



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2021

FACTOID

34 LAKH TONS

The amount of plastic waste, which was generated in the financial year 2019-2020, an increase of more than 10 lakh tons compared to 2017-18, the ministry of environment informed Rajya Sabha on Monday. According to the ministry of environment, a multi-pronged strategy has been adopted to phase out identified single-use plastic items in the country, which comprises awareness generation and behavioural change, regulatory regime for phasing out of plastic items having low utility and high littering potential, engagement with stakeholders, and strengthening of institutional mechanism for collection, segregation, recycling and environmentally-sustainable end of life disposal of plastic waste, as envisaged in Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016

Bob Dylan returns to stage through live-streaming platform



After a year and a half absence because of the pandemic, relentless road warrior Bob Dylan returned to a concert stage on Sunday at least online. He performed for fans, who paid \$25 to watch online through the live-streaming platform Veeps. Dylan hasn't performed live since December 2019. Since 1988, he had kept performing regularly: 78 gigs in 2019 and 84 in 2018

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

PEGASUS SPYWARE

WHAT The Pegasus revelations, reported by 17 publications, including 'The Washington Post', 'The Guardian' and 'The Wire' have created ruckus in Parliament. The revelations show how the spyware developed by an Israeli firm, NSO Group, was used by agencies from over 10 nations, including Hungary, Azerbaijan and India, to target journalists, Opposition politicians and others. Pegasus is a spyware that infects devices and spies by transferring data to a master server in an unauthorised manner. Once compromised, the agency using Pegasus can gain access to texts, pictures, documents, calls, GPS location as well as the ability to remotely control the microphone.

HOW it works: A hacker, who intends to hack a phone, sends the targeted user a malicious website link, and if the user clicks on it, Pegasus is installed on the phone. Besides, installed through a security bug in voice calls made through apps like WhatsApp, the spyware is so potent and secretive that it could be installed on the phone just by giving a missed call to the user. Once, the software is installed it would delete the call log entry so that the user wouldn't know about the missed call.

THE IMPACT: Once Pegasus is on a phone, it can potentially spy on the targeted user completely and thoroughly. Even encrypted chats like the ones made through WhatsApp were accessible to Pegasus

It first came to the limelight in 2016, when an Arab activist got suspicious after receiving a shady message. It was believed that Pegasus was targeting iPhone users. Several days after its discovery, Apple released an updated version of iOS, which reportedly patched the security loophole that Pegasus was using to hack phones. Pegasus in 2021 is a far more evolved avatar of its 2016 version, and can now execute what is known as a 'zero-click' attack, which means it can infiltrate a phone with practically no action from the target



PEGASUS BUGS INDIA

According to reports, 40 journalists, three major Opposition figures, one constitutional authority, and two serving ministers in the Narendra Modi government have been affected by the spyware. This is the second such revelation about Pegasus. Previous investigations by Citizen Lab had revealed that the spyware was used to target activists and lawyers across the world, including Indian lawyers and activists related to the Bhima Koregaon case, through a flaw in WhatsApp

HARRY FOLLOWS MEGHAN'S STEPS

Prince Harry is writing what his publisher is calling an "intimate and heartfelt memoir." The book by the Duke of Sussex, currently untitled, is expected to come out late in 2022. "Prince Harry will share, for the very first time, the definitive account of the experiences, adventures, losses, and life lessons that have helped shape him," Random House announced on Monday. The announcement comes four months after Harry and his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, made worldwide news during their interview with Oprah Winfrey near the couple's home in Montecito, California.



Last month, Meghan published the picture book 'The Bench' through Random House Books for Young Readers

Meet the Olympic refugee team, a team with a cause



The Olympic refugee team arrived in Tokyo on Sunday. The team, which will compete under the Olympic flag and comprises people from countries including Syria, South Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iran, is almost three times as big as the inaugural team at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics. Of the 26 athletes, five are originally from Iran, four from South Sudan, and three from Afghanistan. Ten are women.

