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STUDENT EDITION
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WEB EDITION

FIGHT AGAINST POLLUTION



DISPOSABLE FACE MASKS PLAY SPOILSPORT

Disposable masks are the 'latest menace' in the fight against plastic pollution, Greenpeace has warned. Stating that the excessive misuse of single-use plastics, especially, the disposable masks and gloves, during this pandemic times have added more pollution to our already over polluted systems, the organisation has urged people to use reusable masks

Experts say a suitable cloth covering, which can be repeatedly washed and re-worn, is as effective as a disposable mask, to curb the saliva droplets that may contain the coronavirus

WHY DISPOSABLE MASKS ARE A THREAT TO OUR PLANET

HOW TO DISPOSE OFF MASKS AND GLOVES

- Put your disposable mask and hand gloves outside your house, preferably in a red bin (if available in your locality) that has been marked as 'hazardous waste'
- Keep your mask and gloves separately in a bin bag (not along with other waste material); discard it in a public bin
- Used masks can be kept in a paper bag for a minimum of 72 hours, prior to their disposal as general waste

(Inputs by Dr Puneet Bedi and Dr Nidhi Dhawan)



- Plastic poses a huge danger to our wildlife and nature, clogging up habitats and often entangling animals
- Waste from masks also reach the seas, where they degrade into microplastics, which can contaminate the environment and food chains, Greenpeace said
- Recently, microplastics and man-made fibres from disposable face masks were found in

- the guts of sharks, off the Cornish coast
- Synthetic cellulose, one of the fibres that was collected, is widely used to make clothes and disposable products, such as facemasks
- Widely available face masks feature a layer of non-woven bonded fabric, commonly made of polypropylene, which gives them a long afterlife, when they are discarded, and can end up in landfill or oceans

(Source: The Daily Mail)

BE THE CHANGE

Let's start a campaign on reusable masks. Please share slogans, posters, cartoons, paintings, videos of less than 2min, or anything that can drive this campaign at

toinie175@gmail.com/timesnie175@gmail.com.

The best entries will be published in Times NIE

Facebook builds solution to spot harmful behaviour of real people

Facebook has created a machine learning solution to train bots to realistically simulate the behaviour of real people on a social media platform, a move that will improve software testing for complex environments, particularly in product areas related to safety, security and privacy.

According to Mark Harman, a research scientist at FB's AI, people's behaviour evolves and adapts over time, it is different from one geographical location to the other, making it difficult to anticipate the ways an individual or a community might respond to even a small change in their environment. So, to overcome this problem, FB researchers have developed the Web-Enabled Simulation (WES).

TECH BUZZ

HOW IT WORKS

- In WES, bots are trained to interact with one another, using the same infrastructure as real users, so that they can send messages to other bots, comment on bots' posts, publish their own, or make friend requests to other bots.
- WES is able to automate interactions between thousands or even millions of bots
- WES deploys these bots on the platform's actual production code base
- The bots can interact with one another, but are isolated from the real users
- This real-infrastructure simulation ensures that the bots' actions are faithful to the effects that would be witnessed by real people using the platform

NEWS IN BRIEF

SCHOOL GIRLS DISCOVER EARTH-BOUND ASTEROID



Two teenage girls from Surat, Gujarat, have discovered an Earth-bound asteroid by poring through the images from a University of Hawaii telescope, an Indian space education institute said. The asteroid, presently near Mars, is expected to cross the Earth in about a million years' time, said SPACE India, a private institute, where the two 14-year-old girls received their training. The asteroid, currently called HLV2514, may be officially christened only after NASA confirms its orbit, SPACE India, said. "I look forward to... when we will get a chance to name the asteroid," said Vaidehi Vekariya, one of the girls who discovered the asteroid.

Asteroids and comets pose a potential threat to Earth; scientists discover thousands of them each year. In 2013, an asteroid heavier than the Eiffel Tower exploded over central Russia, leaving more than 1,000 people injured from its shockwave

DID YOU KNOW?

CHRISTOPHER NOLAN MOVIE 'TENET' TO OPEN IN 70 COUNTRIES

Director Christopher Nolan's thriller, 'Tenet', delayed several times by the coronavirus pandemic, will debut in cinemas in over 70 countries on August 26, AT&T Inc's Warner Bros movie studio said. The film will open in selected US cities.

