

# CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

Age-Appropriate Content

School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

## Quote of the week



I have always loved butterflies, because they remind us that it's never too late to transform ourselves



- Drew Barrymore

## Word to know



### Debris

Noun | dAY-bree

the broken pieces that are left when something large has been destroyed, especially by an explosion, fire, or accident

## International Girl Child Day – 11 October

Date : Oct 11, 2019 | Image Credit : <https://twitter.com/incindia/status/917978683633172481>



International Girl Child Day is observed every year on 11 October.

The day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges that girls face and promote girls' empowerment.

- In 1995, the fourth **World Conference on Women** adopted the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**. It recognized the rights of women and girls as human rights.
- Then on 19 December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 66/170 for the empowerment of girls.
- Thus, the first International Day of the Girl Child was observed on 11 October 2012.

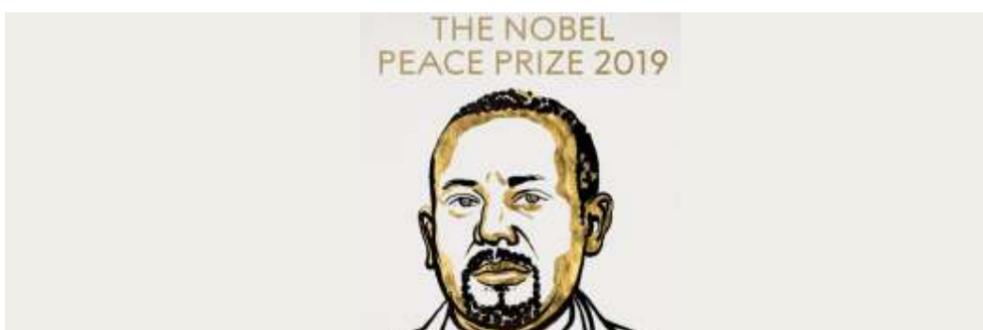
The theme for International Girl Child Day 2019 is '**GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable**'.

- This theme celebrates the achievements made by and for girls.
- Girls all over the world are attending schools, completing their studies and focusing on their careers. They are proving that they are unscripted and unstoppable.
- The UN recognizes achieving gender equality and women's empowerment as one of its **17 Sustainable Development Goals**.
- On this day, '**The Day of The Girl Summit**' is held at United Nations headquarters every year.
- There are marches and special events such as concerts and sporting events all over the world to mark the occasion.

In India, **National Girl Child Day** is celebrated every year on **24 January**. The government has implemented several schemes like "**Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**" to empower girls.

## Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed wins 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

Date : Oct 11, 2019 | Image Credit : [pibarchive](#)



The Nobel Committee announced today that **Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed** is the recipient of the **2019 Nobel Peace Prize**.

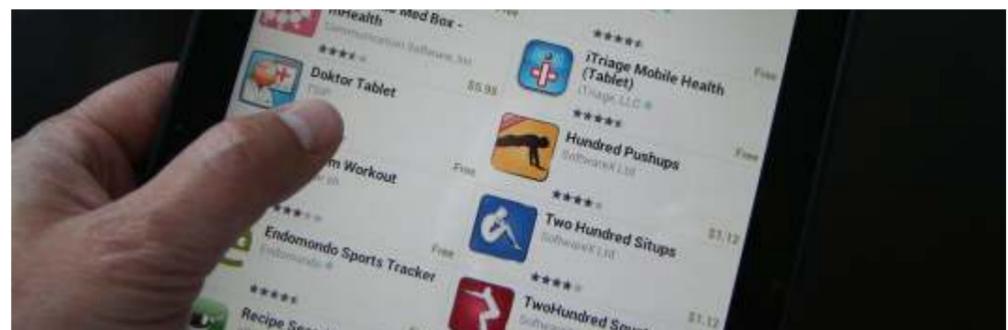
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee said they chose Abiy Ahmed for his "**decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring Eritrea**".
- Last year, he **initiated a peace deal with Eritrea's President Afwerki** which ended a 20-year conflict between the two nations.
- When Mr Abiy became prime minister in April 2018, he also introduced many liberalising reforms in Ethiopia and freed thousands of opposition activists from jail.
- The Nobel Committee also said. "**the prize is also meant to recognise all the stakeholders working for peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia and in the East and Northeast African regions**".
- This is the 100th Nobel Peace Prize to be awarded.