1 The refugee team was envisioned by the International Olympic Committee, following the case of marathon runner Guor Marial, a refugee living in the US, who competed at the 2012 London Games as an independent athlete

2 Four years later, at the 2016 Games, the team made its debut. Ten athletes took part

TOKYO OLYMPICS THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS

3 There are a few stalwarts in the ranks too. Kimia Alizadeh, who defected from Iran to Germany last year, is an Olympic medallist (bronze-taekwondo), while Yusra Mardini, is a refugee from Syria, who competed in Rio

Julia Roberts lends voice to powerful video on environment conservation

In a bid to create awareness on conservation, actress Julia Roberts has done the voiceover in a video uploaded on the YouTube channel of the organisation Conservative International. In the video, which is one minute and 58 seconds-long, the actress speaks from the point of view of Mother Earth. She goes on to make a powerful statement on behalf of Earth. She says, "But I have been here for eons. I have fed species greater than you, and I have starved species greater than you. My oceans, my soil, my flowing streams, my forests, they all can take you or leave you."

Some call me nature, others call me mother nature. I have been here for over four and a half billion years - 22,500 times longer than you. I don't really need people but people need me. Yes, your future depends on me. When I thrive, you thrive. When I falter, you falter, or worse
Julia Roberts, actress

India bags Best Documentary Award @Cannes film festival

Mumbai-based filmmaker Payal Kapadia has bagged the Oeil d'or (Golden Eye) award for Best Documentary for her film 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' at the Cannes Film Festival. 'A Night of Knowing Nothing' emerged as the winner on a list of 28 documentaries submitted from around the world. The announcement came through the Twitter account of Cannes Independent movie selection handle Quinzaine Des Real.



'A Night of Knowing Nothing' follows a university student in India, who writes letters to her estranged lover while he is away

STUDENT EDITION
FRIDAY, JULY 23, 2021

CITIUS ALTIUS FORTIUS

► **THINK TOKYO**
New sports in Tokyo, biggest Olympics ever till now

► **HOW IT STARTED**
Trivia on Ancient Olympics (Greece), how it started and how it ended with Romans conquering them + quiz and trivia

► **HOW IT'S GOING**
History of modern Olympics from 1896 to 2021

► **ALL ABOUT THE MOTTO**
Trivia and history of Olympic hymn, motto, symbol

► **ALL ABOUT INDIA**
Who all are in the Indian contingent
Past Indian glory in Olympics

► **GREATEST FEATS**
Greatest achievements and glories in Olympics till date.

OLYMPICS SPECIAL
COMING OUT ON JULY 23

TIMES NIE EDITORIAL POWERED BY STUDENTS

THE GROSS MISMANAGEMENT OF PANDEMIC

We need to debate on how and why the govt fumbled during the pandemic

A health crisis was emerging, spreading the disease and economic losses across the globe. Countries were locking down and by the time our Prime Minister announced a one-day Janata curfew the message was becoming clear. Lockdown during such a pandemic was inevitable, but did we lock down too soon? According to Abhijit Banerjee, yes. The Nobel Laureate feels that state governments did not give priority to producing high quality statistics which led to an absence of



By **DURGA BASU**
Class: X, Vasant Valley School, New Delhi

evidence that they consulted the finance and health ministries or even the Chief Ministers of Delhi, Assam and Telangana, to when Modi ji declared victory over the disease last September and this March and also claimed that the BJP victory in Bihar was due to the centre's handling of Covid 19.

Along with the health crisis, came an economic meltdown. Last December,

A significant moral blunder was committed when the government could somehow afford to bring back Indians from foreign countries with chartered jets, but could not offer early support to thousands of impecunious migrant workers!

science-based decision making. This absence of science-based decision making, lack of economic and moral sense, combined with hubris might have led to the failure of the first lockdown.