'Tenet' is a science-fiction spy drama, starring John David Washington and Robert Pattinson from the British director of hits, like 'The Dark Knight Rises' and 'Inception'. Little has been revealed about the plot. The film had originally been scheduled to debut on July 17

ENTERTAINMENT



HEALTH

Eating foods with green tea extract may reduce norovirus risk

Adding green tea extract to prepared foods may lower the chances of catching the highly-contagious norovirus, say researchers. In a study, the research team revealed that adding green tea extract to a film-forming substance created a safe-to-eat barrier that killed norovirus.

Norovirus is a very contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhoea; people of all ages can get infected and sick with norovirus. It's transmitted from person to person, and through consumption of contaminated water and food



New gas signatures in Martian atmosphere found

European Space Agency's ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter, has spotted new gas signatures on Mars. According to scientists, the latest revelation will unlock new secrets about the Martian atmosphere, and will enable a more accurate determination of whether there is methane, a gas associated with biological or geological activity on the planet. The Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) has been studying the Red Planet for over two years.

SPACE

The spacecraft has now spotted never-seen-before signatures of ozone (O₃) and CO₂

The Martian atmosphere is dominated by CO₂, which scientists observe to gauge temperatures, track seasons, explore air circulation, and more. Ozone, which forms a layer in the upper atmosphere on both Mars and Earth, helps to keep the atmospheric chemistry stable. The TGO was able to reveal new details about how Ozone and CO₂ gases interact with light

HAPPY FRIENDSHIP DAY

THE ENDURING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP

On this friendship day, read books that celebrate our most precious bond

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FRIENDSHIPS THAT ARE OTHER-WORLDLY

JWALA KUMAR AND THE GIFT OF FIRE BY HANSDA SOWVENDRA SHEKHAR

Mohan Chander, a native of Champakbagh, a remote village, rescues a strange creature from a storm, and brings him home. Initially, he and his family are unable to figure out the strange creature, or what it eats, etc. However, soon they realise that this creature, who they name Jwala Kumar, has special powers. Jwala uses his powers to help his human family, but will he stay with them? The book offers an interesting take on extraordinary friendships, the magic and the love shared by Chander and his family with Jwala.



FRIENDSHIP WITH PETS

THE GOPI DIARIES: COMING HOME BY SUDHA MURTY

Ever wondered what dogs think about? To know, read the adventures of Gopi, the dog. Told in Gopi's voice (woof!) 'Coming Home' is about this lovable dog going to a new home, learning to settle with his new human family. How Gopi sees the world around him, and what he thinks of the people in his life, gives the story its unique flavour.



FRIENDSHIPS THAT OFFER A REALITY CHECK

A CLOUD CALLED BHURA: CLIMATE CHAMPIONS TO THE RESCUE BY BIJAL VACHHARAJANI AND ILLUSTRATED BY AINDRI C

Amni, Mithil, Tammy and Andrew wake up one day to find that a huge, and very angry, brown cloud has taken over the skies of Mumbai city. As the four friends start finding out more, the cloud, named Bhura Cloudus by the media, containing noxious gases, causes scalding rain to fall, makes birds flee the city and suffocates every living thing. Will they get rid of Bhura? The book is an inspiring story about the havoc climate change can cause to humanity, and the power of enduring friendships.



FRIENDSHIPS THAT BECOME INSPIRATIONS

KOKI'S SONG BY RUSKIN BOND

As a young lad, Bond had to travel to the UK to meet a publisher. On his return journey, the author met and struck a friendship with Koki, a 12-year-old girl aboard the ship, they were on. Hearing that he had no money for chocolates, Koki shared her chocolates with him. Bond would never see Koki again, but she turns up in his stories. In this book, the author takes us on a wonderful Koki, though she doesn't grow old. In 'Koki's Song', we meet Koki and Somi, who show us friendships are a thing of beauty.



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Originally founded by Hallmark in 1919, Friendship Day, was intended to be a day for people to celebrate their friendship by sending cards to one another. The day is, however, celebrated on different dates in different countries. The first World Friendship Day was proposed for July 30 in 1958 by the World Friendship Crusade. On April 27, 2011, the UN General Assembly declared July 30 as the official International Friendship Day. Some countries, including India, celebrate it on the first Sunday of August

Who's your Best Friend? Share your friendship stories with us at
toinie175@gmail.com/
timesnie175@gmail.com



