American President Joe Biden’s first prime-time address

Washington DC, Mar 12: American President Joe Biden marked a year since the beginning of the pandemic with his first prime-time address to the nation on Thursday night (local time). Prime-time is the regularly occurring time at which a television or radio audience is expected to be biggest.

Biden announced that he would direct the states to make all adult Americans eligible to sign up for their first shot by May 1st. He also announced that more than 4,000 active duty troops (trained medical professionals) will be made available to support vaccination efforts.

The administration going forward will also expand the pool of who is allowed to administer the COVID-19 shots. The pool will now include dentists, paramedics, physician assistants, veterinarians, and medical and health care students, so that the vaccine can reach more people in less time.

Rare meteorite that fell in UK may have ‘ingredients for life’

Boston, Mar 12: A meteorite is a fairly small natural object from interplanetary space which survives its passage through Earth’s atmosphere and lands on the planet’s surface. People in the United Kingdom and northern Europe saw a fireball light up the sky for a brief period of time late last month. The reason for it was an extremely rare type of meteorite. Almost 300 grams of the meteorite has been collected by scientists from a driveway of a home in a small town named Winchcombe of Gloucestershire County. They said the rock was formed of carbonaceous chondrite. This substance is one of the most primitive and pristine materials in the solar system and has been known to contain organic material and amino acids (the molecules that make up proteins) - the ingredients for life. Scientists are currently researching the meteorite at The Natural History Museum in London.
Buildings Around the World: Azadi Tower
By Pravar Mukkala

The Azadi Tower (known as برج آزادی or Borj-e Azadi in Persian, meaning “Freedom Tower”) is a tower located in the Irani capital of Tehran on Azadi Square. It marks the western entrance to the city. The tower was finished in 1971 and opened in 1972.

The Azadi Tower is 148 feet tall and is made of cut marble from Isfahan Province in Iran. The tower was commissioned by the last Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, to celebrate the 2,500th anniversary of the founding of an Iranian state. It was designed by the architect Hossein Amanat, who based the building’s design on classical Iranian architecture. In the basement of the tower is a museum.

It is estimated that the building’s cost of construction is around six million dollars.

The idea for the building came out of the fact that Iran was industrializing as a country in the 1960s because of oil exports, and the Shah wanted to modernize the country. This resulted in a cultural bloom.

Upon completion, the building was named Borj-e Šahyād, which means “Shah’s Memorial Tower”, but was renamed after the Iranian Revolution in 1979.

The present-day country of Iran in southwestern Asia has been ruled by many empires, and the architecture that blossomed in this part of the world came from an amalgamation of different architectural styles and in turn influenced many other styles (such as Indo-Islamic, or Mughal, architecture). Therefore, Iran is specifically known for its architecture. The Azadi Tower in particular is based on Sasanian architecture, a style of architecture that developed when Iran was under the rule of the Sassanid Empire. Sasanian architecture was adopted by the Muslims, and in the Azadi Tower, the pointed vault is a feature of Islamic architecture. A pointed vault is a kind of arch where the two sides meet at a sharp angle. This can be seen in the above picture.
Grandma’s Corner by Kiran aunty

How many squares of any possible size are on a regular 8 x 8 chess board?

Last Week’s Answer!!!!!

27 is the number
27 = 3 (2+7)

Saturday Champions!

Champs who answered last week’s Grandma’s corner are: Swetha. R, Shivani Manivannan
Champs who made out last week’s close-up (Peanut with shell) is: Keshavi Soni

Know the States of India
Amey Haldankar

Goa
Goa is located on the west coast of India. It is bordered by Maharashtra and Karnataka. Goa has only two districts, which are North Goa (Madgaon) and South Goa (Panaji). The capital of the state is Panaji.
Goa is made up of Konkan in the north, the Malabar Coast in the south, and the Western Ghats on its eastern border along with Karnataka.

Mandovi, Mapusa, Chapora, Zuari, Talpona, Colval are some of the major rivers in Goa. Goa is the smallest state in India and has a land area of 3,702 sq. km. The population of Goa is 1.46 million. Thus its population density is 394 people per sq. km.
Panaji, Margao, Vasco da Gama, Mapusa and Ponda are some of the major cities in Goa.
The literacy rate of Goa is 88.7%.
Konkani is the most spoken language in Goa with Marathi and Hindi second and third. English is also a major language in Goa.
Dudhsagar Falls, Aguada Fort, Anjuna Beach, Basilica of Bom Jesus, Chapora Fort and Butterfly Beach are some of the major tourist spots in Goa.
Fun fact: Sé Cathedral in Goa is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the largest cathedrals in Asia.
Trivia question: Which European power once ruled Goa?

Quote of the Day

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and giving it.

~William Arthur Ward
Letter to the editor:

Hi ma'am,
My son name is R. Pranav Sai, he is studying in lower kindergarten.
Hereby I send the answer for spot the difference corner of this week. Really a nice edition every Saturday as my son is knowing some interesting facts about a new country and their flags, thank you.

With regards
P. Jeyasri

Dear Jeyasri and Pranav Sai,

Thanks a lot for your email. It fills our hearts to know that you are enjoying the Saturday edition. Keep reading and sending us your feedback. We really appreciate it.

With lots of love,
Poornima
tcpedit@gmail.com

Countries of the World
Praneeth Udathu

Russia is the largest country in the world by area. Russia spans eleven time zones and borders sixteen countries. It is part of Europe and Asia.

The tribes of Western Russia banded together to form the Kievan Rus in 800 CE. They were eventually invaded by the Mongols in 1240 and collapsed. The Great Duchy of Moscow was the largest state to arise from the Kievan Rus in the 1300s. The Tsardom of Russia formed in 1500 and by 1700, Russia expanded to claim most of the territory they own today. Russia entered WWI in 1914 and the war led to the Russian Revolution in 1918. This led to a civil war and by 1929, Joseph Stalin became the leader of the USSR. In WWII, the USSR contributed to a large amount of casualties. WWII led to the Cold War between the USA and USSR. The Cold War ended in 1991 as the USSR dissolved. Russia's leader is now Vladimir Putin.
The capital of Russia is Moscow and other large cities include St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, and Kazan. The national language is Russian. The official currency is the ruble. The current national population is 146 million. Famous people from Russia include Vladimir Lenin, Maria Sharapova, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Valentina Tereshkova.
Fun fact: The Trans-Siberian Railway is the longest railway in the world and passes through 8 time zones and 87 cities.
Ahmedabad, Mar 12: In the first T20 match between India and England that took place in Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the English team won by 8 wickets. England won the toss and elected to bowl. Shreyas Iyer contributed 67 runs from 48 balls making India’s score 124 runs at a loss of 7 wickets in 20 overs. Jason Roy and Jos Buttler made 49 runs from 32 balls and 28 runs from 24 balls respectively, helping the English team win in 15.3 overs.

Make-up the Close-up

Let us try something different this week.

Do you see a white spot almost in the middle of this picture? What is it?

Credits and Answers

Azadi tower picture and Russia flag are from Wikipedia.org
Sports news from twitter handle of @BCCI
This edition has been reviewed by Gunjan Sharma and Rachna Sarah Thomas.

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We love contributions! Please share all contributions with us at tcpedit@gmail.com