



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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► Five surprising picks at the IPL 2021 player auction
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STUDENT EDITION

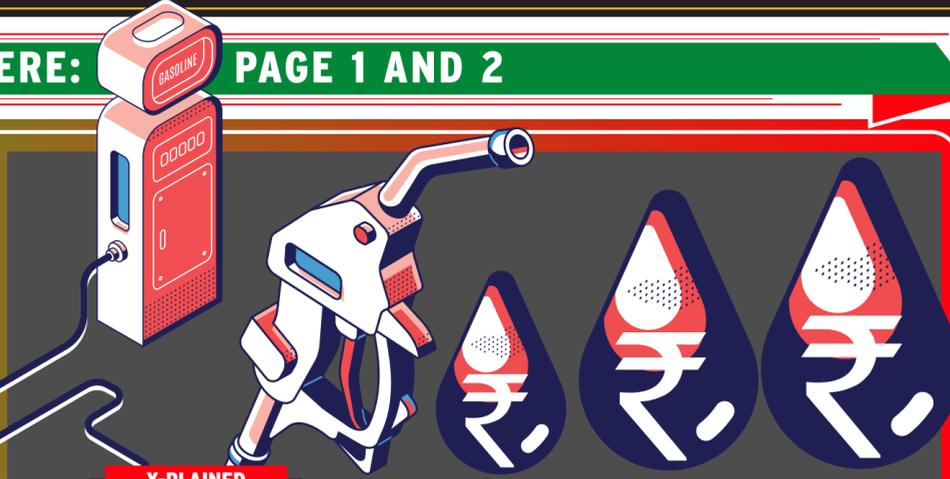
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021



WEB EDITION

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WHY FUEL IS ON FIRE?



X-PLAINED

WHAT: Petrol (regular) prices breached the ₹100 psychological barrier, a first for India, in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar and in Madhya Pradesh recently. The premium variants of petrol, on the other hand, had already crossed ₹ 100 at some places in Maharashtra, MP and Rajasthan a couple of days ago. Diesel is also retailing at all-time highs.

WHY FUEL PRICES ARE RISING IN INDIA: According to experts, high taxes levied on fuel, coupled with the rise in international oil prices, following Saudi Arabia's decision for additional voluntary output cuts of one million barrels per day under a deal between the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies, OPEC+, are

the key reasons for the latest round of petrol and diesel price hike in the country. Being the third-largest importer of oil in the world, the recent firming of international crude oil prices have severely impacted India, where citizens are paying extremely high rates for fuel in comparison to the neighbouring countries. As of today, the Brent Crude oil rate stands at \$63.21 per barrel. The high rate of central and state taxes are also responsible for the hike. The government impose a tax on the base price of fuel. In other words, when prices are on fire, it's the excise tax levied by the Central and the state governments that is to blame. Under this head, in the last three years, a whopping ₹ 14 lakh crore has been mopped up by the Centre and states combined.

HOW INCREASED FUEL PRICE WILL AFFECT YOUR LIFE

- 1 People, who use public transport for commutation will be severely-impacted. In fact, the public transportation sector is already mulling a hike in view of the rising operational costs
- 2 Since most of the products and goods that people use on a daily basis are transported from different parts of the country, their costs are likely to rise further. In other words, from the food you order to the vegetables and fruits you buy, everything is likely to get costlier
- 3 Similarly, companies engaged in the logistics and transportation of goods, are also expected to increase their service rates soon due to the fuel
- 4 price hike. The demand for increasing product delivery rates has already put the consumer-oriented companies in a tough spot. According to a report in Economic Times, the transporters and freighters are seeking a 10-15 per cent increase in freight costs
- 5 Moreover, if fuel prices continue to hike, especially diesel, it will lead to a rise in inflation, warn economists. Although inflation has softened over the past few months, higher fuel costs could again stoke inflation

VIEWPOINT



CSR SHOULD NOT BE LEGALLY-MANDATED, PHILANTHROPY MUST COME FROM WITHIN: PREMJI

IT czar and philanthropist Azim Premji has said that companies should not be legally-mandated to engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR), as such contributions to society need to "come from within". He added that it is important that individual and personal philanthropy is separated from a company's CSR efforts.

As of now, there's law on CSR and all companies must follow it

► Premji, who donated ₹ 7,904 crore in donations last year (₹ 22 crore a day), also highlighted that the Covid-19 crisis was a "wake up call" to look at fundamental issues like the need to improve public systems, health, and changing the structure of the society to become more equal and just

► Premji noted that the pandemic has had a very unequal impact, with the disadvantaged having suffered "exponentially more" and inequality widening significantly, while advising entrepreneurs to start on the path of philanthropy early. He said, "Start right away, even if you start small. Try to help build institutions and support programmes"

► Addressing the startups, he said, we must have a strong set of civil society institutions so that entrepreneurs can contribute without any kind of pressure, adding, "Your experience in business has eminently qualified you to build scale; this is an integral part of nation building."

