



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021



WEB EDITION

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Spotlight

Marvel Studios sign Justin Benson, Aaron Moorhead for 'Moon Knight' series

Marvel Studios has signed independent horror filmmakers Justin Benson and Aaron Moorhead to direct the episodes of upcoming series 'Moon Knight' for Disney Plus.



➤ The drama will see 'Star Wars' star Oscar Isaac play the lead as Marc Spector, an elite soldier and a mercenary, who decides to fight crime, after he becomes the human avatar of Khonshu, the Egyptian god of the moon
➤ 'Moon Knight' is set to begin production in Hungary in March, and premiere on Disney Plus in 2022



1 Macaques have been spotted chewing the straps of old and tossed-aside masks in the hills outside Malaysia's capital Kuala Lumpur – a potential choking hazard for the diminutive monkeys



2 In an incident that captured headlines in Britain, a gull was rescued by the RSPCA in the city of Chelmsford, after its legs



became tangled in the straps of a disposable mask for up to a week

3 Conservationists in Brazil recently found a mask inside the stomach of a penguin after its body washed up on a beach, while a dead pufferfish was discovered caught inside another, off the coast of Miami

4 In another incident in September, last year, French campaigners found a dead crab ensnared in a mask in a salt-water lagoon near the Mediterranean sea

1.5 BILLION

MASKS made their way into the world's oceans in 2020—a deadly hazard for wildlife, with birds and marine creatures ensnared in the staggering number of discarded facial coverings littering animal habitats, claim experts. Single-use surgical masks have been found scattered around pavements, waterways and beaches worldwide, as countries began mandating their use in public places to slow the pandemic's spread...

How to dispose masks and gloves in an eco-friendly way



- Use reusable cloth masks instead of disposable masks
- Wash these reusable masks properly after every use
- If you are using plastic masks and gloves, pack the used masks and gloves in a paper and hand them over separately to the sanitary workers visiting your houses for waste collection



THE CONCERN



- Worn once, the thin protective materials can take hundreds of years to decompose
- The biggest impact may be in the water, with green groups alarmed at the flood of used masks, latex gloves and other protective gears finding their way into the already-contaminated seas and rivers
- According to environmentalists, masks and gloves are "particularly problematic" for sea creatures. When these plastics break down in the environment, they form smaller and smaller particles, which in turn, enter the food chain and impact the ecosystem



Masks account for around 6,200 extra tons of marine plastic pollution, according to the environmental group Oceans Asia



Time for you to raise your voice— loud and clear. Send us your views on how to create an awareness on disposing your mask and gloves. The best three entries will be published in our newspaper. The write-up can be a campaign, poster or cartoon; also mention your name, class, school, city and a picture showcasing your cause at toiniel175@gmail.com

Michelle Obama's 'Becoming' among 2020's most-borrowed titles

'Becoming' by former US First Lady Michelle Obama and 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens were among the most-popular ebooks borrowed from the libraries in 2020, recent data shows. Data by OverDrive, the leading digital reading platform for 65,000 libraries and schools worldwide, shows that readers worldwide borrowed 430 million ebooks, audiobooks and digital magazines in the past 12 months, a 33 per cent increase over 2019. This significant growth was influenced by the pandemic, social justice and remote learning. Audiobooks borrowed totalled to 138 million.

BOOKS

➤ 'White Fragility', 'So You Want to Talk about Race', 'The Hate U Give' and others, became the top 10 titles checked out during 2020. The most-significant genre growth in 2020 was children's and YA fiction and non-fiction because of remote and hybrid learning

➤ 'Educated' by Tara Westover, 'Little Fires Everywhere' by Celeste Ng and 'The Giver of Stars' by Jojo Moyes were also the leading titles

➤ The most-popular audiobooks borrowed from the libraries in 2020 also included 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone' by JK Rowling, 'Talking to Strangers' by Malcolm Gladwell and 'Educated' by Tara Westover



After backlash, WhatsApp clarifies its new privacy policy

TECH BUZZ

After facing severe backlash over its new privacy policy and terms of service, WhatsApp has clarified that its new move does not affect the privacy of the users' personal messages with their friends or family. "This update includes changes related to business messaging on WhatsApp, which is optional, and provides further transparency about how we collect and use data," the Facebook-owned messaging app said.

WhatsApp had unveiled a new privacy policy and terms of service recently, in a bid to share significantly-more commercial user data with the Facebook. It said, those who do not accept the updated privacy policy, which comes into force in February, will no longer be able to access the chats on the messaging platform

This had raised hackles among privacy experts, antitrust and cybersecurity advocates, who have long-warned against the data pooling among the big technology firms



INDIAN STUDENT AMONG THE WINNERS OF NASA APP DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

A high school student from Gurugram, Aryan Jain, is among the winners of an app development challenge organised by NASA. The Artemis Next-Gen STEM - Moon to Mars App Development Challenge, 2020, saw competitors across the world compete for a coding contest.



