

THE TIMES OF INDIA

NEWSMAKERS

Amit Shah gets BJP ticket to contest elections
Former Gujarat home minister Amit Shah, accused in the Soharabadin Sheikh and Tulsi Prajapati-staged shoot-out cases, will contest in the upcoming state elections.

Ricky Ponting to retire from Test cricket
Australian batsman Ricky Ponting, on Thursday, decided to retire from Test cricket after the final Test against South Africa starting in Perth from today.

Marilyn Monroe in new Chanel advert
Sixty years after Marilyn Monroe made public her love for Chanel No. 5, she is part of a recent commercial released by the fashion house to promote the fragrance.

Kate emulates Princess Diana's style
The Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, looked like Diana when she teamed up a retro dress and styled her hair like the late Princess.

Priyanka Chopra to play Mary Kom in flick
Actress Priyanka Chopra has been finalised to play Mary Kom on screen for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's ambitious project. Priyanka will learn boxing from Mary Kom.

Amy Winehouse's portrait unveiled in London
A painting of singer Amy Winehouse was unveiled at London's prestigious National Portrait Gallery. The portrait was bought for an undisclosed amount.

CODE-DECODE

EINSTEIN'S BRAIN

Albert Einstein's brain, contained an unusually high number of folds which provided the genius with the ability to think more. Care for 'brainstorming'?

Preserved fast
When Einstein died in 1955, pathologist Thomas Harvey quickly preserved the brain and made samples and sections. He reported that he could see nothing unusual. The variations were within the range of normal human brain's. (As it happened, the brain was a bit smaller than average; size is not correlated with intelligence.)

The uniqueness
The distinctive part of his brain is that scientific studies have suggested that regions involved in speech and language are smaller, while regions involved with numerical and spatial processing are larger.

Gial cells
One study has suggested an increased number of Gial cells (The cells perform many important functions including: digestion of parts of dead neurons and providing physical and nutritional support for neurons). Neurologists who have studied the high percentage of Gial cells in the left and right sides of Einstein's brain theorise that this is evidence his brain consumed more energy than normal people.

It was different
Einstein's brain weighed at least 200 gm (0.44 pounds) less than the average male brain for his time period. Some portions of his brain, such as the cerebral cortex, were thinner, yet more saturated with neurons, than corresponding areas inside mainstream brains.

The Drummer boy

Julian Pavone, 8, became a professional drummer when he was 5 years, 10 months and 3 days old, setting the world record for the youngest professional drummer. Read about him

When I play I want to make people smile. I want to grow up to become the world's oldest drummer and break that record too
Julian

HAVE YOU MET ANY FAMOUS DRUMMER? Yes, I have met legends like Gregg Bissonette (Ringo Starr), Stewart Copeland (the police), Corky Laing, Carl Palmer, Dom Famularo, Cindy Blackman, Dennis Chambers, and many others.

WHO WERE YOUR EARLIEST MUSICAL INFLUENCES? The Beatles, Michael Jackson, Led Zepellin, The Who, Chicago, TOTO, Rush, Earth, Wind & Fire, Miles Davis and Santana.

HOW DID THE AUDIENCE RESPOND WHEN THEY SAW YOU PLAY? They are so nice, many of them remain stunned. They scream and yell for solos.



WONDER KID
He has appeared on more than 200 television and news shows, including, The Oprah Winfrey Show, Good Morning America
He has performed live on numerous radio stations around the world and at many concert venues
He has received numerous honours and awards, including the Guinness World Records as 'The Youngest Professional Drummer', 'Murry's Most Talented Kid' of 2009, 'The 2007 Rock and Roll Lifetime Achievement Award'

NAME : Julian Pavone
AGE : 8
COUNTRY : USA

SCHOOL : University Magnet School, a private, college-preparatory day school that is one of America's oldest co-educational, independent schools.

HOBBIES : Working with charities, singing, dancing, playing baseball and karate

WHAT'S THE BEST COMPLIMENT YOU HAVE RECEIVED SO FAR? I am the global ambassador of MORC, Children's Miracle Network, an NGO. Once at a performance, a patient said to me that 'I was just like him' and I really felt touched.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT DRUMMING? Having a show in front of 30,000 people. The sheer joy of performing in front of an audience lifts me up and encourages me to do something out-of-the-box.

STUDENT EDITION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012

TICKER TAPE



Blue whales execute acrobatic 360-degree rolls to capture prey
The world's largest predators the blue whales, execute acrobatic 360-degree rolls while feeding on their small crustacean prey.

NASA ponders new missions for spare spy telescopes
NASA is looking for new ideas on what to do with two space telescopes left over from a once secret US spy satellite programme.

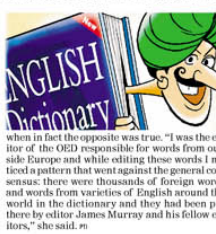
US Ambassador rues quality of education in India
US Ambassador to India Nancy Powell on Thursday said that the quality of education in India remains a "concern and major challenge".

UAE students visit Varanasi, Patna for green lessons
For the first time, visits to rural communities in Varanasi and Patna have become part of the curriculum of a UAE-based university that focuses on advanced energy.

Most genetic changes in humans occurred in past 5,000 years
In the past 5,000 years, the human genome has accumulated a large number of variations, according to a study published in the scientific journal Nature.

Oxford Editor secretly deleted Indian words

An eminent former editor of the Oxford English Dictionary attempted to rewrite it by deleting thousands of words with foreign roots, including those of Indian origin, a new book claims. Robert Burchfield deleted words like 'baisasa', a hedgehog-like animal from India, 'Danehi', a Bengali plant, and 'boivander', the name in British Guyana for a person of mixed race living on the river banks. The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) is now re-examining words removed by Burchfield who edited the world respected dictionary during the 70s and 80s, and died in 2004 aged 81. The Daily Mail reported, Burchfield, who bizarrely blamed previous editors for it, has long been considered the editor who opened up the English dictionary to the wider world. Sarah Ogilvie, also a former OED editor, in her new book *Words of the World* reveals how Burchfield started a rumour that his earlier editors were inward-looking anglocentric.



Twitter fiction festival kicks off

Twenty-nine story-telling projects from around the world are being showcased in the first-ever Twitter fiction festival, held over five days on the microblogging site. The virtual event, taking place in five languages: Arabic, English, French, Italian and Spanish will run from November 28 to December 2, according to the social network's official blog (@twittercom). While everyone is free to take part under the #twitterfiction hashtag, the festival's selection panel, picked 20 entries from around the world to highlight on a dedicated page at mobile.twitter.com/hashtag/twiterfiction.

9-yr-old paints reality

Shruti Bhalgi, a nine-year-old girl from Chennai won the all-India first prize in the art contest 'Being a Child in India', organised by the US Embassy in New Delhi to highlight the importance of child survival. US Ambassador to India Nancy J Powell presented an Apple iPad to Shruti, a student of PSBB School in Nungambakkam, for her picture 'Healthy and Happy'. Soniya Rehan, 10, from Noida and Madhu Bhansari, a fifth grader from New Delhi, won the second and third prizes respectively. The Embassy announced the contest in September and the results were declared on October 11 this year.

Eureka! Fastest space engine

A small British company with a dream of building a re-usable space plane has won an important endorsement from the European Space Agency (ESA) after completing key tests on its novel engine technology. Reaction Engines Ltd believes its novel Sabre engine, which would operate like a jet engine in the atmosphere, could displace rockets for space access and transform air travel by bringing any destination on earth to no more than four hours away. Skyline is years away, but in the meantime the technology is attracting interest from the global aerospace industry.

App to make math cool

The start-up behind the algebra app that overtook Angry Birds as No. 1 in the Norwegian app store earlier this year aims to replicate that success globally next year with four more mathematics games. The goal of 'WeWantToKnow' is to teach 12 years of math curriculum in some 30 hours of game play is ambitious, but its founders are certain that the success of the first version of DragonBox, the algebra game which has been downloaded more than 50,000 times, proves the target is within reach.

Aakash 2 at UN meet

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has lauded India as a super power in the field of information technology as he unveiled the country's first indigenous, low-cost Aakash 2 tablet. The tablet was showcased at the UN headquarters on the occasion of the India's current Presidency of the UN Security Council. CEO of Datasoft, maker of the Aakash tablet, Sunoo Singh Talwar, presented the device to the UN chief. "India is a critical player on security issues, but you are also a leader on development and technology," Ban said in his remarks.

Homework, waste of time

According to a new study, more homework assignments do not translate into better grades. Researchers looked at transcripts and data of more than 800 tenth grade students, in a study carried out to find what differences extra study at home makes. They found homework doesn't necessarily help children to get more grades, but may help them achieve better standardized test scores. The Daily Mail reported. The findings by researchers from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, US, show more homework assignments didn't translate into better grades.

TOP 5 SAFARIS IN THE WORLD

- Mountain Gorillas in Uganda:** Take a private charter flight from Entebbe to the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. Home to around half of the world's mountain gorillas, the park is the best place to track the endangered, majestic creatures.
- Snow Leopard, Ladakh:** It's a tough place to access, and the environment is harsh, but efforts are breathtaking. Hemis National Park is the refuge of more than 200 snow leopards. If you miss the snow leopard you can get a glimpse of golden hawk and brown bears.
- Civets in Singapore:** Careed for at the Wildlife Reserves Singapore along with numerous other creatures, civets are also included in the 30-minute night show at the safari. Visitors are given the opportunity to participate in the activities of the show at the world's first nocturnal zoo.

- Bird watching in Tanzania:** With 529 bird species complemented by 1,650 plant species, it's no wonder that Ruaha is known for its bird-watching location. Ruaha is also famous for its growing population of elephants and is home to the African wild dog and rhinos.
- Lions in Kenya:** The Masai Mara Wildlife Reserve gives you an opportunity to literally look into the eyes of lions, cheetahs, leopards, gazelles and many other animals!

ACTION-REACTION



Parents and kids don't make good Facebook friends. Do you agree?

I feel we should add parents on our friends list. There's no harm, in fact they'll keep a tab if someone is trying to bully us or who's on our friends list.
Srijit Seal, class XI, DPS School, Kolkata

If our folks become our friends on FB, they'll know whom we are going out with, chatting, posting our photos. We need some privacy, which we can't have with our parents peeping into whatever we do.
Dibyan Dutta, class XI, DPS West Bengal, Kolkata

We don't want a cyber police, interrogating us for the comments we have posted. FB is a platform for us to write, to make new friends and hang out, we don't need parents hovering over us.
Maanav Ganjoo, class X, Rims International School, Mumbai

I think Facebook is a place where we want to explore others life, especially people who are not very close to us. Since parents are very close to us we never want them to be on our friends list.
Rajeev, class X, State School, Hyderabad

If we make our parents our FB friends they'll ask us millions of questions - whom are you chatting with, why did we poke a stranger or what a bad profile picture it is!
Sandeep, class X, St. Joseph's Hyderabad

SOURCE: IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMAL ORDER BASED ON INFORMATION FROM THE NET AND HAS NOT BEEN VERIFIED BY THE WET TEAM