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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

AMAZON DEFORESTATION SURGES

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon has risen by a quarter since last year, official statistics show. The rainforest is also on the course for its worst year on record and in the first half of 2020, 3,069 square kilometres — an area, 10 times the size of Paris — was destroyed. AFP

DID YOU KNOW? Deforestation and fires in Brazil's Amazon released 115 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in the first half of 2020, up roughly 20 per cent from the same period a year ago, equivalent to the annual emissions of 25 million cars

ENVIRONMENT

AMAZON FACTS

- Covering over 5.5 million square kilometres, Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It's 17 times the size of the UK and Ireland.
- Experts say due to the thickness of the canopy (the top branches and leaves of the trees), the floor of Amazon looks completely dark. In fact, it's so thick that when it rains, it takes around 10 minutes for the water to reach the ground! (AFP)

Cost of Covid-19 pandemic = \$3.8 TRILLION!

SECTORS AFFECTED

- According to researchers, travel industry is the worst affected, courtesy, the cancellation of flights, and countries closing their borders to visitors, particularly in Asia, Europe and the US
- In fact, according to them, the loss of global connectivity led to an 'economic contagion', causing major disruptions to trade, tourism, energy and finance sectors
- It has affected the global consumption as well. Consumption dropped by 4.2 per cent — or about \$3.8 trillion — equal to the gross domestic product of Germany
- Apart from creating a digital divide, it is also likely to widen the global wealth and income gaps that already exist, and potentially decimate the healthcare systems in lower income countries

THE SILVER LINING

- Air pollution dropped drastically, with greenhouse gas emissions seeing the largest drop in human history— down by about 2.5 gigatons — or about 4.6 per cent of normal
- Similarly, other atmospheric emissions, such as the dangerous

PM2.5 particulate matter dropped by about 3.8%; sulphur dioxide dropped by 2.9%

■ Sulphur dioxide emissions mainly come from burning fossil fuels, one of the causes for asthma and chest congestion

(SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL PLOS ONE)

CORPORATE DEBTS MOUNT

- Companies around the world will take on as much as \$1 trillion of new debt in 2020, as they try to shore up their finances against the coronavirus, a study of 900 top firms has estimated.
- The increase will see total global corporate debt jump by 12% to around \$9.3 trillion, adding to years of accumulation that has left the world's most indebted firms owing as much as many medium-sized countries (REUTERS)

COUNTRIES AFFECTED

- It has impacted countries and regions in different ways. The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries(OPEC), for instance, lost income, as they weren't extracting as much oil due to reductions in global transportation use
- Low-wage nations, such as China and India suffered employment losses, as people stopped buying, resulting in the drop in production

The coronavirus has not only put a brake in our lives, it has also devastated the world economy. According to a new study, the pandemic and the measures to slow its spread has cost the global economy \$3.8trillion. That's not all. It has left around 147 million people unemployed.

COVID CRISIS

Athlete Dutee Chand to sell car to meet Olympic training expenses?

Ace Indian athlete Dutee Chand is facing a shortage of funds due to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics to next year, and is planning to sell her car to meet the expense of her training. The player has spent all her allotted money given by the state government and sponsors for training, as the scheduled Olympics has been shifted to a new date due to the coronavirus pandemic. Chand, who has been recently nominated for the Arjuna Award 2020, said Covid-19 has impacted sports, and sponsors are not willing to support her at this time. IANIS



“The government doesn't have money right now because of coronavirus, so it doesn't look good, if I ask money from them. Coronavirus has impacted all of us. Since there is no competition, no one is willing to sponsor us, we are at loss; these are troublesome times. Lockdown made all of us stay at home, it will take 6-7 months to reach my best fitness levels”

FACTOID \$114,000 (₹ 85 Lakh)

Price of an unopened copy of a vintage Super Mario Bros video game that was sold recently at an auction. The Super Mario Bros copy, designed for Nintendo's NES gaming console in 1985, is believed to be one of the few handful of sealed copies of such vintage games, to be still available in the world.

