



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

## 21.2 degrees CELSIUS

FACTOID

The temperature recorded in the Norwegian Arctic archipelago, Svalbard, the highest in 40 years, according to the country's meteorological institute. The island group, dominated by Spitzbergen, the only inhabited

isle in the northern Norway archipelago, is 1,000 kilometres away from the North Pole. According to a scientific study, global warming in the Arctic is happening twice as fast as the rest of the planet.



### X-PLAINED Climate Change in the Arctic region

**WHAT:** Scientists have claimed that in the past 30 years, the Arctic has warmed at roughly twice the rate as the entire globe. Calling this phenomenon as Arctic amplification, scientists say that this rapid warming is a signal of human-caused climate change. The evidence of the changes in the Arctic climate were first noticed by the environmentalists in the 1980s. Since then, the changes have become more pronounced.

the shrinking of the floating sea ice cover of the Arctic Ocean, especially during the summer. Similarly, the snow cover over the land in the Arctic has decreased, which becomes more evident during the spring season.

**HOW:** According to scientists, the climate change has resulted in

**WHERE:** Thanks to these changes, glaciers in Alaska, Greenland and northern Canada are retreating. Furthermore, frozen ground in the Arctic, known as permafrost, is warming, and in many areas thawing. Even the temperatures in Arctic Siberia soared to a record average for June this year.

#### THE IMPACT

- The changes in the Arctic climate plays an important role for the rest of the world, as the Arctic acts as a refrigerator for the Earth; it helps in cooling the planet. So, changes in the Arctic climate have effects that cascade through the food chain— from phytoplankton to marine mammals, such as seals, walrus, whales and polar bears
- Researchers have warned that the changes in the Arctic are worrisome, because melting ice speeds up climate change. In other words, ice reflects sunlight, while water absorbs it. When the Arctic ice melts, the oceans around it absorb more sunlight and heat up, thereby making the world warmer
- Experts are of the opinion that melting Arctic ice is expected to speed up the sea level rise. They estimate that the oceans will rise as much as 23 feet by 2100, causing floods in major coastal cities, and submerging some island countries
- The changing vegetation of the Arctic also affects the brightness of the surface, thereby influencing the warming. As the Arctic atmosphere warms, it can hold more water vapour, an important greenhouse gas

#### ARCTIC ANIMALS

- \_\_\_\_\_ are a polar bear's most important prey  
a) Arctic hares, b) Guillemot birds, c) Seals
- To deal with their "fox problem," birds of the Arctic make their nests in the...  
a) cliffs, b) ice, trees
- Polar bears are the only sea ice hunters in the world  
a) True, b) False

**ANSWERS:**  
1) C, 2) A, 3) A

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### MOST LIKED POSTS NOT THE MOST-VIEWED ONES, REVEALS FACEBOOK

If you think that Facebook posts, which are most liked, are also the most viewed by the users on the platform, you are mistaken. According to a top company executive, posts that get the most engagement are actually seen by a small percentage of the users.

TECH BUZZ

"While some link posts get a lot of interactions, likes or comments, this content is a tiny percentage of what most people see on the FB. News from these Pages don't represent the most viewed news stories on FB, either," FB executive Hegeman replied to a New York Times columnist Kevin Roose via a tweet. Roose shared data from content discovery and social monitoring platform, CrowdTangle with his users, showing top-performing Facebook link posts by US pages. Hegeman stepped in, saying that the data does not represent what most people see on the Facebook

#### HOW FITBIT DEVICES CAN HELP DETECT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

In a fight against the novel coronavirus, researchers have developed a free mobile app, which will allow scientists to investigate the use of wearable devices and smartphones for digital detection of Covid-19. Called the 'Mass Science' app, it allows Covid-Collab study participants to connect wearables, such as Fitbit devices and share data, including the heart rate, activity and sleep. Participants can also use the app to provide information on geographic location, mood and mental health, in addition to Covid-19 symptoms and a diagnosis, if they have tested positive for the disease.



CORONA UPDATE

If a Fitbit user was previously ill or diagnosed with Covid-19 in the past, they can use the study app to share their historical data covering this period of illness

#### NORWAY'S 'ELVIS PRESLEY' SETS A WORLD RECORD

Kjell Henning Bjornestad, a 52-year-old man from Norway, has created quite a stir on the internet not only for imitating Elvis Presley, the legendary singer's looks and style, but also for creating a world record by singing his songs non-stop. Known as the Norwegian 'Elvis Presley', Bjornestad sang many of Presley's songs for 50 hours, 50 minutes and 50 seconds, non-stop in an Oslo restaurant.

#### IN THE RECORD BOOK

Bjornestad began singing on July 23 morning, and moved around on the stage very often. He sat down as well to give himself some rest. A physician monitored him by giving him honey and lemon to keep his throat at bay

Earlier, a similar record was broken by a German named, Thomas 'Curtis' Gaethje, who sang for 43 hours, 11 minutes and 11 seconds

#### SHEKHAR KAPUR SAYS BOLLYWOOD CAN'T HANDLE RAHMAN'S TALENT, COMPOSER SAYS 'LET'S MOVE ON'

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur on Sunday said that composer AR Rahman's Oscar win was a proof that Bollywood can't handle his talent, a day after the music director claimed there is a "gang" in the Hindi film industry that is preventing him from getting work. Rahman's statement came amidst a raging 'insider versus outsider' debate in Bollywood, following actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death last month. "You know what your problem is @arrahman? You went and got #Oscars. An Oscar is the kiss of death in Bollywood. It proves you have more talent than Bollywood can handle," Kapur, 74, tweeted.

#### ENTERTAINMENT

Replying to Kapur, Rahman said, it's time to move on from the debate. "Lost money comes back, fame comes back, but the wasted prime time of our lives will never come back. Peace! Let's move on. We have greater things to do," the 53-year-old composer tweeted

#### BHUMI UNITES WITH CHILD CLIMATE ACTIVIST LICYPRIYA KANGUJAM

Actress Bhumi Pednekar has joined hands with child activist Licypriya Kangujam to raise awareness on environment protection. "I will do whatever it takes to bring this conversation to the forefront. We owe it to the next generations, who will inhabit this planet. We owe it to this planet, because it sustains us," asserted Bhumi.

#### FOR A CAUSE

Pednekar, through her Instagram handle, introduced the eight-year-old girl from Manipur, who is rallying the youth of the country, to be more climate-conscious. Sharing a video clip of the young activist, the actor wrote, "Though young, her work towards climate activism is beyond her years... She has created a symbolic device called, SUKIFU (Survival Kit for the Future) to curb air pollution... It's almost a zero budget kit, specially designed from trash to provide fresh air"

#### ENTIRE EARTH VIBRATING LESS DUE TO COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS: STUDY

In a study conducted in 117 countries, researchers have found that the world is experiencing the most dramatic reduction in the seismic noise (the hum of vibrations in the planet's crust) in the recorded history due to the lockdown.



Measured by instruments called seismometers, seismic noise, caused by the vibrations within the Earth, can be triggered not only by earthquakes, volcanoes, and bombs but also by daily human activity, like travel and industry. This quiet period is likely to be caused by the total global effect of social distancing measures, closure of services and industry, and drops in tourism and travel, the study said.

### The 'i' in iPhone 11 now stands for India-made

Apple has started making its flagship iPhone 11 at the Foxconn plant near Chennai, the first time it has manufactured a top-of-the-line model in the country, marking a boost for the government's Make in India initiative. Production will be stepped up in phases and Apple may consider exporting the India-made iPhone 11, reducing its de-

#### MADE IN INDIA

pendence on China, two senior industry executives said. Local production saves Apple 22% import duty. The company hasn't cut prices, as it also sells iPhone 11 handsets made in China in India, but that could be an option later on.

- Apple is said to be considering a plan to make the new iPhone SE at the Wistron plant near Bengaluru, the executives said
- The latest move marks the growing localisation of Apple's manufacturing in the country, where it's keen to take advantage of benefits under the government's production linked incentive (PLI) scheme. The move also helps expand Apple's production base beyond China, at a time when Sino-US ties have soured, an executive said

- Of the three new models Apple launched in September, the iPhone 11 is the biggest seller in India
- Apple makes two other handset models in the country – the iPhone XR at the Foxconn plant, and the iPhone 7 at the Wistron factory.



#### I RECOMMEND

### 6 HEALTHY STUDY BREAK IDEAS TO INCREASE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY

#### MEDITATE

1 Meditation is a fantastic way to focus, while you're studying. In your next study break, take a moment to sit quietly and simply focus on your breathing. You can use a guided meditation video from YouTube, or from a meditating app

#### HAVE A SNACK

2 Snacking on something healthy can help you boost your energy levels! Consume almonds, dark chocolates and popcorn. However, watch out for the wrong snacks, like ice cream, timbts and cookies. High in sugar, they'll lead to a sugar crash, and make you feel tired.



#### TIDY UP

3 Cleaning up the clutter in your room can be helpful for your productivity. It's hard to focus when your surroundings are in a mess. In your next break, try something as simple as putting away the clothes you have piled up on a chair.

#### GET MOVING

4 Exercise doesn't mean doing crunches or push-ups. You can do a few yoga stretches, put on a pilates video, or even have a dance party to a few of your favourite tunes. Anything which gets your heart rate pumping and your blood flowing is good!

#### DRINK WATER

5 Staying hydrated is important, if you want your brain to function properly! You should be drinking 2 litres of water a day. With plain water you can add a squeeze of citrus fruit, crushed raspberries, or strawberry slices to your glass of water to make it interesting

#### TAKE A NAP

6 A short nap! Not a four-hour snooze-fest. The best length of time for a nap is 10 to 20 minutes. That's according to a research from the Case Western Reserve University, which shows that napping for this length of time, will increase your productivity and the ability to focus