

# This Kovai school has adopted a new technique to empower its students

In today's competitive world, it is important to expose learners to a variety of learning tools, to give them opportunities for self-expression. Samshti International School has recently launched a flipped classroom experiment, which aims to do the same.

It started as an over-a-coffee discussion between their two directors on how to make students take responsibility for their learning. "With the pandemic-induced online classes, we pondered on how to make learning more fun and engaging for children. We decided on the Flipped Classroom Technique, in which the introduction of a concept shifts from the classroom space to the house by presenting it as a video to students. They watch a video and answer a small quiz on the topic. Then, they come to the classroom empowered with the knowledge of the key terms and basic idea, so that they can have in-depth discussions on the topic," says Major (Retd.)



Dr. Meera Bhandari Arora

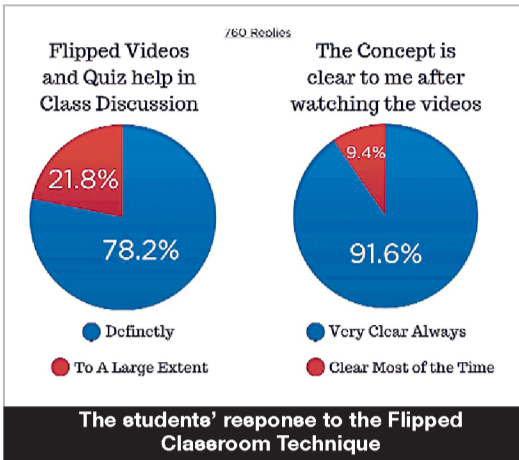
Naveen Mehta, Director - School Expansions and Operations.

"There are numerous factors contributing to the success of this methodology. The videos have quality content of the right duration. Students can watch the videos as many times as they want. Further, the quiz questions

are framed not only to assess the understanding of students but also challenge them to do independent research. The deep-diving classroom discussions ensure active learning, which leads to life-long retention. Students develop learning skills, research skills, communication skills and self-

confidence," explains Dr. Meera Bhandari Arora, Director - Academics and Training.

"This methodology has helped make teaching as personalised as learning, they say. The school's students claim that it is 'the best ever', 'amazing', 'awesome' and 'super fun'.

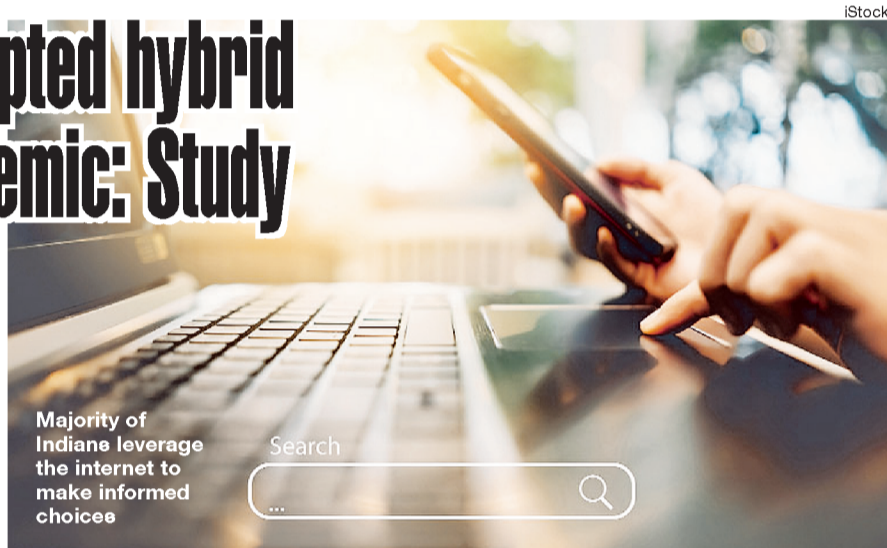


# Most Indians adopted hybrid lifestyles in pandemic: Study

While the COVID-19 pandemic imposed several constraints, the majority of Indians became adept at leveraging internet access to make more informed choices and better decisions, and seek support for their hybrid lifestyles, according to a study.

The study by an online search engine has found accelerated expansion of the internet user base in India over the past two years. It has also led to millions of new searches per day across user segments, channels. Even as mobility was limited, the year saw an acceptance of a blended lifestyle with an approximately 350% growth in interest in hybrid workplace alongside about 80% increase in online doctor consultation, the report showed.

Increasing user comfort with online commerce has led to a record 533% growth in search interest for Direct to consumer (D2C) brands and a 55% increase in virtual try on.