'Mike Tyson's Punch-Out!', a 1987 video game based on the former heavyweight boxing champion, was sold for \$50,400.

NOW, MAKE A WHATSAPP VOICE OR VIDEO CALL WITH GOOGLE ASSISTANT

Google has announced that Assistant would be able to make video and audio calls with WhatsApp. This means that one can easily access WhatsApp and some of its options by triggering the Google Assistant from the home screen on your smartphone. The voice calls commenced by Assistant were earlier used to place a network call for the user, while video calls could be set up via Hangouts or Duo only.



HOW IT WORKS

- If you have set up the Google Assistant app on your Android device, you may directly invoke it by saying, OK Google or Hey Google. When Google Assistant is open, use one of the two commands, "Make a WhatsApp call to [contact-name]" or "Call [contact-name]" on WhatsApp. For a video call, just say, "Make a WhatsApp video call to [contact-name]".
- To make things faster, add a nickname to the most-frequently called contacts.

IANIS

NEWS IN BRIEF

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

APPLE ARCADE ADDS PUZZLE ADVENTURE GAME 'CREAKS'

Apple's subscription-based gaming service Arcade has added a new puzzle adventure game 'Creaks' for its users. 'Creaks' is described as a puzzle adventure game in which players have to explore an old mansion to find hidden paintings, and solve puzzles to uncover the mansion's secrets. It is available on iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple TV.

Earlier, Arcade added two new games — deep sea adventure, 'Beyond Blue' by E-Line Media, and the emotional puzzle game, 'A Fold Apart' by Lightning Rod Games on the iPhone, iPad and Apple TV



GAMING

ELON MUSK IS THE 'BEST' PAID CEO

Tesla's CEO Elon Musk has grabbed the top spot in the list of highest-paid CEOs in the US, while Apple CEO Tim Cook ranked second in the list

IN THE NEWS

created by Bloomberg for 2019. As per the Bloomberg Pay Index, Musk made \$595.3 million in 2019. Tim Cook made \$133.7 million in 2019 from Apple.

Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella In Top 10 List

- Four CEOs from the tech industry made it to the top 10 chart of the highest-paid CEOs. The companies, include Apple, Google, Intel and Microsoft.



MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY JUST INCLUDED 'IRREGARDLESS'

Irregardless is a word that has often irritated those who are meticulous with language. People

WORD WATCH

use it instead of regardless, which is a word, while irregardless is not. But now Merriam-Webster Dictionary has included 'irregardless'. As our world grows and changes, languages evolve too.

- This word has been used by millions for a long time (over two hundred years) with a specific and identifiable meaning ("regardless").
- Merriam has categorised the word as an adverb and specified that it's a non-standard word, meaning regardless.
- It has even included a FAQ section, explaining that the word was first used in 1795. It has been included in other dictionaries TNN

LET'S PLAY WORD GAMES

Tell us 5 words that are used commonly by you and your friends while communicating with one another, but are not a part of any dictionary. Share them at

toinie175@gmail.com/timesnie175@gmail.com.
The TOP 5 WORDS will be featured in Times NIE!!!



TOPPERS' STORY


DIVYANSHI JAIN
SCORE: 600/600

Getting hundred per cent in examinations is no mean feat but Divyanshi Jain of Lucknow has done the impossible. She has scored 600 marks out of 600 in the CBSE class XII examinations. She has scored

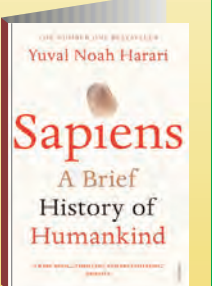
“For me, it is unbelievable and the result is yet to sink in. I am delighted and surprised at the same time, DIVYANSHI, Navyug Radiance Senior Secondary School, Lucknow.”

full marks in English, Sanskrit, history, geography, insurance and economics. Divyanshi appeared for the examination of all subjects except geography, which was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.

