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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

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: zmesclence.com)

X-PLAINED

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

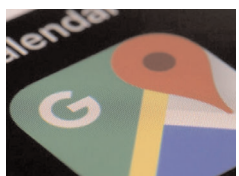
'Gargling with mouthwashes might lower the spread of Covid-19'

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

ON SALE

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.

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

and a life-sized tiger replica

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

A SECULAR AND EDUCATED NATION

I wish many things for my country, India. Some of my wishes are: a peaceful country, an educated country, a country whose citizens are loving, caring and understanding and many more.

The utmost wish of mine for my country is to establish a secular country. We all know that according to our Indian constitution, India is a secular country. This is just a written rule but in real, India is not secular. There are many disputes between people of different religions especially between the Hindus and the Muslims. They need to understand that we are all Indians in spite of belonging to different religions. We fight unnecessarily just because others poke us to do so. I want to clear all the misunderstandings between them so that they know the importance of unity. When united, we can overcome any problem. This



is what I want to make them know. I would also like to see my India as one of the top countries in the world in terms of development and as well as education. Education should be made compulsory for all. The poor must be educated in schools and get healthy and nutritious mid-day meals. People of India must respect each other, every state ministers or the cabinet ministers must fulfil voter's promises and help in the development of country. Men and women should get equal rights and wages. Every citizen of India must be skilled. I would like to see my India clean and green. Government should focus on women's security. Free electricity must be provided to every household, especially to the poor.

Soumilee Bhattacharyya, Class XII, Apeejay School, Park Street

OF BITTERSWEET REALITIES...

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the bittersweet realities and the entire system or structure of maintaining order, stands naked, its faults and inabilities, suddenly, very visible. Thus, an inclusive India, at a glance became exclusivist, where the builders of my house - my neighbourhood - my nation, were being trampled by the pandemic and also by the short-sighted government measures and by the slumber of their fellow citizens.

I thus wish for a change, this August 15, a change of this ignorant and divisive attitude. I ask for a more empathetic political, economic, social struc-

ture, a more compassionate India, that in its race to progress or in its battle against a catastrophe, does not divide but unites; so that as I stay protected under a shelter, with all comforts. Let this protection extend to thousands like me, who will not have to walk hundreds of miles or travel like cattle herds on special vehicles towards home, for safety, security and identity.

This Independence Day, let a promise for an India emerge, that shall not turn deaf and blind to the sufferings of a significant portion of her population but ensure significant measures and steps, to tackle the present circumstances and be better prepared for the future. Till then, Happy Independence Day! Stay Safe!

Aadrit Banerjee, Class XII, Apeejay School, Park Street

**ONE WISH I HAVE FOR MY COUNTRY...****INDIA OF MY DREAMS**

India has been the story of great men and women whose legacy encourages and inspire us everyday. We are a nation driven by dreams and this free air has come at a cost we can never imagine. It's time we students take this lantern forward and draw the lines of its destiny ourselves. I dream of an India wherein



students are independent of wants, curriculums and constraints. Many students still don't see the light and the world beyond textbook instructions — this consciously induced lack of endeavour and exploration needs to go. Only then can we unleash our synergies and work towards building an endeavouring and incredible India.

Asish Singh, Class XII, St. Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore

A SAFE HAVEN FOR GIRLS

This year India will celebrate its 73rd Independence Day. But are we are living in an independent country? Well we have achieved complete Independence from the British but yet not from many things, such as corruption, rape, murder, kidnapping and many more. One of the things what I desire is



complete Independence of women from heinous crimes such as rape in our country. A girl or a woman is not yet safe in our country. A girl always feels unsafe getting out of her house. It is time we should protect the girls around and make them feel safe. So that even she can go out at midnight for any work.

Sumit Ray, Class X, St. Aloysius, Orphanage & Day School, Howrah

A FRESH START, LEAVING BEHIND ALL DARK

Does independence just mean having no outsider rule our country? It rather has a deeper implication. It means, every national with a prejudice-free mind and a tolerant and non-corrupt approach towards the nation's progress. However, even after 73 years of 'Poorna-Swaraj', we have failed to keep our promises to India and become truly independent.

So, this Independence Day, let us not allow our home-bound days to become the devil's workshop; but free our minds from the age-old clutches. I wish every Indians' mind be freed from all evils and blemishes as they reach towards happier times. The deaths and disasters will be easier to bear if we are all in this together. I wish for a tryst with our true destiny just like we promised India 73 years ago.

