



### Fun facts

#### 1. Napping at work?

Napping at work is widely frowned upon by employers, but there are countries such as Spain, Italy and Greece where people still follow the daytime snoozing tradition. However, the duration of the afternoon break varies from country to country. Short power naps in the afternoon are said to restore energy levels and increase productivity. It's believed that Spain introduced the concept of siesta centuries ago to provide relief to its farmers from soaring temperatures.

**Q: Find out about Circadian rhythm.**

#### 2. Iceland does not have an army

Iceland has not had a permanent, standing army since 1869. It is probably because maintaining an army is very expensive. However, the island nation still maintains a military expeditionary peacekeeping force, an air defence system, a militarised coast guard and a police service. Till 2006 it had an agreement with the U.S., which took care of Iceland's defence. Now, NATO is responsible for it.

**Q: Find out about two more countries that do not have a standing army.**

### World tour

This week, we focus on **South Korea**. Here are some facts

- South Korea constitutes the southern part of the Korean Peninsula, located in Eastern Asia. It shares land border with North Korea. Seoul is its capital.
- After the Korean War in 1953, South Korea embraced capitalism and became a developing economy within decades. It has emerged as a global leader in telecommunication and automobiles.
- South Korea has a Presidential Republic form of government with Moon Jae-in as the President and Chung Sye-kyun as the Prime Minister.
- The Korean entertainment industry has global recognition. K-pop, K-drama, K-food and Korean language courses are gaining popularity among Indians as well.
- White-naped crane, Asiatic black bear, lynx, kumgang fat minnow, Korean crevice salamander and Korean goral are some of the animals and birds found here.

#### Find out:

1. Which of the following Korean films won four awards, including Best Picture, at the 92nd Academy Awards?
  - a. The Host b. Parasite c. Snowpiercer
2. Which of the following martial artforms is the national sport of South Korea?
  - a. Taekwondo b. Kung fu c. Budo



A view of the Gyeongbok Palace, a popular landmark in Seoul, South Korea. PHOTO: AP

Answers: 1. b and 2. a

### War of words

Strike a debate on the topic given below



Are genetically modified crops helping to solve issues concerning hunger, food shortage and environmental sustainability? Or are they doing more harm than good? Put on your thinking caps and get ready to argue:

#### Should we genetically modify food?

Yes

No

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### Word of the day

**Elan** (noun)

**Meaning:** a combination of style and energetic confidence, especially in performances or manner; vigorous spirit, dash, liveliness.

**Origin of the word:** Elan has its origins in the mid-nineteenth century French word *elan* or more specifically, *elancer*, which means "to dart". Someone with elan can be said to dart around with enthusiasm and a unique flair. Music or art can also have elan and so can someone's wardrobe. Elan can also mean zeal or eagerness in favour of a person or cause.

**Usage:** Here are a couple of examples of how the word 'elan' is used in a sentence — 1. She performed with great elan, displaying no evidence of stagefright. 2. The magician pulled off the difficult trick with elan.

#### Activity

Use the word of the day in a sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_

### Earth watch

Match the description with the right word

1. Decayed organic matter used as fertilizer.
  2. The region that protects our planet from sun's ultraviolet radiation.
  3. The process of removing salt from water.
  4. Liquid and solid waste flowing in sewers.
  5. Tiny pieces of plastic that pollute environment.
- a. Desalination.
  - b. Sewage.
  - c. Microplastics.
  - d. Compost.
  - e. Ozone layer.

Answers: 1. d, 2. e, 3. a, 4. b, 5. c



Reuters

### Easy search

Spot the young ones of five animals (Cat, Frog, Hare, Swan, Fish) and write your answer in the space provided.



Answers: 1. kitten 2. Tadpole 3. Leveret 4. Cynnet 5. Fingerling

### Journal Writing

#### Dear Diary

This decision is going to change my life forever...

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Imagine and write. You may even type a note and mail it to us at [school@thehindu.co.in](mailto:school@thehindu.co.in). We will select a few for publication when we resume

#### Today's Diary Pick

Dear diary,

I woke up and found that I am only three inches tall! Wait, before you assume anything, let me tell you how it all started. Yesterday, a wicked witch cursed me. I was bragging to my friends about me being taller than them. Could that be the reason behind the curse? I woke up and I was feeling very different. The bed looked big and the room looked even bigger. I screamed. I was only three inches tall! I heard my mom rushing to the room shouting, "Are you all right? What's wrong?" I managed to drag the pillows somehow and placed a blanket on them to make it look like I was sleeping. I don't know how I gathered the strength. Mom thought I screamed in my dreams and left the room.

After an hour, I heard my mom's angry voice, "Aren't you out of the bed yet?". She was in my room about to stamp me since I was too small to notice. As her foot came over my head, I closed my eyes. I suddenly found myself being shaken by my mother shouting, "Get up, it's late".

I woke up shocked. It took me some time to realise it was just a dream. So friends, don't brag too much, who knows, the 'wicked witch' might be watching.

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FILE PHOTO: AP

### The W Corner

WHY are there assistant referees in football?

If you have ever seen football, you would have noticed two assistant referees prowling along the sides of the football field, apart from the main referee who is in the playing field. Have you ever wondered why they are there and what their role is? Do you think you can guess the answer? Write down in the space provided and check with the answer to see if you have got it correct.

\_\_\_\_\_

Answer: There are two assistant referees appointed for each match, to aid the referee in their decision making. Their duties include, but are not limited to, indicating when the ball has passed out of the field of play, which side gets the corner kick or throw-in; when a player is in an offside position; incidents occurring outside the view of the referee; whether the movements of the goalkeeper and the ball during a penalty kick are acceptable; and when a substitution is requested.