A student of Suncity School, Gurugram, Jain had teamed up with six high school students from the US. The six-member team developed an app, using the cross-platform game engine Unity and programmed it in C#. By participating in the challenge, the students took part in the Artemis Generation endeavours to land astronauts – including the first woman and the next man – on the Moon by 2024

In the challenge, the participants were required to develop an app to visualise the Lunar South Pole to assist in the mission planning and exploration activities



Little Singham: Kids early learning app hits a million downloads

Little Singham: Kids Early Learning App, which was launched last year by Creative Galileo, has hit a million downloads in just six months, with an average rating of 4.70. This educational app, a paradigm shift from traditional teaching practices, is targeted towards children aged three-eight years to teach them about colours, numbers, shapes, phonics, etc.

APP-Y WORLD



Delivered via extremely engaging storylines of Little Singham and his friends, Babli, Lattu, Hawaldar Karate and many others, this app helps to inculcate values of friendship, kindness, helpfulness and morality among the kids

The use of cartoon character of Little Singham has increased its popularity, feel experts

Designed to make learning fun and embedded with a phonic programme, the app also gives kids access to thousands of educational videos, audiobooks and interactive games



How to Listen Carefully

One in four adults struggle with their mental health, but knowing how to help when loved ones are suffering can be tough too. Yet sometimes all people really need is to be heard. In this exclusive extract from 'How to Listen, Samaritans' new guide for these troubled times, you'll learn to start conversations, listen without judgment, empathise rather than problem-solve, and use gentle encouragement to help others share.

Start by saying SHUSH, the acronym Samaritans volunteers use to remind them of the key to good listening.

SHOW YOU CARE

Give the person you are listening to your full, undivided attention. This is a non-verbal way of showing them how much you care.

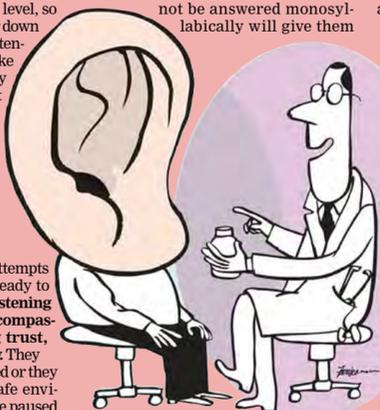
BODY LANGUAGE

We are constantly dropping clues about what's going on in our heads, often without realising what signals we are giving. Try sitting at a five o'clock angle to the person you're supporting. Lean forward slightly to show you are interested in what they are saying. Be aware of any habits you have, which might be distracting or off-putting, like glancing at your watch or phone.

Be careful not to fidget. Keep your arms open and uncrossed. Make eye contact, but remember that excessive eye contact can, to some, come across as threatening, so be mindful of staring. Sit or stand at the same level, so you are not looking up or down at the person you're listening to, as this might make you both feel slightly uncomfortable. Try not to let your mood or how you are feeling show in your body language.

HAVE PATIENCE

It may take several attempts before someone is ready to open up. Effective listening is about showing compassion and creating trust, and patience is key. They shouldn't feel rushed or they won't feel it's a safe environment. If they've paused in their response, wait: they may not have finished speaking. It might take them some time to articulate what they're feeling. Don't interrupt or cut in. If someone pauses, count to five in your head. This will help give them space to think and time to elaborate further if needed. It also shows you are thinking about what they are saying, which will give them the confidence they need to keep talking.



Try to avoid unhelpful phrases

- > Cheer up
- > You don't have anything to be sad/worried about.
- > Look at everything you have - you have so many reasons to be happy
- > You are so much better off than others/ It could be worse/ It's not the end of the world. Just get on with it
- > You are the only one who can change how you are feeling. You need to snap out of it and pull yourself together

DON'T SAY...

Don't tell someone how to feel. It can be hard to see someone you're about to lose interest in their life. But trying to get someone to focus on the positive can exacerbate feelings of guilt at not being able to enjoy the good things they have going for them. Someone suffering from poor mental health might already be struggling with this.

SAY IT BACK

Check you have understood, but don't interrupt or offer a solution. Repeating something back is a good way to reassure someone they have your undivided attention.

HAVE COURAGE

Do not be put off by a negative response and don't be afraid of any silences. You do not have to fill the gaps in your conversation. Sometimes it can feel intrusive or counter-intuitive to ask someone how they feel.



USE OPEN QUESTIONS

Opening up about a problem can be difficult. Someone might start by telling you about a smaller, separate issue they may have been having, or talk about what they're going through, but initially downplay how they're really feeling. Often people do want to talk, but will wait until someone asks how they are. Questions that invite someone to elaborate rather than just giving a "yes" or "no" answer are the most useful. Try asking them: "How are you feeling today?", and then following with, "Tell me more about that". Inviting them to elaborate or asking questions that cannot be answered monosyllabically will give them

the chance to tell you more. These questions don't impose a viewpoint or imply any judgment. Ask: "When did you realise you felt this way?" or "What do you think is making you feel this way?" and "How did that feel?" Be careful with "why" questions, as they can sometimes suggest judgement and make people feel awkward or defensive.



READ THIS BOOK
How to Listen: Tools for opening up conversations when it matters most
by KATIE COLUMBUS and SAMARITANS

Quiz

Animals in 'Venice'

SURYAKUMARI DENNISON, teacher, Aavishkar Academy, Bengaluru

Animals, wild and domestic, abound in Shakespeare's 'The Merchant of Venice'. The answer to each of these questions is a four-footed creature that is mentioned in the play. Choose correctly from the options

1 What does Jessica acquire in exchange for her father's ring?

- A. Koala B. Monkey C. Pony D. Rabbit

2 Which of these, besides a lion, does the Prince of Morocco claim not to fear?

- A. Bear B. Leopard C. Panther D. Tiger

3 What is Old Gobbo's Dobbins?

- A. Ass B. Cow C. Horse D. Sheep

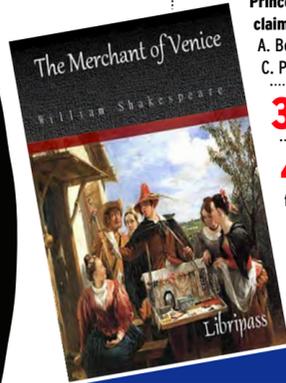
4 Which of these, according to Antonio, makes "the ewe bleat for the lamb"?

- A. Fox B. Hyena C. Jaguar D. Wolf

5 What, according to Shylock, makes some people 'mad' when they see it?

- A. Cat B. Dog C. Goat D. Pig

ANSWERS: 1) B. Monkey 2) A. Bear 3) C. Horse 4) D. Wolf 5) A. Cat



Pets Corner

SIBLING RIVALRY BETWEEN YOUR FURRY FRIENDS?



Just like humans, sibling rivalry is common in pets too! Dogs and cats often fight over food or attention from pet parents, but in some cases these brawls can turn bloody or lead to one pet getting bullied. So, how can one ensure their pets get along? Vet Harshita Sahu explains that it all boils down to the basics, such as introducing your dogs and cats properly from the beginning, and ensuring each of their needs (i.e. attention, space, food, playtime, litter boxes or toys) are adequately attended to, so they don't get competitive or jealous.

WHAT CAUSES RIVALRY

- > Not introducing pets the right way
- > When the needs of the pets are not fulfilled

- Vet Pragyesh Agarwal

HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT FIGHTS?

- ★ Introduce your pets properly
- ★ Identify and eliminate the reasons for their fights
- ★ Make sure there is enough space and food for your pets
- ★ Praise and punish them based on their behaviour
- ★ After a fight, reintroduce dogs with muzzles on, and engage furry siblings through activities they both enjoy

Stay Healthy

Powerful reasons to eat Brussel sprouts



- 1 They are high in vitamin C, which helps boost your immune system.
- 2 Brussels sprouts contain vitamin K, which is essential for blood clotting.
- 3 Sprouts are high in fibre, which can help bulk up the stool, promote healthy digestion and reduce constipation.
- 4 They are full of essential minerals such as potassium, manganese and copper.

- DAILY MIRROR

Activities BOX



QUIZ TIME (GENERAL KNOWLEDGE)

Q.1) Which of the following is not a member of the vitamin B complex?

- A. Thiamine B. Riboflavin C. Folic acid D. Ascorbic acid

Q.2) Who is the first cricket captain to win all ICC tournaments?

- A. Ricky Ponting B. Adam Gilchrist C. MS Dhoni D. AB de Villiers

Q.3) Which blood vessels have the smallest diameter?

- A. Capillaries B. Arterioles C. Venules D. Lymphatic

ANSWERS

1. D) Ascorbic acid 2. C) MS Dhoni 3. A) Capillaries 4. C) International Civil Aviation Organisation 5. A) Sohrab Modi

EXPLORE YOUR CREATIVITY

Develop a story based on the pictures in around 250 words. Send your entry along with your name, class, school and picture at toinie175@gmail.com



KNOWLEDGE BANK (LIZARD)

FLYING LIZARD: Draco, also known as flying dragons or gliding lizards, is a genus of agamid lizards. They can glide with the help of their ribs and connecting membrane that can be extended to create wings. They also flatten their hind limbs and a flap near the neck acts as stabilisers. These lizards are found in South Asia - common in forests, areca gardens, teak plantations and shrub jungles. The only time a female flying lizard ventures to the ground is when she is ready to lay her eggs.

