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STUDENT EDITION



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WEB EDITION

Russia names new COVID-19 vaccine 'Sputnik V'



Russia has named its first approved Covid-19 vaccine, 'Sputnik V' for the foreign markets.

Sputnik V is named after the world's first satellite, Sputnik. It was launched by the Soviet Union in Oct. 4, 1957. It orbited for three weeks, before its batteries died and then silently for two more months, before it fell back into the atmosphere. It was 58 cm in diameter and a polished metal sphere with four external radio antennas to broadcast radio pulses. The name signifies the country's success in being the first to have a vaccine approved.

YOUR CORNER Is the world on the verge of a vaccine war? Share your views at toinie175@gmail.com timesnie175@gmail.com

BLANETS

WHAT In an interesting discovery, scientists have revealed that there could be thousands of exoplanets swirling around the 'safe zone' of a black hole. Called 'blanets' (black hole planets) by the scientists, they form the grains of dust that circle the black hole.

HOW According to scientists, the birth of blanets takes place from the dust swirling around the massive gravitational monster that clump together when they collide, which is similar to the process of formation of the traditional planets. Traditional planets come into existence, when dust eddies moving around a star bond together to form a disc.

WHERE Researchers believe that the blanets live outside the snow-line, where the compounds can condense into ice, and are likely between 20 and 30,000 times the mass of the Earth.

According to researchers, a black hole with one million solar masses could allow a planet to orbit just 13 light years away



5 facts on black hole

1 As the name suggests, black holes are among the most mysterious objects in the universe. Nothing can escape the massive gravitational pull of a black hole, not even light.

2 In April 2019, a group of international scientists captured the first picture of a black hole. The image was constructed from the data gathered by the observatories all over the globe, which were combined to create a virtual telescope as big as the Earth.

3 According to scientists, every galaxy has a super-massive black hole — a black hole typically millions of times more massive than the sun — at their centre. In fact, the Milky Way's black hole is located in a region known as Sagittarius A*, it lies around 26 000

TEST YOUR BLACK HOLE BRILLIANCE

1. Albert Einstein came up with the term 'black hole'. True or false? a) True b) False
2. What is the centre of a black hole called? a) Bullseye b) Singularity c) Sauran
3. According to scientists, how many black holes exist? a) Hundreds b) Thousands c) Billions
4. What is the area surrounding a black hole called? a) Perimeter b) Event horizon c) Circumference

Answer: 1. b) 2. b) 3. c) 4. c)

light-years away from the solar system. It's about four million times the mass of the sun, which in turn is about one million times more massive than the Earth.

4 If scientists are to be believed, black holes can keep growing because anything (gas, liquid or solid matter) that enters the event horizon gets sucked in. In other words, theoretically, a black hole can grow indefinitely.

5 Scientists believe that our own universe might have actually been founded by a black hole, and the billions of black holes in the universe might, at their own turn, each spawn their own versions of the universe. (Source: zmescience.com)

X-PLAINED



BEST ESSAY WRITING APPS

PRO WRITING AID

Pro Writing Aid is a cloud-based copy-editing tool for the bloggers, copywriters, essay writer, assignment writer, fiction writer, and so on. The primary role of this software is to find issues in your writing, eliminate errors, and edit grammar and punctuation faster. It has both free and paid versions available and runs on all the operating systems.

GRAMMARLY

Grammarly is one of the best writing apps that can help you to improve your quality of writing. Grammarly can save you from mis-spellings, grammatical and punctuation mistakes, and other writing issues on all your favourite websites. Grammarly's online proofreader automatically detects grammar, spelling, punctuation, word choice and style mistakes in your writing. Grammarly detects plagiarism, by comparing your writing to the billions of web pages across the web.

FREEMIND

FreeMind is a free mind-mapping software for creating structured diagrams. It also lets users keep track of the projects, including subtasks, state of subtasks, and time recording. With the help of this software, writers can create an essay and do brainstorming, using colours to show which essay is open, completed or not yet started, using the size of nodes to indicate the size of an essay.

