



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**TODAY'S
EDITION**

➤ 5 habits you must inculcate to develop high social skills!

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➤ Students share their travel diary
➤ Relive your school experiences

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➤ Poor technique responsible for increased concussion incidents?

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STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020


WEB EDITION
CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2
FACTOID


60°C

Could be the temperature in many parts of the world by 2050, warns the World Economic Forum (WEF) in its latest report. "This level of extreme heat would have been almost impossible in the absence of human-caused global warming," the report said

Some extreme weather events, such as heat and coldwaves, intense precipitation events, and regional droughts have become more frequent and intense

BEWARE!

- By 2030, climate change-related illnesses are likely to kill 250,000 people each year
- According to the report, up to 8 per cent of the global population will witness a severe reduction in water availability in the near future
- Bangladesh,

Vietnam and Thailand will be threatened by annual floods, sparking mass migration

- By 2100s, Florida will disappear and south Spain will become a desert
- Up to 140 million people are expected to be displaced by 2050 because of food and water insecurity as well as extreme weather

CAUSES & CHALLENGES

1 One of the biggest contributors to climate change is pollution. ABOUT 100 COMPANIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 71% OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS, according to a Carbon Majors report

2 The biggest challenge that our environment faces is climate change. Polar ice caps are melting SIX TIMES FASTER than they were in the 1990s. Greenland and Antarctica have lost more than 6.4 trillion ice between 1992 and 2017. Sea levels, on average, have risen eight inches since the 1880s



Greenhouse gas emissions reached a new high last year, putting us on course for an average temperature rise of 3 degrees Celsius. According to experts, 2020 could be the hottest year yet on record, as temperatures continue to soar



The commitments made in Paris in 2015 were far from enough to limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius. If we don't change course, we may be headed for a catastrophic temperature rise of more than 3.0 degrees this century. Therefore, I call on all the world leaders to declare a State of Climate Emergency in their countries until carbon neutrality is reached

Antonio Guterres, UN Chief

Since world leaders pledged to limit global temperature rises to 2 degrees Celsius in 2015, a lot has happened, but the action needed is still nowhere in sight. We are still speeding in the wrong direction. The global decision-makers are wasting time creating new loopholes with empty words and creative accounting

Greta Thunberg, climate activist, on the urgency to deal with climate change



NEWS IN CLUES

He is the first Indian actor to be paid ₹1 crore for a single film

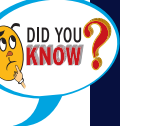
CLUE 1: His original name is Parthasarathy Srinivasan

CLUE 2: He has the highest number of films submitted from India for Oscars

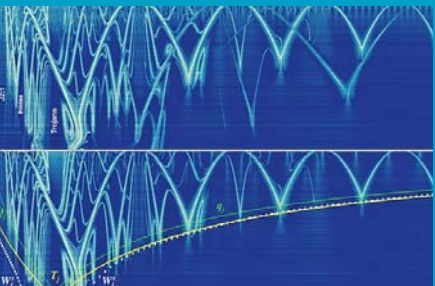
CLUE 3: A movie of his was listed by the Time magazine among the Top 100 best films of all time

ANSWER: KAMAL HAASAN. The actor, who kickstarted the first phase of campaigning for Tamil Nadu assembly polls, due in April-May 2021, questioned the need for a new parliament building, asking PM Narendra Modi about the need to spend ₹1,000 crore "when half of India is hungry due to coronavirus pandemic triggered loss of livelihoods".

Seven of Haasan's movies have been India's official entry to the Oscars in the Best Foreign Language Film category. He starred in Mani Ratnam's 'Nayakan' in 1987, which was included by the Time magazine in the 100 best films of all time in 1997


INTO THE FUTURE
SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEM DISCOVERED IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

In a pathbreaking discovery, astronomers have revealed a new 'superhighway' network running through the solar system, which, according to them, could speed up space travel in the future. The scientists looked at the orbits of millions of bodies in our solar system and computed how they fit together and interact.


