



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

## Google adds new feature; update will show COVID-19 TESTING LABS



Google has added a new feature on its Search, Assistant and Map products to help users find information on Covid-19 testing centres near them. The new feature is available in English, along with eight other languages in India—Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi and Gujarati, it added.

TECH BUZZ

- While making a coronavirus-related search (for example, 'coronavirus testing') on Search and Google Assistant, users will now see a 'Testing' tab on the search results page providing a list of nearby testing labs, along with key information and guidance needed before using their services
- At present, Google has integrated over 700 testing labs on Search, Assistant and Maps spread across 300 cities. Google said, it is working with authorities to identify and add more testing labs located across the country

## India's FOREX RESERVES cross half a trillion dollars for the first time

**WHAT:** India's foreign exchange reserves (Forex) rose \$8.2 billion in the week of June 5 and has now crossed the milestone \$500 billion mark for the first time in the country's history. Forex reserves are external assets in the form of gold, SDRs (special drawing rights of the International Monetary Fund) and foreign currency assets (capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings) accumulated by India and controlled by the Reserve Bank of India. Expressed in US dollars, foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies, such as the euro, pound and yen held in the reserves.



**WHY ARE FOREX RISING DESPITE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN:** According to experts, the major reason for the rise in forex reserves is the rise in investment in foreign portfolio investors in Indian stocks and foreign direct investments (FDIs). Foreign investors have acquired stakes in several Indian companies in the last two months.

### THE SIGNIFICANCE

1 The rising forex reserves is an added advantage for any government. It is an economic boost to the government and the Reserve Bank of India in managing India's external and internal financial issues at a time, when the growth is set to contract by 1.5 per cent in 2020-21

2 The rising reserves have also helped in strengthening rupee against the dollar

3 It also gives confidence to the markets that the country can meet its external obligations, and keep a reserve for emergency situations

## NEWS IN CLUES

This country is officially the 19th worst-hit by pandemic

- CLUE 1:** The farthest place on land from sea is located here
- CLUE 2:** It is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council
- CLUE 3:** It joined the World Trade Organisation in 2011

**DID YOU KNOW?** The most distant point from an ocean is the Eurasian Pole of Inaccessibility, located in the desert of China's Xinjiang region, near the border with Kazakhstan

**ANSWER: CHINA.** China on Sunday reported its highest daily total of new coronavirus infections in two months, raising fears that reopening of the country has caused a second wave

## ABHISHEK BACHCHAN'S DIGITAL DEBUT 'BREATHE: INTO THE SHADOWS' TO RELEASE ON JULY 10

Amazon Prime Video's latest series, 'Breathe: Into The Shadows', featuring Abhishek Bachchan, is all set to release on July 10. The psychological-crime thriller, created and produced by Abundantia Entertainment, marks Abhishek's digital debut, along with Southern star Nithya Menen. 'Breathe: Into The Shadows' will see actor Amit Sadh reprise his role as inspector Kabir Sawant from the first chapter of the series in 2018.

ENTERTAINMENT

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MILLIONS OF MICROPLASTIC PARTICLES ARE SPIRALLING THROUGH THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

If reports are to go by, tiny pieces of plastic, known as microplastics, are filling the Earth's atmosphere, and have been discovered raining down on US parks, like the Grand Canyon, claim researchers. According to reports published in 'Daily Mail', more than 1,000 tons of microplastics were discovered in over 11 US locations, including protected areas, having travelled through the air, like rain. High-resolution equipment was used to discover samples of this plastic pollution that had rained down.



