

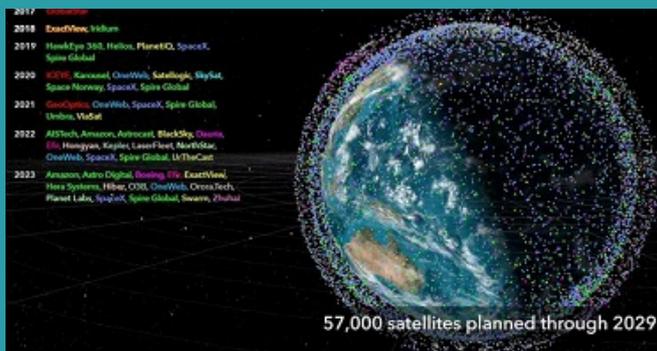
CURIOS TIMES WEEKLY

Age-Appropriate Content

School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

Stunning new animation shows Earth with its planned 57000 satellites

Date : Feb 4, 2020 | [Twitter, @firnwitch](#)

We've been reading about SpaceX and other companies launching satellites in quick succession, this past year. Above is an artistic impression of how Earth is going to look from space once all the planned satellites have been launched by 2029.

- Companies like Amazon, SpaceX, OneWeb and others plan to collectively launch 57000 satellites before the end of 2030.
- In comparison, about 9158 spacecraft have been launched into space from Earth since 1957.
- However, private companies are now in a rush to create global networks of ultra-fast internet satellites.
- This is causing some problems. Recently, 2 dead satellites narrowly avoided colliding over Pittsburgh, US and creating a lot of space debris.
- Such near-misses are already taking place in space more frequently. When more satellites are launched, such incidents may increase.

However, the situation isn't going to be unmanageable:

- There is plenty of space for many satellites to orbit Earth.
- Newer satellites are being built to burn up in Earth's atmosphere at the end of their lifetime rather than remain in orbit.
- New satellites are being designed to have avoidance systems to reduce the chance of accidental collisions.

All the same, it is inevitable that as more satellites go up, the current challenges of managing the space above will also grow.

2020 emoji update includes more than 100 new emojis

Date : Feb 5, 2020 | [Image Credit : Youtube](#)

We read about **World Emoji Day**. Now, lets about the new emojis that are coming to your phone this year.

Unicode Consortium released a total of 117 new emoji as a part of the new 2020 emoji update.

- These new symbols form a part of **Emoji 13.0** and will be rolled out in the **second half of 2020**.
- New symbols include a variety of **gender-inclusive symbols** like a gender-neutral 'Santa' and a gender-neutral 'person' in a tuxedo and a moustachioed man in wedding veils.
- Other new symbols include a smiley face shedding a single tear, a face with 'Groucho glasses,' a person bottle-feeding a baby, a heart, an Italian hand gesture, transgender flag and a **bubble tea**.
- **Italian Hand gestures** are a form of nonverbal communication specific to the Italian people and include questions like who? where? why? or what?

The manufacturers of smartphones and other devices can include the new emojis in devices via a **software update**.

What is Unicode Consortium?

- **Unicode Consortium** is a nonprofit organisation that sets the standards for emoji compatibility and releases new symbols.
- Companies including Apple, Google and Microsoft then apply modified versions of the designs to their own operating systems.

Quote of the week



"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself any direction you choose."

Dr. Seuss

Word to know



Toxic
Adjective | tok-sik

acting as or having the effect of a poison; poisonous

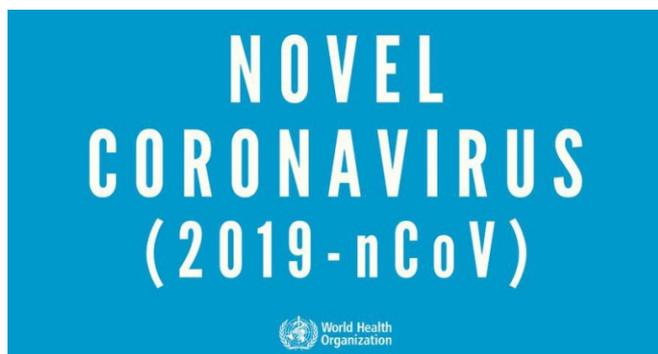
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Non-Sensational News

Kerala declares nCoV outbreak a state calamity, countries race to contain outbreak

Date : Feb 4, 2020 | Image Credit : [Twitter@WHOWPRO](#)

Recently, a third case of coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, was confirmed in Kerala. On Monday, Kerala declared the virus outbreak a State calamity. This is after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it a global health emergency.