Esha Ganguly, Class XII, St. Augustine's Day School, Shyamnagar

**FREE FROM THE SHACKLES OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

It is really impossible for us to think about a day without freedom. But unfortunately, the freedom, which we received after continuous hardwork for years, is neither being respected nor utilised by the youth in an effective manner. I feel, that somewhere the youth of our country is again becoming slave



Rupam Shukla, Class XII, Sunrise English Medium School

A NATION OF REFRAMED RULES

To be granted a wish this Independence Day, I wish to be 'wished' by the power to re-frame certain unwritten, illogical rules that are set in the minds of the multitudes. Supersti-



tions, cultural influences leading to beliefs, stigma around discussing sexual orientations and how the technology is actually useful are all those things I wish eradicate from the masses' minds as we step into the 73rd year of Independence.

Harsh Kumar Agarwal, Class X, National English School

TOPPERS' SUCCESS MANTRA**ADIPTYA GHOSH**

CBSE X, 97.8%

Study Plan: The preparation for boards doesn't span only for a couple of months or so, but the complete year of class X. So I invested the rest of the year in learning and mastering the topics while for the last two to three months, I focused on only revision and practice. During this period, what I mainly did was going through the notes that I had made for each chapter and I also went through the solved previous years' question papers and solving them again as well. Going through the solved papers and observing them, I felt, it is very important to write answers with the proper keywords in them and thus is the main key to scoring good marks. The sense of identifying the right keywords grows by practicing the solved papers repeatedly. The biggest support for me during these days, were my parents, specially my mother, who would sit and make me write the notes and my teachers at school, who always supported and guided me.

Key Challenges: The main challenge that I faced during this time was the problem of concentrating, as I couldn't concentrate for longer hours. I started good, but eventually lost interest in studying. So the way I found to tackle this was to skip few days of studying when I lost interest and meanwhile concentrated on solving questions or taking a break. Another method that I followed was to bring my focus onto completing topics rather than chapters of a subject and switching between the subjects regularly during my study hours, so that I could retain my interest in that subject.

Dealing with pressure: During the days of preparation, I strictly avoided the pressure of 'performing' because having this would actually make us panic rather than making us better prepared. Although, I was never pressurized by my family or anyone to have a stand or anything such but instead was taught to focus more on my level of preparation.

My Motivation: Motivation, what I feel, is the driving force during this time. Watching motivational films, listening to good speeches, reading good books was what I mostly did to keep myself refreshed and motivated.



DPS HOWRAH



Balancing academics with other activities: Another fact that I would want to share is that I did not have a timetable for myself. Since I had a problem of concentrating for longer hours, I refrained from resorting to a stricter timetable, but instead set weekly goals that I tried to achieve. In this way, I could do other activities as well and keep myself amused and cool.

Advice To Future Aspirants: I would suggest these points to all aspirants who are preparing or will be in the upcoming years for class X boards.

■ NCERT books should be your Bible, Gita, Quran...whatever you wish to say it! Try to concentrate more on the NCERT books rather than references as questions come directly from the text of these books.

■ Start your preparation from the very first day. The beginning of the final study leave shouldn't be the beginning of your preparation!

■ Try avoiding extra tuitions as these would only be eating up your time. Instead approach your school teachers for any extra help and support. I say this from my personal experience...my school teachers were the most supportive I could have had and till the last day of

class X, I did not have any extra tuitions. And always remember class 10 is not at all difficult. Its just the beginning of what awaits you in the future. So if you need six extra supports for six subjects right here then how will you face the future?

Finally, do work hard but do not forget to work smart. That will hugely reduce your work and pressure.

Future Plans: My future plans, at this moment, is to pursue a course in computer science and artificial intelligence, although this plan might change anytime!

ANKANA DAS

CBSE X, 94.33%

Study Plan: I had maintained a structured timetable for self-study. Regular maths practice helped me a lot in bringing the speed with accuracy during the final exam days. Written practice made me confident.

Key Challenges: In academics I did not face any challenge as such.

Dealing with pressure: I always try to keep my mind cool during my preparation days by nurturing my hobbies like writing, reading and trying out different cuisine.

My Motivation: From my childhood, I want to do engineering from IIT. And that dream motivates me to work hard.

Balancing academics with other activities: My interest lies in participating in different activities and competitions. And as I shared before I prefer to follow structured time table. And that helped me to keep balance between academics and other activities.

Advice To Future Aspirants: Focussed and disciplined studies.

Future Plans: To engage myself in research-oriented studies.



MOUNT LITERA ZEE SCHOOL MAHESHTALA

PAINTERS' GALLERY

Pramita Sengupta, Class XII, St. Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore



Prarthana Saha, Class XII, St. Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore