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STUDENT EDITION



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WEB EDITION

World CHOCOLATE Day

JULY 7

The World Chocolate Day, which is also referred to as the International Chocolate Day, is an annual observance that occurs globally on July 7. The celebration of the day includes the consumption of chocolate. Chocolate was introduced to Europe on July 7, 1550

WHAT'S IN A DATE

- Since everyone loves chocolates, the day also exists in different months in different countries. The US National Confectioners Association, for example, lists September 13 as the International Chocolate Day
- The West African country, Ghana, the second-largest producer of Cocoa, celebrates chocolate day on February 14
- In Latvia, World Chocolate Day is celebrated on July 11

CHOCO-LATTY

Other than the World Chocolate Day, people also celebrate Bittersweet Chocolate Day (January 10), Milk Chocolate Day (July 28), White Chocolate Day (Sept 22) and Chocolate Covered Anything Day (December 16)

Chocolate comes from a fruit tree; it's made from a seed. Theobroma Cacao is the tree that produces cocoa beans, and it means, "food of the gods." Carolus Linnaeus, the father of plant taxonomy, named it

- Quiz TIME**
- Which country in Europe was the first to introduce chocolate?
 - a) Germany b) Italy c) Spain
 - Which civilisation used cocoa beans as a currency?
 - a) Indus Valley b) Maya c) Greek
 - Which kind of chocolate is the healthiest?
 - a) Dark b) White c) Milk
 - Centuries ago, doctors used chocolate to treat-----
 - a) Fever b) Headache c) Sore throat

ANSWERS: 1 (C) 2 (B) 3 (A) 4 (B)

THE MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

As pressure mounts on the Centre to start the monsoon session of parliament, questions are being raised on how the supreme law-making body will function in the Covid-induced world...

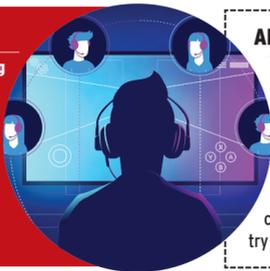
Virtual parliament is the need of the hour

- The Opposition has asked the Centre to stick to the usual calendar, and hold the monsoon session in the last week of July, as the country is facing challenges on multiple fronts: the pandemic, which has created an unprecedented twinning of health and financial crises; the confrontation with China in the Galwan Valley, among others.
- The budget session of parliament ended on March 23. According to rules, there should not be a gap of more than six months between two parliament sessions, which means the next session can be convened on September 23.
- However, according to experts, prolonged absence of the House proceedings does away with the legislature's power of checks and balances on the executive
- Therefore, they say, a virtual session may be necessary, as all MPs will not want to come to Delhi, where Covid cases are rising

Will parliamentarians attend VIRTUALLY for the first time ever?

GOVT'S PLANS

The Centre is mulling the option of holding a virtual session or a hybrid session, where some lawmakers are physically present, while others join online. For a fully virtual parliament session, arrangements will have to be made by the National Informatics Centre to connect 542 Lok Sabha members as well as 242 Rajya Sabha MPs through video-conferencing



ADVANTAGES OF A VIRTUAL SESSION

Virtual session will put an end to the unruly disruption of proceedings. It will also give a signal for state assemblies and councils across the country to go online

THE CHALLENGES

- Not all lawmakers are tech-savvy. What if they share passwords inadvertently?
- No clarity on online voting, smooth broadcast, translation, and other issues
- Opposition will have to stick to debates and discussions to get their points across
- Protests won't grab eyeballs, because members won't be able to storm the well of the House to grab attention of lensmen
- Even a hybrid session of the Lower House – with half of the members seated in Vigyan Bhawan, Central Hall and the Lok Sabha chamber, following social distancing norms, and the rest connected online – will be an extraordinary technological challenge

How are other countries going about it? About two dozen countries, including the US, Germany, France, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and Denmark, are holding virtual sessions. In the US, Senate panels have gone for virtual hearings. The UK's House of Commons is using Zoom for hybrid sittings

YOUR CORNER

WHAT ONLINE TIPS WOULD YOU SUGGEST OUR MPS FOR THEIR FIRST VIRTUAL SESSION?

Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com/ timesnie175@gmail.com

THE BEST ENTRIES WILL BE FEATURED IN TIMES NIE

TECH BUZZ

PM LAUNCHES Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge



In order to give a major push to Digital India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' for techies around India, and the startup community for creating world class 'Made in India' apps. Highlighting the need to create an "aatmanirbhar app ecosystem", PM Modi in an official LinkedIn post said, "Today, when the entire nation is working towards creating an Aatmanirbhar Bharat, it is a good opportunity to give direction to their efforts, momentum to their hard-work, and mentorship to their talent to evolve apps, which can satisfy our market as well as compete with the world"

- Created by MeitY in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission-Niti Aayog, this initiative will identify the best Indian apps that are already being used by citizens and have the potential to scale, and become world class apps in their respective categories. To recognise good apps, there will be "various cash awards and incentives"
- The prize money for apps is between ₹2 lakh and ₹20 lakh, depending on the category. The app will be evaluated on the basis of ease of use, robustness, security features and scalability
- As far as the app categories are concerned, there are eight categories of app, which can participate in this challenge: office productivity and work from home, social networking, e-learning, entertainment, health and wellness, business, including agritech and fintech, news and games
- All details of the challenge is available on "innovate.mygov.in". The last date of submission is July 18, 2020. The applicants need to apply online to submit their proposals by registering and logging on to MyGov portal.

This US company wants to fly people to the edge of space

If space tourism is in your bucket list, here comes some news that will excite you. A Florida-based startup is working towards sending people to the edge of space, beneath a football stadium-sized high-performance balloon, and pressurised capsule. This human space flight company, Space Perspective, recently announced plans to launch from the Shuttle Landing Facility at

SPACE



NASA's Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida, with the first un-crewed test flight scheduled in early 2021 that will include a suite of research payloads.

Called the Spaceship Neptune, it will be flown by a pilot, who can take up to eight passengers called "Explorers" on a six-hour journey to the edge of the space and safely back. It will carry people and research payloads on a two-hour gentle ascent, above

99% of the Earth's atmosphere to 100,000 feet, where it cruises above the Earth for up to two hours, allowing passengers to share their experience via social media, and with their fellow Explorers. Neptune will then make a two-hour descent under the balloon

and splash down, where a ship will retrieve the passengers, the capsule and the balloon. To book a ticket for the six-hour journey, passengers may have to cough up an estimated \$125,000. Bookings are open on the Space Perspective website

ENVIRONMENT

RARE ORCHID PLANT FOUND IN DUDHWA NATIONAL PARK



A rare orchid plant variety, categorised as an 'endangered species', has been found in the Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh. Popularly known as Ground Orchid (eulophia obtusa), the variety is categorised as an 'endangered species' under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

- What makes the discovery significant is that never in the history of Dudhwa, or any other forest area in the state, has this orchid been seen
- Kew Herbarium of England had documented the orchid, 118 years back

IN THE NEWS

Kanye West announces bid for the US presidential poll

American rapper Kanye West has announced his bid for the US presidential election slated to take place in November. Interestingly, he has received the backing from Tesla CEO Elon Musk. Taking to Twitter, West wrote: "We must now realise the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for the president of the United States. #2020VISION." Replying to the tweet, Musk said: "You have my full support."

- It was not immediately clear which party the 21-time Grammy winner would pick, in his apparent challenge to President Donald Trump and presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden
- The rapper has sparked speculation over the years that he would potentially enter the presidential race one day, most recently in Nov 2019, when he said he planned to run in 2024.
- While there is no official deadline to enter the presidential race, candidates must meet certain filing requirements under the Ballot Access Laws of the US that vary from state to state



NEWS IN BRIEF

PADMA LAKSHMI HOPES FOR INCLUSIVE FOOD INDUSTRY

India-born supermodel Padma Lakshmi says the "male-dominated" food industry needs to be more inclusive. "The professional food industry is one of the most male-dominated sectors of our society. Probably the only place that's more male-dominated is the military and so I would like to see that change," she said. She was the "Top Chef" host of the Us Weekly. "Most of

I would like to see male chefs in our industry make a concerted effort to mentor and speak out for women – to mentor them, give them the same richness of experience and privilege that they have had. That would go a long way

Padma Lakshmi

CELEB TALK

Why are there so few female chefs?

Let's start a DEBATE. Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com/ timesnie175@gmail.com

the food in this world is actually made by women and yet, the professional food world is taken over by men, so I would like to see that disparity decrease considerably," she added.

'CHAPTER ON CORONA SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM'

Rajasthan health minister Raghu Sharma has said that a chapter on coronavirus should be introduced in school curriculum to help the coming generations become aware of the challenges society faced together in fighting Covid-19. "Students should be made aware of the times we went through during the lockdown. This was the first pandemic outbreak reported in the world in over 100 years, and hence, its documentation should be done for the coming generations to remain prepared for future challenges, which we wish should never come," Sharma said.

EDUCATION

"Had the Spanish flu reported in 1920 been documented, and a book available on it, we could have learned the tricks to fight the health challenge. Now, we need to have books for the newer generation to know how we fought the Covid-19 epidemic, and how society combated the challenge unitedly, and stayed in a lockdown for months," he said

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE MINISTER? SHARE YOUR VIEWS AT TOINIE175@GMAIL.COM/TIMESMAIL175@GMAIL.COM