

Dik-dik is an antelope that gets its name from the continuous “z/dik” sound it makes when frightened.



Bizarre beings

# It's a pan(dem)ic!

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## Recalling Some Of The Worst Times In History

Covid 19 - the word that has brought the entire world to a standstill. While our generation is witnessing an endemic of such magnitude for the first time, history is no stranger to such pandemics. Having witnessed the brutality of these pandemics, it stands proof to the test of time and also as the harbinger of hope that humanity shall survive once again.

### The Black Death

**Death toll:** 75-200 million

**Cause:** Bubonic plague

This plague was an extension of the Plague of Justinian. Emerging 800 years later, the pandemic entered Europe via rats and fleas aboard merchant ships. Spread by a germ called Yesina Pestis, it was a highly contagious strain that spread through all of Europe, Africa and Asia from 1346 to 1353. The plague invincibly managed to wipe out 60% of the population of Europe and never really came to an end, for it kept surfacing every few years for centuries. It was only with advanced health care system and sanitisation facilities that the effects of this plague were mitigated to some extent. Even to date, the plague kills 1000-3000 people across the world every year.



**Trivia:** Knowing that the disease had something to do with proximity, some officials decided it best to isolate the newly arrived sailors until they were proven immune to the disease, thus giving birth to the concept of quarantine or in layman's terms, isolation up to forty days.

### Smallpox

**Death toll:** 200-220 million

**Cause:** Variola

Dating back to the third century BC Egyptian Empire, the virus causing this epidemic was



first found as a rash in three mummies. Initially, small pox was endemic to several European, Asian and Arabic countries, where it killed nearly three out of every ten people. However, it arrived in the US only in the 6th century via trade and commerce. The indigenous population with zero immunity to this virus succumbed with 90-95% dying over a period of a century. The same virus in Mexico brought the population down from 11 million to 1 million. It was only in the late 18th century that a vaccine for the same was developed by British doctor Edward Jenner to curb the pandemic.

**Trivia:** In 1980, the WHO announced complete wipe out of smallpox from earth.

### Asiatic Cholera pandemic

**Death toll:** 1 million

**Cause:** Vibrio cholerae

The disease that emerged in 19th century India in the Ganges delta region has led to seven global pandemics up till now. However, it hit the world worst when it showed up the second time, spreading from India across western Asia to Europe, Great Britain, and the Americas through 1826-1837. Carried by Vibrio cholerae, a bacterium that survives in



saline and warm water, it was known to kill a victim within eight hours of infestation. The pandemic killed 23000 people in Great Britain alone. John Snow, a British physician identified the source of the bacteria to be contaminated water. Even to date, it continues to affect 1.3-4 million people every year.

**Trivia:** The epidemic resulted in the development of the intravenous saline drip by Dr Thomas Latta. This drip was effective in improving the conditions of many patients by preventing dehydration. However, Dr Thomas was also one of the medical personnel who died in the pandemic.

### Spanish Flu

**Death toll:** 20 -50 million

**Cause:** H1N1 virus

One of the most severe pandemics in history, this deadly outbreak infected more than a third of the world population, roughly translating to 500 million people. With the first case reported on March 4, 1918, when US Army soldiers complained of cold-like symptoms, the epidemic eventually resulted in the death of 20-50 million people.

**Trivia:** What separates the Spanish flu from its other counterparts is that it affected even the healthiest of beings with strong immunity, while leaving weaker immune children alive by the end of its devastation.



# System update: Install or later

## Evolution Of The Biggest & The Best-Selling Mobile Operating System In The World

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What started as a simple operating system for digital cameras has now become the best-selling OS worldwide with more than two billion active users monthly. Android, initially released in 2008, has come a long way over the years. Let's take a trip down memory lane.

### CUPCAKE

**Release date:** April 27, 2009

**Offered:** On-screen keyboard, Bluetooth support, support for video recording and several Google apps



### DONUT

**Release date:** September 15, 2009

**Offered:** Added support for CDMA smartphones, additional screen sizes, battery usage indicator and text-to-speech engine



### FROYO

**Release date:** May 20, 2010

**Offered:** USB tethering, Wi-Fi hotspot functionality, enabling push notifications, additional application speed improvements, animated GIFs



### GINGERBREAD

**Release date:** December 6, 2010

**Offered:** Support for extra-large screen sizes, virtual keyboard, press-hold copy and paste, support for Near Field Communication, audio effects like reverb, equalisation, headphone virtualisation and bass boost, multiple cameras on the device including front-facing, support for WebM/VP8 video playback



### HONEYCOMB

**Release date:** February 22, 2011

**Offered:** Better support for devices with larger screen sizes like Tablets, full-screen mode for photos and videos, Recent Apps view, customisable home screens up to five



### ICE CREAM SANDWICH

**Release date:** October 19, 2011

**Offered:** Holo - new visual appearance which was built around a cleaner and minimalist design, new default typeface named Roboto, refreshed home screen, ability to access camera and control music playback from lock screen, face recognition for de-



vice unlocking, ability to monitor and limit mobile data usage

### JELLY BEAN

**Release date:** July 9, 2012

**Offered:** Smoother and more responsive feel in the operating system, expandable notifications with action buttons, multi-user support for tablets, lock screen widgets, screensavers



### KITKAT

**Release date:** September 3, 2013

**Offered:** Optimising platform for better performance on low-end devices, an early version of Google Assistant, responding to 'OK Google'



### LOLLIPOP

**Release date:** June 25, 2014

**Offered:** Revamped user interface with 'Material Design', ability to access notifications from lock screen, top-of-the-screen banner notifications



### MARSHMALLOW

**Release date:** October 5, 2015

**Offered:** New APIs for contextual assistants, power management system that reduced background activity when a device is not being physically handled, fingerprint recognition, USB-C connectors, migrating data and applications to microSD card



### NOUGAT

**Release date:** August 22, 2016

**Offered:** Ability to display multiple apps on-screen at once in a split-screen view, expanded Doze power-saving mode, support for Vulkan graphics rendering API



### OREO

**Release date:** August 21, 2017

**Offered:** Notification grouping, battery usage optimisation, support for autofillers, Bluetooth version 5, system-level integration with VoIP apps, automatic light, Dark Theme, screenshot

