



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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NEWSMAKERS

Harry, Meghan to quit royal jobs, give up 'highness' titles

Prince Harry and wife Meghan will no longer use the titles "royal highness" or receive public funds for their work under a deal that lets the couple step aside as working royals, the Buckingham



Palace announced. Releasing details of the dramatic split, the palace said Harry and Meghan will cease to be working members of the royal family when the new arrangements take effect in the "spring of 2020."

BEZOS BOLLYWOOD MOMENT

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos was in for a Hindi movie dialogue rehearsal when he sat down with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and director Zoya Akhtar for a chat in the presence of the who's who of the Indian film industry in Mumbai. Shah Rukh asked Bezos to repeat after him the iconic dialogue, "Don ko pakadna mushkil hi nahi na mumkin hai", from his hit film Don.



Bezos repeated after him, "Jeff Bezos ko pakadna mushkil hi nahi impossible hai."

Terminology

What are NPR, NRC, Census and Aadhaar?



National Population Register

is a list of all "usual" residents of India. A usual resident, for the purposes of NPR is defined as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more. The list itself is compiled by sending surveyors to each household, where they will collect information about a number of different parameters. The list has changed in the most recent iteration of the NPR.

National Register of Citizens

is meant to be a list of all citizens of India, i.e. those who are considered Indian nationals and therefore get all the rights due to citizens. NRC is a verified digital register containing names and basic demographic information about all Indian citizens in a digital format. A person born in India or having Indian parentage or having resided in India for at least 11 years, is eligible for Indian citizenship.



Census of India

is a once-a-decade process of collecting information of all residents of India. The data collected during the census is not supposed to be about any individual but instead to, through the various statistics, give us a picture of the condition of Indian residents. Census details about individuals is meant to be secret, unlike either NPR and NRC which are explicitly lists of individuals.

Aadhaar

is a 12-digit unique identity number linked to biometric data of Indian residents. It was meant to help make it easier to identify Indian citizens and deliver welfare measures to them, and its uses have expanded even further now.



Citizenship Act amendments

provide a pathway towards citizenship for illegal immigrants who are Hindu, Buddhist, Parsi, Jain or Christian – but not Muslims – coming from Pakistan, Bangladesh or Afghanistan.



White Alps to GREEN TALKS



Following another year of extreme heat, environmental issues are now considered to be the top five long-term risks affecting the global economy, said organisers of The World Economic Forum (WEF) at Davos. Global warming and extinction of species are on top agenda.

The forum will be held in Davos, Switzerland, from January 21 to 24. The event brings together 3,000 global leaders

PRESIDENT TRUMP: US

President Donald Trump is set to attend this year's WEF. Trump cancelled his participation at the event in 2019, amid a row with the Democratic Party over security spending.



SKOLSTREJK FOR KLIMATET

DEEPIKA PADUKONE: Actress and mental health ambassador Deepika Padukone will be awarded one of WEF's Crystal Awards. She has been named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.



THE SHOWSTOPPERS AT DAVOS

GRETA THUNBERG, CLIMATE ACTIVIST:

The 17-year-old Swedish climate activist is due to return to Davos this year. Time's "Person of the Year" in 2019 has a clear message for lawmakers and business leaders: commit to divest from fossil fuels now. "We demand that at this year's forum, participants from all companies, banks, institutions and governments immediately halt all investments in fossil fuel exploration and extraction, immediately end all fossil fuel subsidies and immediately divest from fossil fuels. We don't want these things done by 2050, 2030

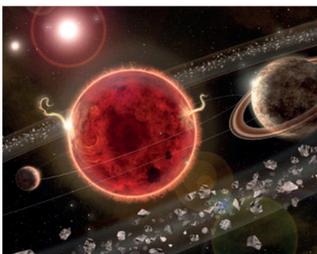
or even 2021, we want this done now – as in right now," Greta wrote in The Guardian newspaper.

SANNA MARIN: At 34, she is the world's youngest serving prime minister as well as Finland's third female leader. She heads a four-party coalition government, whose leaders are all women too.

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA, HEAD, IMF: The Bulgarian national was appointed head of International Monetary Fund in 2019. She will be presenting IMF's latest economic assessment in Davos, joined by Gita Gopinath, the institution's chief economist.

Spotted: 'Super-Earth'?

Planet discovered nearly 4 light years away from us: Scientists



SUPER EARTH

A super Earth is an extra-solar planet with a mass higher than Earth's, but substantially below that of the Solar System's ice giants, Uranus and Neptune, which are 14.5 and 17 times than our planet, respectively.

Thirty-years ago, no one knew if there were planets outside our solar system. But now astronomers have figured out increasingly clever ways to observe even the tiniest (meaning Earth-size) planets in neighbouring star systems.

According to new research published in the journal Science Advances, a new exoplanet orbiting our closest stellar neighbour, Proxima c, is a viable candidate for being a "super-Earth" – the designation for

rocky worlds slightly larger than Earth, yet without the huge gas envelope that encases gas giants like Saturn and Neptune.

Proxima Centauri is a red dwarf star located 4.2 light years away from Earth. It's likely that the planet is not habitable, the study's lead author, Mario Damasso, told Fox News. "Not habitable at all, I would say, since we predict with back of the envelope calculation (rough calculation) its temperature to be around 40 Kelvin," Damasso said.

ISRO's GSAT-30 satellite successfully launched by Ariane

India's "high power" communication satellite GSAT-30, aimed at providing high-quality television, telecommunications and broadcasting services, was successfully launched onboard Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana on Friday, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

Blasting off from the Ariane Launch Complex in Kourou, a French territory located in northeastern coast of South America, the European



launch provider Arianespace's Ariane 5 vehicle injected GSAT-30 into the orbit in a flawless flight lasting about 38 minutes and 25 seconds.

With a mission life of more than 15 years, it will be extensively used for supporting VSAT networks, television uplinking and teleport services, digital satellite news gathering, DTH TV services, cellular backhaul connectivity and many such applications. Isro currently has plans to launch 25 satellites this year, including the Aditya-L1 (to study the Sun) among others.

WHAT IS A GSAT?

GSAT satellites are India's indigenously developed communications satellites used for digital audio, data and video broadcasting. The GSAT series of geosynchronous satellites is a system developed by Isro with the objective of making India self-reliant in broadcasting services.

You've got through the hottest decade ever!



The decade that just ended was, by far, the hottest ever measured on Earth, capped off by the second-warmest year on record (after 2016), confirmed agencies. The temperature datasets by four different agencies were compiled from many millions of surface temperature measurements taken across the globe, from all continents and all oceans. While small differences between their analyses may have arisen from how data-sparse polar regions are treated, they agreed to it being the hottest decade ever.

NASA: Globally, 2019 temperatures continued the planet's long-term warming trend: the last five years have been the warmest in the last 140 years. In the past year, they were 0.98°C warmer than the 1951 to 1980 mean, said scientists.

UK MET OFFICE: Scientists at the Met Office Hadley Centre showed that the average for 2019 as a whole was 1.05°C above pre-industrial levels, taken as the average over the period 1850-1900.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION:

NOAA scientists used the same raw temperature data, but with different interpolation into Earth's polar regions. Its analysis found that the average temperature across the globe in 2019 was 0.95°C above the 20th century average.



UN: The Geneva-based World Meteorological Organisation carried out an analysis that uses additional data from the Copernicus climate change service and the Japan Meteorological Agency. It concluded that in 2019, the world was 1.1°C warmer than in the pre-industrial period.

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The best guide to brush up on your French vocabulary... What are the French words and phrases in English?

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What lies ahead for US President Donald Trump as the Senate now takes up an impeachment trial?