SIMPLENOTE

Simple Notes is a light, clean and free note-taking app. The best essays can start from the smallest of ideas, and SimpleNote is one of the simplest ways to make sure you've got them all jotted down. Plus, all your notes are backed up and the search function means that you can find old notes whenever you want to pull them up again. SimpleNote is free with no upgrades or in-app purchases.

LIBRE OFFICE WRITER

Libre office writer is a powerful essay writing programme that lets users create, review, revise your work, whenever inspiration strikes. With the help of this software, your document looks clean and well-structured, regardless of their purposes. Financial report, master thesis, technical drawing, marketing presentation, and so on. In short, it makes your work look great, while you focus on the content.

ENVIRONMENT

'Geothermal springs in Himalayas release large amount of Co2'

The Himalayas host hundreds of geothermal springs, and they release a huge amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, according to a study. The study suggested that the CO₂ in these thermal springs are sourced from the metamorphic decarbonation of carbonate rocks present deep in the Himalayan core along with the magmatism and oxidation of the graphite. Most of the geothermal water is dominated by evaporation, followed by weathering of silicate rocks. Isotopic analyses further point towards a meteoric source for geothermal water.

- A team of scientists carried out detailed chemical and stable isotope analysis of water samples collected from 20 geothermal springs from major fault zones of Garhwal Himalaya.
- "It shows a significant discharge of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) rich water. The estimated carbon dioxide degassing (removal of dissolved gases from liquids, especially water or aqueous solutions) flux is nearly 7.2 +106 mol/year to the atmosphere," the study said.
- Carbon outflux from the Earth's interior to the exosphere through volcanic eruptions, fault zones, and geothermal systems contribute to the global carbon cycle that affects the short and long term climate of the Earth

The Himalaya hosts about 600 geothermal springs having varied temperature and chemical conditions



NEWS IN BRIEF

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Mount Sinabung erupts, spews thick ash and smoke

Indonesia's Mount Sinabung erupted on Monday, belching a massive column of ash and smoke 5,000 metres into the air and plunging local communities into darkness with a thick layer of debris. The volcano on Sumatra island has been rumbling since 2010, and saw a deadly eruption in 2016. Activity had picked up in recent days, including a pair of smaller eruptions last weekend.



■ Sinabung had roared back to life in 2010 for the first time in 400 years. After another period of inactivity, it erupted once more in 2013, and has remained highly-active since then



Indonesia is home to about 130 active volcanoes due to its position on the "Ring of Fire", a belt of tectonic plate boundaries circling the Pacific Ocean, where frequent seismic activity occurs.

CORONA UPDATE

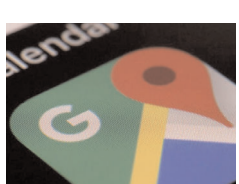
'Gargling with mouthwashes might lower the spread of Covid-19'

The coronavirus can be inactivated using commercially available mouthwashes, according to a study, which says gargling with these products may reduce the quantities of viral particles in the mouth and the throat, and possibly reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission over the short term. However, the study cautions that the mouthwashes are not suitable for treating Covid-19 infections or protecting oneself against catching the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2.



Google launches new global Covid-19 map for journalists

Google in collaboration with Stanford University has launched a global Covid-19 map that makes it possible for the journalists to embed upto date visualisations of the pandemic on their sites for the readers. Unlike other coronavirus case maps, the 'Covid-19 Global Case Mapper' allows local reporters to embed a map of their area or even a national case map. The map shows cases in relation to the population. It's coloured by the numbers of cases per 100,000 people over the past 14 days and shows you the severity of outbreak by the number of people in each location, making it easier to compare where you live to the world as a whole.



BE THE CHANGE

SAY 'YES' TO 'REUSABLE MASKS'

PIA KALWANI, class VI, OPG World School, Dwarka, Delhi, talks about the advantages of using a reusable mask

Mahatma Gandhi's glasses to go on sale in UK

A pair of Mahatma Gandhi's glasses will go on sale after a staff at the East Bristol Auctions, the largest auction house in South West England, found them in a plain envelope with a note saying, they were Gandhi's glasses. Auctioneer Andrew Stowe said: "Someone popped them into our letterbox." Upon investigating, it was found that the circular rimmed, gold-plated glasses had been worn by the Mahatma.

