



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S EDITION**

► Want to know the origin of words like Thug, Karma, Dekko? Find out more in 'Language Lab' **PAGE 2**



► Experts tell us the importance of sustainable economy and how to create it in 'Money Matters' **PAGE 4**



► Buoyant India looks to continue winning runs against West Indies in second T20! **PAGE 6**



**STUDENT EDITION**  
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022

**T**he Earth has set a new record for the shortest day. The planet completed a full spin on June 29 2022, in a time that was 1.59 milliseconds - little over one thousandth of a second - shorter than its standard 24-hour rotation. It nearly broke the barrier again this month, with July 26 being 1.50 milliseconds shorter than 24 hours. Interestingly, every century, the Earth takes a couple of milliseconds longer to complete one rotation.

Recently, the Earth has been increasing in speed. In 2020, the Earth saw its shortest month that has ever been measured, since the 1960s. The shortest day of all time was measured as 1.47 milliseconds under 24 hours, on July 19. In 2021, the Earth continued to spin at a generally increased rate although it did not break records

## CBSE brings major changes for 2023 Board exams



**T**he Central Board of Secondary Education will conduct the class X and XII Board exams for academic year 2022-23 from February 15 onwards. The Board has also announced some major changes in the exam pattern...

### ONE BOARD EXAM

► The Board has decided to do away with the term-wise examination pattern. Hence, the CBSE Board exam 2023 will be held only once. The marking scheme will also change accordingly. The Board will follow the pre-pandemic marking scheme for the 2023 exam.

### CHANGES IN SYLLABUS

► The Board has also cut 30% syllabus for class IX to XII students for this session. For more information on the new curriculum, students are advised to check the official website - [cbseacademic.nic.in](http://cbseacademic.nic.in)

## Earth just created a new record: CLOCKS ITS SHORTEST DAY EVER!



### WHY IS IT SO

► The causes of this speeding are uncertain, but scientists speculate that it could be due to processes in the inner or outer layers of the core, oceans, tides, or even changes in climate.  
► Some scientists have suggested that the decreased days could be related to the Chandler wobble, a small deviation in the Earth's axis of rotation.  
► This is similar to the quiver one sees when a spinning top starts gaining momentum or slows down, according to scientists, they said

### THE IMPACT

► If the Earth continues to spin at an increasing rate it could lead to the introduction of the **negative leap second**, in order to keep the rate that the Earth orbits the sun consistent with the measurement from atomic clocks  
► However, the negative leap second would potentially create issues for IT systems  
► A negative leap second is a second that is subtracted from our clocks to keep them in sync with the Earth's rotation. It is the opposite of a positive leap second, which is a one-second addition to our clocks. The system of leap seconds was introduced in the early 1970s

## How negative leap will affect IT

► According to experts, the clock progresses from 23:59:59 to 23:59:60 before resetting to 00:00:00, and such a time jump crashes programmes or corrupts data due to the timestamps on the data storage  
► Similarly, should a negative leap second occur, the clock will change from 23:59:58 to 00:00:00, which IT experts predict could

**X-PLAINED** change triggered a massive Reddit outage in 2012 as well as related problems in Mozilla, LinkedIn, Yelp, and airline booking service  
► The leap second

**Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the primary time standard by which the world regulates clocks and time, has been updated with a leap second 27 times**



## JEREMY LALRINNUNGA WINS GOLD

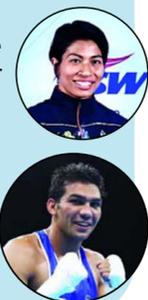
India bags second gold on Day 3 in weightlifting

**T**he weightlifters continued their gold run on Sunday at the 2022 Commonwealth Games as Jeremy Lalrinnunga won a gold in the men's 67kg category. Jeremy created a new Commonwealth Games record in the snatch event, by picking up 140 kg. Earlier Mirabai Chanu kept her promise and delivered a gold on Saturday to give India their first gold medal on day two of competitions. India opened its medal count bagging one of every colour and all three from Weightlifting. ► The bronze came India's way from the Men's 61 kg category from Gururaja ► Bindyarani Devi secured a silver in the women's 55kg and Sanket Sargar in men's 55 kg.