There were 301 nominees for the prize this year, including 223 individuals and 78 organisations.

They will announce the Nobel prize for economics on 14 October.

## NASA announces first-ever all-female spacewalk

Date : Oct 9, 2019 | Image Credit : [twitter@WRCB](#)



Last week, NASA announced a piece of exciting news – the **first-ever all-female spacewalk**.

- **Astronauts Christina Koch and Jessica Meir** from the **International Space Station (ISS)** will team up for this historic all-female spacewalk on 21 October 2019.
- During the walk, they will plug in **new batteries** in the ISS.

Astronaut **Christina Koch** is an **electrical engineer**.

- She has already spent more than **200 days** in a 300-day mission at ISS.
- Once she completes the mission, Koch will set a record for the **longest single spaceflight by a woman**.

Astronaut **Jessica Meir** launched on 25 September 2019 to the ISS. She is a **physiologist** and previously worked as Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School.

NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) **deputy chief astronaut** Megan McArthur said that the all-female spacewalk will be a milestone in humans' space exploration history.

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## The most important living being on Earth – The Bee

Date : Oct 8, 2019 | Image Credit : Twitter, @HempBags



The Royal Geographical Society of London has declared bees to be the most important living beings on our planet.

- However, according to wildlife experts, **bees are now an endangered species.**
- There has been a **dramatic fall in the bees' numbers** as almost 90% of the bee population has disappeared over the last few years.
- Lack of flowers, deforestation and excessive use of pesticides are the main reasons for the fall in numbers.
- Bees are very important as **70% of the world's agriculture depends exclusively on bees** as the main pollinators.
- Activists believe that the use of **pesticides should be immediately stopped.**
- Thankfully, many people are realising the importance of bees and joining the **conservation drive.**
- A Hollywood star, Morgan Freeman recently converted his 124-acre farm into a bee sanctuary.

Albert Einstein, the famous physicist had very truly said: "If the bees disappear, humans would have 4 years to live."

## NASA's Curiosity Rover finds an ancient oasis on Mars

Date : Oct 10, 2019 | Image Credit : Twitter, @Abhijeet33737107



Scientists are working with NASA's Curiosity Rover to put together a picture of how Mars was billions of years ago.

- The Curiosity Rover was sent to Mars in 2012, to **explore the huge Gale crater.**
- After several years of exploration, evidence suggests that around 3.7 billion years ago, a **large meteor impact** blasted a big crater on Mars' surface. It also cracked the rock below.
- **As it was a wetter time in Mars' history**, freshwater from rain and snow must have filled up the Gale crater to form lakes, carrying in sand and silt too.
- **This groundwater would have seeped into these cracks** in the rocky bottom of the crater.
- Over time, when the surface of Mars dried up, groundwater still remained trapped below the dusty surface.
- **Sediment patterns show that a lot of water was present** at one point in time.

Drilling at the crater has also revealed **minerals and other key energy sources** that microbes could've used to survive.

## Did You Know



## Readers' Desk

Jewar airport in India will have 6 runways.

Existing airports with 6 runways are Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Logan International Airport, Boston and Denver International Airport.



