



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021



Kids can spread, carry emerging Covid-19 variants: Study



Infants, children and adolescents are equally capable of carrying high levels of life and replicating SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19, in their respiratory secretions, researchers have confirmed in a new study, emphasising that kids are an essential component of beating the pandemic. According to the study, high levels of virus correspond with the live, infectious virus, and that levels are highest early in the illness in both symptomatic and asymptomatic children.

As Covid-19 variants continue to emerge, infected children are potential "reservoirs" for the evolution of new variants as well as potential spreaders of current variants, they said

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TOP 3 BUZZ OF THE DAY

EDUCATION

ISCE Board postpones first term exam for classes X, XII



The Council for Indian School Certificate Examination (CISCE) on Tuesday postponed the first term exam for classes X and XII due to reasons "beyond" its control, according to officials. All stakeholders will be informed of a revised schedule in due course of time," board chief executive and secretary Gerry Arathoon said in an order.

The exams for the two classes were scheduled to begin from November 15

TECHAWAY

Facebook plans to change its name, says report

Social media giant Facebook Inc is planning to rebrand itself with a new name next week, the Verge reported on Tuesday, citing a source with direct knowledge of the matter. Facebook chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg plans to talk about the name change at the company's annual Connect conference on Oct 28, but it could be unveiled sooner, the Verge reported. In response, Facebook said, it does not comment on "rumour or speculation."

The news comes at a time when the company is facing increasing US government scrutiny over its business practices. Lawmakers from both parties have excoriated the company, illustrating the rising anger in Congress with Facebook. The rebranding would position Facebook's social media app as one of many products under a parent company, which will also oversee groups like Instagram, WhatsApp, Oculus and more, the Verge report added.

- It's not uncommon in Silicon Valley for companies to change their names, as they bid to expand their services
- Google established Alphabet Inc as a holding company in 2015 to expand beyond its search and advertising businesses, to oversee various other ventures ranging from its autonomous vehicle unit and health technology to providing internet services in remote areas

ECONOMY

IMF cuts Asia's growth forecast, warns of supply chain risks



The International Monetary Fund on Tuesday slashed this year's economic growth forecast for Asia and warned that a fresh wave of Covid-19 infections, supply chain disruptions and inflation pressures pose downside risks to the outlook.

- India is expected to expand 9.5% this year, while advanced economies like Australia, South Korea, New Zealand and Taiwan benefit from high-tech and commodity booms, the IMF said
- But ASEAN-5 countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand – still face "severe challenges" from a resurgent virus and weakness in service consumption, it said

Beware! Personal data of your mobile may be at risk

A smartphone spyware has put personal data of thousands of users at risk, like call records/recordings, text messages, photos, browsing history and precise geolocations, claim reports. According to TechCrunch, the personal data can be pulled from a person's phone because of a security issue in widely used consumer-grade stalkerware or spyware. "We can't name the spyware or its developer, since it would make it easier for bad actors to access the insecure data," the report claimed. It said that efforts were on to contact the spyware developer because the security and privacy of thousands of people are at risk until the issue is fixed.

The spyware security issue was discovered as part of a wider investigation into consumer-grade spyware

A recent report by cyber security firm Kaspersky claimed that nearly 4,627 mobile users in India were found to be the victim of stalkerware. In 2020, a total of 53,870 mobile users were affected globally by stalkerware. In 2019, Kaspersky discovered 67,500 affected mobile users

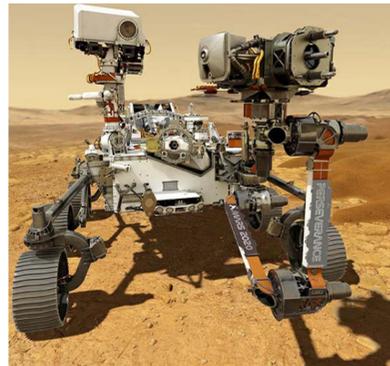
HOW IT WORKS

- Stalkerware apps are generally disguised under a fake app name with suspicious access to messages, call logs, location and other personal activity.
- Once downloaded, these apps were repurposed by people to spy on the smartphones of others

DID YOU KNOW?

