

IN BRIEF



Researchers turn plastic waste into jet fuel

WASHINGTON
Scientists have found a novel way to turn daily plastic waste products like water bottles and plastic bags into jet fuel. Researchers at Washington State University in the U.S. melted plastic waste at high temperature with activated carbon, a processed carbon with increased surface area, to produce jet fuel. PTI



Indian wins \$2.7 million in raffle draw in UAE

DUBAI
An Indian expat won a staggering \$2.7 million in a monthly raffle in the UAE. Sanjay Nath R, who had purchased the ticket at Big Ticket Abu Dhabi, won the bumper prize, 10 million dirham, the *Khaleej Times* reported. While Mr. Nath won the first prize, five other Indian expats were among the top 10 winners. PTI



FB unveils interactive game show in India

MUMBAI
Facebook on Tuesday announced its first interactive game show, titled "Confetti" in India. Starting June 12, the show will air from Wednesday to Sunday on its video platform - Facebook Watch. The game will challenge participants to answer pop culture trivia questions to win ₹3 lakh in cash prize. IANS

An experimental Ebola cure may also protect against Nipah virus

Four out of eight monkeys infected with the virus survived after Remdesivir dose

DONALD G. MCNEIL JR.

An experimental drug has protected monkeys against infection with Nipah virus, a lethal disease and emerging pandemic threat for which there is no approved vaccine or cure, scientists reported on Wednesday.

The antiviral drug, Remdesivir, is also being tested against the Ebola virus in the outbreak now under way in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The only current treatment for Nipah virus infection is a monoclonal antibody that is still experimental; it was tested during an outbreak in India last year.

In the new trial, eight African green monkeys were given lethal doses of Nipah virus. Half of them later got intravenous Remdesivir. All



Checking spread: If approved, the drug will be an extra line of treatment that could be used quickly. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

four monkeys that got the drug survived; the four that did not died within eight days.

If the drug wins approval for use against Nipah, "it will give us an extra treatment that could be used relatively quickly," said Emmie de Wit, a virologist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and one of the

study's lead authors. "The average person who reaches a hospital dies within two days, so it's hard to protect them once they're infected."

Ebola and Nipah belong to different viral families, but Remdesivir - made by Gilead Sciences and also known as GS-5734 - appears effective against both. In mice or cells cultivated

in the laboratory, the drug has also shown some effectiveness against two other pandemic threats: Lassa fever and MERS coronavirus. It is also effective against Respiratory Syncytial virus, which infects children all over the world.

Although the outer shells of all these viruses are very different, their polymerases - the genome-copying enzyme that Remdesivir targets - are similar, Ms. de Wit explained.

The study, done jointly by the NIAID and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was published in *Science Translational Medicine*.

Nipah virus, which causes encephalitis and pneumonia, is lethal in about 70% of cases. NY TIMES

Google Maps updates for bus, train rides

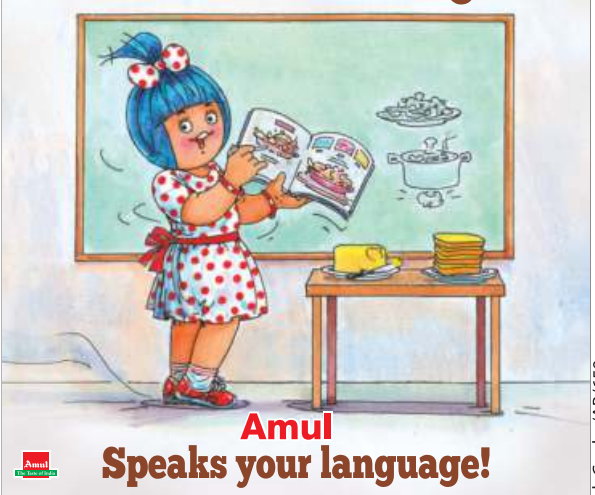
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Google Maps users will now see bus travel times from live traffic across 10 major Indian cities as well as get live train status for Indian Railways trains on the platform.

Also, another feature will combine suggestions of auto-rickshaw and public transport for users. These "India-first features" will allow users plan public transport trips quickly and easily, Google said in a statement.

The feature uses Google's live traffic data and public bus schedules to calculate delays. It is now live in Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow, Chennai, Mysore, Coimbatore, and Surat. It will help users know when their train will arrive by indicating the running status in real-time.

Different mother tongues, common butter tongue!



Amul Speaks your language!

'Czar of Indian Cuisine' Jiggs Kalra passes away

He helped revive indigenous lost recipes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Celebrated chef and culinary revivalist Jaspal Inder Singh Kalra, popularly known as Jiggs Kalra, passed away early morning on Tuesday. He was 71.

Announcing his father's demise, the iconic chef's restaurateur son Zorawar Kalra said his father was his "mentor, inspiration and his biggest hero".

"With profound grief and sadness, I would like to announce the demise of my beloved father, Jiggs Kalra. He was my mentor, my inspiration and my biggest hero," Mr. Zorawar said.

Mr. Kalra, who held titles like the "Czar of Indian Cuisine" and "Taste maker to the Nation", conferred upon him by eminent writer Khushwant Singh, was best known for his role as a culinary revivalist.

In an illustrious career spanning over four decades, he had been instrumental in reviving some of the indigenous lost recipes as well as



Jaspal Inder Singh Kalra

cooking styles while introducing Indian cuisine to international audiences.

"He worked tirelessly towards promoting his beloved Indian cuisine globally."

Among the delicacies that Mr. Kalra introduced were the kebabs served in the erstwhile royal kitchens of India, most notable being the Galouti.

Being a food columnist and author, gastronome, food consultant, were among other feathers in his cap.

In 1997, the Government of India appointed him as advisor to the India Trade Promotion Organisation.

Food safety is everyone's business: WHO

An estimated 600 million cases of food-borne diseases occur annually around the world

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

"Food safety is everyone's business," says the World Health Organisation (WHO) which has released figures that estimate 600 million cases of food-borne diseases occur annually worldwide. This translates into one in 10 people falling ill after eating contaminated food.

"Food safety is an increasing threat to human health. Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the food-borne disease burden with 1,25,000 deaths every year," said WHO.

A note issued by the organisation said the first-ever World Food Safety Day was



Common cause: Access to safe food is key to sustaining life and promoting good health. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in December 2018 and this year it would be celebrated on June 7 with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) facilitating

member-States' effort to celebrate it.

"Access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food is key to sustaining life and promoting good

health. Food-borne diseases impede socio-economic development by straining health care systems and harming national economies, tourism and trade," it said.

Food is the starting point for our energy, our health and our well-being. We often take for granted that it is safe, but in an increasingly complex and interconnected world where food value chains are growing longer, standards and regulations are that much more important in keeping us safe.

"The way in which food is produced, stored, handled and consumed affects the safety of our food. Complying

with global food standards, establishing effective regulatory food control systems, including emergency preparedness and response, providing access to clean water, applying good agriculture practices (terrestrial, aquatic, livestock, horticulture), strengthening the use of food safety management systems by food business operators, and building capacities of consumers to make healthy food choices are some ways in which governments, international organisations, scientists, the private sector and civil society can work to ensure food safety," the health organisation noted.

India at 95 on Gender Index

It is among 43 nations under 'very poor' category

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India ranked 95th out of a total 129 countries in the first-ever SDG Gender Index, which measures strides made in achieving gender commitments against internationally set targets.

The index has been developed by Equal Measures 2030.

The index finds that no country has fully achieved the promise of gender equality and that the global average score of 65.7 out of 100 is "poor". This means that almost 1.4 billion, or 40%, of the world's girls and women live in countries failing on gender equality and another 1.4 billion live in countries



India scored highest on health (79.9) and hunger (76.2). • ISTOCKPHOTO

that barely pass.

Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Slovenia, Germany, Canada, Ireland, and Australia rank as the top 10 countries in the index, while the bottom 10

comprise Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Yemen, Congo, DR Congo and Chad.

A score of 100 indicates the achievement of gender equality in relation to the underlying indicators. A score of 50 would indicate that a country is about halfway to meeting its goal. India's score of 56.2 means that it is among 43 countries in the 'very poor' category.

India scores the highest in health (79.9), followed by hunger (76.2) and energy (71.8). Among the SDGs, on which the country performs poorly are partnerships (18.3), industry, infrastructure and innovation (38.1) and climate (43.4).