## Joke Pokes

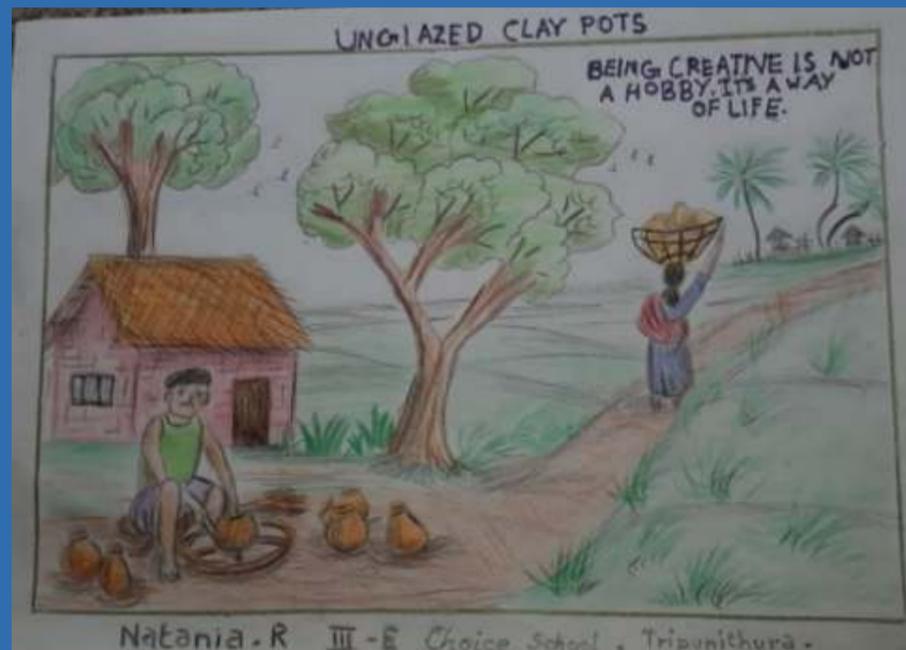


**Q:** Why did the gardener eat her toast dry?

**A:** Because she saw the butter-fly.

## Being creative is not a hobby, its a way of life

Date : 11 October 2019 | Natania Reji, 3, The Choice School, Tripunithura, Ernakulam, Kochi, Kerala



Unglazed Clay Pots

A serene village of Kerala, where a man is making clay pots.

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## The world's largest solar farm set to come up in the Australian desert

Date : Oct 8 , 2019 | Image Credit : Twitter, @HappyEcoNews



In a continued effort to move towards **renewable energy**, Singapore-based company, **Sun Cable** is all set to create the **world's largest solar farm**.

- They will build it on **15000 hectares (7500 football fields)** of land in Australia's Northern Territory (desert region). It is expected to cost around US\$13 billion.
- The solar farm is expected to generate 10 gigawatts of power. Out of this, they will transmit 3 gigawatts to Singapore. 1 gigawatt of electricity can power 700,000 houses.
- A **3800-km-long overhead transmission cable** will be used to transmit the power to Singapore from the Australian desert.
- About **1/5th of Singapore's future electricity supply** is expected to be sourced from this project.
- They will start construction by 2023 and start **commercial operations by 2027**.
- This project is expected to create about a thousand jobs in its construction phase, with a potential 300 jobs once the solar farm is operational.
- Australian billionaire, Mike Cannon Brookes is expected to invest heavily in this project.

In the meantime, China has also created the biggest **floating solar farm, on the surface of a lake**. Thus saving land resources.

## Archaeologists unearth lost Egyptian temple 2,200 years after it was built

Date : Oct 8 , 2019 | Image Credit : Twitter, @CBS6



Archaeologists have discovered a **2,200-year-old temple** in **Egypt**. They believe that it belonged to **Pharaoh (king) Ptolemy IV**.

- The remains of the ancient tomb and temple were accidentally found by construction workers. They had been drilling on a sewage drain in a village on the river Nile's western bank. They stopped the drilling work immediately.
- Archaeologists have found **stone inscriptions with fragments of text featuring the name of Ptolemy IV**, the fourth king of Egypt's Ptolemaic dynasty.
- So far, the team has uncovered a north-south wall, an east-west wall and the southwestern corner of the limestone structure. It is engraved with carvings of Hapi, the Egyptian god of the annual flooding of the Nile.

**Ptolemy IV** is believed to have ruled **Egypt from around 221 BCE to 204 BCE**.

- His **rule was not a successful one** as he was more interested in artistic endeavours rather than kingship.
- Ancient texts indicate that the **Pharaoh is said to have built the largest human-powered ship ever made**. Called the Tesseractonteres ("Forty"), 4000 oarsmen operated the ship.

The ancient temple's discovery is the latest in a series of archaeological discoveries in 2019. Egypt is hoping that this will further increase interest in tourism.

## Tongue Twister!



Angels hang ancient anchors at  
angels that anger ogres

## Joke Pokes



Q: What cheese does a cow like?

A: Moozzarella.

