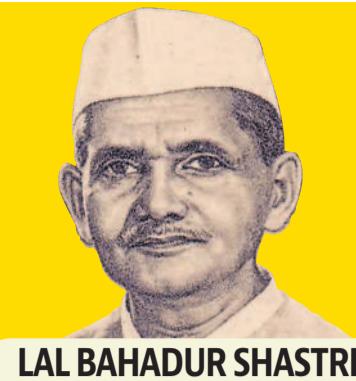


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LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

WISE WORDS »

We believe in freedom, freedom for the people of each country to follow their destiny without external interference.



# Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

## breaking it down

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & ROBOTS FORM POTENT COMBO >P3



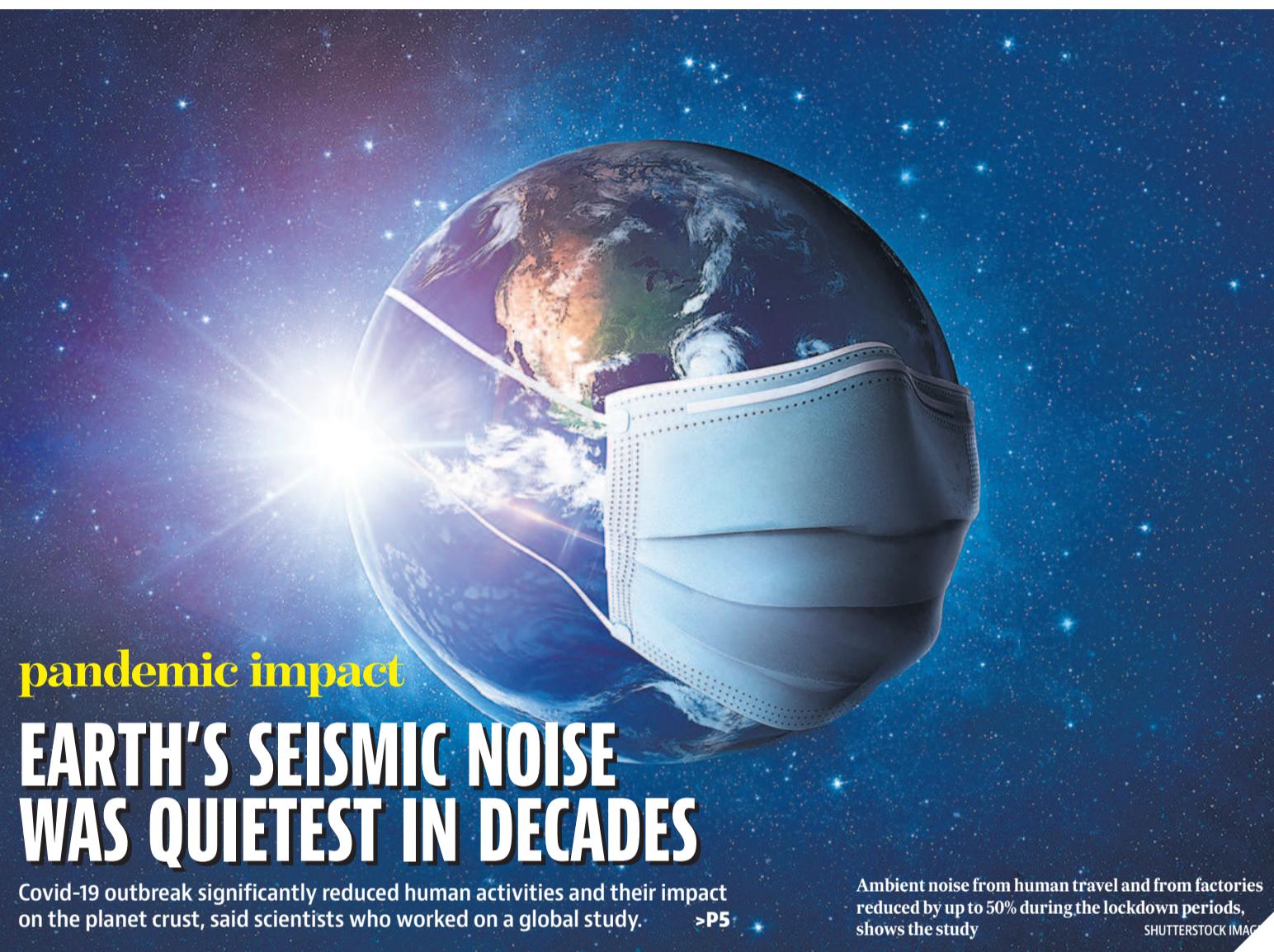
## easing lockdown

### IN BRITAIN, SCHOOLS TO REOPEN ON MARCH 8 >P4



## serie a

### INTER CRUSH CITY RIVALS MILAN 3-0 TO EXTEND LEAD AT THE TOP OF ITALIAN LEAGUE >P6



## pandemic impact

### EARTH'S SEISMIC NOISE WAS QUIETEST IN DECADES

Covid-19 outbreak significantly reduced human activities and their impact on the planet crust, said scientists who worked on a global study. >P5

Ambient noise from human travel and from factories reduced by up to 50% during the lockdown periods, shows the study.

SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGE

## premier league

### MAN CITY EXTEND WINNING RUN TO STAY 10 POINTS CLEAR AT TOP >P6



## NATION

Active coronavirus cases surge to 1.50 lakh; national positivity rate at 5.20%

**NEW DELHI:** India's total tally of Covid-19 cases surpassed 1.10 crore with 14,199 new infections being reported in a day, while active cases registered an increase for the fifth consecutive day, according to the Union health ministry data updated on Monday. The total coronavirus cases have increased to 1,10,05,850, while the death toll increased to 1,56,385 with 83 daily new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am showed.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,06,99,410 which translates to a national Covid-19 recovery rate of 97.22% and the case fatality rate stands at 1.42%. Active coronavirus infections in the country increased to 1,50,055 which comprises 1.36% of the total caseload, the data stated.

India has registered a record in the number of Covid-19 cumulative tests, with over 21.15 crore samples tested, the ministry said. The country's national positivity rate is pegged at 5.20%. Progressive countrywide expansion in testing infrastructure has played a crucial role in the steep rise of testing numbers, the ministry underlined.



