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STUDENT EDITION
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WEB EDITION

NO 'QUESTIONING' THIS SESSION

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Question Hour (QH) was suspended by the government, when the monsoon session of parliament started, evoking sharp criticism from the Opposition parties and the political pundits alike. The ruckus over the passage of Bills has also been a subject of controversy. So, why are the Opposition parties crying foul over the suspension of the QH? We find out...

Meanwhile, the session is likely to be curtailed and may end by the middle of next week in view of the threat of the Covid-19 spread among the parliamentarians

What is Question Hour?

The first hour of business, called the Question Hour, which is conducted when the parliament is in session, is a one-hour proceeding, during which the parliamentarians ask questions to the ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries. In other words, the treasury bench is put on trial during the Question Hour, as every minister is answerable for the questions raised against their ministry's, "omission and commission"

What are the types of questions raised during the Question Hour?

There are four categories of questions that can be asked — starred questions, unstarred questions, short notice questions and questions to private members. Starred questions require an oral answer from the minister-in-charge, and must be submitted 15 days in advance. Unstarred questions require a written response, and generally, address concerns related to data and information. These too must be submitted 15 days in advance. Short notice questions address urgent matters that have public importance and can be submitted within less than 10 days. Questions to private members are usually related to "some Bill, Resolution or other matter connected with the business of the House for which that member is responsible." Questions have to be precise and not too general.



With the broadcasting since 1991, the Question Hour has become one of the most visible aspects of the parliamentary functioning

THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WHEN THE QUESTION HOUR HAS BEEN SUSPENDED

1962 WINTER SESSION: During the India-China war of 1962, parliament's winter session had skipped the Question Hour.
1971 winter session: During

the 1971 war, the daily schedule was changed

The Emergency (June 25, 1975 - March 21, 1977): During the Emergency, parliament continued to function but without the Question Hour in at least two sessions



Difference between Question Hour and Zero Hour

While the Question Hour is strictly regulated, Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation. Zero Hour is the time when the Members of Parliament (MPs) can raise issues of urgent public importance. For raising matters during the Zero Hour, the MPs must give the notice before 10 am to the Speaker/

Chairman on the day of the sitting. The notice must state the subject they wish to raise in the House. However, the Speaker, Lok Sabha / the Chairman, Rajya Sabha may allow or decline a member to raise a matter of importance

In parliamentary parlance, Zero Hour is the time gap between the end of the Question Hour and the beginning of the regular business. The rationale behind naming it as Zero Hour can be attributed to the fact that it starts at 12 noon

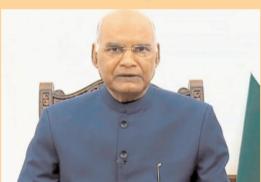
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF QUESTION HOUR

The Question Hour, an integral part of a parliamentary session, allows the parliamentarians to question the ministers on the functioning of their ministries, which in turn is passed on to the public.
C R Neelakandan, Activist, Ernakulam

The Question Hour is an important dialogue between the government and the members of the House, when the spotlight of attention is on the actions/inactions of the government; it also gives an opportunity to place the Private Members' Bills on the table of the House to raise issues of national importance. The suspension of the Question Hour robs the citizens' right to information from the treasury bench
Sandeep Shastri, political analyst, Bengaluru

Question Hour is an opportunity for the ruling and the opposition MPs to get clarity on what, why, and how the government is functioning. Suspension of the Question Hour translates it into zero accountability, which is a warning sign for the democracy.
V K Sharma, political commentator, Ahmedabad

Quote unquote



The universities and institutes of higher education should be the centres of innovation. They should provide innovative solutions to national and local problems. Effective implementation of the NEP 2020 is likely to restore India's glory as a great centre for learning. It will be a milestone in the history of our country. It will not only strengthen the future of our youth but also set our country on the course to become 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The NEP sets the vision of developing an equitable and vibrant knowledge society by providing quality education to all. This calls for achieving the twin objectives of inclusion and excellence. One of the targets of the NEP 2020 is to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio or GER in higher education to 50 per cent by 2035. Technology can help in achieving this target
RAM NATH KOVIND, PRESIDENT OF INDIA

IS INSTAGRAM WATCHING ITS USERS?



Facebook-owned photo-sharing platform Instagram is being sued for allegedly spying on its users using the cameras on their mobile devices. Back in July, reports had surfaced that the social media app was accessing phone cameras, while they were not in use — leading to the recent lawsuit by a user.

This is not the first time that Instagram's parent company, Facebook, has been accused of spying, with many reports of users' data being mined, and with theories of the American social media giant listening in through mobile phones

In another suit filed last month, Facebook was accused of using mobile cameras and facial recognition to harvest data from millions of its users without their consent.