Q Do you agree with Premji?
Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com You can also post your comments at toistudent.com

DUAL DEGREE FROM INDIAN, FOREIGN INSTITUTES SOON

It's official. Now, Indian students will be able to earn a dual degree conferred by both the Indian and foreign higher education institutions, separately and simultaneously. Students will also get the benefit of credit transfer and joint degrees offered under academic collaborations between the Indian and foreign higher education institutions. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has finalised the draft regulations for these programmes, which will be notified soon.



► According to the draft, the UGC Academic Collaboration between the Indian and Foreign Higher Education Institutions to offer Joint Degree, Dual Degree and Twinning Programmes Regulations, 2021, "any degree or diploma awarded, based on these collaborations shall be equivalent to any corresponding degree or diploma awarded by the Indian higher education institution; there shall be no further requirement of seeking equivalence from any authority"

► As per the regulations, the higher education institutions of India can collaborate with the foreign counterparts for credit recognition and transfer and twinning arrangement for degrees

► However, the regulations won't apply to online and distance-learning programmes

WHATSAPP TO MOVE AHEAD WITH PRIVACY POLICY UPDATE DESPITE BACKLASH



Facebook Inc's WhatsApp has said that it will go ahead with its controversial privacy policy update but will allow the users to read it at "their own pace", and will also display a banner providing additional information. In January, the messaging platform informed the users that it was preparing a new privacy policy, under which it could share limited user data with Facebook and its group firms. In its latest blog, WhatsApp said, it will start reminding the users to review and accept updates to keep using the messaging platform.

► In Jan, the messaging platform informed the users that it was preparing a new privacy policy, under which it could share limited user data with Facebook and its group firms ► It sparked a global outcry and sent the users to rival apps Telegram and Signal, among others, prompting WhatsApp to delay the new policy launch to May, and to clarify that the update was focused on allowing users to message with businesses and would not affect personal conversations.

MOVIES



EDGAR WRIGHT TO HELM BIG SCREEN ADAPTATION OF STEPHEN KING'S 'THE RUNNING MAN'

Academy Award-winning film director Edgar Wright is set to helm an adaptation of American author Stephen King's popular novel 'The Running Man' for Paramount Pictures. King had published the dystopian thriller novel in 1982 under the pseudonym Richard Bachman. According to Variety, Michael Bacall has penned the script from a story he co-wrote with Wright.

► Set in the year 2025 in the US, the story follows protagonist Ben Richards, as he participates in the game show 'The Running Man', in which the contestants, allowed to go anywhere in the world, are chased by 'Hunters' employed to kill them

► The book was loosely-adapted into a 1987 film that was directed by Paul Michael Glaser and starred actor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The upcoming version is expected to stay more faithful to the source material. The cast of the forthcoming film has not been decided yet

► Wright's latest movie, the psychological thriller, 'Last Night in Soho,' features Anya-Taylor Joy, Thomasin McKenzie and Matt Smith

► It is scheduled to debut later this year

MEET HARRISON 'SOLO', THE YOUNGEST FEMALE ATLANTIC SAILOR

Jasmine Harrison, a 21-year-old part-time swimming teacher from North Yorkshire, England, became the youngest female to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean, when she docked in Antigua on Saturday, after covering a distance of 4,828 km from La Gomera in the Canary Islands, Spain, in a span of 70 days, 3 hours and 48 minutes. In the process, Harrison, who survived a "near collision with a drilling ship" as also two capsize, including one just two days before her trip ended, also broke the record for the fastest solo female crossing any ocean, and helped raise £10,000 in charity for the Blue Marine Foundation, which fights overfishing and Shelter-Box and provides relief to the people impacted by natural disasters.



The previous record for the youngest solo female crossing the Atlantic Ocean was held by US' Katie Spatz, who was 22, when she rowed across the ocean from January 3 to March 14, 2010, while the youngest-ever solo rower across the Atlantic Ocean remains Lukas Haitzmann, who was 18, when he completed the trip in 2019

Spotlight

NILA MADHAB'S 'KALIRA ATITA' IN OSCARS RACE

Internationally-acclaimed filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda's first Odia film 'Kalira Atita' has made its entry into the Oscars race. The film that's based on climate change and rising sea level, is in the race in the general entry category.



As an entry into the 93rd Oscar awards race in the general entry category, it would compete for the best picture, best actor, best director, and many other categories. 'Kalira Atita' (Yesterday's Past) was earlier screened in the prestigious International Film Festival of India (IFFI)-2020 last month.

