Tuesday
31.08.2021
hindustantimes.com.htpace
htschooltimes

NEW DELHI
■ VOL. XCVII NO. 207 ■ PRICE ₹2.50 ■ 6 PAGES.

Hindustan Times PACE
PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTION IN EDUCATION



MALALA YOUSAFZAI

WISE WORDS »

Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.

CLARITY & CREDIBILITY HT 1924

Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

5-medal haul on monday takes india to best ever tally











INDIA BASKS IN PARALYMPIC ATHLETES' GLORY

>P6

Winners all, from left: Avani Lekhara, R-2 10m air rifle standing gold; Sumit Antil, F64 javelin throw gold; top right, Yogesh Kathuniya, F56 discus throw silver; bottom row, Sundar Singh Gurjar, F46 javelin bronze and Devendra Jhajharia, F46 javelin throw silver. AGENCIES

NATION

Covid-19: Heart-wrenching to see survival of children at stake, says Supreme Court

NEW DELHI: Covid-19 has devastated many lives and it is "heart wrenching" that the survival of children who lost either or both parents during the pandemic is at stake, the Supreme Court said, but expressed satisfaction over schemes announced by the Centre and states to provide succour to them.

The apex court said that "satisfactory progress" has been made by the Executive in identifying children who have either become orphans or have lost one of their parents during the Covid-19 pandemic.



The Union government has made satisfactory progress in identifying children who have become orphans or have lost one of their parents during the pandemic, said the apex court HT FILE

"We are glad that the UoI (Union of India) and the state governments/ Union Territories have announced schemes to provide succour to the children in need. We have no doubt that the authorities concerned would leave no stone unturned to attend to the immediate basic needs of the crestfallen children," said a bench of justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose.

The top court, which was hearing a suo motu matter on 'Contagion of Covid-19 on children protection homes', noted in its order that over one lakh children have lost either or both parents during the pandemic.

"The catastrophe caused by the cataclysmic Covid-19 has devastated many lives, especially children at a tender age who have lost their parents," the bench said, adding that "it is heart wrenching to note that the survival of so many children is at stake." Immediate steps also have to be taken to ensure that benefits of schemes reach the needy minors, the bench said. PTI

Covid-19: India logs 42,909 new cases, 29,836 in Kerala

NEW DELHI: India reported 42,909 new Covid-19 cases and 380 related fatalities in the last 24 hours, informed the Union health ministry on Monday.

Here, of the total cases reported in the country, Kerala logged 29,836 fresh cases of this virus yesterday and 75 fatalities. The test positivity rate is at a historic high of 19.67%.

With this, the total death toll in the country touched 4,38,210 including the fresh fatalities. Of the 380 fresh fatalities, 75 deaths were from Kerala, 131 deaths were from Maharashtra, 67 deaths were from Odisha and the rest 107 deaths were reported from the rest of the states.

The total cases in the country are 3,26,95,030 with 3,76,324 active cases. Active cases account for 1.15% of the total cases. The total recoveries reached 3,19,23,405 wherein 34,763 recoveries were reported in the last 24 hours. The recovery rate is currently at 97.51%. Total 63.43 crore vaccine doses have been administered till date in the country. ANI

Renowned author Buddhadeb Guha passes away

KOLKATA: Eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, 85, author of many notable works such as Madhukari, (Honey Hunter) Koeler Kachhe (Near the Koel bird) and scores of children's stories, passed away in Kolkata on late Sunday night after a massive cardiac arrest.

Guha, whose works of fiction reflected his closeness to nature and forests of eastern India, was a chartered accountant by profession. One of the noted children's writers, Guha was the creator of the popular character Rijuda, a hunter-turned-conservationist, and his side-kick Rudra. Nature and forest were recurrent themes in his novels and short stories. His famous children's books include Rijudar Songe Jongole, Rijuda er Songe Bauxar Jongole and Moulir Raat. Rijuda teaches children a great deal about the forests of India.

Guha was the recipient of many awards, including Ananda Purashkar, Shiromani Puraskar and Sharat Puraskar. He was also an accomplished musician. PTI

CITY LIGHTS

SOPs issued for reopening of schools, colleges in city

NEW DELHI: Staggered lunch breaks, alternate seating in classrooms, separate entry/exit timings for different students' groups, and socio-emotional guidance by teachers – these are some of the standard operating procedures (SOP) issued by the Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Monday for reopening of schools, colleges, and other institutes from September 1. The SOPs accord top priority to vaccination of teaching and non-teaching staff, asking institutes to have staggered lunch breaks, ensuring gaps between the entry and exit of different groups of students, and capping the maximum number of students per classroom at 50% of its occupancy. Heads of schools or institutes have been asked to prepare a timetable as per the occupancy capacity of classrooms. HTC



All educational institutes will reopen from September 1 HT PHOTO

Covid-19 situation in the city is in control, says Jain

NEW DELHI: As the national capital continues to register low Covid-19 cases, Delhi health minister Satyendar Jain said the Covid-19 situation is in control here. Addressing the reporters on Monday, the health minister said, "The Covid-19 situation is under control in Delhi. The positivity rate in the national capital is 0.4%. The government has decided to establish more than 6,800 ICU beds in seven hospitals within six months." A total of 31 new Covid-19 cases were reported in Delhi on Sunday with zero deaths being logged in the national capital for the fourth consecutive day, according to a health bulletin.The positivity rate stood at 0.04% and 392 active cases were recorded in the national capital over the last 24 hours. ANI

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Fire dept holds cyclothon

NEW DELHI: Firefighters of the Delhi Fire Service (DFS)participated in a cyclothon held at Connaught Place here on Monday morning as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, officials said. Officials of the Fire Control Room also participated in the event. Addressing the assembled force, director of the DFS Atul Garg said many departments were formed in independent India, each of them was assigned various responsibilities, the fire service department was given the best responsibility, to save the lives and property of citizens from the fire and other emergencies. "It is a matter of pride that all the brave fire fighters and officials are tirelessly working shoulder to shoulder to uphold the motto 'we serve to save'," he said. PTI

SCHOOL EVENT

MAXFORT SCHOOL, ROHINI, ORGANISES INTER-SCHOOL COMPETITION ECSTASY 2021

Amid the turbulent Covid-19 pandemic times, Maxfort School, Rohini, organised its annual inter-school competition titled Ecstasy 2021 with zeal on a virtual platform. The mega event witnessed a harmonious amalgamation of creativity, talent and determination. The chief guest of the event was Shri Jai Prakash Chaturvedi, deputy secretary & regional officer, Delhi (West), CBSE.



More on p2

WORD POWER

Vacillate

Vas-uh-leyt

Verb (used without object)

Meaning: to waver in mind or opinion; be indecisive . To oscillate or fluctuate.

Origin: Late 16th century (in the sense 'sway unsteadily'): from Latin vacillat- 'swayed', from the verb vacillare.

Synonyms: dither, fluctuate, oscillate, seesaw, waffle, waver, alternate

Antonyms: remain, stay, continue, persist

Usage: Ask her for an opinion, and she'll give it to you without any hesitation or attempts to vacillate.

