



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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THIS DAY: **MAY 29**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPERS: May 29 is observed as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeeping operations across the globe to pay tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations. It was first celebrated in 2003.

DID YOU KNOW

On May 29, 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Mount Everest, becoming first climbers to scale the highest peak in the world

WORD WATCH

LONGUEUR: Means a dull and tedious passage or section (as of a book, play, or musical composition). An early example of longueur used in an English text goes back to an 18th-century writer Horace Walpole, who wrote in a letter, "Boswell's book is gossiping; . . . but there are woeful longueurs, both about his hero and himself."

STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020



WEB EDITION

Family Time

SHORT IS BEAUTIFUL

Check out these short films with your family online on YouTube

THE GATEKEEPER

Directed by Atanu Mukherjee (Hindi)

A manned railway crossing in the middle of nowhere, and its lone gatekeeper. The only moments of buzz in his life are the trains passing by, and the quantum of solace he finds in them. What if he tries breaking into that monotony with other ways? Comprising only two actors with no dialogues, this award-winning short film will make you value people that you otherwise take for granted

Photo: Representational Image

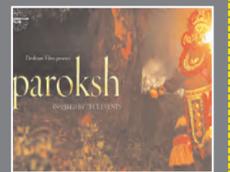
AFTERGLOW

Directed by Kuashal Oza (Multilingual)

Through a non-melodramatic exploration of grief and death, this short film, quite nonchalantly, charts the events in the life of a Parsi woman, after the death of her sick husband. Perhaps it's the masterful way the filmmaker has captured every nuance that grows on you, but this film will remain in your mind for a long time

PAROKSH

Directed by Ganesh Shetty (Tulu)



Set in Mangalore, this short film by Ganesh Shetty tells a tale of a rural couple struggling with a noisy supernatural force that haunts their area every night. An epic thriller, the movie is gripping till the end.

COVID may create a 'LOCKDOWN GENERATION'



Photo: Getty Images

Economic fallout from COVID-19 is hitting young workers so hard that they risk becoming a "lockdown generation" scarred for life, the United Nations said. A study by the UN's International Labour Organisation pointed to the "multiple shocks" young people now faced worldwide — losing work, education and training, income and the possibility of either finding or changing jobs. The impact is even worse for young women, many employed in fragile sectors, such as garment making and food services, it said, conjuring up the image of a generation stymied for life.

- More than one in six young people globally have stopped working since the new coronavirus hit, and those still in jobs have had their hours cut by nearly a quarter, it said
- About half of young students expect a delay in completing their studies; one in 10 expects not to finish at all
- In the long term, disrupted education and training could reduce opportunities and future earnings, and the collapse of businesses will mean fewer jobs on offer, the UN warned

India facing its worst recession in current fiscal: CRISIL

India's fourth recession since Independence, the first since liberalisation, and perhaps the worst till date, is here, CRISIL, the rating agency, said as it predicted the economy to shrink by 5 per cent in the current fiscal, courtesy coronavirus lockdown. "The first quarter (April to June 2020) will suffer a staggering 25 per cent contraction," it said in its assessment of India's GDP.



ECONOMY

In the past 69 years, India has seen a recession only thrice — in fiscals 1958, 1966 and 1980. The reason was the same each time — a monsoon shock that hit agriculture, then a sizeable part of the economy. CRISIL said the recession in the current fiscal (April 2020 to March 2021) is different as agriculture could soften the blow this time with a normal monsoon forecast

INDIAN ARMY MAJOR TO BE HONoured WITH PRESTIGIOUS UN AWARD



An Indian Army officer and a woman peacekeeper, who has served with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and a Brazilian woman commander have been selected for the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award (2019). UN chief Antonio Guterres described Major Suman Gawani and Brazilian Naval Officer Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo as "powerful role models."

This is the first time that the UN Military Gender Advocate award has gone to an Indian peacekeeper.

HONOUR

Created in 2016, the United Nations' Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award recognises the dedication and effort of an individual military peacekeeper in promoting the principles of UN Security Resolution, and working towards promoting gender equality in different parts of the world

FACEBOOK'S CATCHUP IS DIFFERENT FROM WHATSAPP

Social networking giant Facebook has launched another group calling app called CatchUp. The app, developed by Facebook's NPE Team (new product experimentation), is being tested in the US on iOS and Android operating systems. NPE apps are meant to be new product experiments, which means they are subject to change.