The glasses are expected to raise more than \$19,600, and has been the most important find in the company's history

A STATION? A MUSEUM? REVISIT MALGUDI DAYS

The South Western Railway (SWR) zone's Mysuru Division has created a museum themed on 'Malgudi Days' at one of its stations, recreating scenes and ambience from the famous television serial, an official said. "The old dilapidated station (Arasulu) building, which is a few metres away from the present station building has been restored and recreated as Museum Malgudi," the official added.



- 1 As part of the museum, the railway zone has created neighbourhoods, similar to the ones featured in the famous serial. One of the houses features an elephant-shaped skeleton gate with a compound wall made out of metal bars salvaged from the railway tracks
- 2 Likewise, another structure in the museum sports paintings of the main characters from the serial, along with the images of a peacock

- 3 A kitchen from the Malgudi Days has been created for the museum, including a street and neighbouring houses
- 4 A makeshift railway coach named as Malgudi Chai has also been arranged, including some more images of animals
- 5 Elements and themes from the Indian Railways have a major influence on the entire museum

■ Malgudi Days is the screen adaptation of R K Narayan's famous novel by the same name, set in the fictional town of Malgudi in South India

■ In the 1980s, Shankar Nag and John Devraj made the television serial based on Narayan's novel

Effective ways to build a successful career in Science

The Times of India NIE in association with Vidyalankar through a special webinar for class X students from across Mumbai, helped students chart out their career in Science, **Kirtana Prakash, class IX, DAV Public School, Thane reports**

'A river cuts through rocks, not because of its power, but its perseverance'

The Times of India NIE, in association with Vidyalankar, organised a webinar focusing on 'Careers in Science' for class X students on August 12 from 5 to 6.30 pm.

The panelists for the session were Prof. Hitesh Moghe, an eminent IITian and Head of Mathematics Department at Vidyalankar, and Dr. Sunil Bhagwat, a distinguished professor of Chemical Engineering from ICT, Mumbai. The objective of this session was to educate students about the various careers in science and encourage them to take up the same.

It began with an inspiring and informative session by Prof. Hitesh Moghe, which enumerated the main possibilities open to students in Science, focusing on both the technical aspects of the subject and the qualities required to achieve one's goals in the scientific arena. He touched upon the pivotal role which specialisation and career choices play at this crucial juncture in students' academic lives, and how essential it is for students to explore their own interests and get a clear picture of what different careers entail in order to make the right decision, along with a few examples to illustrate this.

The students were also provided a detailed explanation about different branches of engineering, pure sciences and medical sciences and how students can work towards securing a seat in reputed colleges to achieve their goals. Elaborating on how students must go about preparing for competitive exams, he presented the 'Success Formula': having a clear goal, creating a plan for consistently preparing for the same, which involves assessing the task and the available resources, and working consistently to accomplish

the same. Several examples of students who had succeeded with flying colours were also shared.

This was followed by a Q&A session, where students got the opportunity to get their queries about their fields of interest answered.

This was followed by an engaging and eye-opening session by Dr. Sunil Bhagwat, which provided several insights and perspectives on the fundamental aspects of scientific thinking and engineering. He stressed on the vital role played by creativity and free thinking in science, and how these are factors that should influence the decisions one makes about one's career. Tracing the journey of mankind's progress right from ancient times, he il-

lustrated the role of the spirit of inquiry in science, albeit in a primitive state then, played in the development that surrounds us today. He also explained the role science plays in national development, highlighting the Green Revolution and development of heavy water indigenously. He also provided students invaluable guidance with respect to their future careers, emphasising the fact that the quest for scientific research does not end with examinations alone, and the necessity for researchers to be actively associated with the practical aspect of science.

