



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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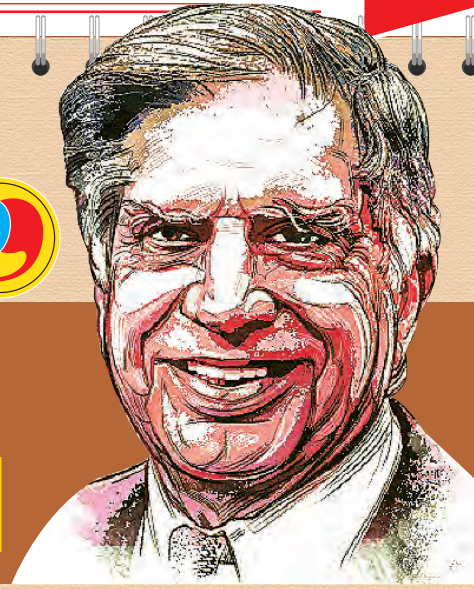
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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION
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We are ultimately one world and we can only win together – that's what this virus has taught us. We will, as countries, have to work hard to boost consumption, bring in infrastructure development to create jobs, and find solutions to revive industries and sectors that are in deep depression. - **RATAN TATA**, chairman emeritus, Tata Sons



4 THINGS INDIA NEEDS TO KEEP IN MIND AS IT ENTERS 2021

The year 2020 will go down in history as the most-unprecedented year this planet has ever seen. Business magnate Ratan Tata shares his 4-point guide on how to handle 2021

1 LET'S NOT TAKE THE UNIVERSE FOR GRANTED: Whether we find an effective vaccine or not, I am hopeful that we will eventually find some cure that will reduce the intensity of the pandemic. But it will be imperative for all of us to learn not to take this pandemic for granted. It calls for true reflection — if we look at what's happening in the UK and Europe, we need to stay on the safe side by wearing our masks and washing our hands, and continuing to adopt solutions that are working for us today.

Gender equality will be critical for progress. Women will rise up but we have to understand, if we have the ecosystem to allow them to flourish

2 THERE IS A LARGE POWER THAT GOVERNS US. LET'S LEARN TO LIVE WITH HUMILITY AND GRATITUDE, AS LIFE IS UNCERTAIN. We must do our best to keep ourselves safe by co-creating solutions that address all humankind. As we go through the economic cycle, it will be important for us to remind ourselves of the migrant labourers, who paid heavily with the loss of lives and livelihoods during the early days at the start of the pandemic. This is because they had no choice. The one thing they do have, which we as a country must recognise, protect and value, is their skills, which no one else could replace in their absence. If we build an ecosystem that can protect and grow this community based on their skills, we will emerge prosperous as a nation.

3 TECHNOLOGY IS TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE EAT, LIVE, LEARN AND PLAY — LET US BE BRAVE ENOUGH TO EMBRACE IT AND FIND SOLUTIONS COLLECTIVELY THROUGH COLLABORATION. Innovation and ideas to solve have always been intrinsic to India. However, we just don't have the capacity or intent to fund it from within the country. Most innovators had to look to the West or East for investment or acknowledgement. Dr. Amar Bose, who was renowned for the Bose brand of audio equipment, became a world phenomenon. He used his knowledge and tech expertise to create many solutions for different sectors. For 20 years, he worked hard to create one of the best suspension systems for cars. When most cars find it hard to navigate through Indian road conditions, here was a car invented by Dr. Bose that sailed through with utmost comfort to the passenger. This invention unfortunately never saw the light of day. Many such Amar Boses exist in India. We need to find them, support them and build them to grow into businesses of the future. That's when India will unlock its latent potential. We are on the threshold of innovation through technology. Artificial intelligence, machine learning and other such new-age technologies will change the way we operate today and forever.

4 To be part of this high world transformation that is happening around us, we need to foster a **CULTURE OF INNOVATION** that converges with the right investment without fear of failure.

Photo: Getty Images

2 OF 15 MOST-DESTRUCTIVE 2020 CLIMATE DISASTERS IMPACTED INDIA: REPORT

A new global report in its analysis of 15 most-destructive climate disasters of 2020 has found that **nine of these extreme events, including two in India, caused damage worth at least \$5 billion.** Though hurricanes in the US and central American countries turned out to be the most-expensive (\$41 billion), floods in India during June-October period caused the loss of highest number of human lives.

