



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

➤ From Balti to Lombard and Ainu, check out the languages that are on its way to extinction in 'Language Lab'

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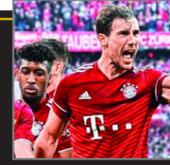
➤ A young NIE reporter narrates why it is important to love one 'self', and how it brings about happiness and prosperity in life

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➤ Bayern down Dortmund to win 10th straight Bundesliga title

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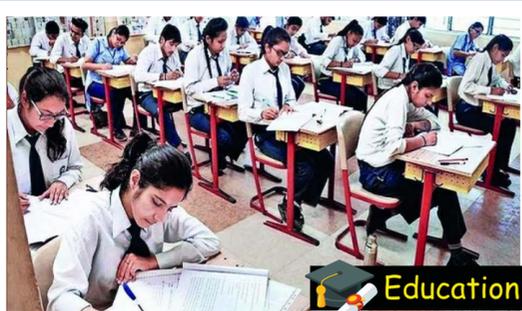


STUDENT EDITION
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

Increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide are responsible for about two-thirds of the total energy imbalance that is causing Earth's temperature to rise

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CBSE to hold live webinar on modalities to conduct Term-2 Board exams



Education

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be conducting a live webcast today, regarding the modalities for conduct during the CBSE Term 2 exams 2022, which are set to begin from April 26, 2022. All schools have been directed by the CBSE to stream the live webcast for students and teachers.

The CBSE live webcast will begin at 11 am. The webcast, which will be held for approximately one hour, will be addressed by Vineet Joshi, the chairman of CBSE. It will address the CBSE Term 2 Exams 2022 and the preparations that need to be made for the exams

■ Meanwhile, the CBSE has recently announced to restore the pre-pandemic single-exam format from the next academic year i.e 2022-23, which means the class X and XII Board exams are not likely to be split into two parts, according to sources in the ministry of education

Heatwaves in India are increasing the concentration of CO2

Scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology have found that heatwaves are increasing the emission of carbon dioxide in India. It has been observed that an increase in temperature over 36°C, like those during heatwaves, tends to drive the ecosystem to act as a carbon dioxide source. Due to these added emissions, the atmosphere is unable to absorb any carbon dioxide, and in fact, acts as a source of it.

The study said that CO2 concentration peaks in India from March to May



4 An imbalanced carbon cycle threatens to alter climate and change land use and living habitats

5 The major threat from increased CO2 is the greenhouse effect. As a greenhouse gas, excessive CO2 creates a cover that traps the sun's heat energy in the atmospheric bubble, warming the planet and the oceans. An increase in CO2 plays havoc with the Earth's climate by causing changes in weather patterns

6 Increased CO2 reduces the protein content of many crops. In addition, high CO2 levels in the oceans can affect the growth of some marine life, making some species more vulnerable to predators

WHY CO2 IS BAD FOR THE PLANET

1 Though CO2 is a natural result of life, and a vital part of the growth cycle of plants, too much of it in the atmospheric bubble that surrounds the Earth traps the heat from the sun, raising temperatures on Earth. If humanity cannot reduce

its CO2 output, the planet faces an uncertain future
2 Under normal circumstances, CO2 is a natural part of the life cycle on Earth. Animals and humans exhale CO2, and plants absorb the gas and produce oxygen. Carbon passes between the air, land and sea, as

plants and animals live and die. In the past, this cycle remained balanced, with carbon outputs and carbon absorption running relatively even

3 However, the Industrial Revolution changed that balance. Carbon dioxide produced by burning fossil fuels, transportation and manufacturing upset this balance

FOR THE RECORD

➤ According to the EPA, humans release 30 billion tons of CO2 into the atmosphere every year



LESSON TIME

New gaze-tracking tool to help your eyes control your smartphone



A team of researchers, including one of Indian origin, has developed a tool, which allows users to execute operations on a smartphone by combining gaze control and simple hand gestures. While smartphone devices have grown to accommodate the bigger screens and higher processing power needed for more demanding activities, the problem is that they frequently require a second hand or voice commands to operate.