On the whole, it was an edifying webinar and provided students a clear idea of how they can pursue a career in science.



Dr Sunil Bhagwat Ph D (Tech), ICT Mumbai and Prof Hitesh Moghe, IITian, HOD Mathematics, Vidyalankar

CAREERS IN SCIENCE

Hard work is essential for success in any career, with sheer hard work, I have seen students get admission in top ranking medical and engineering colleges. Intelligence alone will not help. You need consistent effort and self-motivation and discipline in your effort is essential for success



Prof Hitesh Moghe, IITian, HOD Mathematics, Vidyalankar

Today, the strides of science and therefore the scope of its work is limitless. All the same, students should stress on the knowledge quotient rather than only getting marks in their exams. Knowledge will supersede marks. Keep the spirit of inquiry and thirst for accurate scientific knowledge active in order to excel in science.



Dr Sunil Bhagwat, PhD (Tech), ICT, Mumbai

Science and Technology play a vital role in the process of nation building. Therefore the Government has taken several initiatives to promote STEM education. We too at Vidyalankar, are trying to do our bit by igniting that spark of curiosity in young minds.



Namrata Deshpande, Director, Vidyalankar

STUDENTS SPEAK

■ We have to make life changing decisions such as choosing a suitable career right now, the NIE Webinar was very helpful in adding clarity to this, Prof Hitesh Moghe also briefed us about the importance of choosing IIT over NIT for promising careers in engineering.
Arlene Bhoi, Green Lawns School, Worli

■ The webinar was really informative, it gave me a perspective on what I want to do after 12th. The speakers provided details on opting different career options if one doesn't get into IIT. It was really helpful and provided a structured foundation for my career options.
Smita Nayak, New Horizon Public School, Airoli

■ The webinar conducted by Times NIE was quite informative, the professors who conducted the webinar introduced me to the stream of science in an explicit manner, it was advantageous for my career choices and has clarified all my doubts related to the future.
Prithvi Maniar, Arunodaya Public School, Thane

■ The webinar held by Times NIE on Career in Science conducted by Dr. Sunil Bhagwat and Prof Hitesh Moghe was extremely helpful and aided in making choices for our respective careers, it motivated me to follow hard work as the mantra to success.
Afrah Shaikh, Hansraj Morarji Public School, Andheri

■ I believe that the choosing the right career path is the essence of happiness and satisfaction. I would like to thank the speakers for their wonderful guidance on Careers in Science which will enable me to select a fulfilling career in the future.
Ranak Banglorkar, Fatima High School, Ambernath

■ I would like to thank Times NIE for the wonderful, informative webinar that was provided as a part of the career guidance programme. The webinar was very productive and I was left speechless with the number of options one can actually have in Science.
Aarav Shah, Green Lawns School, Worli

■ You can be a successful person by working hard was something that was taught to us during the webinar. The information that was provided to us along with numerous career options in Science made it interesting, overall the webinar cleared doubts regarding our respective careers.
Harsh Dhanu, I.E.S Modern English School, Dadar

■ The webinar conducted by Times NIE for grade 10 students was very helpful in clearing any sort of ambiguity related to career based choices in the field of Science; the speakers explained all the details regarding this topic with a lot of precision.
Manan Patel, Rustomjee International School, Dahisar West

As told to Priyanshi Chakraborti, class XII, SIS, Mumbai

THE NEP 2020 AN EDUCATOR'S REFLECTION

DR. SHARDA SHARMA, DIRECTOR & DY. CEO OF AN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION IN MUMBAI



PRINCIPAL'S PEN

Based on the preamble of India, the National Education Policy 2020 aims at India taking back the reins of cognitive leadership at a global level and rising higher.

Applicable to the current generation of school students, this policy proudly claims to change the face of the nation with change in perspective of the student population.

When the sustainable development goals were pronounced in 2015, educators all over the country had this one question in mind - how would these goals be attained with the current academic layout that remains unchanged since the past 34 years? The challenges and the hurdles were immense but the educators tried to maneuver their way towards the holistic growth and development of the students thereby trying to overcome the challenges of the developing nation and the world at large.

