



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

➤ From hosting a Quidditch tourney to reading Harry Potter books, we tell you how to celebrate the Wizard's birthday  
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➤ What is tactical inaction, and how is it used in different fields? Find out more in 'i-Opener'  
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➤ India maintain 3rd spot in ODI ratings; win 3-0 series against WI making a clean sweep  
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**STUDENT EDITION**

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2022



**THE UK (175) AND MEXICO (142) - SMALLER COUNTRIES THAN INDIA - HAVE THE MAXIMUM RAMSAR SITES WHEREAS BOLIVIA SPANS THE LARGEST AREA WITH 148,000 SQ KM**

**CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2**

**FACTOID**



**203** That's the number of heatwave days India suffered in 2022, one of the highest in the recent past. The maximum number of such episodes this year were reported from Uttarakhand (28), followed by Rajasthan (26), Punjab & Haryana (24 each), Jharkhand (18) and Delhi (17). The data shared by the ministry of earth sciences in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, shows that the total number of heatwave days in the country this year was over five times more than such episodes (36) in 2021

- Heatwave is a condition of air temperature, which becomes fatal to the human body when exposed. Quantitatively, it is defined based on the temperature thresholds over a region in terms of actual temperature or its departure from normal
- According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), heatwave is considered, if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for plains and at least 30° C or more for hilly regions
- Heatwaves in coastal regions may be described when maximum temperature departure is 4.5° C or more from normal, provided actual maximum temperature is 37° C or more.
- Heatwaves in India are occurring mainly between March and June, and in some rare cases, even in July. The peak month of the heat wave over India is May.

**T**hree wetlands in Tamil Nadu, and one each in Mizoram and Madhya Pradesh, have been designated as wetlands of international importance by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. With this, 54 Indian wetlands now have the coveted Ramsar site tag—the highest for any country in South Asia.

The five sites – the Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranal Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, Pala wetland in Mizoram and Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh – have been added to the list. India's Ramsar wetlands are spread over 11,000 sq km – around 10% of the total wetland area in the country – across 18 States. Each site has a big role to play in conserving the wetland ecosystem



**WHAT IS THE RAMSAR CONVENTION?**

- The Ramsar Convention is an inter-governmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources
- The international treaty is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran where the convention was signed on February 2, 1971. It was originally contracted by seven countries when it came into force on December 21, 1975

**HOW WILL THE RAMSAR TAG HELP IN CONSERVATION?**

- The Ramsar treaty provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. Having a Ramsar tag helps promote the sites as ecotourism hotspots and ensures better conservation
- Simply put, any further threat to the Ramsar recognised ecosystems or any significant change in their character will mean de-recognition, which in turn spells international embarrassment – not a risk any government wants to take



## 5 Indian wetlands added to Ramsar list

**WHAT IS A WETLAND?**

A place in which the land is covered by water—salt, fresh, or somewhere in between—either seasonally or permanently is known as a wetland. The best part of a wetland is that it acts as its own distinct ecosystem.

**WHAT ARE MOST COMMON WETLAND SPECIES?**

A wide variety of species such as birds, including ducks, geese, kingfishers, and sandpipers, use wetlands as pit stops during long migrations, as it provide them protection and food. Similarly, the most common plant species in wetlands include cattails, water lilies and many types of reed grasses.

**WHICH ARE SOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST WETLANDS?**

The West Siberian Lowland, Amazon River Basin, and Hudson Bay Lowland are among the largest wetlands in the world. The world's largest protected wetland is Llanos de Moxos, located in Bolivia. It is more than 17 million acres—roughly equal in size to North Dakota.

**HOW DO WETLANDS ACT AS NATURAL WATER FILTERS?**

According to experts, wetlands trap pollutants, such as phosphorus and

heavy metals in their soils, transform nitrogen into a form that's easier for plants to take in, and break down bacteria physically and chemically.

**HOW MANY TYPES OF WETLANDS ARE THERE?**

Wetlands take many forms, including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains. Most large wetland areas often include a combination of different types of freshwater systems.