A nurse prepares a Covid-19 vaccine shot at the Rajawadi Hospital in Mumbai, on Monday

PTI

With 2,393 testing labs in the country including 1,220 government laboratories and 1,173 private laboratories, the daily testing capacity has got a substantial boost. "India's cumulative national positivity rate is presently pegged at 5.20%", the ministry said. A total of 6,20,216 tests were conducted in a span of 24 hours.

Till February 22, the Covid-19 vaccination coverage was 1,11,16,854 through 2,32,317 sessions, as per the provisional report. These include 63,97,849 health care workers (HCWs 1st dose), 9,67,852 HCWs (2nd dose) and 37,51,153 frontline workers (FLW 1st dose).

**NEW DELHI:** Public buses and Metro trains in the national capital will run at their current limited capacities for at least two more weeks with the Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Monday deciding to maintain status quo on the number of passengers, sources said. The decision was taken as states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab are witnessing a surge in new Covid-19, according to sources. "Delhi Metro trains and public buses will run at previously fixed limited capacities for now. It is vigilant wait and watch for another two weeks," they said. On Monday, Lt Governor Anil Baijal chaired a meeting of the DDMA, which was attended by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and other officers.

PTI

## CITY LIGHTS

### Metro, buses to run on limited capacities for now

**NEW DELHI:** Public buses and Metro trains in the national capital will run at their current limited capacities for at least two more weeks with the Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Monday deciding to maintain status quo on the number of passengers, sources said. The decision was taken as states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab are witnessing a surge in new Covid-19, according to sources. "Delhi Metro trains and public buses will run at previously fixed limited capacities for now. It is vigilant wait and watch for another two weeks," they said. On Monday, Lt Governor Anil Baijal chaired a meeting of the DDMA, which was attended by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, his deputy Manish Sisodia and other officers.



In Metro trains, commuters will continue to maintain social distancing norms for now

## WORLD

Strike grips Myanmar, protesters defy junta's warning

**YANGON:** Myanmar police began to disperse pro-democracy protesters on Monday as businesses around the country shut in a general strike called to oppose the military coup despite a threat from authorities that confrontation could cost lives. Three weeks after seizing power, the ruling junta has failed to stop daily protests and a civil disobedience movement calling for the reversal of the Feb. 1 coup and release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi. There were protests in cities across the country on Monday, from the northern hills on the border with China to the central plains, the Irrawaddy river delta and the southern tip of the panhandle, images on social media showed.

REUTERS

### IIT Kharagpur turns steel plant dump into green belt

**NEW DELHI:** Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur have transformed Odisha's steel plants' dump sites into green belts using traditional Indian organic components and Japanese afforestation techniques. According to the team, a drive through the Dhenkanal region of Odisha will give one the chance to witness the vast stretches of green canopy and vegetation developed by them on what was once industrial dump sites. The transformation to a green belt is not a natural reclamation but the "Midas touch" of the Post Mining Mine Site Restoration group of the department of mining engineering of IIT Kharagpur through a project supported by Tata Steel BSL.

The researchers afforested over 32,000 square feet in the region following a rapid forest regeneration technique by using a unique mix of the traditional resource of Panchagavya with the Miyawaki plantation technique of ecologist Akira Miyawaki from Japan.

### Kashmir rail services, shut due to Covid, restart after 11 mnths

**Srinagar/New Delhi:** Nearly 1,100 people travelled between Banihal and Baramulla railway stations as train services resumed in Kashmir on Monday after remaining suspended for around 11 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, officials said. Two trains chugged on the railway tracks in Kashmir as the railway authorities resumed the services partially, they said.

The officials said nearly 1,100 passengers used the service on the first day after the resumption of the service. "We will be following this schedule - one train up from Banihal and one down from Baramulla - for the time being," they said. Taking to Twitter, railway minister Piyush Goyal said the resumption of the train service will enhance ease of movement and provide a "big boost" to the tourism sector. "Railways to resume train operations in Kashmir Valley on Banihal-Baramulla section from Feb 22, with two services operating initially," Goyal tweeted.



More on p2

## SCHOOL EVENT

### FELICITATION CEREMONY ORGANISED AT DAVPS, PUSHPANJALI ENCLAVE

Like every year, DAV Public School (DAVPS), Pushpanjali Enclave, celebrated Protsahan Parv to felicitate its meritorious students. The invite and the link to join the programme was shared with the students, parents and staff members. This year, the chief guest for the event was CBSE deputy secretary (RO Delhi-West) JP Chaturvedi while school chairman and DAVCMC senior vice president NK Uberoi was the presiding dignitary.

More on p2

## WORD POWER

### Pharaonic

fair-ey-on-ik / Adjective

**Meaning:** Relating to or characteristic of a pharaoh or the time of the pharaohs; impressively or overwhelmingly large, luxurious, etc.

**Origin:** Entered English end of the 18th century. Derived from the noun Pharaoh. Pharaoh comes from Greek Pharaon.

**Synonyms:** astronomical, colossal, giant

**Antonyms:** bitty, diminutive, micro, tiny, wee

**Usage:** Perhaps from one of the numerous pavilions which went to make up a pharaonic palace.

National Spelling Bee to return in mostly virtual format

**WASHINGTON:** The Scripps National Spelling Bee will return this year in a mostly virtual format, with the in-person competition limited to a dozen finalists who will gather on an ESPN campus at Walt Disney World in Florida. Scripps announced on Monday. Last year's bee was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic, the first time since World War II it had been called off. Organisers said they did not believe a large gathering at the bee's longtime venue – a convention centre outside Washington – would be possible this year for the competition's usual date around Memorial Day.

AP

## SCHOOL EVENTS

## DAVPS, Pushpanjali Enclave, celebrates Protsahan Parv to felicitate students

Like every year, DAV Public School (DAVPS), Pushpanjali Enclave, celebrated Protsahan Parv to felicitate its meritorious students. The invite and the link to join the programme was shared with the students, parents and staff members.

This year, the chief guest for the event was CBSE deputy secretary (RO Delhi-West) J P Chaturvedi while school chairman and DAVCMC senior vice president NK Oberoi was the presiding dignitary. Other esteemed guests included school founder principal-manager and Kulachi Hansraj Model School principal Smt. Sneh Verma, school vice chairman Baldev Mahajan, other honourable members of LMC and the principals of various other schools. The event commenced with the DAV Gaan -- melodious rendition of the DAV glory. The school choir gave a hearty welcome to the honourable guests by singing a foot-tapping Abhinandan song.