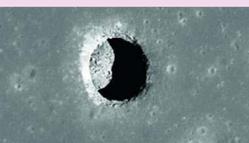
### OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

► Women's boxer Lovlina Borgohain advances to the quarters with 5-0 win over New Zealand's Araine Nicholson in the light middleweight category.  
► Boxer Mohamed Hassamuddin beat Amzolele Dyeyi of South Africa in the men's featherweight



## Scientists discover places on the Moon where it's always cold and dark

**A** team led by planetary scientists has discovered shady locations within pits on the Moon that always hover around a comfortable 63 degrees Fahrenheit. The pits, and caves to which they may lead, would make safer, more thermally stable base camps for lunar exploration and long-term habitation than the rest of the Moon's surface, which heats up to 260 degrees during the day and drops to 280 degrees below zero at night.



► Pits were first discovered on the moon in 2009, and since then, scientists have wondered if they led to caves that could be explored or used as shelters. About 16 of the more than 200 pits are probably collapsed lava tubes  
► Lava tubes, also found on Earth, form when molten lava flows beneath a field of cooled lava or a crust forms over a river of lava, leaving a long, hollow tunnel. If the ceiling of a solidified lava tube collapses, it opens a pit that can lead into the rest of the cave like tube.

### WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT

► A day on the moon lasts nearly 15 Earth days, during which the surface is constantly bombarded by sunlight and is frequently hot enough to boil water. Unimaginably cold nights also last about 15 Earth days. Inventing heating and cooling equipment that can operate under these conditions and producing enough energy to power it non-stop could prove an insurmountable barrier to lunar exploration or habitation. Solar power, NASA's most common form of power generation, doesn't work at night  
► Building bases in the shadowed parts of these pits allows scientists to focus on other challenges, like growing food, providing oxygen for astronauts, gathering resources for experiments and expanding the base. The pits or caves would also offer some protection from cosmic rays, solar radiation and micrometeorites

## Quote unquote

Under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' from August 13 to 15, a special movement - 'Har Ghar Tiranga' is being organised. Let us further this movement by hoisting the National Flag at our homes. People from all walks of life and from every section of the society are participating in different programmes across the country. When India completes 75 years of its Independence, all of us are going to witness a glorious and historic moment  
**Narendra Modi, PM, urging people to put 'tiranga' as profile picture of their accounts on social media platforms, on Mann ki Baat**



## You share YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH

## WORLD WIDE WEB

While the first popular search engine is known as Yahoo! Search, it is believed that Archie was the first of its kind. This was the first tool for File Transfer Protocol(FTP) archive indexing, enabling people to locate specific files



## Letters To Self: English translation of PM Modi's book of poetry to release soon

## Letters to Self

**T**he English translation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Gujarati book of poems, 'Letters to Self', is all set to hit the stands in August this year. Written over many years, the collection of poems, 'Aankh Aa Dhanya Chhe', originally released in 2007, is translated into English by film journalist and historian Bhawana Somaaya.

► Modi's 2020 book 'Letters To Mother', comprising letters that he as a young man wrote to the mother goddess, was also translated from Gujarati by Somaaya

► Besides several books in Gujarati, the prime minister has also authored 'Exam Warriors' to help young students deal with the stress of exams

## NEW RESEARCH

# 'PARENTESE' is truly a lingua franca, FINDS GLOBAL STUDY

Parents who use parentese, an exaggerated speaking style, see jumps in their child's vocabulary and conversational skills than parents who use it less often, suggests a study from the University of Washington's Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences.

We've all seen it, we've all cringed at it, we've all done it: talked to a baby like it was, you know, a baby. "Ooo, helloooooo baby!" you say your voice lilting. Baby is baffled by unintelligible warble,

but "baby so cuuuuuute!" Regardless of whether it helps to know it, researchers recently determined that this sing-songy baby talk — more technically known as "parentese" — seems to be nearly universal to humans around the world. In the most wide-ranging study of its kind, over 40 scientists helped to gather and analyse 1,615 voice recordings from 410 parents on six continents, in 18 languages from diverse communities: rural and urban, isolated and cosmopolitan, inter-

net savvy and off the grid, from hunter gatherers in Tanzania to urban dwellers in Beijing. The results, published recently in 'Nature Human Behaviour' journal, showed that in every one of these cultures, the way parents spoke to their infants differed from the way they communicated with adults — and that those differences were similar from group to group.

"We tend to speak in this higher pitch, high variability like, 'Ohh, heellooo, you're a baay-bee!'" said Courtney Hilton, psychologist and a principle author of the study. In the study, the sounds of parentese were found to differ in 11 ways from adult talk around the world. To test whether people have an innate awareness of these differences, the researchers created a game — 'Who's Listening?' — that was played online by over 50,000 people speaking 199 languages from 187 countries. Participants were asked to determine whether a song or a passage of speech was being addressed to a baby or an adult.

