



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

Sin Tax

WHAT The Indian Beverage Association (IBA), which represents the country's biggest soft drinks makers, including Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Parle Agro and Red Bull, has written to the GST Council and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, asking beverages to be removed from the 'sin tax' category. According to Investopedia, a sin tax is levied on specific goods and services at the time of purchase. These items receive the excise tax due to their potential or perception to be harmful to the society. Applicable items, include tobacco products, alcohol and gambling ventures.

X-PLAINED

WHY ARE THEY LEVIED According to experts, sin taxes are levied to deter people from engaging in socially-harmful activities and behaviours. They also act as a source of revenue for the government. In other words, sin taxes are intended to serve two objectives: To make the undesirable goods so expensive that the consumers would be forced to give up the habit, and to compel the industry producing these products pay higher tax, which can be used to fund other welfare expenditure.

A GLOBAL TREND

- 1 In India, cigarettes, pan masala, tobacco and alcohol have always attracted high taxes. Aerated drinks, which are also considered harmful for health, are placed in the GST slab of 28% and a compensation cess of 12%
- 3 Countries, such as the UK, Sweden and Canada, impose sin taxes on a series of products and services—tobacco, alcohol, lotteries, gambling and fuel
- 4 Mexico imposed a soda tax in 2013; recently, the UK has imposed a sugar tax to tackle obesity on all the foods and drinks with high concentrations of the sweetener



CRITICS' TAKE

According to critics, sin taxes give the state the moral authority to dictate what the citizens should and should not do. It is against the spirit of democratic rights, they allege. Besides, it has been observed that while sin taxes may reduce the purchases of a product for a few initial years, consumers who are really addicted to the habit persist with their 'sinning'.

LET'S DEBATE

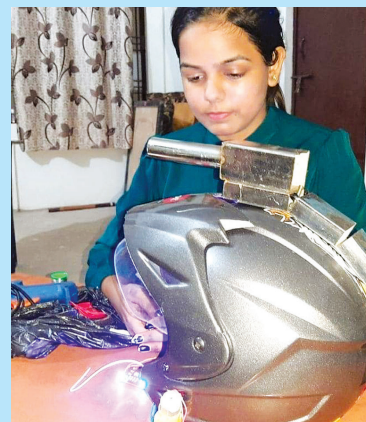
DO SIN TAXES HELP?
Share your views at
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Student develops 'ROBO HELMET' to strengthen security forces

Anjali Shrivastava, a student of the Ashoka Institute of Technology and Management, has developed a helmet that can help to strengthen the security forces. The 'Robo Helmet',

INNOVATION

which works on the radio signals, can remotely fire at enemies in war-like situations. Shrivastava, who hails from Varanasi, hopes that the 'Robo Helmet' will surely prove to be a revolution in terms of border security. "It is specially- designed to strengthen our troops. However, it is a prototype right now, we have sent a requisition to the ministry of defence so that we can make it more powerful," she said.



- The remote-operated device, equipped with wheels, micro gun, and wireless system, can also enter in to the opponent's area and open fire
- If someone tries to attack a soldier from the rear, then it will generate signals and alert the soldier. A wireless fire trigger is connected with the barrel fitted in the helmet through radio frequency. This trigger can be attached with any kind of rifle to launch fire. If anyone tries to attack the soldier from behind, then the helmet will alert him, and he can open fire in the rear direction with the help of the wireless trigger
- The light-weight, remote-actuated helmet is capable of moving 360 degrees
- The prototype version can be operated through a remote within a range of 50 metres, while the gun in it can fire up to 100 metres

TOP 5 MEME GENERATORS

ONLINE MEME MAKER BY CLIDEO

1 Packed with dozens of features and options, Online Meme Maker by Clideo, is worth a try. The best part of Clideo's meme maker is that it's highly compatible with most of the devices, such as Apple and Android, and can be used on Windows and Mac. It's incredibly fast as well.



IMGUR

2 Imgur comes with lots of built-in pictures that can be used to make memes instantly. It's easy to use and you can even select your own default image background. Moreover, it has plenty of useful resources to create a meme, such as the ability to edit it with variety of options available.

MEME CENTER

3 Meme Center comes with four different modes: quick meme, meme builder, GIF maker, and uploader. It also comes with lots of pre-built templates, so you can quickly generate a meme out of them.

MEMEGENERATOR.NET

4 Memegenerator is one of the most popular and widely-used online apps. It requires no sign up to create free memes. It's easy to use and its powerful search engine helps you find relevant pictures. Using the app, you can create memes in simple steps, using the provided images by the website, or you can use a custom image of your own too.

