



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## WHAT YOU COULD DO

**1 ONLINE DEBATE COMPETITION:** Brainwiz in partnership with UNESCO New Delhi is organising this debate around COVID-19 lockdown. **HOW TO ACCESS:** Visit <https://bit.ly/3bUvdOv>

**2 PARTICIPATE IN A QUIZ:** IGenPlus and History Diaries present Quizinteen 2020. For ages 13-19 years. Deadline for registration is April 8. **HOW TO ACCESS:** Their FB and Instagram handles... <https://www.facebook.com/HistoryDiaries>

**3 NASA'S TEACHABLE MOMENTS:** NASA has launched Teachable Moments, which has activities and lessons to help you investigate universal discoveries. **HOW TO ACCESS:** Go to [www.jpl.nasa.gov](http://www.jpl.nasa.gov)

**STUDENT EDITION**  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020  
**WEB EDITION**

# LETTERS TO THE PM ON WAYS TO SOLVE RECESSION CRISIS

Times NIE students share their ideas to resolve financial crisis



**Increase confidence of the FPIs**  
Dear Sir, as you may know, our country is undergoing a crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is imperative to bring the situation under control but it is equally important to focus on the recession rate of our country. According to statistical research, the economic situation may degrade as low as that of the year 2008, owing to the effect of demonetisation, roll out of GST and most importantly the global slowdown. We could look at some immediate short-term measures like revoking the recent increase in taxes for high income. This may also repair confidence among FPI's in the Indian markets.  
- ROHAN ANUP KRISHNAN, class VI, The Asian School, Dehradun

**Reducing SLR could work**  
Sir, here are a few measures:  
▶ By taking back the idea that all listed companies must have 35% public shareholding.  
▶ By reducing statutory liquidity ratio (SLR is the minimum percentage of

deposits that a commercial bank has to maintain in the form of liquid cash, gold or other securities) and give directions to State Bank of India to lend instead of buying more securities.  
▶ By lowering bank reserve limits.  
▶ By open market operations.  
▶ By quantitative easing.



▶ By cutting tax rates.  
▶ Being flexible with labours and employees provident fund (EPF) requirements for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME's).  
- KRISHNA KAUSHAL, class IX B, De Indian Public School, Delhi

**Technical innovation is key**  
We must start offering incentives to innovative youth for designing something that will offer utility to the nation technically. The free time of abled minds must be utilised productively.  
- SHREYA VASHIST, class IX A, DC Model School Panchkula

**Lower CESS on petroleum**  
A country level CESS on petroleum products should be lowered which will reduce the cost of transportation of goods. The government should plan for more and more employment generating schemes so that people earn and have enough money to buy essential commodities.  
- LEISHA TOTANI, Sacred Heart School, Kalyan West

**Focus on MSME is important**  
UNCTAD has recently released a report stating that world economy will go in recession with likely exception of India and

China. Nonetheless, it is estimated that 21-day lockdown will result in GDP loss of almost \$98 billion. To save our economy, government could focus on increasing domestic consumption. In order to do this the government should provide controlled and transparent financial booster to MSME sector: It contributes around 33.4% of India's output. MSME has the potential to grow.  
- SHIVANGI class XII-J, DPS FARIDABAD, Haryana

**Indigenous manufacturing must**  
This will solve unemployment problem and also our precious foreign exchange balance. With a population of 1.5 billion, India is a big market which would generate enough demand for all products.  
- MANAS, class XII, Pallavi Model School, Hyderabad

Have an idea to share? Send us your email at [timesnie175@gmail.com](mailto:timesnie175@gmail.com)

Article  
360 (Financial Emergency) MUST be invoked. Salaries of government employees be cut, triple MNREGA and PM-KISAN aids to help the poor. Make in India be pushed aggressively and tax collection be paused.  
- ASISH SINGH class XII St. Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore

**I RECOMMEND**  
**BOOKS**  
**TO READ**  
BY NITYA SHUKLA

- WINGS OF FIRE: LEGENDS: DRAGONSLAYER**, by Tui T Sutherland. Ivy, Leaf and Wren fight for the survival of the human race against dragons. (Ages 8 to 12)
- DIARY OF AN AWESOME FRIENDLY KID**, by Jeff Kinney. Greg's best friend Rowley Jefferson writes his own diary. (Ages 8 to 12)
- WONDER**, by R.J. Palacio. A boy with a facial deformity starts school. (Ages 8 to 12)
- REFUGEE**, by Alan Gratz. Three children in three different conflicts look for a safe haven. (Ages 9 to 12)
- ALI CROSS**, by James Patterson. (Jimmy patterson) Ali Cross investigates the disappearance of a close friend. (Ages 9 to 12)

**MASKS ON STATUES**

After months of insisting that masks aren't necessary unless you're unwell, health agencies across the globe are now encouraging mask-wearing for everyone. And the move appears to be backed by research that suggests masks, even homemade face covers, can be effective in protecting against Covid-19.

**EXERCISE:** Can you list 3 reasons why wearing a mask could reduce chances of infection? Write to us at [timesnie175@gmail.com](mailto:timesnie175@gmail.com)

**HOW MUCH WILL PREZ, PM PAY CUT HELP?**

**WHAT:** An ordinance was passed by the Union cabinet to cut the salaries and allowances of MPs — plus their pensions — by 30% for a period of one year starting April 1, 2020. The amount will be deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India and utilised to tackle Covid-19. The pay cut will also include the PM's and his cabinet's salary.

**HOW:** Along with the pay cut of lawmakers, the President, Vice President and the Governors of the states have also taken a pay cut to a similar extent. In the 2018 budget, the salaries of the President, Vice President, state governors and Lt governors were increased with retrospective effect from February 2016.

**DOES IT HELP**  
An MP earns a salary of Rs 1 lakh, along with allowance of Rs 70,000 and office expense allowance of Rs 60,000 per month. On days when the parliament is in session, they get Rs 2,000 per day. Former MPs get a pension of Rs 25,000 and Rs 2,000 per month for every additional year served as MP over a 5-year term. The PM and his cabinet earn the same amount — with the addition of a sumptuary allowance dependent on their rank. There are several other perks, such as furniture allowance and travelling allowances. Excluding the perks, the government will save over Rs 64.61 crore at the very least in a year.

**APP-TITUDE**  
**APPS TO MAKE YOU A BETTER PUBLIC SPEAKER**

- PRACTICE TO A VIRTUAL AUDIENCE WITH VIRTUAL SPEECH:** That's what Virtual Speech is offering. It stimulates a photo-realistic environment with audience and sound distractions!
- DON'T USE FILLER WORDS:** LikeSo trains you to stop filler words. The app records your speech and generates a report on where you used your filler words and how many times.
- DON'T GO TOO FAST:** Metronome Beats (app) tracks your pace in real-time to show when you're speaking too quickly. Practice your speeches with this app until you are a pro.

**5 WAYS TO BE HAPPY RIGHT NOW**

- DANCE:** Dance to your favourite tunes. Moving to upbeat music releases chemicals that can boost your happiness levels. Stick the radio on, or one of your favourite albums, and get jiggy while making your breakfast.
- KEEP A GRATITUDE JOURNAL:** Buy a new notebook and write a list of what you're grateful for, or what you're looking forward to each week. Writing down these positive thoughts will lead to increased positivity.
- MEDITATE:** Daily meditation helps to generate happiness from the inside out. Sit on the floor or sofa, wherever you are comfortable, and close your eyes. Make no effort to control the breath; just breathe naturally.
- EXERCISE:** Moving our bodies releases endorphins, which is one of the happiness chemicals. Try and exercise for a minimum of 20 minutes every day.
- WRITE:** Write down your stream of consciousness first thing in the morning or last thing at night.

**Find If A WHATSAPP Message Is REAL or FAKE?**

A large number of fake WhatsApp forwards are spreading like wildfire. Are you also sharing fake messages without knowing it?

