



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

www.toistudent.com

**TODAY'S EDITION**

➤ With an aim to make the planet sustainable, Tokyo experts have created edible walls. Find out more

**PAGE 2**



➤ Want to beat boredom? Indulge in some craft works and gift your friends and loved ones a paper basket to start with

**PAGE 3**



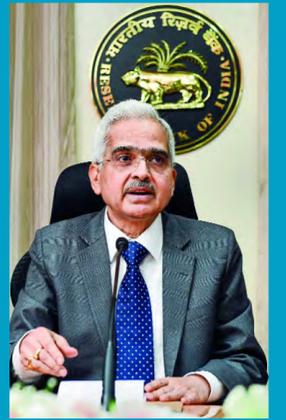
➤ Kane's late penalty shot helps England draw against Germany in Nations League

**PAGE 4**



**STUDENT EDITION**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022

**Quote unquote**



The war in Europe is lingering and we are facing new challenges each passing day, which is accentuating the existing supply chain disruption. As a result, food, energy and commodity prices remain elevated. Countries across the world are facing inflation at decadal highs and persistent demand-supply imbalances. The war has led to globalisation of inflation. A large part of the rise in inflation is primarily attributed to a series of 'supply shocks', which can be linked to the war. However, the Indian economy remains resilient. The RBI will remain supportive of growth

**Shaktikanta Das, governor, RBI**

**CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2**

## AMAZING FACTS ON CHEETAH

**1** The fastest land animal in the world, a cheetah can reach 112km/h in just three seconds – that's faster than a sports car accelerates! Its body has evolved for speed, with long legs, an elongated spine, adapted claws to grip the ground and a long tail for balance

**2** These fierce felines hunt during the day to avoid competition from other powerful predators, such as lions, hyenas and leopards



**LESSON TIME**

**3** Unlike lions, which are known for their ferocious roars, cheetahs sound more like your average house cat. They meow and purr. They also make chirps and churring sounds

**4** Cheetahs are classified as vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. With around 10,000-12,000 individuals left in the wild, cheetahs are Africa's most endangered big cat

## Now, MP sanctuary to get cheetahs from S Africa

India is all set to introduce cheetahs from South Africa in a wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh by August as part of attempts to rehabilitate the species that had become extinct from the country. A top environment ministry official said a special 10 sq km enclosure for cheetahs has been readied at the Kuno-Palpur National Park in Madhya Pradesh and would soon be home to at least six cheetahs that would be brought from South Africa.



Photo: GETTY IMAGES

**This is the first time that a trans-continental shifting of a large carnivore will take place**

Discussions to bring the cheetah back to India were initiated in 2009 by the Wildlife Trust of India. The animals meant for translocation would be from a reproductive age group and genetically diverse and disease-free. They would also have to be behaviourally sound – not overly imprinted to humans but tolerant, predator wary, capable of hunting wild prey, and socially-tolerant of each other for establishing a new cheetah population.

- The cheetah is believed to have disappeared from the Indian landscape when Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya is believed to have hunted and shot the last three recorded Asiatic cheetahs in India in 1947
- In 1952, the Indian government declared the cheetah extinct in the country
- Wild life experts have said that in the coming decades, 35-40 cheetahs are likely to be

translocated to sites across the country, once the first batch of African cheetahs are able to acclimatise to Indian conditions

Cheetah is the only large carnivore that got completely wiped out from India, mainly due to over-hunting and habitat loss



## World Bank cuts growth forecast to 7.5%

The World Bank on Tuesday cut India's GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 to 7.5% from the earlier estimate of 8%, citing the impact of high inflation, supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions. "Growth will also be supported by fixed investment undertaken by the private sector and by the government, which has introduced incentives and reforms to improve the business climate. This forecast reflects a 1.2-percentage-point downward revision of growth from the January projection. Growth is expected to slow further to 7.1% in FY24 back towards its longer-run potential," the World Bank said in its latest report.