BOOK REVIEW

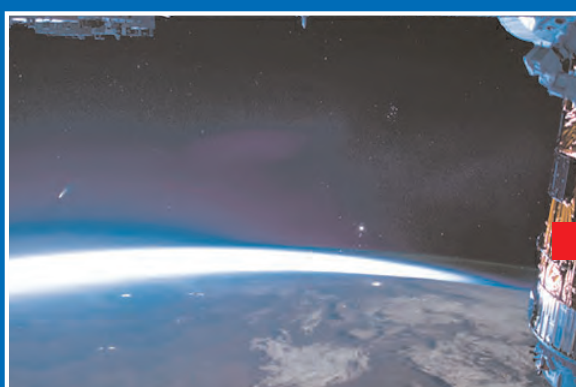
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - Yuval Noah Harari

Starting from the years when humans were just beginning to stand upright, develop language, and harness fire, the author



goes on to explain how the human species evolved to acquire specific skills, and eventually rose to become the dominant species on this planet. However, instead of simply charting the path of evolution, Harari engages with both the biological as well as anthropological aspects of human development. Written in simple language, the two aspects are combined to create a cohesive narrative story of our origins for the young minds INAYAT KAPOOR, class XII, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula

Comet NEOWISE VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE



A new comet called C/2020 F3 NEOWISE, which was discovered by NASA's Near Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer telescope, is clearly visible to the naked eye these days, giving a new hope to the skywatchers. "From July 14, C/2020 F3, a comet discovered on March 27, became clearly visible in the north-western sky. It is visible after sunset for around 20 minutes for the next 20 days. People can observe it with the naked eyes," said deputy director, Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Odisha. It can be seen by the skywatchers at pre-dawn. After July, it will fade away very fast, and will not be visible to the unaided eye," he added. ANI

SPACE

4 FACTS ABOUT COMETS

- 1 Comets are cosmic snowballs of frozen gases, rock and dust that orbit the sun in a highly elliptical path
- 2 When frozen, they become the size of a few hundred kilometers compared with the size of a small town. When a comet's orbit comes closer to the sun, it heats up and melts, thereby releasing a large amount of dust and gases, and turning into a giant glowing head, larger than most planets
- 3 The dust and gases form a tail that stretches away from the sun for millions of kilometers in the opposite direction. There are likely billions of comets orbiting our sun in the Kuiper Belt and even more distant Oort Cloud
- 4 Currently, there are 3,650 known comets



Are you a star gazer? Take some time off from onscreen and watch the beauty of nature. Don't forget to share your experiences at toinie175@gmail.com/timesnie175@gmail.com.

The magic in Sanskrit Shlokas



HARE KRISNA MAHAMANTRA

Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna
Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama
Hare Hare

DHANVANTRI SHLOKA

Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaaya
Dhanvantaraye Amrita-kalasha Hastaaya
Sarva-amaya Vinaashanaaya
Trailokya Naathaya
Sri Maha-vishnave Namaha

Nitya.shukla@timesgroup.com
Divya Doraiswamy, founder of Gurukulam, one of the first on-line shloka schools in Bengaluru explains why chanting Sanskrit shlokas can help you deal with negative emotions, heal, improve your confidence, and boost your learning skills.

Self healing

Doraiswamy says that, “chanting shlokas have miraculous power to heal.” This happens because chanting results in rhythmic vibrations which creates a melodic effect in the body known as the Neuro-linguistic effect (NLE); and Psycho-linguistic effect (PLE), which occurs when one knows the meaning of what one is chanting. A study done by Professor Dr T Temple Tuttle, of Cleveland University (US) found that NLE and PLE together release certain chemicals that helps in curing certain ailments in the body and releases endorphins that act as pain relievers in the body, besides boosting the metabolic processes. Having experienced the healing powers of shlokas during a difficult phase in life, Doraiswamy found solace in the ‘Hare Krishna Mahamantra’, which she said had a healing effect in her life.

The word shloka means ‘song’, and originates from the root sru or ‘hear’. A shloka is generally a couplet of Sanskrit verse, especially one in which each line contains sixteen syllables. Research shows that a chanter’s respiration rate slows from the normal 12 to 15 breaths per minute to between five and eight breaths per minute, which is considered optimal for mind-body health.