The programme continued with the floral welcome by school principal Rashmi Raj Biswal and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by all the guests in the backdrop of chanting of auspicious mantras. The principal felicitated the guests with a shawl.

The school band presented a musical ensemble which enthralled the guests and the online spectators. There was another mesmerising performance – a fusion of contemporary and classical dance form which left everyone spellbound. Another pivotal moment that marked the event was the release of the school magazine by the guests and Biswal.

The principal presented the annual report, highlighting the progress, achievements, laurels and accolades of the school and staff in various fields. Biswal apprised the guests and the other spectators about the online education innovation in various arenas and the celebration of various important days and festivals through online platform. The report was a comprehensive yearly statement, stating the milestones covered and enriched with the remarkable achievements of the students, staff members and the principal.



The school magazine was released by the principal and the guests during the event

The school also celebrated its 32nd foundation day with a havan ceremony, which was streamed live on YouTube, showcasing the progress of the institution.

Both Shri Chaturvedi and Shri Oberoi gave a special piece of advice to the students and their parents through their enlightening speeches.

According to them, the parents had an immense responsibility of supervising the progress of their respective wards and their learning process, specially during the Covid-19 pandemic times.

Both the guests said that the school and parents act as partners in the upbringing of the children, which is indeed a responsibility of high stature and lot of onus. Both the learned dignitaries enlightened the audience with their words of wisdom.

They applauded the earnest endeavours and excellence of the principal and her staff members. Both felt that the students of DAV Pushpanjali are fortunate to be part of this prestigious institution.

They offered their best wishes to the award winners and inspired the student fraternity to set a goal in life,

taking the school to the pinnacle of success. The school honoured the meritorious students which included toppers from Classes 10 and 12 along with the subject toppers, overall toppers from Classes 3 to 11, and the students securing requisite percentage (85% & above) for 3/5/6 consecutive years to bag the blue blazer, green blazer, maroon blazer, silver medals, gold medals etc.

The awards for excellence in various fields were also bestowed upon the extraordinary students. The TS Memorial Award 'for excellence in academics, music and technology' was also conferred upon the ingenious students.

The school boasts of a dynamic theatre society 'AGAAZ' which showcased, as the finale, a thought-provoking presentation titled on humanity in sync with technology titled Technology Met Humanity, thus driving home a message that if we think of a change, we can do it. Let us use our minds and live our life as an exemplary one.

The function was a huge success and drew to a close with the singing of the national anthem.

## TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

## 'It makes learning more effective for everyone'



Most schools and colleges have specially made computer labs with latest technology, writes Tanisha, above, Class 9 student of Ganga International School, Sawda

We all know that technology plays a very significant role in today's education. It has made our life as well our education easy. We can search anything that we find difficult or we don't understand.

We can have our online classes on different apps such as Microsoft and Zoom easily because of today's digital technology. Most schools and colleges have specially made computer labs with latest technology so that the students can acquire new skills. Various computer language problems are also taught to the students so that they can get expertise in the field. It will also help us in interviews and job placement.

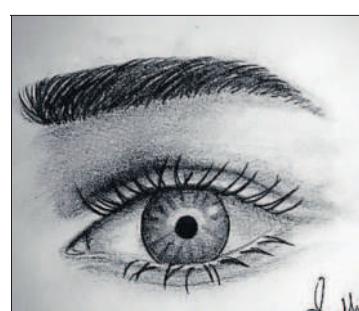
The major contribution of technology is the implementation of two vectors in every classroom so that we can understand the subjects easily. All the study materials are made available to the students through online source too. The study does not neglect the importance of teachers. In fact, the researches say that when professors say they have more sophisticated ideas of teaching they probably use teaching strategies that result in students being actively involved in the teaching and learning management.

Also, technology makes learning

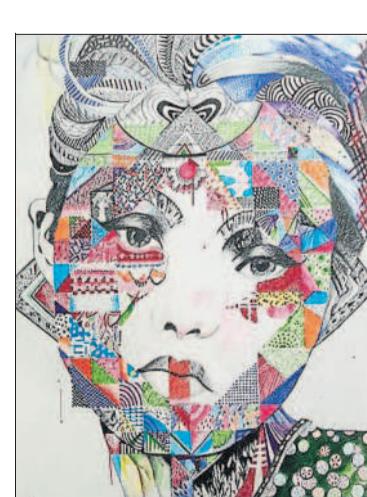
more effective for everyone with different needs. For example, the students can learn at their own speed and review difficult concepts. In addition, technology can give more opportunities to the struggling or disabled students. Technology has really made life easy for all people. We stay connected with our teachers, relatives and friends because of this digital technology. Teachers and students gather, access, analyse, present and transmit information with the help of technology. This can democratise information in classrooms and help differentiate instructions particularly for students with special needs.

## ARTIST'S CORNER

The budding artists among schoolchildren utilised their time during the Covid-19 lockdown period to express their ideas on canvas. Here are two of their artworks.



Saffiya Lodi, Class, 9-A, Khadijatul Kubra Girls Public School, Okhla...



Kritika Gupta, Class 10-D, Rukmini Devi Public School, Pitampura

## VIRTUAL VS REAL

## 'Online education not true replacement for classroom teaching'

Renowned Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "Change is the only constant in life". This year has been the 'year of change' as we can call it. The coronavirus pandemic has completely transformed our lives! We owe our sincere thanks to all the corona warriors who toil selflessly just for the well-being of the society.

Although we are all safe within the confined walls of our homes, I am very sure we all long for open air and social gatherings.

The Children yearn for the joys of physical schooling as it is in our nature to be gregarious. No matter what happens, humans cannot be constrained – humans are ingenious and innovative.

Humans have made the most impossible things possible and the pandemic has been no exception to the display of human intelligence. Learning through an online forum has surely been very different. It brings along its own pros and cons.

Everyone enjoyed this process, though it took some time to adjust to a completely alien method of attending schools. The students cooperated with the teachers and the teachers put in all their efforts to ensure that every student understands each concept despite us not being in a classroom environment.

Online learning is a two-way effort and it emphasises on coordination, cooperation, understanding and adaptation.