WORLD

Hurricane Ida traps Louisianans, leaves grid in a shambles

NEW ORLEANS: Rescue workers set out in hundreds of boats and helicopters to reach people trapped by floodwaters and utility crews mobilised on Monday after a furious Hurricane Ida swamped the Louisiana coast and shattered a large swath of the state's electrical grid in the sweltering, late-summer heat. One of the most powerful hurricanes ever to hit the U.S. mainland weakened into a tropical storm overnight as it pushed inland over Mississippi with torrential rain and winds, its danger far from over. Ida was blamed for at least one death but with many roads impassable and cellphone service knocked out in places, the full extent of its fury was still coming into focus. AFP

'N Korea appears to have resumed nuke reactor operation'

SEOUL: North Korea appears to have restarted the operation of its main nuclear reactor used to produce weapons fuels, the UN atomic agency said, as the North openly threatens to enlarge its nuclear arsenal amid long-dormant nuclear diplomacy with the United States. The annual report by the International Atomic Energy Agency refers to a 5-megawatt reactor at the North's main nuclear complex in Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang. The reactor produces plutonium, one of the two key ingredients used to build nuclear weapons along with highly enriched uranium. AP

Teachers should be priority group for Covid jabs: WHO

COPENHAGEN: Teachers and school staff should be among the groups prioritised for Covid-19 vaccinations so that schools in Europe and Central Asia can stay open, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef said on Monday. Measures to ensure that schools can stay open throughout the pandemic "include offering teachers and other school staff the Covid-19 vaccine as part of target population groups in national vaccination plans," the United Nations agencies wrote in a statement. AFP

SCHOOL REPORTS

Maxfort School, Rohini, organises inter-school competition Ecstacy 2021

Amid the turbulent Covid-19 pandemic times, Maxfort School, Rohini, organised its annual inter-school competition titled 'Ecstasy 2021' with zeal on a virtual platform. The mega event witnessed a harmonious amalgamation of creativity, talent and determination. The chief guest of the event was Shri Jai Prakash Chaturvedi, deputy secretary & regional officer, Delhi (West), CBSE.

The live inauguration ceremony was a huge success as 29 eminent schools participated in it. The event began with seeking the blessings of the Almighty through the traditional lamp lighting ceremony by school Principal Dr. Ratna Chakravarty.

It was followed by the Shiva Stuti that proved serene to the virtual assemblage. Dr. Chakravarty welcomed the chief guest and honoured the principals of the participating schools, facilitators, participants and the parents.

The principal motivated the contestants with words of encouragement and enthusiasm to get them occupied with the new interface of learning like participating in the online competitions for an engaging and blissful learning experience.

Chaturvedi enriched the digital gathering with his golden words. He appreciated the efforts of the teaching fraternity in grooming the students for their growth and development. He also encouraged the students to participate in the inter-school competitions to polish their skills and become multi-dimensional personalities.

A plethora of spectacular presentations and extraordinary talent was displayed in the events such as Puppetry Blaze for Classes 1 & 2, Paatra Anukaran for Classes 3 & 4, Incredible India (Patriotic Dance) for Classes 5 & 6, Best out of Waste for Classes 7 & 8, Dev Stuti for Classes 9 & 10, and Wheel of Science Challenge (for science stream), Growthdex (for commerce) and Parnassian Bingo for humanities) for Classes 11 & 12.

It was absolutely a perfect blend of imagination, hard work and constant efforts of the participants that made the entire ambience lively.



The virtual competition, which witnessed the participation of 29 eminent schools, was a huge success

Ryan International School, Gurugram celebrates World Food Safety Day

The students of Ryan International school, Sector 40, Gurugram, celebrated World Food Safety Day with zeal on a virtual platform. They took part in an array of virtual activities such as poster making, article writing, pasting of healthy food pictures and many more.

The students of Class 5 spoke on the significance of the day, emphasising in their speech that we all have a role to play, from the farm to the table, to ensure that the food we eat is safe and does not harm our health.

School Head Shivali Sharma hailed the efforts of the students and encouraged them to have safe food as it's everyone's right to have safe food. She said about the importance of having safe and healthy food and affirmed how eating right can protect us from many deadly diseases.

Safe food is essential to promote the health of consumers and to end hunger. This international day is an opportunity to strengthen the efforts to reduce the risk of food-borne diseases and ensure safe food.



The students took part in an array of activities during the event

The World Food Safety Day is celebrated with an aim to draw attention and inspire actions to help prevent, detect and manage food borne risks, thus contributing to food security, human health etc. Let's work together for food safety and good health!



SMGS, Meera Bagh, students shine in Exuberance initiative



(L-R) Palak Gaur, Mokshita Gautam and Shreya Gupta worked as a team and secured the first position in the event titled 'Inward Lens To Our Thoughts '

The students of St. Mark's Girls Senior Secondary School (SMGS), Meera Bagh, participated in an initiative titled 'Exuberance' taken by Lancers Convent School, Paschim Vihar, to connect various schools with the help of various competitions. Those students brought laurels to their institute. Those competitions aimed at connecting and collaborating the experiences of different schools at one place to synthesise new talents.

SMGS Class 6 student Lakshita Dhingra received the consolation prize in the 'Selenophile' event while Vanshika Sharma of Class 7 secured the first position in the 'Shlok Suman' event and Anushka Sinha of Class 10 secured the second position in the Andaz-e-Baiyaan. Shreya Gupta, Palak Gaur and Mokshita Gautam worked as a team and bagged the first position in the event titled 'Inward Lens To Our Thoughts 'wherein they expressed their ideas on worldwide peace in the form of an e-newsletter.

TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

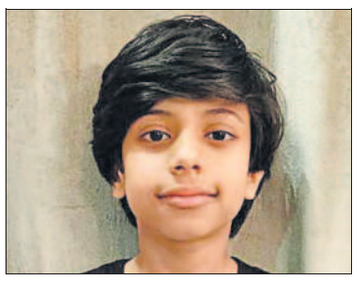
'It plays a great role, helps the students learn multiple things'

'Technology has changed the way we live. Right from shopping to working virtually, technology is everywhere. Education has been affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic but if you look at its bright side, it is like a blessing for the use of technology in education as we have been forced to use it and realise its benefits.

One of the several advantages of learning online is that the students can connect with their teachers from anywhere in the world. This helps them connect even from far-off villages and towns that do not have good schools. With the use of technology we can now get to read or buy costly books at a very low price. Apps like Kindle and Audible have benefitted the children immensely.

Technology helps make education cheaper. For regular school, we have to pay for electricity, water, buses and many more things but online education doesn't need all these. We can also improve the quality of regular education by getting feedback from the students quickly with the help of technology.

Technology helps the students learn multiple things at their convenience. Be it learning coding, mathematics or robotics, we can choose to learn whenever we have the time.



Technology helps make education cheaper, says Vivaan Chandra, Class 5, Delhi Public School, Vasant Kunj

Almost all the competitions in our country are now held online because technology helps correct papers quickly and with lesser errors. This again has been a great help for education. I think that when the pandemic ends, we might have a mix of both physical and online education so that we can get the benefits of both.

It is quite correct to say that technology has played a great role in improving education and will continue to do so in the years to come.

PANDEMIC-ERA INNOVATIONS

'Digital resources helped make transition to online education seamless'

Digital technology helped us cope, connect, comfort and console us in the times of the Covid-19 pandemic" --- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words are the essence of how educationists across the world have revamped their road map for schools to function in the online mode.

At GD Goenka Public School, Vasant Kunj, the response to the Covid-19 has been innovative and dynamic. With a redefinition, refinement, reimagining and reinventing of our educational goals, new frontiers of schooling have emerged. The transition to online learning was seamless and though our students missed the face-to-face interaction and engagement, we made sure that there was no loss in their academics.

