

DALAI LAMA

**WISE WORDS »**

I find hope in the darkest of days, and focus in the brightest.  
I do not judge the universe.

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Reku Matsui & Yaya Matsui in Tokyo, Japan



Noalynne & Annelou in Lent, The Netherlands



Jemima Christa-Faelist Tanamal in Bekasi, Indonesia



Marie Belenyasi & Paolo Belenyasi in Brussels, Belgium

## ART SPEAKS FOR US ELOQUENTLY

Children across the world have expressed their lockdown thoughts through drawings and paintings and happily displayed them for all to see. To know what your peers are doing during lockdown, turn to pg 2



Eva & Camilla Auer in Lausanne, Switzerland

**LIFE UNDER COVID SHADOW**

## When it comes to picking a hobby, any age is right

Dipanjan Sinha  
dipanjan.sinha@htlive.com

Even people who've always thought, "Oh I don't need a hobby", are rethinking that right now. But how to begin?

"In India, we tend to lose touch with the hobbies we cultivated as children. Our work culture discourages us from celebrating time for ourselves," says Charles Assisi, author of *The Aadhaar Effect* and co-founder at Founding Fuel. "So this period can help people revisit their creativity."

A good way to decide what to pick — coding or painting, photography or video-making, paper crafts, doodling or sketching — Assisi says, is to think about things that you set aside because you never had the time for them. It could be gaming, writing or origami. An activity that you already enjoyed as an adult is a good pick for a hobby.

And once you've found the right one, it will help calm your nerves and rediscover yourself. If you'd like some virtual help, Priyadar-

shini Mukherjee, 23, a community manager at a co-working space, started a Facebook group, *The Quarantine Dropbox*, earlier this month where people send anything creative they are doing and get feedback from others in the group. "A lot of people I know were learning things and making art. So I thought why not get them together in a safe space," she says.

**FUN WITH PAPER**

Smita Mathur, 27, an associate editor with Oxford University Press, was gifted origami sheets by a friend and has used the lockdown into a chance to learn. "I've been fascinated with origami since I was a kid, but didn't think until I could do it. It is harder than it sounds and needs a lot of focus, which makes it the perfect hobby for these times. The cuteness of the end products is just a nice bonus," she says.

Siddharth Tallur, 34, an assistant professor at IIT-Bombay, has returned to a hobby of his youth — sketching. "I used to sketch on paper but now I've found a sketching app that helps me experiment a lot more," he says. Business consultant Arkapratim Ghosh, 29, is focused on his ukulele and is writing his own music. "Whenever a tune strikes, I play it before I forget. In my usual routine, I would have to wait to get back from work etc, and then I would have either forgotten the tune or lost interest," he says. He is also honing playing skills using online videos.

**FAMILY TIME**

Hobbies can also bring families closer. "I used to find so little time to do anything creative with my daughter; the lockdown gave me some time with my little Aadriti," says Arif Khan, a teacher, of her three-year-old. "Since she gets bored very easily, I figured that craft was a good way to keep her engaged. And the internet has a huge variety to choose from. Together, we have now done crafts like thumb printing, paper pasting, sponge painting and more. And she's addicted."



Children can take up crafts like thumb printing, paper pasting and sponge painting which will help boost their creativity

**IN THE NEWS**

Dear Reader,  
**Hindustan Times** is coming to you in this new avatar at a time when our normal lives and activities have been disrupted by the challenge posed by the Coronavirus disease (Covid-19).  
You have been reading the **HT School Edition** in your classrooms. Now, with schools closed and a lockdown in place, we have created this specially curated e-paper to cater to your varied interests and your appetite for knowledge.  
A special feature of this new e-paper will be the "You" section, dedicated to your experiences during the lockdown, and how you're spending these unusual days. Apart from the contributions from students, insights from teachers and principals will also be featured in these columns.  
As you engage with this special edition, we request you to keep sharing your views on it. Let us know what you like and what you don't, and what else you would like to read. Your feedback will help us fine-tune this offering so that it better reflects exactly what you want.  
We at HT believe that the readers of today are the leaders of tomorrow. So let us begin this journey together.