I personally enjoyed online learning, but somewhere down there I feel that it can never be a complete and true replacement for classroom teaching. The classroom teaching is a centuries old method of teaching and everything about it is so student- and teacher-friendly.

No wonder it is being followed even after so many years. The live interactions, something that every person is craving in the pandemic, is the best part of it.

It becomes so much easier for the teachers to teach as well. They can guess how well a concept is understood just by analysing the students'



Classroom teaching is a centuries-old method of teaching and everything about it is so student- and teacher-friendly, writes Akshita Kulkarni, above, a Class 9 student of GD Goenka Public School, Sarita Vihar

expressions and overall signs that they get.

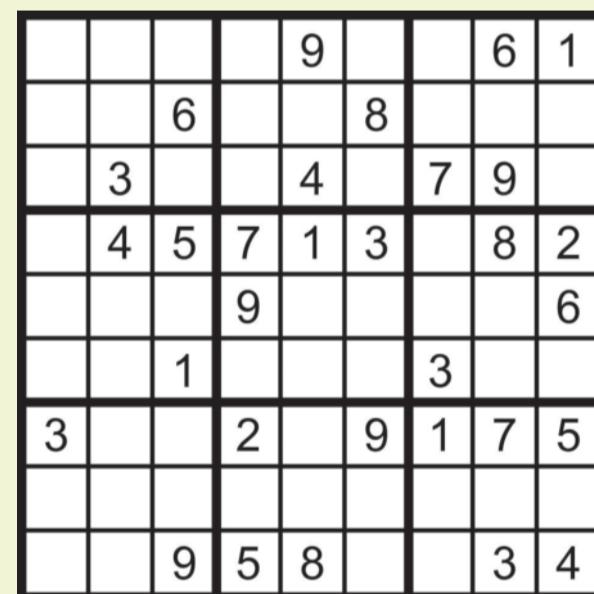
They also have a good control over what the students do in classrooms and can easily regulate their learning process. Students can immediately ask their doubts.

Also, the peer interaction boosts the students' energy and brings the fun factor in the class. In conclusion, I feel that online teaching is a fantastic solution to the current problem and everyone's efforts have made it even more easy and comfortable.

At the same time, I believe that live teaching is the best method of teaching and learning. I'm desperately waiting to be back to school and enjoy the pleasures of classroom teaching.

## MIND GAME

## SUDOKU



## SCRAMBLE

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

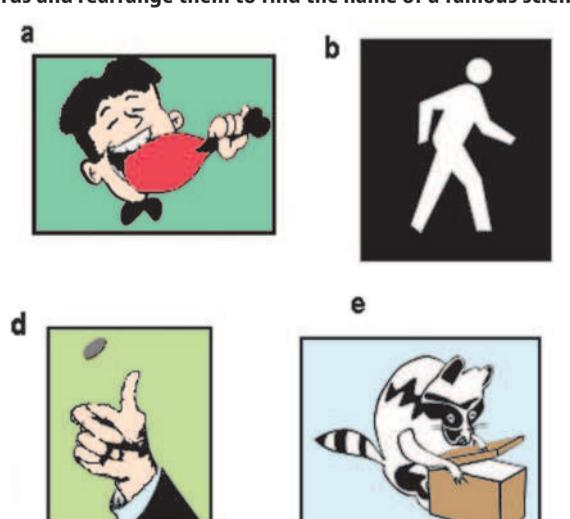
EORRR	*	*	*
OLEOS	*	*	
DMWIOS	*	*	*
AIOBKM	*	*	*

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (\*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

— are as useful to a stupid person as a mirror is useful to a blind person. — Chanakya (5,...6)

## PICTURE PUZZLE

Some actions are depicted in the pictures given here. Use the first letters of the words and rearrange them to find the name of a famous scientist.



Amrita Bharati Features

## MATHDOKU

8+	40x		2-
3+		7+	
30x	5:		4:
1-		9+	

Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol contained.

## IN PERFECT HARMONY



Bharatnatyam dancers perform during the inauguration ceremony of the Khajuraho Dance Festival at Khajuraho in the Chhattarpur district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday

## Solutions

2	1	9	5	8	7	6	3
5	6	7	4	3	1	8	2
3	8	4	2	6	9	1	7
9	2	1	3	9	7	5	4
8	7	3	9	2	4	5	1
6	4	5	7	1	3	9	8
1	3	2	6	4	5	2	5
4	9	6	1	7	8	2	4

3	5	4	1	2
4	3	5	2	1
5	2	1	3	4
2	1	3	4	5
1	4	2	5	3

ANSWER	NEWTON	a. Eating	b. Walking	c. Nursing	d. Tossing	e. Opening	f. Napping
SCRABBLE SOLUTIONS	Words:	lose	island	island	island	island	island

Error, loose, wisdom, akimbo

Answers: SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

MATHDOKU SOLUTIONS

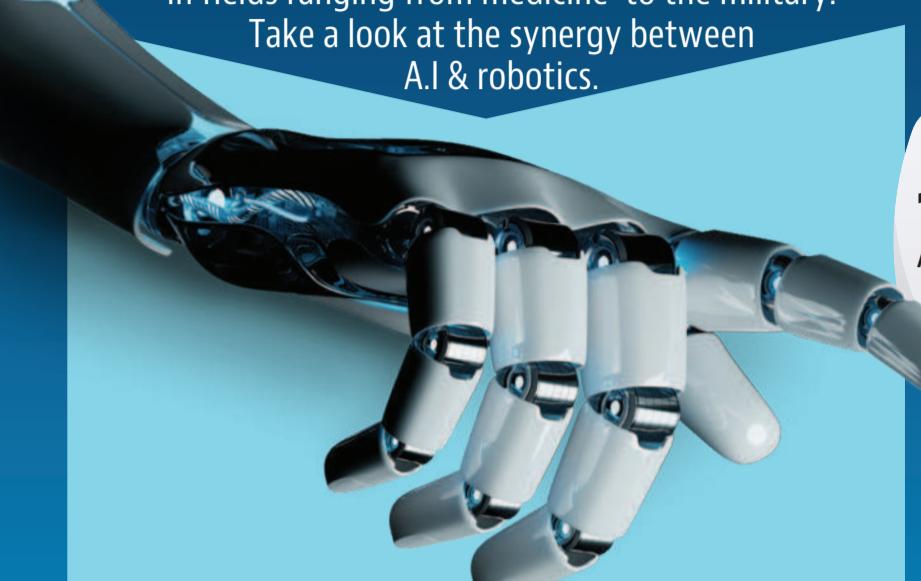
SCRABBLE SOLUTIONS

Answers: SCRAMBLE SOLUTIONS

# A.I. & ROBOTS: NOW AND FUTURE OF TECH

Robots that function with the help of artificial intelligence to carry out mechanical tasks are used in fields ranging from medicine to the military.