➤ The new tool called EyeMU, developed by researchers at Carnegie Mellon University in the US, shows how gaze estimation using a phone's user-facing camera can be paired with motion gestures to enable a rapid interaction technique on hand-held phones

➤ They made the tool more productive by combining the gaze predictor with the smartphone's built-in motion sensors to enable commands

➤ For example, a user could look at a notification long enough to secure it as a target and flick the phone to the left to dismiss it or to the right to respond to the notification

UKRAINIAN PREZ BACKS DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION TO CONFLICT WITH RUSSIA

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said he supports a diplomatic solution to the conflict with Russia, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported. "There is a diplomatic path. There is a military one," Zelensky told a press conference in Kyiv on Saturday, adding he wants to stop the conflict and put an end to it. At the same time, he stressed that Kyiv would withdraw from peace negotiations with Moscow if Russian forces kill Ukrainians trapped in Mariupol or hold pseudo-referendums in the areas they captured in Ukraine, Xinhua news agency reported.



DIPLOMACY

'Lost and found' dress from 'The Wizard of Oz' under hammer

A dress worn by Judy Garland in "The Wizard of Oz" that was missing for decades before it was found at a Catholic university last year could fetch more than \$1 million at auction.

The classic blue and white gingham dress will be on view at Bonhams New York from April 23 to 29. It will then go to Los Angeles to be sold on May 24 for anywhere between \$800,000 to \$1.2 million, Bonhams said in a release.

■ The dress was gifted to The Catholic University of America in 1973.

■ The dress was meant to be a source of "hope, strength, and courage" to students. But then it vanished. ■ But one day last summer, as the department underwent renovations, they noticed a bag atop mailboxes. Inside it, was the dress!



Europa's similarity to Greenland hints that Jupiter moon could harbour life

The uncanny resemblance between features on Europa's frozen surface and a landform in Greenland that sits atop a sizable pocket of water are providing intriguing new indications that this moon of Jupiter may be capable of harbouring life. A study published recently explored similarities between elongated landforms called double ridges that look like huge gashes across Europa's surface and a smaller version in Greenland examined using ice-penetrating radar.

Double ridges are linear, with two peaks and a central trough between them



WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECENT FINDINGS?

■ The central implication is that the shallow water pockets beneath the double ridge, like surfaces seen on the Greenland ice sheet on Earth and those seen on Europa's ice shell, increase the potential habitability of the moon

■ The ice shell, which is potentially miles thick, has been a difficult prospect for scientists to sample. But according to the new evidence gathered by the Stanford team, the ice shell is believed to be less of a barrier and more of a dynamic system. This means that the ice shell does not behave like an inert block of ice, but rather undergoes a variety of geological and hydrological processes

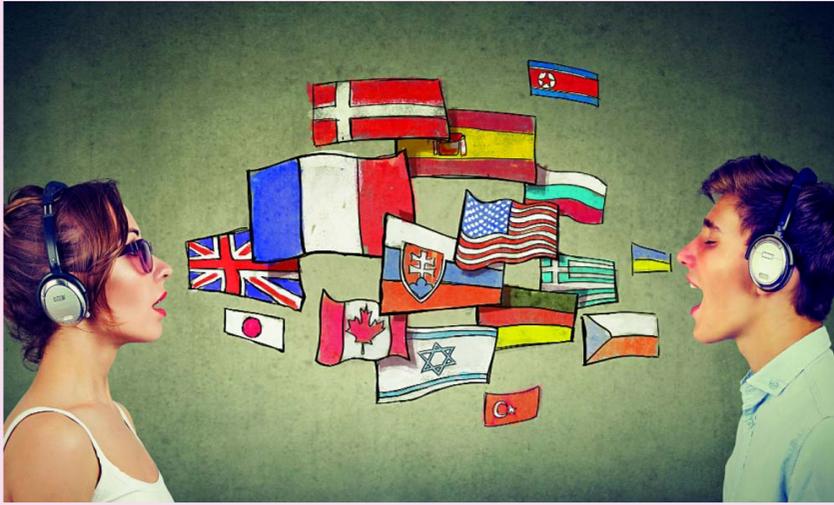
ABOUT EUROPA

■ Europa is slightly smaller than Earth's moon and its diameter is about one-quarter that of the Earth. Even though Europa has a very thin oxygen atmosphere, it is considered one of the most-promising places in the solar system to find present-day environments that are suitable for life beyond the Earth

■ It is also believed that underneath Europa's icy surface the amount of water is twice that on Earth. NASA notes that scientists believe Europa's ice shell is 15-25 km thick and is floating on an ocean, which is estimated to be between 60 and 150-km-deep. Interestingly, while its diameter is less than the Earth's, Europa probably contains twice the amount of the water in all of the Earth's oceans

■ NASA is expected to launch its Europa Clipper in 2024. The module will orbit Jupiter and conduct multiple close flybys to Europa to gather data on the moon's atmosphere, surface and its interior

6 Languages That Could Be EXTINCT SOON



Preserving languages is important, and UNESCO explains why – "Languages are humankind's principle tools for interacting and for expressing ideas, emotions, knowledge, memories and values. Languages are also primary vehicles of cultural expressions and intangible cultural heritage, essential to the identity of individuals and groups. Safeguarding endangered language is thus a crucial task in maintaining cultural diversity worldwide."