The lack of respect for science showed when the world's strictest lockdown was triggered at a time when we had only 519 cases. There were no central government ordered regional lockdowns as well - red, orange and green zones were announced only six days into the lockdown. Health experts believe that localised lockdowns would have worked better during the initial stages of the pandemic. While other countries were pre ordering vaccines last summer, we waited till January 2021 before placing any orders. A significant moral blunder was committed when the government could somehow afford to bring back Indians from foreign countries with specially chartered jets, but could not offer early support to thousands of impecunious migrant workers. The government closed state borders, buses and trains leaving the workers to attempt dangerous journeys to walk thousands of kilometres on foot in the hope of returning home someday. And the central government has now announced that there will be no compensation for the families of dead migrant workers. The hubris was on full display throughout the crisis starting when the Prime Minister enforced the world's strictest lockdown without any



India, for the first time, fell into technical recession. Unemployment peaked at 27.1% last May. 2020's economic recession also pushed 75 million into poverty and shrunk the middle class by 30% or even higher. Of course, we are not the only country to have mismanaged the pandemic in its early stages. Former

We wanted 300 million people vaccinated by July, but as of now, the number stands just above 4.3 million (approx). We are now paying the price for our government's refusal to order shots in advance.

larger price, a policy that was questioned by the Supreme Court. The government has allowed manufacturers to hike prices and has left the people to pay for it. Free vaccines for all was only declared on June 21.

We initially wanted 300 million people vaccinated by July, but as for now, the number stands just above 4.3 million. We are now paying the price for our government's refusal to order shots in advance. After the first wave receded in September, a wave of complacency swept India, with states and the centre easing restrictions and telling the whole world about India's incredible victory. It was because of this complacency that the government underestimated demand for vaccines in January. What followed in the second wave is history and hope the history isn't repeated.

Do you agree? Mail us your thoughts on toinie175@gmail.com

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Women make up only 28% of the workforce in STEM

The fight against patriarchy has been an ongoing one. Feminist movements have asserted for equal rights for women and equal opportunity when it comes to education, career opportunities, equal pay and more. Despite the tremendous achievements that girls and women have had in education and the workforce during the past 50 years, women make up only 28% of the workforce in STEM. Men vastly outnumber women in most STEM fields in college, and in the upper levels of these fast-growing, high paying professions.



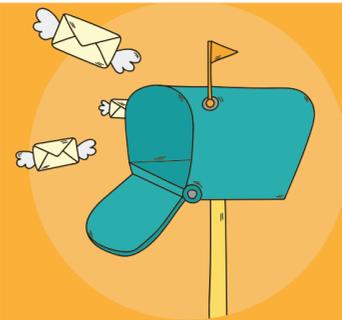
By **GARVITA YADAV**
class XI, Shiv Nadar School, Noida

Science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) is regarded as a vital sector for the growth of the national economy. This isn't to say we as a society haven't progressed. According to the All India survey of higher education, there has been a sharp growth in girl students pursuing and outperforming boys in subjects like math and engineering, a large concentration of them being in the state of UP. Historically boys have outperformed girls in subjects like math, due to the fundamental difference in their upbringing and the way boys and girls used to be encouraged about education in the past.

It had established the narrative that fields like STEM aren't suitable for women. But in the past few decades, the gender gap has narrowed, and today girls are doing as well as boys in math on average. Girls and boys take up a roughly equal number of math and science courses in primary, middle and high school.

This shows the importance of culture and learning environments in cultivating interests and honing our abilities. About as many girls as boys leave high school prepared to pursue science and engineering subjects in college. Yet fewer women than men pursue these careers.

And sadly around 80% of all women who receive equal quality of education as boys don't choose STEM careers!



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WE ARE WAITING

Our Word...

Let's get to know 'Nature'

What is Nature? Does it only mean forest, trees, mountains, lakes? No! It is the phenomena of the physical world. It has its own music, rhyme and rhythm. It listens to us, understands, tells us what we are and connects our body to our soul.

Humans are a part of nature and nature is a part of humans. The rise of technology has distanced us from mother nature. We have so disconnected ourselves from the natural world that we tend to forget what it has given us. It gives us water, shelter, food, medicines and many more things. We should not forget that nature is our solo supplier. The most beautiful part of nature is the flora and fauna.



Unfortunately humans are devastating nature. Biodiversity spots are decreasing day-by-day. There are many environmental problems like global warming, ozone depletion, etc. However, these problems have solutions. Using jute bags instead of plastic bags can be helpful, promising yourself to plant a seed on every special day or occasion, going for beach cleaning once a month, promoting the use of biomass energy from waste litter can help us tackle all the environmental issues. These small steps will contribute to a better and happy future.

TANVI SHINDE, class VIII, Bombay Cambridge International School

Inspirational Sport

(About Vishwanathan Anand)

When we hear the word 'chess', some people think that it is a game which was invented in India and some may think about the first Indian chess grandmaster, Vishwanathan Anand. He was born on December 11, 1969, in the state of Tamil Nadu. Anand started learning chess at the age of six and his mother was his first teacher. Apart from chess, he likes to listen to music and enjoys swimming. Because of his achievements, he is called the 'Tiger of Madras' and his nickname is Vishy; he is married to Aruna Anand and has a son named Akhil Anand. Anand was the undisputed World Chess Champion from 2007 to 2013; he got the rare honour to be awarded Padma Shri at the age of 18 and later also got the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratan Award, Padma Vibhushan, Arjun Award and Chess Oscar. He published his collection of games under the title 'Vishy Anand: My Best Games of Chess'. Anand was the first Asian at the age of 17 to win the World Chess title at the FIDE (The International Chess Federation) Junior Championship, 1987. He is also the five-time World Chess Championship winner. Vishwanathan Anand brought great honour to India due to his many achievements in chess.



S SRISABARIVEL, VII A, Essar International School

TEACHERS HAVE THEIR SAY

Delhi Board Secondary Education 2021: Reactions and Expectations

The Delhi Government has started the process of setting up its independent state board - Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE). Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier announced (this year in March) that to begin with, nearly 21-22 state government schools will be affiliated to DBESE, and in the next four years all the schools will be brought under the new Board. Presently, there are around 1,000 Delhi government schools and 1,700 private schools, affiliated to the CBSE, in the city

Will this new education Board bring about a paradigm shift in the education sector in the Capital? We found out reactions from educators and principals across the city. A special report by TIMES NIE.

Brilliant move; must include application-based learning

The idea of having a State Education Board that caters specifically to Delhi students and its functioning in close alignment with national and international Boards is a brilliant move. We hope to witness a shift in teaching-learning practices across Delhi. The other thing that the Board must include is application-based learning and assessment.

MONIKA KOUL SULTAN, HOD English, Khaitan Public School, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad

Hope it brings instrumental changes to curriculum

Delhi holds a very high regard within our country's educational ecosystem. The govt has been constantly bringing constructive changes within the education system of Delhi. Introduction of DBSE is a welcome addition. On the one hand, it affirms the commitment of the govt towards improving education, while on the other, it seems to cater to the needs of students ready for critical thinking. I hope it brings innovative and instrumental changes to curriculum and attitude of students. **Punam Gupta**, principal, Maharaja Agarsain, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi

Separate Board will divide, not unite!

Unity has always been our strength. CBSE as a standard Board adds to that unity and weaves us in a common national thread. Creating a parallel Board (for which there is no need) would not just confuse but would also divide. I don't see the need for a separate Board.

NAMITA SHARMA, teacher, Queen's Valley School, Dwarka



Look forward to new paradigm of continuous learning

With the new Board for Delhi schools, encompassing entrepreneurship and self-reliance, it appears to be a novel initiative. We look forward to the new paradigm of continuous learning and assessment.

DR PTAIBHA KOHLI, principal, Maharaja Agrasen Model School, CD-Block Pitampura, New Delhi

May help to narrow skill-set gap

This is a welcome step as it can allow the Delhi govt to plan and devise strategies based on the demographic, cultural and social background of students in the state. The curriculum can be detail oriented which is great. Also, addition of skill-set can vary in every state and hence, this narrowing will go a long way in bridging the gap that we feel today.

Latesh Chaudhary, principal, Lancer Convent, Rohini, New Delhi