Take a look at the synergy between A.I. & robotics.



## WHAT IS A.I.?

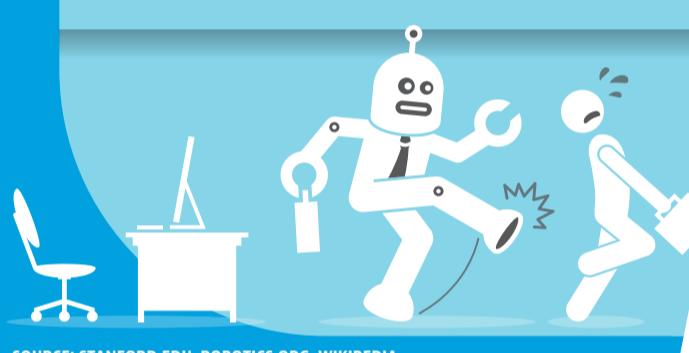
Artificial Intelligence describes artificial computational system with intelligent/complex behaviour suitable for achieving goals. The machines used include those that have limited abilities in learning/reasoning but excel in the automation of tasks and machines that create a generally intelligent agent (program that makes decisions or performs service based on its environment, user input and experiences. These can autonomously gather information on a programmed schedule or when prompted by the user in real time).

## HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM ROBOTS?

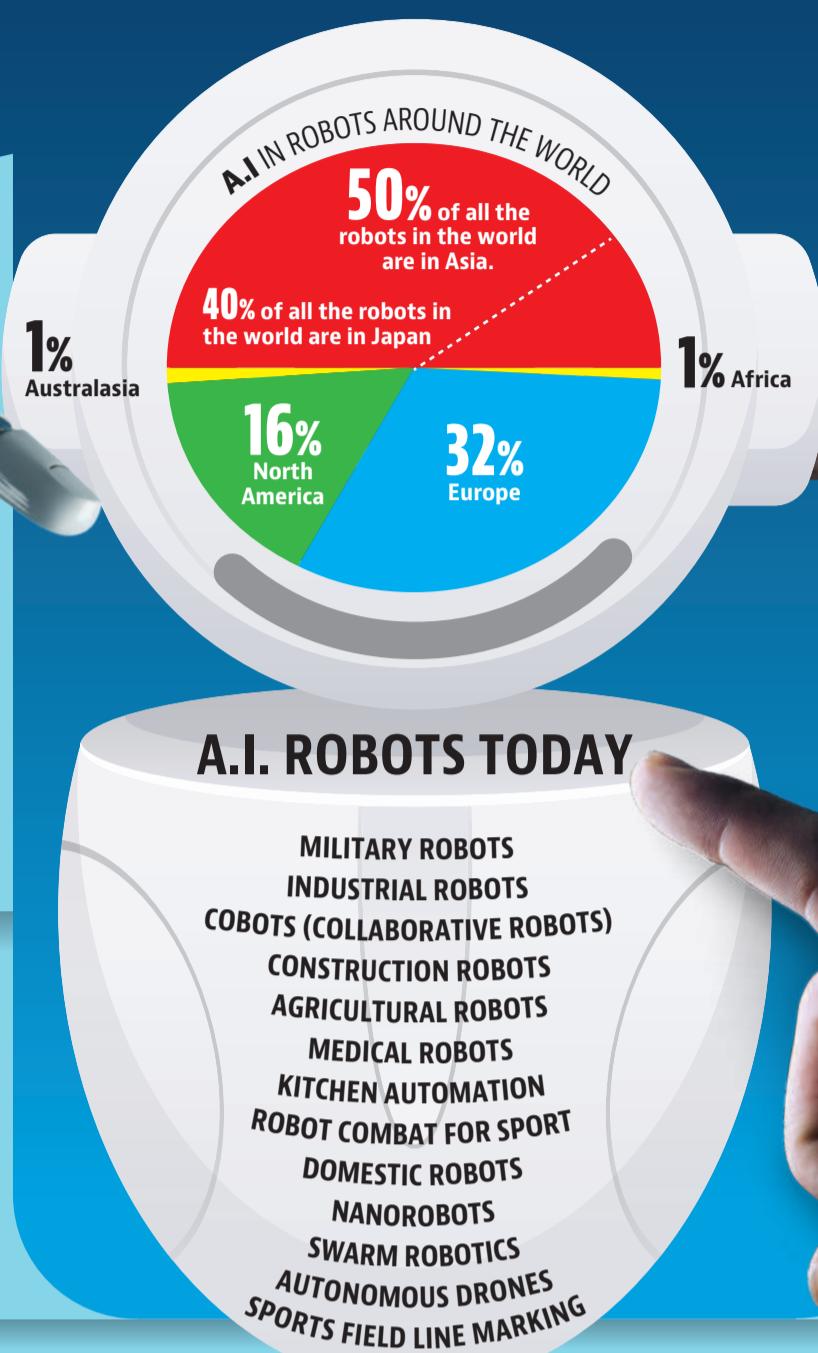
While A.I. can be entirely software, robots are subject to physical impact, typically through "sensors". They exert physical force, usually through "actuators" like a gripper or a turning wheel. Autonomous cars/aircraft are robots. Only a tiny portion of robots is "humanoid" (human-shaped) like in the movies. Some robots use A.I., and others do not: Industrial robots follow defined scripts with minimal sensory input and no learning/reasoning. While robotic systems cause more concerns in the public, A.I. systems are likelier to have greater impact on humanity.

## WHAT DOES A.I. DO?

A.I.'s main purposes include sensing, modelling, planning and action. Its applications currently include perception, text analysis, natural language processing (NLP), logical reasoning, game-playing, decision support systems, data analytics, predictive analytics, autonomous vehicles and other forms of robotics.