NASA's Perseverance rover captures sounds on Mars

Two microphones aboard the six-wheeled Perseverance rover have captured nearly five hours of Martian wind gusts, rover wheels crunching over gravel, and motors whirring as the spacecraft moves its arm. These sounds allow scientists and engineers to experience the Red Planet in new ways, NASA said. "It's like you're really standing there," said Baptiste Chide, a planetary scientist, who studies data from the microphones at L'Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planetologie in France, in a statement. "Martian sounds have strong bass vibrations, so when you put on headphones, you can really feel it. I think microphones will be an important asset to future Mars and solar system science," he added.



- 1 NASA's Perseverance Mars rover carries two microphones, which are directly recording sounds on the Red Planet, including the Ingenuity helicopter and the rover itself at work
- 2 It is the first spacecraft to record the sound of the Red Planet using dedicated microphones – both of which were commercially available, off-the-shelf devices

MARVEL CALENDER SHUFFLE: 'DOCTOR STRANGE' TO RELEASE IN MAY 2022



Disney has delayed a number of its marquee superhero titles, including 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness' and 'Thor: Love and Thunder'. 'Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness', which will see Benedict Cumberbatch returning as the titular superhero, has been moved from March 25 to May 6, 2022.

- Chris Hemsworth's 'Thor: Love and Thunder', which was earlier set to open on May 6, 2022, will now release on July 8, 2022
- The release dates of three other Marvel Studios projects – 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever', 'The Marvels' and 'Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania' – have also been changed

Malala Yousafzai asks Afghan Taliban to reopen girl schools

Pakistani Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai has called on the Taliban leadership in Afghanistan to reopen secondary schools for girls with immediate effect. She put forward this demand in an open letter addressed to the new rulers of the war-torn nation. "To the Taliban authorities.. reverse the de facto ban on girls' education and reopen girls' secondary schools immediately," Yousafzai and other Afghan women rights activists wrote in the open letter.



- Her open letter comes after a month since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan. Since then, the Taliban leaders have maintained that they will be allowing girl education in the country
- However, the Taliban have allowed only boys education institutions to open and have ignored reopening of girls' schools

Celeb talk

How to fix your child's behaviour before it gets too late

There are many layers to a child's personality. While they are innocent and honest, they can develop traits that may be discomforting for parents. To control any misbehaviour before it becomes too problematic, here are some suggestions and tips

As a parent, one must learn to find a balance between the two extremes so as to make the child conscious of his or her actions and make them more responsible. For those parents, whose children are on the verge of having behavioural issues, depicting certain bouts of aggression and back-talking, here are some ways to fix your kid's behaviour before it gets too late.

Set ground rules early on

As and when your child develops language and cognitive skills, start setting ground rules. Do not wait for them to grow up, instead introduce them to good values, proper routines and positive beliefs early on in life. This will stay with them until they grow up and will keep inappropriate and inconsiderate behaviours at bay.

Teach them the difference between right and wrong

Parents must also make sure to help their children differentiate between what's wrong and what's right. Given they're yet to experience a lot of things, your knowledge of the world can work wonders for them. Let them know when they're wrong and appreciate them for the good deeds they do. Help them make the right choices in life and do not chide them for the mistakes they make.

Make communication a two-way process

Do not be the parent, who only knows how to lecture. Rather, make yourself capable of listening to your child.



Do not always criticise your child, be rewarding too

Productive criticism is good. But if you keep counting your child's flaws and make them feel bad about it, they will refrain from opening up to you. They'll become rebellious in nature and will not listen to anything you say. If you want to

avoid such circumstances, rather than criticising your child for the mistakes they made, appreciate them for the effort they put in. Reward them and make them feel special.

Nip instances of bad behaviour in the bud

If your child starts showing any signs of aggression or temper tantrum, do not wait for it to escalate. Make sure you take action and if it continues, follow through with consequences. Let them know that they won't get away with bad behaviour.

Be a good role model

Most importantly, parents should set great examples. If you lie, show aggression, dismiss people, look down upon people, your child will do the same. Arrogance is not something someone is born with, rather it develops due to surrounding factors.

