



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020

WEB EDITION

Oxford Covid-19 vaccine likely to be the first shot for Indians

A promising experimental coronavirus vaccine developed by the University of Oxford may be the first shot available for the Indians by the end of this year, if trials succeed, according to a report. The Serum Institute of India (SII) has started the phase-2 clinical trials of the vaccine candidate, ChAdOx1, dubbed Covishield in India at KEM and Nair hospitals in Mumbai.

The ChAdOx1 vaccine, a chimpanzee adenovirus vaccine vector, is considered as one of the most promising candidates against Covid-19

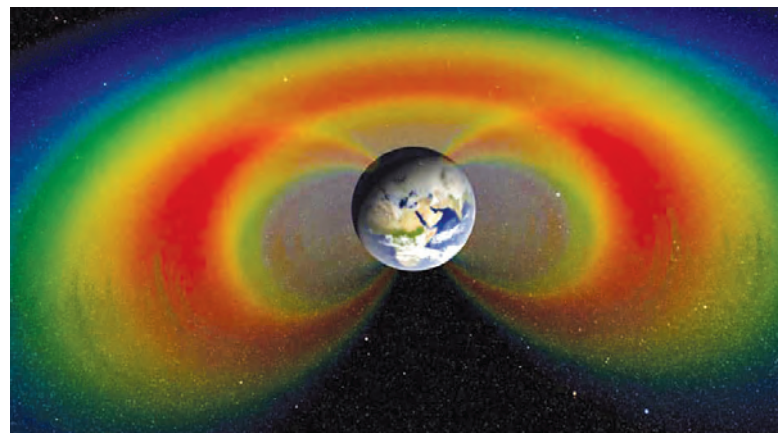
THE STORY, SO FAR

- India currently has three Covid-19 vaccines that are in different stages of clinical testing. The Oxford's candidate, ChAdOx1 is ahead of the other two indigenously developed vaccines for Covid-19 disease
- COVAXIN, India's first indigenous coronavirus vaccine, developed jointly by Bharat Biotech and ICMR, and Zydus Cadila's, Zycov D, are in the early phases of clinical trials. Zydus Cadila, which has given the second dose of its Covid-19 vaccine a few days ago, said it plans to launch the jab by next year



Massive dent in Earth's protective shield, and it is GETTING WIDER

NASA has said that the Earth's protective layer that fends off the deadly solar radiation, is in danger, and a massive chunk of the layer has weakened, thus causing a dent in the shield of the Earth. Named after its location, somewhere over South America and the southern Atlantic Ocean, the phenomenon called the South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA), is splitting into two, and getting wider by the second.



THE DENT HAS BEEN IN THE MAKING FOR 200 YEARS

- The magnetic field was already causing trouble when it skittered across the Arctic, shifting the location of the true north
- In May this year, the European Space Agency (ESA) reported that the field had lost 9% of its strength on an average over the last 200 years
- The SAA was deteriorating even faster, weakening by 8% since 1970

THE IMPACT

- According to scientists, the bigger the anomaly gets, the wider is its sphere of influence
- A weak magnetic field means that the particle radiation from the sun gets closer to the Earth's surface than otherwise
- In addition to messing with compasses and throwing bird's navigation off, it can also knock out onboard computers, and interfere with the satellites on their rounds to collect data

WILL IT AFFECT OUR DAILY LIVES?

- Though the SAA hasn't had any visible impact on our daily lives so far, the splitting into two different anomalies will create additional challenges for the satellite missions

The Earth is like a bar magnet—the north and the south poles represent magnetic polarities, and invisible magnetic field lines, encircling the planet between them. But unlike a bar magnet, the core magnetic field is not aligned through the globe, nor is it stable, as the field originates from the Earth's outer core, and is in vigorous motion 1,800 miles below the surface, acting as a generator, creating electric currents that produce the magnetic field

(SOURCE: BUSINESS INSIDER, NASA)

TRENDING

SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2020: INDORE CLEANEST CITY FOR 4TH YEAR IN A ROW



Indore was adjudged India's cleanest city for the fourth straight year in the central government's cleanliness survey announced on Thursday. The second and third positions in the category were grabbed by Surat and Navi Mumbai respectively. Varanasi was adjudged the 'best Ganga town'.