THE SIGNIFICANCE

- The highways allow objects to move through space much faster than previously thought possible – for example, such routes can drive comets and asteroids near Jupiter to Neptune in less than 10 years
- Scientists are also hopeful that space agencies could make use of these superhighways to speed up travel time from the Earth to distant parts of the solar system

ROBOTS CAN ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO TAKE GREATER RISKS

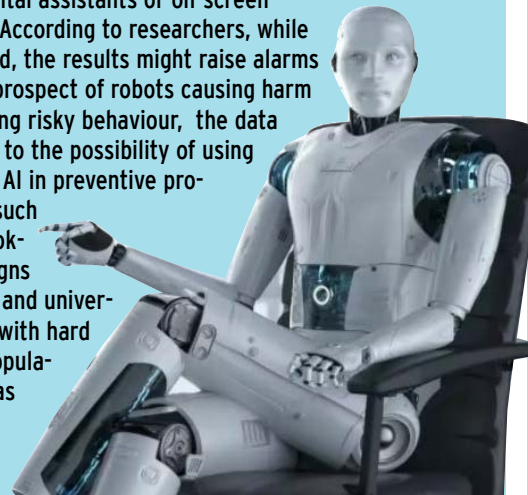
Even as the scale of interaction between humans and technology increases, a new research has shown that people tend to take more risks when prodded by a robot.

IT'S A TECH WORLD

The research showed that robots can encourage people to take greater risks in a simulated gambling scenario than they would, if there was nothing to influence their behaviours.

➤ Researchers believe that further studies are needed to see whether similar results would emerge from human interaction with other artificial intelligence (AI) systems, such as digital assistants or on-screen avatars

➤ According to researchers, while on one hand, the results might raise alarms about the prospect of robots causing harm by increasing risky behaviour, the data also points to the possibility of using robots and AI in preventive programmes, such as anti-smoking campaigns in colleges and universities, and with hard to reach population, such as addicts


No winter session of Parliament this year: Government

It's official. The government will skip this year's winter session of Parliament due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Parliament will meet for the Budget Session in January next year. This was confirmed by parliamentary affairs minister Prahlaad Joshi in his reply to the Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had earlier sent a letter to the Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla demanding that a short winter session of Parliament be convened to discuss the issues arising out of farmers' protest over the three farm bills passed during the monsoon session in September.

- In the past two years, the Budget Session of Parliament began in January– January 28 in 2018 and January 31 in 2019
- This year the monsoon session was delayed due to coronavirus and was held in September instead of July
- Besides, it was cut short by 10 days due to the Covid-19 situation
- Earlier, the Budget session of Parliament had to be cut short due to Covid-19 outbreak in the country

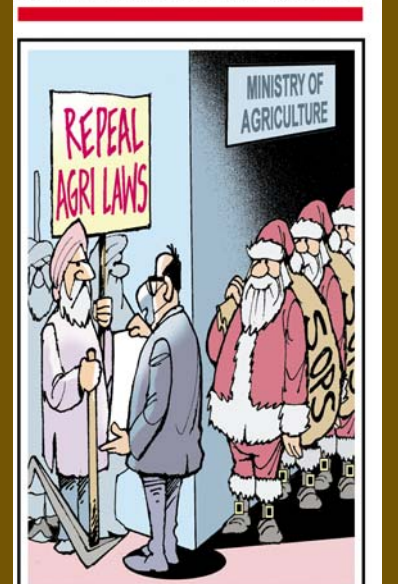
HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR 'THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS': NOLAN
ENTERTAINMENT


Like millions around the world, actor Christopher Nolan has revealed that he too loves the 'Fast and The Furious' movies. The action-thriller series of movies has been around since 2001, and has spawned eight films (with two more to go) and a spinoff.

The ninth Fast and The Furious movie, 'F9', is slated to release on May 28, 2021

I have a soft spot for Justin Lin's 'Tokyo Drift,' the third iteration in the franchise that was released in 2006. The fun thing about those movies is that even as they've gotten bigger, as sequels have to do, actually, we're the people making sequels get bigger and bigger

— CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

JUST LIKE THAT AJIT NINAN


BTS 6th most-tweeted about people worldwide in 2020

K-pop superstar BTS has made it to the sixth most-tweeted about people globally, data from Twitter showed, in apparent proof of the seven-member group's strong influence in the social media platform.

1 BTS also topped the Twitter's list of the most-tweeted about K-pop accounts globally this year for the fourth year in a row, followed by boy band Exo and girl group Blackpink

2 Twitter added that a tweet of BTS member Jungkook covering a song by US musician Lauv in May was the second most-retweeted tweet worldwide this year at over 1.6 million times, followed by the tweet of American actor Chadwick Boseman's death

3 BTS has also smashed records this year, with its new 'Life Goes On' becoming the first Korean song to top Billboard's main singles chart


BLUE IVY CARTER MAKES HISTORY AS ONE OF THE YOUNGEST GRAMMY NOMINEES

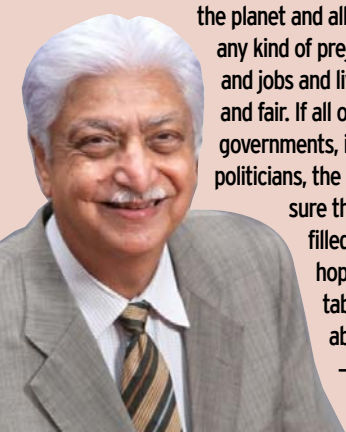
Like parents, like daughter—Blue Ivy Carter, the eight-year-old daughter of Beyoncé and Jay-Z, has been nominated for a Grammy Award. Carter is listed as a featured artist for her role in the song 'Brown Skin Girl' alongside Beyoncé, singer WizKid and SAINT JHN. This is Carter's first Grammy nomination. It makes her one of the youngest nominees in the awards show's history. She turns nine in January, ahead of the 2021 awards show.



- According to Billboard, the youngest Grammy nominee was eight-year-old Leah Peasall, who was nominated in the 'album of the year' category in 2001 for her performance in the 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?' soundtrack. She went on to win the award
- The youngest musician in Grammys history to receive an individual Grammy nomination, rather than as a featured artist, was DeLeon Richards

Quote unquote

The pandemic has been a magnifying glass for all our structural inequities and injustices, which exclude millions of our fellow citizens from a life of basic dignity. It has made clear that while markets and businesses have an irreplaceable role in a society, even more fundamental are the public goods and public systems. The agenda for the nation must include food, shelter, safety and basic social security; equitable and high quality public education and public health systems; care for the planet and all life on it; elimination of any kind of prejudice and discrimination; and jobs and livelihoods that are just and fair. If all of us come together – governments, industry, civil society, politicians, the average citizen – I am sure this agenda can be fulfilled. And then, we can truly hope to have a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society



—AZIM PREMJI, founder chairman, Wipro

5 habits to develop high social skills

Being socially active is always a plus, whether it is at your workplace, school, college, community, etc. While some are born to be social butterflies, others work their way through the social ladder. We bring to you some common habits of people with high social skills

Maintain eye contact

The first thing people notice are eyes. So, maintaining eye contact during a conversation is crucial and shows that you are interested in talking to the other person. It is the first step towards effective socialisation.

Listen to what others say

Having the ability to listen carefully with patience is a quality few people have. If other people are trusting you with their words, it is up to you how you receive them. Sometimes just listening to the person can be very com-



forting (to the person) rather than providing your inputs into the conversation. That is a peaceful sign of support that people really appreciate.

Always have something to talk about

You don't want to appear clueless when someone tries to talk to you about a matter that you know nothing about. So, it's best to be updated about recent news, incidents and have an opinion on strong matters. This way, you will feel confident about meeting people and talking to them with-

Maintain eye contact while having a conversation with anyone but don't stare; look interested and engage well

out inhibitions or any kind of shyness.

Be interested in people's matters

If you appear to be curious about a person's matter and indulge in conversations regarding them, people will regard you as an attentive person. Talk with people about their interests and passions and motivations; about what matters to them. If the person opens up to you effortlessly, your conversational ways are a success. Carry on and keep it up. ^{TMW}



REASONS

Why sports is important in a Student's Life



Sports are a crucial part of a student's growth and development. They help in the development of mental health and physical fitness of the body. Through participation in sports and games, a student gains various skills, experience and confidence that are helpful for developing their personality.

GIVEN BELOW ARE THE REASONS WHY SPORTS AND GAMES ARE ESSENTIAL IN A STUDENT'S LIFE:

> IMPROVES PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH: One of the main benefits of sports and games is to boost the physical and mental health of a student. Sports is played between teams in a healthy competitive environment, which ensures that the student remains active and fit. Outdoor sports like football, cricket, tennis, swimming, running,

etc., keeps the body and mind active. Indoor games like chess, badminton, and table tennis enhance the concentration levels of kids and also strengthens the immunity system of the body.

> EMPOWERS STUDENTS WITH LIFE SKILLS: Sports helps in developing life skills too. It enhances students' capabilities and helps them to have a better understanding of themselves. Sports also helps in developing social skills and understanding team spirit. They learn to interact not only with children of their age but also with adults like their coaches. Additionally, children acquire decision-making skills through various team activities.

> LEARN TIME MANAGEMENT AND DISCIPLINE: Constructive use of time and discipline is a major characteristic of any sports person. If a student plays a sport, he/she needs to show the commitment of time to be in a particular place at a particular time every day as a part of their routine. This teaches self-discipline to students.



PANDEMIC ETIQUETTE

How to politely ask someone to wear a mask

Have you been in situations when you are in a grocery store and a person or many around are not wearing a face mask or not wearing it in the correct way (nose out, hanging around the jawline, etc). These things are bound to make you feel unsafe. So what is the right thing to do then? Is it okay to point out to people about their mask behaviour or just move away? Check these tips to get your Covid era etiquette right.

THE RIGHT THING TO DO

The primary and the safest option is to stay away from all those people who are not wearing a mask or not wearing one correctly. Maintain a six feet distance and ensure you are following all the norms to stay safe from the infectious virus. It might be frustrating to do, but it is always a better idea than



make the other person less likely to change. This is a general rule. So, it is better not to get into any kind of conflict and maintain the distance.

■ Avoid visiting areas that are crowded as there will always be some people who may not follow face mask rules. It's also a good idea to not visit public places at peak hours

HOW TO CONFRONT

If it's not possible to maintain the distance and you are in a high-risk area then be polite and discreet while asking people to wear their face masks; rage and threat will only make the matter worse. Request them to wear a mask for the safety of others. Make sure you are not loud enough to be heard by everyone. Talk from a safe distance so that only two of you can hear. We are still adjusting to this new lifestyle – so, say it with a smile!

confrontation. That's because people don't like to be schooled by others. So, if you will go and ask the other person to wear a mask, there are chances that they might not take it well and get offended. It is impossible to achieve any objective by violating, shaming or embarrassing others. Doing any of these things will

COMMON COLOURS

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

Each group of words has a colour in common. The colours are linked to songs, symbols, people, places, films, fiction and figurative speech. Choose correctly from the four options.

Example: Mars, welcoming carpet, girl-wolf-grandmother, Moscow landmark
A. Indigo B. Yellow C. Red D. Violet
Answer: Red (Planet, Carpet, Riding Hood, Square)

1 Ruskin Bond umbrella, marine mammal, lapis lazuli, Jodhpur
A. Pink B. Brown C. Purple D. Blue

2 Robin Hood, backstage room, send-off signal, Hulk
A. Orange B. Green C. Grey D. Black

3 US residence, polite lie, rare tiger, Jack London's 'Fang'
A. White B. Brown C. Grey D. Violet

4 Pikachu, referee warning, business directory, Beatles' submarine
A. Blue B. Red C. Yellow D. Purple

5 Helen Keller-inspired film, underground economy, petroleum, Horse 'Beauty'
A. Indigo B. Green C. Pink D. Black

Answers:
1) D. Blue 2) B. Green 3) A. White 4) C. Yellow 5) D. Black

QUIZ TIME (MIXED BAG)

Q.1) The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by....
A. the people B. Lok Sabha C. elected members of the legislative assembly D. elected members of the Legislative Council

Q.2) The position of a chief minister is....
A. similar to that of the Prime Minister B. identical to that of the President C. a combination of the position of the Prime Minister and President D. not constitutional

Q.3) The members of the Rajya Sabha are elected for a term....
A. of six years B. determined by the state legislative assembly of a state C. of four years D. none of the above

Q.4) The President can advance money to meet unforeseen expenses, pending authorisation by Parliament, from....
A. the Consolidated Fund of India B. the Contingency Fund C. both the above funds D. none of the above

ANSWERS

1. C) elected members of the legislative assembly.
2. A) similar to that of the Prime Minister 3. A) of six years 4. B) the Contingency Fund