The researchers found that listeners

## BABY TALK



Parentese is a type of speech in which a parent or caregiver mixes proper, yet simple, grammar and words with exaggerated sounds and tones to communicate with their baby. This type of speech is used in virtually all languages and is often characterised by repetition, elongated vowels, high pitch, and slow tempo, which are most effective in face-to-face interactions. Parentese can be spoken to babies as early as six months

were able to tell with about 70% accuracy when the sounds were aimed at babies, even when they were unfamiliar with the language and culture of the person making them. "The style was different, but the vibe of it felt the same," said Caitlyn Placek, an anthropologist who helped to collect recordings from the Jenu Kuruba, a

tribe in India. TNN



tribe in India. TNN

## LEARNING NEW LANGUAGE

# 3 CINEMATIC GEMS IN FRENCH TO EXPLORE CULTURE

Cinema can be an immersive experience giving you real-life exposure to foreign cultures. This month's deep-sea dive comes to you in the form of a starter kit that will hopefully make you even more curious about so many more amazing movies from the Francophone world.



can hear and speak. She acts as an indispensable interpreter for her parents and brother, especially, in the running of their dairy farm. Upon joining the school's choir, Paula discovers her own talent for the first time. A painful decision awaits them all. She and her family must contemplate the result of her possible move to Paris to train at the Maitrise de Radio France, a vocal elite choir.

## ERNEST ET CÉLESTINE (ADVENTURE | ANIMATION | HEARTFELT)

This Oscar-nominated film plays with a hand-drawn, watercolour technique to showcase that friendship doesn't always have to look like you. An unlikely camaraderie between a mouse and a bear is born in a society where any such intermingling is frowned upon.

Tales of big bad wolves are replaced with those of big bad bears among the mice, while the mouse-dentist-in-training, Celestine, refuses to blindly believe such stories. One early morning, a grumpy and hungry Ernest chances upon her and decides to have a little feast. Instead, with a smack to his face, Celestine ends up showing him the better path. "Il faut qu'on parle sérieusement, Ernest! Tu peux pas me manger. C'est dans les contes que les ours mangent les souris." (Take me seriously, Ernest! You can't eat me. Bears eat mice only in fairy tales.)

## LA FAMILLE BÉLIER (COMEDY | DRAMA | MUSIC)

In the Bélier family, only the 16-year-old Paula

## PERSEPOLIS (BIOGRAPHY | ANIMATION | DRAMA)

A clever, mature and outspoken Iranian girl grows up during the Islamic Revolution of 1978. As a child, she plans to become a future prophet to decrease the suffering in the world. Her commandments are: "Premièrement, tout le monde doit avoir un bon comportement" (First, everyone must learn good behaviour) to "Cinqüièmement, plus aucune vieille femme ne souffrira" (No old lady will suffer ever again). The story retraces Satrapi's growth into a rebellious, Iron Maiden-loving teenager and her move to Europe.

With accounts of members of her liberal-leaning family detained in Iran, this autobiographical history represents the national tragedy of the Iran-Iraq war. Again, a very non-Disney, genre-defining animation film, 'Persepolis' is funny, instructive and thought-provoking. Follow the journey of this 14-year-old in exile, who first arrives in Vienna all by herself.

Gunjan Gupta is a professor of French, Francophone literature and European art history. She teaches French at the Alliance Française de Delhi.



## SAY IT RIGHT

## Fish or fishes?

The noun "fish" has two different, completely acceptable plurals — "fish" and "fishes" — but "fish" is by far the most common plural.

### WHEN TO USE FISH

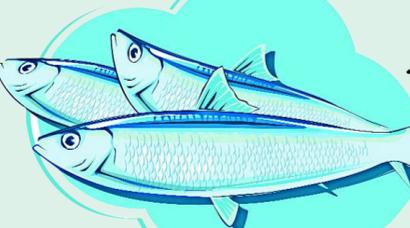
When used as a noun, fish describes as singular fish or multiple fish. It is a common, well-recognised word and does not require the addition of an "s" to make it plural. You can use fish to describe one fish, a school of fish, or a specific fish species. For example:

- My fish, Nemo, was all alone in the fishbowl before I bought him a snail.
- We saw three Manta-Ray fish during our glass bottom ocean cruise.

### WHEN TO USE FISHES

Scientists use 'fishes'. For example, scientists who study fish (they're called "ichthyologists") — "ichthys" is Greek for "fish" — often refer to different species as fishes. Also, the majority of quotations using the word "fishes" in the Corpus of Contemporary American English are also from scientific publications. As a noun, fishes is a scientific term that describes more than one species of fish in a group. Fish can be used in its stead, but fishes helps you recognise there is more than one type of fish being referred to. For example:

- The biologist was studying the diversity of the fishes in the isolated mountain lake.
- We saw 15 different types of fishes on our trip.



## 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](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)



### Abbreviations and Acronyms

Any shortened form of a word is an abbreviation, for example, etc. for etcetera and Oct. for October; but acronyms are special kinds of abbreviations, such as ROFL (rolling on the floor laughing) and OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), that can be pronounced as words. This makes them a subset of abbreviations. All acronyms are abbreviations, but not all abbreviations are

A lot of people do use the word 'acronym' to refer to an initialism that technically is not an acronym because it's not pronounced as a word

## 10 ENGLISH WORDS that come from OTHER LANGUAGES

### VERANDAH

Since there were no verandahs in England because of its cold weather, the word never existed in English before the British interaction with India, where almost every house had one, usually for the family to enjoy the breeze on hot days. Interestingly, the word verandah came to Hindi via the Portuguese.

### DUNGAREES

A type of working clothes consisting of trousers with a bib held up by straps over the shoulders, made of calico, denim or similar coarse material. Its usage dates back to the late 17th century. "The Oxford English Dictionary" attributes its derivation to the Hindi dungri, although it is unclear what it means.

### ZEN

Zen has a variety of meanings including "a state of meditative calm in which one uses direct, intuitive insights as a way of thinking and acting." The word zen comes from the Sanskrit dhyana, from the verb dhyati "he meditates" (i.e., "sees mentally").

### THUG

A descendent of the Hindi word 'thag', meaning a thief or a swindler, it entered the English language early in the 19th century. The thugs were organised bands of notorious robbers who would travel across India, befriending travellers before looting and killing them.

### KARMA

Karma is popularly understood as the belief that the actions you take ultimately will come back to you. The word 'karma' comes from the Sanskrit kárman, meaning "act, deed."

### CATAMARAN

An early-17th century word that means a yacht or a boat with twin hulls in parallel. It is derived from the Tamil katumaram, or literally tied wood.

### CUMMERBUND

The cummerbund, that broad swath of

cloth which serves to somewhat restrict the girth of overweight tuxedo wearers, comes from the Hindi and Urdu word kamarband, which is itself from the Persian words for "waist" (kamar) and "band" (band). In the 19th century, there was a medical view that the cummerbund could serve to ward off numerous ailments, such as dysentery and cholera.

### DEKKO

A quick look or glance. Originally used by the British army in India in the late 19th century, this one is a bit easy to fathom. It draws its meaning from the Hindi dekho or look, the imperative of dekhna.

### CHEETAH

The Hindi word chita, meaning leopard, finds its origin in the Sanskrit word chitraka, meaning hunting leopard or tiger, which literally translates to speckled or distinctively marked. And that's where the long-legged, big cat from Africa gets its name, from its distinct black spots.

### BANGLES

Derived from the Hindi word 'bangri' which originally meant the coloured glass ring ornaments worn on the wrist by Indian women. The word was introduced in English in the late 18th century.

### LOOT

The English word 'loot' has been borrowed from the Hindi word 'lut', which means to loot or to plunder, and did not feature in the common use of English until after the entry of the British into India.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

## ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, AND INITIALISMS

### SO REMEMBER:

- Initialisms are made from the first letter (or letters) of a string of words, but can't be pronounced as words themselves. Examples include FBI, CIA, FYI (for your information), and PR (public relations).
- Acronyms are made from the first letter (or letters) of a string of words but are pronounced as if they were words themselves. Examples include NASA, NIMBY (not in my backyard), and hazmat\* (hazardous materials).
- Abbreviations are any shortened form of a word.

### acronyms.

### Initialisms

Initialisms are another type of abbreviation. They are often confused with acronyms because they are made up of letters, so they look similar, but they can't be pronounced as words. FBI and CIA are examples of initialisms because they're made up of the first letters of Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency, respectively, but they can't be pronounced as words. NASA, on the other hand, is an acronym because even though it is also made up of the first letters of the department name (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), it is pronounced as a word, NASA, and not by spelling out the letters N, A, S, A.