Swachh Survekshan was started by PM Narendra Modi in 2016. While Mysuru won the award for the cleanest city of India in 2016, Indore retained the top spot for 3 years: 2017, 2018 & 2019

INNOVATION RANKINGS

IIT-M ACES INNOVATIONS RANKING, 7 IITS IN TOP 10



IIT, Madras, Bombay and Delhi have emerged as the top three institutes of national importance in the 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020'. The rankings were released on Tuesday.

Seven IITs figure among the top 10 institutes. Around 674 institutions had participated in the ARIIA Rankings this year, compared with 496 institutions last year

BOOK LAUNCH

GRANDPARENTS' BAG OF STORIES BY SUDHA MURTY

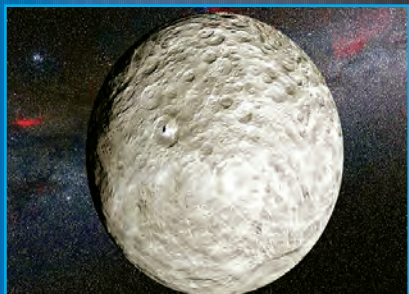
'Grandparents' Bag of Stories' published by Penguin Books is a sequel to bestselling Grandma's Bag of Stories and feature 20 stories by Sudha Murty, in her inimitable style. Narrated in the voice of grandparents, who epitomise storytelling in our childhood, these tales of kings and jungle, fun and adventure in the time of coronavirus, are all wrapped in wonderful and important lessons of life. It is scheduled to be released in Nov 2020.

Ahead of the release of the book, the publishing house is launching an exciting campaign. Young readers are in for a treat on social media, with a special message from the iconic author

SPACE

'Dwarf planet Ceres a water-rich world'

The dwarf planet Ceres, which lies in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, is not a barren space rock as earlier believed. New data from the NASA's Dawn spacecraft have shown that it is a water-rich world. After analysing the data collected near the end of the mission, scientists determined that beneath the surface of Ceres, there could be a deep reservoir of brine, or salt-enriched water, which is about 40-km-deep and hundreds of miles-wide. Ceres makes up almost a third of the asteroid belt's total mass, but it is still far smaller than the Earth's Moon.

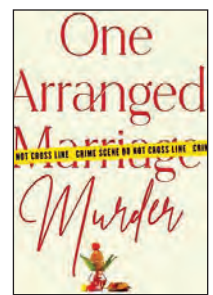


- According to the International Astronomical Union (IAU), a dwarf planet is a celestial body orbiting a star that is massive enough to be rounded by its own gravity, but has not cleared its neighbouring region of planetesimals, and is not a satellite
- A celestial object is considered a planet only if it meets three specific criteria—it must orbit the sun; it must be massive enough and generate sufficient gravity to pull itself into a spherical shape; it must have "cleared the neighbourhood" of its orbit, meaning that its gravity has swept away any other similar objects

BOOK

'ONE ARRANGED MURDER': CHETAN BHAGAT'S NEXT TO HIT STANDS IN SEPTEMBER

A murder mystery in the backdrop of an arranged marriage will be at the centre of best-selling author Chetan Bhagat's upcoming fiction book, announced publishing house, Westland. The book's title, 'One Arranged Murder', and its cover were revealed by the author on Monday. It will be Bhagat's ninth novel and 11th book overall. His last release was 'The Girl in Room 105'.



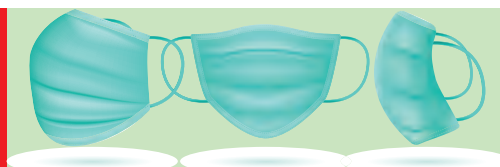
'One Arranged Murder' is a gripping murder mystery set in a backdrop of an arranged marriage. Apart from intense suspense, it is also filled with humour, love and relatable Indian characters, common to all my books. The test readers gave a phenomenal response, and I can't wait for everyone to read it, Bhagat said. Though available for pre-order on Amazon, the book will be released worldwide on September 28

NEWS IN BRIEF

CLICK HERE FOR MORE

APNAMASK LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO ENCOURAGE WEARING MASKS

ApnaMask, a non-profit initiative and volunteer group by StartupsVsCovid, has rolled out a campaign, 'I am a Corona Soldier'. The campaign aims to recruit a robust force of 'Corona Soldiers', who can protect the country against the virus with a simple and light-weight weapon—a mask. The Corona Soldiers will commit to wearing a mask every time they step out, and will encourage others to do the same.