**WHAT IS THE ROLE OF WETLANDS IN CURBING CLIMATE CHANGE?**

Though wetlands cover a small portion of the planet, their carbon capturing abilities are big. They can store 50 times more carbon than rain forests, helping to keep the heat-trapping gas that contributes to climate change out of the atmosphere. In fact, wetlands pull leaves, animal waste, and other high carbon matter down from



the surface of the water, which is buried by the water and sediment in the wetlands, locking them away. Besides, as wetlands grow quickly and remain stable, they have long lifespans of sucking carbon from the atmosphere.

**WHAT THREATS DO WETLANDS FACE?**

Wetlands face threats from pollution, climate change, dams, agriculture and aquaculture, and development.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WETLANDS DISAPPEAR?**

Without wetlands, cities have to spend more money to treat water. Floods, which are more devastating to nearby communities would be frequent, storm surges from hurricanes can penetrate farther inland, animals would be displaced or die out, and food supplies would be disrupted, along with livelihoods.

(SOURCE:WORLDWILDLIFE.ORG)

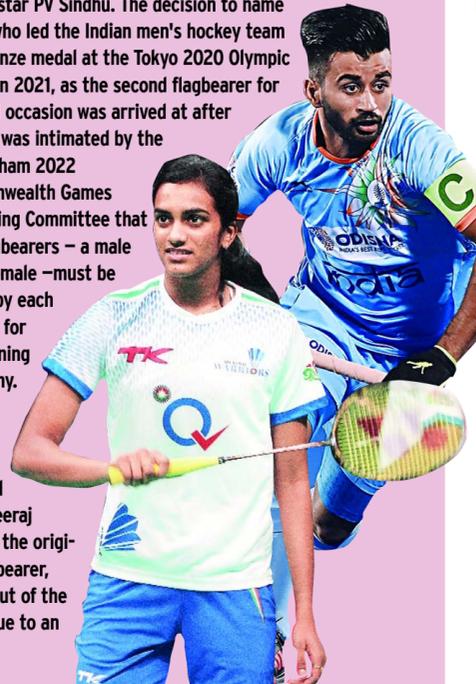
Today, there are more than 2,400 wetlands, covering 630,000,000 acres, designated as Wetlands of International Importance



**ASSIGNMENT TIME: PREPARE A LIST OF INDIA'S WETLANDS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE TO OUR ECOSYSTEM AT TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM. THE BEST COLOURFUL ENTRY WILL BE PUBLISHED. LAST DATE OF ENTRY: JULY 30**

## Hockey team captain Manpreet flag-bearer of India along with Sindhu

**T**he Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Wednesday selected Manpreet Singh, the captain of the men's hockey team, as co-flagbearer of Team India for the opening ceremony of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games alongside badminton star PV Sindhu. The decision to name Singh, who led the Indian men's hockey team to a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in 2021, as the second flagbearer for the said occasion was arrived at after the IOA was intimated by the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee that two flagbearers – a male and a female – must be named by each country for the opening ceremony. Singh's name was included after Neeraj Chopra, the original flagbearer, pulled out of the event due to an injury.



## Largest pink diamond in 300 years discovered in Angola

**A**rare 170-carat pink diamond, weighing 34 grams, thought to be the largest in the last 300 years, has been discovered in Angola. The pink stone has been named the "Lulo Rose", after the mine in Angola where it was found. This is the fifth largest diamond from a total of 27 diamonds with more than 100 carats extracted to date in the Lulo mining project.

The largest rough diamond of any colour ever recorded is the Cullinan diamond, found in South Africa in 1905. Weighing 3,107 carats, more than half a kilogramme, it was cut into 105 different stones. The largest of these, the Cullinan I, is the biggest clear cut diamond in the world and forms part of the UK Crown Jewels.



## THE TIMES OF INDIA

■ **RETHINK**  
How to build your distress tolerance and handle negative emotions better?

