your closest friend.

An Adage is also listed as a common synonym for proverb. Adages tend to be old, known for decades

If one wants to create a distinction, proverb should be used for sayings that give advice and adage for sayings that are particularly old. The main difference between adage and proverb is generally the length of the sentence, origin, and also depends on the usage. They are both traditional, and they have been in use for a very long time, and they are frequently used in a lot of places, especially during formal speeches and compositions.



or centuries, and share universal truths. Some examples: ■ A picture's worth is a thousand words. ■ No risk, no gain. ■ Good things come in small packages.



BREAKING BARRIERS

WHY EVERYONE SHOULD LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE



ceived government backing. Here are 5 reasons why learning some sign language might benefit us all:

It teaches cultural diversity: In a year-long study of preschool children by Amy Brereton at Trinity Washington University in Washington DC, hearing children who were learning ASL attained a greater appreciation of cultural diversity, as determined via classroom observations and interviews.

Gives your brain a good workout: Learning Sign Language provides all the same benefits of learning a foreign language. Bilingualism of any languages (whether signed or spoken) is a great brain booster. It strengthens cognitive function and reasoning, increases memory, attention span, creativity and communication skills. Learning languages shapes the mental functions you use in a range of other fields, from your social awareness to your creativity and grasp of mathematics.

Teaches you spellings: Research shows that children who learn basic sign language skills have improved spelling skills. Signing helps to give kids another tool for remembering spelling words and leaves a larger imprint on the brain.

Makes you a better listener: Speaking in sign language requires you to fully focus and concentrate on the person speaking to you. It's not just about the hand gestures, but it's also to focus on their facial expressions and body movements that are as important in sign language as your hands are. By constantly focusing on the person speaking to you, it will make you a better listener.

From their cognitive benefits to creating social awareness and uniformity, sign languages are not just meant for those with a disability

Sign languages have not only survived, but are now flourishing – so much so that many more people are getting the chance to learn them, which should be celebrated. Earlier this month, a 20-year-old Engineering student from Vellore Institute of Technology developed an AI model that translated some ASL signs to English, bridging the gap between the divide. Last year, PM Modi launched the first Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary, making ISL a designated subject in school curriculums. In the US, more undergraduate and graduate students have enrolled on courses in American Sign Language (ASL) than German each year since 2013. Also, earlier this year, a bill which would make British Sign Language a legally recognised language has re-

IMPROVES YOUR REACTION TIME

According to a study by University of Sheffield, sign language users have better peripheral vision and reaction time. Because it's so visual-focused, you are more alert and hence better suited for certain sports and driving.



Queries relating to language skills

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve your communication skills? Times NIE is here to help you to master the intricacies of the English language. Just shoot us your queries on toinie175@gmail.com



THE US HAS NO OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Despite English being the first language of many Americans – not to mention the language of business, media, and politics – it isn't actually the official language of the United States. Why? Because there isn't one: despite being the dominant language since the continent was colonized in the 1600s, it was never legally declared the national language. People in this country have been speaking languages other than English since before the founding of the republic. In fact, common languages spoken throughout the 13

colonies included Dutch, French and German, not to mention the many languages spoken by Native Americans. Before the arrival of Europeans in North America, at least 300 languages were spoken by Indigenous peoples in what is now the US and Canada. When Europeans began arriving and settling in what became the US, they of course brought their mother tongues with them.

