



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

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STUDENT EDITION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021



WEB EDITION

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## TIMES NIE Answers Your Query

**Ashrit Badagala**, class V, Birla Open Minds Int'l School, Kollur, Hyderabad



### A SHOT OF HOPE

To ask queries regarding Covid-19 and Vaccination from our experts, scan the QR Code or visit <https://bit.ly/331Rx0n>



### What is the best diet for children now?

Good nutrition is crucial during Covid. The ideal plan is to follow the WHO-recommended balanced diet with adequate amounts of carbs, protein and fat. The regular Indian meal usually fulfills this. Drink plenty of fluids.

#### Expert advice given by

Dr Bimal Prasad Padhy, Consultant Neurologist, Care Hospital, Nampally, Hyderabad



**Raghuvir Prakash**, class VII, DPS, RK Puram, New Delhi



### How can we kick negative thoughts away?

When negative thoughts overwhelm you, a therapist practises cognitive behavioural therapy. So, if you are to describe an event that has led to a stream of negative thoughts, evaluate the thought in an objective way and figure out if it is valid, appropriate and healthy. If not serving any purpose, then find alternative solutions that serves a purpose.

**Manas Kapur**, class IX, Sri Venkateshwar International School, New Delhi



### How to deal with loneliness amid Covid?

There are two ways of looking at it—one is acceptance and the other, resigned acceptance. Acceptance is a defence mechanism, where you resolve conflicts in a healthy way. However, resigned acceptance leads to a sense of defeat, lack of purpose. Try to accept reality.

#### Expert Advice Given By

Dr Sanjay Chugh, Senior Consultant Psychiatrist, New Delhi



## ALAN MOORE IS WORKING ON SHORT STORY COLLECTION, 5-VOLUME FANTASY SERIES



Alan Moore has many, many stories still to tell. The celebrated British author known for 'V for Vendetta' and 'Watchmen' among other works has a deal with Bloomsbury for the story collection 'Illuminations' and a five-volume fantasy series, 'Long London'. In a statement, Moore said, he was "bursting with fiction, bursting with prose", and thanked his publisher for its commitment to "expand the empire of the word."

- Moore's 'Illuminations', scheduled for fall 2022, takes in everything—from ghosts to the big bang theory
- 'Long London' follows a "sometimes-accessible shadow city that is beyond time," starting with London after World War II and "following the population of writers, criminals, artistes, and magicians through that familiar city and a version of London just beyond our knowledge," according to Bloomsbury
- The first volume of 'Long London' comes out in 2024

# Chinese rocket debris lands in Indian Ocean

The remnants of China's biggest rocket, the Long March 5B, landed in the Indian Ocean on Sunday, with most of its components destroyed upon its "uncontrolled re-entry" into the atmosphere, ending days of speculation over where the debris would hit. (It had blasted off from Hainan Island on April 29). The coordinates given by the Chinese state media put the point of impact in the ocean, west of the Maldives archipelago. The US Space command confirmed the re-entry over the Arabian Peninsula, but said, it was unknown if the debris impacted land or water.

**THE DANGER:** According to experts, when a rocket is launched, its discarded booster stages re-enter the atmosphere soon after the liftoff and harmlessly fall into the ocean—a standard practice. However, in this case, a 10-floor large vehicle of the rocket, weighing 18 metric tons, went into the orbit along with the section of the under-construction space station that it was carrying. It was travelling at

nearly 29,000 kmph. Few expected the debris to harm humans, courtesy its burning up in the atmosphere, as well as the fact that large parts of the Earth are covered by oceans, and massive land areas lie uninhabited. However, the incident has raised questions about the space technology that China is developing, and the probability of harm being caused to populated areas in the future.

#### IT HAPPENED BEFORE

**PRIOR INCIDENTS:** In July 1979, when the NASA space station Skylab was brought down, large chunks fell from orbit and landed in Australia. In March this year, a SpaceX rocket stage made an uncontrolled landing on a farm in Washington state in the US, but this happened due to a malfunction in the engine tasked to bring it down, and not by choice.