■ **NUTRITION**  
Tweak your diet to suit the rainy season for better health  
**PLUS:** Why we must add more millets to our daily meals

■ **FITNESS**  
There are many ways we are putting excessive pressure on our spines. We tell you how, as a student, you can be posture perfect

■ **PEOPLE**  
Rishi Sunak is our newsmaker of the week for his



**STUDENT EDITION**

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 2022



historical bid for the post of UK PM  
**PLUS:** Celebrating the birthdays (Jul 30-Aug 5) of luminaries from books, movies, science, politics and MORE

■ **FAMILY TIME**

How does a thumb wrestling knockout or a house of cards championship sound like as a plan for the family this weekend?  
**PLUS:** Teach mom some of your cool lingo

■ **SPORTS**  
We tell you all about the sport of swimming



## Text Your Friends. IT MATTERS MORE THAN YOU THINK

Calling, texting or emailing a friend just to say "hello" might seem like an insignificant gesture – a chore, that isn't worth the effort. Or, maybe you worry an unexpected check-in wouldn't be welcome, as busy as we all tend to be. But new research suggests that casually reaching out to people in our social circles means more than we realise

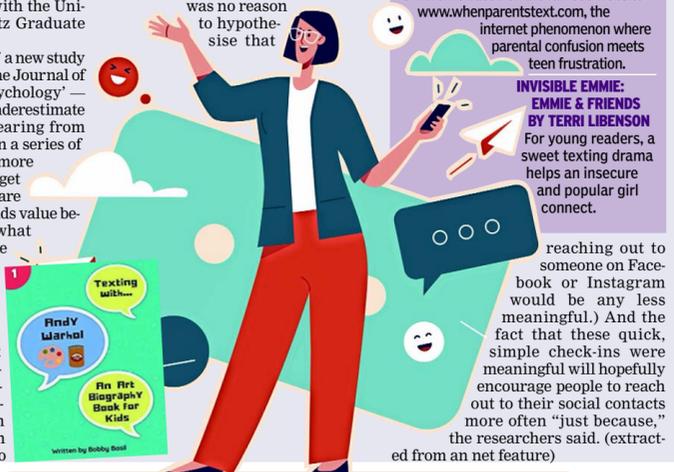
Even sending a brief message reaching out to check in on someone, just to say 'Hi,' that you are thinking of them, and to ask how they're doing, is appreciated more than people think," said Peggy Liu, Ben L Fryrear Chair, a marketing and an associate professor of business administration with the University of Pittsburgh Katz Graduate School of Business.

Liu is the lead author of a new study — published recently in 'The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology' — that found people tend to underestimate how much friends like hearing from them. She and her team ran a series of 13 experiments, involving more than 5,900 participants, to get a sense of how good people are at guessing how much friends value being reached out to, and what kinds of interactions are the most powerful.

### Texting matters

Across all experiments, those who initiated contact significantly underestimated how much it would be appreciated. The more surprising check-ins (from those who hadn't been in contact recently) tended to

be especially powerful. Liu and her fellow researchers kept the bar for what counted as reaching out intentionally low: a brief call, text or email, or a small gift, like cookies or a plant. (The researchers did not focus on social media interactions in the study, but Liu said there was no reason to hypothesize that



### SO WHAT SHOULD YOU TEXT?

Try these fun books  
TEXTING WITH ANDY WARHOL: AN ART BIOGRAPHY BOOK FOR KIDS BY BOBBY BASIL

Told through a series of texts between the principal characters who text each other, Alex, a curious child learns about legendary pop artist Andy Warhol and his works of art, by texting with him.

WHEN PARENTS TEXT: SO MUCH SAID...SO LITTLE UNDERSTOOD BY LAUREN KAEHLIN, SOPHIA FRAIOLI

For anyone who has ever had a hard time understanding the utterly bewildering texts their sweet, well meaning parents keep sending! This collection of insanely funny texts between parents and

children is based on the famous website www.whenparentstext.com, the internet phenomenon where parental confusion meets teen frustration.

