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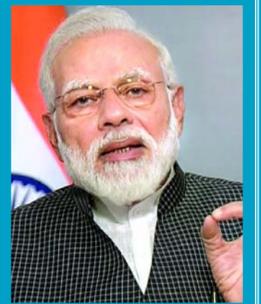
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STUDENT EDITION
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PM MODI ADDRESSES 90TH EDITION OF MANN KI BAAT



Addressing the 90th episode of his monthly radio programme, Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed pride that the number of Unicorns in the country has reached the hundred mark. PM Modi had said the total valuation of these Unicorns is more than 330 billion dollars, which amounts to more than 25 lakh crore rupees. A Unicorn is a start-up worth at least 7.5 thousand crore rupees. Modi also spoke about big feats that were accomplished in the country about the space sector and pointed out that no one even thought about startups in this area a few years back

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MAHARASHTRA CRISIS

Can the ANTI-DEFECTION law SAVE UDDHAV GOVT?



The unfolding political crisis in Maharashtra has thrown the spotlight on the anti-defection law. Here's all about it...

WHAT IS ANTI-DEFECTION LAW?

■ The bill was proposed by former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. The act came into effect in March 1985. The law was brought in the Tenth Schedule of the 52nd amendment to the Constitution of India. According to the anti-defection law, if a member is elected on the ticket of a certain party and resigns from the party, defies party leadership, or is absent for crucial votes, they are disqualified for the remaining term and their election is rendered invalid.

CAN IT PREVENT SPLITTING OF A PARTY?

■ The law doesn't outlaw the splitting of a political party to ensure that there is no dictatorship and that the party systems also remain democratic. If a party has a certain number of elected representatives in the Assembly and they are willing to defect, then a merger with another party is also allowed under the anti-defection law. In other words, if two-thirds of the total elected members of the party in the assembly are willing to make that decision, anti-defection law doesn't apply.

Who is the deciding authority?

The Presiding Officers of the Legislature (Speaker, Chairman) are the deciding authorities in such cases. The Supreme Court has held that legislators can challenge their decisions before the higher judiciary.

How long does it take for deciding cases of defection?

The law does not provide a time-frame within which the presiding officer has to decide a defection case. There have been many instances when a Speaker has not determined the case of a defecting MLA until the end of the legislature term. There have also been instances of defecting MLAs becoming ministers while a defection petition

against them has been pending before the Speaker. In recent years, one of the fastest decisions in a defection proceeding was delivered by Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu. He decided on the defection of JD (U) MPs Sharad Yadav and Ali Anwar in three months.

Has the anti-defection law ensured the stability of governments?

No. Parties often have to sequester MLAs in resorts to prevent them from changing their allegiance or getting poached by a rival party or an opposing faction of their party. Recent examples are Rajasthan (2020), Maharashtra (2019), Karnataka (2019 and 2018), and Tamil Nadu (2017) and more recently Maharashtra (2022).

WHAT IS DEFECTION?

When an elected member of a party moves to a rival party, it is termed as defection in politics. In other words, defection means the transfer of allegiance by a legislator from one political party to another. Traditionally, the idea of floor-crossing is synonymous to the term. So, when a person after being elected as a representative (Central or State Legislatures) under the symbol of any political party, leaves his/her relationship with his/her parent party and becomes a member of another political party, s/he is called a defector at that time. Over the course of time, defections across parties have become a modus operandi by various legislators resulting in incessant dislodging of democratically-elected governments by rival parties through orchestrated defection, especially at the state level in India.

HOW ANTI-DEFECTION LAW CAME INTO BEING

Coalition politics witnessed a rise right after independence at the state level in the '50s, with states like Kerala, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, forming coalition governments due to unambiguous results. However, defections became common only in the late 60s, with some candidates seeking Cabinet berth as a minister or other 'benefits'. Things became extreme with the acts of Gaya Lal, an MLA in the

Haryana legislative assembly elections of 1967. He was notoriously known for switching his allegiance to different parties thrice in a day. He was elected as an MLA on a ticket of the Congress Party in Haryana but chose to go with Janta Party after winning. He returned to Congress for reasons best known to him on the same day and once again returned to Janta Party within nine hours. This incident resulted in two things - it gave rise to the popular phrase "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram", and it laid the ground for anti-defection law.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has named Draupadi Murmu as their candidate for the upcoming Presidential elections on July 18. Given the numbers, the BJP and NDA have in the Parliament, it is likely that India will get its first tribal woman President in Draupadi Murmu. Murmu comes from a discreet tribal community of Santhals

X-PLAINED SANTHAL TRIBES



WHO ARE SANTHALS: Santhals, also known as Manjhis, are the third-largest scheduled tribe community in India after Gonds and Bhils. The Santhal population is mostly distributed in Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

WHAT IS THEIR HISTORY: The Santhals were a nomadic stock before they chose to settle in the Chotanagpur plateau. By the end of the 18th century, they had concentrated in the Santhal Parganas of Jharkhand (earlier Bihar). From there, they migrated to Odisha and West Bengal.

WHAT IS THEIR OCCUPATION: Most Santhals are agriculturists, depending on their farmlands or forests. However, according to a report by ANSI, they have started shifting to other jobs like coal miners, labourers, etc. Their homes, called Olah, have a particular three-colour pattern on the outer walls. The bottom portion is painted with black soil, the middle with white and the upper

AND THEIR LITERACY RATE..

Tribal communities, outside the Northeast, generally have lower levels of literacy but the Santhals have higher - a result of a pro-school education awareness since at least the 1960s - literacy rate compared to other tribes in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Many of the community have entered the creamy layer of Indian society

with red.

WHAT IS THEIR LANGUAGE: Their tribal language is called Santhali, which is written in a script called Ol chiki, developed by Santhal scholar Pandit Raghunath Murmu. Santhali language belongs to the Munda group. Santhali written in Ol-Chiki script, is recognised as one of the scheduled languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Net Zero Carbon Emission: IGI Delhi becomes India's first airport to run entirely on solar and hydro energy

In a significant step towards achieving the ambitious aim of being a Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport by 2030, Indira Gandhi International Airport this month became the first airport in the nation to function fully on hydro and solar electricity. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) estimates that the onsite solar power plants provide about 6% of the electricity needed by the Delhi airport. The airport has chosen to use hydropower from the hydropower plant for the remaining 94 per cent of its energy needs, ending its reliance on non-renewable energy.

■ DIAL said its switching over to renewable sources for its energy needs will help it reduce indirectly 200,000 tons of carbon emissions. DIAL said they are ending their dependency on non-renewable power since June 1



■ In an effort to reduce carbon emissions and fuel consumption by aero planes when taxiing, DIAL introduced TaxiBots to IGI Airport in 2019 as part of its environmental sustainability programmes

New children's anthologies narrate tales about Indian royals, battlefields, mythology

Two new children's books of 15-odd stories will give readers a peek into the kingdoms, courts, palaces and battlefields of royals, who shaped the values of India and made their place forever in the country's epics, legends and history. 'The Queen Who Ruled the Waves' and 'The King Who Turned into a Serpent', written by authors Indira Ananthakrishnan and Sudha Madhavan, respectively, aim to take "history close to the heart of the readers". Both are published by Hachette India.

Both the books bring to light the little-known facets of the extraordinary and mythological characters, including Veerapandiya Kattabomman, Krishnadevaraya, Rani Abbakka, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Yudhishtira, Nahusha and Bhoja, among others.



Little Singham joins UNEP to take on scourge of plastic pollution

Reliance Games have come up with a unique initiative to raise awareness regarding the hazards of plastics among children and youth. In support of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, a global initiative engaging young people to address the challenge of plastic pollution, Reliance Games, in a first for the studio, will highlight the issue in video games. Little Singham 2022, a runner game with over 50 million downloads, integrates new features where players collect plastic bottles and win rewards. The Discovery Kids' show, 'Little Singham', has emerged as one of the top Indian IPs in the animation genre on television since 2018. Within a short time, the character extended its circle of fun and frolic to the gaming world and replicated its success by topping the charts on Play Store as well. The 'Little Singham' game also integrates the World Environment Day's 'Only One Earth' logo into the gameplay.