#ApnaDeshApnaMask supports the government's mission to spread awareness around the importance of wearing a homemade mask and maintaining hygiene

ARE YOU A CORONA SOLDIER? Join the campaign and share your experiences at toinie175@gmail.com

APPLE MAY UNVEIL 'MADE-IN-INDIA' IPHONE 12 IN MID-2021: REPORT

US tech giant Apple is reportedly considering producing its forthcoming flagship iPhone-12 in India by the middle of next year, a move that could give a boost to PM Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India.

The Cupertino-based company has already started manufacturing its premium iPhone-11 at the Foxconn unit near Chennai—the first time it's manufactured a top model in the country, giving impetus to the Centre's initiative of Make in India. Manufacturing its iPhones in India saves Apple 22% import duty

TECH BUZZ

ROHIT SHARMA, VINESH PHOGAT AMONG UNPRECEDENTED 5 FOR KHEL RATNA

Star cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, and women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, are among an unprecedented five sports persons picked for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, while 29 others have been recommended for the Arjuna award by the sports ministry.



For the Arjuna, cricketer, Ishant Sharma, teen shooting sensations, Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker, sprinter, Dutee Chand, footballer, Sandesh Jhinghan, woman cricketer, Deepthi Sharma, woman boxer, Lovlina Borgohain and Indian luge legend, Shiva Keshavan, are some of the shortlisted names

Tendulkar was the first Indian cricketer to get the Khel Ratna in 1998, followed by Dhoni in 2007 and Kohli in 2018. Kohli won it jointly with weightlifter Mirabai Chanu



FACTOID ₹37 CR

The amount raised by homegrown short-form video app, Mitron, led by Nexus Venture Partners in a new funding round. Mitron app is a short-form social video app that allows users to create, upload, view, and share entertaining short videos.

FOUNDED BY TWO COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEERS, SHIVANK AGARWAL, WHO IS AN ALUMNUS OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROORKEE AND ANISH KHANDELWAL, AN ALUMNUS OF VISVESVARAYA NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN NAGPUR, MAHARASHTRA, THE APP WAS LAUNCHED IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

ATLANTIC PLASTIC LEVELS FAR HIGHER THAN THOUGHT: STUDY



There may be more plastic floating just beneath the surface of the Atlantic ocean today than the estimated total weight of plastic waste dumped in it since 1950, a new research has showed. The findings, based on an analysis of

ENVIRONMENT

samples of the three most common plastic materials and computer modelling, highlight the unseen scale of the pollution clogging the world's second largest ocean.

- Based on the plastic generation trends dating back to 1950, the researchers estimated that the Atlantic now contains between 17 and 47 million tons of plastic
- The figure is higher than all the estimated plastic input into the Atlantic since the middle of the last century
- The Earth's oceans contain an estimated 150 mn tons of plastic, often in the form of microplastic particles
- These tiny fragments have been detected in every ocean on the planet, and even at the bottom of the world's deepest trench
- The research found that the upper 200 metres of the Atlantic, home to the vast majority of its sea life, contained up to 20 million tons of microplastic
- Around 8 million tons of plastic enter the ocean every year, causing as-yet unknown damage on the marine food chains, on which millions of people directly rely for food and income



Supporting parent-teachers: FIVE LESSONS FROM HOME SCHOOLING

These are five lessons from home schooling to help schools support parents to be the best teachers they can be during lockdown...

ONLINE EDUCATION

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Schools responded quickly to the initial implications of lockdown, but as we settle into what is likely to be a protracted period of home learning, new and important questions are coming to the fore. Most important among these are understanding what are the right level of expectation of parents, and how we can best support them to take on the role of a teacher in their homes.

LESSONS

ROUTINES AND BOUNDARIES ARE REALLY IMPORTANT.

Children will need them as the structure of their lives has suddenly been altered. This holds for everyone in the household. Far easier said than done, but it is an important aspect. Establishing start times, breaks and end times will help everyone, and many families will need support to plan for that.

IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK.

It's crucial that there are rules and boundaries in place, but parents must know that it's better to bend them than allow them to break. They are in charge, and it's a difficult job. Remember this while home schooling - It's OK to not to feel on top of things. Some days will be great - others a complete flop. Fine.



Photo: THINKSTOCK

PARENTS NEED TO KNOW WHY AND HOW WORK HAS BEEN SET.

For most people most of the time, learning is taken for granted. Right now though, parents are coming to terms with helping their 9- and 15-year-old navigate maths and other subjects. On top of that, today's teaching methods differ hugely to what they experienced themselves, and that can discourage parent-teacher engagement. So teachers need to engage parents in this learning too. Maybe organise tutorials for parents.

TEACHING IS STRESSFUL.

The importance of self-care and wellbeing for parent-teachers can't be overstated, especially with no colleagues to sound off to after a bad day. Having a point of contact with the school or a peer network can make all the difference between surviving and thriving. Home tutors have regular check-ins for exactly these reasons.

TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP AND HINDER BOTH STUDENTS AND PARENTS.

For young people, screen time is social gold dust, and every family's timetable will differ from every other's so gentle monitoring during study time is likely to work better than an outright ban. Parents are looking for a balance between screen time and off-the-screen time. Schools and teachers are in the best position to guide you towards the same. Set a combined time table for online learning and online playtime.

schoolsweek.co.uk/

FOR WORK FROM HOME PARENTS

ACTIVITIES TO KEEP YOUR CHILD BUSY AS YOU WFH!

There's no doubt about it: trying to juggle working from home with children is challenging. Whether you're teleconferencing, focusing on writing, or trying to balance a budget, having kids around your home office is tricky. That's why we've put together this list of no-parent-needed activities to keep your kids entertained, so you're able to focus

TOY WASH

1 Fill a sink, plastic bin, or bowl with water. Provide towels and a box of toys that kids can wash (don't wash toys with electronic pieces, of course). Throw in some small cars, plastic animals, toy food, plastic keys, etc., and let your kids clean away.

TIPS: If you don't have a designated playroom, consider moving all the furniture in one room to the sides to make a wide-open play space.

CAR PLAYMATS

2 If you already own a playmat with a road design on it, set it up and find any toy that can be used with it - cars and trucks, figurines, airplanes, etc. Kids love the creative play of moving their way around the town. If you don't have a mat, use painter's tape to create your own set of roads on any floor surface. The best thing about a homemade track is the ability to have the tape go up over small boxes or chairs and in multiple directions.

DRESS UP

3 If you have a dress-up box, pull it out and if not, create one with hats, socks, coats, purses, shoes, boots, kid glasses, costume jewellery, old dresses, jackets, mirror, brush, old cell-phone, old keys (no scarves or other possibly choking items). This could also be the time to decorate it. Provide the kids with stickers and markers and let them fancy it up! Or play dress up.

BALL PIT

4 If you own a ball pit, fantastic! If not, create your own with a kiddie pool or large cardboard box. Fill your box with as many small balls as you have on hand, as well as with stuffed and small bean bags.



CAMP OUT

5 Set up a tent or fort in the garden or a balcony and fill it up with multiple items for a game of camp. Let your kids get comfy with pillows and blankets, keep them fed with healthy snacks, turn out the lights, and give them flashlights for making shadow animals. Sounds fun?



LOCKDOWN DIY

Make natural energy drink at home

Did you know that it is possible to make healthy and natural energy drinks at home? Everything our body needs is already present in nature. Here is an energy drink recipe, which is a healthier alternative to branded energy drinks high in sugar, preservatives and additives. Try it out.

COCONUT ICED TEA

Who said that tea needs to have caffeine to wake you up and fill you with energy? This coconut water iced tea provides you with a burst of energy while giving your system sufficient antioxidants. Thinly slice cucumber and put it in the fridge to cool while you get your drink ready. In a jug, add 1 cup cold brewed green tea, 1 tsp honey, 1/2 tsp rock salt and 1 cup coconut water. Stir everything together. Add cold cucumber slices to the drink and enjoy the refreshing energy boost.