► Research says learning a new language like Sanskrit boosts reading and Math skills. It also helps you deal with anxiety

Fights anxiety, sharpens intellect

Doraiswamy started her online school in 2014 and currently teaches over 80 children around the world. She said “Exposure to shlokas helps one to build confidence and courage, fight negative emotions like restlessness, anxiety, and anger. Research says learning a new language like Sanskrit boosts reading and Math skills”. As per Robert Gass, author of the seminal book ‘Chanting’, this happens because chanting of shlokas requires systematic rhythmic deep breathing which boosts the oxygen supply to the brain which in turn sharpens focus and improves concentration.

Trust the system

Doraiswamy added that chanting shlokas is beneficial to those battling negative emotions like anxiety or restlessness, especially now, during the lockdown. However, she specified, that healing via chanting shlokas does not occur overnight. That one must invest time effort and belief in their practice.

Learn anywhere, anytime

While it is recommended that one learn chanting sanskrit shlokas with a proper instructor, Doraiswamy said that there are many self-learning tools available via books and videos, besides classes to begin the practice oneself.

Age no bar

Doraiswamy’s students range from as young as 3-year-old kids to over 50 plus CEOs of companies, academicians and homemakers. She says, “Kids learn shlokas because the aim is to keep our traditional roots in place and the adults who come to class are the ones who are trying to fight stress or other health disorders.”

Participate

Who said writers are not weird?

Just like you and us, everyone is scared of an empty page. Many writers in fact were famous for having built strange-sounding rituals to get writing. For example:

Raymond Carver often wrote in his car (which was stationary or he was driven around by someone).



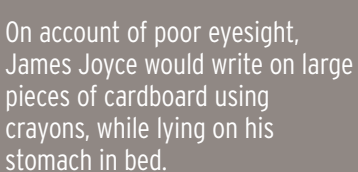
Truman Capote liked to write while lying down.



Virginia Woolf wrote while standing up, working at a custom-built standing desk.



On account of poor eyesight, James Joyce would write on large pieces of cardboard using crayons, while lying on his stomach in bed.



Charles Dickens always faced north when he wrote because he, like most Victorians in his era believed that the earth’s magnetic currents could imbue the mind with creative energy.



Readers, tell us your own weird writing habits! – drop in a mail at timesnie175@gmail.com

HEALTH WISE

Why skipping meals for weight loss

may be doing more harm than good

Are you skipping meals to reach your weight loss goal? Well, it might be doing bad than good to your body. Here are a few negative effects, which skipping meals can have on your body:



Overeating

Not eating for a long time will most likely make you overeat in the next meal. When you starve your body for a long period, it will naturally demand more food when you eat in order to compensate for the energy lost. It is also said that skipping meals increases your craving for processed and junk food and in turn makes you eat more than your regular amount of food.

Slow metabolism

Our body adapts to

the lifestyle we have been following since long. If you usually eat three meals, then skipping meals in between can affect the metabolism of your body. As your metabolism rate slows down, so does your weight loss rate. As a result of skipped meals, your metabolism starts converting fat into energy. This can make you prone to health issues like fatigue, low blood pressure, low energy levels, exhaustion and nausea.

Constant feeling of tiredness

Not eating for long hours can surround you with clouds of constant tiredness. You might feel head rush or dizzy when your stomach is empty. As blood glucose level falls, your body will start feeling tired and drained. This feeling might make you feel sluggish and may not let you work properly or think straight. So it is important to eat at least thrice a day to keep giving your body constant doses of energy.

Stomach problems

Your stomach will continue to produce stomach juices even if you don’t eat anything. These juices can cause acidity and gas.

What’s inside J K Rowling’s Ickabog?



WHAT IS AN ICKABOG?

THE Ickabog is a monster that dwells in the “dark and misty” Marshlands. It eats children and sheep and has even “carried off grown men and women”.



Here is our quick wander through JK's new world...

WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS?

