

# CURIIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

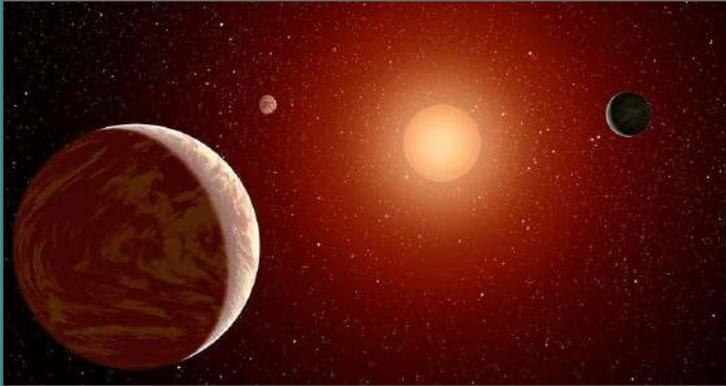
Age Appropriate Content

School Curriculum Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

## Two super-Earths discovered orbiting a star 11 light-years away

Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



Astronomers have discovered two super-Earths around a star called Gliese 887. It is around 11 light-years away from Earth.

The two super-Earths have been named Gliese 887b and Gliese 887c. Super-Earths are planets that have mass higher than Earth but much lower than Neptune and Uranus.

The star, Gliese 887, is a small, dim red dwarf star with about half the mass of our Sun. It is one of the closest to us and is the brightest red dwarf in the sky.

Super-Earths Gliese 887b and Gliese 887c have short orbits of just 9.3 and 21.8 days respectively. The temperature of Gliese 887c is estimated to be around 70 degree Celsius.

What excites astronomers about this discovery is that these two new super-Earths are close to the red dwarf's habitable zone. This means it is in a region where water can exist in liquid form. They could also be rocky worlds just like Earth and have thicker atmospheres. All this indicates they could 'potentially host life'.

Not only that, but astronomers also believe there might be a third planet around Gliese 887. They have detected more signals which are yet to be understood properly.

The discovery was made using the European Southern Observatory in Chile.

## Farmers plant wildflowers on their farm to feed a million bumblebees

Image Credit : Pixabay



Mark and Paul Hayward are brothers who own a pig farm in Suffolk, UK.

Four years ago, they decided to plant many types of wildflowers on their large 81-acre farm. These flowers have a lot of nectar that bees use to make honey.

Last week, a study, led by Mark's 18-year-old daughter Grace, was conducted to measure insect activity on the farm.

The study found that the farm's wildflowers were feeding over a million bees per day!

Today, all over the world, bees are disappearing. This is due to many reasons, especially habitat loss (loss of places where they live). Bees play a very important role in agriculture. Experts are trying to save them.

Mark and Paul started this project to create a balance between farming and nature. They are aware of the threat bees face and wanted to do something about it.

The Hayward family is happy that their project is successful. They hope that this will be a good example for their future generations.

Check out a video on why bees are important: <https://youtu.be/YaaQUGPXtnU>

## Quote of the day!



"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"  
Dr. Seuss

## Word to know



Context  
Noun | kon-tekst  
the situation within which something exists or happens, and that can help explain it

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## Eau de Space, a perfume that smells like outer space

Image Credit : Pixabay



Do you want to know what space smells like? You can find out soon enough.

Eau de Space is a fragrance that smells like outer space. It may soon be made available to buy and try!

The fragrance was developed by a chemist named Steve Pearce. He had originally helped develop it for NASA in 2008.

NASA wanted Pearce to recreate the smell of space for its astronauts. That way, new astronauts would be prepared for it when they went to space.

Pearce has not been to space. So, he asked astronauts to describe what space smelled like. Then, Pearce used his knowledge of chemistry as well as flavour and scents. He went about combining various ingredients to match what the astronauts described. It took him four years to develop the scent.

Now, the team wants to make the perfume for public use. They are planning to call the new product Smell of the Moon, (which will be based on Eau de Space).