Last academic year i.e. 2020-21 started with panic but now there is hope on the anvil. This resilience will grow and evolve as we have learnt to use opportunity in adversity.

The integrated technology, revised curriculum, guidelines from DOE and CBSE, adaptation of NEP 2020, AI-aided tools, creative enhancement, learning- centered instruction, Google classroom licensed teaching, interactive methodologies and specialized guided design have provided leverage to our teaching-learning process.

At our school, learning has become more collaborative, contextual and active. A brilliant change in pedagogy has enabled how the online environment serves the instructional objectives of our curriculum. A range of interactive methodologies have been introduced to cover the entire range of classes from Nursery till Grade 12.

The pattern of communication has expanded in all dimensions. Academic growth is balanced with cultural activities, workshops, webinars, sports and fitness modules, assembly, intra-mural competitions, virtual tours, movie shows, MUN events, Ted Talks, story -telling sessions, gaming, quizzes, assessment, coding classes and myriad other activities.

The constant communication between teachers, students and their parents has provided the leverage for a unique bond of progressive learning in these trying times of the pandemic.



At our school, learning has become more collaborative, contextual and active., writes principal Meenakshi Bhakuni

The school management has provided the best digital resources, trained experts and mentors and a host of unlimited opportunities to expand, evolve, improvise and innovate to truly uphold the Goenkan ethos of excellence in education.

Our priority is for impactful engagement and multi-dimensional involvement of students in a dynamic new digital matrix.

The inter-disciplinary, project-based blended learning nurtures the emotional health and social awareness of the students.

At GD Goenka, we have aspired to integrate technology with the human sentiment and we hope to keep pace and lead with innovative interface in teaching, assessment and online learning.

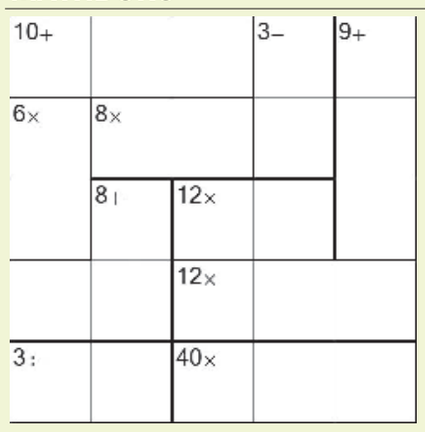
Meenakshi Bhakuni, principal, GD Goenka Public School, Vasant Kunj

MIND GAMES

SUDOKU

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

MATHDOKU



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-out lined 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 to the digits contained.

SCRAMBLE

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

HNNAE		*			*	
DOYTT			*	*		
KSSUCH		*		*		
FORTUH						*

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

Nobody ever forgets where he buried the ___.- Kin Hubbard (7)

Answer: Nobody ever forgets where he buried the **hatchet**. - Kin Hubbard

TRADITION GOES ON...



Children dress up as Lord Krishna on the occasion of the 'Janmashtami festival, at Durgiana temple in Amritsar on Monday PTI

HIDDEN PICTURE

Can you spot the dog's master hiding in this picture?



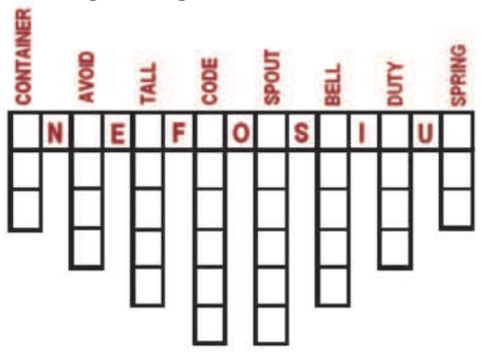


Amrita Bharati Features

Answer:

WORD FUN

In the squares going down, fill in the answer to the clues given, to get the final answer.



Answer: UNSELFCONSCIOUS

Solutions

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

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

MATHDOKU SOLUTION

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

SCRAMBLE Solution Words: Henna, dotty, shucks, fourth

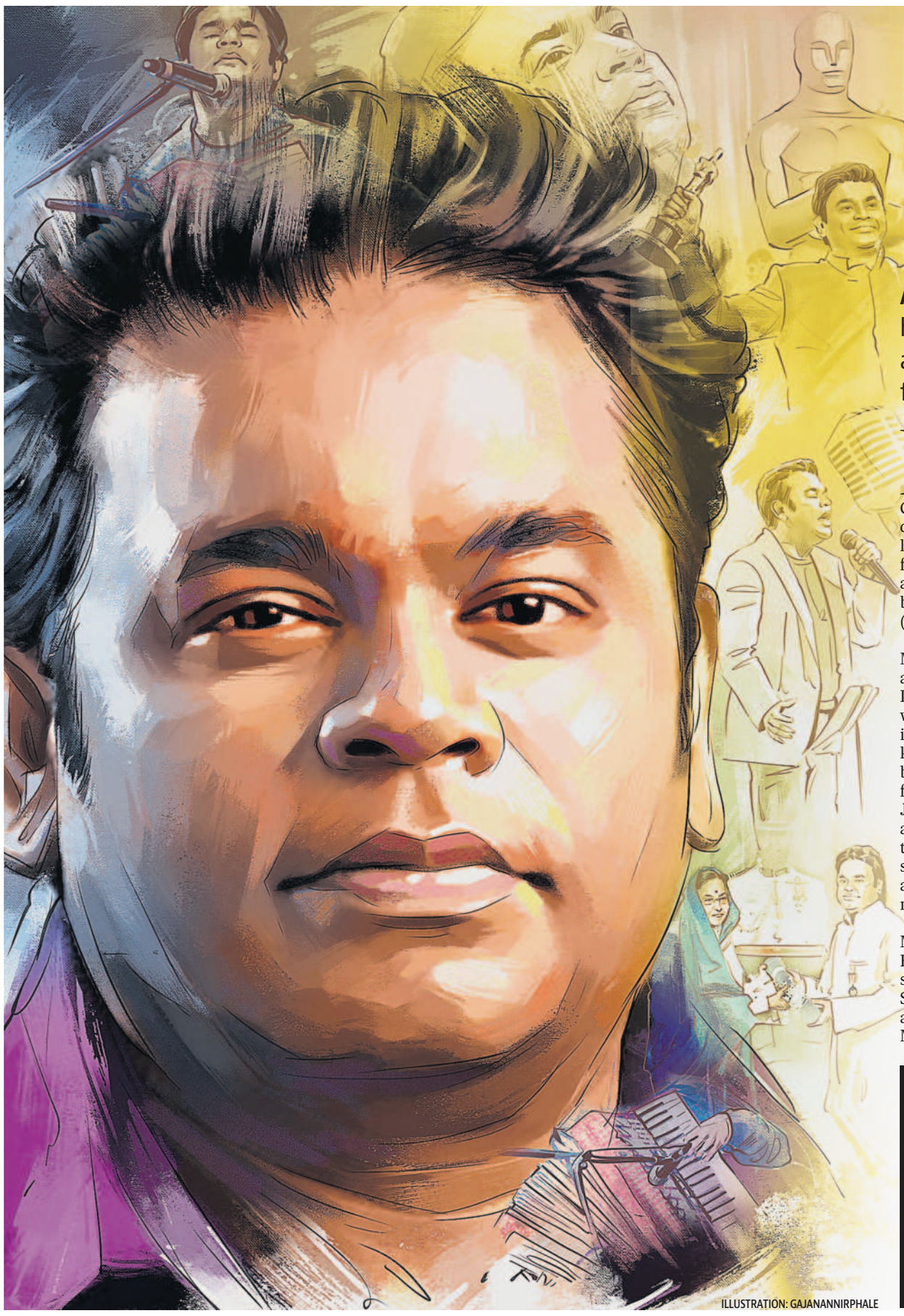


ILLUSTRATION: GAJANANNIRPHALE

Iconic film composer and record producer

AR RAHMAN: His genius as a film music composer, record producer and singer has blazed a trail of excellence in India & abroad. He won two Academy Awards, a BAFTA, a Golden Globe and four National Film Awards, apart from nominations for two Grammys. His achievements earned him the nickname Mozart of Madras.

