



THE TIMES OF INDIA

www.toistudent.com

CLICK HERE: WWW.TOISTUDENT.COM

STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020



WEB EDITION

AMAZON DEFORESTATION SURGES

Deforestation in Brazil's Amazon has risen by a quarter since last year, official statistics show. The rainforest is also on the course for its worst year on record and in the first half of 2020, 3,069 square kilometres — an area, 10 times the size of Paris — was destroyed. AFP

DID YOU KNOW? Deforestation and fires in Brazil's Amazon released 115 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in the first half of 2020, up roughly 20 per cent from the same period a year ago, equivalent to the annual emissions of 25 million cars

ENVIRONMENT

AMAZON FACTS

- Covering over 5.5 million square kilometres, Amazon is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It's 17 times the size of the UK and Ireland.
- Experts say due to the thickness of the canopy (the top branches and leaves of the trees), the floor of Amazon looks completely dark. In fact, it's so thick that when it rains, it takes around 10 minutes for the water to reach the ground! (AFP)

Cost of Covid-19 pandemic = \$3.8 TRILLION!

SECTORS AFFECTED

- According to researchers, travel industry is the worst affected, courtesy, the cancellation of flights, and countries closing their borders to visitors, particularly in Asia, Europe and the US
- In fact, according to them, the loss of global connectivity led to an 'economic contagion', causing major disruptions to trade, tourism, energy and finance sectors
- It has affected the global consumption as well. Consumption dropped by 4.2 per cent — or about \$3.8 trillion — equal to the gross domestic product of Germany
- Apart from creating a digital divide, it is also likely to widen the global wealth and income gaps that already exist, and potentially decimate the healthcare systems in lower income countries

COUNTRIES AFFECTED

- It has impacted countries and regions in different ways. The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), for instance, lost income, as they weren't extracting as much oil due to reductions in global transportation use
- Low-wage nations, such as China and India suffered employment losses, as people stopped buying, resulting in the drop in production

THE SILVER LINING

- Air pollution dropped drastically, with greenhouse gas emissions seeing the largest drop in human history — down by about 2.5 gigatons — or about 4.6 per cent of normal
- Similarly, other atmospheric emissions, such as the dangerous PM2.5 particulate matter dropped by about 3.8%; sulphur dioxide dropped by 2.9%
- Sulphur dioxide emissions mainly come from burning fossil fuels, one of the causes for asthma and chest congestion

CORPORATE DEBTS MOUNT

- Companies around the world will take on as much as \$1 trillion of new debt in 2020, as they try to shore up their finances against the coronavirus, a study of 900 top firms has estimated.
- The increase will see total global corporate debt jump by 12% to around \$9.3 trillion, adding to years of accumulation that has left the world's most indebted firms owing as much as many medium-sized countries (REUTERS)

TECH BUZZ

Google has announced that Assistant would be able to make video and audio calls with WhatsApp. This means that one can easily access WhatsApp and some of its options by triggering the Google Assistant from the home screen on your smartphone. The voice calls commenced by Assistant were earlier used to place a network call for the user, while video calls could be set up via Hangouts or Duo only.

HOW IT WORKS

- If you have set up the Google Assistant app on your Android device, you may directly invoke it by saying, OK Google or Hey Google. When Google Assistant is open, use one of the two commands, "Make a WhatsApp call to [contact-name]" or "Call [contact-name]" on WhatsApp. For a video call, just say, "Make a WhatsApp video call to [contact-name]"
- To make things faster, add a nickname to the most-frequently called contacts.

TOPPERS' STORY



DIVYANSHI JAIN

SCORE: 600/600

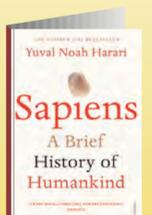
Getting hundred per cent in examinations is no mean feat but Divyanshi Jain of Lucknow has done the impossible. She has scored 600 marks out of 600 in the CBSE class XII examinations. She has scored

For me, it is unbelievable and the result is yet to sink in. I am delighted and surprised at the same time, DIVYANSHI, Navyug Radiance Senior Secondary School, Lucknow.

full marks in English, Sanskrit, history, geography, insurance and economics. Divyanshi appeared for the examination of all subjects except geography, which was cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.

BOOK REVIEW

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind - Yuval Noah Harari



Starting from the years when humans were just beginning to stand upright, develop language, and harness fire, the author goes on to explain how the human species evolved to acquire specific skills, and eventually rose to become the dominant species on this planet. However, instead of simply charting the path of evolution, Harari engages with both the biological as well as anthropological aspects of human development. Written in simple language, the two aspects are combined to create a cohesive narrative story of our origins for the young minds INAYAT KAPOOR, class XII, Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula

COVID CRISIS

Athlete Dutee Chand to sell car to meet Olympic training expenses?