IMEME

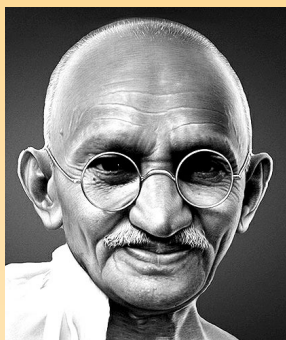
5 It is one of the most popular meme makers. It comes with over 100 built-in templates, but if you don't want to use them, you can create a meme as per your requirements. You can add, align, or edit text anywhere on the picture.

NEWS IN BRIEF

CLICK HERE FOR MORE

GOVT TO RELEASE 2D ANIMATION VIDEOS ON GANDHI'S MESSAGE FOR CONNECT WITH THE YOUNG

To make Mahatma Gandhi's way of living and message more contemporary for the younger generation, the government is all set to come out with 2D animation videos on the core concepts of the Gandhian way of life—non-violence, harmony, swadeshi and the welfare of all.



- According to reports, 10 themes have been shortlisted for the videos: Ahimsa, Swadeshi, Swachchhata, Samarasata (harmony), Gandhi Mantra, Swaraj, Satyagraha, Ahamanyata (pride), Brahmacharya (celibacy) and Sarvodaya (welfare of all)
- The animation videos will carry the quotations selected from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi, outline historic events associated with and relevant to the shortlisted themes, and come with songs and music from Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram Bhajanavali

NOT JUST HUMANS, ENDANGERED PRIMATES MAY BE VULNERABLE TO CORONAVIRUS: STUDY

CORONA UPDATE



Humans are not the only species facing a potential threat from the novel coronavirus, according to a new study, which says several critically-endangered primates, such as the western lowland gorilla, Sumatran orangutan, and the northern white-cheeked gibbon, may be susceptible to infection with the virus.

- According to researchers, about 40 per cent of the species potentially susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 are classified as "threatened" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and may be vulnerable to human-to-animal transmission
- The study noted that apart from the several critically-endangered primate species, marine mammals, such as grey whales and bottlenose dolphins, and Chinese hamsters are also at high risk of catching the virus
- Among domestic animals, cats, cattle, and sheep were found to have a medium risk, while dogs, horses, and pigs have low risk for the virus

Film, TV production activities to resume with SOP: I&B minister

Union information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javadekar has announced the reopening of the film and TV production industry that has been shut for several

ENTERTAINMENT

months since March due to the coronavirus pandemic. "The new SOP will be like a 'Sanjeevani' for the media production industry. Social distancing and masks will be an integral part of this SOP," Javadekar said. The minister said that the core principle of this SOP is 'contact minimisation'.

THE GUIDELINES

- The SOP ensures adequate distancing at shoot locations and other workplaces, and includes measures like proper sanitisation, crowd management, and provision for protective equipment
- Sharing of costumes, props, wigs, makeup, etc., will be kept to the minimum, and persons handling shared equipment will wear gloves.
- Minimum cast and crew to be allowed during the shoots
- The new SOP, however, prohibits the entry of visitors or audience at the shooting locations

KALLIS, ABBAS & STHALEKAR INDUCTED INTO ICC HALL OF FAME

Former South African all rounder, Jacques Kallis, former Australian women's captain, Lisa Sthalekar and former Pakistani batsman, Zaheer Abbas have been inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame. While, Kallis is the fourth South African player inducted, Zaheer is the sixth player from Pakistan and Lisa is the 27th player from Australia and the ninth woman player in the list.



HONOUR

93 players have been inducted so far under the system. Retired players are eligible for the ICC Hall of Fame, five years after playing their last international match

ROBERT PATTINSON EMBRACES DARKNESS IN 'THE BATMAN' TRAILER

Filmmaker Matt Reeves has unveiled the first trailer of his film, 'The Batman', which shows actor Robert Pattinson taking on the avatar of the caped crusader for vengeance. The teaser shows a new dark, gritty, and violent take on the iconic superhero. Reeves also shared that he hasn't traced the origin of the superhero in his movie.

MOVIE

"It's about the early days of him being Batman, and he's far from being perfect," Reeves said, after unveiling the trailer at the DC FanDome virtual event

The Batman is scheduled for release on October 1, 2021

NOKIA TO LAUNCH NEW FEATURE PHONE, SMARTPHONE SOON IN INDIA

Nokia has released a teaser video that shows that the smartphone maker is planning to launch two new phones soon in India. The outline

TECH BUZZ

in the video matches the image of the Nokia C3. However, the identity of the feature phone is unknown, but it is expected to be a 4G feature phone.

