



10th International Junior Science Olympiad



The landscape here consists of sand hills (dunes), some of which can be as high as 150 feet. Vegetation is sparse and consists of thorny bushes and tufts of long grass. Near Jaisalmer is one of India's largest National Parks, about 3000 sq. km of the Desert National Park. Sand dunes form nearly 20% of this park, while open grasslands, thorny bushes and plantation form the rest. A little over 150 species of plants are found here which provide sustenance to the desert fauna. These include mammals like, desert cat, desert fox, and black bucks, birds of prey like eagles, falcons, and buzzards, and reptiles like spiny-tailed lizard, monitor lizard, and saw-scaled viper.



Thar desert has an average population density which is almost 10 times that of other deserts of the world. It is home to several nomadic desert tribes and their herds of camel, cattle, sheep and goats. They trade in animals, wool, and milk products. Famous around the world for the Pushkar fair, the region has a rich cultural tradition of musicians and dancers.

For centuries, naturalists and explorers throughout the world have described strange sounds emanating from sand dunes. Some of the earliest references about acoustical dunes are found in Chinese and Mideastern chronicles dating back more than 1500 years. The weird sounds were described by Marco Polo on his journey through the Gobi desert, and by Darwin while travelling through Chile. Have you heard the music of the deserts?

Sand dunes cover half the area of the large deserts of the world. Continually aligned in the wind direction, they are typically spaced about 2 km apart. Have you ever wondered what factors and conditions influence their formation?



Think

Think

Image source: Eacz12, Saravask, Linuserist, sushmita balasubramani, Flicka, Manducus from commons.wikimedia.org

Editorial team

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Today's attraction: Giant Meterwave Radio Telescope

You must be looking forward to an opportunity to explore Pune! So here's a little to get you geared up for the experiences awaiting you! As you travel to GMRT, you will have some glimpses of Pune. The city has traditionally been the seat of education, and you will also pass schools and colleges, many of them several decades old. You may spot the Deccan College, College of Engineering, B. J. Medical College, Fergusson College, or Spicer College on your way, as also the famous University of Pune. Notice the British influence on the architecture. Pune also boasts of some top research institutes of the country, not only in science and mathematics, but also in Sanskrit, archeology, history, and more. Seminars, conferences, and festivals are a norm in Pune, a very famous one being the Indian classical music festival Sawai Gandharva Bhimsen Mahotsav that starts immediately after IJSO, on December 12.

We are sure you will notice this and much more! And these places might remind you of something back home. We would love to hear from you of what you enjoyed on the excursion, and of things that reminded you of something from your town or country. Do 'write to us' students, and we'll try to share it with everyone in the next issue of Vigyan Beats. Leaders can mail us at vigyan.beats@gmail.com!

Today @ IJSO

Visit to GMRT

- Buses leave from hotel for GMRT at 09:00 hrs.
- The journey takes about 3 hours each way.
- GMRT visit is mostly outdoors and there is little shade. Do wear your cap.
- Water bottles will be provided. Lunch at GMRT.
- GMRT campus is a radio silence zone. Mobile signals interfere with data collection. Put your communication devices on the 'flight' mode when instructed.

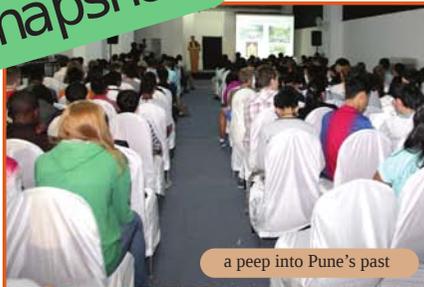


Theory exam discussion

- Lunch and dinner at Sabha.
- Breakfast on 7th December at Pool Deck starts at 6 am.



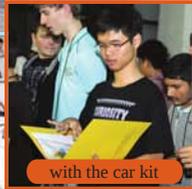
Snapshots



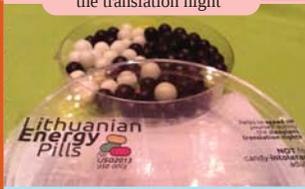
a peep into Pune's past



the translation night



with the car kit



exam moods... :)



students @ the Aga Khan Palace



Leaders @ the GMRT



Student Speak @ Help Desk Dropbox

Higgs Boson goes to church and says-
"Without me, you cannot have Mass"
-Anonymous

Despite the semi-arid conditions in Botswana, farming and livestock production take place and wildlife and tourism also takes place. Mining is one of the income generators. In Botswana we mine diamonds, soda ash, copper, nickel, coal and others. This semi arid condition supports mining. (sic)

-Otsilegape Thebeng (Botswana)

It reminds me of the coast of Croatia (Dalmacija). Before people came here, there were sub-tropical forests. People chopped down all trees because they needed wood. Now there are only small bushes and rocky terrain. But you can see this on the coasts of whole Mediterranean sea.

Filip Cermak (Slovakia)

Today's weather

Sunrise: 06.54AM

Sunset: 05.58PM

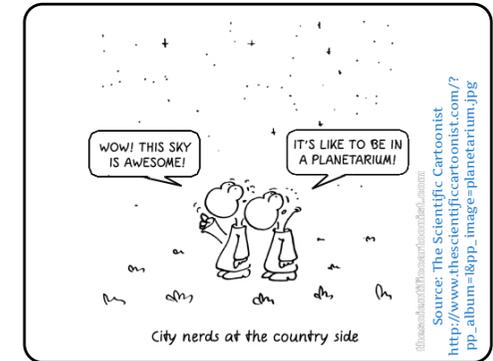


Max Temp: 30° C

Min Temp: 16° C

Sky would be partly cloudy.

Source: www.imdpune.gov.in



Zoom In

Winner of yesterday's Write to us

The maximum number of countries you could name was 15 and we received a lot of entries mentioning 15 correct country names. So we did a lucky draw! Congratulations to Antal Gemes of Hungary. Collect your prize during breakfast time from the Vigyan Beats Team. We would also like to thank students for their suggestions and feedback.

Desert Zone of India: Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer, or the golden city, is located in the west of Rajasthan State, close to the border of India and Pakistan. The yellow sand and the yellow sandstone used in most of the architectural structures give the city a yellowish-golden hue. Its medieval mud fortress and walled township make it a popular tourist destination. A part of Thar, the great Indian desert, Jaisalmer has almost entirely a sandy landscape.



The summer temperatures in this region range from 25°C to 42°C, while in winter temperatures range between 7°C and 24°C. The dry climate supports crops like pearl millet, sorghum, sesame, etc. The irrigation is almost unknown in this region. With scanty rainfall, even the scarce water is usually brackish. There are no perennial streams, just one small river which culminates in a lake.