Astronauts have described the scent as a mix of gunpowder, seared steak, raspberries and rum.

The team hopes that the perfume will increase interest in STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning.

## Surprise! Antarctic penguins are happier with less sea ice

Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



Penguins are found in places that have a lot of ice and snow. So, we would think that they like having a lot of ice and snow around.

Recently, in a surprise finding, researchers found that Adélie penguins in Antarctica prefer reduced sea-ice (frozen sea water) conditions. That too, not just a little bit, but a lot!

This could be good news for this penguin as climate change is making our planet warmer.

Earlier research had shown that Adélie penguins' population increases when there is less sea ice. However, the reason was not known until now.

Researchers electronically tracked 175 Adélie penguins across four seasons with different sea-ice conditions.

The study showed that the penguins are happier when there is less sea ice. They are fast swimmers but walk very slowly. Less snow lets them swim more, walk less and saves energy. This means they can travel further for food. More food means the population can increase faster.

However, all this is true only for those penguins that live on the main, "continental" part of Antarctica. The opposite happens to the penguins that live on the edge of the Antarctic or its islands.

## Did you know?



The Demeter Fragrance Library is a US perfume company that sells over 200 different, unusual fragrances based on "every day" scents, such as baby powder, dirt, popcorn, new car smell, play-doh, books and tomato.

## JokePokes



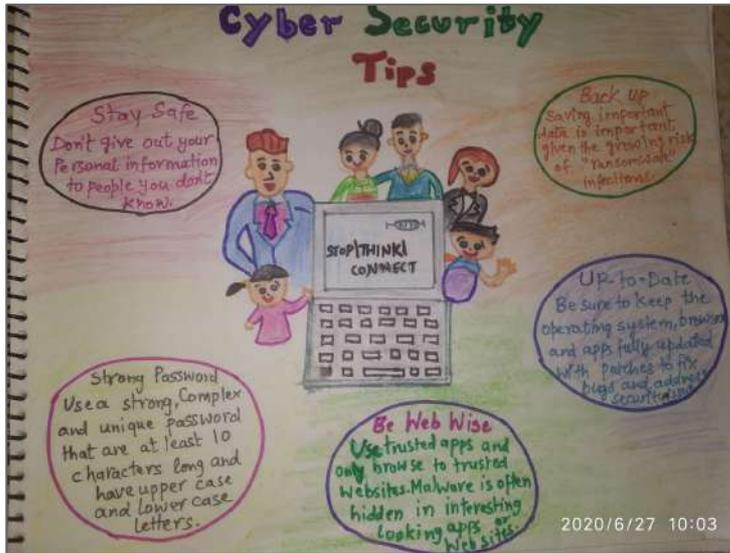
Q: What kind of headaches do hammers get?  
A:Pounding ones.

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## Cybersecurity Risk

Arjun Thomas  
Grade 12 , Excelsior English School , Kottayam , Kerala

In today's world technology has advanced in leaps and bounds so have the number of ways to misuse it. Nowadays, cyber-attacks have become quite common.

"A cyberattack is any type of offensive maneuver that targets computer information systems, infrastructures, computer networks, or personal computer devices".

Why has the number of cyber-attacks increased so rapidly? Well, you could provide a number of explanations to that but one has to accept that common man is still not familiar with cyber attacks.. Few ways to protect personal data are as follows:

**Be wary of wi-fi:** Wi-Fi offers cybercriminals a potential pathway into your mobile device. To stay safe, avoid connecting your device to public or unsecured (not requiring a password) Wi-Fi.

**Log out of your accounts:** Staying logged in to social media apps on your device is convenient – you can see your friends' latest photos and posts in an instant. But if someone gets access to your device, even for a minute, he or she can see the information displayed in any open apps and even impersonate you.

**Use data encryption on laptops and notebook computers.** Using data encryption is the best way to secure your device from unauthorized access.