- The Nokia C3 is an entry-level device that has already been launched in China, with a 5.99-inch HD+ display, 3GB RAM, and 32GB of storage.
- The device has a single 8MP camera on the back of the phone along with an LED flash, a fingerprint scanner, and a 5MP camera in front for selfies.
- The phone packs a removable 3040mAh battery that charges via a MicroUSB port



NEW DOG WALKING RULES IN GERMANY

Germany's dog owners will soon be ordered by law to walk their pets twice a day. The country's agriculture minister Julia Klöckner has said that she is introducing the new law based on evidence that many of the nation's

9.4 million dogs are not getting the exercise or stimuli they need. The law, which is due to be introduced next year, has started a debate in Germany. The main question is how it will be possible to check up on the 19% of German households that own dogs, which as pets are second in popularity only to cats.

- Under the new regulations in the Hundeverordnung, or Dogs Act, owners will not get away with a quick jog round the block, but will be required to take their dogs out for at least one hour on each occasion
- The tethering of dogs on a chain or a lead for long periods, also faces

- an all-out ban
- Dogs may not be left alone at home all day, and a person will be required to take care of their dog, "several times a day"
- Klöckner said: "Dogs are not cuddly toys. They also have their own needs, which need to be taken into account"

DO WE NEED SUCH A RULE IN INDIA TOO; WILL IT WORK IN OUR COUNTRY?

Share your views at
toinie175@gmail.com



THE BIG DEBATE

Basic Debating Skills

Style

Style is the manner in which you communicate your arguments. This is the most basic part of debating to master. Content and strategy are worth little unless you deliver your material in a confident and persuasive way.

Speed

It is vital to talk at a pace which is fast enough to sound intelligent and allow you time to say what you want, but slow enough to be easily understood.

Tone

Varying tone is what makes you sound interesting. Listening to one tone for an entire presentation is boring.

Volume

Speaking quite loudly is sometimes a necessity, but it is by no means necessary to shout through every debate regardless of context. There is absolutely no need to speak any more loudly than the volume at which everyone in the room can comfortably hear you. Shouting does not win debates. Speaking too quietly is clearly disastrous since no one will be able to hear you.

Clarity

The ability to concisely and clearly express complex issues is what debating is all about. The main reason people begin to sound unclear is usually because they lose the "stream of thought" which keeps them going. It is also important to keep it simple. While long words may make you sound clever, they may also make you incomprehensible.

Ben Affleck
v/s
Robert Pattinson

the better Batman?

Tell us in 100 words at
timesnie175@gmail.com. Please
mention subject as 'Batman Debate'

Ben Affleck

Robert Pattinson

Use of notes, eye contact

Notes are essential, but they must be brief and well organised to be effective. There is absolutely no point in trying to speak without notes. Of course, notes should never become obtrusive and damage your contact with the audience, nor should they ever be read from verbatim. Most people sketch out the main headings of their speech, with brief notes under each.

When writing notes for rebuttal during the debate, it is usually better to use a separate sheet of paper so you can take down the details of what the other speakers have said and then transfer a rough outline onto the notes you will actually be using.

Eye contact with the audience is very important, but keep shifting your gaze. No one likes to be stared at.

Content

Content is what you actually say in the debate. The arguments used to develop your own side's case and rebut the opposite side's. The information on content provided below is a general overview of what will be expected when you debate. The final logistics of how long you will be debating, how many people will be in your group, and how the debate will unfold (ie: which team speaks first etc.), will all be decided by the one moderating the debate.

Example: How to put forth your case (argument)

Introduction – The case your group or you are making must be outlined in the introduction. This involves stating your main arguments and explaining the general thrust of your case. **This must be done briefly since the most important thing is to get on and actually argue it.** It is also a good idea to indicate the aspects of the subject to be discussed by each of the team members. **Conclusion:** At the end, once everyone has spoken,

➤ Having outlined the gist of your argument, you must then begin to build a case (the parts). To do this well, divide your case between two and four arguments (or divide your case based on the number of people in your group)

it is useful to briefly summarise what your group has said and why.

How to build the parts of your argument

Having outlined the whole of your argument, you must then begin to build a case (the parts). The best way to do this is to divide your case into two and four arguments (or divide your case based on the number of people in your group). You must justify your arguments with basic logic, worked examples, statistics, and quotes. **Debating is all about the strategy of 'proof'. Proof, or evidence, supporting your assertion is what makes it an argument.** There are a number of ways of dividing up cases according to groups of arguments (eg political/economic/social or moral/practical or international/regional etc.) or just according to individual arguments if you can't group any together.