The movie is about the disappearing of the villages in Odisha due to climate change, global warming and resultant sea level rise

FACTOID

41.7 MN TON

The amount of human waste, which is sanitised by nature every year before the liquid enters the groundwater – a service worth about \$4.4 billion per year, according to a new study. The study estimates that more than 2 million cubic metres of the cities' human waste are processed each year without engineered infrastructure. This includes pit latrine waste that gradually filters through the soil – a natural process that cleans it before it reaches the groundwater

LEARNING PHYSICS WITH TOONS!

FOR UNDERSTANDING KEY SCIENTIFIC LAWS, BRING THE CARTOONS TO THE CLASS

PHYSICS

Physics can be made interesting by adding excerpts from popular comedy Tom and Jerry and other cartoon serials. There are several potential and kinetic energies put into use as Tom chases Jerry and Jerry uses several tricks to escape his dragnet. In some of the episodes, application of gravitation and potential energy can be widely seen.

It can be more fun if the law of anti-gravity goes against gravitational law when Tom and Jerry continue to walk in the sky until they realise that there is no base beneath their legs, and then begin to fall down.

Similarly, in The Road Runner show, which is an American animated anthology series and is compiled theatrical by Wile E Coyote, Wile E Coyote continuously attempts to harm Road Runner. In one of the episodes, he tries to kill him by dropping a huge boulder from the cliff. He keeps the boulder ready on the cliff and waits for Road Runner to arrive so that he can release the stone. But to his surprise, it falls on him rather than on Road Runner. This gives a clear picture to the students about the "Centre of Mass" and its importance.

Mickey Mouse is another show dedicated to children which involves lot of physics. For instance, Mickey Mouse while riding a bike, collides with a car coming from the opposite direction. After the collision, they freeze for a second or two, which explains law of "conservation of momentum". In another instance, Mickey tries to pedal vertically upwards on a mountain, in an attempt to go fast, his bicycle slows down. This is due to the pull of gravity.

In similar such scenes, Wile E Coyote uses a human cannon ball to attack the road runner. As he ignites it, instead of releasing him into the air, the canon itself shoots backward in direction and Coyote falls down in the same spot. This clearly explains "Momentum".

Instead of using traditional textbook examples, educators need to bring out examples which children will remember for a long time. Using examples from children's present experiences, the class can be made more interesting and effective.

Burra Saibabu, HOD Science, KCP Siddhartha Adarsh Residential School, Kanuru, Vijayawada

DO NOT PILE UP WORK: REVISE & RELAX

■ Please, Please, Please, don't pile your work. As and when the teacher revises a topic, study it thoroughly that same day. This way you will complete the portion on time.

■ Write notes or draw flowcharts, timelines for history to make learning and revising fun and easy.

■ Choose a time for your daily studies and stick with it. Don't change your study time every day.

■ Change the plan weekly so that you can re-schedule according to your different needs and requirements.

■ Indulge in a hobby that you can practice during the study breaks as doing it makes you more energetic and can also help you concentrate.

■ Decide your study time according to your grasping power and attention span. Don't do blindly



what the other person is doing. You are the best person to know your own requirements.

De-stress and keep distractions at bay:

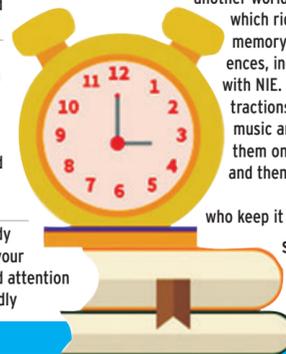
As studying requires focus and energy, I try to keep my stress levels at bay by practising some activities I like.

I don't exceed my study time, and then listen to some music as it lifts my mood. I also practice dance during my breaks. This relaxes me.

I read books online and also write stories. It temporarily transports me into another world. Finally, I do some art

which right now is preparing a memory book for my experiences, including the fun time with NIE. I try to avoid my distractions which mainly are music and books. So, I use them only for a limited time and then I give my gadgets to my parents or sister who keep it away from me.

S M V Karesmaa,
class X student, Ryan
International School
Kharghar, Mumbai



WRITE TO REVISE

GET A GRIP ON MATH CONCEPTS

● **FOCUS ON CONCEPTS:** As the question paper pattern has changed, more emphasis has been given to application-based questions. Students must focus on strengthening the concepts to be better prepared for these types of questions.

● **ANALYSE SAMPLE PAPER:** Thoroughly analyse the sample question paper published by CBSE. It helps the students get familiar with new entries like 'case study' based questions. It will help the students to realise that those questions are actually known to them, but just asked in a new format and thus helps in reducing the fear around them.