King Fred the Fearless

The King of Cornucopia, who has “lovely yellow curls” and is “generous” and “awfully handsome”. But his mistreatment of the Dovetail family is the “beginning of all the troubles” in the kingdom. Lord Spittleworth and Lord Flapoon: Fred’s two best friends, who live at the palace. Lady Eslanda: The target of the King’s affections. Spittleworth and Flapoon try to deter him from falling for Eslanda.

Bert Beamish

Little boy who, like all the other children, fears the Ickabog. Bertha Beamish is his mum.

Major Beamish

Bert’s dad and head of the Royal Guard.

Dan Dovetail

Dora Dovetail is the Head seamstress of the king. Daisy Dovetail is their daughter and Bert’s best friend.

In what world is The Ickabog set?

In CORNUCOPIA, which is a small country filled with “acres of orchards, fields of shimmering golden wheat and emerald-green grass”. The capital is Chouxville, famed for its cakes and pastries, while the nearby towns of Kurdsburg and Baronstown each have specialties for cheese – “huge white wheels, dense orange cannonballs” – and meats. Food seems to be an important theme so far...The Beamishes and Dovetails live in a place called the City-Within-The-City because they work for the king.

Quiz time

MIXED BAG

Q.1) In which country did the Battle of Waterloo take place?

A. Belgium B. Norway
C. Hungary D. France

Q.2) Which treaty ended the War of 1812?

A. Treaty of Versailles
B. Maastricht Treaty
C. Treaty of Brest-Litovsk
D. Treaty of Ghent

Q.3) What was the world’s first nuclear-powered air-

craft carrier?

A. Yamato B. Forrestal
C. Enterprise D. Invincible

Q.4) Which of these was not a battle fought in World War II?

A. Okinawa B. Iwo Jima
C. Gettysburg D. Anzio

Q.5) The D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944, took place in:

A. Ireland B. Canada
C. France D. Belgium

ANSWERS

1. A) Belgium 2. D) Treaty of Ghent 3. C) Enterprise 4. C) Gettysburg
5. C) France

CHECK YOUR APTITUDE

1) Meera, known for her exquisite wedding cakes, opened a bakery a year ago and business was slow. Her consultant report-

ed that the local population consider it a joint to visit it if they were celebrating a special occasion. Which strategy

should Meera employ to increase her daily business?

A. Making coupons available that entitle the coupon holder to receive a 25% discount on special cakes.

B. Exhibiting at the next Bridal Expo and having pieces of one of her wedding cakes for tasting.

C. Placing a series of ads in the local newspaper that

advertise the wide array of breads. D. Moving the bakery to the other side of the town.

ANSWER:

C. Placing a series of ads in the local newspaper that advertise the wide array of breads.

IDIOM OF THE DAY

► RING FENCING

Meaning: Guarantee that (funds allocated for a particular purpose) will not be spent on anything else.



Word Wise

Classified: (adj) Arranged or distributed in classes or according to class. Of or designating the part or parts of a publication that contain advertisements or lists arranged by category. Confidential or secret, etc.

Synonymous words: classed, clarified, etc.

Examples: ■ Classified buildings are eligible for state-funded restoration.

■ The bank has a list of classified customers to whom it will not make large loans.

■ The firm’s promotional budget for next year is classified information.

COMMON GRAMMATICAL MISTAKES

1. CONTINUAL/CONTINUOUS

THE RULES:

■ ‘Continual’ means start and stop.
■ ‘Continuous’ means never-ending.

HOW NOT TO DO IT:

■ There were continual battles between authority figures like Skinner and the free spirits who formed the band.
■ There was a continual flow of ideas.

HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY:

■ There were continual battles between authority figures like Skinner and the free spirits who formed the band.
■ There was a continuous flow of ideas.



KNOWLEDGE BANK

Scoville

Scoville scale is a measurement of the pungency (spiciness or “heat”) of chilli peppers and other spicy foods, as recorded in Scoville Heat Units (SHU), based on the concentration of capsaicinoids, among which capsaicin is the main component. The scale is named after its creator, American pharmacist Wilbur Scoville.