



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2020



WEB EDITION

CBSE BOARD, JEE, NEET 2021 EXAM DATES



Share your queries, concerns with the education minister

As Boards and testing agencies get ready for the 2021 academic calendar, the biggest questions that seek answers are the questions on CBSE Board Exam, JEE Main and NEET 2021 exam dates. Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank would go live on Twitter and Facebook to answer these questions on **DECEMBER 10, 2020**. He has invited concerns, suggestions and opinions of students, teachers and parents for the same. Here's how you can share your voice...

- ▶ Share your suggestion, concerns and opinion with the hashtag- **#EducationMinisterGoesLive** and tweet it
- ▶ You can also leave your query on the education minister's Facebook and Twitter pages

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

X-PLAINED

Why are cyclones growing more severe and frequent in India?

WHAT Just days after the devastating Cyclone Nivar barreled into Tamil Nadu, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning that another storm, 'Burevi' is on its way towards southern Tamil Nadu from the coast of Sri Lanka. In anticipation of the storm, the IMD has issued a red alert for both Tamil Nadu and Kerala, with both regions expected to receive heavy rainfall.

WHY The primary factors that drive the frequency and intensity of cyclones are sea surface temperatures and humidity. Warming seas, courtesy climate change, is making cyclones more powerful by increasing the potential energy available to them, effectively increasing their power ceiling or speed limit. Higher sea-surface temperatures mean increased cyclonic wind speeds. Besides, unplanned urban development, and destruction of mangroves that contribute to climate change, is also responsible for making cyclones more intense, with stronger sustained winds and frequent rain.

WHERE While the Bay of Bengal has historically been the main progenitor of cyclonic activity, in recent years, a new trend has emerged in the form of post-monsoon tropical cyclones arising from the Arabian Sea. According to the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) the data collected between 1980 and 2000, around 58 per cent of cyclones that formed in the Bay of Bengal struck India's eastern coast compared to 25 per cent of those formed in the Arabian Sea. In 2019, however, the number of cyclones on the West Coast of India increased significantly.

THE IMPACT

- ▶ The warming of the ocean also increases extreme waves, combined with relative sea level rise, exacerbating extreme sea level events and coastal hazards, such as floods and heavy rainfall
- ▶ Multiple studies claim that India's largest coastal cities, like Mumbai and Kolkata, are facing the severest threats from climate-induced flooding
- ▶ Planned and unplanned development in the most-ecologically sensitive zones in these cities fail to address the risks of climate change-related flooding

DID YOU KNOW? A 2019 IMD report indicated that the sea surface temperature in the Arabian Sea had risen by a worrying 0.36 degrees Celsius, compared with baseline temperatures between 1981 and 2010. Coupled with corresponding increases in ocean heat led to the increased formation of 'very severe cyclonic storms' and 'super-cyclones'

QUIZ TIME

- How many types of cyclones are there?
A. 2 B. 3 C. 4 D. None of the above
- Temperate cyclones are also termed as.....
A. Extra-Tropical B. Wave Cyclones C. Depressions D. All the above
- Which term for Cyclone is applied in the China Sea and the Pacific Ocean?
A. Hurricane B. Typhoon C. Tornadoes D. None of the above

ANSWERS:
1) A 2) D 3) B

VIEWPOINT

Rahul Dravid bats for T20 cricket in Olympics

Former Indian captain Rahul Dravid has backed the idea of cricket becoming a part of the Olympic Games. Dravid feels that introducing the T20 format in Olympics will only help the game.

"I think it will be great for the game, if the T20 format can become an Olympic sport because there are 75 (T20 nations); cricket is being played in so many countries," he said.

- ▶ There have been talks of making the T20 format of cricket a part of the Olympics, with an ICC survey back in 2018, even suggesting that 87 per cent of the fans wanted cricket to be part of the quadrennial games
- ▶ However, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the richest and the biggest member of the International Cricket Council (ICC), has not been keen in sending its team to the Olympics
- ▶ Cricket was also part of the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014 editions, but the BCCI did not send any of its teams

Q SHOULD CRICKET BE A PART OF OLYMPICS?

Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com You can also post your comments at toistudent.com

HEALTH

Green tea, dark chocolate may fight against Covid virus

In an interesting study, researchers have claimed that chemical compounds in foods or beverages like green tea, muscadine grapes and dark chocolate can bind and block the function of a particular enzyme or protease in the SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for Covid-19. Computer simulations showed that the studied chemical compounds from green tea, two varieties of muscadine grapes, cocoa powder and dark chocolate were able to bind to different portions of Mproor main proteinase, a viral cysteine proteinase.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BTS rules Billboard hot 100 chart once again with 'Life Goes On'

South Korean music sensation BTS has once again topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart with 'Life Goes On', the lead single of their recently-released album 'BE' (Deluxe Edition) topping the chart. The song, a soothing melody reflecting the state of life during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, also topped the Billboard 200 chart. On the Billboard Hot 100 chart, 'Life Goes On' is closely followed by the Grammy-nominated 'Dynamite', the closing track of 'BE' at No 3 this week. 'Dynamite', which is the music group's first full-fledged English single, previously topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart in September, making BTS the first pop act from South Korea to achieve this feat.

ENTERTAINMENT

According to a report, SRK's LA team will be called LA Knight Riders, following the pattern that started with Kolkata, and continued with his second T20 team - Trinbago Knight Riders - which plays in the Caribbean Premier League

Major League Cricket will deliver the US's first professional T20 league, featuring top international players from the host country and around the world

The focus will be on developing a home-grown player-pool for the US and the league

The league's inaugural season will be in 2022

SRK's T20 franchise invests in American cricket's future

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Now, share screenshots to your smartphone from Nintendo Switch

Nintendo has released a new system update for its Switch that allows users to wirelessly transfer photos and videos from the gaming console to a smartphone. The firmware update allows people to share screenshots and videos directly to their smartphones by scanning a QR code

TECH BUZZ

- For screenshots, users can transfer a maximum of 10 screenshots and one video capture at one go
- This will save users' time, as earlier they had to upload the content to Twitter or Facebook first
- The users can now find the latest news and offers about Nintendo Switch Online from a new option in the Home menu of the Nintendo Switch system
- In the new system update, while using software with the same Nintendo Account linked to multiple systems, save data backed up from one console will automatically be downloaded to your other system

IS SHOPPING IN STORES SAFE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Retailers have been doing all kinds of things to make shoppers feel safe - checking shoppers' temperatures at the entrance to following pandemic norms. However, they don't eliminate the risk, warn health experts. An infected person may not have a fever, and can still spread the virus, they caution. As the cases of coronavirus surge, health experts share tips on how to shop...

- ▶ Shopping in crowded stores is a "higher risk" activity; limit any in-person shopping, including at supermarkets
- ▶ Go for online shopping; visit outdoor markets, use curbside pickup, where workers bring orders to your car
- ▶ If you need to enter a store, go during off hours when there will likely be fewer people.
- ▶ Wear a mask and stay at least six feet away from others
- ▶ Try to spend as little time inside the store as possible
- ▶ Use a hand sanitiser with at least 60% alcohol when you leave; wash your hands with soap and water when you return home
- ▶ Don't get casual after seeing those plastic barriers. The plastic barriers between the customers and cashiers may not block all the droplets from an infected person
- ▶ If the air in a store feels stuffy, that's a sign of poor ventilation. Leave immediately

How to Prepare for College Life

It's never too early to start preparing yourself for college life – whether you are still in high school or you're packing to leave for your first year away from home. Transitioning to life on campus is one of the most memorable experiences you will ever have. To ensure you are ready to take your higher education by storm, follow our six tips and get going



FUTURE FORWARD



Think About Finances

1 College is expensive. We're guessing you're not a millionaire (yet), so the money for school will have to come from somewhere. First, talk to your parents to find out what portion they might be able to help with and what you will be responsible for. Then, set up a plan to reach your financial goals. Getting a part-time job and a savings account is the most proactive solution. However, you should also begin actively looking into scholarship opportunities and your options for financial aid well before senior year.

Do Your Best Academic Work

2 Although this may seem obvious, your grades are the most significant determining factor for getting accepted to the college of your choice. Additionally, they



also often come into play when it comes to student aid and scholarships. Do the best work you can and then try even harder. If you feel you could have done better in your SAT or ACT exams and you have the chance to retake them, do it.

Work on Your Social Skills

3 Nobody is asking you to become an overnight extrovert, but if you tend to lean more towards wallflower than social butterfly, you should practice branching out. Communication is the glue that holds everything together. That won't change throughout life. Your relationships (or lack thereof) with your fellow students, professors, and others all depend upon a connection. To improve your social abilities, start raising your hand more often in class. Ask and answer questions and stop worrying about what others think of you. If you want and need something, you will need to speak up. Remember the old saying: "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Develop a System to Manage Your Time

4 If you think you are overwhelmed with activities now, college will be a whole new realm for you. Not only will your plate be pretty full, but you also won't have parents and teachers telling you what to do and when to do it. With this newfound freedom comes the considerable responsibility of managing your own time. Get in the habit now of setting your own schedule. Buy a planner or use a time management app to block out time for sleep, school, work, and play. Your future self will thank you for the self-discipline.



Find out More About Your Future Home

5 You probably take for granted many of the things available to you right now, but when you get to college, everything will be new. Do you know where to go if you need to get your cell phone fixed? If you get sick, where is the nearest pharmacy? Maybe you are craving fast food, and nothing else will do. Familiarising yourself with your new surroundings before you arrive will help give you some peace of mind. Instead of going in blind, you will have a helpful list of resources and services to avail yourself of from day one. While you are researching your town, check out student services at school as well. Read through all of the programs and perks the school offers. Then, make a mental note of those that might come in handy down the road.

Keep an Open Mind

6 A lot will change over the next four years. College is all about mind-expanding experiences. You will be learning about yourself and what you want out of life. You will also be meeting many people from different cultures and with different worldviews. Prepare yourself for new experiences by doing something you have never done.

CREDIT: GREATVALLEUCOLLEGES.NET

PANDEMIC GARDENING

Try your hand at growing microgreens

In the coronavirus-triggered lockdown, as people spent more time at home than ever, many took to gardening. In the months following the lockdown, social media was full of netizens' successful (and unsuccessful) attempts at growing capsicum, spinach and chillies, while some shared shots of their beautifully trimmed gardens. However, if you're done growing plants and can't figure out what to move on to, here's an option – grow some microgreens.



What's special about microgreens?

Microgreens are essentially baby plants, which are germinated when seeds are planted densely close together. They are tender, green and flavourful. Quick and easy to grow, they are super nutritious as well. Says Bithika Gupta, an entrepreneur from Delhi, "Microgreens are among the easiest to grow. Even kids can do it, even those without green fingers can do it. You get the joy of growing plants, and you eat them, too." You essentially eat an entire plant when consuming microgreens, instead of a part of the plant (like coriander or spinach leaves), which makes them more nutritious than adult plants, say experts.

WHAT TO GROW AS MICROGREENS

Cabbage, mustard, radish, red amaranth, broccoli, basil, saunf, coriander

Microgreens can be grown on window sills and dining tables

Growing microgreens at home is quite easy, say experts and home gardeners. "They can be grown on window sills and dining tables, in old namkeen or food trays," says Sangeeta Aggarwal, a gardening enthusiast who conducts workshops on growing microgreens. She adds that one should ensure that the seeds or grains that they are cultivating into microgreens are not coated with pesticides. **mw**



5 Etiquette rules in the time of COVID-19

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It's a changed world and tweens and teens need to update their manner manual to keep abreast with the social and health demands of the pandemic struck world. Here are five etiquette rules that are must-dos

WASHING HANDS FOR 20 SECONDS

This hygiene habit should be retained even after the pandemic is over as washing hands with a soap or hand wash for 20 seconds keeps people safe from all kinds of viruses and bacteria. The rule should be to wash before and after meals, post washroom visits and also after getting back home after a game.

WEAR A MASK WHEN YOU LEAVE HOME

It's okay to play with your friends in the park as long as you are wearing a mask and maintaining a social distance of 2 metres. Trying to hug a friend as a form of greeting or after a shot well played is akin to bad manners in the current world (this is temporary and need not be continued once the pandemic is over)!

FOLLOW COUGH ETIQUETTE

Always cough or sneeze in your elbow sleeves, irrespective of whenever the pandemic ends. Your cough droplets may contain viruses of any sort and exposing others to it is insensitive and unhygienic. "Excuse yourself while sneezing and avoid going out until you recover," advises etiquette guide Sunaina A Haq.

DON'T PRESSURISE YOUR PARENTS FOR RESTAURANT FOOD

Enjoy healthy home cooked food. You can request for your favourite snack once in a while but pestering your parents to regularly order isn't a very rational demand. Don't compare with your peers' parents as their perception on how they will manage to stay safe will be different.

SAY NO TO BEING A COUCH POTATO

The pandemic shouldn't be an excuse to just be with gadgets. Go out for physical activities (that can be done with social distancing) to stay fit and also maintain mental sharpness. "To not care for your health is also bad manners. Boost your immunity and that will boost your happiness," says psychiatrist Dr Jitendra Nagpal.

QUIZ TIME (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

Q.1) The first Nobel prize was awarded in ____.
A. 1876 B. 1778
C. 1901 D. 1923

Q.2) The first woman to win a Nobel prize was ____.
A. Elizabeth H Blackburn
B. Mother Teresa
C. Shirin Ebadi
D. Marie Curie

Q.3) Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921 for his discovery of ____.
A. General Theory of Relativity
B. Quantam Mechanics
C. Photo Electric Effect
D. Special Theory of Relativity

Q.4) Which of the following famous physicists did not receive a Nobel Prize ____.
A. Stephen Hawking
B. Shuji Nakamura
C. Enrico Fermi
D. Albert Einstein

ANSWERS

1. C) 1901 2. D) Marie Curie 3. C) Photo Electric Effect
4. A) Stephen Hawking

KNOWLEDGE BANK (FUNGI)

Pestalotiopsis microspora

Pestalotiopsis microspora is a species of endophytic fungus capable of breaking down and digesting polyurethane. It's the first fungus species found to be able to subsist on polyurethane in anaerobic conditions. This makes the fungus a potential candidate for bioremediation projects involving large quantities of plastic. It was originally described in 1880 by mycologist Carlo Luigi Spegazzini from Argentina.



GRAMMATICAL MISTAKES

FUTURE/SUBSEQUENT

THE RULES:

- 'Future' means something after the present.
- 'Subsequent' means following. It implies the time after any particular moment.

HOW NOT TO DO IT:

- He is planning for the subsequent.
- Her future actions showed her deep frustration.

HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY:

- He is planning for the future.
- Her subsequent actions showed her deep frustration.