ORAL TRADITION



VANISHING Words

One language dies every 14 days. By the next century nearly half of the roughly 7,000 languages spoken on Earth will probably vanish, as English, Mandarin and Spanish take over native tongues

Cristina Calderón — the last living speaker of Yamana language — died on February 16, 2022, aged 93. With her also died the Chilean indigenous language. She had mastered the Yamana language of the Yagan community, and after the death

of her sister in 2003 was the last person in the world who could speak it. She worked to save her knowledge by creating a dictionary of the language with translations to Spanish. Although there are still a

few dozen Yagans left, over the generations people from the community stopped learning the language, which was considered "isolated" since it was difficult to deter-



PRESERVATION TECHNIQUE

Researchers are currently recording and documenting some of the most critically endangered languages. Moreover, digital classrooms, podcasts, audio recordings, phone applications, and computer programmes are all available in a number of endangered languages. The idea behind this preservation technique is that the language could be reintroduced at some point in the future should a person or group of people be interested in reviving the tongue. One example of this is with the North American native language Miami, which became extinct in the 1960's. Today, it is offered as a course at the Miami University in the US state of Ohio.

mine the origin of its words.

LANGUAGES NEED OUR HELP

Some people argue that language loss, like species loss, is simply a fact of life on an ever-evolving planet. But if we can spend huge amounts of money protecting our biodiversity, why can't we do the same for language? Just as ecosystems provide a wealth of services for humanity, languages, too, are ripe with possibility. They contain a wealth of knowledge, including geography, zoology, mathematics, navigation, astronomy and more. When a language dies, a wide range of information is lost forever. The oral traditions of an entire culture are gone and with that, the songs, anecdotes, phrases, poems and expressions.

Do you know the origins of these 5 literary CLICHÉS?

In its essence, a cliché is a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought. However, that's not the case with the origins of many classic literary clichés. Several of them have extremely interesting stories behind their coming into being that will impress you for sure. From Dickens to Shakespeare, here are the origins of five literary clichés.

"Happily ever after"

How many times have we read this phrase at the end of several stories? This cliché ending line to endless fairytales originated with 'The Decameron', penned by Italian writer Giovanni Boccaccio in the 14th century. A translation of the work from the 1700s gave the line, "so they lived very lovingly, and happily, ever after" regarding marriage. However, before this, the phrase was used to mean heaven and living "happily ever after" meant enjoying eternal bliss in the afterlife.

"Forever and a day"

It was William Shakespeare who popularised this phrase meaning "a really long time" in his play 'The Taming of the Shrew'. However, he wasn't the first writer to use it. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Thomas Paynell's translation of German knight, scholar, and poet Ulrich von Hutten's 'De Morbo Gallico' put the words in a much less romantic context.

The treatise on the French disease, or syphilis, includes the sentence: "Let them bid farewell forever and a day to these, that go about to restore us from diseases with their disputations."

"Add insult to injury"

This phrase lies at the heart of the fable 'The Bad Man and the Fly' by either Greek fabulist Aesop or the Roman fabulist Phaedrus. In this fable, a fly bites a man's head. He tries swatting the insect away and ends up smacking himself in the process! The fly's response to this incident is quite interesting: "You wanted to avenge the prick of a tiny little insect with death. What will you do to yourself, who have added insult to injury?"



"Little did they know"

Still popular in today's suspense thrillers, this phrase was popularised by adventure-minded magazines in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, according to writer George Dobbs. He cites this line from a December 1931 issue of 'The Rotarian' as an early example: "Little did he know that he was then on the verge of discovering a hidden treasure."

"It was a dark and stormy night"

It was in the year 1830 that English writer and politician Edward Bulwer-Lytton wrote the novel 'Paul Clifford' which opened with the phrase "It was a dark and stormy night." Though it's not clear where did the phrase originate from, it is what Bulwer-Lytton is best remembered for today. **TNN**

SPORTING TERMS

GAME, SET & MATCH

TODAY MARKS THE START OF WIMBLEDON – PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS TENNIS TOURNAMENTS IN THE WORLD. BUT HAVE YOU BRUSHED UP ON YOUR TENNIS TERMS? WE SERVE YOU A SAMPLER OF THE BASIC TENNIS WORDS

Tennis has a very ancient origin. It seems that the ancient Romans played a game that consisted of hitting a ball with a hand covered by a glove. The definitive regulations were established in 1888 when the English tennis association was created. The vocabulary of tennis is, therefore, for all intents and purposes, in English.

groups of three or four players. The classifications for the following round are established based on their results.

ly near the net before the ball touches the ground on the player's side of the field.