Here are some native tongues at risk of never being spoken again:

ICELANDIC

A study by Europe's leading language technology experts published in 2012 rated Icelandic in grave danger of facing digital extinction because of a lack of technological support. Younger Icelanders are speaking more English because their lives are so intrinsically involved in an English-speaking social media world. English tourism and foreign labour has also played a role in the language's demise, but a lack of technological support for Icelandic in voice-activated gadgets is a factor, too.

IRISH GAELIC

Irish Gaelic currently has over 40,000 estimated native speakers. There are several communities in Ireland, called Gaeltachts, where Irish is still spoken as the primary language. Governmental efforts have been in place for many years requiring Irish students to learn the Irish language and encouraging it to be spoken, yet it continues to be classified as vulnerable.

AINU

Ainu is the language of the Ainu people, a native group in Japan. Because there are only about ten native speakers remaining – all of them elderly members of the community – the language is critically endangered.

RAPA NUI

Many languages are endangered because their populations of speakers are isolated on islands; Rapa Nui is one such lan-

guage. Considered a threatened language, Rapa Nui is spoken on the famous Easter Island; as of 2000 there were 3390 na-

tive speakers. Spanish is gradually becoming the more dominant language among the island's inhabitants.

BALTI

Today, this language is spoken in Northern Pakistan and some parts of Northern India. Although, since 1948, English and Urdu have had greater influence, many words that are characteristic of Tibetan dialects have been retained in honour of the language's roots.

LOMBARD

Despite being spoken by people in Italy and Switzerland, Lombard is considered a minority language. Given that it is structurally separate from mainstream Italian, younger generations are considerably less likely to speak it, especially in

About 2,500 languages are in danger of becoming extinct according to UNESCO, and some of them are spoken by only 30 people. By the turn of the century, it is estimated that at least 50 per cent of the world's current spoken languages will be extinct. UNESCO uses a set of five categories to define how endangered a language is:

- **Vulnerable**, where most children speak the language, but it may be restricted to certain domains such as the home;

- **Definitely endangered**, where children no longer learn the language as a "mother tongue" at home;

- **Severely endangered** is when a language is spoken by grandparents and older generations, and while the parent generation may understand it, they do not speak it to children or among themselves;

- **Critically endangered** is when the youngest speakers are grandparents and older, and they speak the language partially and infrequently;

- **Extinct** - there are no speakers left.



Learn to talk like a BRIT, MATE!

We bring you a list of some of the funniest British English idioms you may not know

Bob's your uncle

This idiom is a catch phrase used when 'everything is alright' and means that something will be done, sorted or successful. It is a conclusion to a set of simple instructions.

Do a runner

When someone does a runner, he leaves a place in a hurry in order to avoid paying for something (like in a restaurant) or flees a difficult situation to escape punishment. Like many British idioms, this particular idiom originates from one of Shakespeare's popular plays 'Anthony and Cleopatra' – a gripping story of romance and tragedy that was first performed in 1606.

Fall off the back of a lorry

This is the British humorous way of saying you acquired something that was probably stolen, or you are trying to sell something that's stolen or illegitimate. The American equivalent of the phrase is: "Off the back of a truck."

For donkey's years

This British expression jokingly alludes to the considerable length of years the animal works with nothing to show for it. If you have done something for

donkey's years, then you have done it for an awfully long time without any change or much to show for it.

Chasing your tail

If you are engaging in an activity that isn't taking you any closer to your goal, then you are 'chasing your tail'. A person who is chasing their tail isn't getting very far and would be better off changing tactics.

All talk and no trousers

Someone who is all talk and no trouser talks and thumps his chest a lot about doing big, important things, but doesn't actually take any action. The phrase originated in Northern England.

Take the mickey

Brits love to make fun of and tease each other and that's exactly what 'taking the mickey' means. You can also say 'take the mick'.

Cat got your tongue

If a cat got your tongue, you are unable to speak. Your silence is oddly suspicious. Apparently, the phrase stems from the middle ages when witches were greatly feared. It was said that if you saw a witch, her cat would somehow 'steal' your tongue so you couldn't report the sighting.

An idiom is an expression or saying that means something other than its literal translation, and the British English language has hundreds, possibly thousands to get your head around



LANGUAGE LEARNING boosts brain plasticity

Brain or Neuroplasticity is a concept in neuroscience which refers to the brain's ability to change. Like any other part of the body, your brain can become stronger by exercising it. This is especially true when it comes to memory, which means that you can make learning languages easier with regular brain training. A new study finds that the more foreign languages we learn, the faster the brain responds and processes the data it absorbs during learning. In other words, the study suggests loading the mind with more knowledge boosts its ability to acquire more.

Growing evidence shows learning a new language can represent a "powerful tool to reorganise brain neuroplasticity." Apparently, even

relatively short, months-long language learning programmes can help reshape brain networks, improve global cognition, and increase functional connectivity in ageing people's brains.

As decades of life wear on, the brain becomes less plastic or able to reorganise its function, shifts that can contribute to slower mental processing, memory loss and lead people to be unable to live independently or manage their life. Recent studies have suggested that the language-learning brain is plastic not just in childhood but across the lifespan, which enables even older adults to learn a second language with success. Keeping the brain plastic can help people stay sharp and mentally healthy as they age.

LANGUAGE QUIZ

1. Hakuna matata (meaning no worries) was a phrase made popular around the world by the movie *Lion*

King, but which language is it?

2. In which country do locals use the phrase "not my circus, not my monkeys" when they

mean "not my problem"?

3. Which is the third most spoken language in the US?

4. Which country has the highest linguistic diversity in the world with an estimated 820 languages spoken?

5. In which region can you find a remote colony of Welsh speakers?

Answer: 1. Swahili 2. Poland
3. Chinese 4. Papua New Guinea
5. Patagonia

How are new words formed?

COMPLETELY NEW WORDS

Surprisingly very few new words in the English are actually completely 'new'. In fact, completely new words account for less than 1 per cent of all English neologisms and most are often based on proper nouns.

Like: Sandwich was taken from the name of the 18th-century Earl of Sandwich who devised the dish, Hoover (for vacuuming) was based on founder William Henry Hoover, 'Google' now means for searching online

COMPOUNDING

New words and phrases emerge as a direct response to the need to refer to new concepts, and one of the most straightforward ways of doing this is to simply combine existing words, which together make a sensible representation of a

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

Thousands of new words are coined every year but the key to survival for all these new words is usage. With the advent of the World Wide Web, language has a bigger platform for usage and propagation than ever before.

Now vocabulary has the potential to expand at a faster rate than in previous generations. Words stay in our language only if they represent concepts, which continue to exist over the passage of time.



new idea.
Like: Mobile phone, furkid (a pet which is a substitute child) and slow food

BLENDS

Combination of parts of existing words is another common process in the formation of neologisms. This phenomenon is often referred to by linguists as blending.
Like: Brunch, flexitarian (a vegetarian who occasionally eats meat), edutainment

(a blend of educational and entertainment)

OLD WORDS, NEW USES

Of course even easier than combining or blending existing words is simply to find new ways of using words that already exist. The Internet has been a major breeding ground for this process.
Like: New sense for old words like window, mouse, bug, surf, net, web

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Abbreviations are another area that over the years has been a rich source of new lexical items. The 21st century has witnessed an explosion of abbreviated forms in English due to the enormous influence of chat rooms, interactive message boards, text messaging, and e-mail, underlying all of which is the need to communicate effectively but economically.
Like: DVD, IM (instant messaging), DINKY (young, upwardly mobile professionals, standing for double income no kids yet), LOL, FYI (for your information), BTW (by the way)

AFFIXATION

To find new ways of using recognised affixes, creatively attaching them to established words as a means of expressing a new idea.
Like: Regift, advertainment, frankenfood

BORROWING

Of course more straightforward than any of the processes outlined above is simply to grab words from other languages, a process linguists refer to as borrowing. Borrowing has been a feature of English vocabulary development for centuries. French, Latin and Greek are obvious influences, but also Hindi.
Like: Shampoo (from the Hindi word champo, meaning 'massage'), pukka, latte from Italian word for milk
— Source: Macmillandictionaries.com

Queries relating to language skills

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve your communication skills? Times NIE is here to help you to master the intricacies of the English language. Just shoot us your queries on toi1e175@gmail.com