SOURCE: STANFORD.EDU, ROBOTICS.ORG, WIKIPEDIA



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## PATH OUT OF LOCKDOWN ON COURSE

**British schools to reopen but salons, gyms must wait as UK lifts lockdown slowly**

Associated Press

**LONDON :** UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday was setting out a road map for lifting one of Europe's strictest national lockdowns — but the millions of Britons eager for a haircut or an evening out still face a long wait.

Johnson is expected to announce a plan to ease coronavirus restrictions in increments, starting by reopening schools in England on March 8. People will be allowed to meet one friend or relative for a chat or picnic outdoors beginning the same day.

Three weeks later, people will be able to meet outdoors in groups of up to six and amateur outdoor sports can resume. But restaurants, gyms and hairdressers are likely to remain closed until at least April.

The measures being announced apply to England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all have slightly different lockdowns in place.

Britain has had Europe's deadliest coronavirus outbreak, with more than 120,000 deaths.

Faced with a dominant virus variant that scientists say is both more transmissible and more deadly than the original virus, the UK has spent

much of the winter under a tight lockdown. Restaurants, gyms, schools, hair salons and nonessential shops are closed; people are urged not to travel out of their local area and foreign holidays are illegal.

Hopes for a return to normality rest largely on Britain's fast-moving inoculation program that has given more than 17.5 million people, a third of the country's adult population, the first of two doses of vaccine.

The aim is to give every adult a shot of vaccine by July 31, and to protect the over 50s and the medically vulnerable by getting them a first vaccine jab by April 15. But the government cautions that the return of the country's social and economic life will be slow. Johnson's Conservative government was accused of reopening the country too quickly after the first lockdown in the spring and of rejecting scientific advice before a short "circuit-breaker" lockdown in the fall.

It does not want to make the same mistakes again, although Johnson is under pressure from some Conservative lawmakers and business owners, who argue that restrictions should be lifted quickly to revive an economy that has been hammered by three lockdowns in the last year.

Vaccines Minister Nadhim Zahawi said the government's plan for lifting restrictions was "steady as she goes."

"Outdoor versus indoor, priority being children in schools," he said. "Second priority is obviously allowing two people on March 8 to meet outside for a coffee to address some of the issues around loneliness."

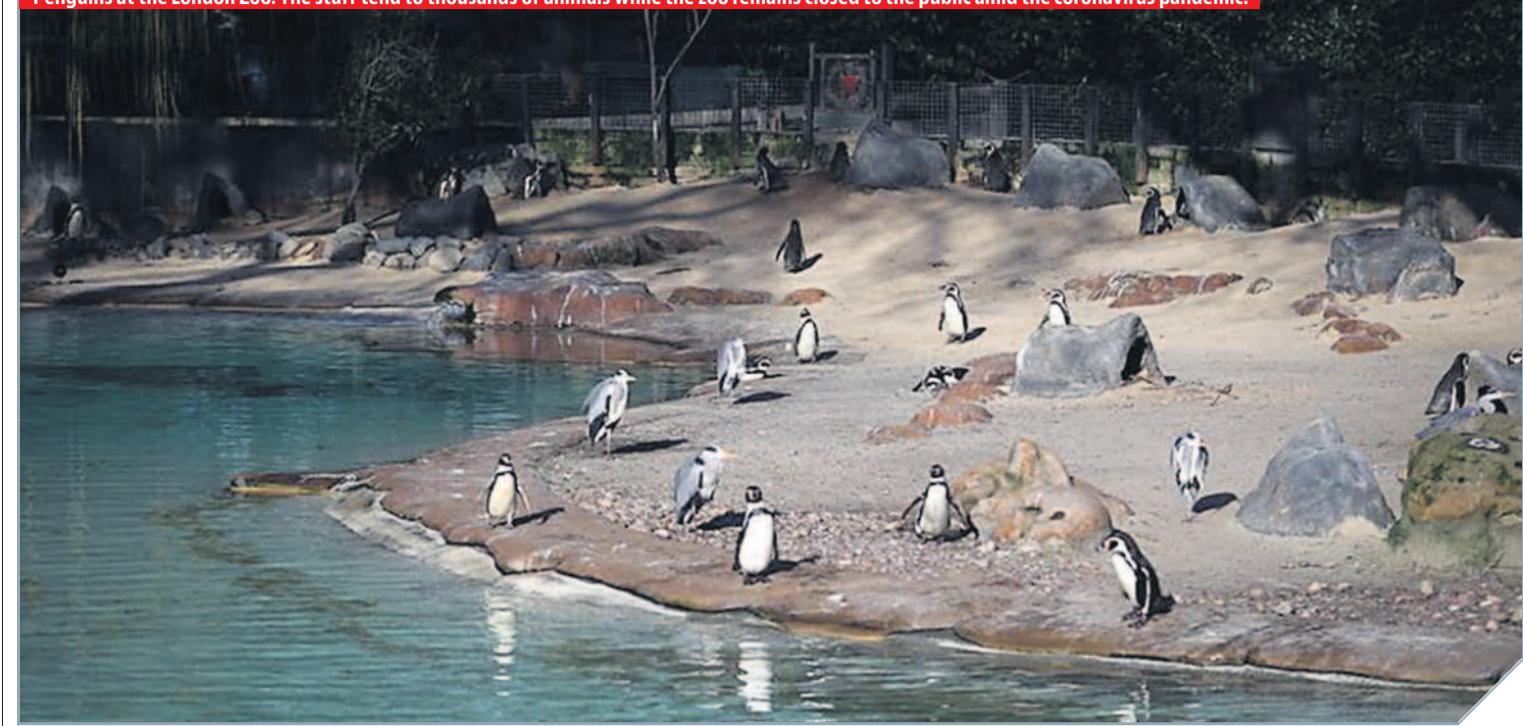
The government says further easing will depend on vaccines proving effective at lowering hospitalisation and deaths, infection rates remaining low and no new virus variants emerging that throw the plans into disarray.



Students at Clyde Primary School in Glasgow, Scotland, on Monday. Some children returned to class in Scotland and Wales on Monday.

AFP

Penguins at the London Zoo. The staff tend to thousands of animals while the zoo remains closed to the public amid the coronavirus pandemic.