INVISBLE EMMIE: EMMIE & FRIENDS BY TERRI LIBENSON  
For young readers, a sweet texting drama helps an insecure and popular girl connect.

reaching out to someone on Facebook or Instagram would be any less meaningful.) And the fact that these quick, simple check-ins were meaningful will hopefully encourage people to reach out to their social contacts more often "just because," the researchers said. (extracted from an net feature)

## How to celebrate Harry Potter's birthday

It all started on July 31! That's right, two of your favourite people share the same birthday. Author J K Rowling was born on July 31 in 1965, and Harry Potter was born on the same day 15 years later (according to the series' timelines). By the way, July 31, 1991, also marked the day Harry found out he was a wizard. Surely, this has got you in a celebratory mood! So here's what you can do



### HOST A QUIDDITCH TOURNAMENT

Who's to say that Harry Potter's famously high-energy game of quaffles, snitches and flying broomsticks is just for witches and wizards? Add a little magic to your day by hosting a Quidditch (now also known as a Quodball) tournament. First, create broomsticks. To do this, find a branch that you sit on, but light

**HOT TIP:** Make it eco-friendly! Many residential societies regularly undertake the task of trimming overgrown trees in the neighbourhood. If it's happening near you, finding a light enough branch will be a cakewalk.

enough to run with. Next, gather a large handful of twigs and tie them tightly around one end using a string. With the broomsticks made, let the games begin. Competitors must try to score goals into their team's goal post by catching a ball while "flying" (aka running) on their broomsticks. Expect plenty of acrobatics as Quidditch players dash around on their brooms trying to catch the ball.

### PLAN A TRAVEL ADVENTURE

The Warner Bros. Studio Tour, London, gives fans the chance to get up close to the sets and discover the magic behind its special effects. Visitors can explore the original Great Hall, step into the Forbidden Forest and discover Gringotts Wizarding Bank all before marveling at the breath-taking miniature scale model of Hogwarts Castle. In 2022, the tour opened the glass doors of Professor Sprout's greenhouse for the first time. A fan-

favourite set from the series, where students were taught their herbology lessons with Professor Pomona Sprout, it has been built by the original Harry Potter filmmakers, and visitors are invited to step inside and pull out a potted mandrake as part of an interactive display. It's based on the scene in 'Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets'. Visitors to the Hertfordshire attraction will recognise the venomous tentacula hanging from the ceiling.

### READ 'THE SECRETS OF DUMBLEDORE'

Goosebump alert! This official screenplay of the film promises to unveil the secret backstory of one of the most iconic and beloved characters, Albus Dumbledore. Gellert Grindelwald, a powerful Dark wizard, is attempting to seize control of the wizarding community, and Professor Dumbledore is aware of this. As he is unable to stop Grindelwald on his own, he assigns Magizoologist Newt Scamander to lead a daring group of wizards, witches, and one brave Muggle baker on a dangerous expedition...

Muggles around the world this year are celebrating the silver anniversary of 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. Since hitting the shelves, the bestselling book – the first of the seven-part Harry Potter series – has been translated into 73 languages and sold more than 120 million copies. Sparking an eight-part feature film franchise that grossed over £63 billion, as well as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando Resort, Florida, writer JK Rowling has earned an estimated nearly £1 billion – a true rags-to-riches tale, which mirrors Harry's own rise from the cupboard under the stairs.



Author Preethi Menon who recently released her latest book, 'When the Jungles Whisper', spoke about how one can build healthy reading habits

## #Quoteworthy

"Set the expectations early on, accompany students to the library once a week, do some book-tasting activities, or any activities with fancy, interesting names that pique their interest. Allowing them to discuss, or share anecdotes from the book while reading and following it through with activities (that get them



to exchange their experiences) can be inspiring. It helps in creating a culture of reading. Children all over the world share similar emotions, feelings and apprehensions. Stories of war, struggle and heroism, silliness and craziness, teenage angst and melodrama exist in the real world. Teachers could compile a list of genres – some easy, some advanced, a potpourri of a range of reading levels with the help of the school librarian, and just get the engine going."

## EVERYTHING THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RINGS OF POWER



### THE BUDGET

The TV series, releasing September 2 on Amazon Prime, signed a reported \$250m rights contract with the J.R.R. Tolkien estate, publisher Harper Collins and New Line Cinema to produce a multi-season show for TV. "The Hollywood Reporter" said that the budget is set to be at least \$1 billion (£720million) – the biggest in television history.

### WHERE ARE THEY FILMING THE SERIES?

Showrunners JD Payne and Patrick McKay said that New Zealand was the perfect place to reflect the "primordial beauty of the Second Age of Middle Earth".

### HOW MANY SEASONS WILL THERE BE?

The streaming service has committed to producing five seasons as part of its \$250million rights deal.

### WHO ARE GOING TO BE THE SHOWRUNNERS?

JD Payne and Patrick McKay. They have

previously worked as writers on 'Godzilla vs. Kong' and 'Star Trek 4'.

### WHICH AGE WILL THE TV SHOW BE SET IN?

The show will be set in the Age of Númenor (or the Second Age of Middle Earth). This is the 3,441 year period ahead of 'The Fellowship of the Ring'. This was confirmed through maps Amazon posted on Twitter.

For reference, 'The Hobbit' and 'The Lord of the Rings' novel and film trilogy are set thousands of years after the Second Age, toward the end of the Third Age. The Second Age, on the other hand, is most notable for being the time period when Sauron (the titular lord of the rings and very integral to the Second Age) created the One Ring to rule all the other Rings of Power. By the time Smeagol had come across the Ring, it had been lost for over 2,000 years.

If you're wondering how much ground can be covered in the series with the Second Age as its setting, note that the Second Age spans 3,441 years!

How many seasons are confirmed? That \$250 million rights deal for "The Lord of the Rings" also came with a five-season commitment.



## TOLKIEN TRIVIA

JRR Tolkien is known as the Father of Fantasy. Here are a few interesting facts about him

### BAG END WAS A REAL PLACE

Many of the places Tolkien encountered in his life inspired the landscapes of his books. The battlefields of World War I influenced the bleakness of Mordor, while the mountains of Switzerland seeded Rivendell. After his father's death, Tolkien moved to England

where the family found themselves forced to live with various relatives. One of those relatives, Tolkien's Aunt Jane, lived in the Worcestershire countryside, which Tolkien grew to love. The village of Saredon provided the foundation for Hobbiton. However, one place actually gave its name: that of Tolkien's Aunt's farm, Bag End.

### TOLKIEN COULD READ BY THE AGE OF FOUR

By the age of four, he could read English fluently, and was writing equally well, not long afterward. Unsurprisingly, Tolkien was a prolific – and critical – reader. He disliked "Treasure Island" but had a love of fantasy, especially fairy tales.

### THE LANGUAGES OF MIDDLE EARTH WEREN'T THE FIRST HE CREATED

Tolkien's aptitude for languages extended beyond English. His mother also taught him Latin, French, and German and while he was at school, he taught himself Greek, Middle English, Anglo-Sax-

### TOLKIEN'S GREATEST VILLAIN WAS INSPIRED BY ONE OF THESE CHILDHOOD BOOKS

Sauron was based on a character in one of JRR Tolkien's favorite boyhood books. Tolkien loved SR Crockett's historical novel, 'The Black Douglas'. Its villain, Gilles de Rais, was based on the French knight (and associate of Joan of Arc), Gilles de Rais, a convicted murderer. Crockett's character was also a devil worshipper.

on, and Old Norse amongst many others. During his childhood, he formulated "Nevbosh" or "New Non-Sense" with his cousin Mary Inledon. His first solo invention came in his teens when he developed "Naffarin". Based around Latin and Spanish, Naffarin evolved from Nevbosh – and, some believe, formed the foundation of Tolkien's Elvish tongue.

### TOLKIEN'S HORRIFIC SPIDERS WERE INVENTED TO PLAY ON A PHOBIA

Tolkien used spiders as agents of horror in 'The Hobbit', 'The Silmarillion', and the 'Lord of the Rings'. Many believe this was because Tolkien loathed spiders after he was bitten by one while a toddler in South Africa. While Tolkien admitted he wasn't a massive fan of spiders, he said his awful arachnids were based around the phobia of his son, Michael, and were invented to "thoroughly frighten him".

Source: historyhustle.com  
Pic credit: ED O'KEEFE PHOTOGRAPHY