Apple gears up for content as it nixes iTunes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SAN JOSE

Apple on Monday announced enhanced privacy features as it harmonised software across its lineup of devices, while dropping iTunes store as it gears up for new kinds of digital content.

Apple chief Tim Cook unveiled software improvements for iPhones, iPads, Apple Watch, Apple TV, and Mac computers in Silicon Valley.

The company revealed the demise of the iTunes online shop that changed the music industry.

The technology giant also previewed iOS 13 for its mobile devices.

A documentary on Satyajit Ray's sleuth

It is based on Feluda, the fictional detective who has captivated readers for decades

INDRANI DUTTA
KOLKATA

Little did he know that the documentary he had embarked upon as a cinematic tribute to Satyajit Ray would require pledging the family silver and through crowd funding. Director Sagnik Chatterjee's *Feluda : 50 Years of Ray's Detective* is now set to release this week after doing the festival circuit for a year.

Feluda, a fictional investigator who came to life through a story in a children's magazine in 1965, turned 50 in 2016. While much has changed in the city of his birth, Feluda's appeal has endured the passage of time, catching the fancy of readers within the State and beyond, with a young woman travelling from Pune to visit the fictional character's action-sites.

The nearly two-hour documentary probes, documents and revisits the books and films woven around



Thespian Soumitra Chatterjee, left, with director Sagnik Chatterjee. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

him. Above all, it seeks to celebrate the character whose films can still fill theatres. "The film is a journey undertaken in first person from a Feluda fan", said Mr. Chatterjee, who assisted Ray's son Sandip in directing the later Feluda movies.

Many felt that Feluda, also known as Prodosh Chandra Mitra, was born out of Ray's interests in crime thrillers inspired by Arthur Conan Doyle... "that the character was fashioned after Ray himself." However, while Ray's

novels (translated into Indian and foreign languages) were well read, it was the films which left a lasting imprint. Ray made only two Feluda films - *Sonar Kella*, set in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, and *Joy Baba Felunath*, set in Varanasi.

The documentary was shot in London, Jaisalmer, Varanasi, Mumbai and Pune, besides Kolkata. The magic of Feluda is such that not only have three generations of actors (since Soumitra Chatterjee) faced

the camera to enact the role, three generations of director - Satyajit ray, son Sandip and grandson Souryadip - were involved in the projects. Costumes have been done by Sandip Ray's wife Lolita

Although the project was off to a good start with a producer, Mr. Chatterjee, an alumni of Pune's Symbiosis University, faced financial problem as the producer withdrew after initial involvement.

"I dug my heels in as I was in no mood to give up...", he said, taking good loans and scraping personal savings. Finally, crowd funding to the tune of ₹15.5 lakhs helped the ₹50 lakh project see the light of the day.

"Ray was my inspiration... if the maestro had to face financial difficulties even after the success of films like *Pather Panchali* and *Goopy Gayen*... I knew that I just had to follow his footprints and be resolute," he said.

NTPC unfolds a Green Chapter for a Clean Planet

World Environment Day

5th June, 2019

NTPC - A Maharatna company with an installed capacity of 55126 MW has a mixed portfolio of Fossil and Renewable energy for Low Carbon foot-print. Its endeavour has always been to ensure a clean and sustainable environment with respect to Air, Water and Land.

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES

- Super Critical and Advanced Super Critical Technology for higher efficiency and lower emissions
- High Efficiency Electro Static Precipitators (ESP)
- Flue Gas De-sulphurisation (FGD) and De-NOx Systems
- LDO and LSHS in place of HFO as secondary fuel
- Carbon Sink of more than 34 million trees in line with INDC-2030

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

- Closed cycle condenser cooling with higher Cycle of Concentration
- High Concentration Slurry Disposal (HCSD) for Fly Ash
- Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), Ash Water Recirculation, and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)
- "Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)" approach
- Rain water harvesting and Water Policy
- Air cooled Condenser Technology and Dry Bottom Ash
- Floating Solar in Water Reservoirs

SOIL POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

- Conducted Grand Challenge for Ash utilization ideas for India
- Sound Waste Management through Reduce, Reuse and Recycle
- Bio Methanation and Vermi-culture
- Well defined Bio-Diversity Plan put in place

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

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