If your child starts showing any signs of aggression, do not wait for it to escalate. Take action, and if it continues, follow through with consequences. Let them know they can't get away with bad behaviour

When it comes to parenting, communication should be a two-way process. Just like you expect your child to listen to you, you must learn to give your child an ear. Make their concerns yours and help them find a solution to their problems. This way, not only will they place their trust in you, but will believe in your decisions.

DECOR DO'S

Creative ideas on how to style your corner

We all have that one corner in our home that looks dull compared to other parts of the house. It's not uncommon to forget to design the corner decor but it's never too late to put some pretty decor in the nooks to make it more liveable and lively. Interior decor expert Rachna Agarwal has some interesting tips to transform your mundane corner into a chic, new space



PROVIDE A BIOPHILIC TOUCH

A hint of verdant energises a dull nook and makes one feel closer to nature. Add some subtle touches like stone tiling or even water features to create the feel of an outdoor spot. Opt for tall plants with large sprigs of green or multiple smaller ones on the shelves. Arranging plants at varying heights add dimension to the display.

MESSAGE CORNER

Miss messages or forgetting chores? Set up a small message corner with a chalkboard or regular board for sticky notes. Bring in drawers for necessities like pens, paper, scissors and other accessories.

Tip: A vintage telephone lends character to the decor.



SET UP STORAGE

Think squeezing storage into a super-small corner seems impossible? A tiny vanity, cabinet, or console punctuates a boring nook with oodles of colour and enhances functionality.

Tip: Layer it with a wall mirror to create a vignette.



CONVERT IT INTO A WORKSTATION

Bring in a sleek floating or folding desk to convert an empty corner into a functional zone. If space permits, go for a mid-century or classic desk that evokes a sense of calm and imbues elegance. Complete the look with a table lamp or pendant light for illumination.

Tip: Squeeze in a petite chair to accentuate the functionality of your workstation.



BUILD A WINDOW NOOK

A custom window nook not only offers extra seating, it also gives more dimension to awkward corners. Window nooks serve as a great spot to dine with friends or cuddle up with a book. The light streaming in also induces a happy mood to brighten the ambience of your home.

Tip: Throw in some colourful and quirky cushions or curtains for a warm and inviting vibe.

REVELATION

Heard of Intuitive Eating?



The term 'intuitive eating' was coined in 1995 and it's all about promoting a healthy attitude toward one's body and food. The idea is to focus on natural cues, rather than denying oneself through dieting. Here's how you can work against the diet culture to reset your body's eating clock.

Chronic dieters know that they will gain the weight back. Instead, listen more to the cues of hunger. Intuitive eating shows you the path to

heal your relationship with food. It encourages tapping into your inner wisdom of what your body needs. It also leads to acceptance of your ancestral form of eating. It values fullness over starvation and nudges you to respect your body.

How do we find a common ground between intuitive eating and weight loss? Ask the right questions, such as: "How many kgs did I lose this month?" versus "Am I feeling strong and healthy everyday?" **IMS**



The coldest place: ANTARCTICA

Known for being the coldest continent on Earth, Antarctica is the real winner when it comes to tackling extreme weather conditions. The Eastern Antarctic Plateau holds the title of coldest place on Earth, where between 2004 and 2016, satellite data suggest that air temperatures went around -94°C.



The wettest place: Mawsynram, India

If you go by records, this quaint village receives nearly 500 inches of rainfall per year, thereby making it the wettest place on the planet. When the moist monsoon winds from the Bay of Bengal hit the mountains around Mawsynram, it becomes the best place to witness the fury of rain.

The lowest point on dry land: Dead Sea

The Dead Sea's shoreline is shared with Jordan, Israel and Palestine, which is known for being the lowest piece of dry land on the planet. The sea is also very rich in minerals.



The driest place: Atacama Desert, Chile

Visiting the world's driest place is not usually a traveller's dream, but the Atacama Desert could be an exception. Though it's the driest and highest non-polar desert on Earth, it is truly a magical place to explore the vast starry night sky, and the geothermal landscapes. You will easily find sources there to take you to desert adventures too.



The hottest place: Death Valley, California

Since temperatures are not consistently recorded in many inhospitable places across the world, there's debate regarding the spot recording the highest temperature. But, Furnace Creek in Death Valley, California, records temperature up to 134 degrees Fahrenheit (57 degrees Celsius), the highest.