## Prepared to conduct pending board exams at first possibility, declares HRD ministry

**NEW DELHI:** The HRD ministry is prepared to conduct the pending board examinations for classes 10 and 12 for 29 crucial subjects at the first possibility, officials said.  
The ministry has also directed states to start the evaluation process for the exams already conducted and facilitate the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in evaluation of answer sheets.  
HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' had on Tuesday interacted with the education ministers of states.  
During that interaction, Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia had suggested that students be marked on the basis of internal assessment as it is not feasible to conduct the pending exams now. Sisodia had also recommended that



States have been directed to start the evaluation for the board exams held

NCERT and CBSE reduce the syllabus in the next academic cycle by 30%. "The same reduced syllabus should be the basis of entrance exams like JEE, NEET, etc, in 2021," he said. **HTC/PTI**

## Oscars to admit streamed films next year as Covid-19 severely affects moviegoing

**LOS ANGELES:** The organisers of the Oscars said on Tuesday that films released only on streaming platforms or video on demand while movie theatres are closed due to the coronavirus pandemic would be eligible for Academy Awards next year.  
The temporary change, which will apply only for next year's Oscars and will lapse when movie theatres reopen across

the nation, was announced in a statement by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Previously, a movie had to be screened in a movie theatre in Los Angeles for at least seven days in order to be eligible for Oscar consideration.  
The Oscars, the highest awards in the movie industry, are still scheduled to take place in Hollywood on Feb. 28, 2021. **REUTERS**

## Renowned actor Irrfan Khan passes away

**NEW DELHI:** Renowned actor Irrfan Khan passed away at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday. He was 53.  
Apart from essaying memorable roles in films such as *Life of Pi* and *Slumdog Millionaire*, Khan also featured in children's films such as *The Goal*, *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Karamati Coat*. He also provided the voice over for *Jurassic World*.



Irrfan Khan won the Padma Shri in 2011

Khan was born at a village near Jaipur and studied at the National School of Drama. His most famous films include his debut, the Academy Award-nominated *Salaam Bombay!*, *Maqbool* (2004), *Paan Singh Tomar* (2011), *Haider* (2014), *Piku* (2015), *Talvar* (2015), *Hindi Medium* (2017) and *Angrezi Medium* (2020). Mira Nair spotted his talent and cast him in *Salaam Bombay* in 1988. The two again collaborated in the critically-acclaimed *The Namesake* and for the director's segment in *New York, I Love You*.

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among those who paid tributes. President Kovind called him a "rare talent" and said that his remarkable performances will forever be remembered. Terming Khan's demise as a loss to the world of cinema and theatre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated in a tweet: "He will be remembered for versatile performances across different mediums." **AGENCIES**

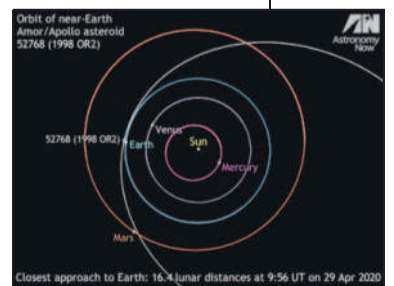
## Mile-wide asteroid flies past Earth

**NEW DELHI:** A more than a mile wide asteroid, 1998 OR2, made a very close approach to Earth on Wednesday. The object made its closest approach at 15.30 IST, when it was just 3.9 million miles away.

The asteroid was classified as Potentially Hazardous Object (PHO) due to its large size of approximately 2 km and because its orbit intersects the Earth's orbit around the Sun. It was eagerly viewed live on platforms such as Virtual Telescope Project and Slooh Observatory, as it neared closest approach.

First spotted in 1998 by Nasa's Near Earth Tracking programme, its orbital trajectory has been tracked since then by Arecibo Observatory to calculate the approach closeness. Despite rumours, scientists were confident that its closest approach will be about 6.4 km away (16 times lunar distance), and not impact Earth. In fact, precise tracking, using telescopes and radar, predicts that the next impact possibility is only in 2079 when it will pass by at about four times the lunar distance. Thus, it is important to track asteroids, to enable better long-term assessments. Meanwhile, its proximity gave astronomers a chance to observe the asteroid using telescopes.

(Mila Mitra, academic head, STEM & Space)



Closest approach to Earth: 16.4 lunar distances at 9:56 LT on 29 Apr 2020



# LETTING A MILLION HOBBIES BLOSSOM

Rarely have so many students across the world devoted such a lot of time and attention to their hobbies and talents — that are usually neglected in the routine whirl — as has been noticed during the Covid-19 lockdown.

## PRINCIPAL'S VIEW

### ALKA AWASTHI

Principal, Mayoour School, Noida

The heart skips a beat, mind wavers, distress abounds... we are experiencing strange emotions while going through such unprecedented times. How I miss looking at exuberant faces of the young ones in the morning that would energise me to sail through the day with ease. But I have faith in the saying that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. We are close to the dawn that will usher in a new era. An era wherein we will reboot our priorities and learn to peacefully coexist with Mother Earth. Social distancing, staying indoors are essen-



tial to stay safe from the onslaught of the invisible enemy. This deadly virus has turned out to be more destructive than the entire arsenal procured by armies of the world. Extraordinary times require extraordinary efforts. At a time

when teachers have adopted innovations to continue teaching to motivate students amid the rising scare of infection and contagion, parents too are doing their part while living a unique experience in confinement. Yet the biggest challenge is to keep yourself engaged and to feel upbeat. Try following a routine, spend some time away from screens, write a diary to express your feelings, paint and sketch if you can, embroidery and stitching are interesting. Start by making face masks which have become the need of the hour. Let us abide by the unique rules and restrictions of the times. Together, we will win this battle.