**LONDON ZOO, ONE OF OLDEST, IN PERIL**

Opened in 1828 by the Zoological Society of London, the London Zoo, which was frequented by Charles Darwin while he was writing his Origin of Species, now bears a desolate look. The pandemic and the subsequent lockdown have hit the zoo, one of the world's oldest, very hard. "Lockdown here has been really surreal -- like with no visitors here, it's been a really sad time for the zoo," Kate Sanders, a zoo official, told a news agency. "We are here to inspire people about wildlife and as long as we are closed, we have to find very ingenious ways of doing that," Zoo's chief operating officer Kathryn England said.

REUTERS

Red river hogs in their enclosure



Black-capped squirrel monkeys relish treats from Valentine's Day-themed bags

**Biden to mark 5 lakh Covid-19 deaths in US with candle lighting ceremony**

**WASHINGTON :** President Joe Biden will mark the US crossing 500,000 lives lost from Covid-19 with a moment of silence and candle lighting ceremony at the White House. The nation is expected to pass the grim milestone on Monday, just over a year after the first confirmed US fatality.

The White House said Biden will deliver remarks at sunset to honour those who lost their lives. He will be joined by first lady Jill Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff. They will participate in the moment of silence and lighting ceremony. Biden has made a point of recognising the lives lost from the virus. His first event upon arriving in Washington for his inauguration a month ago was to deliver remarks at a Covid-19 memorial ceremony.

**Americans may still need masks in 2022: Fauci**

Meanwhile, Americans may still need to wear masks in 2022 even as the country relaxes other restrictions to combat Covid-19, Anthony Fauci, the infectious disease expert, said on Sunday.

President Joe Biden is trying to accelerate the campaign to vaccinate most adults as local governments clamour for more doses to prevent Covid. Fauci, Biden's top medical adviser, told CNN that the approaching deaths tally was "a terribly historic milestone in the history of this country." Asked if Americans should expect to still be wearing masks into next year, Fauci said: "I think it is possible that that's the case," adding that it depended on the level of the virus in communities and potential virus variants.

Apprentice zookeeper Hattie Sire gives attention to goats that are missing interaction with visitors



Pink flamingos in their enclosure



**HT CHRONICLE** February 23 >> from the archives of the Hindustan Times

**The Hindustan Times**  
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

**Bombay in revolt: City a battlefield**

Bombay – Bombay witnessed for 12 hours on Friday the fiercest mob fury in its history leading to repeated clashes between the police and military armed with rifles, machine-guns and armoured cars on the one side and angry mobs on the other. The police and military resorted to repeated firing at frequent intervals.

All the city's workers were on the streets and the disturbance became more and more

**1946** widespread as the day wore on till it enveloped the entire city from the Fort to Dadar and Mahim, a distance of 10 miles.

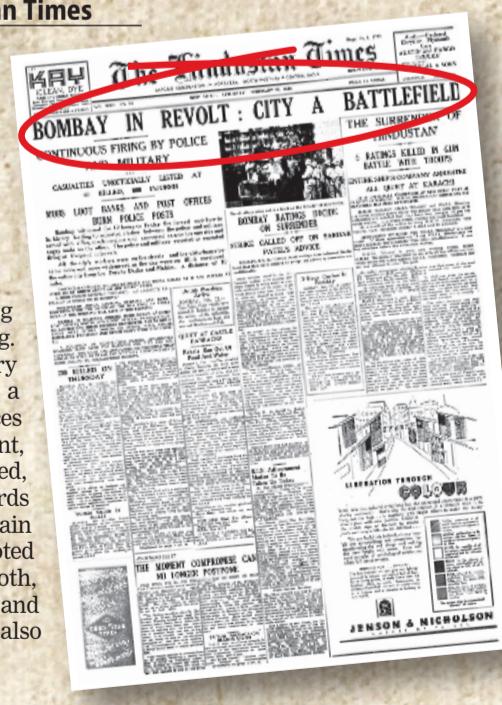
Unofficial casualty figures estimate the total killed at 60 and injured at over 600 of which about 400 are bullet cases.

A high police official declared: "An absolute rebellion is going on in Bombay."

Widespread arson, looting, burning and road-blocking were the order of the day from an early

hour in the morning till late in the evening.

Nearly 40 military lorries were burnt, a dozen post offices looted and burnt, several banks attacked, looted and their records destroyed, and 30 grain shops were either looted or burnt. Wine, cloth, jewellery, provision and other shops were also looted.

**Lanka win a cliffhanger**

Dambulla – Sri Lanka pulled off a thrilling one-run victory over world champions Australia in the second One-Day International on Sunday after Chaminda Vaas kept his nerve in the final over.

The left-arm

seamer, who took three for 48 and was named man of the match, restricted the tourists to six runs from the eight needed for victory as Sri Lanka levelled the series at 1-1.

Australia, set 246 to win, were on course for a 2-0 lead after a 148-run second wicket stand between Matthew Hayden (93) and Ricky Ponting (69). But they were restricted to 244 for five with Andrew Symonds and Michael

Bevan falling short in the last over.

Sanath Jayasuriya top scored for the hosts with 55, adding 121 in 135 balls for the first wicket with Marvan Atapattu (47). Sri Lanka's middle and lower order had collapsed against the occasional left-arm spin of Michael Clarke. Clarke grabbed career best figures of five for 35 from 7.5 overs as Sri Lanka lost their last seven wickets for 29 runs.

**2004**

**Dahiya sparkles, Punia trips up**

New Delhi – It was a loss that gave Bajrang Punia several sleepless nights. Japanese Takuto Otoguro had fully exploited Punia's weak leg defence, leaving him gutted, in the 2018 World Championships final. If he needed a mental edge over one of his biggest competitors before the Tokyo Olympics, it was on Saturday. Punia had the opportunity to exact revenge in front of a home crowd in the 65kg gold medal bout at the Asian Championships here. But the result turned out to be no different. Otoguro once again asserted his supremacy over one of India's biggest medal hopes at the Tokyo Games, crushing him 10-2.

A nervous hush descended on the near-packed KD Jadhav Indoor hall as Otoguro effortlessly racked up points by foiling Punia's attacks one after the other. Towards the end, Punia cut a sorry figure, exhausted and frustrated at not being able to score; his legs were becoming heavy and came under Otoguro's grasp with regularity. Punia did well to defend his legs at the start but once Otoguro started to break down his physical game with his

lightening quick counter-attacks, the contest became painfully lopsided. This defeat would hurt Punia more than at the Worlds where he had bounced back and at least kept himself in contention. Punia walked out of the arena in a huff, waving his hand to the media, waiting to speak to him.

Surely, there were many questions that Punia and his coach Shako Bentinidits would have to quickly find an answer to.

**WATCH OUT THIS SPACE FOR QUIZ ON FRIDAYS**

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BEYOND THE BITE

## 'Bite Club': Shark attack survivors find solace in unity

Bite club, founded by Dave Pearson, was initially a small group of shark encounter survivors. But it now includes victims of dog maulings, alligator bites and even a hippo attack.

Agence France-Presse

CROWDY BAY NATIONAL PARK, AUSTRALIA: The first rule of Bite Club is you talk to Dave Pearson, a shark attack survivor who connects hundreds of people from around the world to support each other "beyond the bite".

The 58-year-old almost died a decade ago when a bull shark tore into his arm while he was surfing off Australia's east coast.

Since the day when friends hauled him to shore — away from the three-metre predator that dragged him around the bottom of the ocean before losing interest — he has been helping others escape the psychological grip of nightmare attacks.

"My life is shark attacks," the wind, Sun and surf-weathered Aussie said, still dripping wet after another day on the waves at the beach where he was bitten. "You know if there's a shark attack somewhere in the world, I'll hear about it."

Pearson is the founder of Bite Club, initially a small group for survivors of shark encounters that now includes victims of dog maulings, alligator bites and even a hippo attack.

Its members — nearly 400 people in all — usually meet in person at least once a year, but some meet more often for a casual surf while the rest keep in contact on social media.

The club acts as a network for survivors to seek out support from the group when they need it most, and Pearson says he spends most nights speaking with at least one member over the phone.

He realised the power of talking to others who shared his ordeal even



(Left to right) Australian surfers Kevin Young, Dave Pearson, Bruce Lucas and Ray Short on Crowdy Bay National Park at Port Macquarie, near Sydney. The members of the Bite Club — nearly 400 people in all — usually meet in person at least once a year, but some meet more often for a casual surf while the rest keep in contact on social media.

AFP

before he had left the hospital. By chance, Lisa Mondy — bitten a few days before him — was recovering in the same facility.

"Everybody was there to wish me the best, but until I spoke with Lisa it was like, they didn't really understand what my head was going through," said Pearson.

The brutality of maulings — combined with the media attention they receive — can shake survivors, victims, their relatives and rescuers for years and in some cases cause post-traumatic stress disorder.

When Kevin Young's 19-year-old son Zac was killed by a tiger shark while surfing on a reef near Coffs Harbour in 2013, he felt like a hurricane had swallowed him. "I was inside the eye of that storm, and I feel like I've been here ever since," Young said.

His son's legs were almost completely severed in the attack but, clinging to life, he paddled across to his three friends to tell them he loved them and prayed for their protection from the killer shark lurking below.

Surrounded by water thick with their friend's blood, the trio — at the time aged 14, 15 and 19 — paddled Zac back to shore on their shoulders, in a journey that took nearly half an hour.

By the time they reached the beach,

nothing could be done to revive Young's son, despite their efforts.

"Those three boys, in my mind, became men that day," said Young. "I'm indebted to them for life in what they tried to do for my son."

**'So many people affected'**  
Like Pearson, Young speaks of others' pain before his own. Each of his son's rescuers has paid a psychological price, he said.

"Whether it's a partner, the wife, the son, the daughter, a friend, or just a community member — there's so many people affected." Young says it is a privilege to serve in a club that helps support people who would otherwise be left to struggle alone.

That includes people like Ray Short, who was 13 years old in 1966 when a shark clamped down on his leg while swimming near Wollongong. "It's just something that was never there when I was young. If you got to meet or hear from one or two other shark bite victims, it was amazing," Short says.

"Now there's a group there that can all sit and relate to each other."

Pearson says that while the group is closely connected, the perspective of members is varied: some become anti-shark, pushing for culls, while others become conservationists.



The ferret Elizabeth Ann has been created from the cells of Willa, a black-footed ferret that lived in North America more than 30 years ago

AP

### THE FIRST CLONED FERRET, ELIZABETH ANN, SPURS HOPE FOR ENDANGERED U.S. SPECIES

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO: US scientists have successfully cloned an endangered black-footed ferret using frozen cells from a long-dead wild animal, the first time any native endangered species has been cloned in the United States.

Black-footed ferret recovery efforts aimed at increased genetic diversity and disease resistance took a bold step forward on December 10, with the birth of Elizabeth Ann, created from the cells of Willa, a black-footed ferret that lived more than 30 years ago, the U.S. fish and wildlife service said.

"Although this research is preliminary, it is the first cloning of a native endangered species in North America, and it provides a promising tool for continued efforts to conserve the black-footed ferret," said Noreen Walsh, director of the Service's Mountain-Prairie Region.

The species, North America's only native ferret, were once thought to be extinct but were brought back from nearly vanishing forever after a Wyoming rancher discovered a small population on his land in 1981. They were captured to begin a captive breeding program to recover the species. But only seven of the original wild animals bred, and all living ferrets today are closely related. That puts limitations on the species' genetic diversity, creating challenges for resilience to changing environments and emerging disease threats.

Elizabeth Ann is a genetic copy of Willa, a black-footed ferret captured among the last wild individuals, who died in the 1980s and has no living descendants, so is not one of the seven founders.

PANDEMIC IMPACT

## Earth its quietest in decades as lockdowns lower seismic noise

Reuters

ZURICH: Earth had its quietest period in decades during 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic significantly reduced human activity and its impact on the planet's crust, according to scientists working on a global study.

An international group of seismologists from 33 countries measured a drop of up to 50% in so-called ambient noise generated by humans travelling and factories humming after lockdowns came into force around the world.

The team, which included experts from the Swiss Seismological Service at ETH Zurich, a university, measured lower noise levels at 185 of the 268 seismic stations analysed around the world.

Urban ambient noise fell by up to 50% at some measuring stations during the tightest lockdown weeks, as buses and train services were reduced, aircraft grounded and factories shuttered.

This made it much quieter than Christmas, traditionally the quietest time of the year.

"The weeks during lockdown were



A group of seismologists from 33 countries measured a drop of up to 50% in so-called ambient noise generated by humans travelling and factories humming after lockdowns came into force around the world

SANJEEV VERMA/HT FILE



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