



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

## Enforcing the BAN on CHINESE APPS

**WHAT:** The Centre has banned 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok, CamScanner and others, in retaliation to the border skirmish in Ladakh, which took place in June.  
**WHY:** The government invoked its power under section 69A of the IT Act and rules to block access to any information sourced through any computer resource.

### THE RULES

➤ Apps on gaming, education and infotainment don't need any local government body's permission for its launch. However, they are required to meet the guidelines of the play stores to place their apps. Some apps, like e-commerce or payment apps, need permission from the RBI, National Payments Corporation of India, and other authorities to start operations ➤ The present ban ordered by the govt will not only be applicable on the new downloads, but also on the already downloaded apps. Those who have already downloaded these apps will not be able to use them

**HOW THE GOVT CAN ENFORCE THE BAN:** The government needs the help of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to block data transmission, and app stores, to prevent fresh downloads and updates, to enforce the ban.

### X-PLAINED

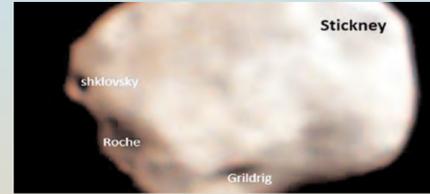


### THE CHALLENGES

- While apps, like TikTok and UC News, which require a live feed, will become non-functional, apps that can be used offline may continue to be used, unless requiring an update.
- If an app is removed from the Google Play Store or an Apple App Store, these can't be downloaded. However, app stores can't do anything about the app already downloaded. Users can see old videos, even create new ones and share them, but won't get further upgrades and notifications on the app
- Also, it would require Google and Apple to remove these apps from their play stores, which could expose users to the unofficial versions of these apps

**THE IMPACT:** TikTok, the video sharing platform, which had over 100 million users in India, is the biggest loser. It brought content production to the grassroots of the subcontinent, and was the source of income for many social media 'influencers'

## 7 yrs after launch, Mars orbiter still active, captures image of Red planet's biggest moon



In another spatial breakthrough, the Mars colour camera on board the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has captured the image of Phobos, the closest and biggest moon of the Red planet. The space agency released the image that was taken on July 1, when the orbiter was about 7,200 km from Mars, and 4,200 km from Phobos. The photo generated is a composite image generated from six camera frames, and has been colour-corrected. Surprisingly, MOM is still active years after its launch on November 5, 2013.

Phobos is largely believed to be made up of carbonaceous chondrites

ISRO had successfully placed the ₹450-crore MOM in the Red planet's orbit on September 24, 2014, making India, the first Asian country to reach the Martian orbit, and the first nation in the world to do so on its maiden attempt

## JEE (MAIN & ADVANCED), NEET EXAMS POSTPONED

The Joint Entrance Examination (main and advanced) and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (undergraduate) have been postponed to September 2020. A decision to this effect was taken on Friday



The computer-based multi-session, JEE (main) examinations will be held from September 1 to September 6, while the JEE (advanced) will be held on September 27, 2020. The pen-paper mode entrance for medical colleges, NEET-UG will be conducted on September 13, 2020

Around 9 lakh aspirants have registered for the JEE (main) exam, while 16 lakhs have registered for the NEET-UG exams. Raising concern over the worsening of the pandemic, candidates across the country has been demanding the postponement of the exams

The delay in the entrance exams will have a cascading effect on the new academic session. The new academic session for the first year students, as per present planning, is expected to commence from November

The IITs take around a month to complete its joint counselling process. It will take around a week to announce the results from the date of the exam, which is September 27. Therefore, the IITs are likely to start their 2020-21 session from the first week of December

### ON SALE

## Scientific breakthroughs of past century head to auction

The Nobel Prize Medal awarded to British Scientist Sir Robert Edwards in 2010 for the development of human in vitro fertilisation (IVF) therapy, estimated to sell for ₹500,000-800,000, is part of an online auction, highlighting the scientific and technological breakthroughs that have formed the modern world. Titled, 'Eureka!', the online auction by Christie's is open for bidding till July 16.

Photo: Getty Images



➤ From Thomas Edison's pioneering design for the lightbulb to Crick, and Watson's celebrated discovery of the structure of DNA, from a Second World War Enigma Machine to the invention of in vitro fertilisation, from Albert Einstein to Stephen Hawking, it offers slices of history as collectibles.

➤ Items from the late physicist, Stephen Hawking's estate are also on sale, including a rare Hawking portrait by Anton Corbijn, and a Simpsons figurine of him made by Playmates Toys. These rare items provide a remarkable insight into the cultural interests, personality and sense of fun of this extraordinary man, the auction house said.

➤ The sale also offers seven autographed and annotated design drawings by American inventor Thomas Edison for his lightbulb and related innovations. Each sketch testifies to Edison's continued work on the electric lamp throughout the 1880s, as well as offering an example of the related inventions that filled his design notebooks.

➤ 'Eureka!' will also feature a rare surviving Enigma Machine, a four-rotor used by the German Navy's U-boat fleet to send encrypted messages during the second World War.

## NOW, SAVE CONTACTS ON WHATSAPP USING QR CODES

WhatsApp, the Facebook-owned messaging service, has announced new features that are expected to roll out over the next few weeks.

### TECH BUZZ

- To make the lives of its users simpler, WhatsApp has announced new contact-saving QR Codes. This new update ensures that people can add their contacts to their phones with the use of QR codes
- The smartphone users can make their messaging even more effective with new Animated Stickers
- Stickers are one of the most-common way of communicating on WhatsApp, with billions of stickers sent every day
- With video-calling becoming the most pertinent way of communicating, WhatsApp has made improvements to group video calling feature. It has added a special feature that will allow the user to focus on whoever s/he wants just by letting him/her press and hold to maximise a participant's video to full screen
- The messaging platform also plans to roll out the Status feature that disappear after 24 hours, to KaiOS users



## NEWS IN BRIEF

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### SHILPA SHETTY CO-AUTHORS DIGITAL BOOK ON EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra has co-authored a digital book titled, "The Magic Immunity Pill: Lifestyle" with Luke Coutinho, a holistic lifestyle coach associated with integrative medicine. The book focusses on emotional wellness, quality sleep, balanced nutrition and adequate exercise to build a strong immune system.

### BOOK



It's been such a rich and learning experience working on this book with Luke Coutinho. Today, when we are hit by this global health calamity, we are trying our best to stay healthy. For that, I believe it's prerequisite to have a really strong immune system. While all want it, many don't know or are apathetic towards achieving it. Hence this book is timely

SHILPA SHETTY, actress

### KOALAS MAY BE EXTINCT IN AUSTRALIA'S NEW SOUTH WALES BY 2050

Koalas in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) could become extinct by 2050 unless the government immediately intervenes to protect them and their habitat, a parliamentary inquiry determined after a year-long inquiry.

### ENVIRONMENT



- Land clearing for agriculture, urban development, mining and forestry had been the biggest factor in the fragmentation and loss of habitat for the animals in NSW, the country's most populous state, over several decades
- A prolonged, drought-fuelled bushfire season that ended early this year was also devastating for the animals, destroying their habitat across the state

### FACTOID 53.6MN TONS

E-WASTE was dumped across the world last year, says The Global E-waste Monitor 2020 report. Just 17.4% was recycled. China, with 10.1 million tons, was the biggest contributor to e-waste and the United States was second, with 6.9 million tons. India, with 3.2 million tons, was third. Together, these three countries accounted for nearly 38% of the world's e-waste last year. Global warming is just one of the issues cited by the report as it noted that 98 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents were released into the atmosphere, as a result of inadequate recycling of "undocumented" refrigerators and air conditioners.

This year's coronavirus lockdowns have exacerbated the e-waste problem. People stuck at home are de-cluttering, and because of the lockdowns, there are few workers collecting and recycling the junk, the report added.

## Vidya Balan-starrer, 'Shakuntala Devi' gets a release date

Shakuntala Devi, the math genius, which will be helmed by actress Vidya Balan, will premiere digitally on July 31. Ditching the traditional theatrical release, the film will premiere directly on the streaming platform, Amazon Prime. The streamer announced the release date of the film on Thursday through a fun video featuring Vidya. Taking a note from the storyline, Vidya reveals the release date first in a complex mathematical way, and then simplifies it to share the date.

### ENTERTAINMENT

Written by Anu Menon, the film is based on the life of Shakuntala Devi, who is revered as the human computer, for her innate ability to make incredibly complex calculations within seconds



## Eau de Space: This October, smell space on Earth

Sounds unreal? Well, not really. We can actually know how outer space smells like! Come October, Eau de Space, an outer space-scented

### SPACE

fragrance, will be available commercially. Created by Steve Pearce, a chemist and the founder of Omega Ingredients, it is one-of-the-kind fragrance.



The scent of space is "independently verified by actual astronauts, down to earth". According to the makers, the smell of the space is like that of "seared steak, raspberries and rum"