## Readers' Desk

### Violence: A Demon's Creation

Date : 26 July 2019 | Mahi Hasija, Grade 9, DPS Rohini, New Delhi

#### Why do we love action movies?

I am not an action movie fan but a lot of my friends are. They are just awed by the violent movies but I would prefer to sit alone and read a book, rather than watching them. After a while, I noticed certain changes in my friends. They became violent and used a lot of swear words. This made me think about the mind-games played by violent TV shows and video games on innocent but capable-of-destruction minds of humans.

#### Are villains and heroes real?

It sometimes feels cool to watch a hero throwing some huge punches at a villain. It gives a kind of pleasure to watch your virtual six-packs character thrash some bad guys. But you very well know, it's not reality. While many world organizations are trying not to support any kind of violence, but at the same time, some movies and online violent games are creating a negative impact on younger generations.

Every now and then, it's quite common to find a new superhero movie being released in theatres. These superheroes fight the 'so called' villains to bring peace on earth but unfortunately, they give rise to war inside the audience. They inspire people to follow them. Hence many people take up to violence for as revenge when bullied. Same is with video games, the ones playing get so much involved that they become aggressive on petty issues.

#### Are the villains fighting against human minds?

I feel that such superhero movies and online video games which play with human minds, indirectly promote violence. Whereas in reality, no such superhero comes to save lives when people are in trouble. I humbly suggest that such games should be banned on the internet so that young minds do not become more destructive and instead they should take the path of peace to resolve any issue.

#### We need our green spaces back

The main reason why indoor games are winning over outdoor games is, I think, the kind of concrete environment which is provided to children these days. If the green cover is increased and children are encouraged to play in and with nature and would become more happy beings. As a result, we may observe that the 'dark an evil' video game and many such TV programs losing their ground because right now, they are winning.

Let's promote shows and games to create a harmonious environment



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## Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano erupts 14 times in one night

Date : Oct 7, 2019 | Image Credit : Twitter, @REYNOLDSJOHNFE1



Last week, the **Popocatepetl volcano** in Mexico **erupted 14 times** over one night.

- It is an **active stratovolcano**, located in central Mexico, and is the second-highest peak in Mexico, at 5,426 metres.
- A stratovolcano is a **tall, conical volcano** composed of one layer of hardened lava and volcanic ash.
- These volcanoes have steep slopes and **periodic, explosive eruptions**.
- The lava that flows from them is very thick and sticky. It cools and hardens before spreading very far.

Mexico's disaster agency, CENAPRED detected the eruptions after midnight on 2 October 2019.

- The **volcano** continued to erupt between 1 a.m. and 7:15 a.m. local time.
- CENAPRED has warned **people not to go anywhere near the volcano** as there could be explosive fragments and landslides.

The **Popocatepetl** had been dormant for decades until it erupted in 1994. Since then, it has been very active and its rumblings have become a part of daily life for the residents of central Mexico.

## Study says insufficient sleep can give you poor grades

Date : Oct 7, 2019 | Image Credit : Freepik.com



We have read about the importance of **sleep** before. Now let us learn about its effect on your school grades.

A recent study reveals a strong relationship between students' grades and their sleep time.

The study is published in the journal '**Science of Learning**'.

- According to this study, having a **good night's sleep only before the test is not sufficient**.
- In fact, it takes **several nights of good sleep to help you score better**.
- Researchers performed the study on a total of 100 students in an engineering class.
- The findings revealed that students who slept after 2 a.m scored less, even if they slept for more number of hours.
- In addition to this, students who slept well just before the night of the test also did not score well.
- Thus, this shows that **your academic performance depends a lot on your sleeping patterns**.

Researchers also tested a correlation between physical exercise and students' marks but this did not show much difference.

At what time do you go to sleep?

## Did you miss these news? Find them on [CuriousTimes.in](https://www.curiousTimes.in)

### Scientists invent world's strongest silver



### Meet Tunabot - the first robot fish!



### India and Bangladesh sign seven pacts



### Device to trap plastic waste in the Pacific Ocean is working, organisers say



### Simone Biles wins record 21st World Gymnastics Championships medal



### Virat Kohli scores 7th double hundred, highest in Indian cricket history