Reflecting on the ancient past of the Indian culture and the extensive and explicit knowledge, this policy boasts about the universities of India which were the then Ivy League institutions for the world. These universities produced alumni that brought about a paradigm shift at the global level. With the introduction of the English Education act, these institutions gradually dissolved with the occidental ideologies and lost their basic foundational objectives, thereby losing their authenticity along with the solid foundation of knowledge. But this policy endeavours to restore the status of the Guru or the teacher into our education system.

Presented during the time of the pandemic, this policy relates well with the changing perspectives of the current student generation. Empathy, compassion, kindness, creativity and aspirations are some of the virtues that have crossed the minds of not only the students but even their parents during the lockdown. While a few have managed to practice these virtues and may continue to do so in the future too, a few others are still contemplating about the process of implementation of these virtues in their lives. These individuals seem to be somewhat determined to add more value to their existence and life of self as well as of the others, rather than simply jostling with the futile mun-

dane chores of daily life. With these virtues and values, the affective energy and strength of the students will not only get a foresight, but also a boost to think and act for themselves. There is hardly any room for the scaffolding and cushioning of the defensive parents that would weaken and cripple them, resulting in broken marriages and failures later in life.

Flexible to the core, this policy has managed to wash away the rigidity of the patent career options of either engineering or medicine which was prevalent for almost five decades now. This flexibility will not only encourage the students into taking an initiative with critical thought and analysis but will also motivate them towards concurrency in learning.

The different life skills required especially at the university level - research skills, self-management skills, thinking skills and social skills seem to have been at the core thought while drafting this policy.

The term 'global knowledge superpower' resonates with the ideologies of the knowledge leaders of the past and great authors of India. This expected bond with the country as compared to the brain drain is brought about effectively with regard to the expected commitment and responsibility of the citizens.

All in all, although this is a welcome move, a lot will depend upon its effective implementation towards benefiting the different sectors of the society.

'The greatness of a culture can be found in its celebrations'



Upholding this value and belief 'The Cambria International School & Jr College' has redefined the new normal by extending its way to mark the celebrations of Eid-ul-adha and Rakshabandhan through an online platform which was celebrated on 31st July with great pomp and jubilation.

The significance of the festivities were explained to the learners. Activities of greeting card making and Rakhi making were conducted for students.

The celebrations eventuated with learners presenting themselves through traditional attire followed by video presentations on making

Rakhi and greeting cards; which led to the display of the enthusiastic learners showcasing their talents on making handmade rakhis and greeting cards for their loved ones.

Importance of the festivities were instilled in the minds of the young learners by showing videos and PPT to enrich themselves with the vibrant culture.

The greetings of the festivities were shared by principal - Heena Falke.

Thus, the celebrations ended with a cheerful note invoking the sense of brotherhood, love and peace budding in the minds of the young learners remarking a New Dawn amidst the pandemic.



Mindfulness for Self Care

With an increasing awareness of the importance of mental health with our youth, providing them with opportunities to explore their emotional programming and develop skills and strategies to process their emotions in a healthy, mindful way is necessary and powerful.

In keeping up with this philosophy, Witty International School, Borivli organised a workshop for students to help them improve self-regulating behaviours, natural conflict resolution, focus and concentration, problems solving skills, confidence, compassion for others, self-awareness, communication skills and much more.

Through journaling, mindfulness activities and practices and discussion students were taught how they could engage both their left and right brain for exploring a deeper awareness of the physical, mental and emotional aspects of their minds and bodies. Students also learnt various measures to improve their self esteem.

Under the guidance of Wellness Counsellor, Ketaki Thanki, Wittyans learnt lifelong skills of how to take their body out of emergency mode, help de-stress and manage anxiety and emotions.



DISCOVER YOUR INNERMOST AWARENESS WITTY®

The Art of Wellness through Self Care
Strengthening Emotional & Mental Wellbeing via Self Awareness
Ms. Ketaki Thanki
Wellness Counsellor

