



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

## PM Modi launches week-long campaign to free India of garbage



Together, we have to move forward ... preparing compost out of dirt, water recycling, getting rid of single-use plastic

**NARENDRA MODI, PM**

► The 'Gandagi-Mukt Bharat' drive began on Saturday, and would go on till the Independence Day to reinforce the ongoing campaign on cleanliness and sanitation ► The PM has urged the officials at the district level to construct toilets in all the villages under them and repair the existing facilities during the week

**Be a part of the Gandagi-Mukt Bharat Drive and....**

Share your experiences at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com) or [timesnie175@gmail.com](mailto:timesnie175@gmail.com)

## TABLETOP RUNWAY

### WHAT

At least 18 people died and 16 were severely injured in Calicut (Kozhikode) on Friday, after a Boeing-737 overshot a runway known as a 'table top' in the aviation industry. Tabletop runways are often constructed by excavating the peaks of the hills to create, what is known as a tabletop.

### HOW

Such runways have steep drops at one or both the ends, increasing the possibility of injuries and fatalities, if pilots under or overshoot their approach, either through human error or mechanical failure.

### WHERE ARE THEY BUILT

They are most commonly found in mountainous areas, where flat land is scarce, or in low-lying areas, like Kozhikode, where space is at a premium, or there is a fear of water logging at the ground level.

### WHY ARE THEY RISKY

Landing on these airports require accurate precision, with no room for errors. In other



**DID YOU KNOW?** In May 2010, an Air India flight landing at the Mangalore airport overshot the tabletop runway there, falling down a hillside and bursting into flames. Of the 166 people onboard, only eight survived. The inquest into the crash later blamed pilot error

Apart from Mangalore and Kozhikode, airports like Lengpui airport in Mizoram, Kullu and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh and Pakyong airport in Sikkim have tabletop runways

The tabletop runway at Kozhikode is around 2,700 metres-long, shorter than the 4,430 metres runway in New Delhi, though it is long enough for a narrow body aircraft like the Boeing-737 to land



words, landing on such a runway is considered a test of a pilot's skill, as it creates an optical illusion of the runway, being at the same level as the plains below it. Pilots have to ensure that their approach isn't too high or too low. Landing on these runways is trickier at night or in rain.

## A GRATITUDE to our COVID WARRIORS



As they say, unprecedented times test your real character and our Covid warriors, who have risked their lives to keep us safe by working 24 x 7, have proved it in the last five months, becoming an inspiration for all of US. Let's join hands in showing our gratitude to the real heroes this Independence Day.

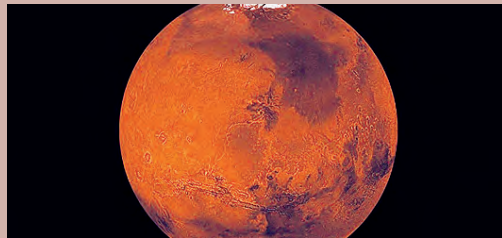
Share with Times NIE on how you plan to show your gratitude. Send in your article (50 words), video (less than 2 min), paintings, poems or any other way that can drive this campaign

THE LAST DATE OF ENTRY: **AUGUST 13, 5PM.** The top entries will be published in Times NIE!!!

## NEWS IN BRIEF

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE](#)

### GLACIERS COULD HAVE SCULPTED MARS VALLEYS: STUDY



The question whether ancient life could have existed on Mars, centres on the water that once flowed there, but a new research suggests that many of the Red Planet's valleys were gouged by icy glaciers not rivers. The study, which comes amid a flurry of new Mars missions trying to discover if the now-barren planet ever hosted life, casts doubt on a dominant theory that the planet once had a warm, wet climate with abundant liquid water that sculpted the landscape.

The researchers examined more than 10,000 Martian valleys and compared the channels on the Earth that were carved under the glaciers

The findings suggest that some Martian valleys could have been formed some 3.8 billion years ago by meltwater beneath the ice sheets, which they said would align with the climate modelling, predicting that the planet would have been much cooler in its ancient past. The research comes after NASA launched its latest Mars rover, Perseverance, to look for signs of ancient microbial life on the Red Planet

### GOOGLE UNVEILS ITS FIRST 5G PHONES, STARTING AT \$499

Alphabet Inc's Google has said that its first 5G-enabled phones, Pixel 4a (5G) and Pixel 5, will be available this September at a starting price of \$499 (₹ 37,365 approx). The company also cut the starting price for its smartphone lineup with a non-5G version of 4a priced at \$349 (₹ 26,129 approx), looking to broaden its appeal to the budget-conscious customers. Google's lower-priced devices have been the top sellers, but are far from being the major profit drivers. Higher-priced devices have gained little traction from the industry leaders, such as Samsung Electronics Co and Apple Inc, because of limited marketing and stiff competition.



**UNVEILED**

The 5G models will be available in the United States, Canada, UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan and Australia, Google said

► As an initial step, NASA will no longer refer to the planetary nebula, NGC 2392, the glowing remains of a sun-like star that is blowing off its outer layers at the end of its life, as the 'Eskimo Nebula'. 'Eskimo' is widely viewed as a colonial term with a racist history, imposed on the indigenous people of Arctic regions

► Similarly, the term, 'Siamese Twins Galaxy' used to refer to NGC 4567 and NGC 4568— a pair of spiral galaxies found in the Virgo Galaxy Cluster— will be renamed

► NASA said it will use only the official, International Astronomical Union designations in cases where nicknames are inappropriate

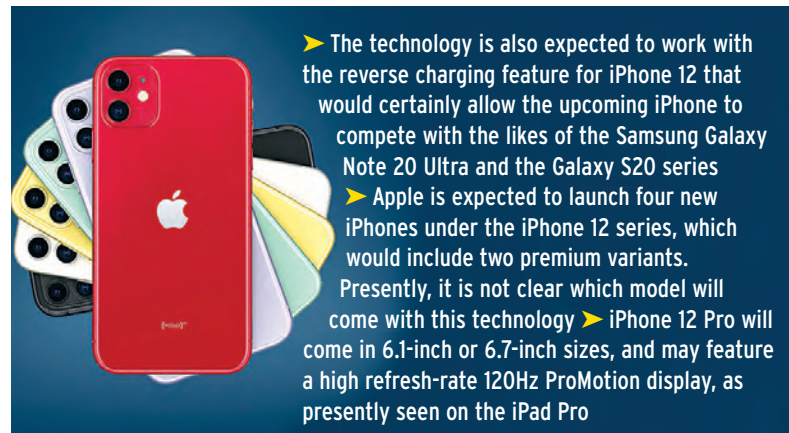
### WHY THIS MOVE

- "These nicknames and terms may have historical or culture connotations that are objectionable or unwelcoming, and NASA is strongly committed to addressing them," said Stephen Shih, associate administrator for diversity and equal opportunity, NASA. Science depends on diverse contributions and benefits everyone, so this means, we must make it inclusive, he added
- Nicknames are often more approachable and public-friendly than the official names for the cosmic objects, such as Barnard 33, whose nickname, 'the Horsehead Nebula' invokes its appearance
- But critics say often seemingly innocuous nicknames can be harmful and detract from science
- NASA said it will be working with diversity, inclusion, and equity experts in the astronomical and physical sciences to provide guidance and recommendations for other nicknames and terms for review
- The announcement came amid the Black Lives Matter movement gaining momentum worldwide

**YOUR CORNER**

Share your views at [toinie175@gmail.com](mailto:toinie175@gmail.com)

## IPHONE 12 MAY COME WITH MAGNETIC ATTACHMENT WIRELESS CHARGING



► The technology is also expected to work with the reverse charging feature for iPhone 12 that would certainly allow the upcoming iPhone to compete with the likes of the Samsung Galaxy Note 20 Ultra and the Galaxy S20 series

► Apple is expected to launch four new iPhones under the iPhone 12 series, which would include two premium variants. Presently, it is not clear which model will come with this technology

► iPhone 12 Pro will come in 6.1-inch or 6.7-inch sizes, and may feature a high refresh-rate 120Hz ProMotion display, as presently seen on the iPad Pro

### TECH BUZZ

Apple is reportedly planning to introduce iPhone 12 with magnetic positioning that will move the phone automatically to the optimal position on the charging pad. According to a report, the magnets may not only provide a 'snap in' wireless charging system but might also be used for mounting purposes. With this feature, iPhone 12 will provide modular upgrades fitted through magnetic connection.

## BE THE CHANGE



SHAYAN AHMAD, class, VI, C, OPG WORLD SCHOOL, DWARKA, Delhi, tells us why WE SHOULD USE REUSABLE MASKS

## VIEWPOINT



### NASA TO FIX 'HARMFUL' NICKNAMES FOR COSMIC OBJECTS

In a bid to do away with insensitive or harmful nicknames, NASA is examining its use of unofficial terminology for the cosmic objects. Most official documents have moved away from its use, NASA said.

## New Guinea has the greatest variety of plants

Yes, you heard it right. New Guinea has the most diverse island plant life in the world according to researchers, who found, it had 20 per cent more flora than Madagascar or Borneo. In fact, according to Daily Mail, the researchers, who conducted a survey of 700,000 plant specimens from the southwestern Pacific island as part of a study into its ecosystem diversity, claimed that two-thirds of the species of plants found in New Guinea, are only found in that region — an area almost 20 times the size of Switzerland.



► The island has lowland jungles and high altitude grasslands, with peaks bigger than Mont Blanc in France, and among them they found 13,634 unique plant species.

► By far, the most species-rich family are the orchids; almost a third of the species listed as unique to the island were trees

► One particularly remarkable finding is that 68 per cent of the plants are endemic, and are only found in that region, which is 'unmatched in tropical Asia'