



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2022



China cut off all contact with Taiwan in 2016 after President Tsai Ing-wen refused to endorse its claim that the island and mainland together make up a single Chinese nation

PELOSI'S VISIT TO TAIWAN IRKS CHINA. US SAYS CONSISTENT WITH LONGSTANDING ONE-CHINA POLICY

One-China Policy



Amid heightened tension over US Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, the White House on Wednesday reiterated that her visit to Taipei is totally consistent with the United States' longstanding 'one-China policy'. It said the US had been very clear that nothing had changed about its one-China policy. Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has irked China, which considers it part of its own territory, and has responded angrily. Beijing has also announced military drills and trade sanctions against Taipei, which rolled out the red carpet for Pelosi.



IS INDIA A PART OF ONE-CHINA POLICY?

India was among the first nations to use this word 'one-China' and recognise China, along with Burma and Pakistan. India stated that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China.



However, it stopped doing so in 2010. Beijing had conveyed to New Delhi that a reiteration of the one-China policy by India would significantly help enhance the mutual trust between the two neighbouring nations. But India declined to reaffirm the one-China policy in response to Beijing's policy of issuing "stapled visas" — instead of normal visas pasted on pages of passports issued by the government of India — to Jammu and Kashmir residents seeking to travel to China.

CURIOUS CASE OF TAIWAN

Taiwan is an island about 160 km off the coast of southeastern China, opposite the Chinese cities of Fuzhou, Quanzhou, and Xiamen. Its capital is Taipei. Initially administered by the imperial Qing dynasty, its control subsequently passed to the Japanese in 1895. After the defeat of Japan in World War II, the island passed back into Chinese hands. After the communists led by Mao Zedong won the civil war in mainland China, Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of the nationalist Kuomintang party, fled to Taiwan in 1949. Chiang Kai-shek set up the government of the Republic of China on the island, and remained President until 1975. Beijing has never recognised the existence of Taiwan as an independent political entity, on the ground that it was always a Chinese province. However, Taiwan says that the modern Chinese state was only formed after the revolution of 1911, and it was not a part of that state or of the People's Republic of China that was established after the communist revolution.

WHAT IS ONE CHINA POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES: It is the diplomatic acknowledgement of China's position that there is only one Chinese government. Under the policy, the US recognises and has formal ties with China rather than the island of Taiwan, which China sees as a breakaway province to be reunified with the mainland one day.

WHY CHINA IS NOT CONVINCED: Though one-China policy is a key cornerstone of Sino-US relations, it is also one of the major thorns in the bilateral relations between the nations. China insists that Taiwan is an inalienable part of one China to be reunified one day. The US policy, despite claiming that they support one-China policy doesn't endorse

Initially, many governments, including the US recognised Taiwan, as they shied away from Communist China. But the diplomatic winds shifted as China and the United States saw a mutual need to develop relations beginning 1970s, with the US and other countries cutting ties with Taipei in favour of Beijing

Beijing's position, and as part of the policy, Washington maintains a "robust unofficial" relationship with Taiwan, including continued arms sales to the island so that it can defend itself.

HOW WAS THE POLICY INTRODUCED: The policy can be traced back to 1949 and the end of the Chinese civil war. The defeated Nationalists, also known as the

Kuomintang, retreated to Taiwan and made it their seat of government, while the victorious Communists began ruling the mainland as the People's Republic of China. Both sides said they represented all of China. Since then, China's ruling Communist Party has threatened to use force if Taiwan ever formally declares independence, but it has also pursued a softer diplomatic track with the island in recent years. (Agencies/ BBC/ ET)

UG admission: Cut-off to be based on CUET marks, not class XII

The second phase of Common University Entrance Test (CUET) examination that has to be cleared by the candidates to seek admission to under-graduate (UG) courses in colleges is scheduled to begin from today. This year it has been made mandatory to clear the CUET exam for seeking admission in colleges affiliated to central universities. All central universities such as Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Banaras Hindu University have been included in this programme.



The UGC has clarified that the CUET exam is being conducted for undergraduate courses in colleges on the basis of class XII syllabus only. No questions will be asked in the entrance test for admission in colleges based on the syllabus of any other class

HOW IT WORKS

- Like earlier, this time also, the merit list will be prepared by different universities and their respective colleges. However, the only difference this time is that the merit list will be made on the basis of marks obtained in the CUET exam, and not on the basis of class XII exam marks
- A separate cut-off will be released by all 44 central universities

in the country accepting CUET scores

- Students who have appeared in this examination for admission in any particular university will get admission on the basis of cut-off issued by that university and its colleges
- This cut-off will be made on the basis of marks secured in CUET
- The information about the marks secured by the students in CUET will be given to the university by the

National Testing Agency

- On the basis of these marks, the merit list of the students with highest marks will be prepared
- Different colleges of Delhi University will prepare the cut-off list like before
- After this process, Delhi University will release the cut-off list. Similarly, other central universities of the country will also proceed with the admission process