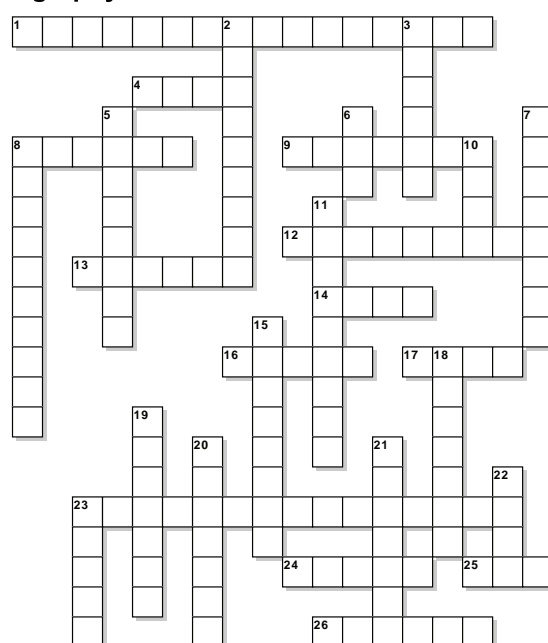
Photo: THINKSTOCK

GEOGRAPHY TEST

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Name: _____
Date: _____

Geography Terms Crossword Puzzle 1



Across

- Exact location of a place on the earth described by global coordinates.
- Point of land that extends into a river, lake, or ocean.
- Stretch of high land that separates river systems.
- Wide strait or waterway between two landmasses that lie close to each other; deep part of a river or other waterway.
- One of the seven large landmasses on the earth.
- Deep and narrow valley with steep walls.
- Part of a large body of water that extends into a shoreline generally larger and more deeply indented than a bay.
- Flat, low-lying land built up from soil carried downstream by a river and deposited at its mouth.
- Elevated land with sloping sides and rounded summit; generally smaller than a mountain.
- Characteristic that humans have created in a place, such as language, religion, housing, and settlement patterns.
- Area of land drained by a given river and its branches; area of land surrounded by lands of higher elevation.
- Drawing of the earth shown on a flat surface.
- A sheltered place along a shoreline where ships can anchor safely.

Down

- Height of land above sea level.
- Land area, smaller than a continent, completely surrounded by water.
- Elevated land area such as a hill, mountain, or plateau.
- Part of a large body of water that extends into a shoreline, generally smaller than a gulf.
- Distance north or south of the Equator, measured by degrees.
- Direction in which a river or stream flows from its source to its mouth.
- A sizable inland body of water.
- Distance east or west of the Prime Meridian, measured in degrees.
- One of the many lines on the global grid running from the North Pole to the South Pole; used to measure degrees of longitude.
- Narrow stretch of land connecting two larger land areas.
- Land, usually level, at a low elevation.
- Imaginary line that runs around the earth halfway between the North and South Poles; used as the starting point to measure degrees of north and south latitude.
- Large, thick body of slowly moving ice.
- Broad, flat-topped landform with steep sides; smaller than a plateau.
- Steep, high wall of rock, earth, or ice.

Possible Answers: absolute location, basin, bay, canyon, cape, channel, cliff, continent, cultural feature, delta, divide, downstream, elevation, Equator, glacier, gulf, harbor, highland, hill, island, isthmus, lake, latitude, longitude, lowland, map, meridian, mesa

August Already!

Answer each of these questions on August: a month named after Augustus Caesar (63 BC-14 AD), who founded the Roman Empire and ruled for over four decades. Choose correctly from the four options.



1 Which month of the year was August, when the Roman calendar had 10 months?
A. 4 B. 5
C. 6 D. 7

2 Which month ends every year, on the same day of the week as August?
A. November
B. September

C. July D. March

3 Which of these countries, like India, celebrates its Independence Day in August?
A. Malaysia B. Mauritius
C. Mongolia D. Morocco

4 What is the Zodiac sign for most of August?
A. Aquarius B. Cancer
C. Gemini D. Leo

5 On which Japanese city was an atomic bomb dropped on August 6, 1945?
A. Tokyo B. Hiroshima
C. Kyoto D. Osaka

Ans: 1) C-6, 2) A-November, 3) A-Malaysia, 4) D-Leo, 5) B-Hiroshima

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, Teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru