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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

Enforcing the BAN on CHINESE APPS

WHAT: The Centre has banned 59 Chinese apps, including TikTok, CamScanner and others, in retaliation to the border skirmish in Ladakh, which took place in June.
WHY: The government invoked its power under section 69A of the IT Act and rules to block access to any information sourced through any computer resource.

THE RULES

➤ Apps on gaming, education and infotainment don't need any local government body's permission for its launch. However, they are required to meet the guidelines of the play stores to place their apps. Some apps, like e-commerce or payment apps, need permission from the RBI, National Payments Corporation of India, and other authorities to start operations ➤ The present ban ordered by the govt will not only be applicable on the new downloads, but also on the already downloaded apps. Those who have already downloaded these apps will not be able to use them

HOW THE GOVT CAN ENFORCE THE BAN: The government needs the help of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to block data transmission, and app stores, to prevent fresh downloads and updates, to enforce the ban.

X-PLAINED

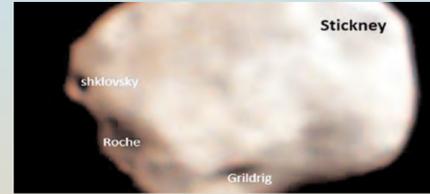


THE CHALLENGES

- While apps, like TikTok and UC News, which require a live feed, will become non-functional, apps that can be used offline may continue to be used, unless requiring an update.
- If an app is removed from the Google Play Store or an Apple App Store, these can't be downloaded. However, app stores can't do anything about the app already downloaded. Users can see old videos, even create new ones and share them, but won't get further upgrades and notifications on the app
- Also, it would require Google and Apple to remove these apps from their play stores, which could expose users to the unofficial versions of these apps

THE IMPACT: TikTok, the video sharing platform, which had over 100 million users in India, is the biggest loser. It brought content production to the grassroots of the subcontinent, and was the source of income for many social media 'influencers'

7 yrs after launch, Mars orbiter still active, captures image of Red planet's biggest moon



In another spatial breakthrough, the Mars colour camera on board the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has captured the image of Phobos, the closest and biggest moon of the Red planet. The space agency released the image that was taken on July 1, when the orbiter was about 7,200 km from Mars, and 4,200 km from Phobos. The photo generated is a composite image generated from six camera frames, and has been colour-corrected. Surprisingly, MOM is still active years after its launch on November 5, 2013.

Phobos is largely believed to be made up of carbonaceous chondrites

ISRO had successfully placed the ₹450-crore MOM in the Red planet's orbit on September 24, 2014, making India, the first Asian country to reach the Martian orbit, and the first nation in the world to do so on its maiden attempt

JEE (MAIN & ADVANCED), NEET EXAMS POSTPONED

The Joint Entrance Examination (main and advanced) and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (undergraduate) have been postponed to September 2020. A decision to this effect was taken on Friday



The computer-based multi-session, JEE (main) examinations will be held from September 1 to September 6, while the JEE (advanced) will be held on September 27, 2020. The pen-paper mode entrance for medical colleges, NEET-UG will be conducted on September 13, 2020

Around 9 lakh aspirants have registered for the JEE (main) exam, while 16 lakhs have registered for the NEET-UG exams. Raising concern over the worsening of the pandemic, candidates across the country has been demanding the postponement of the exams

The delay in the entrance exams will have a cascading effect on the new academic session. The new academic session for the first year students, as per present planning, is expected to commence from November

The IITs take around a month to complete its joint counselling process. It will take around a week to announce the results from the date of the exam, which is September 27. Therefore, the IITs are likely to start their 2020-21 session from the first week of December

ON SALE

Scientific breakthroughs of past century head to auction

The Nobel Prize Medal awarded to British Scientist Sir Robert Edwards in 2010 for the development of human in vitro fertilisation (IVF) therapy, estimated to sell for ₹500,000-800,000, is part of an online auction, highlighting the scientific and technological breakthroughs that have formed the modern world. Titled, 'Eureka!', the online auction by Christie's is open for bidding till July 16.

Photo: Getty Images



➤ From Thomas Edison's pioneering design for the lightbulb to Crick, and Watson's celebrated discovery of the structure of DNA, from a Second World War Enigma Machine to the invention of in vitro fertilisation, from Albert Einstein to Stephen Hawking, it offers slices of history as collectibles.

➤ Items from the late physicist, Stephen Hawking's estate are also on sale, including a rare Hawking portrait by Anton Corbijn, and a Simpsons figurine of him made by Playmates Toys. These rare items provide a remarkable insight into the cultural interests, personality and sense of fun of this extraordinary man, the auction house said.

➤ The sale also offers seven autographed and annotated design drawings by American inventor Thomas Edison for his lightbulb and related innovations. Each sketch testifies to Edison's continued work on the electric lamp throughout the 1880s, as well as offering an example of the related inventions that filled his design notebooks.

➤ 'Eureka!' will also feature a rare surviving Enigma Machine, a four-rotor used by the German Navy's U-boat fleet to send encrypted messages during the second World War.

NOW, SAVE CONTACTS ON WHATSAPP USING QR CODES

WhatsApp, the Facebook-owned messaging service, has announced new features that are expected to roll out over the next few weeks.

TECH BUZZ

- To make the lives of its users simpler, WhatsApp has announced new contact-saving QR Codes. This new update ensures that people can add their contacts to their phones with the use of QR codes
- The smartphone users can make their messaging even more effective with new Animated Stickers
- Stickers are one of the most-common way of communicating on WhatsApp, with billions of stickers sent every day
- With video-calling becoming the most pertinent way of communicating, WhatsApp has made improvements to group video calling feature. It has added a special feature that will allow the user to focus on whoever s/he wants just by letting him/her press and hold to maximise a participant's video to full screen
- The messaging platform also plans to roll out the Status feature that disappear after 24 hours, to KaiOS users



NEWS IN BRIEF

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SHILPA SHETTY CO-AUTHORS DIGITAL BOOK ON EMOTIONAL WELLNESS

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra has co-authored a digital book titled, "The Magic Immunity Pill: Lifestyle" with Luke Coutinho, a holistic lifestyle coach associated with integrative medicine. The book focusses on emotional wellness, quality sleep, balanced nutrition and adequate exercise to build a strong immune system.

BOOK



It's been such a rich and learning experience working on this book with Luke Coutinho. Today, when we are hit by this global health calamity, we are trying our best to stay healthy. For that, I believe it's prerequisite to have a really strong immune system. While all want it, many don't know or are apathetic towards achieving it. Hence this book is timely

SHILPA SHETTY, actress

KOALAS MAY BE EXTINCT IN AUSTRALIA'S NEW SOUTH WALES BY 2050

Koalas in the Australian state of New South Wales (NSW) could become extinct by 2050 unless the government immediately intervenes to protect them and their habitat, a parliamentary inquiry determined after a year-long inquiry.

ENVIRONMENT



- Land clearing for agriculture, urban development, mining and forestry had been the biggest factor in the fragmentation and loss of habitat for the animals in NSW, the country's most populous state, over several decades
- A prolonged, drought-fuelled bushfire season that ended early this year was also devastating for the animals, destroying their habitat across the state

FACTOID 53.6MN TONS

E-WASTE was dumped across the world last year, says The Global E-waste Monitor 2020 report. Just 17.4% was recycled. China, with 10.1 million tons, was the biggest contributor to e-waste and the United States was second, with 6.9 million tons. India, with 3.2 million tons, was third. Together, these three countries accounted for nearly 38% of the world's e-waste last year. Global warming is just one of the issues cited by the report as it noted that 98 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents were released into the atmosphere, as a result of inadequate recycling of "undocumented" refrigerators and air conditioners.

This year's coronavirus lockdowns have exacerbated the e-waste problem. People stuck at home are de-cluttering, and because of the lockdowns, there are few workers collecting and recycling the junk, the report added.

Vidya Balan-starrer, 'Shakuntala Devi' gets a release date

Shakuntala Devi, the math genius, which will be helmed by actress Vidya Balan, will premiere digitally on July 31. Ditching the traditional theatrical release, the film will premiere directly on the streaming platform, Amazon Prime. The streamer announced the release date of the film on Thursday through a fun video featuring Vidya. Taking a note from the storyline, Vidya reveals the release date first in a complex mathematical way, and then simplifies it to share the date.