- Currently, 2,239 travellers from China and other nCoV-affected countries are being monitored in Kerala.
- Prime Minister Modi has constituted a group of high-level ministers to review the management of the outbreak.
- India has also further tightened visa rules. It is cancelling the existing visas for Chinese and foreigners who had visited China in the last two weeks.

What else is happening in China and globally?

- On Tuesday, China said that the number of infections has surpassed 20,000 while more than 400 have died.
- Hong Kong has reported its first death from the nCoV infection. As a response, Air India said it is suspending its Delhi-Hong Kong flight from 8 February 2020.
- Many regions in China have extended the Lunar New Year holiday break to try to keep people at home and reduce the spread of the virus.
- All schools in the Hubei province are postponing the start of the new semester until further notice.
- Japan has quarantined a cruise ship, returning to Japan from Hong Kong, with more than 3000 people, after a virus case was confirmed.

Many businesses such as automobile companies continue to suffer as factories remain closed. However, Chinese game publishers are getting unexpected benefits as people are stuck inside and they are using more online games and short video apps for entertainment.

Australian Open: Sofia Kenin wins women's singles final

Date : Feb 1, 2020 | Image Credit : [Twitter@AustralianOpen](#)

Today, American Sofia Kenin won the women's singles final at the Australian Open 2020.

She beat Spain's Garbiñe Muguruza by a score of 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 to win the trophy.

- 21-year-old Kenin is the 2nd youngest to win the Australian Open since Maria Sharapova in 2008.
- This is also her first grand slam win.
- Kenin is expected to rise to No. 7 in Monday's WTA (Women's Tennis Association) rankings. She is also the youngest American to make her debut in the top 10 since Serena Williams in 1999.

Mixed's doubles final

Nikola Mektić and Barbora Krejčíková also won the mixed doubles finals at the Australian Open today.

- They beat Jamie Murray and Bethanie Mattek-Sands by a score of 7-5, 4-6, 1-10.
- This was Mektić's first Grand Slam title, whilst Krejčíková was the defending champion, having won the mixed doubles title at the Australian Open 2019 with Rajeev Ram.

Did You Know



Bugs Bunny, the famous rabbit was created in the late 1930s by Warner Bros. Bugs Bunny was featured in comic books for more than 40 years. He has also appeared in more films than any other cartoon character.



Joke Pokes



"Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Spell.
Spell who?
Okay, W-H-O!"

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My Expressions

I wish Stan Lee were alive!

Date : 24 January 2020 | Arnav Yadav, 7 , Amity International School, Sector-46 , Gurgaon , Haryana



What if you could bring back a person back to life from history? Who would it be?

If I could do this I would bring back Stan Lee-the legendary comic book writer.

Stan Lee had written many comic books and was one of the most inspiring people. I would like to bring him back because I want to know more about him and the secret of his success. I also want to know how he created such marvelous books.

Since he started writing he has made a ton of famous characters like Spider-Man, Iron Man, Black Panther and many more.

- Stan Lee's works taught me about self-discovery and responsibility, and they often reflected the diversity that is so needed even today. Through his works, he often reflected society.
- The heroes he created taught us to never give up and always be ready to help someone no matter how bad the situation is.
- Lee used his platform to champion equality in many ways. He created characters and situations that sometimes served as metaphors for struggles for equality.

"With great power, comes great responsibility."

Stan Lee Through Spider-Man

His artistic works and personality have always inspired people.

Arnav is our regular writer. Please go to the below links to read some of his other contributions.

[My 5 New Year Resolutions!](#)

[What if you got a chance to make your own city?](#)

[Climate Emergency in NOW!](#)

CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

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School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

#PalindromeDay: Geeks around the world celebrate 02/02/2020

Date: Feb 3, 2020 | Image Credit: Twitter, @BrendaStutsky



Yesterday, 2 February 2020 was a special date. 02/02/2020. Did you realise that its a **palindrome**?

What is a Palindrome?

- A palindrome is a word that reads the same back to front. For e.g Madam, mom, racecar, noon etc.

What's so special about this date?

- A palindrome date is a rare occurrence. The last palindrome date was 11 November 1111.
- It was also the 33rd day of the year, with 333 days more to go – 2020 is a leap year.
- What's extra special about this date is that, its a 'global' palindrome.
- It is exactly the same written both in the DD/MM/YYYY format as well as the US standard of MM/DD/YYYY.
- It also works for China too, where dates are written in YYYY/MM/DD format.

