



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S
EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022



The WHO recently revised its guidelines –from 10 µg/m³ to 5 µg/m³– for what it considers a safe level of exposure to particulate pollution

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Spotlight NEERAJ CHOPRA SCRIPTS NEW NATIONAL RECORD



Neeraj Chopra has made another national record by throwing 89.03 metres at Paavo Nurmi Games. In the process, he bettered his own record of 87.58 metres during the Tokyo Olympics, which got him a gold medal. Notably, the Indian javelin superstar had not competed since winning his historic gold medal at Tokyo 2020.

The Paavo Nurmi Games, a gold event in the World Athletics Continental Tour, is one of the biggest track-and-field competitions outside the Diamond League, and this year's event had a super stacked field

- Chopra, the only Indian competing at the Paavo Nurmi Games, will be heading to World Athletics Championships and Commonwealth Games next
- Neeraj Chopra will also compete at the Kuortane Games in Finland before heading to Sweden for the Stockholm leg of the Diamond League



Indians losing 5 years of life due to air pollution: Study

Air pollution shortens average life expectancy in India, the second most-polluted country in the world after Bangladesh, by five years, relative to what it would be if the new stringent WHO norms were met, according to a new Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) analysis released on Tuesday. In fact, pollution would cut 7.6 years of life expectancy of 40 per cent of Indians who live in the Indo-Gangetic plains, says the report released by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC).

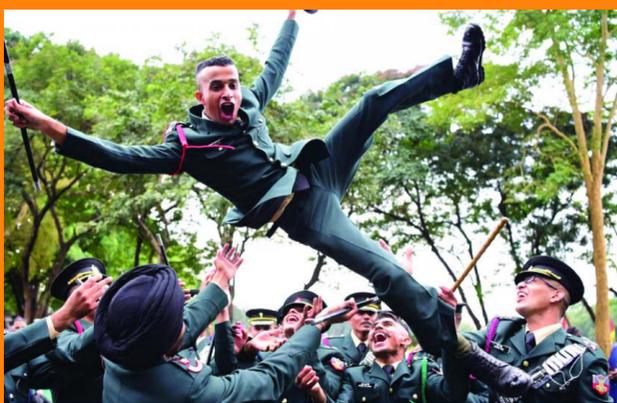
Analysing the data till 2020, the EPIC report said about 44% of the world's increase in pollution has come from India since 2013, and noted that the air pollution continued to increase in south Asia – the most-affected region of the world – during the first year of the pandemic despite Covid lockdowns. Since 1998, India's average annual particulate pollution (PM_{2.5}) has increased by over 61%

1 While most of the world breathes unsafe air, shaving off two years off global life expectancy, the report noted that air pollution is the greatest threat to human health in India, reducing life expectancy by five years. Child and maternal malnutrition reduces it by about 1.8 years, and smoking reduces by an average 1.5 yrs

case of Delhi, the world's most-polluted capital, people would lose 10 years of their lives in a business-as-usual scenario of not adhering to the new WHO standards

2 As per AQLI, in the Indo-Gangetic plains of northern India, 510 million residents, nearly 40% of India's population, are on track to lose 7.6 years of life expectancy on average if current pollution levels persist. In the

3 In 2019, over 7 million deaths annually were linked to exposure of various pollutants in the world, with analysts claiming that around 80% of deaths attributed to PM_{2.5} exposure. Among all classical air pollutants, inhalable PM_{2.5} is considered the most hazardous, as it gets deposited in lungs through breathing and causes serious respiratory problems



India bets big on low-cost fighting force

India on Tuesday unveiled a new recruitment programme called 'Agnipath' for the Armed Forces, largely on a short-term contractual basis, with an aim to cut the ballooning salary and pensions bill. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked the government departments to recruit 10 lakh people in the next 1.5 years in a "mission mode". But there are concerns that the move will adversely affect professionalism, military ethos and fighting spirit of India's 14 lakh-strong Armed Forces.

THE BIG PICTURE

- Launched a day before the second anniversary of the Galwan episode, the Agnipath scheme has been designed to enable a youthful profile of the Armed Forces. The government wants to attract youngsters who are more in tune with contemporary technological trends
- The average age profile of Indian Armed Forces would come down by about 4-5 years once it is implemented. The government wants to recruit 46,000 'Agniveers' this year
- Army chief Gen Manoj Pande said it aims to make the Indian military a future-ready fighting force, capable of meeting multiple challenges across the full spectrum of conflict

IS IT A REPLICA OF THE CHINESE MODEL?