## KOHLI GETS FIRST DOSE OF COVID-19 VACCINE

India's captain Virat Kohli, senior pacer Ishant Sharma and Test specialist Cheteshwar Pujara on Monday received their first doses of Covid-19 vaccine. Kohli also urged others to get vaccinated "as soon as you can"

## Cutting methane emissions key to slowing warming: United Nations

Industry could cheaply and easily slash humanity's methane emissions by at least 30 per cent in a decade, the United Nations has said, adding that such cuts would slow global warming and prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths. Curbing emissions of methane from farming, fossil fuel operations and waste management is a crucial part of efforts to restrain runaway climate change. The powerful greenhouse gas, which is short-lived but many times more potent than carbon dioxide, also contributes to toxic air pollution, harming human health, plants and ecosystems.



Environment

Technical solutions, mostly in the fossil fuel and waste sectors, are "readily available" and can reduce humanity's methane emissions by more than 30 per cent this decade, the analysis found. Together, with other measures that are currently available, the reduction could be as much as 45 per cent, it said

CO2 is responsible for more than three-quarters of global warming. But methane also plays an important role

It has a warming potential 28 times greater than CO2 over a 100-year period and its concentration in the atmosphere has more than doubled since the Industrial Revolution. Over a 20-year period, it is more than 80 times potent



## Covid-appropriate behaviour, vaccination main shields against all mutants, future waves: Experts

With the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic ravaging the country and concerns being raised about a possible third wave, experts caution that the next wave could be less severe, if people keep following Covid-appropriate behaviour, and a large portion of the population is vaccinated.



Several experts believe that a casual approach that followed the trough of the first wave could be a possible reason for the pandemic raising its head again, though others are also putting the blame on the new mutants and variants of the virus being more virulent

■ K Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific

adviser to the government, had said last week that the third wave was inevitable and it was necessary to be prepared for new waves, but clarified two days later that the "insidious asymptomatic transmission" can be stopped, if prescribed guidelines about precautions, surveillance, containment, treatment and testing are followed



## Users not accepting privacy terms to face limited access: WhatsApp

WhatsApp will not delete any account for not accepting its new privacy update, but users not agreeing to the controversial terms after "several weeks" will not be able to access their chat list, and eventually, will not be able to answer incoming phone or video calls over the app. Last week, the Facebook-owned company had said, users not accepting its privacy policy update by its May 15 deadline will not face deletion or lose functionality of their accounts on the said date. WhatsApp, on its website, said it is continuing to remind those who haven't had the chance to review and accept the terms, and after a period of several weeks, "the reminder (that) people receive will eventually become persistent". It, however, did not divulge the timelines set for these reminders.



The messaging platform said, after a few weeks of limited functionality, users, who still won't accept the terms, "won't be able to receive incoming calls or notifications, and WhatsApp will stop sending messages and calls to your phone" WhatsApp said it won't

delete the users' accounts, if they haven't accepted the update but highlighted that its existing policy related to inactive users will apply WhatsApp accounts are generally deleted after 120 days of inactivity, wherein inactivity refers to users not connecting to the messaging platform

Raising concerns over the changes to WhatsApp's privacy policy, the Union ministry of electronics and IT had asked the messaging platform to withdraw the recent change, along with several industry groups raising the question over the data sharing of WhatsApp users with Facebook



**YOUNG  
ACHIEVER**

# From eco warriorship to MIT.

A teen gives workable solutions for the stubble burning crisis in the country, wins an award, and is all set to join a prestigious US-based research summer school. Know her story, views, innovations...