Well, there are many ways in which your personal data can be hacked. We have to continuously learn more about cyber attacks. We have to do our bit in protecting our data to reduce cyberattacks to some extent.

## Art: Be safe on internet

Palak Jain  
6 , Delhi Public School , Sonapat , Haryana

### Create, Connect and Share Respect

Shruti Verma  
Educator , DLDVA MODEL SCHOOL , Shalimar Bagh , New Delhi

The internet has become a space riddled with malicious links and viruses. During COVID times, data breaches are becoming more frequent, and unsuspecting users are more vulnerable than ever before.

Therefore, it is important for us to understand how to protect against cyber threats and what is right online behaviour so that we have a safer online environment.

Here are some important cyber tips to follow:

**Use strong Passwords and change regularly**  
Always check for the strength of your passwords. Strong passwords are more difficult for others to guess. Passwords should be at least 14 characters long and must include alphabets (both upper and lower case), numbers and symbols.

We should keep changing your password at regular intervals and we should not share our passwords.

Always use licensed software.

Make sure you have an anti-virus on your system.

All softwares must be updated regularly so that the information in your system is protected.

**Disconnect Internet connection when not required**  
To keep your information protected from hackers, always ensure that you disconnect your personal computer from the internet when you do not require it.

Always go to the trusted and secured websites or app stores  
To download apps, games, music or movies go to trusted avenues with your parent's or teacher's permission.

Confirm that the web address begins with HTTPS  
Look for a lock icon in the address bar

Do not open emails from someone you don't know. Do not download software from a source you don't trust. Do not enter "free" contests..

**Beware of strangers**  
Do not play online games with strangers. Do not share your information with anybody while playing games. Don't open emails or attachment files, games, music or videos sent by a stranger.

Be Aware Be Safe.

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## Design a toilet for use on the Moon and win US\$35,000 from NASA

Image Credit : Pixabay



NASA is planning for its Artemis mission to send astronauts back to the Moon by 2024.

So, to help with this mission, NASA is offering US\$35,000 (₹26 lakhs) in prizes for designs of a toilet that can be used on the Moon. This competition is open to everyone worldwide.

The Moon has one-sixth of Earth's gravity. So, designing a toilet, which works as it does on Earth will be a challenge.

What features should this toilet have?

It should be able to support a crew of two astronauts for 14 days.

The toilet should be easy to clean, maintain and can conserve water.

It also needs to use less than 70 watts of power and make less noise than an average bathroom fan.

The toilet needs to weigh less than 33 pounds (less than 15 kg) on Earth.

The last date for submitting the designs is 17 August. Winners will be announced in October. The top prize is US\$20,000 and the second and third place winners will get US\$10,000 and US\$5,000.

## A boat brings back largest haul of garbage from Pacific Ocean

Image Credit : Twitter@oceancleanup



As plastic pollution continues to be dumped in our oceans. It has created many problems for the environment as well as marine life.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is an area in the Pacific Ocean, where a large amount of plastic waste has got collected. While other oceans also have such areas, this is the biggest of its kind on Earth. It is believed to be 1.6 million square kilometres wide (three times the size of France).

Great Pacific Garbage Patch is far from any country's coastline. So no country has taken the responsibility to clean it up. Instead, many individuals and organisations are dedicated to preventing the patch from growing.

Recently, a boat from Ocean Voyages Institute brought back 103 tons of marine waste from the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. It was a 48-day mission. This is the largest haul of marine trash that a single ship has ever removed.

The institute used GPS-enabled satellite beacons, drones and other technology to track the garbage floating in the ocean, which also helps to remove it easier.

The garbage will now be sent for recycling and other purposes so that it will not pollute the ocean again.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the team will continue to do its work to clean up the ocean.

## Tongue Twister



Sounding by sound is a sound method of sounding sounds.

## JokePokes



Two silk worms had a race. It ended in a tie.