Do you know when will the next palindrome date be? Share with us.

India wins the 5th T20 I match and series against New Zealand

Date: Feb 3, 2020 | Image Credit: BCCI Twitter Handle



India and New Zealand played the 5th T20 International in New Zealand on 2-Feb-2020. India won the match and the series.

- India won the toss and chose to bat first.
- India scored 163 runs for the loss of 3 wickets in 20 overs. (RG Sharma: 60 and KL Rahul: 45)
- New Zealand closed at 156/ 9 at the end of 20 overs. (Seifert 50 and Taylor 53).
- Jaspreet Bumrah was declared as the player of the match, who took 3 wickets by giving out 12 runs.

KL Rahul was the player of the series. India won the series after their 3rd consecutive win last week.

Tongue Twister!



Green glass globes glow greenly.

Joke Pokes



"Why are ghosts bad liars?
Because you can see right through them!"

CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

Age-Appropriate Content

School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

Djokovic overcomes fatigue in time to win Australian Open 2020

Date : Feb 3 , 2020 | Image Credit : #AusOpen Twitter Handle



Novak Djokovic beat Dominic Thiem 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 Sunday night for an eighth Australian Open title after coming from two sets to one down.

- Djokovic has now won **17 grand slam titles** and is just behind Rafael Nadal (19) and Roger Federer (20)
- Dominic Thiem has made it to 3 grand slam finals but has not won any title.
- It was not an easy win for Djokovic as he was down two sets to one. He was attended by a doctor and trainer in the third set. He needed to hydrate and drank bottles of water and energy drink. He was also unhappy with the chair umpire over calls for time violations.

IBM elects IIT-Kanpur alumnus Arvind Krishna as new CEO

Date : Jan 31 , 2020 | Image Credit : Twitter@rwan0



You must have read about IBM or even used its computers and laptops. The International Business Machines Corporation or IBM is a multinational information technology company.

It will now have **Arvind Krishna** as its new CEO (Chief Executive Officer).

- Arvind Krishna is currently the **Senior Vice-President of the Cloud and Cognitive software business** at IBM.
- He also played an important role in IBM's acquisition of **Red Hat**. Red Hat is another multinational software company in America. IBM purchased Red Hat in July 2019. It is now a subsidiary company (owned and controlled by another company) of IBM.
- The current CEO of IBM is **Ginni Rometty**. Arvind Krishna will take over from Virginia Rometty on 6 April 2020.
- Arvind Krishna joined IBM in 1990 and is of Indian-origin. He studied from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-Kanpur)**.
- He went on to do his PhD in electrical engineering from the **University of Illinois in USA**.

There are currently many CEOs of Indian-origin that head global companies. Some examples are **Satya Nadella** (the CEO of Microsoft), **Sundar Pichai** (the CEO of Google and Alphabet) and **Ajay Banga** (CEO of MasterCard), Shantanu Narayen (Adobe), Rajevee Suri (Nokia), Ivan Menezes (Diageo), L Narsimhan (Reckitt Benckiser), DC Paliwal (Harman), VK Narasimhan (Novartis).

Tongue Twister!



Roofs of mushrooms rarely mush too much.

Joke Pokes



Why can't a hand be 12 inches long?
Because then it would be a foot!

CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

Age-Appropriate Content

School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

My Expressions

Kalam Sir, please come back. India needs you!

Date : 31 January 2020 | Aditya Sreepasad, Grade 4 , The Choice School, Thripunithura , Cochin , Kerala



Yes, I would like to bring back Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Sir, the father of Indian Missile Technology. He was people's president to the world.

He had left us in between while fulfilling the dream of making our country technologically and spiritually strong. His life and thoughts have changed a lot of people by igniting the fire of innovations, hard work and progress in their minds. He was a great inspiration to everyone by his lifestyle and noble qualities.

I strongly believe that his presence among us will create a positive force. It will help us to react and adapt to failure, learn from them and work harder for the betterment of society and technology for the betterment of India.

He inspired and motivated millions of people to dream big and achieve great goals in life.

He left us while doing what we loved the most, spending time with the students. His presence once again will guide us to invent, travel the unexplored path, discover the impossible, conquer the problems and succeed.

"DREAM is not what you see in sleep, DREAM is something which doesn't let you sleep."

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam

Kalam Sir, please come back. India needs you.

CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

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Non-Sensational News

Quick highlights of the budget 2020-21

Date : Feb 2, 2020 | Image Credit : pibarchive



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the budget for the Financial Year 2020-21. She made a detailed budget speech. (considered to be the longest ever).

We understand that Budgets are difficult to understand for some of you.

We request students of Grade 5 and upwards to open this link to understand the Budget made easy: **Whats budget? What are taxes, spends, growth?**

What are the Key Focus Areas and themes?

- **Aspirational India:** All the sections of society are taken care of while launching schemes
- **Economic Development:** 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' to give more space to the private sector ensuring inclusive growth
- **India as a Caring Society:** To develop a compassionate & humane society

Which ministries received the highest budget allocations?

- Defence: INR 4,71,378 crores
- Home Affairs: INR 1,67,250 crores
- Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare: INR 1,42,762 crores
- Rural Development: INR 1,22,398 crores
- Human Resource Development (includes Education): INR 99,312 crores
- Railways: INR 72,216 crores
- Health & Family Welfare: INR 67,112 crores

What are the budget allocations under Major Schemes?

- PM KISAN: INR 75,000 crores
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program: INR 61,500 crores
- National Education Commission: INR 39,161 crores
- National Health Commission: INR 34,115 crores
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana: INR 27,500 crores
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana: INR 6,020 crores

U.K. officially leaves European Union

Date : Feb 2, 2020 | Image Credit : Twitter, @NgureDorcas



The much delayed, much-debated **Brexit** has finally happened. The United Kingdom is no longer a part of the European Union (EU) as of 31 January 2020.

- UK's prime minister, **Boris Johnson** has promised a 'real national renewal' after **47 years of EU membership**.
- With the EU-UK 'divorce' now final, it time for the UK to look ahead to the next chapter.
- An **11-month transition period (until 31 December 2020)** has begun during which the UK will still follow the old EU rules.
- Free movement of goods, services and people will continue during this period. The EU's top court will still have jurisdiction over UK matters.
- However, **British ministers will no longer be a part of EU meetings** where all the big decisions are made.
- Now, the **UK has to come up with new trade partnerships and deals** with the EU as well as with the rest of the world.
- Once the **transition period** gets over at the end of this year, immigration rules will change for EU and UK citizens.
- The **UK citizens will now need a visa** to visit the EU member nations, which will be valid for 90 days. This is unlike the current scenario where they are free to travel within the EU without a visa or a limited number of days.

The next 11 months are important to the UK as well as the EU, in order to negotiate a new relationship. Not many on the EU side believe that this is possible in such a short time, but Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to do so.

Did You Know



The uncertainty surrounding Brexit has caused the UK economy to take a hit. The British pound has lost 14% of its value versus the US Dollar since the 2016 referendum.



Word to know



Surreal
Adjective | suh-ree-uh

having the disorienting, hallucinatory quality of a dream; unreal; fantastic"

CURIOUS TIMES WEEKLY

Age-Appropriate Content

School Curriculum-Aligned News

Non-Sensational News

India Travel Diaries – Pondicherry

Date : Feb 1, 2020 | Image Credit : Wikimedia Commons



We read about the beautiful deserts of **Rann of Kutch**.

Now let us read about another tourist attraction – **Pondicherry**.

Pondicherry is officially known as **Puducherry**, and commonly referred to as just **Pondy**.

- It is one of the seven **Union Territories** of India.
- The city is located on the **southern (southeast) coast of India**.
- It is surrounded by the state of **Tamil Nadu** and shares its **culture and language**.

Background

- It was under **French rule** until 1954, and so, some people still speak French.
- The buildings, hotels, restaurants and lifestyle shops are also influenced by French culture and art.
- Apart from **French food and lifestyle**, the place is also known for **yoga and meditation**.

Things to do in Pondicherry

- The city has everything, from beautiful beaches and temples to **watersports and diving**.
- The **best season** to visit Pondicherry is from October to February.
- Places like Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Promenade beach, Pondicherry museum, Botanical garden, lighthouse have made it one of the top tourist attractions in the world.

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

U.S. Court orders Apple, Broadcom to pay US\$1.1bn for patent infringement



ISRO opens registration for Young Scientist Programme 2020



Researchers discover the immune cell that may cure cancer



Habitat loss, artificial light threaten world's fireflies population



NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope 'retires' after 16 years



Sam Mendes' film 1917 wins big at BAFTA 2020