In the age of digital surveillance, privacy might be a myth, but running a few basic checks would also not hurt. While using mobile devices, make sure to limit access to social media apps, and keep an eye out for any suspicious activities

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sam Smith is back with 3rd album 'Love Goes' on October 30

British singer Sam Smith has announced that his third album will be released worldwide on October 30. The much-awaited LP from the Oscar-winning musician is a follow-up to 2014's 'In the Lonely Hour' and 'The Thrill of It All' (2017). Smith, 28, shared the news on Twitter, saying that the album has been titled, 'Love Goes'

'Love Goes' will feature collaborations with Labrinth ('Love Goes') and Calvin Harris ('Promises'), as well as Smith's previously released collaborations with Normani ('Dancing with a Stranger') and Burna Boy

First volume of Barack Obama's memoir, 'A Promised Land', will be out on November 17

The first volume of former president Barack Obama's memoir is all set to hit the shelves on Nov. 17. Called 'A Promised Land', it will cover Obama's historic rise to the White House and his first term in office.

The 768-page book is the most-anticipated presidential memoir in memory, thanks to the quality of the writing than for any possible revelations. He has been called the most literary president since Abraham Lincoln and has already written two highly-praised, million-selling books: 'Dreams from My Father' and 'The Audacity of Hope'



No decision to discontinue printing of ₹2,000 notes: Finance ministry

The finance ministry has informed the Lok Sabha that no decision has been taken to discontinue the printing of ₹2,000 denomination currency notes. In a written reply, the minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur said the printing of bank notes of a particular denomination is decided by the government in consultation with the RBI to maintain a desired denomination mix for facilitating transactional demand of public. Thakur also informed that as on March 31, 2020, there were 27,398 lakh pieces of ₹2,000 notes in circulation compared to 32,910 lakh pieces on March 31, 2019.

The RBI has informed that in view of nationwide lockdown due to Covid-19 pandemic, printing of notes stopped temporarily

SPACE

First possible 'survivor' planet found orbiting white dwarf star



Using data from NASA missions, an international team of astronomers has found what may be the first intact planet orbiting a white dwarf, the dense leftover of a sun-like star, only 40 per cent larger than the Earth.

The Jupiter-size object, called WD 1856 b, is about seven times larger than the white dwarf, named WD 1856+534. It circles this stellar cinder every 34 hours, more than 60 times faster than Mercury orbits our sun

The satellite-spotted WD 1856 b is about 80 light years away in the northern constellation Draco

It orbits a cool, quiet white dwarf that is roughly 18,000 kilometres across, may be up to 10 billion years old, and is a distant member of a triple star system

When a sun-like star runs out of fuel, it swells up to hundreds to thousands of times its original size, forming a cooler red giant star. Eventually, it ejects its outer layers of gas, losing up to 80 per cent of its mass

The remaining hot core becomes a white dwarf. Any nearby objects are typically engulfed and incinerated during this process, which in this system would have included WD 1856 b in its current orbit

The researchers estimate that the possible planet must have originated at least 50 times farther away from its present location

STOINIS STARS IN DELHI'S SUPER OVER IPL WIN



Australia's Marcus Stoinis smashed a whirlwind half-century as Delhi Capitals edged out Kings XI Punjab in a super-over thriller after the second match of the Indian Premier League ended in a tie on Sunday. Stoinis proved his worth for Delhi, who brought the all-rounder in the December auction, with his 21-ball 53 to lift the side to 157 for eight after being put into bat in Dubai. Mayank Agarwal nearly trumped the batting blitz with his 89 off 60 balls as Punjab closed in on their target but Stoinis claimed two wickets on successive balls in the final over to take the match into a super over.



The 20th over of the Delhi innings equalled the record for the most expensive final over bowled in the IPL history. Jordan, who went for 30 runs, equalled Ashok Dinda's last over for Rising Pune Supergiants against Mumbai Indians in 2017.

It's a weird game, sometimes the luck goes your way, but it's easy to become a villain from a hero. So, it's important to enjoy the good days. It's nice that the IPL has gotten going again, and it has been great entertainment
MARCUS STOINIS





CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

ANSWER THIS TRIVIA QUESTION

- Who scored the first ever run for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL?
- Against whom do CSK have their best win percentage?

Answer: Parthiv Patel. They have their best win percentage against team Sunrisers Hyderabad



KINGS XI PUNJAB

TAKE THIS QUIZ

- Their highest total is 232/2. Against which team did they put up this mammoth score?
- Who leads the list for most wickets in a Kings XI Punjab jersey?
- Their lowest ever total came in a match against Rising Pune Supergiants. How many runs did they score?
- Who has scored the most runs for KXIP?

Answers: 1. Royal Challengers Bangalore
2. Piyush Chawla 3. 73 4. Shaun Marsh



DELHI CAPITALS

JUMBLED WORDS

Unscramble the names of these players

- Yreshas Riye. Hint: Captain of the team
- Laxe Yarce. Hint: Is a wicketkeeper batsman

Answers: Shreyas Iyer, Alex Carey

Fun fact: The team anthem 'Khel front foot pe' was sung by Kailash Kher. Now the anthem of the team is 'Go Delhi Go' by Abhay Jain.



KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

GUESS WHO:

- An IPL career tally of 3654 runs at a strike rate of 129.80 plus being tidy behind the stumps is testimony to the value the KKR captain brings to the table.

Answer: Dinesh Karthik

Let the GAMES begin

The Times NIE IPL planner

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- Pick your favourite team
- Do tasks for your team EVERY Tuesday
- Get featured in our Times NIE IPL scorecard
- Each Task has 20 POINTS!
- Motivate your family and friends to participate because if there is no participation your team gets no points!
- Watch this space for more prize updates and exclusive interviews
- All entries be sent to timesnie175@gmail.com clearly mentioning your name, school and city along with the team you support and the task you have undertaken

We have given you the answers to some of these. But try to solve it on your own first!



MUMBAI INDIANS

MATCH ANALYSIS

Be the judge and tell us three reasons why you think this team lost their first match against Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2020. Was the selection of bowlers a problem?

Can you name 50% of the squad who played in that match?

Send in your answers at timesnie175@gmail.com



ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

GUESS WHO:

The highest paid cricketer in IPL, this player was the first one to be retained by his franchise and will continue to lead his side. He is also one of the most popular cricketers in world cricket today.

Answer: Virat Kohli



RAJASTHAN ROYALS

SKETCH IT:

Send us a sketch of your favourite player who is in this team for IPL 2020. Send us a printable version of the sketch along with the name of the person who you have tried to sketch.

Send us your original sketch at timesnie175@gmail.com



SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

WRITE HANDED:

Tell us in about 70 words why you support this team. Kindly give your short descriptive writing a title too. Make sure you mention some of the names of the current team members and why a particular player stands out for you! Give ample reasons...

Send us your original copy at timesnie175@gmail.com

BOOKS

Some Classics You Must Read

TOM BROWN'S SCHOOLDAYS

THOMAS HUGHES (1857)

This moving, charming and poignant tale of boarding school life is included partly for its own merits, but also as it was the first in the school story genre, which spawned so many thousands of books, through Enid Blyton right up to JK Rowling. And, of course, the bully Flashman, without whom we wouldn't have George McDonald Fraser's hilarious series detailing his further adventures.



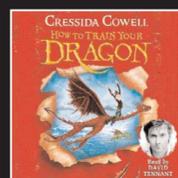
THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT

BEATRIX POTTER (1902)

Even Potter knew she was writing nostalgically about an imagined past; but who could not fail to love this slyly observed tale of a naughty rabbit? Potter's arch, almost Austen-esque prose interacts seamlessly with her keenly observed studies of flora and fauna. Avoid the new film, and stick to the original.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

CRESSIDA COWELL (2003)



Quite simply, Cressida Cowell has an exceptional ability to give children what they like. Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III is a Viking who doesn't fit in: gawky and geeky, his adventures with his hunting-dragon Toothless are madcap and marvellous. Give it to a child, and see them become engrossed immediately.

EMILY COLFER

ARTEMIS FOWL

BY EOIN COLFER (2001)

A wondrously clever book that upturns children's literature convention. Its hero, Artemis Fowl, is a 12-year-old boy who also happens to be a criminal mastermind.

Containing such characters as a kleptomaniac, flatulent dwarf, and a centaur called Foaly who's also a technical whizz, this is a hilarious delight.

THE LIE TREE

FRANCES HARDINGE (2015, MACMILLAN)

The recent winner of the overall Costa Book Awards is a remarkable novel from a remarkable writer. Hardinge is a true original, her sentences poised and poetic, her alternative 19th-century world fully imagined, and her intelligent, inquiring female lead not simply a good role model but also a fine addition to literature.



Track your furry friend's fitness levels

If you think fitness trackers for pets are a little over the top, you need to rethink a bit. After all, dogs also have the same health-related problems as humans.

With dogs often suffering from issues like obesity, diabetes etc., dog-owners are increasingly turning to wearable technology to monitor their pet's wellness and encourage them to live an active lifestyle. There are several user-friendly collar-gadgets and activity trackers that show how much time pooches spend sleeping, walking, running and playing, showing various movement levels from resting to high-activity. Some devices even pinpoint the location of your pet via GPS and generate reports on pulse and respiration.

Like humans, pets also suffer from lethargy. Refusing to get up, showing disinterest in playing with their



favourite toy, having no energy to perform simple tasks are some signs of fatigue and ill health in pets," says pet consultant Rosie Paul. In such situations, fitness trackers help pet parents track changes in their dog's activity over the medium to longer term. With the help of technology, they can notice small changes in their pet's behaviour and help

consult a veterinarian before a health issue gets worse.

A regular trip to the vet is great for your pet but technology can do wonders in helping you understand your pet's health symptoms. To sum it up, fitness trackers, by helping you to keep an eye on your pet's activity and nutrition levels, can ensure your pet is healthy and happy.