A sizeable portion of Chinese PLA ranks has been filled by youngsters born after 1995. Since President Xi Jinping assumed power in 2012, he has launched several initiatives to make the PLA a truly modern military by attracting more and more youth, who can comfortably operate new and emerging technologies



Serena Williams gets Wimbledon wildcard, to make return at Eastbourne

Serena Williams will resume her quest for an elusive 24th Grand Slam singles title at this month's Wimbledon after making her long-awaited return to the Tour when she competes in doubles at the Eastbourne International. The former world number one has not played competitive tennis since limping out of last year's first-round match at the grasscourt major, where she has won seven of her 23 titles, in tears due to a leg injury. The 40-year-old has slipped down the rankings to 1208th and needed a wildcard from the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC), which organises Wimbledon, to compete in the main draw of women's singles.

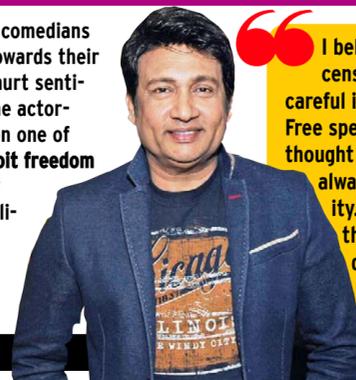
WHO may declare monkeypox a global health emergency

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is likely to declare monkeypox, which has so far affected 2,821 people in both endemic and non-endemic countries, a global health emergency, according to media reports. The highest level of warning by the global health body currently applies only to the Covid-19 pandemic, polio and Ebola. The UN health agency will convene an emergency committee meeting next week to assess whether the recent monkeypox outbreak warrants a public health emergency.

- As of June 8, WHO reported 1,285 monkeypox cases in 28 'non-endemic' countries, particularly in Europe, North America, and Australia
- About eight African countries, including Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Liberia, where monkeypox is endemic, reported 1,536 suspected cases and 59 confirmed cases
- While no deaths have been reported to date from the non-endemic countries, the endemic African countries have recorded 72 deaths from monkeypox from January till June 8

There's difference between humour and humiliation: Shekhar Suman

Actor Shekhar Suman believes stand-up comedians need to have a responsible approach towards their craft, and ensure their remarks don't hurt sentiments of any section of the society. The actor-host, who is now returning to the genre as a judge on one of the laughter shows, said comedians should not exploit freedom of speech. Now, there cannot be a joke in a silly way about women, racist remarks or something about religion. Earlier, people got away with it, but not today. You have to be careful, and it is going to be a tightrope walk. The challenge is to not say all those things and yet be funny, the actor said.



“I believe there has to be censorship... You should be careful in what you are saying... Free speech or independence of thought is misused. Freedom always comes with responsibility. Humour has to be done in the right spirit. There is a difference between humiliation and humour
Shekhar Suman, actor

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Current Affairs

UKRAINE'S WAR GETS own museum show in Kyiv



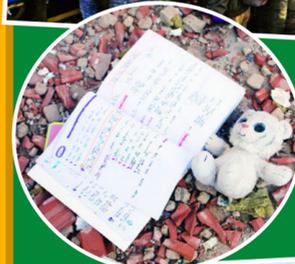
LESSON PLAN

The dust has hardly settled. Not long ago Russian troops were bearing down on Ukraine's capital – now the story of this chapter of the invasion is already being told in a museum. Even as the war rages elsewhere in the country, Ukrainians are flocking to a new exhibition in Kyiv displaying artefacts recovered after the Russian army was forced to withdraw from areas it occupied around the capital. Missiles, food rations, helmets and other objects abandoned in the region north of Kyiv are being shown in an exhibition at a World War II museum – known as the 'Great Patriotic War' in Ukraine.



The exhibition, titled 'Ukraine - Crucifixion', is housed in the National Museum of the History of Ukraine. The artefacts were collected between April 4 and May 5, 2022 and the show's rapid opening on May 8 came with the help from the Ukrainian army and government. Enlisted below are what you'll see

- 1 Glass cases display personal notes and the credit cards of Russian soldiers killed on the front line in a vital early record of the bloodshed.
- 2 In the museum's cellars, there's a reconstruction of a makeshift shelter from Hostomel, close to Kyiv's airport. The original housed dozens of people for 37 days, among them kids and a six-month-old baby. On the wall, the baby's mother gives chilling video testimony.
- 3 A church gate ripped open by shrapnel is showcased along with a grenade hidden under a toy in a sandpit.