ENVIRONMENT


India's floods, which killed 2,067, caused loss of more human lives than casualties in all other 14 destructive climate disasters put together. Floods in Pakistan, which claimed 410 lives figured at the second spot, followed by the US and central American countries (400 lives lost in hurricanes) at the third position on the list of 15

Seven-year-old boy is a sensation on UGANDAN AVIATION SCENE

A 7-year-old Ugandan boy has become a sensation in his country with his precocious display of aircraft knowledge and budding flying skills. **Graham Shema** has flown as a trainee three times on a Cessna 172. He flew three times as co-pilot between January and March before the pandemic stopped him from flying. He has since been focusing on aviation theory, and immersing himself in videos about aviation and space exploration on his virtual reality viewer. A lover of math and science, Shema wants to be a pilot and an astronaut and someday travel to Mars.

YOUNG SENSATION


Shema recently impressed his instructor at the Uganda's Entebbe International Airport, when he was asked to explain how the engines worked on a Bombardier CRJ9000 plane parked on the tarmac. His curiosity for flight was piqued by a freak incident. When

he was 3 years old, a police helicopter flew so low to the ground that it blew off the roof of his grandmother's house on the outskirts of the Ugandan capital Kampala, while he was playing outside. "It triggered a curiosity on his mind about aeroplanes," said his mother.



SOLAR ORBITER MAKES ITS FIRST VENUS FLYBY

The joint US-European Solar Orbiter spacecraft has completed its first of the many gravity assist flybys of Venus to get closer to the sun. It also tilted its orbit to observe our star from different perspectives. The probe, launched in February to study the sun, aims to perform unprecedented close-up observations of the sun and investigate the sun-Earth connection.

Initially, the spacecraft, which will be confined to the same plane as the planets, will make its first solar pass at 17 degree of inclination by 2025, increasing to 33 degree by the end of the decade

CHRISTMAS TREES STAY GREEN BECAUSE OF PHOTOSYNTHETIC SHORTCUT



Scientists have deciphered that a shortcut in the photosynthetic machinery allows the needles of Christmas trees to stay green. According to them, the photosynthetic apparatus is wired in a special way which allows pine needles to stay green all year long. The study was done with pine trees, but the researchers believe that the mechanism is probably similar for other conifer species, like the typical Christmas trees spruces and firs, because their photosynthetic apparatus is similar.



► In winter, the light energy is absorbed by the green chlorophyll molecules but cannot be utilised by the downstream reactions in the photosynthetic machinery, as freezing temperatures stop most of the biochemical reactions ► In spring, the temp can still be very low, but sunlight is already strong, which can damage the photosynthetic machinery

VIRAT KOHLI: ICC CRICKETER OF THE DECADE

The Indian captain has grabbed the International Cricket Council's (ICC) top honours for the decade, winning the Sir Garfield Sobers award for the best male cricketer of the decade, beating the likes of R Ashwin, Joe Root, Kumar Sangakkara, Steve Smith, Ab de Villiers and Kane Williamson. The 32-year-old was also named the ODI Cricketer of the Decade. He is the only player with 10,000-plus ODI runs in the ICC Awards period—39 centuries, 48 fifties, 61.83 average and 112 catches, the ICC tweeted.

► Australian batting mainstay Steve Smith and Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan were named the Test Cricketer of the Decade and T20 Cricketer of the Decade, respectively.
► Australia's Elysse Perry swept the women's awards, securing the ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade honours alongside ODI and T20 Cricketers of the Decade awards



WORK THAT BAFTA PLANS TO DO IN INDIA FAR BEYOND BOLLYWOOD: AR Rahman



Oscar and Grammy-winning composer AR Rahman said, the work that BAFTA plans to do in India with the Breakthrough Initiative will have a wide impact far beyond Bollywood. "BAFTA and I share the passion for discovering and nurturing new talent and this association with them is a natural fit because of this shared vision," Rahman said. Rahman has been roped in as the ambassador of the BAFTA Breakthrough initiative in India.

ENTERTAINMENT

The beauty of Indian cinema lies in the diversity of its various film industries. This initiative will be looking for talent across every corner of the Indian film, games and television industries that we can showcase to the world - **AR RAHMAN**

COVID-19: OXFORD VACCINE MAY GET NOD IN A FEW DAYS

India is likely to see the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine being approved for emergency use in the next few days, as the updated data submitted by Serum Institute of India (SII) appears "satisfactory", top government sources said.

Once evaluation of data is complete, the regulator may not wait for the vaccine to get approval from the UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).