### AARYA PRATAP

Class 4, Bal Bharati Public School, IP Yojna, Ghaziabad

As we are aware, the entire world is facing a shutdown due to Covid-19 pandemic. Since we are all in the Stay At Home mode, this time can be used to hone our skills. For the first time, I used the needle and thread to learn basic embroidery which was an exciting experience. Making diyas from flour too helped me feel good. I also took care of plants and am enjoying time with my family.



### JAHNVI SHARMA

Class 8, Suraj Bhan DAV Public School, Vasant Vihar

Daily, I wake up in accordance with my normal school timing, do exercises and attend online classes from 8 to 11 am. I love to help mom with household chores. I play carrom with my sister and parents and speak to grandparents as well as relatives via video chat. I practise dance for half an hour and have begun reading the book The Power by Rhonda Byrne.

### KRIT DUA

Class 7, Apeejay School, Pitampura

Like my friends, I also am a foodie. I follow my favourite blogger Karan Dua (of dilsefoodie fame) and watch the MasterChef series. These programmes have raised my interest in cooking. I also watch chef Ranveer Brar's Youtube channel. I have prepared dishes such as tandoori chaap, garlic bread, paneer tikka, pasta and butter chicken and showed them to cousins on video chat.



### ANANDITA BHARTIYA

Class 10, DPSG International, Dasna

When the lockdown was announced, the idea of not being able to go to school disappointed me. To my joy, my school immediately came up with innovative ways to keep us engaged. Daily interaction with my teachers through online classes or the yoga and fitness classes never let me feel isolated. I have been helping in household chores. A video I made on Covid-19 awareness was shared on the school portal and social media. I thank principal Ms Meera Mathur who helps students to bring out their best.

### ANANYA SHARMA

Class 12, Mata Jai Kaur Public School, Ashok Vihar

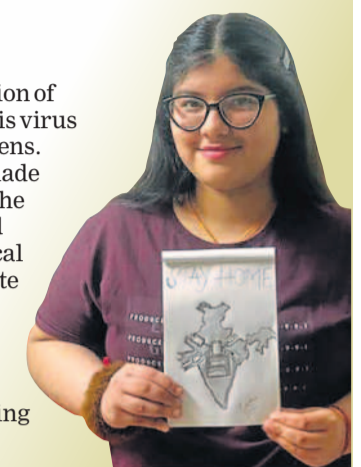
When Isaac Newton was quarantined during the Great Plague of 1665, he discovered the Law of Gravity and invented the Calculus. As a self-proclaimed food lover, I tried my hand at cooking for the first time. My first dish, butter paneer masala, that was prepared under my grandmother's watchful eyes, turned out to be scrumptious. The experience opened my eyes to the love and the immense worth associated with home-cooked food.



### RADHA MALHOTRA

Class 10, Manav Sthali School, New Rajinder Nagar

My sketch is inspired by the current situation of our beloved country, the rapid spread of this virus has badly affected the lives of so many citizens. Art makes me feel contented and jovial. I made this to spread love and awareness all over the world. This is the time when India is locked down for safety, for wellness, not for political or religious gains. It is our duty to co-operate and do something worthwhile. The fight with the virus has to be strong and a bit long. We have to handle it with patience. It'll be over with great victory and things will get fine. Let us all play our part in making the lockdown a success.



### ADIB KHAN

Class 10, DAV Public School, Sec-14, Faridabad

Most of us think that being a homemaker is easy. My mother is a housewife but I never understood the hard work put in by her until I experienced it myself. Earlier I used to throw things around but found them organised the next day. But nowadays, I help her in mopping, washing dishes and dusting. Now that I have experienced it, I respect her more. I am going to help her even after the lockdown is lifted.

### JITHYA

Class 6, Air Force School, Sec-14, Gurugram

The lockdown has given me time to explore my hobbies of drawing and painting, in both of which I have achieved improvement. I have also done a little bit of cooking under my father's supervision which was a good experience. I read the newspaper daily to keep myself updated with happenings around me. I have also tried gardening which provided great learning. I am also trying to maintain balance in studies as I have online classes from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. these days. I am also having a great time with my family as we watch Ramayana TV serial everyday.



### PRAGATI ARORA

Class 8, Bharti Public School, Swasthya Vihar

In line with our duty to remain indoors and stay safe, I am having a truly fun-filled time with my family, reminiscing the old days and helping mom in daily chores. Thanks to the online classes organised by my school, my studies have not suffered. I also help my siblings in studies. I watch educational and religious programmes on the television. I hope that everyone will try to make these lockdown days a productive time for all-round growth.



## READING CORNER

### This digital picture book conveys all you want to know about Covid-19

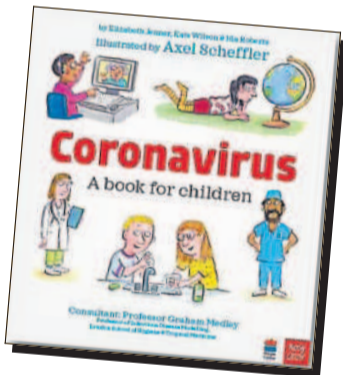
HT Correspondent

A digital book for primary school-children about novel coronavirus disease and measures to keep it at bay can be read free on the screen or printed.

The book answers basic questions in simple language appropriate for 5 to 9 year olds such as what is novel coronavirus? How do you catch the disease? What would happen if you touch it? Why are people worried about the prospect of being infected by it? Is there a cure for it? Why are most places we normally go to closed? What can I do to help? What's going to happen next?

The book has been published by HarperCollins Publishers India in partnership with Nosy Crow.

Tina Narang, publisher, children's books, for HarperCollins Publishers India said, "This extremely relevant picture book, supported by brilliant illustrations by well-known illustrator Axel Scheffler, will help children under-



stand this truly unique time in which a hidden virus has compelled them to stay at home — away from school, friends and the outdoors."

Professor Graham Medley of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine was the consultant for the digital book, which also benefited from the advice given by two head teachers and a child psychologist.

The book is available for free on <https://bit.ly/2VyAq7W>

### Online literature series for young minds being held on weekends

HT Correspondent

An online literature series for children with interactive sessions on book reading, storytelling, art and fun word games for children is being held at 5.30 pm on every Saturday and Sunday. The series that began on April 25 will conclude on May 24.

The list of authors includes Jerry Pinto, Shabnam Minwalla, Bijal Vachharajani, Tilottama Shome and Bulbul Sharma.

Talking Cub, the children's imprint of Speaking Tiger, and Storyteller Bookstore have organised the event titled #FUNtasticBook-Weekends. It is powered by LBB India.

All the sessions of this series will be hosted and recorded on Zoom app, to be premiered later on LBB India. Registrations can be made online.

Sudeshna Shome Ghosh, publisher and editor of Talking Cub, said, "The current lockdown has been a time of some stress for both parents and children. But we believe children will always find

the silver lining, a reason to smile. In our little effort to entertain them and to make them smile further, we are happy to collaborate with the wonderful Storyteller bookstore of Kolkata and LBB to bring to them some of our authors and books. We hope the kids will enjoy these."

Commenting on the event, Mayura Misra of Storyteller Bookstore said, "Ordinarily, we would have been delighted to host these wonderful Talking Cub authors at Storyteller Bookstore in Kolkata. For now we look forward to hosting them online!"

## MIND GAMES

### SUDOKU

	2	1	8			5		
	4		7					
						9		
	5			8				
3		4						8
9		6				1	7	3
						3		9
6		8		4	9		1	
					2			

### SCRAMBLE

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

LMUAR		*	*	
FGROO		*		*
ROTTER		*	*	
DIIRFG	*		*	

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (\*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

We must never be afraid to \_ \_ \_ , for truth lies beyond. -Marcel Proust (2,3,3)

Answer: We must never be afraid to go too far, for truth lies beyond. -Marcel Proust

### PICTURE PUZZLE

Which of these six pictures contains at least one item from each of the other pictures?



Answer: Picture no 4. It has the toadstool from 1, the flower from 2, the fence from 3, the crow from 5 and the tree from 6.

Amrita Bharati Features

### MATHDOKU

7+		7+	5+	4x
5+				
10x	1	2	5	
			2+	
	3		15x	

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-out lined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x -. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

### MASKED SMILES TOO!



People pose for a photograph with a bun tower on Hong Kong's Cheung Chau island on Tuesday during the Bun Festival. The Taoist god of the sea is worshipped and processions are taken out on the occasion. Gongs and drums are played to keep evil spirits away.

### Solutions

SUDOKU SOLUTION

5	8	6	2	3	1	7	4	9
6	3	8	5	4	9	7	1	2
2	1	9	6	7	8	3	4	5
8	6	4	2	4	2	9	8	6
3	7	4	9	1	6	2	5	8
4	5	8	7	9	8	7	6	4
1	5	2	3	2	3	2	5	8
8	6	3	2	5	1	4	9	7
5	4	4	6	7	6	9	8	3
7	2	1	8	9	4	5	6	3

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

5	3	4	1	2
2	1	4	3	5
3	5	3	4	2
5	4	1	2	3
3	2	5	1	4
4	3	2	5	1

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Mural, forgo, refoit, frigit