ENTERTAINMENT

Written by Anu Menon, the film is based on the life of Shakuntala Devi, who is revered as the human computer, for her innate ability to make incredibly complex calculations within seconds



Eau de Space: This October, smell space on Earth

Sounds unreal? Well, not really. We can actually know how outer space smells like! Come October, Eau de Space, an outer space-scented

SPACE

fragrance, will be available commercially. Created by Steve Pearce, a chemist and the founder of Omega Ingredients, it is one-of-the-kind fragrance.



The scent of space is "independently verified by actual astronauts, down to earth". According to the makers, the smell of the space is like that of "seared steak, raspberries and rum"

World Environment Day celebrations

AIS pledges to Plant a Sapling Heal the World

Planting tree saplings is a wonderful social service and the students of Asian International School took a pledge to "heal the world" by planting trees on June 1. The event was a prelude to the World Environment Day celebration on June 5. Maintaining the ecological balance is the need of the hour. Of late the whole world is bearing the brunt of Covid-19. Adding to this are the various natural calamities India, herself is battling like the devastation caused by Cyclone Amphan, Uttarakhand forest fire, Shillong earthquake, etc. They cause huge destruction to the ecosystem which further affects the biodiversity.

Considering the main theme of World Environment Day 2020, Bio diversity (as declared by the United Nation Environment Programme) the students of Asian International School decided to compensate for the huge loss and retrieve the lost biodiversity. The students maintaining the norms of quarantine started this initiative with the motto "Break the chain of Corona, Make the chain of Trees". They maintained social distancing by planting trees in their own terrace,



balcony or garden thereby helping to curb the spread of Corona virus. The students not only planted a sapling but also gifted a sapling to another person, thus spreading the message of creating a chain of planting trees. The over enthusiastic students of classes V to VIII prepared videos, penned down their thoughts about the importance of tree plantation, and also displayed their imagination on the topic "Trees - Friend of our Planet" through beautiful paintings. The students had beautifully sown the seed of contributing to nature through tree plantation and preserve the biodiversity from future wreck.



Asian International School hosts Webinar on Biodiversity to inspire Genzee

For many years now, people have been destroying nature by acts of deforestation, dissipating resources and polluting the environment as a result of which we are now getting to face God's catastrophic wrath in the form of Covid-19. The march of this deadly virus could have been curbed by being a bit benevolent towards nature. If we wouldn't have been selfish and reciprocated the same amount of love to nature, we wouldn't have witnessed such a scenario. To make the Genzee aware about our imbalanced biodiversity the students of Asian International School conducted a five-day awareness drive from June 1 to 5.

It started with a plantation drive with the motto "Break the chain of Corona, Make the chain of Trees", which was followed by a beautiful video on the advantages of different medicinal flora which we can get at our finger tips without going out of our houses. The students also took the initiative to care for the "unloved animals", i.e. the stray dogs, cows and birds. They even made DIY videos of bird feeder and bird shelter. The last and final day celebration was done on an online platform through a webinar on June 5. The topic of the webinar was "Come out Covered, Conserve the Biodiversity".

Prof. Ujjwal K Choudhury, vice-chancellor, Adamas University, Kolkata, was the chief guest along with the principal of Asian International School. Students of schools like Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Haldia, Haryana Vidya Mandir Salt Lake, Shri Shikshayatan School and Salt Lake Shiksha Niketan participated in the webinar. There were 12 speakers, two from each school and four speakers from Asian International School.



The principal of Asian International School, Vijayalaxmi Kumar, in her introduction speech focused mainly on conserving the biodiversity by reaching out to the young minds, as they are the future builders of the nation. She said, "If oxygen is being breathed by each one of us then the responsibility to protect nature also lies in each one of us." She urged all the viewers to give a little effort in conserving biodiversity by making it a part of their lives and not to rely on any agencies for protecting the environment. After such an inspiring speech she requested Prof. Ujjwal K Choudhury to deliver a few words.