You must justify your argument with basic logic, examples, statistics, and quotes. Remember debating is all about the strategy of 'proof'



What tribes teach us about preserving wildlife!

Many tribes across the world help conserve wildlife by taking care of them and worshipping them. Here are some rituals of reverence for animals.



The **RABARIS OF RAJASTHAN** are shepherds and they are believed to have migrated from Iran to Rajasthan over 1,000 years ago. They are devout worshippers of nature and consider leopards a divine symbol. Bera, the Rabari pastoral region in the Aravalli hills, has one of the largest concentrations of leopards on Earth.

The **CHAVINS OF PERU** worshipped the jaguar, embroidering its image into their shawls. Their animism or nature worship dates back to 900 BC. The jaguar was revered by MAYANS, AZTECS AND INCAS, who carved its image into their temples and thrones. For the DESENA OF COLOMBIA, the jaguar embodied the sun – for the TUCANO, the jaguar's roar brought rain and good harvest.

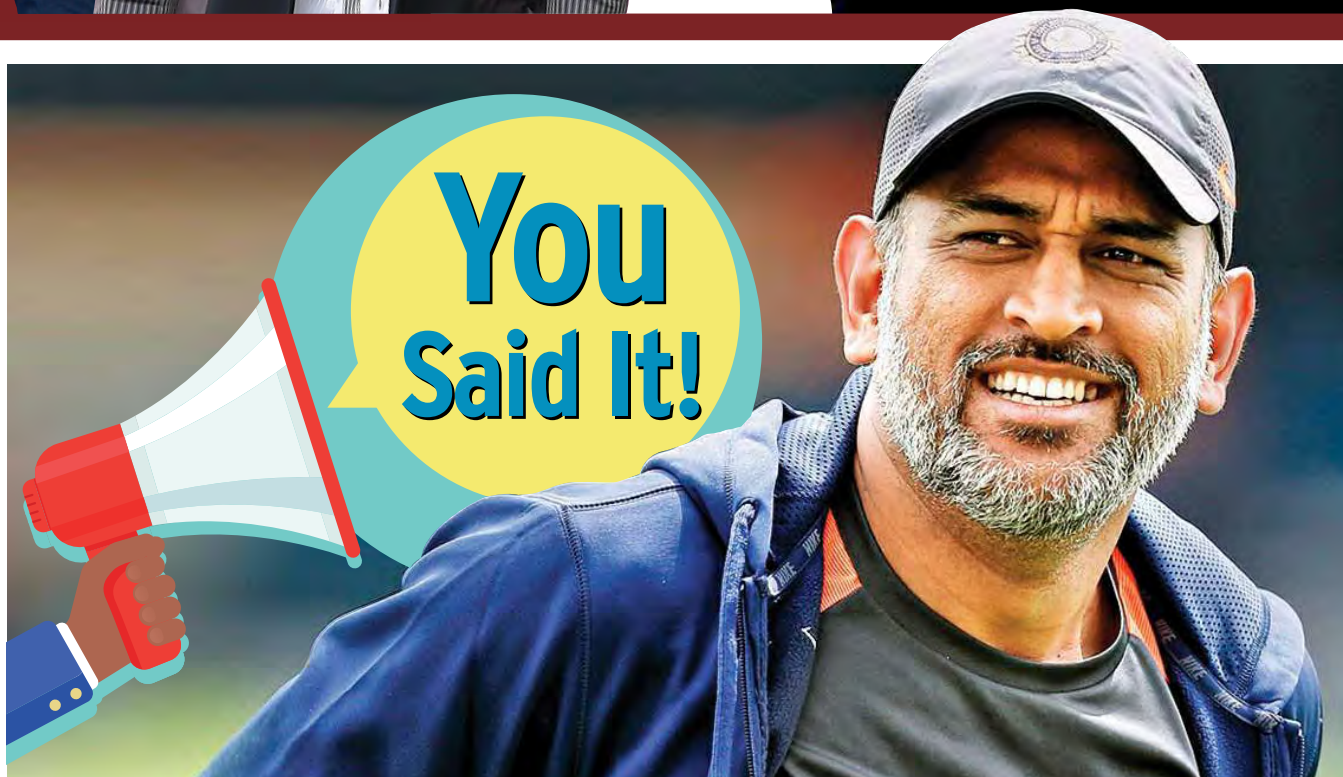


➤ Several tribal groups show that wildlife and human beings really can coexist peacefully

The **INUITS OF THE ARCTIC** worship polar bears, represented by a divine spirit called Nanuq. Traditionally, the Inuit were subsistence hunters – however, having diverse economic options now has led to Inuit campaigners leading efforts to protect polar bears.