The government plans to inoculate around 30 crore "priority" population in the first phase of the vaccination drive that is expected to roll out in the first week of January and end latest by July. This will include healthcare and frontline workers and those at higher risk of infection, such as people over 50 years of age and others below 50 years but with severe comorbidities that can lower immunity and increase chances of death due to Covid-19 infection

History tells us that this will not be the last pandemic, and epidemics are a fact of life. But with investments in public health, supported by an all-of-government, all-of-society, one health approach, we can ensure that our children and their children inherit a safer, more-resilient and a more-sustainable world. As we strive to control and recover from the current pandemic, we must think about the next. Unfortunately, it is easy to imagine a virus just as infectious but even more lethal. Preparedness is a sound investment, costing far less than emergency expenditures. Societies need stronger health systems, including universal health coverage. People and families need more social protection.

ANTONIO GUTERRES, secretary general, UN

Quote unquote


FACTOID
\$16.7 MN

The box office collection of 'Wonder Woman 1984' over the Christmas weekend— the best box office debut of the pandemic, according to studio estimates Sunday. Last year, 'Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker' exceeded \$32 million on Christmas Day alone. According to data firm Comscore, 35% of North American theatres are currently open

Plan your stay-at-home NEW YEAR PARTY

With the on-going pandemic and night curfew imposed in several cities, an intimate gathering at home seems like the ideal way to ring in the New Year. Even if it's a small get-together, create a customised e-invite, add some glitz to it and we are set to rock and roll...

CREATE CURIOSITY
Let your friends know that your place is the place to be! Even if it's a small get-together, create a customised e-invite with some fun pictures and creative lines.

BUILD YOUR MINI HOSPITALITY TEAM
Some friends might like to play an active role at the party. Harness this impulse to your advantage and create a mini hospitality team. This idea is great when you have more guests. Give each friend someone to meet or to take care of. Friends who are shy or find it difficult to mingle easily can help prep for the party, clear plates, help you serve, decorate home, or be in charge of distributing props.

BE A ROCKING DJ
An infectious playlist is an express ticket to a stellar party. Start off with tracks you can sing along to. Next, you need some songs that will make you dance. Thirdly, mix in a few mellow tracks - everyone needs a breather and you don't want to spend the entire night singing and dancing your heart out.

PHOTO: BETTY IMAGES

Children's books adults should read once again

Even if you have read these books as a child, re-reading them from an adult's perspective is a unique experience.

Here are some books you should read:

 <p>MALGUDI DAYS by R.K. Narayan</p>	 <p>THE LITTLE PRINCE by Antoine De Saint-Exupéry</p>	 <p>BLACK BEAUTY by Anna Sewell</p>	 <p>LITTLE WOMEN by Louisa May Alcott</p>
 <p>RUSKIN BOND by Ruskin Bond</p>	 <p>ALICE IN WONDERLAND by Lewis Carroll</p>	 <p>THE JUNGLE BOOK by Rudyard Kipling</p>	 <p>MATILDA by Roald Dahl</p>

Should you wear a FACE MASK at home?



Mask can cut down the risk of infection by 50%

Living in a pandemic has taught us two great lessons - wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing are the only things that can protect us from the highly contagious coronavirus. Whenever we are outdoors, it is recommended to put on the mask. This can actually help to cut down the risk of infection by almost 50 per cent. But what about when you are at home surrounded by friends and family? Is it equally important to don a mask at home in such circumstances?

That's because you and your family members might have been taking all the necessary precautions to stay safe, but you cannot be sure about every relative or any other person who shows up at your

of infection is high in the closed space, especially in case of poor ventilation. The virus can linger in the air for hours and increase the risk of contagion.

2 OTHER TIMES YOU MUST WEAR A MASK

We have entered a season when cold and flu is common in every household. The problem is that the symptoms of cold and flu are overlapping with that of coronavirus. So, to distinguish between them can be quite difficult in the beginning. If you witness any symptoms related to these health concerns and are not sure if it is cold or coronavirus, it is best to wear a mask to protect yourself. It is also recommended to self-isolate for a few days till the time you are not clear what you are dealing with.

Should you wear a mask at home?

Almost a year into the pandemic and we all have come to know that mask really works. When you are outdoors you do not know who is infected with the virus, so the mask acts as a protective shield. But when it comes to meeting your known people indoors, many think that wearing a mask may look like an overkill. In reality, it is not. With the relaxation of the lockdown norms, people have started moving freely and visiting their friends and family, which they have been avoiding. This does not mean that they do not need to worry about the infection. As per experts, you are only safe around people who live with you in the same house and whenever you are meeting others, you must put on your mask.

door. Instead of assuming anything, it is best to take your safety in your hand. It is important to wear a mask when someone who doesn't live with you enters your home. You should even ask the other person politely to do the same.

1 WEAR IT WHEN TAKING CARE OF A SICK PERSON

If someone in your home is infected with the coronavirus, even then it is important to wear a mask all the time. They might not be sharing the same space and might be confined in their room, but you must take care on your part. The risk

When should you wear a mask?

As per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation any person who is 2 years of age and older should wear a mask in the following situations:

- In public or crowded places.
- Around people who do not live in your household.
- When caring for someone who is sick with COVID-19.
- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you may have COVID-19.

CALLING IT A YEAR

The Artists We Lost in 2020, in Their Words

It's always difficult to lose a favourite actor or a beloved musician. But in 2020, some of those losses were especially painful, brought on by a pandemic that killed hundreds of thousands of people. The artists on this list could help us better understand the time we're living through, or at least help us get through it with a smile



"When I dared to challenge the system that would relegate us to victims and stereotypes with no hopes or talents, when I questioned that method of portrayal, a different path opened up for me, the path to my destiny."
Chadwick Boseman, actor

"I'm horrified at the notion of autobiography because I'm already constructing the lies I'm going to tell."
John le Carré, author, born 1931

"As long as you keep yourself in love with people, you can transcend time."
Betty Wright, singer, born 1953



"No one could have imagined I would be an actor, I was so shy. So thin. But the desire was so intense."
Irrfan Khan, actor, born 1967



"Let others decide whether or not I'm a good writer. I know I'm a good Irish storyteller."
Mary Higgins Clark, author, born 1927

"If I thought a man had never committed a sin in his life, I don't think I'd want to talk with him. A man with flaws is more interesting."
Kirk Douglas, actor, born 1916



"It's crucial to know where the work stops and your life begins."
Ann Reinking, dancer, born 1949

"I don't consider myself an artist. I consider myself a very opinionated man who uses words as fighting tools."
Larry Kramer, writer, born 1935

"If you start thinking of your image, or what the mysterious 'they' out there are thinking of you, you're in a trap. What's important is that you're doing the work that's best for you."
Sean Connery, actor, born 1930



"When that first photograph was taken of Earth from space and you saw this little ball in blackness... I became aware of what I felt I was. I feel very much that a tree is a relative, a cousin. Everything in this world, I find, I'm related to."
Luchita Hurtado, artist, born 1920

QUIZ TIME

PRAVALLIKA BHAT, class VIII, Baldwin Girls' High School, Bengaluru

Q.1) The power of a lens is measured in.....
A. Dioptre B. Aeon C. Lumen D. Candela

Q.2) Two flat mirrors are placed at an angle of 60 degrees from each other. How many images will be formed if a candle is placed

between them?
A. 3 B. 14 C. 5 D. 10

Q.3) If an egg with its shell is placed in a microwave oven, what among the following would happen?
A. The egg will not get warmed B. The egg will get cooked slowly similarly to a boiled egg C.

The egg shell will explode D. The egg shell becomes yellow

Q.4) Amalgam is a term used for an alloy of which metal?
A. Copper B. Mercury C. Lead D. Zinc

ANSWERS

1. A) Dioptre 2. C) 5 3. C) The egg shell will explode 4. B) Mercury 5. A) Liver

KNOWLEDGE BANK (NATURE)

Atomium

Atomium is an important building in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. This building is around 102 metres tall. This building depicts nine iron atoms in the shape of a sphere. These spheres enclose staircases, escalators, elevators and a restaurant, which gives a panoramic view of Belgium.



Pravallika Bhat, class VIII, Baldwin Girls' High School, Bengaluru

WORD WISE

Preposterous: (adj) contrary to reason or common sense.

Synonymous words: outrageous, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, unbelievable.

Examples: ■ That is a preposterous idea. ■ This is an

outrageous act of burglary. ■ The incidents are downright absurd.

■ The teacher found the student's answer absolutely ridiculous but could not laugh out loud in the class.

GRAMMATICAL MISTAKES

ASCENT/ASSENT

THE RULES:

■ **Ascent:** To climb upwards to the summit of a mountain or a hill.
■ **Assent:** The expression of approval or agreement.

HOW NOT TO DO IT:

■ I see no reason to **ascent** to this contract.
■ The **assent** of Fuji presents no difficulties.

HOW TO DO IT PROPERLY:

■ Since this contract is in your favour, I see no reason to **assent** to the terminal.
■ The **ascent** of Fuji presents no difficulties.