Majority of Indians leverage the internet to make informed choices

People have also become more conscious about online safety in 2021. This is evident in about an 80% increase in searches for 'is it true' on various aspects of fact-checking, misinformation and fake news in 2021. The report also signals that people are broadening their interest in wellness. Search interest in 'pet-friendly'

also grew by more than 70% as people seek to have their furry friends join them on their staycations and dine outs. Further, the demand for local language has also continued to grow. YouTube searches for songs and videos in local languages doubled in 2021.

## Aries

Monday is good for shopping and flirting. Tuesday/Wednesday might see you mentally uneasy. This week, the world will show you that your efforts have been worth something, that you've set wonderful things in motion. Professionally things had slowed down since Saturn got combust of late, but gradually things will start improving. You've worked so hard lately — harder than anyone recognises. Yet in spite of all this, you may feel like your endeavours haven't been enough.

## Taurus

Works that require meeting others must be completed on Monday/Tuesday while the Moon is supportive. Midweek is tense. It's important not to let the gratifications of rumination hold you back from the pleasures of going out and living. This isn't a time to lock yourself away until you've solved some big riddle or completed a big project. Rather, get the results you're looking for by letting the world find you and change you, by opening yourself up to interruptions, interventions and beautiful, wild inspiration.

## Gemini

You need to guard against disputes with women. Your spouse may have some minor health issues. Interest in occult grows as Mercury conjoints Saturn in the mysterious eighth house. Monday/Tuesday is good for finances, midweek offers opportunity for short travels and speedy completion of work. No matter how well you know yourself, sometimes you don't know how you really feel until you say it out loud — you think you have a handle on your emotions, but they spring out from you in strange, unexpected shapes.

## Cancer

It's important to speak with care as long as the Sun moves through the difficult eighth house with Jupiter. But this week, don't feel bad if it's impossible to keep your words under control, though you will suffer financial losses due to your tongue. Your emotions will always be complex, and will resist your efforts at simplification. But this week can remind you that it's easy to get muddled and distracted by everyone else's clamorous opinions and constant provocations. But if you can get past all that noise, you'll find that your instincts are as sharp as they've ever been, and your vision as clear. You don't have to doubt your own experiences or question your own eyes.

## Leo

The beginning of the week looks difficult — expenses will mount. What looks at first like turmoil can resolve, eventually, into clarity. It's up to you

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## ASTROSPEAK

### Virgo

When it feels impossible to regain your confidence and you can't find any logical reason to keep believing in yourself, the only solution is to embrace the illogical. Desires shall be fulfilled, inflow of wealth and gain of material comforts, too, is seen. Relatives may visit you. However, mental tensions will continue as enemies increase and relationships with friends will deteriorate as the fourth house and sixth house are occupied by Venus and Sun/Jupiter. Believe in yourself and the worthiness of your presence here on Earth without any reason.

### Libra

This is a profitable week on many fronts, gain of wealth, buying of new property too is possible and friendship with higher officials is indicated. Enemies will be defeated, new servants may be employed. You're highly attuned to other people's judgments and perceptions. Sometimes, though, all of this knowledge can become a burden. Try to grant yourself some relief from everyone else's needs and opinions. For now, you don't have to please anyone but yourself. It takes practice to stop caring so much, but you deserve to try — not because others don't matter, but because you matter, too.

### Scorpio

Some hidden fear, troubles and losses through siblings is indicated. For a while now, fending off discouragement has felt like a full-time job. Your speech may become rough. Monday/Tuesday are difficult days. It takes strength to keep the despair from dragging you under. This week, the world will offer you the chance to do more than just tread water. Happiness is possible. Even though discouragement lurks, it

can't destroy you right now. This period offers the chance to inhale deeply, to look forward with hope, and to approach life with an open heart anew.

### Sagittarius

Some difficulties continue towards the beginning of the week as success is curtailed. Though wealth and comforts too come, some unethical/immoral conduct too is seen. Surround yourself with flowers and essence in your personal surroundings to attract a good mood and luck whilst Venus still moves in your sign. As much as you're yearning for stability right now, you'll have to wait a bit longer to find it. This isn't a punishment, and it isn't the universe testing your endurance, though it may well feel that way. Rather, it just means that the right kind of steadiness hasn't arrived yet, and until it does, there's no need to settle for anything less. This week, refuse to accept anything less than what you actually need.

### Capricorn

Avoid confrontation with bosses. There may be increase of *pitta* (bile and acidity) in the body, so avoid staying awake/eating late in the night. Meetings with evil people is indicated. Take care of your electrical equipment and lighting — there seems to be some danger from fire and also through thieves, so guard your valuable belongings, don't keep them out in the open. You've been shaped by the past, but it can't stop you from living in the present. Despite all you've seen, you can still be surprised. In the face of everything you've been through, you're still brave enough to take big, important risks.