THE TENNIS GLOSSARY

- **Ace:** A shot in which the player manages to hit the ball into the opponent's field without the opponent being able to respond with their racket.
- **Advantage:** The next point after the deuce.
- **Break:** A point received with the service of the opponent and with which a game is won.
- **Deuce:** A score equal to 40-40, after which a player must score 2 points to win the game.
- **Double fault:** Two consecutive fouls as a result of which the player loses the point.
- **Let:** The repetition of the serve. The term derives from the verb to let. Let is a serve that must be replayed, such as a serve that touches the net.
- **Love:** This term means zero. It comes from the French "l'oeuf," an egg, reminiscent of the symbol for zero. Only in tennis Love is zero.
- **Net:** Tape at the upper part of the net.
- **Round robin:** A tournament format in which the players are divided into



- **Tie-break:** A game that is played to win a set, or even the game, when the score is 6-6. The player who gains an advantage of at least 2 points over their opponent wins.
- **Baseline:** A line at each end of the court, marking the boundary of the playing area.
- **Break:** To beat an opponent in a game in which the opponent is serving. A break point is a point which will result in a break of service if it's won by the receiver.
- **Crosscourt:** A shot in which the ball is hit diagonally across the court.
- **Fault:** A missed serve, served into the net or served outside the correct service box. Double fault is two faults served in a row, resulting in the server losing the point.
- **Drop shot:** A gentle shot that just drops over the net.
- **Game:** In scoring, a game is won by winning points, a set is won by winning games, and a match is won by winning sets. A game point is a point that will end the game if it is won by the leading player.
- **Grand Slam:** The four major tournaments – Wimbledon, the French, U.S. and Australian Opens. A career Grand Slam means a player has won each Grand Slam tournament at least once in their career.
- **Line judge:** An official who judges whether or not shots land in the court.
- **Lob:** A shot that is hit in a high arc, usually over the opponent's head.
- **Serve:** The shot with which the turn is started. Also called service.
- **Backhand:** This is a backward hit, carried out with your back to the net.
- **Forehand:** A shot hit from the racket-arm side of the body.
- **Volley:** This is a hit that is made usual-

BREAKING BARRIERS

WHY EVERYONE SHOULD LEARN SIGN LANGUAGE



backing. Here are 5 reasons why learning some sign language might benefit us all:

It teaches cultural diversity: In a year-long study of preschool children by Amy Brereton at Trinity Washington University in Washington DC, hearing children who were learning ASL attained a greater appreciation of cultural diversity, as determined via classroom observations and interviews.

Gives your brain a good workout: Learning Sign Language provides all the same benefits of learning a foreign language. Bilingualism of any languages (whether signed or spoken) is a great brain booster. It strengthens cognitive function and reasoning, increases memory, attention span, creativity and communication skills. Learning languages shapes the mental functions you use in a range of other fields, from your social awareness to your creativity and grasp of mathematics.

Teaches you spellings: Research shows that children who learn basic sign language skills have improved spelling skills. Signing helps to give kids another tool for remembering spelling words and leaves a larger imprint on the brain.

Makes you a better listener: Speaking in sign language requires you to fully focus and concentrate on the person speaking to you. It's not just about the hand gestures, but it's also to focus on their facial expressions and body movements that are as important in sign language as your hands are. By constantly focusing on the person speaking to you, it will make you a better listener.

From their cognitive benefits to creating social awareness and uniformity, sign languages are not just meant for those with a disability

Sign languages have not only survived, but are now flourishing – so much so that many more people are getting the chance to learn them, which should be celebrated. Earlier this month, a 20-year-old Engineering student from Vellore Institute of Technology developed an AI model that translated some ASL signs to English, bridging the gap between the divide. Last year, PM Modi launched the first Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary, making ISL a designated subject in school curriculums. In the US, more undergraduate and graduate students have enrolled on courses in American Sign Language (ASL) than German each year since 2013. Also, earlier this year, a bill which would make British Sign Language a legally recognised language has received government

IMPROVES YOUR REACTION TIME

According to a study by University of Sheffield, sign language users have better peripheral vision and reaction time. Because it's so visual-focused, you are more alert and hence better suited for certain sports and driving.



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 toinie175@gmail.com