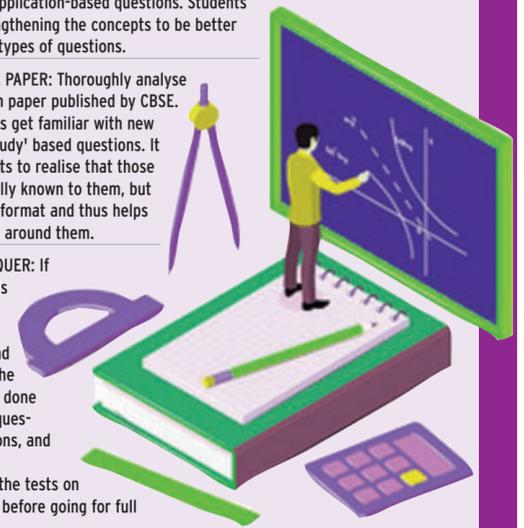
● **DIVIDE AND CONQUER:** If the whole syllabus is too much to cope, break it in sections of easy, average, and difficult chapters. The division can also be done as formulas, short questions, direct questions, and HOTS questions.

Students can solve the tests on these sections first before going for full course paper.

● **WRITE, CHECK, WRITE:** In mathematics paper, most of the mistakes can be attributed to the lack of writing practice. Once the concepts are understood, solve as many questions as possible by writing, not just by reading.

● **TIME YOURSELF AS YOU PRACTICE:** Even while practicing a chapter or solving few sums, students must keep a check on the time they take according to probable weightage of the sum in question paper. This practice helps a lot in time management during exam.

Ankita Parik, PGT [math], Udgam School for Children, Ahmedabad



PUTTING COMMERCE INTO PRACTICE

This academic year I started teaching the chapters through online applications. It is so user-friendly that I am planning to take the remedial lectures for academically weak students through the same as final exams are nearing. I have also planned innovative revisions, chapter-wise.

I teach OCM & SP (Organisational Change Management and Secretarial Practice) in a practical way. For instance, in the second chapter in OCM which is 'Functions of Management,' after the explanation I gave

students a task where they performed all the functions of management i.e. from planning to reporting. Another chapter in my subject is 'Consumer Protection' where I asked my students to do primary research and find out how many people are aware of consumer forums. The students analysed and carried out a thorough research before giving their presentations.

In Secretarial Practice (SP) we have various investment options like shares, debentures, bullion market, mutual funds, SIPs etc. After the explanation of each investment option, I transfigured my students into investment bankers (mock) where they

displayed their products (i.e. shares, debentures) etc. and made the audience buy them (dummy investment).

One more chapter in OCM is about the service sector which is helpful for business. Here I created a bank with the help of my students wherein they carried out all the banking activities with the parents, other students and teachers' participation as customers.

Sujatha Vojhala,
Teacher, Guardian Jr. College,
Dombivli, Mumbai



Q1. A place where an organism or group of organisms live and obtain food, air, water, shelter or space, or light needed to survive is called _____.

- a. habitat b. metamorphosis
c. adaptation d. locomotion

Q2. A colour or pattern that allows an animal to blend into its environment is called _____.

- a. Migration
b. behavioral adaptation
c. metamorphosis
d. camouflage

Q3. Sharks are great swimmers because they have adapted _____ to help them swim.

- a. fins b. gills
c. teeth d. tail

Q4. Porcupines' main line of defense comes from their sharp _____.

- a. teeth b. quills
c. claws d. skin

All about Adaptation

Q5. Giraffes are able to eat acacia leaves because of their _____ neck.

- a. long b. short
c. thin d. thick

Q6. Skunks protect themselves using _____ defense mechanism.

- a. teeth b. speed
c. scent d. claws

Q7. Which kind of plant is best adapted for life in the tropical rainforest?

- a. Strangler Figs
b. epiphyte
c. pitcher plant
d. all of the above

Q8. Arnav observed a plant and noticed the following characteristics:

- (i) It has lots of branches and Leaves
(ii) It can withstand summer heat
(iii) It sheds its leaves in the autumn
Can you help him identify what kind of plant it is?

- a. It is a plant that grows in plains.
b. It is a plant of hilly areas.
c. It is a plant that lives under water.
d. It is a plant that grows in marshy areas.

Q9. Which of the following statements is FALSE regarding hilly trees like the Pine?

- a. they do not have flowers
b. they are dome shaped.
c. they are conifers
d. their leaves are needle-shaped

Q10. Hydrilla and tape grass plants are
a. fixed plants b. floating plant
c. submerged aquatic plant
d. both a and b

Nimisha Gaur, teacher,
Silver Oaks International School,
Sarjapur, Bengaluru

ANSWER KEY

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. (a) habitat | above |
| 2. (d) camouflage | 8. (a) It is a plant that grows in plains. |
| 3. (a) fins | 9. (b) they are dome shaped. |
| 4. (b) quills | 10. (c) submerged aquatic plant |
| 5. (a) long | |
| 6. (c) scent | |
| 7. (d) all of the | |