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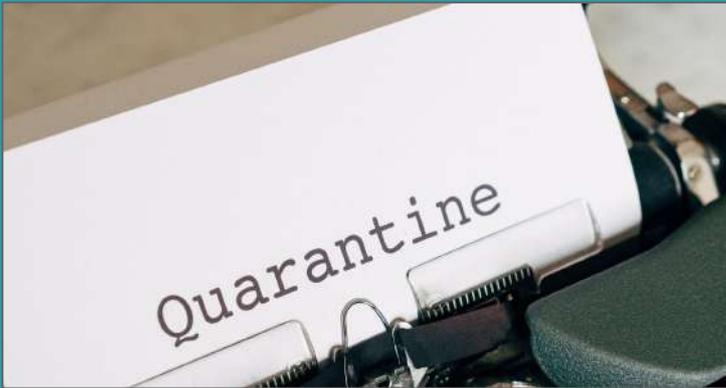
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## What's in a word – Quarantine

Image Credit : Unsplash



Today, with the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide, you must be often hearing the word 'quarantine'.

The word 'quarantine' means a period of time during which an animal or person that might have a disease is kept away from other people or animals so that the disease cannot spread.

'Quarantine' originated around the 14th century. It comes from the Latin word *quadraginta* and the Italian word *Quaranta*, both meaning "40".

Around the 14th century, a disease called the bubonic plague spread all over Europe and Asia. This was a highly infectious and serious disease which killed many people.

In an effort to stop its spread, ships coming from other places were put into isolation on nearby islands. This was for a forty-day period and only after that, the people in those ships were allowed into the city. This ensured that people who were sick did not enter the city and infect more people.

The practice initially called *trentino*, first started in a city near the sea called Ragusa (now Dubrovnik, Croatia). It was initially for 30 days.

This was later extended to 40 days and called *quarantino*. This is the root of the English word 'quarantine' that we use today.

## It is 'anthropause' – time to study wildlife as human activities and travel pause

Image Credit : Twitter@danieltilles1



The COVID-19 pandemic has led to widespread lockdowns all over the world. With the lack of humans, animals have been seen out and about.

Scientists in the UK have declared this period to be an 'anthropause'. It means a period when human activity, especially travel, is paused.

They are using this unique opportunity, to study the extent to which modern human movement affects wildlife

The impact on COVID-19 on animals has been a mix of negative and positive. While some animals are thriving in peace and quiet, others are at greater risk than before. For example, endangered animals face being illegally hunted due to increased economic hardships.

This is the perfect time to collect important data. Scientists plan to use electronic tracking devices on animals, to record their movement, behaviour, activity, physiology and habitats, during this time. These devices will increase our understanding of human-wildlife relationships and see how our activities like building cities, roads, etc affect them.

Earth is currently in its sixth known mass-extinction event. Scientists hope that we can take this time to understand how to coexist with nature properly.

We can learn how to modify our behaviour so that it can benefit both nature and human life.

## Tongue Twister



Four furious friends fought for the phone.

## JokePokes



My friend recently got crushed by a pile of books, but he's only got his shelf to blame.

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## Art: Doctors are heroes

Hrishika Nisanth

4 , The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala

## Soldiers in scrubs

Abhilasha Ghosh

Grade 10 , Navy Children School , Goa

Our entire nation is in lockdown and most of us are working from home. but one sector of workers continues to go to work every day. They are soldiers but of a different kind. they do not wear camouflage uniforms but wear scrubs instead. They have no medals on their uniforms to proclaim their rank but proudly wear stethoscopes as their medal. They do not fight with guns and bombs; instead, they fight using syringes, scalpels and bottles of medication. they do not fight with hefty terrorists from invading countries but they fight against microscopic terrorists that invade systems of their countrymen. And the fact of the matter is that while they caution us and tell us to stay home and stay safe, they only can afford to stay safe and not stay home.

In the light of the Covid-19 outbreak, the extraordinary work of doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers has been highlighted. Everyone says that COVID – 19 has shown us how hardworking our doctors are in the face of a crisis. but it is my firm belief that no doctor treats any ailment as small or big. An illness must be treated and it does not have to be something as major as COVID. it so happened that pre-outbreak we had taken treatment for granted and post-outbreak we have realised that our doctors have immense potential and can tackle any medical situation with utmost efficiency and celerity. healthcare workers have always been our frontline workers. we had just stopped seeing them for who they really were – lifesavers.

We do not need a day to remember and honor their gratifying work, it is something that is way beyond expression and way beyond gratitude in terms of a few words. honoring is a practice in ways we have never even thought about so it is time we learnt to respect our healthcare workers not just for a day or a week, but for as long as we live.

I extend my humble and sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the medical employees working against this enemy and laud their undeterred courage and commitment to the patients.

I would like to end by quoting Hercules "a true hero is not measured by the size of his strength but by the size of his heart and work".

## Tribute to all doctors

Prakshaal Jain

10 , DLDVA MODEL SCHOOL , Shalimar Bagh , New Delhi

Doctors all over the world are given the status next to God. It happens so mostly because they are lifesavers who work tirelessly for mankind. Moreover, being a doctor is considered one of the most sought-after professions. People want their kids to become doctors and they instill this dream in them from an early age. The doctors originating from India are reaching new heights globally abroad. However, when we talk about the medical scenario within the country, we see how it's quite worrying.

In other words, all capable and talented doctors are moving abroad in search of better job opportunities and facilities. Therefore, we see there is a lack of doctors in the country to cater to the ever-growing population.

But if we see on the bright side, we will notice how Indian doctors are very charitable in comparison to doctors from other countries. As India has been a country of tradition, the qualities are deeply rooted in our culture. This reflects in the medical scenario of the country as well. Indian doctors are very much in demand all over the world. Similarly, you will find a good number of Indian doctors working in various countries. Needless to say, India is a reservoir of doctors. It has a massive amount of medical colleges and produces thousands of doctors annually. In addition, our doctors work everywhere ranging from small villages to big metro cities.

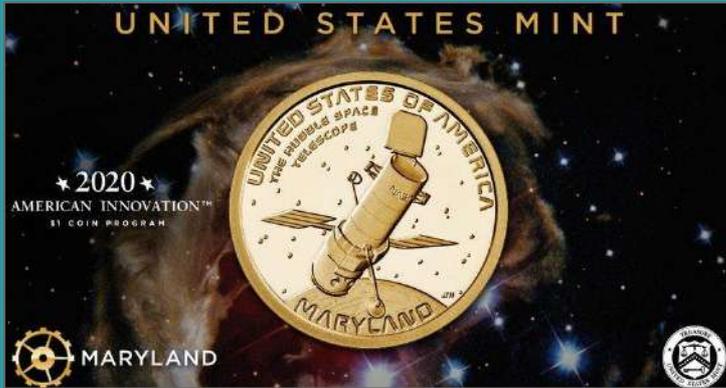
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## Hubble Space Telescope to feature on a special US 1\$ coin

Image Credit : [Twitter@usmint](#)

Hubble is a space telescope that was launched into space in 1990. It is a very important tool to study space. Scientists have learned a lot about space from the pictures it takes.

The US has announced that it will be issuing a special gold US\$1 coin featuring the Hubble Space Telescope.

This is in honour of all that Hubble has helped science achieve. It will also honour its team as well as Maryland, the state where Hubble is operated from.

The coin will be one of four golden dollars issued this year by the United States Mint (government authority that prints money).

It is part of an ongoing series to pay homage to American innovations (inventions). The series also pays tribute to brilliant individuals and groups from all 50 US states and its other territories who have played a role in the innovations.

The coin shows the Hubble Space Telescope orbiting Earth, surrounded by a field of stars. NASA's old logo, "the worm", is also included on the telescope as it appears on the real spacecraft.

The coin also has "United States of America," "The Hubble Space Telescope" and "Maryland," written on it. A release date for the coin has not yet been announced.

## China completes the set up of its Global Navigation Satellite System

Image Credit : [Twitter@erison\\_zhang](#)

China launched the final satellite in its BeiDou satellite navigation network. This completes the set up of its new satellite navigation system.

With this, China has become one of the 4 countries to develop its own GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) network. The other four are the US (GPS), Russia (GLONASS) and the European Union (Galileo).

GNSS refers to a global navigation system of at least 20 satellites. The system works by using four satellites at a time to measure the distance it takes for a signal to reach a point on the ground (for example a phone) to calculate where exactly that point falls on a map.

GPS is the most popularly-known GNSS network. It is used worldwide for everything, from smartphones to planes.

BeiDou is China's alternative to GPS. It's named after the Chinese word for the Big Dipper constellation. China launched its first BeiDou satellite in 2000 and this is its 30th satellite. With Beidou, China aims to reduce its dependence on America's GPS, like in armed forces.

### About GNSS

The United States and Russia were first to start construction on their own GNSS systems during the Cold War. Both countries' systems were declared "fully operational" in 1995.

## Did you know?



The Hubble Space Telescope weighs as much as two adult elephants. It travels around Earth at about 8 km per second.

## Word to know



**Queasy**  
Adjective | kwee-zee  
feeling that you want to vomit

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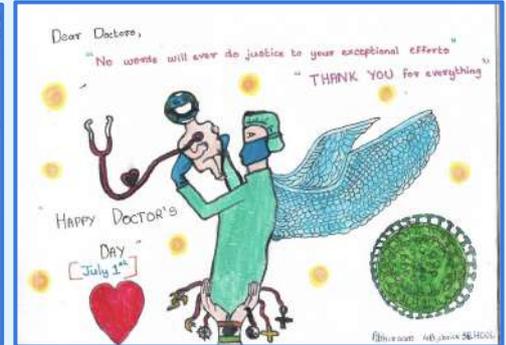
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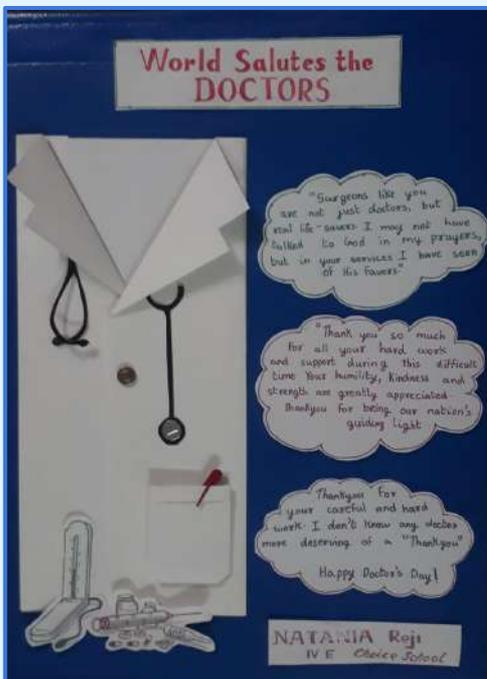
M. Shivaani, Grade 1 ,  
The Choice School, Thripunitra , Kerala



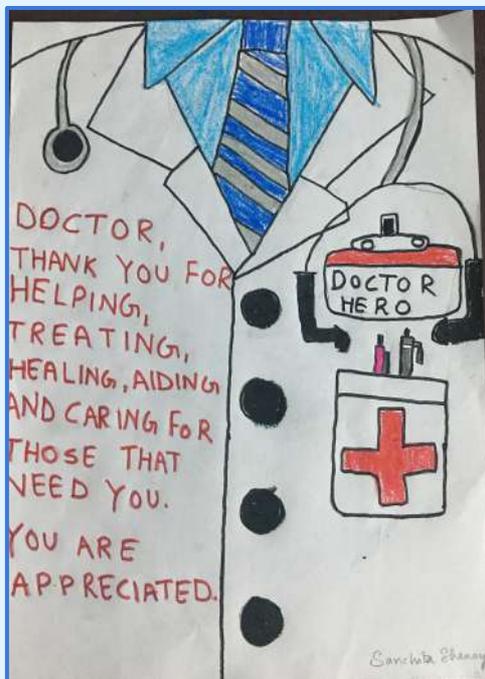
Eva, Grade 4 ,  
The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Abhiram N Nambiar  
4 , The Choice School , Kochi , Kerala



Natania Reji, Grade 4 ,  
The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Sanchita Suchit Shenoy, Grade 4 ,  
The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Parv, KG ,  
The Sixth Element Schools and Day Care ,  
Gurugram , Haryana



Aishwarya Lekshmi.R.S  
3 , The Choice School , Kochi , Kerala



Manolaya Lekshmi, 3 ,  
The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Paridhi Gour  
Grade 1 , Navy Children School , Goa

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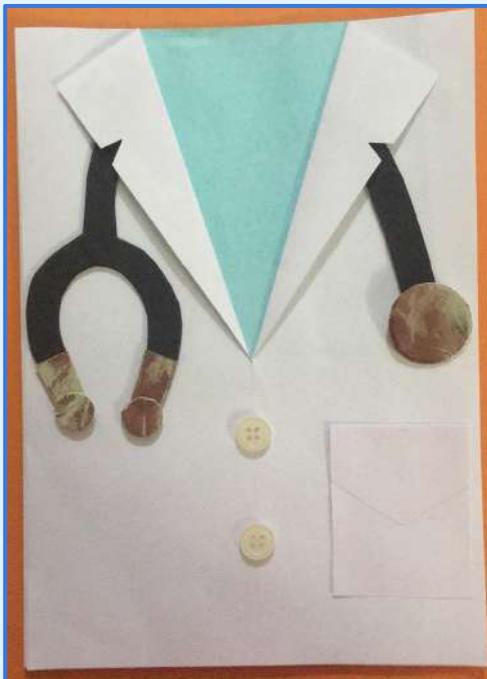
Hanika Bhardwaj  
KG , The Sixth Element Schools and Day Care , Gurugram , Haryana



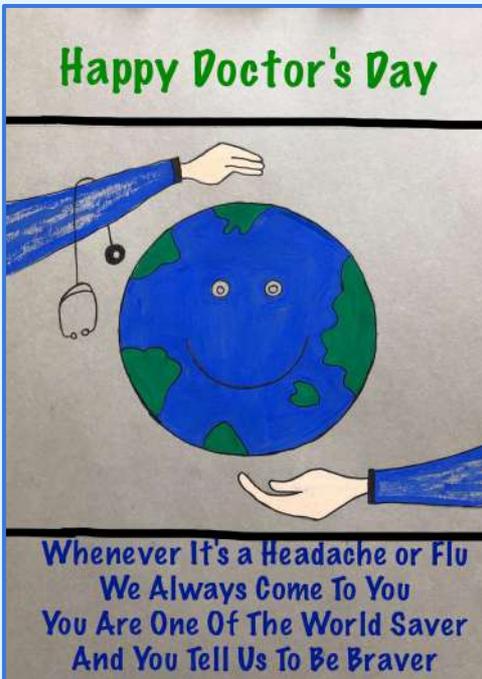
Maahi Brahmhatt  
2 , Calorx Public School , Ghatlodia , Ahmedabad , Gurjat