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What is it like being selected for the most prestigious summer school of recent times – the Research Science Institute (RSI)? Exhilaration, pride, overwhelming thoughts? 17-year-old Palak Jolly, student Head of Technology at The Shri Ram School, Gurgaon, and an IB Diploma year II student can answer this correctly. Because she is one of the 30 students selected from outside the United States to take part in six weeks of intense science and engineering research that will be conducted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



**PALAK JOLLY**, student Head of Technology at The Shri Ram School, Gurgaon

**Q How excited are you about attending RSI and when are you going to the US to join this program?**

A I am beyond enthralled to be attending RSI. The community is incredible, and the program has 80 of the world's most accomplished students: each one of my peers is brighter than the next and everyone stands out because of their unique talents and passions. This year, the program unfortunately can't be held in person because of the pandemic. Luckily, my chosen fields revolve around technology so there won't be a compromise on the research experience. As a group, however, we are planning to meet during the program in an informal set-

ting (with adequate Covid precautions) to get to know each other better and not be at a disadvantage with regards to the social experience. The RSI also matches students to mentors who are on top of their game – I will soon be matched with one. And to prepare for the program, I'll get in touch with them early to catch up on their current research work in the field, such as by reviewing their publications, and start developing ideas for my own project.

**Q Your socio-environmental business model, The Stubble Solution (TSS), was the national winner in 2020 at the Global Education and Leadership Foundation (GELF)'s**



**youth Company of the Year contest. Tell us about your model that aims to find a solution to the 'stubble burning' crisis in India?**

A Many people in India blame farmers for stubble burning, without realising the challenges faced by them. Whereas most solutions for stubble burning are focussed on disposing stubble, TSS works towards assisting farmers to profit out of stubble by selling it to various industries. We even have our own product range as a part of our efforts towards modifying stubble to increase its market value, instead of trying to get rid of it. We aim to build a marketing cooperative society of farmers, who will collaborate to make profit out of

stubble sales: all profits will be fairly redistributed among the farmer members.

**Q How did you decide on the topic of stubble burning and what are the solutions provided?**

A Stubble burning is truly a crisis – people often underestimate the sheer volume of the situation. According to the WHO, people staying in Delhi are living 4.6 years less because of the air pollution caused by stubble. During peak bad air days, we breathe in an equivalent of 50 cigarettes. The idea first entered my mind when I was travelling to Punjab, to my mother's hometown. I saw farmers

► Bioinformatics uses computer programs for a variety of applications, including determining gene and protein functions, establishing evolutionary relationships and predicting the three-dimensional shapes of proteins

burning acres and acres of stubble and felt curious – surely this material could be put to some use! We stopped on the way, and I brought back a sample to experiment with and joined hands with two of my best friends to collaborate. Today, our initiative has identified up to seven workable solutions, some of which are as follows:

- We can use stubble pulp for a variety of packaging materials and for making paper as well.
- We can also use the raw fibre itself in handicrafts – in fact, TSS has its own range of stubble rugs and home décor.
- There's even research in using it for plywood, furniture and coal – the possibilities are endless!

**Q You are a student of Bioinformatics and Machine Learning: how aware are students in India about this multidisciplinary approach? How did you become interested in it?**

A In India people are aware of AI (artificial intelligence) but not about where all this technology can be used in real ways. Biomedical informatics is one such consequential application, which can revolutionise healthcare and change the way we approach cures to diseases, saving hundreds of millions of lives. I think it is important that our country starts promoting interdisciplinary thinking and stops defining strict "streams".

I faced this dilemma – applied maths has always been my first love, so com-

puter science, engineering and logical problem solving was always something that came naturally to me. In eighth grade, I learnt about DNA and genetics. I was fascinated by how such a small, seemingly insignificant molecule hides such wonderful mysteries and dictates our entire lives. I didn't feel like giving up either computer science or biology, so I researched and found bioinformatics, and now I'm invested in it! This is what students need to do.

► The Research Science Institute (RSI) is an international summer research program for high school students, and is sponsored by the Centre for Excellence in Education and hosted by MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US

**How do you intend to use the summer school platform to contribute for research in bioinformatics?**

A Through this program, I will be working under some of the most influential scientists of these fields and will get the opportunity to network with brilliant researchers and peers. I have previously researched bioinformatics in immunology and epigenetics, so I would love to build on that more and more.