■ In April, the World Bank had cut India's growth estimate to 8% for FY23 from the earlier 8.7% due to the impact of supply chain disruptions and soaring inflation. India's economy has staged a sharp recovery from the impact of lockdowns that were imposed to prevent the spread of Covid but the war in Ukraine has dealt another blow, resulting in surging price pressures, which have prompted the RBI to raise interest rates sharply

■ The Indian economy grew 8.7% in FY22 after contracting 6.6% in the previous fiscal year

■ The RBI has also lowered its GDP growth forecast to 7.2% for 2022-23 from the earlier estimate of 7.8% due to the impact of geopolitical tensions and the impact on prices

## Indian app addressing gender-based violence wins World Justice Challenge

Mumbai-based Elsa Marie D'Silva has won the World Justice Challenge for developing an app that addresses sexual and gender-based violence. Selected from a pool of 305 applicants from 118 countries, the winners were among 30 World Justice Challenge finalists invited to showcase their groundbreaking work at the Washington DC-based World Justice Forum. D'Silva, who is the founder of Red Dot Foundation, was awarded the World Justice Challenge prize for Equal Rights and Non-Discrimination to Safecity: A crowdmap for sexual and gender-based violence. The prize, which carries a \$20,000 award, was granted to Safecity app that was launched in response to the horrific 2012 Delhi gang rape, which shook the entire nation, at the event in The Hague, Netherlands.



The World Justice Challenge is a global competition to identify, recognise and promote good practices and high-impact projects and policies that protect and advance the rule of law

■ The Safecity reporting platform captures anonymous data about community sexual assault incidents in a crowdmap. The platform differentiates the type of incidents/assaults, time, date, location, and other impressions from reporters

■ By representing information on a map as 'hot spots', the project moves the focus away from the 'victim' to the location itself, helping people view the issue through a different lens

■ SafeCity transformed from just a reporting platform to a method for organising and engaging communities for safety in their neighbourhoods. The data has been used to collaborate with police around problematic locations/times of the day, and for seeking community input for crime prevention

## VIRAT KOHLI becomes 1st Indian to reach 200 million followers on Instagram

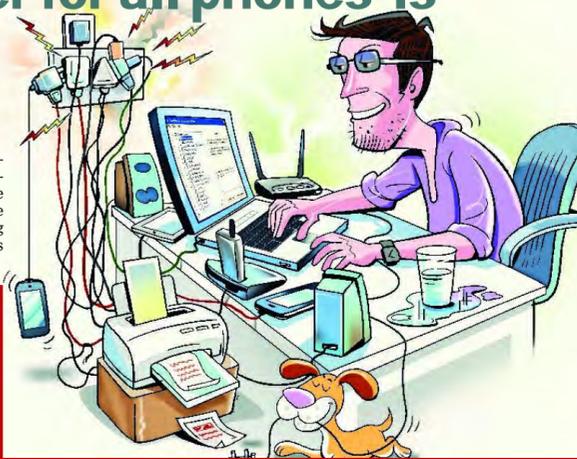
Former Indian captain Virat Kohli added yet another feather to his cap as he joined the 200 million club on Instagram, becoming first Indian to adorn the list. Kohli took to Instagram to share his milestone. "200 mn strong. Thanks for all your support insta fam," Kohli wrote along with a montage of his Instagram posts.



■ Kohli is the most-followed cricketer on Instagram, and among sportspersons, only Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have more followers than him

## Why 'one charger for all phones' is BIG DEAL

Nomophobia (fear of being without a smartphone) and 'battery anxiety' are two common psychological conditions that may be addressed adequately in Europe soon. The European Union leaders have agreed to bring a law mandating a common charging port for all devices – mobile phones, tabs and laptops.



By 2024, USB-C is likely to become the common charger for all such devices. The legislation will force all future smartphones sold in the EU – including Apple's iPhone – comply with the rule, which will also apply to other electronic devices, including digital cameras, handheld video game consoles, and e-readers.

**LONG HAUL:** The proposal to bring such legislation had been in the works for several years in Europe. Now, an agreement on its scope and details has been reached, following long-drawn negotiations between different EU bodies. The European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection made the announcement on Tuesday in a tweet. **WHAT NEXT:** The rule

could come into force only after the EU Parliament and Council approve the legislation, which is expected later this year. In its press release, the European Parliament said the law would be in place "by autumn 2024".