India add 2 gold medals to its tally



Indian women lawn bowls team bagged a historic gold medal at the Commonwealth Games on Tuesday, an unheralded quartet pulling the sport from obscurity to limelight with their inspiring show



Harmeet Desai raised his game in the decisive singles match as the Indian men's table tennis team retained its Commonwealth Games gold medal after a close fight with Singapore

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Manpreet Kaur advances to women's shot put final after a successful attempt of 16.78m
- Murali Sreeshankar and Muhammed Anees Yahiya qualify for men's long jump final

Biography of President Droupadi Murmu to release later this year

A biography of Droupadi Murmu, India's youngest President and the first to be born after Independence, will hit the stands later this year, Penguin Random House India (PRHI) has announced. Touted to be the first authentic and definitive account of India's 15th President, 'Madam President: A Biography of Draupadi Murmu' claims to unpack the many trials and tribulations, and early years of struggle that elevated the 64-year-old to the highest office in the country. It is written by Bhubaneswar-based senior journalist Sandeep Sahu.



Sworn on July 25, President Murmu's phenomenal rise from a sleepy village in Mayurbhanj to the Rashtrapati Bhavan presents a fascinating study of democratic empowerment in India

World's first metaverse ATM unveiled

Popular metaverse platform Decentraland is all set to launch the world's first metaverse ATM. Decentraland is a virtual reality platform powered by the Ethereum blockchain. The platform enables users to create, experience, and monetise their content and applications. According to the developers, the ATM is intended to ease the user experience. "Just like an ATM in real life, we wanted to give users a more seamless journey while navigating web3," the developers said in a post.

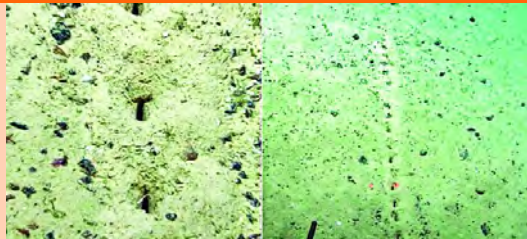


Banks are also getting involved in the concept of the metaverse. J. Morgan launched its first metaverse lounge on Decentraland at the beginning of 2022. Similarly, HSBC and virtual gaming platform The Sandbox had further announced a partnership.

The metaverse is a blend of offline and online experiences in an interactive digital space, where social interactions and transactions can occur simultaneously

Everything you need to know about all that matters...

BAFFLING HOLES ON OCEAN FLOOR FOUND, SIMILAR TO HUMAN ACTION?



NOAA: The ultimate origin of the holes still remains a mystery

North Carolina, USA: Scientists have discovered a series of mysterious holes on the bed of the Atlantic Ocean and asked internet users to offer their theories as to how these holes were formed. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) posted photos of the underwater formation on a social media website. They informed that "perfectly aligned". AGENCIES

- The bizarre holes were bored about 1.7 miles beneath the surface, right at the crest of an underwater volcano near the Azores (an archipelago composed of nine volcanic islands in mid-Atlantic)
- Clues as to what may have created the holes are scarce. The surrounding ocean floor was smooth.

LONDON HIT WITH ELECTRICITY SHORTAGE, NEW MEASURES SOUGHT

London, UK: London has been struck with an electricity shortage meaning developers may be prevented from starting new projects for another 13 years.

As a result of an unprecedented crisis in the British electricity system, London was brought to a near blackout last week. The National



Grid's Electricity System Operator was forced to pay £9,724.54 per megawatt hour to Belgium to avoid a catastrophe. AGENCIES

FRANCE'S MACRON DISCUSSES ENERGY CRISIS WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE

Paris, France: Energy was the main topic on the agenda between French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, during talks in Paris seen as a diplomatic rehabilitation of the de facto leader of the Saudi kingdom. Aides to the French President had indicated ahead of the talks that Macron would urge Saudi Arabia to



French President Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

increase its oil production to help bring down crude prices, reiterating a request made by United States President Joe Biden during a visit to Riyadh earlier this month. AGENCIES



ROHIT OVERTAKES VIRAT

Indian skipper Rohit Sharma continued his purple patch as the leader of the Indian side as he registered a comprehensive 68 runs victory against West Indies in the 1st T20I at the Brian Lara Stadium, Tarouba, Trinidad. AGENCIES

SPORTSPERSON OF THE WEEK

NASA'S DART TO COLLIDE WITH ASTEROID IN 60 DAYS

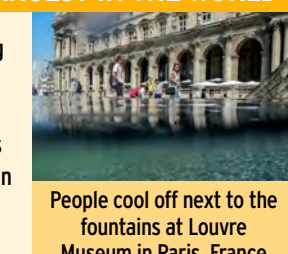
Florida, USA: In about 60 days from now, NASA's DART spacecraft will intentionally ram into an asteroid. Short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test, this mission intends to test the idea of asteroid deflection by slamming a spacecraft into a space rock. AGENCIES



- Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a NASA space mission aimed at testing a method of defence against near-Earth objects

PARIS UNDERGROUND COOLING SYSTEM TO BECOME THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD

Paris, France: The cooling system that keeps the Mona Lisa looking so unperturbed when Paris is roasting in the summer sun is being expanded to cope with ever more frequent heat waves. The little-known network underneath the French capital is Europe's biggest 'urban cold' system. Paris City Hall has now signed an ambitious contract to triple the size of this network by 2042 to 252 km and make it the largest in the world. AGENCIES



People cool off next to the fountains at Louvre Museum in Paris, France

INDONESIA, US TO HOLD MILITARY EXERCISE AMID HEIGHTENED INDO-PACIFIC TENSIONS

Sumatra, Indonesia: Thousands of Indonesian and American troops began a two-week joint military exercise on August 1 that Washington said aims to advance "regional cooperation in support of a free and open" Asia-Pacific region. The US and its Asian allies have expressed growing concern about China military machinations. AGENCIES



US army soldiers and Indonesian armed forces

DINOSAUR SKELETON SOLD FOR \$6 MILLION

New York, USA: A rare dinosaur skeleton was sold at an auction in the US to an unknown buyer for just over \$6 million. A Gorgosaurus skeleton was auctioned by Sotheby's, according to reports. Gorgosaurus, a distant relative of Tyrannosaurus Rex, roamed the Earth about 77 million years ago, and like Tyrannosaurus rex, had a large head. AGENCIES



ODD NEWS OF THE WEEK

JAMES WEBB SPACE TELESCOPE TAKES US TO THE UNIVERSE'S ORIGINS

Florida, USA: The James Webb looks at wavelengths that are a kind of light people can't see with their own eyes – it looks at infrared light. What's impressive is that these images are made of a longer wavelength. AGENCIES



- There are two important points about going through another wavelength – first, you can see through clouds of smoke and dust, and you can watch stars form.
- The other phenomenon is of red shifts of galaxies in an expanding universe. When you move the light from galaxies into longer or redder wavelengths, you go from ultraviolet to infrared, like the James Webb can see.

JAMMU-SRINAGAR HIGHWAY BLOCKED DUE TO INCESSANT RAIN

Jammu, India: Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained blocked on July 29 for the second consecutive day because of shooting stones in Ramban district. Traffic department officials said shooting stones in Panthyal stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar highway continue to block the road as restoration work could not be started because of incessant rain. IANS



INDIGO PLANE SKIDS OFF RUNWAY DURING TAKE-OFF, WHEEL STUCK

Guwahati, India: An IndiGo flight from Assam's Jorhat to Kolkata last week was cancelled after the aircraft skidded off the runway during take-off and a pair of its wheels got stuck in the muddy outfield. While taxiing for take-off on the runway, the aircraft's wheels veered off the tarmac and were stuck in the soft mud in a field beside the runway, the airlines said. AGENCIES



Picture used for representational purpose only

INDIA'S FIRST SPACE OBSERVATORY ASTROSAT PLAYS KEY ROLE IN UNVEILING SECRET OF DWARF GALAXY



New Delhi, India: Signals from the outskirts of a galaxy that is not more than 150 million years indicate formation of newer stars by the galaxies beyond their visible boundaries, according to a recent study. The research traces how these young stars, that are found in the form of star-forming clumps, migrate towards the inner regions and gradually build up the content of these galaxies. AGENCIES

WHAT IS A DWARF GALAXY?

- A small galaxy, called a dwarf galaxy, would be much smaller than galaxies like our Milky Way. They are usually characterised by concentrated star formation at their centre.

INDIA LEGALLY BANS CHINESE KRAFTON'S GAME

New Delhi, India: India blocked a popular battle-royale format game from Krafton Inc, a South Korean company, backed by China's Tencent using a law it has invoked since 2020 to ban Chinese apps on national security concerns, a source said. Battlegrounds Mobile India (BGMI) was removed from Alphabet Inc's Google Play Store and Apple Inc's App Store from July 27 evening in India. REUTERS



Picture used for representational purpose only

LET THE GAMES BEGIN



A spectacular display of lights during the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony in Birmingham, Britain

Photo: REUTERS

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

1. In which Indian city is a grand statue of Chandrashekhar Azad to be installed?

- A. Dehradun
- B. Bhopal
- C. Surat
- D. Mumbai



HOW WELL DO YOU READ THE TIMES OF INDIA STUDENT EDITION, LET'S FIND OUT:

WHICH COUNTRY IS LIKELY TO QUIT 'INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION' AFTER 2024?

- A. China
- B. USA
- C. Russia
- D. UK



Ans: C. Russia

2. Who took oath as Albania's new President?

- A. Ilir Meta
- B. Bajram Begaj
- C. Bamir Topi
- D. Bujar Nishani

3. Who has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of Kuwait?

- A. Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah
- B. Ali Hussein Al-Mousa
- C. Dr. Ali Fahad Al-Mudhaf
- D. Dr. Abdulwahab Mohammad Al-Rushaid

ANSWERS

- 1. B. Bhopal
- 2. B. Bajram Begaj
- 3. A. Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah