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STUDENT EDITION

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WEB EDITION

DID YOU KNOW?



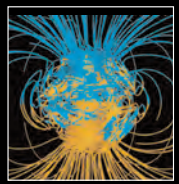
Earth's magnetic field can change 10 TIMES FASTER THAN THOUGHT

Using simulations in the laboratory, scientists have revealed that changes in the direction of the Earth's magnetic field may take place 10 times faster than previously thought. The study gives new insight into the swirling flow of iron, 2,800 kms below the planet's surface, and how it has influenced the movement of the magnetic field during the past 100,000 years...



IMPACT OF REVERSING MAGNETIC FIELD

1 One of the biggest impacts of reversing magnetic field, according to scientists, will be on animals that use the magnetic field for navigation, especially, turtles and birds



3 It will affect human beings too. The biggest risk depends on how weak the field gets during its transition. If it gets too weak, more radiation will get to the Earth's surface and could cause cancer

2 Importantly, the direction of compass will also change—North on the compass will point to Antarctica rather than Canada

4 It could also cause havoc for aviation and navigation systems, including smartphone apps that use GPS

What is Earth's magnetic field?

Earth's magnetic field is the magnetic field that extends from the Earth's interior out into the space, where it interacts with the solar wind, a stream of charged particles emanating from the sun

It is created by the movement of liquid iron in the Earth's outer core, some 2,896 km below our feet

How does it work? The iron is super hot (over 3,000 degrees Celsius) and like water flows very easily. While flowing, it drags the magnetic field with it, and its corresponding North and South poles.

Are magnetic poles the same as geographical poles?

No. These magnetic North and South Poles are different from the geographic North and South poles. The geographic North and South poles are in a fixed position; they are diametrically opposite to each other

However, the magnetic North and South Poles are constantly moving. Over time, they become misaligned with their geographic equivalents

How often does the Earth flip poles? According to scientists, the Earth's magnetic field regularly flips poles in every few 100,000 years. The latest World Magnetic Model, which tracks the movement of the Earth's magnetic field, revealed last year that the magnetic North pole is moving on its own

Last year, researchers reported that the Earth's magnetic North Pole is travelling at a rate of 48km per year. This is the fastest recorded shift of the Earth's north, since the mid-16th century, they say

Why do these changes happen? Scientists say these rapid changes are due to the local weakening of the magnetic field. This means that these changes have generally occurred around times, when the field has reversed polarity or during, what are known as, 'geomagnetic excursions'

CELEB TALK

'I have accepted vegetarianism to reduce carbon footprint'

Actress Shilpa Shetty, known as a fitness freak, has said that she is ready to make major lifestyle changes to contribute towards the cause of climate change. In an Instagram post, the actress revealed that she has turned into a complete vegetarian to reduce carbon footprint.

Over the years, I've realised that cultivating livestock for food, has not only destroyed forests, but also been the largest source of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions. These are majorly responsible for the climate change, our planet is experiencing. Following a vegetarian diet is not only beneficial for animals, but also can actually protect us from lifestyle diseases

Shilpa Shetty



Mona Lisa charms visitors as Paris' LOUVRE reopens



Louvre Museum, which houses the world's most famous portrait, welcomed limited number of visitors, as it reopened on Monday, after a four-month coronavirus lockdown

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MONA LISA

Which person is believed to be the subject of the Mona Lisa?

- a) Mona Giocondo b) Lisa Simpson
c) Lisa Gherardini

In which year did the Mona Lisa become part of the collection at the Louvre?

- a) 1593 b) 1693 c) 1797

In which year the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre museum?

- a) 1901 b) 1911 c) 1927

Why was the Mona Lisa removed from the Louvre in 1939?

- a) The painting was loaned to Italy b) It needed to be cleaned c) To protect it from damage or theft during WW-II

ANSWERS: 1)C 2)C 3)B 4)C

CBSE REVISES CLASS IX-XII SYLLABUS FOR 2020-21 academic session

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has rationalised the syllabus by up to 30% for classes IX to XII for the academic year 2020-21 to reduce course load of students amid the Covid-19 crises, Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal announced on Tuesday. The curriculum has been rationalised, while retaining the core

elements. The Union minister said the changes made in the syllabi have been finalised by the respective course committees with the approval of the curriculum committee and the Governing Body of the Board. According to the updated curriculum, among the chapters deleted from class X syllabus are— democracy and diversity, gender, religion and caste.

The heads of schools and teachers have been advised by the Board to ensure that the topics that have been reduced are also explained to the students to the extent required to connect different topics. However, the reduced syllabus will not be part of the topics for internal assessment, and year-end board examination.

For classes I to VIII, the National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) has already notified an alternative calendar and learning outcomes



EDUCATION

WASH SALAD GREENS THE RIGHT WAY

A bowl of salad is an excellent source of natural fibre; it helps in weight management too. For instance, Lettuce, an important salad green, is rich in Vitamin C, K, A, calcium, folate and potassium. So is spinach that is high in folate, calcium and other nutrients

However, leafy greens carry a lot of dust and dirt with them, so it is very important to clean them thoroughly before consuming. Here are some tips to wash them in the best possible way...



- Wash salad greens as soon as you get them from the store, or your veggie vendor
- Take a large bowl and fill it with cool water. Then place the greens in them, after separating them from their stems
- Swirl the water so that it reaches every corner of the greens
- Soak the leafy greens in the water for at least 10 minutes. This helps all the dirt particles to settle down at the bottom
- Take them out of the water and dry them thoroughly. Make sure you dry them properly before storing them in the fridge, because if you keep water-soaked greens in containers, they run the risk of becoming soggy and can rot



CORONA UPDATE

Scientists say coronavirus is airborne; WHO acknowledge their claim

More than 200 scientists from 32 nations had written to the WHO, saying there is evidence that the coronavirus is airborne and even smaller particles can infect people, a significant departure from the UN health agency's claims so far that Covid-19 spread primarily through coughs and sneezes. A report in The New York Times said that clusters of infections are rising globally as people go back to restaurants, offices, markets and casinos, a trend that increasingly confirms that the virus lingers in the air indoors, infecting those nearby. In an open letter to the WHO, around 239 scientists outlined the evidence showing that smaller particles can infect people. They had also urged the agency to revise its recommendations.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) had long held that the coronavirus is spread primarily by large respiratory droplets, when an infected person coughs or sneezes

In its latest update dated June 29 on the coronavirus, the WHO said airborne transmission of the virus was possible only after medical procedures that produce aerosols or droplets, smaller than 5 microns

However, the WHO, on Tuesday, acknowledged scientists' claim on the basis of "evidence emerging" of the airborne spread of the novel coronavirus



POETRY CONTEST

@Calcutta International School

The competition was held to create an anthology of poems that reflected these unprecedented times. The students expressed their emotional journey from the pre-Covid era to the ongoing pandemic. The winner of grade VIII and under was Isabel Archment while the winner in the grade IX-XII category was Kavvya Agarwal

The judges for the contest were: Professor Deborah Landau, PhD, director of the Creative Writing Programme at New York University, Professor Evie Shockley, PhD, Professor of Creative Writing Programme at Rutgers University, Pulitzer Prize finalist

"I'm so glad to encounter this vibrant, urgent work. These poems are all powerful and moving – and it's wonderful to see that these students are writing poetry during these wrenching times."

—Professor Landau

It was a hard decision, but these three poems do some of the things I most admire in poetry. They draw me in with images - sights and sounds that seem specific to the poet's experience. The winning poem blew me away with the insightful and vivid description of how the "ever busy ants scurry across the left open biscuit packet / Oblivious to our human confinement." The second-place poet sparked my imagination by describing this time of the pandemic as a strange and distant place: "This is Now. An inscrutable Mars."

I like the way poems use contrasts to create understanding. The winning poem compares the fast-paced world before the pandemic ("Hurried lunch, hurried homework, hurried revision and stolen snatches of TV") to the forced leisure of lockdown, with its unexpected pleasures ("Time to watch the beehive growing in size"). I especially appreciated how the poem uses anaphora (repeated words at the beginning of a series of phrases: "Hurried . . ." and "Time to . . .") to draw attention to the comparison. I admire the music of rhyme and rhythm. The

third-place poem features rhyming quatrains, with a strong 4-beat accentual line: "I asked what happened to the children then? / She said, 'The same, life stopped, and started again.'" The second-place poem offers unexpected rhymes - like "Mars" with "cars," "forgotten" with "kitten," and "habit" and "hatchet" - that create new associations in my mind. And I am drawn to poems that cast a wide net - that is, they connect the immediate environment and the present moment to earlier times, distant places, or the rich culture around us. The third-place poem connects the Coronavirus pandemic to the early 20th-century Spanish Flu pandemic, and takes hope from the fact that the world has recovered from widespread disease in the past. And the winning poem gives us a lovely moment of family togetherness, as the absence of activities (and pollution!) draw their eyes upwards: "Just like in my childhood say my parents / Tracing bright stars with stretched out fingers, Venus? Space station?" Congratulations to the three winners and my best wishes to all the poets! I hope they'll keep writing and capturing their world in words

— Professor Shockley

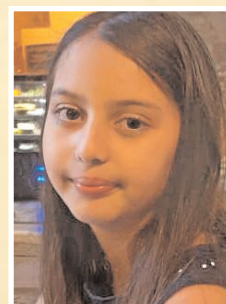
THEN AND NOW

Then

Outside school a blur of cars
line up honking impatiently
A gaggle of kids pushing,
goggling, calling to each
other as they head home
Hurried lunch, hurried
homework, hurried revision
and stolen snatches of tv.
Football class, math class, swim
class, tennis class weekdays and
weekends ran into one
another.

Now

No honking, no roar of cars, buses on
the roads,
Just birdsong and doesn't it seem like
they've increased their volume
Or is it because we've decreased ours?



Finally time to look at the clear
sky the scudding clouds.
Just like in my childhood say my
parents
Tracing bright stars with
stretched out fingers, Venus?
Space station?
Time to play tennis in the garden
with improvised net

Time to re read Harry Potter, zoom les-
sons from the comfort of my bedroom
Time to watch the beehive growing in
size,
The swarm of tiny black bees flaunting
their freedom.
The ever busy ants scurry across the left
open biscuit packet
Oblivious to our human confinement.

—Isabel Archment

FROM YOUR DEAR MIGRANT GUEST

Do you remember me,
memsahib?
It is me, Suleiman, your
humble servant!

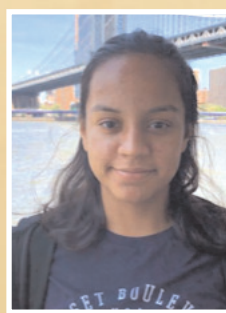
Do you remember me, mem-
sahib?
It was my name that echoed
Through the walls of your
three-storied bungalow.
Do you remember me, mem-
sahib?

It was my hands that
swept your marble floors,
Polished your mirrors and car-
ried me through nights alone;
Washed your gold-rimmed china,
Dusted ancient grime off your
books,
Hoping that one day, you'd
realise:
Money without love has
resulted in your shallow
looks.

It was my wrinkled

fingers that bathed
Your children in oceans
of bubbles and rubber
ducks,

Whilst lamenting my
woebegone, ill-fated
luck;
Fed them nutty-buddy
and chocolate chip
cookie and peanut butter pie,
While mine rummaged through
the detritus of your kind.
It was my skin that collected
dust and cement
While loading your load;
My body that made home in your
greasy kitchen floor;
My soul that sought comfort in
that daily phone call to ma
In that precise moment your lips
parted,
'That boy's gone too far.'
Have you forgotten me, mem-
sahib?



I now tread the road-
less travelled.
'Atithi Devo Bhava',
you religiously
preach,
Your house now a
deathless corpse
as we speak.
Will you lend

me a hand, memsahib?
A hand for a hand, they
say.
Will you leave your
Bach and Chopin
And listen to the sym-
phony of my suf-
fering?

Or will you look into my
child's unseeing eyes
and say:
'Oh, it's nothing.'

—Kavvya Agarwal

WE HAIL OUR COVID WARRIORS

Today not only India but the whole world is suffering from the Corona virus which has caused the death of thousands of people. But during this hard time there are some people who are doing their duties selflessly. They are our doctors, nurses, medical staff, ambulance drivers, cleaning staff and our policemen. They are putting their lives in danger but saving the lives of thousands. These people also have to sacrifice living with their families so that they don't infect them in turn. The presence of these warriors has greatly reduced the effect of the virus. We also have to be responsible citizens of the country and abide by the rules and regulations laid down by the government to fight this virus. Thank you corona fighters for saving us. India is so proud of you!

— Sneha Singh, Class VII, Andhra Association School



Technology saves the day

This global pandemic has brought humanity to the worst unforeseen circumstances, putting us in captivity and caging our freedom. Our country is also one of the worst-hit nations across the globe. Had this been the case back in the Elizabethan era, life would have come to a standstill and growth would have been jeopardized. Fortunately now we have the Internet and latest technologies which is one of the mightiest inventions of the human race. Without smartphones we would have been completely isolated from the world with, no calls, no communication, no Internet. Technology has helped us not to limit ourselves amidst this lockdown. Students can carry on with their education without any major hindrance through online classes. Internet is helping office goers to work from home. It provides us with a plethora of information and provides access to various learning platforms which can be put into use to improve our skills and personality which was not possible earlier.

Digital transactions are helping us cope with this adversity amidst a shortage of cash flow. Digital media is helping us connect with the news across the globe.

Mobile phone and the Internet is helping the economy withstand the intricate challenges of the Covid disaster. We must be thankful to these technologies that have helped us to meet our needs. Life without them would have been unimaginable and horrific indeed.

—Abhinav Jha, Class XII, Sunrise (Eng Med) School

THE GOOD SAMARITANS' KITCHEN

The most interesting part in an airline security guideline is just before take-off when the hostesses say, "If you are travelling with a child or someone who requires assistance, secure your mask (oxygen) at first and then assist the other person." The world that we live in today makes this all the more relevant and significant. However, the most incredible stories of humanity, compassion and bravery unfold when you tend to throw the "practicality" out of your window.

As you travel in the bylanes of Das Tola in Sugandhi you come across an enclosure, home to a Kali Temple and the local Ambedkar Club. The ambience is non-descriptive and could pass off as just another club for recreation of the local youth, but the story that has been unfolding over the last 30-odd days could easily term this place as the cradle of humanity in the area.

The Ambedkar Club has been running a community kitchen that caters to around 350 people on a daily basis. A team of 80 plus local youth has been instrumental in setting up this kitchen and providing food to the population within a three-kilometre radius. Most of the volunteers hail from families which



have known poverty for ages now, but that hasn't stopped them from contributing to this epic cause. In fact, during the food distribution one couldn't tell the donors and recipients apart.

The spokesperson of the group, Rajiv Ranjan, working with Kendriya Vidyalaya, Maithon said, "The local residents, mostly Dalits and daily wage earners, during the early days of the lockdown encountered some lesser privileged workers who would visit their doorsteps to collect rice starch to satiate their hunger. This moved the local youth who promptly start-

ed a mission to ensure that they could at least provide one square meal a day to these needy people around them. Though they had limited resources, their high spirits ensured that a kitchen was started."

The group comprises 70 to 80 volunteers who not only account for the food and resources, but also take part in activities like finding wood for the kitchen, cleaning the area, cooking meals and distributing the food to people who can't visit the club. Incredibly, a few volunteers have also given up their two-wheelers, vans to aid the initiative. The vehicles are used for food de-



livery across a greater radius.

While entering the premises, one would spot circles to ensure social distancing while people are in the queue to collect food. The circles in the queue are too many to count, which reflects not only on the pangs of hunger existing in the area, but also the number of lives these warriors touch on a daily basis. The team has also been encouraging people to maintain social distancing, and has been issuing directives and guidelines to people to stay safe and secure amidst the scare of Covid-19.

The initiative has largely been self-funded and managed, though from time to time they have received help from NGOs, social or-

ganizations and other groups. The local administration has also issued the requisite passes to their vehicles to ensure food delivery to the needy. The spokesperson further went on to add, "Though we are indebted for all the help we have received from various quarters, we require more help and assistance. We also plan to distribute food packets to the police personnel on duty in the coming weeks."

The operation is being guided and spearheaded by Ravi Kumar Das, who is the president of the club and a driver by profession, Vijay Kumar, the chief secretary, a welder and civil services aspirant, Rajiv Ranjan, spokesperson, teacher with Kendriya Vidyalaya, Maithon.

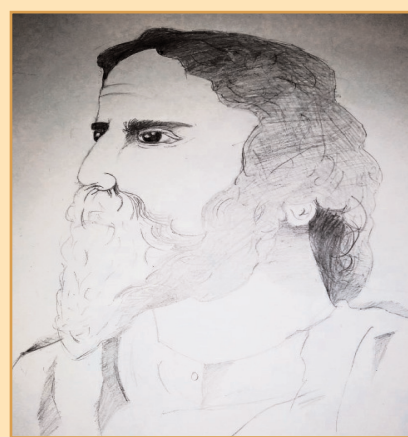
PAINTER'S GALLERY



Pratishtha Mukherjee, Class IV, Adamas World School



Sanchita Roy, Class V, Adamas World School



Saptrashi Mitra, Class VIII, Adamas World School