TECH BUZZ

- The app that allows its users to engage in group calling with up to eight members, tells its users when other users are available to talk
- It shows who all are available to talk on the basis of a user's contact list, and doesn't require anyone to have a Facebook account

NEWS IN BRIEF

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HUMAN DESTRUCTION COULD WIPE OUT 50 BILLION YEARS OF EVOLUTION!



ENVIRONMENT

Yes, you heard it right. If a latest study is to go by, human activity is destroying more than 50 billion years of evolutionary history. According to a report published in 'Daily Mail', an ever-increasing human footprint with people encroaching on more of the planet, has led to the destruction of millions of species and their evolutionary heritage. The collective loss of evolutionary history from millions of different species led to the 50 billion years figure — almost four times longer than the age of the universe.

Researchers say many regions, home to the greatest amount of unique evolutionary history, are facing unprecedented human pressure. These include the Caribbean, the Western Ghats of India, and large parts of Southeast Asia. Using extinction risk data for around 25,000 species, the researchers also calculated the amount of evolutionary history — branches on the tree of life — currently threatened with extinction

FACTOID

50°C: The temperature recorded at Churu, Rajasthan, on Tuesday. This was the second-highest temperature recorded in the month of May in the last 10 years, according to IMD, Jaipur. The city had recorded 50.2 degrees Celsius on May 19, 2016, the meteorological department added

Locust attack: What does it mean for the economy



X-PLAINED

WHAT:

After Pakistan, India is battling the desert locusts in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The locusts, which bred and matured in Iran and Pakistan's Balochistan, reached Rajasthan recently. It is expected to reach Delhi soon.

WHY:

Locust attacks in India usually last till November but this year the swarms stayed till February, which scientists believe was due to the climate crisis. Last year's extended monsoon, which began six weeks earlier in July in western India and lasted till November, produced natural vegetation for locusts to feed on and created ideal breeding conditions for them.

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

Locusts can destroy standing crops and devastate livelihoods of people in the agricultural supply chain. Locust attacks could pose a threat to food security, the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has warned. In fact, according to the FAO, one square kilometre swarm of locusts, with about 40 million locusts, can eat as much food as 35,000 people in a day. The pests may also damage the nurseries of fruits and vegetables

WHAT ARE LOCUSTS

The desert locust is one of the 12 species of short-horned grasshoppers. Locust swarms can travel up to 130 km in a day, and each locust can consume about two grams of fresh vegetation that is equivalent to its own weight

A 'HOMECATION' this summer?

Thanks to the lockdown, homes have doubled up as schools, offices and fitness centres, if not more. With cancelled vacations and a deep desire to travel, 'home-cations' might be the new way to unwind for the summers, feel experts. 'Home-cation', a vacation at home that allows families to make memories by turning home gardens or backyard into a holiday destination, is becoming popular among the youngsters. So, get ready to have some home-cation moments with your family and friends...



How to make it happening

For a fun home-cation, take your elders' help, put up tents in your backyard, read adventure novels under a lantern-light, or add on a singing spree with your family. You could also make delicious sand-

wiches and summer coolers for a brunch picnic, play board games, and hear stories from your parents or grandparents. For a change, surprise your elders by recreating the atmosphere of a city or region you or your parents wish to go, or visit some cities virtually.

TIPS

- Turn off your phone. Let your friends know you are taking time off for your family, even if you are not leaving your home.

- Help your elders in knocking out any household chores, so they're not a distraction. It's hard to unwind, especially for your mom, if she is staring at a mountain of dirty laundry.
- Plan something special. Invite friends or family over via video call, relive your memories and enjoy your day with them.
- Take pictures. Like any other vacation, make sure to take lots of photos; post your pictures on social media, if you are into that or share your pictures with your near and dear ones.

'PHIR TERA TIME AAYEGA': Celebs unite for a lockdown song

Veteran singer Hariharan, along with various other artistes, have teamed up to release an anthem, 'Phir tera time aayega' to uplift the spirit of people in the time of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The song features playback singers Rookkumar Rathod and Sunali Rathod, Mika Singh, Neeti Mohan and Ishaan Dutta, along with MasterChef Ranveer Brar, Sanjeev Kapoor, among many others. The song is written by Vinod Nair and composed by Hariharan, his son Akshay Hariharan and Immanuel Berlin. Led by Hariharan, the band call themselves, 'The SurViralists.'

With an interesting hip-hop rap section thrown in the middle, the song extols the gutsiness and resilience of the human race, all the while reaffirming faith in the never-say-die attitude

ENTERTAINMENT