**DID YOU KNOW?** In 2017, the world produced around 348 million tons of plastic. It is believed that this figure has only increased year on year, since then  
Plastic is highly-resilient and lasts a long time before breaking down. The microplastics, known to accumulate in wastewaters, rivers and oceans, have also accumulated in the atmosphere

### NEIL GAIMAN TO RELEASE NEW BOOK FOR KIDS

Neil Gaiman, author of the comic book series, 'The Sandman' will be releasing a new children's book with Chris Riddell. Titled, 'Pirate Stew', it was written by Gaiman over a decade ago. A pirate adventure, the book will be illustrated by Chris Riddell, who also worked with Gaiman on 'The Graveyard Book', 'Coraline' and 'Fortunately, the Milk'. The book is due to come out on December 1, 2020.

BOOK

### A CLASS IX STUDENT INVENTS A 'LIGHT MOTORCYCLE' FROM SCRAP

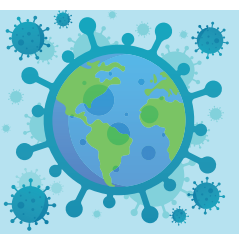
A class IX student, Arshad TH, has developed a light motorcycle by using scrap materials

YOUNG ACHIEVER

The bike has a petrol tank attached to the seat and handles, with the capacity to hold one litre of fuel. Arshad claimed that the bike can travel up to 50 km on a full tank.  
Manufactured with scrap tyres, disc brakes, LED lights, handles of other bikes and carrier and the seat of bicycles, Arshad spent nearly ₹ 10,000 to develop a light motorcycle

### INDIA LEADS INITIATIVE AT UN TO COUNTER MISINFORMATION ON COVID-19

India, along with 12 other countries, has led an initiative aimed at spreading fact-based content to counter misinformation on the coronavirus, with over 130 nations endorsing the global call to fight the "infodemic" relating to the Covid-19 pandemic. On the initiative by Australia, Chile, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Latvia, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Senegal and South Africa, a total of 132 member states endorsed a cross-regional statement on "infodemic" or manipulated information.



A GIANT LEAP

UN secretary general Antonio Guterres has said that apart from fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is also seeing a "dangerous outbreak" of misinformation about harmful health advice, hate speech and wild conspiracy theories. An antidote to this misinformation is fact-based news and analysis, he added

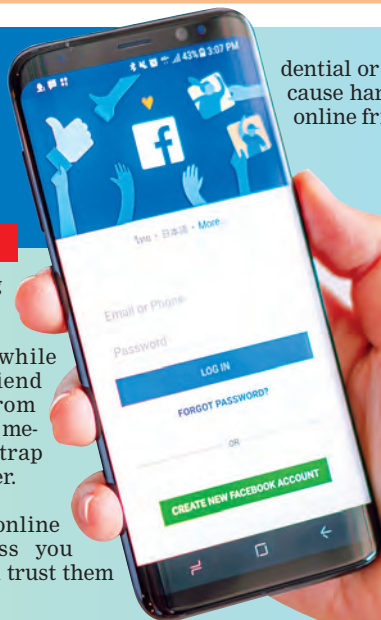
## How to use FACEBOOK, WHATSAPP safely

From restricting access to personal data to being cautious about accepting friend requests, Cyber Dost - the cybersecurity awareness handle maintained by the ministry of home affairs has shared some important tips to help avoid frauds...

- Sharing your sensitive personal details, such as address, phone number, Aadhaar number, photo, date of birth etc, on social media make it easier for a stalker to misuse such details to harass you. It is advisable not to post such details on social media.
- Ensure that your personal information—photos and videos, if posted on social media, are accessible only to your trusted ones. Always set your "privacy settings" on social

### SAFETY TIPS

- media before using it.
- Be careful while accepting friend requests from strangers on social media. It could be a trap to cause harm later.
- Do not trust online friends unless you know and can trust them in real life.
- Cyber criminals often create fake social media profiles to befriend potential victims for obtaining their confi-



dential or personal data, or gain trust to cause harm in due course. Be careful of online friend requests you accept.

6 If you are a victim of cyberstalking, consult your parents, friends or relatives, and file a complaint against the cyber stalker with the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal/Police. Also save all communications with the stalker, as evidence. Don't panic and seek help without any hesitation.



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