

## Online Learning (2nd January, 202)

The year 2020 has been difficult for hundreds of thousands of teachers. They have had to deliver lessons using online platforms. Millions of students have had lessons on websites like Zoom. This has caused a major transformation in education. The quality of education differs according to Internet speeds, the levels of teacher preparedness and teachers' competence in using technology. Many students had no lessons because they had no computer.

Malaysia has started a new programme to help underprivileged children. Eligible students will get a device so they can have online lessons. Malaysia wants to help students and schools in need and find the best methods to expand the programme. There are plans to improve educational TV shows for students with no Internet access. Malaysia will also employ sign language interpreters to help the hard of hearing. It wants to focus on students' needs.

**Marine Creatures (6th October, 2019)**

The travel website TripAdvisor will stop selling tickets to attractions that use marine creatures like dolphins. It will stop selling tickets for SeaWorld in Florida. The ban continues the company's policy of prohibiting ticket sales to attractions where people come into physical contact with animals. The latest ban applies to attractions that "contribute to the captivity" of dolphins, orcas, porpoises and whales.

TripAdvisor commented on its new policy. It said dolphins do not thrive in captivity. It said: "We hope to see a future where they live as they should - free and in the wild." TripAdvisor hopes the current dolphins in captivity will be the last, and it looks forward to seeing this position adopted all over the travel industry. SeaWorld was disappointed by TripAdvisor's action, saying it "ignores the educational value and conservation" of zoos and aquariums.

### **Zero-Carbon fuels (24th June, 2019)**

The UK is working towards a greener planet. For the first time since the Industrial Revolution, more of the UK's energy is from zero-carbon fuels than fossil fuels. In 2019, fossil fuels produced less than half of the UK's electricity. A decade ago, three quarters came from fossil fuels. A "tipping point" has been reached and the UK will get more and more power from wind, solar, nuclear and hydro sources. The UK will use less coal, oil and gas.

The UK said the use of more renewables was a "key milestone on the journey towards net zero". It said zero-carbon power should increase to 90 per cent by the 2030s and reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. It would be the first major economy to do this. An analyst said the milestone was because of engineers who solved the technical problems of climate change. He said jobs will be lost in fossil fuel industries and created in low-carbon industries.