**FINGERNAIL  
HYGIENE  
IMPORTANT  
TO STOP  
INFECTION  
SPREAD**

One may envy or desire long, stylish nails but unless they are clean underneath, they can be the reason behind a range of bacterial diseases such as diarrhoea. Longer nails harbour more dirt and bacteria than short nails, thus possibly contributing to the spread of infection, says Rajesh U Pandya, Managing Director, KAI India.

"Fingernails should be kept short, and the undersides should be cleaned frequently to maintain nail hygiene. At the same time, it is important to keep a tab on how you clean the nails. Unless the means are safe, the process of cleaning hands can cause more damage than good," Pandya told IANSLife.

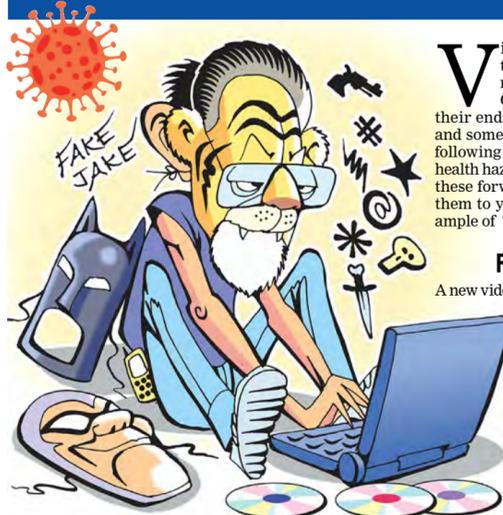
He further explains: wash your hands, including nails and underneath them, as many times as required with lukewarm water and soap. If you handle stronger dirt like grease, you may want to use a pair of gloves while working or use a specific cleaner for that specific type of dirt. Trimming nails



regularly helps you maintain healthy nails and reduces breakage too. How frequently you trim your nails will depend on how fast they grow.

Every time you wash hands, ensure you dry them completely. Moist hands may attract germs that proliferate in a damp environment and facilitate their spread. Before clipping nails, ensure that all equipment to be used, such as nail clippers and files, are properly cleaned and sanitised even if you are using them at home. Sterilising equipment before use is especially important when nail tools are shared among a number of people, as is common in commercial nail salons or beauty parlours. The process of sterilisation of nail grooming equipment should be done at home too.

## Beware of corona curing forwards on social media!



Videos and texts with information and cures for Covid-19 are continuing their endless rounds on social media and sometimes believing in them and following those tips can lead to serious health hazards. So, be careful and delete these forwards instead of forwarding them to your contacts. Check this example of 'fake news' versus 'reality'.

### FAKE NEWS

A new video doing the rounds called the 'Lemon Therapy' has quite a few takers. According to this therapy, putting 2-3 drops of lemon juice in your nose can eliminate the infection of coronavirus! The video claims that this therapy also purifies eyes, ears, nose and heart in just 5 seconds.

### REALITY

To check the authentic-

Students, if you find such videos in your social media, do not forward them and also discourage your family and friends from doing the same. Also, share tips on how we can together fight the menace of fake news on:

toiniel75@gmail.com

## Melody roads of Japan play music as you drive over them!

There are four roads in Japan that play melodious music when you drive over them – Hokkaido, Wakayama, Shizuoka and Gunma regions of Japan – and all play different tunes. Here's more about these off-beat singing roads:

► Japanese locals call them 'Melody Roads' as these musical paths play music for drivers. Stretching between 175 m to 250 m, these roads are carved with thousands of grooves that make music when you drive across.

► These grooves are cut at specific intervals, and driving over them at a particular speed creates soothing music. This also works as a speeding alert sign.

Besides road signs, all the roads are marked by musical notes that are painted on the surface of the road. These signs alert motorists of the incoming musical tune. Since these grooves are set on the side of the road and not in the middle, drivers have the option to either go over them or avoid them.

► To listen to the musical notes, motorists need to keep the car windows closed and drive at 28 m/hr, keeping one wheel of the vehicle over the grooves. If you drive too fast over it, the sound will come out as a tape on fast forward but if you go slow or too slow, there will be melodious music.