The chief guest began his speech by proclaiming the online webinar as the "new normal" where we meet digitally and not physically. He motivated his listeners by saying that we shall very soon overcome this pandemic. He stated that January 2021 wouldn't be like January 2020. The new world after the pandemic

would have "Ecology at the heart of things". The change in nature in these three months of lockdown has been unbelievable and thus he appealed to the viewers not to get back to the world where we were. He even listed down a few tips which would aid in keeping the gains of nature in these three months of lockdown unscathed. According to him by curbing unnecessary travel, by moving from fossil fuel to bio fuel, by avoiding junk food or unhygienic food, by maintaining hygiene, by reducing the use of paper and by creating our own biodiversity in our terrace or balcony we can all contribute in healing our planet. He strongly recommended the "Physical World" that is learning physically in a digital world, where education becomes not only conscious but also voluntary. He stressed that the world does not need "Scholars" but "Doers". The combination of learning by doing, learning in the classroom and digital leaning

is our future, is the new normal. In future the world would witness the evolution of both the teachers and the students, as the former would turn into Mentors and the latter into Learners.

Next were the orations by the young speakers. Each and every child delivered awe-inspiring speeches. They spoke on the different types of biodiversity, causes of its decline, ways to conserve biodiversity, different biodiversity hotspots, Carbon foot prints, extinct species like the Tasmanian tiger, Wild pigeon etc, ways to protect them, Convention of Biological Diversity etc. They suggested that humans on earth should take an oath to protect the biodiversity. They pointed out the selfishness of humans for only thinking about themselves and their needs without thinking about nature.

Anita Shaw, biology faculty and co-ordinator, AIS, highlighted about "Reward Policy" that might bring in a great awakening among the Genzee.

The motto of the webinar was to make people aware that once this lockdown ends, they should all come out "covered" i.e. by taking all the safety precautions like wearing face mask, maintaining hygiene, maintaining social distancing for "Conserving the biodiversity". We must all join our hands to heal our ailing mother by following the "6 Rs" that is Refuse, Reuse, Reduce, Repurpose, Recycle and Reinforcement. Yes, we have all heard about the 5 Rs but not 6 Rs. The principal of AIS introduced the 6th R, indicating that it's high time that we must all reinforce the various ways to protect nature. Let's put an end to our old behaviour and start sustainable living.

TRIBENI TISSUES VIDYAPITH CELEBRATES JUNE 5

Tribeni Tissues Vidyapith celebrated June 5 as World Environment Day. Pranav Kumar Sharma, chairman, school management committee; D P Roy (HR Dept) and R S Sharma, director of the school planted trees in the school campus amidst the Covid-19 lockdown. A few teachers also participated in the programme following safety guidelines.

The school has also uploaded a video showing messages from our school children. The school has taken the initiative to plant nearly 100 saplings of different types of decorative plants.

One tree provides enough oxygen for five people. Just 30 trees can absorb our full annual carbon production. Trees filter our water and soil, and fight erosion. They increase neighbourhood desirability and escalate property value upto 20 per cent and can save energy and money for heating and cooling up to 15 per cent. Trees are the oldest living organisms on earth, so we need to grow more trees.

It is our humble appeal to all the citizens, especially school children, to plant a tree in order to replace thousands and thousands of trees uprooted due to Amphan Cyclone.

Let's Plant a tree,
Let's plant a hope.

- R S Sharma, Director,
Tribeni Tissues Vidyapith



Tree plantation programme at Mount Litera Zee School Howrah

Planting a sapling means planting hope for tomorrow. Recent cyclone Amphan destroyed lakhs of trees, but that destruction couldn't destroy our relationship with Nature and that relationship inspired Mount Litera Zee School Howrah to organize a tree plantation programme in the school premises where the principal of the institution, Nabnita Giri and others were present. Not only the staff, the students of the institution also showed their commitment to nature by planting trees.

To give a constructive message to the society, teachers of the institution interviewed renowned environmentalist and green technologist Somendra Mohan Ghosh and the clipping of the interview was shared with everyone associated with the institution.



WORDS VERSE

The City With A Soul

The City of Joy from where I belong
Is a land of many faces
Down the roads the continuous tinkles
Of taxis and trams and hand-pulled rick-shaws
Monsoon smells in thick black clouds
With arrival of wet soil rising in the air
Hot tea in earthen clay pots
Street stalls with delicacies to offer
Football crazy
are the people here
A footballer resides in
every Kolkata
Autumn sows the seeds of Durga Puja
The grandest celebration of all
The water of Ganges mark the end
Of the Puja celebration
Desserts or savouries the city offers all
With it in love you will fall
A city which welcomes every single one
So many faces and numerous races
With joy the one emotion in all
The City of Joy - Kolkata it is called.



- Zainab Iqbal, Class X,
St. Sebastian's School

Khalsa Model Senior Secondary School celebrates 50th anniversary of Earth Day

Khalsa Model Senior Secondary School celebrated the 50th anniversary of Earth Day virtually in the midst of the pandemic on April 22 in a creative way by a medley of activities by the students. Celebrating Earth Day serves as a conscious reminder of how important it is to protect our mother earth from imminent danger and to create awareness of the importance of environmental protection. Let us take a pledge to make the Earth more beautiful as it is the only place where we meet.

The students and teachers at KMSS, under the direct supervision of our principal ma'am, demonstrated our support for environmental protection through various online activities and competitions even during the lockdown period. Our school celebrated Earth Day 2020 in a digital mode with art and creative activities by using online facilities. Different activities/competitions organised by our school and names of the first three performers were:

Group A - Topic: Be a friend to trees

Classes I & II

Activity: Recitation

Name of the winners:

1st - Anisha Ali (I B)

2nd - Pratyusha Paul (I D) & Titiksha Saha (II A)

3rd - Arman Singh (I C) & Saanchi Kaur (II D)

Classes III & IV

Activity: Plantation



Name of the winners:

1st - Srikrishan Dutta Modak (I B)

2nd - Aratrika Pramanick (III E)

3rd - Chetana Chakraborty (III A) & Arin Singha (III D)

Group B - Topic: Re-purpose of waste materials

Classes VI to VIII

Activity: Model making (waste to use-able)

Name of the winners:

1st - Srijan Das (VI C)

2nd - Krishna Jaiswal (VIII B) & Arpita Sen (VII D)

3rd - Harsimran Kaur Arjani (VIII A) & Abhranil Dey (VII A)

Group C - Topic: Our Earth is in danger

Classes IX & X

Activity: Eloction

Name of the winners:

1st - Sneha Yadav (X C)

2nd - Bipasha Sarbodbidya (IX C)

3rd - Ahana Bhadra (X A)

We were overwhelmed by the huge participation of our students. They showed keen interest and great concern to save our planet. We thank you for your collective response to take part in the world's largest environmental movement to drive transformative change for people and the planet. We look forward to organising such activities in the coming days as 'Every day is Earth Day'.

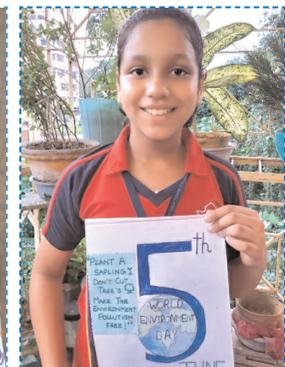
Time for Nature@DPS Howrah

Robert Swan had said, "The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it." World Environment Day, June 5, is an occasion intended to show our respect for the environment and to do our bit to make it better and increase awareness for the same. With this motive in mind we invited all the students to come forward and contribute differently for the cause.

The theme for this year was "Time for Nature". The platform of participation was online owing to the changed present scenario.

Students of the middle school section made their participation felt by contributing their entries in the following categories.

Classes III and IV - Picture composition (word limit-100 words).



Class V - Essay writing on the theme "Time for Nature" (word limit-150 words).

Classes VI and VII - Slogan writing contest (word limit-15 words).

The best entries were also appreciated by the principal, Sunita Arora, by awarding e-certificates through our school portal.

Times of India-NIE invites all students to send in their articles, poems and paintings with their name, school, class, photograph and phone number to kolkataniereporters@gmail.com