**WHY SUCH MOVE:** This is an attempt to cut down on e-waste. With inter-operable chargers for electronic devices, the EU estimates the move could save consumers 250 million euros on "unnecessary charger purchases" and cut down e-waste by around 11,000 tons per year.

Should India and other countries follow suit? Share your views at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)

## India's Jersey Girl Mithali Raj retires from int'l cricket

### SHOWSTOPPER

Mithali Raj, one of the legendary female cricketers to have played the game, has announced retirement from all forms of international cricket after a two-decade-long illustrious career. The 39-year-old had already retired from the T20 format. "I set out as a little girl on the journey to wear the India blues, as representing your country is the highest honour. The journey was full of highs and some lows. Each event taught me something unique, and the last 23 years have been the most fulfilling, challenging and enjoyable years of my life," Mithali wrote on social media, announcing her retirement.



- Mithali, who made her debut in 2002, is regarded as the greatest Indian women's batswoman. She captained the side to two 50-over World Cups
- At 16, Raj scored an unbeaten 114 on ODI debut and soon established herself as a vital clog in India's batting order
- In October 2019, Raj, at 36, became the first woman to complete two decades in ODI cricket
- She also represented India in 12 Tests and 89 T20 Internationals

## Botany

## Is Self-Cloning Sea Grass in Australia, the world's largest?



## TALKING POINTS IN CLASSROOM

## WHY ARE SEA GRASSES IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM?

- Sea grasses are particularly important to protect, says Marlene Jahnke, a biologist at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, as they are comparable to coral reefs.
- In the sense they host a lot of other species, along with purifying water and storing atmospheric carbon, she says.

**TEACHER PROMPT:** Show them a video on Dolly, the cloned sheep. Then raise these questions: ■ How scientists created the first clone of an adult mammal. ■ How public and political anxiety over cloning in the late 1990s led to decades of debate over the use of human embryos. ■ How scientific research has been influenced by this debate.

## HOW DOES IT CLONE ITSELF?

- While some of Shark Bay's northern meadows reproduce sexually, the rest of its Posidonia clones itself by creating new shoots that branch off from its root system. Even separate meadows were genetically identical, indicating that they were once connected by now-severed roots. Based on how old the bay is and how quickly sea grasses grow, the researchers surmise that the Shark Bay clone is about 4,500 years old.

The Shark Bay Posidonia did not just survive this ancient climate shift, it spread. And spread some more

In Shark Bay, off the westernmost tip of Australia, meadows of sea grass carpet the ocean floor, undulating in the current and being nibbled on by dugongs, cousins of Florida manatees.

A new study revealed something unexpected about those sea grasses: Many are the same individual plant that has been cloning itself for about 4,500 years. The sea grass — not to be confused with seaweed (algae) — is Poseidon's ribbon weed.

## What made it survive 4,500 years?

In addition to being a clone, the grass seems to be a hybrid of two species, giving it extra genes. This combination of extra genes and cloning might have been the key to the grass's survival during a period of ancient climate change. The Shark Bay clone, which is 'one plant', is about 4,500 years old. Cloning made reproduction easier because the grass did not have to bother finding a mate. The extra genes could have given the sea grass "the ability to cope with a broad range of conditions, which is a great thing in climate change," experts said.

## The size matters!

Today, it is arguably the world's largest living organism. Utah's Pando, a clonal colony of 40,000 aspen trees connected by their roots, is the reigning 'largest individual plant', covering an area bigger than 80 football fields. The Humongous Fungus is even bigger spread across 3.5 square miles of Oregon. By comparison, the Shark Bay clonal sea grass is 77 square miles, about the size of Cincinnati.

# LESSONS FROM THE WORLD

As students, while it is important to know about what's happening around the world, what is more essential is to have an in-depth perspective of events that will help you build your skill sets. Be it political, social, economic, climatic events, Times NIE presents you handpicked, curated news that will be of help to you in the classroom and give you an edge over others

## Latest on the block

## Fancy EDIBLE WALLS? Tokyo experts have made it

Ever dreamt of having a gingerbread house like Hansel and Gretel? In the near future, edible houses may no longer just be found in fairy tales. Tokyo University researchers Kota Machida and Yuya Sakai have developed a technology to transform food waste into potentially edible 'cement' for construction use.



## NEWSMAKERS of the week

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE LIFE

**1 A FIRST:** It's the world's first process for making cement entirely from food waste. The researchers say the tensile, or bending, strength of their product is nearly quadruple that of ordinary concrete.

**2 HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED:** The scientists developed a way to make concrete by subjecting pulverised wood particles to heat compression. The three-step process of drying, pulverisation, and compression was done using simple mixers and compressors the researchers say can be bought on OTT. After months of failures, they realised they could get the cement to bind by adjusting the temperature and pressure used.

**3 IT'S FLAVOURED WALLS:** Sakai and Machida say they have successfully made cement using tea leaves, orange and onion peels, coffee

grounds, Chinese cabbage, and even lunchbox leftovers. They have adjusted flavours with different spices and found that the colours, scent and taste of the

cement can be quite appealing. To be able to eat the material, a person would need to break it into pieces and boil it, Sakai said.

## Expert Speak

Dibyendu Bindal is the founder and CEO of Mighty Foods. A renowned restaurateur in the F&B industry, he has launched several food ventures. He talks about importance of sustainable diet



## Are you an eco-foodie?

Sustainability is a mega trend influencing different industries. It matters the most today, as consumers grow keener to save the environment. People want healthy alternatives to meat. They seek foods that don't upset the ecological balance further. There's an opportunity in the market to fill this gap through plant-based food products, which are the closest to meeting such demands. It is time that the F&B industry acknowledges the shifting changes in consumer behaviour and find a middle ground with the trends.

- Adopting a sustainable diet helps an individual maintain a healthy and balanced life, while ensuring that the planet has enough resources for the future generations.
- People change diets for numerous reasons such as improving health, losing weight, saving money or due to concerns about the source and process of food production. That attention takes care of minimising one's food waste and carbon footprint. Therefore, diets with more plant-based food bought directly from farms are the ideal way to practice and encourage sustainability in food.



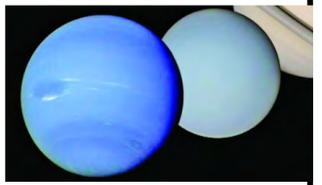
If you were to influence your family to adopt an eco-friendly diet, how would you go about it. Make a jingle and write to us at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)

## Space Talk

## Uranus & Neptune different shades?

It's an intriguing question. Uranus and Neptune, the two outermost planets of our solar system, are both ice giants — cold worlds that are part gas, part ice, with similar chemical compositions. They are not far off in mass, either, Uranus being 15 times that of Earth, and Neptune 17 times. And they are both about four times the size of Earth, Uranus being slightly larger.

Yet the two worlds look decidedly different. Uranus, as first revealed by NASA's passing Voyager 2 spacecraft in 1986, is a featureless light-blue blob. When the same spacecraft encountered Neptune in 1989, it revealed a world with the solar system's most powerful winds, which rip through a royal blue atmosphere, with giant storms and even a mysterious dark spot. Why the difference? Both worlds are blue because they have methane in their atmospheres, which absorbs the colour red from the sun's light. But a key middle layer of methane haze on Uranus appeared to be twice as thick as the layer on Neptune. It is the presence of this additional haze that leads to the different visages.



## TEACHER PROMPT

- Talk about interesting features of different planets.
- Ask students what are the colours of each planet and what's the reason for the same.



## LESSON PLAN

- Talk about the difference between Hubble telescope and James Webb telescope.
- ACTIVITY: Download a star watch app. Now go to an open space and look up at night sky. Jot down observations and discuss in class.

## LET'S IMAGINE WE ARE BUILDING EDIBLE HOME

## TEACHER PROMPT FOR DISCUSSION &amp; A CHALLENGE

- If you were to make edible walls of your house, what ingredients would you prefer?
- That was the fun part, now let us get serious and find out about sustainable architecture and why it is the need of the hour? What are the materials that can be used



for sustainable living?

- Discuss with students what is pulverisation and at what temperatures are different substances compressed.

**TIMES NIE INVITES TEACHERS AND STUDENTS:** We invite you to share unique ways in which concepts are being taught in classrooms. Write to us [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)