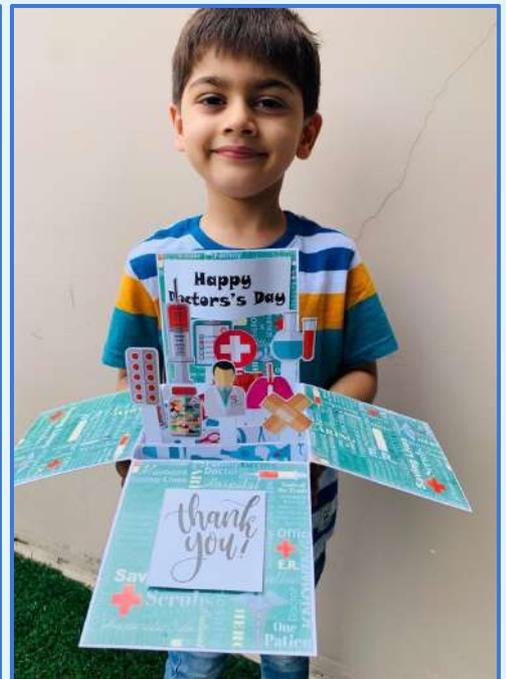
Grace,  
4 ,  
The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Niya George, 3 , The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Aashman Arora, Grade 5 , Delhi Public School , Sonapat , Haryana



Manan Jain, Grade 1 , The Choice School , Kochi , Kerala



Ashwin Vinod Kumar, 4 , The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Yaara , 2 , The Choice School , Thripunitra , Kerala



Nandana Menon  
3 , The Choice School , Kochi , Kerala

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## Unlock many possibilities!!!!!!!

Shivanshi Rai  
Grade 5 , Navy Children School , Goa

24 years back till the year 1996 my great-grandma spent 88yrs in a life similar to lockdown. Stay at home, stay safe was forced on the girls and women by keeping them at home and in purdah. With no electricity, television or internet for entertainment or phone, the life resembled a lot to the lockdown we are in.

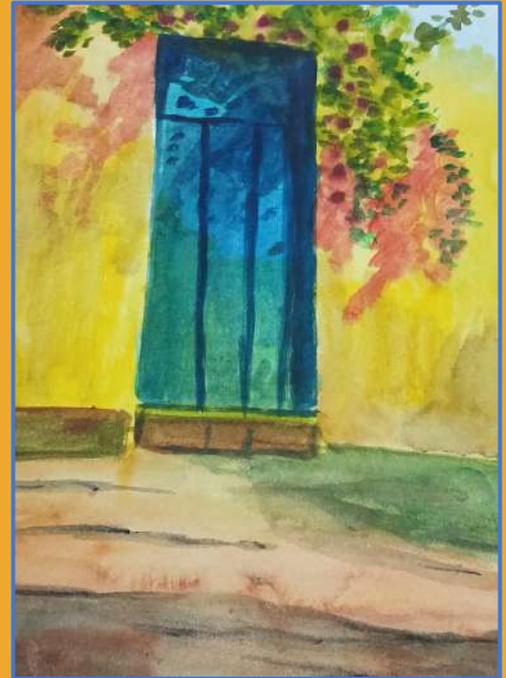
Unlike my grandma's time, we have 24hrs of electricity, television, unlimited access to the internet and phone to do audio and video calls to our friends and family. The lockdown gave me the opportunity to learn crafts, drawing, to cook and read a variety of books. I discovered a poet, a singer and a writer in me. I got the opportunity to participate in a variety of online competitions.

We saw the world coming together to fight and find the solution for this pandemic. We got the opportunity to spend a lot of time with our family. We realized the importance of our time with friends over our time with gadgets. We realized the importance of taking care of our environment and fellow creatures, healthy food and living and above all living within means.

As we get back into our lives slowly, steadily and carefully this lockdown has unlocked many possibilities of a changed lifestyle and outlook from all of us.

## Love the flowers

Ridhima Gupta  
Grade 8 , DLDVA MODEL SCHOOL , Shalimar Bagh , New Delhi



## Did you miss these news? Find them on [Curioustimes.in](https://www.curious-times.in)

Government bans 59  
China-based apps including  
TikTok, WeChat



Air quality in Delhi, Mumbai  
improves due to COVID-19  
lockdown



Unilever, L'Oreal to stop  
selling or rebrand  
skin-lightening creams



Having hobbies can prevent  
and reduce depression



Google Maps' new updates  
help you stay safe



Huge wombat-like creature lived  
in Australia 25 million years ago