**TIPS TO MAKE OUT HOW**

- LOOK FOR THE 'FORWARDED' LABEL:** 78% of forwards are known to contain rumours and false information.
- GOOGLE IT:** Every time you have a doubt, just look for info online.
- IS THE VIDEO OR IMAGE FAKE:** Fake or hoax videos rely on poor quality footage to hide imperfections.
- NEVER FALL FOR URL AND LINKS**
- MAKE USE OF FACT CHECKING WEBSITES:** There are many good ones like Snopes.com, FactCheck.org, Hoax-Slayer.net, PolitiFact.com etc.

**WHAT TO DO?**

- If you find that a WhatsApp forward sent to you is fake, flag it. It may be annoying and awkward to tell the sender that the forward he/she sent was fake, but just do it.
- Never forward a WhatsApp message unless you're certain it's true.

**CHECK YOUR APTITUDE**

- A reduction in the price of apples enables a person to purchase 3 apples for ₹1 instead of ₹1.25. The percent reduction in price is A. 20% B. 5% C. 40% D. 20%
- If  $a+b+c+d = 6:7:8$  and  $a+b+c = 14$ , then value of 'c' is A. 7 B. 6 C. 3 D. 4
- If two numbers are in the ratio of 5:8 and if 9 is added to each, the ratio becomes 8:11. Find the sum of the numbers. A. 24 B. 39 C. 45 D. 12
- $35 - (16)^{0.16} \times (16)^{0.04}$  is equal to A. 3 B. 2 C. 8 D. 5

**Quiz time**

**SCIENCE**

- What tissue connects muscles to bones? A. Skin B. Tendon C. Blood vessels D. Fat
- Which nutrient plays an essential role in muscle-building? A. Protein B. Carbohydrate C. Iron D. Fat
- Plants need which gas to perform photosynthesis? A. Hydrogen B. Carbon dioxide C. Carbon monoxide D. Oxygen
- Which scientist proposed the three laws of motion? A. Isaac Newton B. Thomas Alva Edison C. Albert Einstein D. Stephen Hawking
- Earth is surrounded by layers of gases collectively called the \_\_\_\_\_. A. Hydrosphere B. Atmosphere C. Stratosphere D. Ozone layer

**ANSWERS**  
1. B) Tendon 2. A) Protein 3. B) Carbon dioxide 4. A) Isaac Newton 5. B) Atmosphere

**CURRICULUM EXERCISES**

**01. What is a Lepton?**  
A. Theist B. Atheist C. Agnostic D. Follower

**02. Fill in the blanks:**  
A. LPG consists of mainly \_\_\_\_\_.  
B. The most important ore of aluminium is \_\_\_\_\_.

**03. Label the part which is marked with a black box.**

**ANSWERS:** (1) In particle physics, a lepton is an elementary particle of half-integer spin (spin 1/2) that does not undergo strong interactions; (2) A) methane, butane and propane B) bauxite; (3) Liver

**Mind teasers ENGLISH QUIZ**

In questions given below out of four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given word/sentence.

- One who is not sure about God's existence A. Theist B. Atheist C. Agnostic D. Follower
- A person who deliberately sets fire to a building A. Cook B. Extinguisher C. Fire D. Arsonist
- One who does a thing for pleasure and not as a profession A. Timepass B. Amateur C. Hobby D. Professional
- One who can use either hand with ease A. Ambivalent B. Ambidextrous C. Deft D. Dextrous
- One who makes an official examination of accounts A. Secretary B. Auditor C. Accountant D. Doctor
- A person who believes in or tries to bring about a state of lawlessness A. Monarch B. Anarchist C. Metarchist D. Autocrat
- A person who has changed his faith A. Apostate B. Convert C. Tolerate D. Intolerant

**ANSWERS:** (1) C) Agnostic (2) D) Arsonist (3) B) Amateur (4) B) Ambidextrous (5) B) Auditor (6) B) Anarchist (7) A) Apostate