### Aquarius

Health issues should be foremost on your mind — besides governing the calves, moderate exercises and walking are important for you to remain fit. Materially, a good week, with success in activities, gain of wealth and luxuries along with delicious food and cuisine. Expect gain and help through friends. A good time for dealings in properties/real estate. The world will surprise you with moments of genuine connection and recognition.

### Pisces

You may be wondering who you can trust, but you can trust no one but yourself at the moment. Long travels are possible, but some underhand politics, opposition and gossip against you at work is possible. However there won't be any dearth of success, wealth or financial opportunities now. Get your eye check up done as it will cause some strain in coming few weeks. You've been slowly developing new wisdom, new powers, and now you're learning to use them. You're returning to the best of yourself.

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### SUDOKU CHALLENGE

Level: Medium

**HOW TO PLAY**  
 Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

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

### TIMES KAKURO

Level: Medium

4	9	35		22	15	15		
8				18				22
11				16	21			
	14			12			14	
		26		31			6	
	10	12			11			
	9			30				17
4			4	10			6	
23							7	
								20
				11				

**HOW TO PLAY**  
 The numbers in the coloured squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the coloured square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 2 boxes below 12 must contain 2 digits that add up to 12, whereas for 20, the 3 boxes placed horizontally next to it must add up to 20. No zeroes are used here, only the digits one through nine.

**NOTE:** A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance in the example, we cannot have the combination of 8+4+8 for 20.

**Example:**

20			
8	4	8	

### LOOP THE LOOP

**RULES**  
 ■ Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A)  
 ■ Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B)  
 ■ Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.  
 ■ You can't draw lines around zeroes.  
 ■ Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

**HOW TO BEGIN:** Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

**HINTS:** Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend (Fig B)

	2	2		2	2	
	2		2	2	2	
0	3	2	2			
	2	3		1	2	
			2	1	2	
2				1	2	2
	3	2	2			

### MINDBENDER

Once there was a night watchman who had been caught several times sleeping on the job. The boss issued the final warning. On the next night, he was caught with his head on his hand and his elbows on the desk. "Aha, I've caught you again,"

explained the boss. The watchman's eyes popped open immediately and he knew what had happened. Being a quick thinking man, he said one word before looking up at the boss. The boss apologised profusely and went home. What was the one word?

### SPELLATHON

**Today's Ratings:**  
 12-average | 14-good | 116-outstanding

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, a letter can be used as many times as it appears in the puzzle. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

**Today's Letters:** E Y R L C A N

### SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

**How To Play:**  
 Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

LPIOO    BIILN    AIRCDN    AIWGMW

The \_\_\_ has its \_\_\_ but does not often let others in on it. - Bernard DeVoto (4,...,3,5)

### SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES

**TIMES SUDOKU**

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

**LOOP THE LOOP**

**TIMES KAKURO**

4	9	35		22	15	15		
8				18				22
11				16	21			
	14			12			14	
		26		31			6	
	10	12			11			
	9			30				17
4			4	10			6	
23							7	
								20
				11				

**SCRAMBLE**  
 crane, face, bay, name, ray  
 Answer: The mind has its own logic on it. - Bernard DeVoto

**MINDBENDER**  
 rather than sleeping.  
 Answer: "amen". The one word was "amen".

**SPELLATHON**  
 banner, LARCHWAY, race, ray, crane, face, bay, name, ray, crane, face, bay, name, ray

### Dennis the Menace

**WEATHER VAIN**

...THAT SUPERHEATS THE AIR AROUND IT.  
 ...THANKING FOR THE COOKIES!  
 I WAS GOING TO SAY IT'S ANGELS BOWLING IN THE SKY.

### GARFIELD

CLICK

### Wizard of Id

WE'RE BEAUTIFUL EVEN IN DEATH.  
 GLUSH  
 FINE, I'LL CLOSE THE POOL.

### Beetle Bailey

THE REPORT IS READY, SIR CAN I SEND YOU A PDF?  
 YES, AS LONG AS IT'S PRINTED ON PAPER.  
 HERE, LIEUTENANT, RUN THIS OVER TO HEADQUARTERS.  
 BUT SARGE TOLD ME TO DO SOMETHING ELSE.  
 HERE, OTTO, TAKE THIS TO HEADQUARTERS, GOOD BOY!  
 OUR K-9 UNITS CAN DO EVERYTHING THESE DAYS!

### Hagar the Horrible

AT LAST!  
 IT TOOK MONTHS TO GET HERE!  
 TRUST ME, IT WILL BE WORTH THE LONG JOURNEY!  
 WE'RE ABOUT TO RAID A PLACE THAT HAS RICHES BEYOND BELIEF!  
 EVERYTHING ANY OF US COULD POSSIBLY HOPE FOR!  
 EVERYTHING EXCEPT A DOOR!