Indian athlete Dutee Chand is facing a shortage of funds due to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics to next year, and is planning to sell her car to meet the expense of her training. The player has spent all her allotted money given by the state government and sponsors for training, as the scheduled Olympics has been shifted to a new date due to the coronavirus pandemic. Chand, who has been recently nominated for the Arjuna Award 2020, said Covid-19 has impacted sports, and sponsors are not willing to support her at this time. IANS



The government doesn't have money right now because of coronavirus, so it doesn't look good, if I ask money from them. Coronavirus has impacted all of us. Since there is no competition, no one is willing to sponsor us, we are at loss; these are troublesome times. Lockdown made all of us stay at home, it will take 6-7 months to reach my best fitness levels

FACTOID

\$114,000 (₹ 85 Lakh)

Price of an unopened copy of a vintage Super Mario Bros video game that was sold recently at an auction. The Super Mario Bros copy, designed for Nintendo's NES gaming console in 1985, is believed to be one of the few handful of sealed copies of such vintage games, to be still available in the world.

'Mike Tyson's Punch-Out!', a 1987 video game based on the former heavyweight boxing champion, was sold for \$50,400.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CLICK HERE FOR MORE

APPLE ARCADE ADDS PUZZLE ADVENTURE GAME 'CREAKS'

Apple's subscription-based gaming service Arcade has added a new puzzle adventure game 'Creaks' for its users. 'Creaks' is described as a puzzle adventure game in which players have to explore an old mansion to find hidden paintings, and solve puzzles to uncover the mansion's secrets. It is available on iPhone, iPad, Mac and Apple TV.

Earlier, Arcade added two new games — deep sea adventure, 'Beyond Blue' by E-Line Media, and the emotional puzzle game, 'A Fold Apart' by Lightning Rod Games on the iPhone, iPad and Apple TV

ELON MUSK IS THE 'BEST' PAID CEO

Tesla's CEO Elon Musk grabbed the top spot in the list of highest-paid CEOs in the US, while Apple CEO Tim Cook ranked second in the list

created by Bloomberg for 2019. As per the Bloomberg Pay Index, Musk made \$95.3 million in 2019. Tim Cook made \$133.7 million in 2019 from Apple.

Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella In Top 10 List

Four CEOs of the tech industry made it to the top 10 chart of the highest-paid CEOs. The companies, include Apple, Google, Intel and Microsoft.

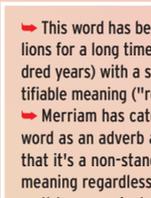


MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY JUST INCLUDED 'IRREGARDLESS'

Irregardless is a word that has often irritated those who are meticulous with language. People

WORD WATCH

use it instead of regardless, which is a word, while irregardless is not. But now Merriam-Webster Dictionary has included 'irregardless'. As our world grows and changes, languages evolve too.



GAMING



This word has been used by millions for a long time (over two hundred years) with a specific and identifiable meaning ("regardless"). Merriam has categorised the word as an adverb and specified that it's a non-standard word, meaning regardless. It has even included a FAQ section, explaining that the word was first used in 1795. It has been included in other dictionaries

LET'S PLAY WORD GAMES

Tell us 5 words that are used commonly by you and your friends while communicating with one another, but are not a part of any dictionary. Share them at

toinie175@gmail.com/timesnie175@gmail.com. The TOP 5 WORDS will be featured in Times NIE!!!

Comet NEOWISE VISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE



A new comet called C/2020 F3 NEOWISE, which was discovered by NASA's Near Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer telescope, is clearly visible to the naked eye these days, giving a new hope to the skywatchers. "From July 14, C/2020 F3, a comet discovered on March 27, became clearly visible in the north-western sky. It is visible after sunset for around 20 minutes for the next 20 days. People can observe it with the naked eyes," said deputy director, Pathani Samanta Planetarium, Odisha. It can be seen by the skywatchers at pre-dawn. After July, it will fade away very fast, and will not be visible to the unaided eye," he added. ANI

SPACE

4 FACTS ABOUT COMETS

- Comets are cosmic snowballs of frozen gases, rock and dust that orbit the sun in a highly elliptical path
- When frozen, they become the size of a few hundred kilometers compared with the size of a small town. When a comet's orbit comes closer to the sun, it heats up and melts, thereby releasing a large amount of dust and gases, and turning into a giant glowing head, larger than most planets
- The dust and gases form a tail that stretches away from the sun for millions of kilometers in the opposite direction. There are likely billions of comets orbiting our sun in the Kuiper Belt and even more distant Oort Cloud
- Currently, there are 3,650 known comets



Are you a star gazer? Take some time off from onscreen and watch the beauty of nature. Don't forget to share your experiences at toinie175@gmail.com/timesnie175@gmail.com.