TEACHER PROMPT: Ask students to use the photos (above) and build a scenario if they were stranded in a university in Kyiv. Ask them to present it as a monologue in the class.

ACTIVITY 2: Convert the classroom into a newsroom. Create a studio with anchor, producer, cameraperson and war correspondents reporting and interviewing from various spots in Ukraine, Russia, US, India. Make sure children are encouraged to build different scenarios wherein there is a deadlock in talks; sanctions being imposed; protests against Russia, What does Moscow want from NATO.

RAISE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- How does your own schooling experience right now compare to what kids in Ukraine and Europe are experiencing?
- What role can schools serve, even during war? How important do you think education is in a time like this?
- If you were given a chance to help a Ukrainian child of your age, what would you do?

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

Biology/ EVS

GREAT SALT LAKE: Drying up by the day

If the Great Salt Lake, which has already shrunk by two-thirds, continues to dry up, here's what's in store:

The lake's flies and brine shrimp would die off — scientists warn it could start as soon as this summer — threatening the 10 million migratory birds that stop at the lake annually to feed on the tiny creatures.

Ski conditions at the resorts above Salt Lake City, a vital source of revenue, would deteriorate.

The lucrative extraction of magnesium and other minerals from the lake could stop.

Most alarming, the air surrounding Salt Lake City would occasionally turn poisonous. The lake bed contains high levels of arsenic and as more of it becomes exposed, windstorms carry that arsenic into the lungs of nearby residents, who make up three-quarters of Utah's population.



Mark Salt Lake on the map of US and cities around it

LESSON PLAN

la viridis". In the year 1959, a railroad causeway, called the Southern Pacific Railroad, built over the lake divided it into two parts, each with two very different colours.

WHY LAKE SHOWS 2 COLOURS?

As shared by several Twitter users, the different colours of the Great Salt Lake are due to varied levels of salinity in the water. Based on a Twitter post, "This is Utah's Great Salt Lake. Parts of this lake up to 10 times saltier than the ocean. Split into two by a rail causeway, different levels of salinity on either side produced a striking visual. The north side is completely cut off. The algae *Dunaliella salina* and the bacterial species *Halobacterium* thrive in this highly concentrated environment, giving the water a pink hue. Whereas south of the causeway, the watercolour is dominated by green algae such as *Dunaliella*."

- 1,000: Square miles covered by the Great Salt Lake today, according to the US Geological Survey. In the 1980s, the lake covered about 3,300 square miles.
- 16%: Salt content of the lake last summer. The salt content used to fluctuate between 9% and 12%. If the salt content reaches 17%, the algae in the lake will struggle to survive, threatening the entire ecosystem.
- 50%: The population of Salt Lake City is expected to grow by more than 50% over the next 50 years.

Word Of THE WEEK

King of Clay



There are two types of tennis courts. One is the natural grass court that looks green and another is the clay court that looks reddish-brown in colour. Rafael Nadal has been called the King of the Clay because of his insane records on the clay courts. Nadal has overwhelmed this surface as no one has. The Spaniard is an owner of 14 French Open crowns and 22 Grand Slam titles, and now King of Clay is being referred to as the King of Tennis. Nadal's early days of tennis were spent on clay. Not in a real sense, yet he burned through the vast majority of his youth playing tennis on it. His game was constantly worked to suit the red surface the best.

POP QUIZ

Which serial entrepreneur invented a video game called Blaster?

Clue 1: He also started a company called X.com.

Clue 2: He is said to be the inspiration for Tony Stark's character in Ironman.

Clue 3: He appeared as himself in the animated series The Simpsons.

Ans:Elon Musk



And the final clue is: He threatened to walk away from a \$44 billion deal if the micro-blogging site failed to give him accurate data

When a picture speaks...



BOOKED FOREVER?

Customers in Bookmongers of Brixton, a book store in London. Apps have struggled to reproduce online the kind of real-world serendipity that puts a book in a reader's hand.

Think of caption kickers (like Booked Forever) for the photograph above