Born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, to a musically gifted Tamil family on January 6, 1967, his father RK Shekhar was a Chennai-based composer and conductor for Malayalam films. Rahman lost his father at a young age and his family rented out musical equipment as a source of income. He was raised by his mother Kareema Beegum (Kashturi).

He began training in music under Master Dhanraj. At age 11, he joined, as a keyboard artist, the troupe of Ilaiyaraaja, one of many composers who rented his father's musical instruments. Rahman served as a keyboard player and an arranger in bands such as Roots, with childhood friend and percussionist Sivamani, John Anthony, Suresh Peters, JoJo and Raja. Rahman is the founder of the Chennai-based rock group Nemesis Avenue. He played the keyboard and piano, the synthesizer, the harmonium and the guitar.

Rahman played in the orchestra of MS Viswanathan Ramesh Naidu and Raj Koti, accompanied Zakir Hussain, Kunnakudi Vaidyanathan and L Shankar on world tours and obtained a scholarship to the Trinity College of Music where he graduated with a degree in Western classical music.

Musical career

In 1992, Rahman began his own music recording and mixing studio attached to the backyard of his house called the Panchathan Record Inn, which developed into India's most advanced recording studio.

He initially composed jingles for advertisements, television channels and music scores in documentaries, among other projects. In 1992, he was approached by film director Mani Ratnam to compose the score and soundtrack for the latter's Tamil film Roja.

The Roja score received much acclaim in its original and dubbed versions, bringing about a great change in film music industry, and Rahman followed it with successful scores for Tamil films.

Key milestone

In 2006, Rahman launched his own music label, KM Music. Its first release was his score to the film Sillunu Oru Kaadhal. In 2008, he scored the Slumdog Millionaire soundtrack, for which he won a Golden Globe and two Academy Awards, making him the first Indian to do so. In the United States, the soundtrack topped the Dance/Electronic Albums chart and reached #4 on the Billboard 200 chart. The song titled Jai Ho reached #2 on the Eurochart Hot 100 Singles and #15 on the US Billboard Hot 100. In 2009, Rahman won an Oscar for his work on Slumdog Millionaire. After receiving the award, he paid tribute to his mother.

Personal life

He is married to Saira Banu and has three children, Khadijah, Rahima, and Aameen. Rahman is the uncle of composer G V Prakash Kumar, who is the son of Rahman's elder sister, AR Reihana. He had become an atheist as a result of childhood struggles before eventually converting to Islam in 1989.

Social service

Rahman is involved in numerous charitable causes. In 2004, he was appointed as the Global Ambassador of the WHO's Stop TB Partnership. In 2008, he opened the KM Music Conservatory in partnership with Audio Media Education to train aspiring musicians in vocals, instruments, music technology and sound design.

Sources: filmibeat.com, wikipedia

INTERESTING FACTS

1 AR Rahman composed music for Mani Ratnam's Bombay, Kadhalan, Bharathiraaja's Karuththamma, the saxophonic duet, Indira, & the romantic comedies Mr. Romeo and Love Birds.

2 His successful film scores include Dil Se and Taal. For the composition Zikr in the film Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose: The Forgotten Hero, he created large orchestral and choral arrangements.

3 He supported the charity Save the Children, India, and worked on a song Indian Ocean, the proceeds of which went to help orphans in Banda Aceh, an area affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

4 Rahman composed the theme music for a short film, The Banyan, in 2006 in aid of destitute women in Chennai. In 2008, Rahman created a song Jiya Se Jiya, inspired by the Free Hugs Campaign and promoted it.

5 Time magazine called him the Mozart of Madras. Many Tamil commentators had coined him the nickname Isai Puyal meaning a musical storm. He was named in the 2009 Time 100 list of World's Most Influential People.

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DEADLINE ENDS TODAY

Rockets target US troops as withdrawal enters final stage in Afghanistan

Reuters

KABUL : US anti-missile defences intercepted as many as five rockets fired at Kabul's airport early on Monday, a US official said, as the United States rushed to complete its withdrawal from Afghanistan to end its longest war. Afghan media said the attack was launched from the back of a vehicle. The Pajhwok news agency said several rockets struck different parts of the Afghan capital.

Initial reports did not indicate any US casualties, the official said. The attack followed a huge Islamic State suicide bombing outside the airport gates on Thursday that killed scores and another reported attempted bombing on Sunday. The US and allied forces have evacuated about 114,400 people, including foreign nationals and Afghans deemed "at risk", in an effort that began a day before Kabul fell to the Taliban on Aug. 15. The forces themselves are due to pull out by a Tuesday deadline agreed with the Islamist militants.

President Joe Biden reconfirmed his order for commanders to do "whatever is necessary to protect our forces on the ground" after he was briefed on Monday's rocket fire, the White House said. He was told airport operations continued uninterrupted, it added. On Sunday, Pentagon officials said a US drone strike killed a suicide car bomber who had been preparing to attack the airport on behalf of ISIS-K. US Central Command said it was investigating reports of civilian casualties. The drone attack killed seven, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told China's state television CGTN on Monday, criticising the US action on foreign soil as unlawful.

It was the second such condemnation after a US drone strike on Saturday killed two Islamic State militants in Nangarhar, in an attack the spokesman said had wounded two women and a child.

Two U.S. officials told Reuters evacuations would continue on Monday, prioritising people deemed at extreme risk. Other countries have also put in last-minute requests to bring out people in that category, the officials said. The Taliban will take full control of Kabul airport after the American withdrawal on Tuesday, Qatar's Al Jazeera television network cited a Taliban source as saying.

President mourns US dead

Biden attended a ceremony on Sunday at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware to honour members of the US military killed in Thursday's suicide bombing. As the flag-draped transfer caskets carrying the remains emerged from a military plane, the president, who has vowed to avenge the Islamic State attack, shut his eyes and tilted his head back.

None of the fallen service members was older than 31, and five were just 20, as old as the war in Afghanistan itself. The departure of the last troops will end the US-led military intervention in Afghanistan that began in late 2001, after the Sept. 11 attacks on the US.

Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid has said the Taliban will announce a full cabinet in the coming days, and that difficulties will subside quickly once the new administration is in place.



Afghan people gather next to a damaged vehicle inside a house, day after a US drone airstrike in Kabul on Monday AFP

China bans exams for 6 & 7-yr-olds as Beijing retools education system

Agence France-Presse

BEIJING: Beijing on Monday banned written exams for 6- and 7-year-olds, as part of sweeping education reforms aimed at relieving pressure on pupils and parents in China's hyper-competitive school system.

China's exam-oriented system previously required students to take exams from first grade onwards, culminating in the feared university entrance exam at age 18 known as the gaokao, where a single score can determine a child's life trajectory.

"Too frequent exams ... which cause students to be overburdened and under huge exam pressure," have been axed by the ministry of education, according to the new guidelines released Monday. The ministry said the pressure on pupils from a young age "harms their mental and physical health." The regulations also limit exams in other years of compulsory education to once a term, with mid-term and mock examinations allowed in junior high school.

The measures are part of wider government reforms of China's education sector, which include a crackdown on cram schools -- seen by parents as a way to inflate their children's educational fortunes.

Beijing city authorities last week announced that teachers must rotate schools every six years, to prevent a concentration of top talent at some schools. Education officials on Monday reiterated a ban on schools setting up "priority" classes for gifted students. The ministry also banned written homework for first- and second-graders earlier this year, and limited homework for junior high students to no more than 1.5 hours per night.

An aerial view of a giant landart by artist Saype on the Moleson summit in the Swiss Alps



The 16,145 sq. ft. fresco was created using biodegradable pigments such as charcoal, chalk, water and milk



ARTWORK THAT EVOKES CHILD-LIKE WONDER

French graffiti artist Saype's monumental mountaintop project has been inspired by how children wonder at clouds drifting by and it encourages a more contemplative approach to life. The 16,145 sq. ft. painting, titled Un nouveau souffle, meaning A New Lease on Life, graces the Moleson peak in the Swiss Alps. Known for massive works of graffiti on grass, Saype used biodegradable paints such as coal and chalk to depict a boy blowing bubbles in an area known for its clouds, thus drawing a link with the tendency among children to gaze at the sky.

PHOTOS: AGENCIES; TEXT: REUTERS

Artist Saype lies next to his painting at the Moleson peak



The artist applies the final touches to his land art painting



HT CHRONICLE **August 31** >> from the archives of the Hindustan Times

The Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

Krishnamachari new Finance Minister

New Delhi- Mr T. T. Krishnamachari will take charge of the Finance Ministry from the Prime Minister, with effect from Saturday.

An official announcement made here today adds that the new Finance Minister will retain charge of the Iron and Steel Ministry as an additional responsibility, but will relinquish charge of the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

1956

As a consequential reshuffle, the Commerce and Industry Ministry will be split up into the Ministry of Heavy Industries, to be held as an additional charge by the Home Minister, and the Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Industries, which the Minister for Works, Housing and Supply will look after in addition to his present responsibilities.

Except for the few weeks Mr Nehru has been in charge, this is the first time since independence that the Finance Ministry will be headed by a full-fledged member of the Congress Party. While Mr Deshmukh was an associate member of the Congress Parliamentary Party his two predecessors, Mr Shanmukham Chetty and Dr John Matthai, did not have any party affiliation.

Announcing the distribution of portfolios a Cabinet Secretariat Press note said: Pandit Pant, Minister of Home Affairs, has been appointed to hold charge, in addition, of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.


The Hindustan Times
KRISHNAMACHARI NEW FINANCE MINISTER
Central Cabinet Reshuffled
ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR PANT
NATO Council Called To Discuss Suez
SELWYN LLOYD TO REPRESENT U.K.
KRISHNAMACHARI NEW FINANCE MINISTER
Central Cabinet Reshuffled
ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR PANT
JET PLANES IN ACTION AGAINST ALGERIANS

Price-page bill passed by Lok Sabha

Price-Page Bill Passed By Lok Sabha

STRONG OBJECTION TAKEN TO ANTI-KASHMIR COMMENTS

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, Thursday.

THE Lok Sabha's approval today of the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was preceded by a strong protest at the Government's "failure" to stop the publication of anti-Kashmir propaganda in a section of the Press.

New Delhi- The Lok Sabha's approval today of the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was preceded by a strong protest at the Government's "failure "to stop the publication of anti-Kashmir propaganda in a section of the Press.

The protest initially came from Mr Bhagat Darshan (Congress) who named Constitution House as the base for the dissemination of what another member, Mr Feroze Gandhi, characterized as " all kinds or ridiculous, treasonable and treacherous things," published in some Delhi newspapers.

1956

Mr Gandhi complained that, although their attention had been drawn to the smear campaign, the Government had not yet moved in the matter. He said the Bill was intended to help the smaller papers which included those that carried on propaganda against Kashmir.

The Minister for Information and Broadcasting brushed aside the complaint as falling within the purview of the Home Minister. Dr Keskar defended his Bill which, he said, had a different purpose to serve. It was to eliminate unfair competition and to assist the less fortunately placed papers.

Ben Johnson runs an incredible 100 M

Rome- Canada's Ben Johnson achieved one of the most incredible performances in sporting history in the magnificent setting of Rome's 1960 Olympic stadium today when he shattered the 100 metres world record and won the gold with a breath-taking time of 9.83 seconds.

And, having broken the record by the biggest margin since electronic timing was introduced at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, when Jim Hines ran 9.95 sec, he claimed afterwards he could run even faster.

"I'm going to run it faster next year," he said. "This is the best I've felt all season. I knew I was peaking for this meeting".

1987

Johnson failed to reach the Helsinki final and was bronze medalist in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Jamaica's American College champion Ray Stewart won the bronze by running a personal best of 10.08 sec. Stewart missed the final in Helsinki four years ago by one hundredth of a second.

Johnson was not the only athlete in record-breaking mood. Bulgaria's Stefka Kostadinova, beaten only twice in two years, added a centimetre to her year-old women's high jump record when she cleared 2.09 on for the gold medal.

Outgoing champion Tamara Bykova, of the Soviet Union, whose career seemed threatened by injury last year, matched Kostadinova all the way up to 2.04 m before conceding second best.


Ben Johnson runs an incredible 100 M

ROME, Aug. 30 (AFP)—Canada's Ben Johnson achieved one of the most incredible performances in sporting history in the magnificent setting of Rome's 1960 Olympic stadium today when he shattered the 100 metres world record and won the gold with a breath-taking time of 9.83 seconds.

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Rosa certainly lived up to the expectations in the women's marathon virtually winning a wire-to-wire victory by a whopping 7.21 minutes.

Mota, one of the best hot-weather runners in the business, wanted a race in such conditions and she got it, with pace in the second half of the race for a resounding win in 10.90 sec.

Drechler, who goes for gold in the long jump and relay, had a terrible start but stormed back, although she was never going to match her compatriot's flowing finish. She was timed at 11.00 sec. Merlene Ottey secured another bronze medal for Jamaica. Ottey finished third in 11.04.

pion, finished the 42-km (26 mile) event in 2 hours, 25 minutes, 17 seconds.

Werner Guenthoor, the Swiss strongman who fancies his chances playing in the national football league in America, came good with a throw of 22.23 metres to the win the men's shot—a centimetre better than his winning throw in Stutgart last year.

The Swiss strongman opened with a throw of 21.63 M and was never headed. He improved to 22.12 M in the fourth round and signed off with his best.

Andrei did have one effort out beyond the 22 M mark but the red flag went up for a foul. His best was 22.91 M. Berner's distance was 21.75 M.

WATCH OUT THIS SPACE FOR QUIZ ON FRIDAYS

The quiz will be based on HT archives. Send in your answers at htpacedelhi@hindustantimes.com

THREAT TO ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONING

Urbanisation is filtering out certain bird species: Study

Asian News International

GOTTINGEN, GERMANY: A new study has found that urbanisation homogenises farmland bird communities, filtering out species with certain functional traits. Urbanisation is one of the most drastic forms of land-use change, and its negative consequences on biodiversity have been studied extensively in Germany.

A research team from the Universities of Gottingen and Hohenheim, in collaboration with the University of Agricultural Sciences of Bengaluru, investigated the effects of urbanisation on farmland bird communities in and around Bengaluru.

They found that urbanisation homogenises farmland bird communities, filtering out species with certain functional traits, such as insect-eating birds, which are important for pest control. "We found that urban bird communities were impoverished subsets of rural communities, both in terms of species composition and the ecological functions they provide," said researcher Gabriel Marcacci. "Birds perform important roles in the environment, for instance controlling pests by eating insects, scavenging and removing carrion, or eating fruits and dispersing the seeds. But only bird species that are well adapted to urban environments such as pigeons or crows can thrive," added Marcacci.

Urban communities were found to be more sensitive to species loss, endangering ecosystem resilience.

"Our study underscores urbanisation as a serious threat to biological communities and ecosystem functioning that may affect food production systems," added professor Ingo Grass from the University of Hohenheim.



A man feeds birds in Melbourne AFP

This carbon-based non-toxic, reusable wrapper can up shelf life of fruit

NEW DELHI: Scientists have developed a composite paper made of carbon (graphene oxide) loaded with preservatives that can be used as wrappers to help extend the shelf-life of fruits, the department of science and technology said recently. Conventional preservation relies on coating the preservative with the resin, wax, or edible polymer, which may cause chronic health problems.

To address this problem, researchers looked for an alternative that could be generated from waste and would not lead to adsorption of preservatives in the fruit.

They found that activated graphene oxide-loaded molecules are loaded with preservatives. This high preservative-loaded graphene oxide, when cast into a paper used for fruit wrapping, ensures that the fruit is not loaded with toxic preservatives. When the fruit over-ripens or gets infested by pathogens, the acidity increases by the secretion of acids. Oxalic acids trigger the release of preservatives to protect the fruit from decay. Otherwise, the preservative stays with the carbon wrapper.

To develop this non-toxic and reusable wrapping paper, boffins allowed the carbon matrix to incubate with the preservative. After the incubation for 24 hours at room temperature, the resultant was washed several times to remove extra preservatives. Finally, this carbon-preservative composite was cast into paper. "Already waste-derived carbon materials are known to harbour huge amounts of organic molecule loading. Hence, the preservative loaded carbon has been prepared and cast into paper for fruit preservation. Increasing the capacity of carbon to hold organic molecules helped us to develop this product," said a lead researcher. PTI

HOW & WHY

NUCLEAR FUSION EXPERIMENT IN US SPARKS HOPE FOR ENERGY REVOLUTION

Using lasers the size of three football fields, US scientists this month generated about 10 quadrillion (10^{24}) watts of fusion energy, offering hope for the development of a new clean energy source. During the experiment, the nuclear scientists focused their giant array of almost 200 laser beams onto a tiny spot to create a mega blast of energy — 8 times more than they had ever done in the past.

Where did it happen?

The experiment took place at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) in California, part of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

What is the nuclear fusion?

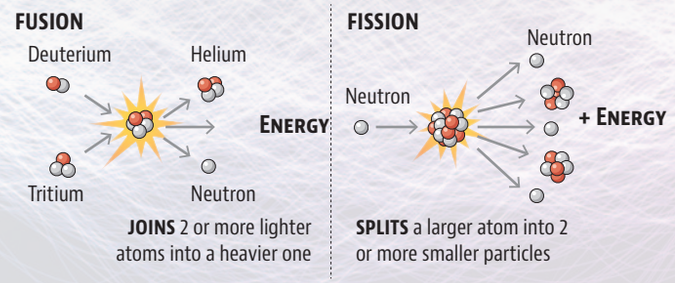
Nuclear fusion is a reaction in which two or more atomic nuclei are combined to form one or more different atomic nuclei and subatomic particles (neutrons or protons). The difference in mass between the reactants and products is manifested as either the release or the absorption of energy. This difference in mass arises due to the difference in atomic binding energy between the nuclei before and after the reaction. Fusion is the process that powers active or main sequence stars and other high-magnitude stars, where large amounts of energy are released.

'Most vital advance in inertial fusion'

The teams of NIF have done an extraordinary job, says Professor Steven Rose, co-director of the center for research in this field at Imperial College London. This is the most significant advance in inertial fusion since its beginning in 1972, he adds. But Jeremy Chittenden, co-director of the same centre in London, warns that making this a useable source of energy is not going to be easy. He says that turning this concept into a renewable source of electrical power will probably be a long process and will involve overcoming significant technical challenges.

Fusion vs fission

Nuclear reactions that produce massive amounts of energy, but have different processes



	Fusion	Fission
USE	Considered by some scientists to be a potential energy of the future as it produces little waste and no greenhouse gases	Currently used in nuclear power plants
FUEL TYPE	**Hydrogen** August 2021: Nuclear scientists generated a huge amount of energy from fusion. They used 2 isotopes of hydrogen, giving rise to helium	**Uranium (U), Plutonium (Pu)** Most commonly used in nuclear power reactors, easy to initiate and control
ENERGY	**3-4 times greater than fission** Fusion is same process that powers the stars, including the sun	**1 million times greater than other energy sources**

SOURCE: US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY/DUKE ENERGY/EIA/NATIONAL IGNITION FACILITY

Reasons for optimism

Other innovations in recent years may speed up progress in fusion. Advances in high-speed computing, AI, superconducting magnets, 3-D printing, materials science and more should help overcome challenges to a workable fusion device. The breakthrough at NIF, in fact, came about in large part due to better computer modeling.

$300 million

Amount of money that the investors committed to about 2 dozen companies, which are engaged in fusion projects, last year alone. Several of them have projects well underway.

Big players in the fray

General Fusion, funded partly by founder and executive chairman of Amazon Jeff Bezos, plans to break ground on a demonstration plant next year. Apart from that, Commonwealth Fusion Systems, which is backed by Microsoft Corporation co-founder Bill Gates, expects to demonstrate net energy gain by 2025.

Benefists of the 'holy grail'

Harnessing fusion could one day mean an effectively limitless energy source. It would produce no long-term waste, emit no greenhouse gases and pose no risk of meltdowns. President Joe Biden's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050 — implausible on current trends — looks much more realistic with such projects in the mix. It's little wonder fusion is often called the 'holy grail' of energy production.

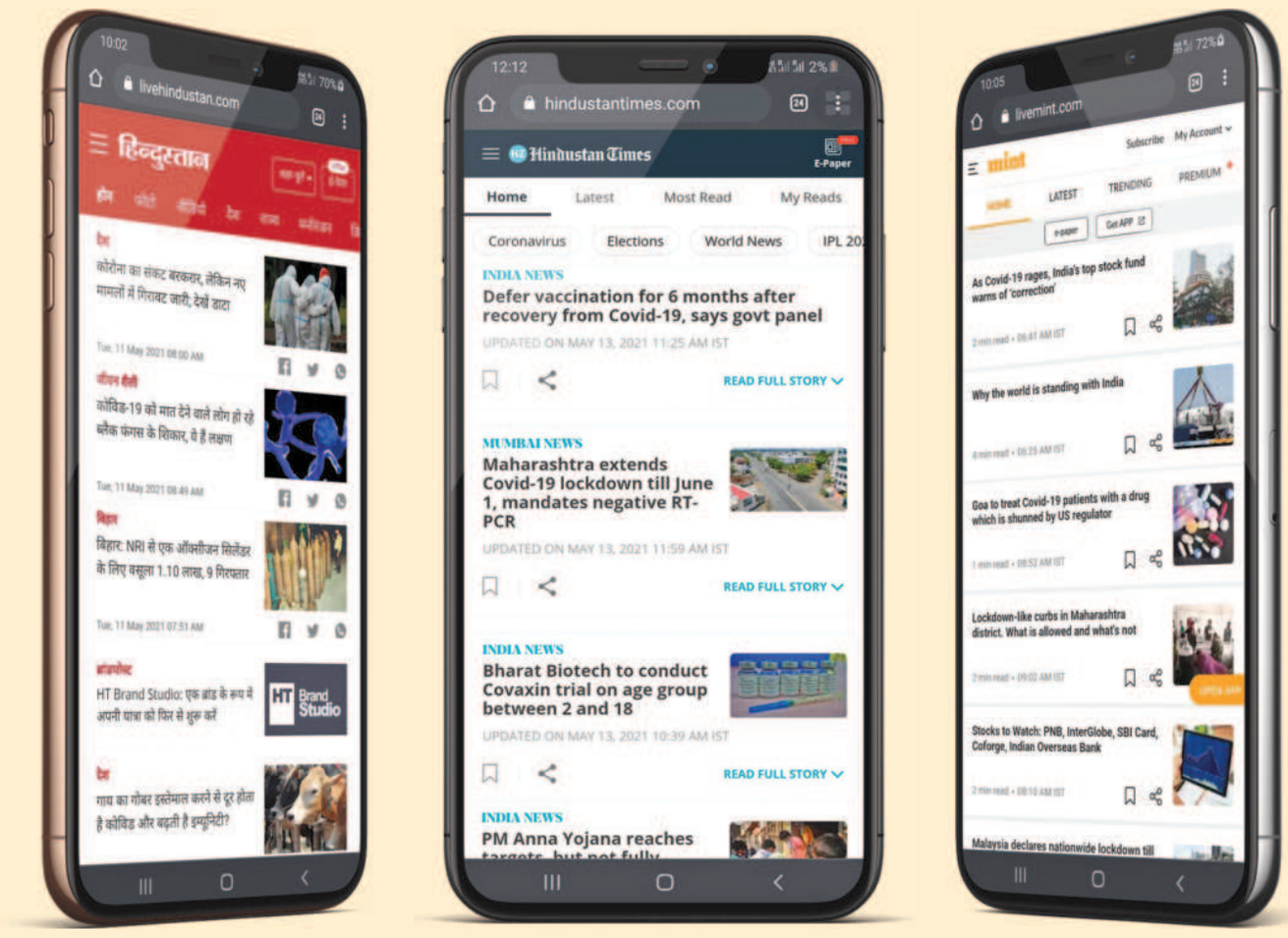
Major impediments

- One is technological. Building a workable fusion reactor is one of the most complex challenges ever undertaken. Immense technical problems still need solving.
- Money presents a second challenge. Realistically, no company is going to build a fusion reactor without huge new investments.
- A final impediment is regulation. Subjecting fusion projects to the same kinds of licensing requirements that apply to traditional fission reactors would impose serious delays, raise costs and impede investment in otherwise promising companies.

Still a long way to go

Hype has plagued the field for decades. Fusion energy, the old joke goes, is just 20 years away and always will be. Challenges to a workable reactor are daunting. Even the yield produced at NIF — about 70% of the experiment's energy input — is still a long way from a viable energy source.

SOURCES: AFP, BLOOMBERG, WIKIPEDIA



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CRICKET

Ponting backs embattled Langer

MELBOURNE: Former captain Ricky Ponting has lent his support to ex-teammate Justin Langer as the embattled coach attempts to weather a challenging period at the helm of Australian cricket.

Langer has come under scrutiny amid media reports players have tired of his intense coaching style after disappointing results on recent limited-overs tours of the West Indies and Bangladesh.

"I know there's been a lot of negativity the last few weeks, I really felt for Justin, I rang Justin a few times," Ponting, who captained Australia from 2004 to 2008, told 2GB radio.

"They just got back from that tough tour of the West Indies and then Bangladesh, and he was locked up in his hotel room in Adelaide, and he was sort of copping it left, right and centre. Me and a lot of his close friends have reached out to him."

Test captain Tim Paine and other senior players have held talks with Langer. "As I made really clear to Justin, when you're in that position in Australian sport, whether you're a high-profile coach or a captain of a national team, if you're not getting the results then you've got to expect the negativity," Ponting said.

"If you wind the clock back not even 12 months ago, the Australian team were the number one-ranked test team and T20 team in the world, we know all the talent is there."

Langer said on Sunday that the talks had been beneficial.

"We all got a lot off our chests," he told the Western Australian. "I think we are all in a better place now.

"When you win, everyone is happy and gets on with things but when you are losing, that is when the finger-pointing starts and people look for excuses," he added.

"We have had a rough trot in recent times but....get back to winning and you won't hear about anything else."



Ricky Ponting. REUTERS

FOOTBALL

Dias extends contract with Man City

MANCHESTER: Ruben Dias has signed a new contract with Manchester City until the summer of 2027. City confirmed a new one-year extension for the Portuguese player on Monday after his sensational debut season at the club.

The 24-year-old arrived at the Etihad Stadium from Benfica during last summer's transfer window and made an instant impact with his defensive acumen, technical quality and winning mentality all proving key ingredients in a magnificent debut season for City.

He went on to make 50 appearances in all competitions, scoring once as Pep Guardiola's side lifted both the Premier League title and retained the Carabao Cup as well as reaching a first-ever Champions League final.

Dias' individual importance was also recognised with the Portuguese international winning the prestigious Football Writer's Association Footballer of the Year award.

In addition, Dias was voted both the Premier League Player of the Season and the Etihad Player of the Season and last week he also was announced as the 2020-21 UEFA Champions League Defender of the Season

"I'm very happy to sign the new deal. I have enjoyed every single minute of my time at City since joining last year. Playing for City has surpassed all my expectations and it's an absolute pleasure to be part of such an incredible squad," Dias said.

"I would also like to thank Pep and the coaching staff for the way they have helped me to develop as a player and keep pushing me to improve. To be part of the squad that achieved so much last season was incredible and made us all hungry to achieve even more. Now I just want to try and play my part in helping us be successful this season and beyond," he added.

FORMULA ONE

Hamilton calls two-lap Belgian Grand Prix a farce

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, BELGIUM: World champion Lewis Hamilton described Sunday's rain-lashed Belgian Grand Prix as "a farce" and said "money talks" after title rival Max Verstappen was declared the winner at the end of just two laps.

In the shortest race in history—just 14km—and all behind the safety car, the grand prix started three and a half hours late. But after two laps, and with the spray flying, the race was abandoned with conditions deemed too dangerous at the Ardennes track where Formula 2 driver Anthoine Hubert lost his life in 2019.

"Money talks. It was only two laps for the race to start—it's all a money scenario," said Hamilton who was third behind Verstappen and George Russell in the Williams.

"Since everyone gets their money back, I think the fans should get theirs too because unfortunately they couldn't see what they paid for. I love racing in the rain, but today was different. You really couldn't see the car in front of you. There was aquaplaning. It was unfortunately just a disaster on the track. You couldn't really see five metres in front of you, the car in front was disappearing."

Hamilton, whose lead over Verstappen in the title race is now just three points, continued his criticism later.

"Today was a farce," he wrote on Instagram. "The only people to lose out are the fans. We were sent out for one reason. We should have just called it quits, not risked the drivers and most importantly refunded the fans."



Lewis Hamilton. AFP

OPENING DAY



Germany's new coach Hansi Flick (centre) poses with his support staff during a training session in Stuttgart on Monday. AFP

TOKYO PARALYMPICS



Sumit Antil smashed his own world record as he won the F64 category javelin throw gold in Tokyo on Monday. PTI

Sumit, Avani set world records on way to gold

Press Trust of India
sportm@hindustantimes.com

TOKYO: Records tumbled and history was scripted more than once as India's Paralympians recorded their best ever Games medal haul on just the sixth day of competition, making it a memorable Monday for the country.

The debutant duo of Javelin thrower Sumit Antil (23) and shooter Avani Lekhara (19) shone the brightest with their epoch-making gold medals and there was a silver each for the 40-year-old veteran Devendra Jhajharia (javelin) and Yogesh Kathuniya (discus), along with a bronze for Sundar Singh Gurjar (javelin).

India have so far won five medals in athletics—1 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze. The silver medal from table tennis player Bhavina Patel came on Sunday. India stood 26th in the medals tally and surpassed the four medals it had won in 2016 Paralympics.

However, in a heartbreak for the contingent, discus thrower Vinod Kumar (F52) lost his bronze after he was found "ineligible" in reassessment of his disability classification.

Earlier, Lakhera, 19, became the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Paralympics, firing her way to the top of the podium in the R-2 women's 10m Air Rifle Standing SH1 event. Jaipur's Lakhera, who sustained spinal cord injuries in a car accident in 2012, finished with a world record equalling total of 249.6.

Then, capping off India's day in a blaze of glory, debutant Antil smashed his own world record five times for the F64 class gold while Jhajharia's F46 category silver cemented his status of being India's greatest para-athlete as javelin throwers led the country's track and field medal rush at the showpiece.

In between, another javelin thrower Gurjar picked up bronze in Jhajharia's event while discus thrower Kathuniya's F56 silver ensured that India made its presence felt across the podium and through the day.

The man of the moment was, however, the 23-year-old Antil as he bludgeoned his way to the top of the podium with an astonishing fifth attempt of 68.55m mark, which was the best of the day by quite a distance and a new world record.

Hailing from Sonepat in Haryana, Antil, who lost his left leg below the knee after he was involved in a motorbike accident in 2015, bettered the previous world record of 62.88m, also set by him, five times on the day.

His series, which read 66.95, 68.08, 65.27, 66.71, 68.55 and foul, made it seem that he was perhaps competing only with himself. Australian Michal Burian (66.29m) and Sri Lanka's Dulan Kodithuwakku (65.61m) took the silver and bronze respectively. The F64 category is for athletes with a leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing position.

A student of Delhi's Ramjas College, Antil was an able-bodied wrestler before his accident which led to the amputation of his leg below the knee. A para athlete in his village initiated him to the sport in 2018.

Lakhera, who is also appearing in her maiden Games, dominated headlines in the first half of the day. "I can't describe this feeling, I'm feeling like I'm on top of the world. It's unexplainable," an elated Lakhera said.

Hers is also the first shooting medal that India has logged in the showpiece.

FOOTBALL

Winning start for Messi as PSG beat Reims in Ligue 1

Associated Press
sportm@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: The Lionel Messi era began at Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) without a goal for the Argentine superstar but plenty of adulation and fanfare.

Messi made his debut for PSG on Sunday after coming off the bench midway through the second half in a 2-0 win at Reims in Ligue 1. Messi replaced his friend and former Barcelona teammate Neymar in the 66th minute and they shared a hug.

Such is Messi's star factor that the home fans chanted "Messi, Messi" while a smiling Reims goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic took a photo of Messi holding a child after the game.

PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino was touched by the reception for Messi, pointing out that supporters of both teams were delighted to see him play. "The welcome he got was something beautiful to see and hear, on the part of our fans but also the Reims fans," Pochettino said.

"Messi was very happy about it. His presence generates more enthusiasm, everyone can feel it and it has an effect on the other players."

Before the match, hundreds of fans gathered for a glimpse of Messi as he descended from the team bus and he waved back at them. They wanted to see one of the all-time greats, along with Pele and the late Diego Maradona, who Messi adored.

Messi's incredible skill, close control, grace, vision, dancing feet, astute passing, speed of thought and execution have thrilled fans for years. He netted 672 goals for Barca and won 35 trophies for the Spanish giant, including the 2015 Champions League alongside Neymar. That was the last time Messi won Europe's elite trophy and, somewhat ironically, his last goal for Barca in the Champions League was a brilliant strike away to PSG last season in the round of 16.

The 34-year-old Messi, who led his nation to the Copa America title last month, joined PSG three weeks ago after his new contract with Barcelona fell through. Striker Kylian Mbappe was named in the starting lineup as Real Madrid tries to sign him before the end of the summer transfer window.

Mbappe had already scored both goals before Messi came on. He headed in Angel Di Maria's cross in the 15th minute and then turned in Achraf Hakimi's cross in the 63rd for his 135th goal since joining PSG in 2017.

"No, I wasn't surprised by his enthusiasm," said Pochettino, who did not comment on Mbappe's immediate future. For it remains to be seen whether it's his last for PSG, which has started the season with four straight wins and has 12 points.



Lionel Messi (right) came on as a second-half substitute, replacing his ex-Barca teammate Neymar, in PSG's 2-0 win over Reims on Sunday. AP

LAST-GASP OWN GOAL HELPS ATLETICO SECURE A DRAW AGAINST VILLARREAL

Reuters
sportm@hindustantimes.com

MADRID: LaLiga champions Atletico Madrid snatched a 2-2 draw at home to Villarreal on Sunday after an astonishing own goal in the final seconds from Villarreal's Aissa Mandi.

The visitors looked to be heading for an unlikely victory when new signing Arnaut Danjuma restored their lead in the 74th minute after Luis Suarez had cancelled out Manu Trigueros' opening strike earlier in the second half.

But in the fifth minute of stoppage time Atletico's Saul Niguez sent a hopeful ball upfield and Algerian defender Mandi rose to head it back towards goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli but instead glanced it into his own net to the horror of his teammates.

While Villarreal could hardly believe their misfortune, a draw was no less than Atletico deserved after firing 23 shots at goal to the visitors' two, both of which ended up in the net.

The late drama avoided a first home defeat for Atletico since February and moved them to seven points after three games alongside five other teams, with Real Madrid leading the standings on goal difference.

"We put in one of our best performances in recent memory and would have been in front at half-time had it not been for Rulli," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone.

"In the second half we felt sad because we conceded the second goal when we should have been winning. But in the end out of nothing came an error to give us a draw."