SOURCE: National Geographic, Encyclopaedia Britannica, Smithsonian magazine



HE TAUGHT ME TO DO GROUP TASKS BETTER

From MS Dhoni, I learnt about understanding my teammates. **Whenever there is a group presentation assigned, I first understand the strengths and weaknesses of my teammates.** I start by asking them to choose the sub-topics and prepare accordingly. Then, we discuss on who should speak on what. Everyone is free to voice their option. **HASITHA VITTA, Class IX, Silver Oaks International School, Hyderabad**

➤ I first understand the strengths and weaknesses of my teammates during group tasks

I HAVE LEARNT TO SPREAD POSITIVITY

A leader is a person who not only leads a team but ALSO guides and motivates them. MSD is one such great example of what true leadership is. From him, I learnt, that leadership does not only mean to lead a group of people but a leader has to guide them to stand together. A leader has to remain focused. **HARDIK VOHRA, XC, Apeejay School, Pitampura, Delhi**

➤ I have learnt to remain focused and cool. As a leader, I want to spread positivity!

TEAMWORK IS ACTUALLY TEAMWORTH

Mahi has taught me – TEAMWORK! His cool demeanour shows that we all should be calm and not give up hope even if things don't go our way. Acceptance is equally important. He has shown the world to tackle all situations calmly, without hesitation. My favourite Mahi phrase is: "Take actions in silence, no lion attacks in noise". **FARIHA IRFAN SHAIKH, XC, Sardar Dastur Noshervan Girls High School, Pune**

➤ Perform in silence. A lion doesn't make a ruckus while attacking its prey! Let your work speak

NEVER EVER TO STOP LEARNING

One of the lessons that we can draw out is that leaders must be willing to take risks and try out something new instead of sticking to patterns. However, a person should be humble and never stop his learning curve.

MS Dhoni is a believer in experiential learning. As per him learning by doing is the best way to fasten the learning process. **RAYNEE MAKROO, CLASS X, Apeejay School, Pitampura**

➤ Earlier, I used to be very proud of my achievements. Mahi taught me to be humble, yet confident

VISION IS IMPORTANT, BUT SO IS CONFIDENCE

Some of the life lessons one can learn from Dhoni are – be authentic, be bold/take risk and stand out. The first responsibility of a leader is to craft a grand vision, articulate it, and raise the aspiration, confidence, pride, hope and enthusiasm of his people. Dhoni did it to perfection. A great leader leads by example. **SHAURYA KOCHAR, Class IX, Venkateshwar Global School**

➤ I have learnt to lead from the front and walk the talk. Only then can I be a true leader

I HAVE LEARNT TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

He has always shown us his charismatic leadership skills during his captaincy. He manages to stay calm and focused in every situation. This amazing attribute of his earned him the title 'Captain Cool'. He is never overpowered with emotions and takes full responsibility of his team's triumphs and defeats. **NIDHI, Grade x, New Age World School**

➤ If we win, the team takes all the accolades. But if we lose, the responsibility is solely mine

Quiz time

MIXED BAG

Q.1) The number of pulmonary veins opening into the left atrium are....
A. 4 B. 5 C. 2 D. 1

Q.2) What is the liquid component of blood?
A. Plasma B. Sinovial fluid
C. Lymph D. None of these

Q.3) What is the total energy of an electron in an atom?
A. positive B. zero
C. negative D. None of these

Q.4) What is the main constituent of the Sun?
A. Methen B. Ethen
C. Hydrogen D. Oxygen

Q.5) What is the function of chlorenchyma?
A. Vascular tissue B. Photosynthesis
C. Support D. Anchor the plant

Q.6) Where are the red-blood-corpuses formed?
A. Connective tissue B. Lungs
C. Bone marrow D. None of these

ANSWERS

1. D) 1, 2. A) Plasma, 3. C) Negative, 4. C) Hydrogen, 5. B) Photosynthesis, 6. C) Bone marrow

KNOWLEDGE BANK

SCIENCE

EHS

Exploding head syndrome (EHS) is a condition in which a person experiences unreal noises that are loud and of short duration when falling asleep or waking up. The noise may be frightening, and typically occurs only occasionally, and is not a serious health concern. It is classified as a sleep or headache disorder. People may also see a flash of light. Pain is typically absent, so it often goes undiagnosed.

